



**Executive Board Meeting Minutes
September 11, 2019**

Officers Present	Delegates Present	Delegates Not Present	Centralina Staff
Bobby Compton, Chairman Jay McCosh, Vice Chairman Jarvis Woodburn, Secretary <i>Via Phone</i> William Morgan, Treasurer	Deloris Chambers John Crump Larken Egleston Bill Feather Nick Walsh Ronnie Worley <i>Via Phone</i> Martha Sue Hall Gene Houpe Michael Johnson	Frank Aikmus Zach Almond Trevor Fuller Brent Moser Rich Permenter Lynn Shue Jim Watson	Geraldine Gardner Emily Hickok Jessica Hill Mike Manis Sherika Rich Denise Strosser Kelly Weston <i>Guests</i> Leslie Mazingo, Strategics Consulting

Call to Order

Chairman Bobby Compton, Town of Mooresville, called the meeting to order and noted that a quorum was present. He gave the invocation.

Amendments to the Agenda

There were no amendments to the agenda.

Council Member Larken Egleston, City of Charlotte, made a motion to adopt the agenda as presented. Mayor Bill Feather, Town of Granite Quarry, seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Consent Agenda

- 1. Amendment to the Operating Budget for Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2019**
- 2. Approval of Contract for CommunityViz Model Maintenance Services**
- 3. Approval of Grant from Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services**
- 4. Approval of CCOG Strategic Review Deliverables**
- 5. Approval of the June 12, 2019 Executive Board Meeting Minutes**

Mayor Pro Tem Martha Sue Hall, City of Albemarle, made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Ronnie Worley, Gaston County, seconded the motion, and it carried on a vote of 12 in favor. Council Member Michael Johnson, City of Statesville, abstained from the vote.

6. Federal Relations Update

Leslie Mazingo, Strategics Consulting, presented the performance report of federal relations activities for July and August. She noted that members of the Executive Board and others had an excellent meeting with Congressman Ted Budd, adding that he requested a letter of recommendation from CCOG for the reauthorization of the Older Americans Act. She also noted that the organization will reach out to the new 9th District representative and asked if any Board Members with existing connections would be willing to make that introduction. She also noted that staff representatives from each of the region’s Congressional

offices attended the August 14th Board of Delegates meeting and indicated that they would like to attend again in the future. They also asked for more time to network with Delegates. She added that CCOG will host a grants workshop on Tuesday, November 12th and asked the Board Members to encourage grant writing staff in their communities to attend.

Council Member Egleston offered to facilitate a connection with Congressman-elect Dan Bishop.

Council Member Egleston made a motion to accept the Strategics Consulting performance report for July – August 2019. Secretary Jarvis Woodburn, Anson County, seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

7. Discussion of Priorities for State Level Engagement

Kelly Weston, Clerk to the Board, explained that CCOG is expanding its state government advocacy and engagement activities and is seeking the Executive Board's direction on the role the organization should play in that effort. She noted that the N.C. Association of County Commissioners (NCACC), N.C. League of Municipalities (NCLM), N.C. Association of Regional Councils of Government (NCARCOG), and the Policy Group are involved in state government advocacy and are resources for information on state legislation impacting counties and municipalities. She added that CCOG would like to identify ways to continue partnering and coordinating with these organizations to avoid duplicating efforts. She gave examples of opportunities for CCOG's engagement, including developing a state advocacy agenda, monitoring legislation, responding to member requests on state issues, and attending meetings with state legislators.

Mayor Pro Tem Hall suggested that CCOG bring forward issues where members agree.

Council Member Johnson noted that NCARCOG focuses on issues that are not priorities for the Centralina region. He added that the Policy Group is informative but does not provide the kind of state advocacy CCOG needs. He also noted that there is an opportunity for lobbying state agencies such as the Department of Transportation and the Department of Environmental Quality. He suggested that the Executive Board consider hiring a state consultant on a limited basis.

Chairman Compton suggested that CCOG continue to partner with NCLM and NCACC.

Geraldine Gardner, Executive Director, inquired if the Executive Board Members' jurisdictions employed a state lobbyist or if they relied on the NCLM and NCACC, and if providing a lobbyist through CCOG would be a member benefit.

Secretary Woodburn noted that Anson County works directly with the NCACC. He added that CCOG needs to coordinate with the NCLM and NCACC to ensure alignment on issues.

Mayor John Crump, Town of Midland, noted that the town works with a lobbyist on specific issues.

Chairman Compton added that the Town of Mooresville uses NCLM as a state advocacy resource.

Commissioner Houpe noted that he was recently elected to represent District 12 on the NCACC Board of Directors. He added that it would be helpful to have someone in Raleigh to assist with building relationships with the state government.

Ms. Gardner summarized the Executive Board's comments, which included having a stronger voice to better serve the organization's interest, directing staff to look into working with a consultant, and directing that consultant to advocate for state funding. She advised that staff will provide the Executive Board with an update at its November meeting.

8. Regional Transit Consultant Contract Approval Authorization

Ms. Gardner explained that two weeks ago, CCOG submitted a Request for Qualifications for consultant services to assist with developing the Regional Transit Plan. She added that the overall contract value is approximately \$1.25 million. She noted that there are funding commitments from six different state and local sources, including Gaston-Cleveland-Lincoln Metropolitan Planning Organization, Cabarrus-Rowan Metropolitan Planning Organization, Charlotte Regional Transportation Planning Organization, Charlotte Area Transit System, and South Carolina Department of Transportation. She added that the North Carolina Department of Transportation has made a funding commitment that will be awarded in 2020. She explained that funding from three of these sources will expire if the funds are not spent or obligated by June 30, 2020. She further explained that securing a consultant and having them begin working is critical to the project. She noted that per CCOG bylaws, contracts over \$200,000 require Executive Board approval. Because staff would like to award the contract as soon as possible, the Executive Board is being asked to authorize the officers to approve the contract if staff is able to select the consultant and complete contract negotiations before November 6th. If staff is not at that stage by November 6th, the Executive Board will be asked to approve the contract at its November meeting.

Council Member Egleston made a motion authorizing the CCOG officers to approve a Regional Transit Plan consultant contract, pending the completion of contract negotiations by November 6, 2019. Commissioner Nick Walsh, Town of Huntersville, seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

9. Regional Transit Ad Hoc Committee Formation

Ms. Gardner explained that staff is proposing that Chairman Compton establish an ad hoc committee composed of CCOG Delegates and other elected officials from member jurisdictions. The committee's purpose is to participate and advise in the Regional Transit Plan process. The Metropolitan Transit Commission will play a similar role, but the CCOG Board will ultimately approve the Regional Transit Plan once it is complete. The committee will provide updates to the Executive Board and Board of Delegates as needed. Staff is proposing that at the October 9th Board of Delegates meeting, Delegates caucus to elect their county's two representatives to the ad hoc committee. Chairman Compton will then have the opportunity to appoint nine additional members to the committee. The goal is for the committee to begin meeting in December 2019.

In response to a question from Council Member Egleston, Ms. Gardner noted that there will be an opportunity to provide Chairman Compton with recommendations of other elected officials outside of the Board of Delegates who can fill nine of the committee's seats. She added that the committee should have a good representation of CCOG Delegates since the Board will approve the Regional Transit Plan.

Chairman Compton noted that he would welcome the addition of any elected officials outside of the Board of Delegates who have expertise in transportation.

In response to a question from Mayor Feather, Ms. Gardner noted that recommendations to appoint representatives from the metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) would be welcome. She added that there will also be a technical staff committee. She added that five MPOs are involved in the process.

Council Member Johnson noted that forming the ad hoc committee is a good idea, adding that improving the collaborative process is a great benefit.

10. Report on Board of Delegates Engagement Survey and Meeting Schedule

Ms. Gardner explained that at the last Executive Board meeting, staff asked the Board to assist with surveying the Board of Delegates to collect their input on meeting frequency, time, and content.

Chairman Compton presented a summary of the survey results. He noted that for most Delegates, the current meeting time is convenient, though some Delegates indicated they would be open to meeting earlier in the day, while others said an earlier time would pose a conflict with their work schedules. Most Delegates said the CCOG office is a suitable location, though there was a suggestion to consider holding meetings on the eastern side of Mecklenburg County periodically. Guest speakers and small group discussions are two elements Delegates suggested incorporating into the meeting format more frequently. Delegates indicated they enjoy networking and sharing information. Suggested topics for future meetings included CCOG services; rural issues; federal funding opportunities; funding for downtown revitalization, water and sewer, and economic development infrastructure; and additional information on the NC Radar Project.

Ms. Gardner explained that staff proposes changing the bylaws to move the annual report presentation from the first meeting of the calendar year to the last meeting of the calendar year. She noted that the move will allow staff to present the report closer to the end of the fiscal year covered in the report.

Mayor Feather made a motion recommending that the Board of Delegates approve the proposed amendment to Article VIII, Section A of the CCOG bylaws as presented. Commissioner Worley seconded the motion.

In response to a question from Council Member Egleston, Ms. Gardner explained that the annual report will not be ready in time to present at the August Board of Delegates meeting because audit information will not be completed at that time.

The motion carried unanimously.

Comments from the Executive Board and CCOG Staff

Mike Manis, Community and Economic Development Director, reported that CCOG hosted a well-attended workshop on disaster recovery and resiliency in which eight federal and state agencies, led by the U.S. Economic Development Administration shared information with local emergency management staff on the \$19 billion disaster recovery bill.

Comments from the Chair

Chairman Compton noted that the next Board of Delegates meeting will be held on October 9th at the CCOG office. He asked the Executive Board to encourage other Delegates to attend the meeting.

He reported that Aging Director Linda Miller is the Chair of the Southeastern Association of Area Agencies on Aging, which just finished its annual conference in Nashville. Several Aging staff members presented at the conference, including Debi Lee, Assistant Director of Aging Programs, Angel Vanover, Aging Specialist, and Elisa Gregorich, Aging Specialist.

He noted that the Annual Aging Conference will be held on Friday, November 1st at Missionary Baptist Church in Charlotte. He also noted that CCOG will host the Planning for Healthy Communities Conference on Tuesday, November 5th at the Gastonia Conference Center. He added that CCOG will host a grants workshop on Tuesday, November 12th at the CCOG office.

Comments from the Executive Director

Ms. Gardner noted that copies of the membership overview will be mailed to managers and elected officials in member governments. The brochure contains the new CCOG mission statement, FY20 workplan priorities, and the benefits of membership. She also noted that she has started sending a monthly briefing to managers. She added that during this fiscal year, she would like to give presentations first to each county and then to each municipality reporting on CCOG's impact. She further noted that she will give a presentation to the Kannapolis City Council on Monday, September 23rd to encourage them to consider rejoining CCOG. She also noted that the Centralina Foundation Board of Trustees will meet at 5:00 pm on October 9th prior to the Board of Delegates meeting that evening.

Adjournment

With no further business to be discussed, Chairman Compton adjourned the meeting at 7:24 p.m.