



**Executive Board Virtual Meeting Minutes  
January 13, 2021**

<b>Officers Present</b>	<b>Delegates Present</b>	<b>Delegates Not Present</b>	<b>Centralina Staff and Guests Present</b>
Jay McCosh, Vice Chairman William Morgan, Treasurer Jarvis Woodburn, Secretary	Deloris Chambers Larken Egleston Martha Sue Hall Darrell Hinnant Gene Houpe Corinthia Lewis- Lemon Autumn Michael Pedro Morey Christine Poinsette Elaine Powell Troy Selberg Lynn Shue David Williams	Peter Ascitutto Bobby Compton, Chairman Cathy Davis Bill Feather Bob Hovis	Geraldine Gardner Debi Lee Mike Manis Linda Miller Michelle Nance Sherika Rich Denise Strosser Kelly Weston  <b>Guests</b> Leslie Mazingo, Strategics Consulting Andy Munn, EQV Strategic Chris Wall, EQV Strategic

**Call to Order**

Vice Chairman Jay McCosh, Town of McAdenville, called the meeting to order. He welcomed the new board members.

Kelly Weston, Clerk to the Board, called roll and noted that a quorum was present.

**Moment of Silence**

Vice Chairman McCosh called for a moment of silence.

**Amendments to the Agenda.**

There were no amendments to the agenda.

**Consent Agenda**

**1. Approval of the November 12, 2020 Executive Board Meeting Minutes**

Treasurer William Morgan, City of Statesville, made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Council Member Larken Egleston, City of Charlotte, seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**2. FY22 Budget Preview**

Denise Strosser, Finance Director, presented an overview of the proposed operating and passthrough placeholder budget for FY2021-2022.

Mayor Pro Tem Martha Sue Hall, City of Albemarle, made a motion recommending the Board of Delegates approve the FY22 operating and passthrough placeholder budget ordinances and

membership dues assessment of \$0.24 per capita with a minimum assessment of \$750 per member. Treasurer Morgan seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

### **3. Federal Relations Update**

Leslie Mozingo, Strategics Consulting, presented the performance report of Centralina's federal relations activities for November through December 2020. She also gave an overview of the organization's 2021 Federal Action Plan and its priorities, which include Coronavirus response and recovery, competitive grants eligibility, funding for federal agency programs, surface transportation reauthorization, and reauthorization of the Workforce Investment and Opportunity Act.

In response to a question from Treasurer Morgan, Ms. Mozingo explained that the action plan addresses federal priorities related to aging. She noted that healthcare will continue to be a discussion under the new presidential administration, adding that anything related to COVID-19 will be a federal priority. She also noted that discussions are underway about a stimulus bill and an infrastructure package that will cover projects beyond surface transportation.

Commissioner Elaine Powell, Mecklenburg County, suggested adding "safer, clean" to describe the alternative fuels mentioned in the plan's requested action for surface transportation reauthorization.

Council Member Egleston made a motion to accept the Strategics Consulting performance report for November through December 2020 and to approve the 2021 Federal Action Plan. Commissioner Lynn Shue, Cabarrus County, seconded the motion and it carried on a vote of 15 in favor and one opposed, with Commissioner David Williams, Union County, voting in opposition.

### **4. Raleigh Relations Update**

Ms. Weston reported that for the current fiscal year, Centralina's Raleigh Relations efforts are focused on relationship-building, noting that the organization mailed information packets to the region's state legislative Delegation in December and has held virtual meetings with Senator Paul Newton and Representative Wesley Harris. She added that staff will continue scheduling meetings with legislators and using them as an opportunity to introduce them to the organization and increase their awareness of the CONNECT Beyond regional mobility initiative.

Chris Wall, EQV Strategic, presented an initial state government outlook for 2021. He noted that COVID-19 and an infrastructure package will be among the General Assembly's priorities. He also noted that education, specifically virtual learning, will be a priority as well.

In response to a question from Mayor Pro Tem Morgan, Mr. Wall noted that explaining Centralina's role and work is the first topic to discuss in briefings with legislators.

Mayor Pro Tem Hall suggested that staff also meet with Representative Wayne Sasser.

Geraldine Gardner, Executive Director, noted that Centralina is involved in the North Carolina Association of Regional Councils of Government. She added that she serves on its legislative committee and presented the association's policy agenda. She noted that Treasurer Morgan represents Centralina on the association's Forum board.

Treasurer Morgan added that the association's priorities such as broadband, COVID-19 relief, and infrastructure are all important issues.

Commissioner Gene Houpe, Iredell County, noted that he is the District 12 Director for the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners, which is starting its legislative goals discussion. He added that having relationships with legislators is important at the local level.

Ms. Weston noted that the Raleigh Relations efforts will move from the relationship-building phase to the advocacy phase in the fall, adding that the Executive Board will be asked to provide some direction on regional priorities that will be addressed in a state advocacy agenda.

#### **5. Nominating Committee Report**

Mayor Pro Tem Hall noted that the Nominating Committee was comprised of Mayor Pro Tem Deloris Chambers, Town of Badin, Council Member Corinthia Lewis-Lemon, Town of Morven, and herself. She reported that the Committee convened the previous month to discuss officer nominations and decided the slate of officers should remain unchanged for 2021. She added that for succession planning purposes, the Committee recommends considering the end dates for officers' public office terms.

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

There were no comments from the Executive Board or Centralina staff.

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

Ms. Gardner noted that she just closed out her second year at Centralina and she is excited about what is ahead for 2021. She added that she is also excited to have new board members and expressed her appreciation for returning board members. She noted that the Board of Delegates annual meeting is coming up in February and will be both virtual and interactive. She also noted that the Region of Excellence Awards nomination deadline is March 29<sup>th</sup>, adding that there will be award categories for both larger and smaller communities.

#### **Comments from the Chair**

Vice Chairman McCosh encouraged new board members to reach out to Centralina staff for information about the organization ahead of the annual meeting. He also noted that Centralina will host a grants webinar on January 27<sup>th</sup> entitled *Proposal Budget Design for Grants*.

Treasurer Morgan thanked Vice Chair McCosh for presiding over the meeting and asked everyone to keep Chairman Bobby Compton, Town of Mooresville, in their thoughts.

#### **Adjournment**

With no further business to be discussed, Vice Chairman McCosh adjourned the meeting at 5:56 p.m.