



**Executive Board Virtual Meeting Minutes  
September 9, 2020**

<b>Officers Present</b>	<b>Delegates Present</b>	<b>Delegates Not Present</b>	<b>Centralina Staff</b>
Jay McCosh, Vice Chairman Jarvis Woodburn, Secretary William Morgan, Treasurer	Larken Egleston Trevor Fuller Martha Sue Hall Darrell Hinnant Gene Houpe Autumn Michael Pedro Morey Troy Selberg Lynn Shue	Zach Almond Deloris Chambers Bobby Compton, Chairman Bill Feather Rich Permenter Jim Watson Ronnie Worley	Victoria Avramovic Geraldine Gardner Debi Lee Mike Manis Linda Miller Michelle Nance Denise Strosser Jason Wager Kelly Weston  <b>Guests</b> Leslie Mozingo, Strategics Consulting Chris Wall, EQV Strategic

**Call to Order**

Vice Chairman Jay McCosh, Town of McAdenville, called the meeting to order.

Kelly Weston, Clerk to the Board, called roll and noted that a quorum was not present.

**Invocation**

Mayor Pro Tem Martha Sue Hall, City of Albemarle, gave the invocation.

**Amendments to the Agenda.**

There were no amendments to the agenda.

**Consent Agenda**

Vice Chairman McCosh noted that additional Executive Board members had joined the meeting and that a quorum was now present.

- 1. Approval of FY21 Managed Information Technology Services Agreement**
- 2. Mecklenburg County CARES Contract Authorization**
- 3. Approval of the June 10, 2020 Executive Board Meeting Minutes**

Mayor Pro Tem Hall made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Council Member Larken Egleston, City of Charlotte, seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**4. Federal Relations Update**

Leslie Mozingo, Strategics Consulting, presented highlights from the performance report of federal relations activities. She noted that the advocacy meetings with Members of Congress were being held virtually due to COVID-19. She added that district meetings have been held with Congressmen Ted Budd and Dan Bishop, as well as a meeting with staff from Senator Thom Tillis's office. She also noted that a meeting with Congresswoman Alma Adams's staff

is scheduled for the next day and that meetings with Congressman Hudson and Senator Burr are being scheduled. She further noted that she can provide talking points for individual meetings Board Members have with Members of Congress.

Vice Chairman McCosh reported that he had a good meeting with Congresswoman Virginia Foxx recently and that Ms. Mazingo was able to provide talking points about Centralina for that discussion.

Mayor Darrell Hinnant, City of Kannapolis, made a motion to accept the Strategics Consulting performance report for June through August 2020. Treasurer William Morgan, City of Statesville, seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

## **5. NC Radar Project Update**

Geraldine Gardner, Executive Director, reported that she and the executive directors of Western Piedmont Council of Governments and Piedmont Triad Regional Council recently met with Mike Sprayberry, Director of NC Emergency Management, to discuss the NC Radar Project. She explained that the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program could be a possible federal funding source for the project, adding that Mr. Sprayberry's office has agreed to investigate whether the project would be a good candidate for a state application to the BRIC program. She also noted that the state will reach out to the National Weather Service (NWS) to confirm whether data from the proposed radar system will be able to be used in NWS's planning. She further noted that the COGs committed to issuing a Request for Proposals to identify a consultant to conduct a feasibility study. She requested the Executive Board's assistance in raising awareness and understanding about the radar project among state legislators. She also noted that Centralina will need resolutions and letters of support from counties and larger municipalities to accompany the project's application for federal funding.

In response to a question from Mayor Pro Tem Hall, Ms. Gardner confirmed that outreach to legislators would start after November elections. She explained that the BRIC application requires a state funding match, therefore the COGs need to discuss the project with state legislators to ensure there is state support for the match. She added that the project is an example of regionalism and working across multiple regions.

Commissioner Trevor Fuller, Mecklenburg County, noted that he is excited about the direction of the project and the possibility of securing federal funding. He suggested Ms. Gardner meet with the Mecklenburg County Manager to prepare for seeking the County Commission's support for passing a resolution.

Treasurer Morgan requested a sample resolution.

In response to a question from Mayor Hinnant, Ms. Gardner explained that the feasibility study will help determine estimates for the funding request, adding that the amount could be between \$3 million and \$5 million. She also noted that because the BRIC application is due in January, Centralina will begin requesting resolutions of support this fall.

## **6. State Relations Update**

Ms. Weston presented an overview of Centralina's Raleigh Relations strategy, a three-part approach to expanding engagement and advocacy with the state government. She explained that building relationships with state legislators and agencies is the first part of the strategy. She added that the second part of the strategy is statewide advocacy through Centralina's continued involvement in the NC Association of Regional Councils of Government (NCARCOG).

Ms. Gardner explained that the association represents the 16 COGs in North Carolina and its purpose is to think creatively and collaboratively about how to advance the profile of COGs

while setting a standard of excellence for delivering federal, state, and regional services to local communities. She noted that she participates in the association's executive directors' group and its legislative subcommittee, while Treasurer Morgan is Centralina's representative to the Forum, the elected official peer group within the association.

Treasurer Morgan noted that one of the goals of state engagement through the association is to promote using COGs and existing regional geographies to deliver programs and services. He added that another goal is to be more active in promoting regional perspectives on policy issues or specific pieces of legislation. He then presented an overview of NCARCOG's policy priorities agenda, noting that COVID-19 response and recovery is a priority in the agenda.

Ms. Weston explained that the third part of the Raleigh Relations strategy is regional advocacy, which involves raising awareness of issues specific to the Centralina region and encouraging the state legislature to advance those issues. She noted that the NC Radar Project and CONNECT Beyond are two projects staff is proposing as the focus of regional advocacy efforts. She explained that CONNECT Beyond is the first regional effort to create a single, coordinated transit system that includes multiple transit modes. She introduced Chris Wall from EQV Strategics, a public policy consulting firm that will assist with CONNECT Beyond-related outreach to the General Assembly and state agencies.

Mr. Wall provided an overview of his firm and his experience with federal and state lobbying, noting that he also represents NCARCOG.

Commissioner Gene Houpe, Iredell County, suggested having an overview of positive outcomes that have resulted in the region because of Centralina's work. He also suggested examining instances when member governments have had to reach out to other COGs for services.

Treasurer Morgan suggested keeping the messaging at the federal and state levels consistent.

Ms. Weston asked for the Executive Board's feedback on endorsing the NC Radar Project and CONNECT Beyond as regional advocacy priorities.

Commissioner Fuller expressed support for both projects as priorities.

Commissioner Houpe noted that he would also like to see the organization support broadband access.

Commissioner Pedro Morey, Town of Waxhaw, suggested looking into supporting the issue of Chromebook availability for K-12 distance learning.

Ms. Weston asked the Executive Board members to let her know if they have any existing relationships with state legislators or agencies that Centralina can leverage through its Raleigh Relations strategy.

Treasurer Morgan noted that he recently had lunch with NC House Speaker Tim Moore.

#### **Comments from the Executive Board and CCOG Staff**

Commissioner Houpe thanked Centralina staff for advocating for both municipalities and counties.

#### **Comments from the Executive Director**

Ms. Gardner noted that membership information packets have been mailed to Delegates, Alternates, and managers. She also noted that the Cities of Concord and Kannapolis, and the Town of Indian Trail have rejoined the organization. She also noted that there is state

Community Development Block Grant Coronavirus Program funding available to local governments to help them respond to COVID-19, adding that Centralina can assist members with program development and administration if they choose to apply for the funds. She further noted that the October 14<sup>th</sup> Board of Delegates meeting will feature interactive discussions about the long-term impacts of COVID-19 in their communities.

**Comments from the Vice Chair**

Vice Chairman McCosh noted that Mayor Pro Tem Hall had posted a question in the Zoom chat feature about the cost of the contract with EQV Strategic.

Ms. Gardner noted that the contract value is below the Executive Board's approval threshold.

Treasurer Morgan encouraged members to reach out to Ms. Mozingo if they have any needs at the federal level.

**Adjournment**

With no further business to be discussed, Vice Chairman McCosh adjourned the meeting at 6:16p.m.