



**Board of Delegates Meeting Minutes  
October 12, 2022**

| <b>Jurisdictions with Delegate/Alternate Present</b> | <b>Delegate/Alternate Present</b> | <b>Jurisdictions without a Delegate/Alternate Present</b> |
|--|-----------------------------------|---|
| Albemarle  | Martha Sue Hall                   | Ansonville  |
| Anson County   | Jarvis Woodburn                   | Badin   |
| Bessemer City  | Kay McCathen                      | Belmont   |
| Charlotte  | Dante Anderson                    | Cabarrus County   |
| Concord  | Andy Langford                     | Cherryville   |
| Cornelius  | Michael Osborne                   | Cleveland   |
| Cramerton  | Nelson Wills                      | Dallas  |
| Davidson   | Autumn Michael                    | Gaston County   |
| East Spencer   | Shawn Rush                        | Kings Mountain  |
| Faith  | Jayne Lingle                      | Landis  |
| Gastonia   | Jennifer Stepp                    | Lilesville  |
| Granite Quarry                                       | Brittany Barnhardt                | Lincolnton  |
| Harrisburg   | Jennifer Teague and Ian Patrick   | Locust  |
| Huntersville   | Stacy Phillips                    | Mineral Springs   |
| Indian Trail   | Crystal Buchaluk                  | Misenheimer   |
| Iredell County                                       | Gene Houpe                        | Monroe  |
| Kannapolis   | Darrell Hinnant                   | Oakboro   |
| Lincoln County                                       | Cathy Davis                       | Richfield   |
| Lowell   | Sandy Railey                      | Salisbury   |
| Marshville   | Paulette Blakeney                 | Stanfield   |
| Marvin   | Wayne Deatherage                  | Stanley   |
| Matthews   | Mark Tofano                       | Statesville   |
| McAdenville  | Jay McCosh                        | Troutman  |
| Mecklenburg County                                   | Elaine Powell                     | Wadesboro   |
| Midland  | Richard Wise                      | Wingate   |
| Mint Hill  | Tony Long                         |   |
| Mooresville  | Bobby Compton                     |   |
| Morven   | Corinthia Lewis-Lemon             |   |
| Mount Holly  | Phyllis Harris                    |   |
| Pineville  | Amelia Stinson-Wesley             |   |
| Ranlo  | Katie Cordell                     |   |
| Spencer  | Patricia Sledge                   |   |
| Stallings  | David Scholl                      |   |
| Stanly County  | Peter Ascitutto                   |   |
| Union County   | David Williams                    |   |
| Waxhaw   | Pedro Morey                       |   |

**Call to Order**

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

**Roll Call**

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

**Moment of Silence**

Chairman Compton called for a moment of silence.

**Amendments to the Agenda**

There were no amendments to the agenda.

**Consent Agenda**

**1. Approval of the August 10, 2022 Board of Delegates Meeting Minutes**

Mayor Pro Tem Martha Sue Hall, City of Albemarle, made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Mayor Pro Tem Shawn Rush, Town of East Spencer, seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**2. Annual Report Presentation**

Geraldine Gardner, Executive Director, presented an overview of the annual report. She reported that Centralina completed 77%, or 104, of the action items in the FY2022 workplan, adding that an additional 16% were in still in progress for FY2023. She shared the organization’s top five highlights of FY2022, which included planning a new, bold vision for Centralina; supporting local governments with recovery; leading the Regional Resilience Collaborative; promoting vaccine awareness; and reaching new audiences with workforce services. She noted Centralina provided nearly 100 services to over 40 local governments in the areas of human resources, planning, grants, strategic planning and board facilitation, code enforcement, housing, mobility, pedestrian safety, and American Rescue Plan Act assistance. She also noted that Centralina received several awards for projects such as the Regional Dialogue Series, Regional Resilience Collaborative, Workforce Development Board app, Pride in Care, and CONNECT Beyond. She also provided a financial report.

**3. Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Briefing**

Christina Danis, Community Economic Development Director, explained that every five years, the U.S. Economic Development Administration requires the Centralina Economic Development District (CEDD) to prepare a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). She noted the four themes that emerged through the latest CEDS planning process, which included business climate and competitiveness; supportive infrastructure; talent, workforce, and education; and entrepreneurship and innovation. She presented an overview of the CEDS vision and structure. She noted the three goals are expanding economic opportunity for all; enhancing regional and community supportive infrastructure; and strengthening economic resilience and global competitiveness. She provided an overview of the process timeline, noting that the CEDD will approve the CEDS on November 17<sup>th</sup>.

In response to a question from Commissioner Michael Osborne, Town of Cornelius, Ms. Gardner explained that the CEDS allows Centralina to unlock large, high-level grants that support public sector investments in economic opportunities. She added that these types of investments include infrastructure, college and university training facilities, and programming for small businesses and entrepreneurship.

#### **4. Aging PEARLS Program Briefing**

Kamiya Williams, Aging Specialist, explained that Centralina received a three-year grant from UNC Asheville to provide the Program to Encourage Active and Rewarding Lives (PEARLS). She further explained that PEARLS is a community-based program designed to reduce depression in physically impaired and socially isolated older adults. She noted that program participants will attend a series of sessions focusing on behavioral techniques intended to help increase their participation in social, physical, and other activities.

In response to a question from Mayor Pro Tem Hall, Ms. Williams explained that staff will share the program's progress and data with the grantor so that the program can be replicated across the state.

#### **State Advocacy Agenda Discussion**

Ms. Weston provided an overview of Centralina's Raleigh Relations strategy, noting that the initiative is focused on relationship-building, statewide advocacy, and regional advocacy.

Chris Wall, EQV Strategic, highlighted Centralina's CONNECT Beyond advocacy activities in the General Assembly over the past year. He also provided a forecast of the General Assembly's focus areas in the coming year.

Ms. Weston explained that Centralina is developing a state advocacy agenda to advance the Raleigh Relations initiative and leverage the relationships the organization has built at the state level. She presented an overview of the agenda development process timeline, noting that in addition to the Board of Delegates, staff will also gather input from the Regional Managers Group. She shared a list of potential focus areas including CONNECT Beyond, advanced transportation technologies and infrastructure investments, digital equity, and funding for the long-term care ombudsman program.

The Board of Delegates divided into small groups to discuss potential advocacy priorities.

Ms. Weston explained that in November, staff will provide the Executive Board with an update and report out of the potential priorities the Delegates discussed.

#### **Comments from the Board of Delegates and Centralina Staff**

Mayor Pro Tem Hall provided a report out of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Expert Tour organized by the NC League of Municipalities. She noted that Centralina staff will share the results of an attendee poll about ARPA spending and fund administration.

Mayor Pro Tem Corinthia Lewis-Lemon, Town of Morven, noted that she also attended the event and encouraged Delegates to utilize Centralina's ARPA support services in their communities.

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

Ms. Gardner expressed her appreciation to the Delegates for their service on the Board over the past year.

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

Chairman Compton noted that the application period is open for the next Charlotte Douglas International Airport (CLT) Aviation Academy, which will be held January through March 2023.

Secretary/Interim Treasurer Jarvis Woodburn, Anson County, noted that he participated in the Academy earlier this year, adding that it is an exciting opportunity to learn about the innerworkings of the airport. He encouraged Delegates and Alternates to apply.

Chairman Compton expressed well wishes to Delegates and Alternates running for re-election in November. He also thanked all the Delegates and Alternates for representing their communities on the Board this year.

**Adjournment**

With no further business to be discussed, Chairman Compton adjourned the meeting at 7:27 p.m.