



**Executive Board Virtual Meeting Minutes
November 10, 2021**

| Officers Present | Board Members Present | Board Members Not Present | Centralina Staff and Guests Present |
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| Bobby Compton, Chairman Jarvis Woodburn, Secretary William Morgan, Treasurer | Larken Egleston Bill Feather Gene Houpe Bob Hovis Corinthia Lewis- Lemon Christine Poinsette Elaine Powell Lynn Shue Jennifer Stepp Amelia Stinson- Wesley David Williams | Karen Alexander Peter Ascitutto Deloris Chambers Cathy Davis Jay McCosh, Vice Chairman Pedro Morey Troy Selberg | Nina Barrett Geraldine Gardner Luke Lowery Sara Maloney Linda Miller Michelle Nance Sarah Niess Sherika Rich Denise Strosser Jason Wager Kelly Weston Venecia White Guests Dan Gougherty, Cherry Bekaert Leslie Mazingo, Strategics Consulting Chris Wall, EQV Strategic Brian White, Cherry Bekaert |

Call to Order

Chairman Bobby Compton, Town of Mooresville, called the meeting to order.

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

Amendments to the Agenda.

There were no amendments to the agenda.

Consent Agenda

- 1. Approval of American Rescue Plan Act Funding for Older Americans Act Programming**
- 2. FY22 Budget Amendment**
- 3. Federal Relations Performance Report**
- 4. Approval of the September 8, 2021 Executive Board Meeting Minutes**

Chairman Compton explained that the Consent Agenda included a request to approve the American Rescue Plan Act funding allocation from the NC Division of Aging and Adult Services for Older Americans Act programming. He also noted the budget amendment for the FY22 budget and the performance report of federal relations activities.

Secretary Jarvis Woodburn, Anson County, made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Bob Hovis, Gaston County, seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Moment of Silence

Chairman Compton called for a moment of silence.

5. FY21 Audit Report

Denise Strosser, Finance Director, introduced Dan Gougherty from Cherry Bekaert, LLP.

Mr. Gougherty presented highlights from the audit report. He explained that his firm issued unmodified, clean opinions on the financial statements, internal controls over financial reporting, and the federal and state single audits. He noted that they did not identify any significant deficiencies or material weaknesses in Centralina's internal controls. He also explained that his firm performed a single audit on the Area Agency on Aging programs and did not find any noncompliance or control issues. He reported that Centralina's restricted intergovernmental revenues increased due to Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funding the organization received for Aging programs. He also noted an increase in revenue from technical assistance contracts. He further noted an increase in human services expenses due to the CARES Act funds and added there was also an increase in expenses associated with transportation program activities.

Chairman Compton thanked Ms. Strosser and the Finance Department staff for their contributions to the clean audit.

Treasurer William Morgan, City of Statesville, made a motion to approve the Centralina Regional Council financial statements, compliance report, and audit report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021. Commissioner Hovis seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

6. COVID-19 Vaccine Outreach Project Focus Group

Sara Maloney, Aging Programs Coordinator, explained that the Area Agency on Aging and Planning departments have collaborated on an outreach project to identify areas in the region that have low COVID-19 vaccination rates among older adults. She noted that they have created an index to identify target areas, conducted focus groups to gather info about effective efforts and are conducting an online survey to identify existing initiatives and gaps to fill.

Luke Lowry, Regional Planner, facilitated a focus group discussion with the Board Members in which they discussed efforts to vaccinate older adults in their communities, barriers to vaccine access, and potential partners to support the outreach project.

7. Raleigh Relations Update

Chris Wall, EQV Strategic, provided a status update on the state budget process and negotiations between the Governor, Senate, and House of Representatives. He noted that there is proposed funding in the budget for councils of government, including funds for disaster resiliency and pandemic assistance. He also noted that the budget includes a provision to provide support for the NC Radar Project Centralina is undertaking with Western Piedmont Council of Governments and Piedmont Triad Regional Council.

Ms. Weston noted that staff will have a follow-up conversation with the Executive Board in January about state legislative priorities and pursuing direct appropriations in the future. She presented a list of the state legislators Centralina staff met with over the past year. She added that staff also engaged Senator Kathy Harrington's office in a project that developed an action plan to promote the health and resiliency of the South Fork River.

Commissioner Hovis suggested examining other avenues for transportation funding.

8. Federal Action Plan Discussion

Geraldine Gardner, Executive Director, explained that the Federal Action Plan is comprised of a set of strategic advocacy items to build relationships with the region's Congressional delegation.

Ms. Mazingo noted that Centralina had successful advocacy meetings with Representative Virginia Foxx and Senator Thom Tillis' Deputy Chief of Staff last month. She explained the annual process of updating the Federal Action Plan. She highlighted changes in the plan, including the addition of advocacy for the reauthorization of the Economic Development Administration. She noted that the U.S. House of Representatives passed the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act last Friday, sending the legislation to the President to be signed into law. She further noted that Centralina and Triangle J Council of Governments co-hosted a webinar yesterday on the legislation. She explained the legislation includes billions of dollars in grants for state and local governments. She also noted that Centralina is tracking H.R. 5735, which will allow local governments more flexibility for American Rescue Plan Act fund investments.

9. Centralina Office Lease Approval

Ms. Gardner explained staff has been working with Centralina's attorney and brokers from Cushman and Wakefield to negotiate the terms of the office lease agreement. She presented an overview of the lease.

Commissioner Hovis made a motion to approve the lease agreement between Centralina Regional Council and CRS Office Center IV LLC as proposed. Council Member Corinthia Lewis-Lemon, Town of Morven, seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

10. Nominating Committee Forecast

Ms. Weston explained that per the Centralina bylaws, the Executive Board must form a three-person nominating committee to identify the slate of nominees for Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. She noted that the committee should be formed before the end of December to allow enough time for convening in advance of the January 12th Executive Board meeting where the committee will present the suggested slate. She added that the Board of Delegates will vote on the slate at the February 9th annual meeting. She asked Board Members to let her know if they were interested in serving on the committee.

11. Honorary Resolutions for Outgoing Executive Board Members

Chairman Compton read aloud honorary resolutions recognizing the contributions of Mayor Bill Feather, Town of Granite Quarry, and Council Member Troy Selberg, Town of Harrisburg.

Mayor Feather expressed his thanks.

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 recognized Ms. Strosser and the Finance Department staff for their work on the FY21 audit. She also recognized Linda Miller, Area Agency on Aging Director, and her staff for their administration of CARES Act funded programs over the past year. She noted that the Metropolitan Transit Commission adopted the CONNECT Beyond regional mobility plan last month following the plan's adoption by the Board of Delegates. She also noted that at the next Executive Board meeting in January, the Board will discuss the state and federal advocacy agendas further and Centralina's next strategic plan.

Comments from the Chair

Chairman Compton advised the Executive Board to be on the lookout for the schedule of 2022 Executive Board and Board of Delegates meetings which will be distributed later in the month. He added that meetings will be held via Zoom until May when the Board will resume in-person meetings with a virtual attendance option.

He asked the Board Members to complete the Regional Dialogues Series survey by November 30th and encouraged them to register to attend a virtual focus group on November 12th. He noted that applications for the CLT Aviation Academy are due November 12th. He also noted that Centralina will host a virtual workshop on regional resilience on November 16th.

Adjournment

With no further business to be discussed, Chairman Compton adjourned the meeting at 6:35 p.m.