



Centralina Council of Governments

Executive Board Minutes

April 9, 2008

Centralina COG Conference Center

Officers Present	Delegates Present	Centralina Staff	Others
Joe Carpenter, Chairman Bob Misenheimer, Vice Chairman Marie Moore, Treasurer	Jarvis Woodburn Coy Privette Ronnie Murphy Ken Robertson Mitch Abraham Carroll Heavner Lloyd Austin Susan Burgess James Furr Martha Sue Hall	Al Sharp Martha Lide Barbie Blackwell Tonya Frye Venecia Rock Tricia Byrd David Hollars Bill Duston Greg Francis	Bill McNair Keith Bell Tra Kelley Tom Kelley of Colliers and Pinkard

1. Welcome & Call to Order

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. The COG Attorney verified that a quorum was present.

2. Amendments to the Agenda

The following three amendments to the agenda were proposed for the Board to consider.

- Amendment #1 – Report on the COG Employee Classification Study
- Amendment #2 – Request from Stanly County – (Attachments A – G)
- Amendment #3 – Draft Inter-Local Agreement with Catawba Regional Council of Governments and Update

Martha Sue Hall made a motion to accept the amendments to the agenda as presented and the motion was seconded by Ken Robertson. The amendments were accepted.

3. Approval of Executive Board Minutes of the March 12, 2008 Meeting

James Furr stated that item #6 of the minutes needed to be corrected to reflect that he was congratulating the committee on their work, not offering the Town of Landis as a site for construction of the Truck Stop Electrification (TSE) spaces.

Ken Robertson stated that item #9 of the minutes needed to be corrected to reflect that the motion made by Jennifer Roberts for the purchase of a new copier was for a term of 60 months instead of 60 years.

Executive Board Minutes – April 9, 2008 – Page 2

Mitch Abraham made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 12, 2008 meeting as amended; Lloyd Austin seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

4. Report of Service Agreements

The agenda contained a list of agreements which have been entered into with member governments since the March Board meeting as an informational item. Under the agreements, staff provides contract assistance to the member governments. No action was required.

5. Amendment #1 -- Report on the COG Employee Classification Study

The Executive Director requested that the Executive Board defer the Classification and Review Study Report until the June 11th meeting.

6. Amendment #2 -- Request from Stanly County – (Attachments A – G)

The Executive Director reported that Centralina received a call from Lindsay Dunevant, Stanly County Commissioner, requesting assistance in drafting a resolution to delay or prevent the relicensing of the Aluminum Company of America (Alcoa).

Martha Sue Hall, Albemarle City Council shared that Alcoa was the major employer of the citizens in the City of Albemarle and the issue of the relicensing has caused a split in the community. Many citizens in Albemarle would support the relicensing, and many are opposed. She felt that a majority of the City of Albemarle Board would in all likelihood support the relicensing. She stated that Alcoa has made attempts to bring the stakeholders to the table to develop a resolution, but no resolution had been reached.

James Furr, Alderman from Landis, shared that Alcoa drained the lake in Rowan County and sold it for unused land. The Chairman Joe Carpenter suggested that we need to develop a long range plan to address the water usage in the region. Marie Moore, Lincoln County Commissioner, encouraged the Board to support the resolution for the importance of the water source and to support the one year extension of the licensing agreement, as proposed by the Governor, rather than approving a 50 year extension.

Coy Privette made a motion to support the delay in the Alcoa relicensing for one year, the motion was seconded by Jarvis Woodburn. The motion was approved. Ken Robertson abstained.

7. Advertised Public Hearing on the Proposed Budgets for FY 2008-09

The Chairman requested a motion to open the public hearing on the proposed FY 2008-09 budgets. He reported a legal notice inviting the public to attend the hearing was advertised in the newspaper on March 31, 2008 at 7:30 p.m. Martha Sue Hall made a motion, which was seconded by Lloyd Austin to open the Public Hearing. The motion was approved.

The Chairman and the COG Attorney verified there were no members of the public present wishing to speak regarding the proposed FY 2008-09 budgets. He requested a motion to close the public hearing. Susan Burgess made the motion to close the public hearing which was seconded by Martha Sue Hall. The motion was approved.

8. Amendment #3 Draft Inter-Local Agreement with Catawba Regional Council of Governments and Update

The Executive Director presented a draft of the Inter-Local Agreement between Centralina Council of Governments and Catawba Regional Council of Governments in support of the CONNECT Regional Visioning project. The agreement provides that Centralina and Catawba Regional COGs will include CONNECT as a key commitment in the respective work programs and will share financing of CONNECT for two fiscal years beginning July 1, 2008. A budget for CONNECT shall be mutually developed and approved by both Councils of Government for each

fiscal year. The initial budget beginning July 1, 2008 shall be at least \$100,000 in the form of either staff or financial resources. Martha Sue Hall suggested a date of April 30th be used as the fiscal year for the budget each year. Centralina will serve as the fiscal agent. The two Boards will meet at least annually to address the CONNECT Process and will seek local, regional, state and federal resources for CONNECT implementation.

Martha Sue Hall made the motion, which was seconded by Coy Privette, to approve the agreement. The motion was approved.

9. Revised Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2008-09

The Finance Director and Executive Director presented a revised Operating Budget of \$5,278,540 for the Fiscal Year 2008-09. The originally proposed budget submitted with the agenda was revised due to several factors including:

- Health Insurance costs will be much less than anticipated. The original budget included a 10% increase for health insurance and there will actually be a 4% decrease.
- Workforce development funds have been reduced from \$4.3 million to \$2.7 million.
- There has been a 2% net increase in Aging funds including an increase in Home and Community Care (HCC) Block grant funds and a slight decrease in Title V employment program funds.

Technical Assistance (TA) is a major revenue source for COG. A total of \$1.16 million has been budgeted for FY 2008-09. Workshops are another form of revenue for COG and aid in training for staff in the region. These revenues are also expected to increase in FY2008-09.

Martha Sue Hall made the motion to adopt the revised FY 2008-09 proposed annual budget ordinance in the amount of \$5,278,540 and submit it to the Board of Delegates on May 14th for final approval. The motion was seconded by Lloyd Austin and was approved.

10. Revised Grants Project Budget for Fiscal Year 2008-09

The Finance Director and Executive Director presented a revised grants project budget ordinance of \$12,716,827 for FY 2008-09. The revised budget reflects an increase of \$242,363 of Area Agency on Aging funds for the HCC Block Grant, Title III-B Legal, Family Caregiver, and Disease Prevention/Health Promotion Programs. The budget was adjusted to reflect the increases for these grant programs.

Lloyd Austin made the motion, which was seconded by Coy Privette, to adopt the revised FY 2008-09 proposed grants project budget ordinance in the amount of \$12,716,827 for fiscal year 2008-09. The motion was approved.

11. Flexible Benefit Plan Proposal:

Employees have requested a flexible spending account program that will allow them to set aside “before-tax” dollars to pay for unreimbursed, out-of-pocket medical expenses such as co-payments, deductibles, vision care, dental care and other related expenses not covered by our health plan. A flexible spending account would also allow employees to set aside before-tax dollars to pay for daycare costs and other qualified dependent care expenses such as elder-care for parents. The funds will be deducted from the employees' paycheck and could result in up to a 20% reduction in actual medical and child care cost for the employee.

As reported earlier, health insurance premiums will be reduced by approximately 4% in FY 2008-09 resulting in a projected net savings of about \$9,000. These savings can be used to support the cost of the Flexible Benefits Plan.

The Centralina staff recommended that the Board authorize the addition of a Flexible Spending Account into COG's Benefit Package with an estimated annual cost of \$3,000.

Martha Sue Hall made a motion, which was seconded by Susan Burgess, to approve the staff to explore and design a voluntary Flexible Spending Account plan to be included into COG's Benefit Package effective July 1, 2008.

There was a brief discussion after the motion in which Ron Murphy asked the Executive Director if the employees could take the flexible spending off their income tax. The Executive Director answered yes.

Martha Sue Hall explained that planning for this account is essential. Ken Robertson explained that if you do not use the funds by the end of the effective date the funds will be lost.

The motion was approved.

12. Appointment of the 2008 Centralina Economic Development Commission

The Centralina Economic Development Commission (CEDC) submitted a list of nominees for new members to be appointed for a 2-year term on the Centralina Economic Development Commission (CEDC) Board for 2008. The list was comprised of local government officials, and members of the non-profit and private sectors. The County Economic Development Board and County Managers submit the nominations for vacancies on the Board.

Martha Sue Hall voiced her concern that Stanly County was not represented on the CEDC Board. She made the motion to defer CEDC Board appointments until the May 14th Board of Delegates' meeting and seconded by Susan Burgess and Ron Murphy. The motion was approved.

Susan Burgess and Martha Sue Hall requested to see the full list of CEDC Board members and the attendance records of the CEDC Board for the last year FY 2007-08 at the next Board meeting.

13. Approval of the NC Ecosystem Enhancement Program

Centralina received a contract in the amount of \$53,970 from the North Carolina Ecosystem Enhancement Program for Phase I of a Local Watershed Plan for Goose and Crooked Creek Watersheds in Mecklenburg and Union Counties. The study is for environmental land use strategies to improve the quality of water streams and mapping and identification of what is on approximately 20 squares miles of land.

Jason Wager, Centralina Community & Regional Planner, and Tricia Byrd, Centralina GIS Coordinator, will oversee the project and hire an engineer to do the survey and technical work on the land.

Susan Burgess made the motion to approve the contract for the North Carolina Ecosystem Enhancement Program in the amount of \$53,970 to complete Phase I of a Local Watershed Plan for the Goose and Crooked Creek Watersheds and to authorize the Executive Director to act as the fiscal agent, execute the necessary contracts, and amend Centralina's grant project budget and operating budget for the grant. The motion was seconded by Coy Privette. The motion was approved.

14. Approval of the FY 2008 Workforce Development Program – Community Network Grant

The Centralina Workforce Development Board received a grant in the amount of \$9,000 from Performance Excellence Partners, Inc., to facilitate two regional events that will provide training for work-ready and competent employees, developing new strategies to prepare individuals for successful employment in local businesses and industries.

Coy Privette made the motion to approve the receipt of the funding by the Workforce Development Program in the amount of \$9,000 for the Community Network, and authorize the Executive Director to act as fiscal agent, execute the necessary contracts, and amend Centralina's grant project budget and operating budget for the grant. The motion was seconded by James Furr. The motion was approved.

15. Recommendation for Executive Session

The Executive Director made the request that the Executive Board go into Executive Session with COG's real estate consultant, Colliers and Pinkard, to hear a briefing on the recommendation of purchase of office facilities for Centralina COG. Martha Sue Hall made a motion for the Executive Board to go into Executive Session, and this motion was seconded by Coy Privette. The motion was approved.

When the Board closed the Executive session and returned to open session, Bob Misenheimer made the motion to authorize the Executive Director and Legal Counsel to negotiate a definitive agreement for the purchase of office facilities authorized by G.S. 160A - 475(7a), and to commence due diligence with respect to such acquisition, including investigation of financing opportunities. Any proposed agreement shall be submitted to the Executive Board for its recommendation to the Board of Delegates. The motion was seconded by Coy Privette. The motion was approved.

The Executive Board highly recommended that the information discussed remain confidential and undisclosed outside of the Executive Board meeting.

16. Legislative Agenda Committee / Upcoming Legislative Issues

At our January 9, 2008 meeting, the Executive Board voted to establish a committee structure which would provide Board members with more in-depth evaluation and input concerning regional issues; provide Board members greater opportunity to direct regional policy formation, better engage our Board, and meet the needs of our member jurisdictions.

A Legislative Agenda Committee was recommended to review and propose NC State legislation to support and foster regional priorities. The Committee will discuss and consider legislation to propose during the short legislative session as well as important issues that could be considered for the next full legislative session.

The following Board Members agreed to serve as volunteers on the Centralina Legislative Agenda Committee: Lanny Openshaw, Union County; Martha Sue Hall, Albemarle; James Furr, Landis; Jarvis Woodburn, Anson County; Mitch Abraham, Mooresville; and Joe Carpenter, Gaston County. The Committee will communicate to the Centralina Board on the results from the June 4th Short Session of NC State legislation.

17. Comments from the Chairman

The Chairman announced the upcoming calendar of events that will be held in our region.

- **April 25, 2008** **Congestion: A Hidden Cost** – 7:30 a.m.
Breakfast Meeting – Westin Hotel in Charlotte
- **April 29, 2008** **Centralina City/County Managers' Meeting:**
11:30 a.m. at COG

- **May 2, 2008** **Environmental Summit** – 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
at Charlotte Convention Center
- **May 14, 2008** **Board of Delegates Meeting** – 7:00 p.m. at
Pine Island Country Club

15. Comments from the Executive Director

The Executive Director reported that the Rowan County Board of Commissioner was considering the possibility of withdrawing from COG. Centralina staff met with the delegate from Rowan County to explain the services that are provided by Centralina. Much of Rowan County’s concern seemed to stem from the Annexation study COG staff is involved with in Salisbury. Alderman James Furr stated that he has spoken with one of the County Commissioners on the issue.

The Executive Director was invited to attend a public hearing in Rowan County on April 21st at 7:00 p.m. The Executive Director and Vice-Chairman Bob Misenheimer will represent Centralina at the public hearing in Rowan County only as a resource to answer questions.

Alderman Furr suggested developing some type of documentation to prevent this type of issue from coming up again. Mayor Ronnie Murphy said, “This is a city issue and should be dealt with in that manner.” Mayor Protem Susan Burgess suggested it would be more effective to have as many elected officials present at the meeting to answer questions.

Adjournment

The Chairman thanked everyone for a good discussion and adjourned the meeting at 9:20 p.m.

Centralina Council of Governments will comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability. Centralina Council of Governments will make reasonable accommodations in all programs/services to enable participation by an individual with a disability who meets essential eligibility requirements. Centralina Council of Governments’ programs will be available in the most integrated setting for each individual. If any accommodations are necessary for participation, please contact the Executive Assistant, 1300 Baxter Street, Suite 450, Charlotte, NC, Phone (704) 372-2416. Please allow 72 hours advance notice for preparation.