



**Board of Delegates Meeting Minutes
August 12, 2015**

Jurisdiction	Represented By	Jurisdictions Not Represented
Albemarle	Chris Whitley	Anson County
Badin	Deloris Chambers	Ansonville
Bessemer City	Kay McCathen	Belmont
Charlotte	Patsy Kinsey	China Grove
Cherryville	Jill Puett	Cleveland
Cramerton	Will Cauthen	Cornelius
East Spencer	Phronice Johnson	Dallas
Gaston County	Joe Carpenter	Davidson
Granite Quarry	Bill Feather	Faith
Huntersville	Sarah McAulay	Gastonia
Lincoln County	Martin Oakes	Harmony
Marshville	Virginia Morgan	Hemby Bridge
Mint Hill	Richard Newton	High Shoals
New London	Tate Daniels	Indian Trail
Statesville	Michael Johnson	Iredell County
Union County	Jerry Simpson	Kings Mountain
Weddington	Bill Deter	Landis
Wesley Chapel	Becky Plyler	Lincolnton
		Locust
		Lowell
		Marvin
		Matthews
		McAdenville
		Mecklenburg County
		Midland
		Mineral Springs
		Misenheimer
		Monroe
		Mooresville
		Morven
		Mount Holly
		Mount Pleasant
		Norwood
		Oakboro
		Pineville
		Ranlo
		Richfield
		Salisbury
		Spencer
		Spencer Mountain
		Stallings
		Stanley

		Stanly County
		Troutman
		Unionville
		Wadesboro
		Waxhaw
		Wingate

Board Engagement Session

Chairman Michael Johnson, City of Statesville, introduced Allen Hart, Area Director of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development Asheboro office and Josh Carswell, Area Specialist with the agency's Shelby office. Mr. Hart gave a presentation on USDA programs and funding sources available to communities in the region.

Commissioner Martin Oakes, Lincoln County, expressed concern that poor areas in counties that also have rich areas will be overlooked by the agency's programs.

Mr. Hart explained that USDA Rural Development will not exclude any area where there is a need.

In response to an inquiry from Commissioner Jerry Simpson, Union County, regarding the Know Your Farmer Know Your Food initiative, Mr. Hart explained that USDA Rural Development does not support commercial agriculture, but does support agricultural activities through its ancillary programs.

Mayor Pro Tem Cauthen, Town of Cramerton, asked if there are grant funds available for public safety projects such as a new fire station.

Mr. Hart indicated that approximately \$500,000 is available for the whole state, adding that this appropriation does not meet the need. He noted that the bulk of funds for community facilities is in low-interest loans.

Mr. Prosser asked the Delegates to let the USDA and CCOG staff know what needs their community has so that the two organizations can identify programs and solutions to meet those needs. He noted that farmers markets have been shown to help create stronger downtown areas.

Leslie Mazingo, Strategics Consulting, LLC, added that she has found numerous USDA programs that make farmers markets eligible for grant funds.

Call to Order

After dinner, Chairman Johnson called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Amendments to the Agenda

Chairman Johnson noted that the amount of the Freight Mobility Plan contract with CDM Smith, Inc. in Item 3 is actually \$350,508 instead of \$451,943, the amount published on the agenda. He also noted that staff is now asking the Board of Delegates to approve the contract pending legal counsel approval.

Secretary Patsy Kinsey, City of Charlotte, made a motion to accept the agenda as amended. Commissioner Joe Carpenter, Gaston County, seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously.

Consent Agenda

1. Approval of the May 13, 2015 Board of Delegates Meeting Minutes

Secretary Kinsey made a motion to approve the minutes. Vice Chair Sarah McAulay, Town of Huntersville, seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously.

2. Legislative Report

Ms. Mozingo gave an overview of her work with CCOG. She noted there are hundreds of millions of dollars available to local governments through federal agencies. She explained that because federal funds are scarce, there is a need for collaboration across city and county lines. She is working to help CCOG increase its competitiveness in pursuing federal funding, specifically with a more political and strategic approach. She noted that members of Congress want to hear from local elected officials to know that communities are using federal programs. She suggested referencing the Ladders of Opportunity initiative in federal grant applications.

3. Greater Charlotte Regional Freight Mobility Plan Update and Contract Award to CDM Smith, Inc.

Michelle Nance, Planning Director, gave an overview of the Regional Freight Mobility Plan. She noted that the Federal Highway Administration has agreed to help with the project and will conduct a Peer Exchange seminar in the fall.

Pat Anater, Senior Project Manager for CDM Smith, Inc., presented additional details including the project team structure, a list of stakeholder groups, and a timeline. The target completion date for the study is December 2016.

Vice Chair McAulay made a motion for the Board of Delegates to endorse the next steps for the Regional Freight Mobility Planning project, commit to encouraging local government and private financial support, and approving the contract with CDM Smith, Inc. for \$350,508 pending legal counsel approval. Secretary Kinsey seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously.

4. "CONNECT" Tools for Action Report

Chairman Johnson asked the Delegates to take copies of the CONNECT Our Future report back to their communities. He noted that members of the region's state legislative delegation received copies of the report.

Commissioner Carpenter requested CCOG staff give presentations on the CONNECT tools at the Delegates' home Council meetings.

Emily Parker, Senior Planner, presented a report on the CONNECT county meetings held in May and June. She noted that of the 80 CONNECT tools, downtown development, broadband access, walkability and greenspace, and return on investment, emerged as the top four tools among communities across the region. She also gave a preview of the August 27th CONNECT Consortium meeting, noting that over 80 participants have registered so far.

Secretary Kinsey made a motion committing the Board of Delegates to encouraging local government staff attendance at the Consortium event. Council Member Kay McCathen, City of Bessemer City, seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously.

5. 2015 CCOG Conference Report

Vice Chair McAulay presented an update on CCOG Conference planning efforts. She stated that the session topics are timely and the keynote speakers, John Robert Smith and James H. Johnson, Jr. are experts in their field. She encouraged the Board Members to promote the Conference among their Planning Boards. She noted that the Early Registration period is August 17th through October 21st and issued a registration challenge, asking the cities and towns in each county to unite as a county area and register as many elected officials and staff as possible. The county area with the highest percentage of registered staff and elected officials will be recognized following the Conference.

Chairman Johnson called for a unanimous acclamation on the motion committing the Board of Delegates to register for the 2015 CCOG Conference by the October 21st Early Registration deadline and encouraging other elected officials and staff in their communities to register.

The Board Members indicated their support by saying “aye.” The motion carried unanimously.

6. CCOG Building Committee Report

Vice Chair McAulay presented the Committee’s report. She noted that the architectural design firm LaBella Associates has surveyed CCOG staff and will use the survey results to develop a space needs report that will establish a building program to inform the design process. The building design will include options for more meeting space, expansion potential, and ample free parking. Location options will be determined based on drive time for staff and Delegates, accessibility to public transit, neighborhood services, and access to major highways, with a focus on areas within the I-485 loop. Potential joint tenants will also be explored.

Mayor Pro Tem Deloris Chambers, Town of Badin, made a motion for the Board of Delegates to authorize the Executive Board Building Committee to develop options for renewing the current lease at 525 North Tryon Street. Commissioner Carpenter seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously.

Comments from the Board of Delegates

There were no comments from the Board of Delegates.

Comments from the Chair

Chairman Johnson noted that Erika Ruane, Sustainability Planner with the Planning Department, received praise from the Land of Sky Clean Vehicles Coalition for her presentation at the Western North Carolina Air Quality Conference. The Village of Misenheimer also praised her work on a park and recreation survey for their community.

He added that Michael Aper, an intern with the Planning Department and a veteran, developed a map identifying potential transportation needs for veterans in four counties within the region and made a compelling plea to Congressman Patrick McHenry’s staff for support for the Volunteer Transportation Services program. He also wrote an op-ed piece for the Triple Pundit website that highlighted CCOG and the CONNECT project.

Chairman Johnson reported that Mrs. Parker and Mr. Prosser conducted strategic planning sessions in the City of Lincolnton. The City held an open house event in June which over 120 people, not including City staff, attended. Chairman Johnson requested staff forward the Board Members the Lincoln Herald article highlighting the event’s success.

He also noted that earlier this year, the Executive Board approved extending a request to member counties to recover the required match for senior programs separately from membership dues. He reported that

CCOG has received \$137,000 in contributions from all of the member counties. He added that this is a testimony to the quality of work the Area Agency on Aging does throughout the Centralina region.

Chairman Johnson also reported that the Planning Department conducted a quasi-judicial Board workshop in June. Over 100 participants, including staff and development review board members from Rowan and Cabarrus Counties, attended this training session.

Comments from the Executive Director

Mr. Prosser noted that Councils of Government are eligible for loans to build their own facilities, which could offer potential savings and greater convenience.

He urged the Delegates to take as many of the CONNECT magazines with them as possible. He added that staff will follow up on the request for presentations to the Delegates' home councils and commissions. He noted that the Centralina region is emerging as one of the top regions in the country in this type of work. Before the CONNECT project was complete, CCOG was implementing its strategies in local communities including Mooresville, Statesville, and Lincolnton. The Board of Delegates previously directed staff to ensure that the project was relevant and built upon community needs.

Mr. Prosser also noted that there will be less federal funding for programs such as aging services and community and economic development. CCOG will have to look at other initiatives for funding such as selling products and services through member governments. He added that CCOG wants to work hard for its members.

Adjournment

With no further business to be discussed, Chairman Johnson adjourned the meeting at 8:17 p.m.