



Central Pines Regional Council Board of Delegates

Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, January 22, 2025, 6:00 – 8:00 pm

Chair Brett Gantt

Central Pines Conference Room

Central Pines Regional Council

4307 Emperor Blvd. | Suite 130 | Durham NC

- 1. Call to Order** 6:00 pm
 - a. Call to Order and Welcome
Presenter: Brett Gantt, Chair
 - b. Roll Call
 - c. Declaration of Quorum
Presenter: Brett Gantt, Chair
 - d. Get to know CPRC
Presenter: Brett Gantt, Chair
- 2. Review of Agenda** 6:10 pm
 - a. Review of Agenda
Official: Brett Gantt, Chair
Potential Action: Chair Gantt will approve
- 3. Presentations and Recognitions** 6:15 pm
 - a. Recognition of New Board Members
Presenter: Brett Gantt, Chair
Potential Action: None – Information Only
 - b. Resolution of Sympathy for Mayor Jerry Medlin, Town of Benson
Presenter: Brett Gantt, Chair
Potential Action: Consent Agenda
 - c. Legislative Outlook for 2025
Presenters: Kevin Leonard, NC Association of County Commissioners, Rose Williams, NC League of Municipalities, and Erin Wynia, NC League of Municipalities
Potential Action: None – Information Only
- 4. Business** 7:20 pm
 - a. Spotlight: Central Pines Regional Council Clean Water Education Partnership
Presenter: Patty Barry, Senior Water Resources Planner and Sterling McDonald, Stormwater Education Coordinator
Potential Action: None – Information Only
 - b. 2024 Member Satisfaction Survey Results
Presenter: Alana Keegan, Local Government Services Director

- Potential Action: None – Information Only
- c. Update from The Forum
Presenter: Kathleen Ferguson, Delegate
Potential Action: None – Information Only
 - d. 2025 Regional Day
Presenter: Alana Keegan, Local Government Services Director and Beth Davis, Member Engagement Coordinator
Potential Action: None – Information Only

5. Consent 7:35 pm

Items on the Consent Agenda are considered routine and will be enacted by a single motion unless a member of the Board or Delegates requests an item be removed. Any item that is removed from the Consent Agenda will be considered individually after the Consent Agenda.

- a. DRAFT Minutes: October 23, 2024
- b. Resolution of Sympathy for Mayor Jerry Medlin, Town of Benson

6. Items Removed from Consent Agenda

7. Public Hearings

8. Executive Director's Report

- a. Executive Director's Report
Presenter: Lee Worsley, Executive Director
Potential Action: None - Receive as Information

9. Chair's Report 7:40 pm

- a. Chair's Report
Presenter: Brett Gantt, Chair
Potential Action: None - Receive as Information

10. Around the Region 7:45 pm

- a. Around the Region
Presenter: Brett Gantt, Chair

11. Other Business

- a. Other Business
Presenter: Brett Gantt, Chair

12. Adjournment 8:00 pm

- a. Adjourn the Meeting
Potential Action: Motion to Adjourn

Meeting Date:

January 22, 2025

Agenda Location:

Presentations & Recognition

Item Title:

Recognition of New Board Members

Presenter(s):

Brett Gantt, Chair

Background:

New Delegates and Alternates join the Central Pines Regional Council Board of Delegates yearly because of elections and local government appointment processes. Each January, the Board welcomes these new Board members to the Board of Delegates and asks each new Board member and Alternate to introduce themselves.

Incoming Board Members and Alternates include:

- Delegate Michelle Burton, Durham County
- Alternate Delegate Mike Lee, Durham County
- Delegate Tom Adams, Moore County

Recommendation:

None-Information Only

Focus Area:

Administrative

Will Documentation Be Included for Agenda Packet:

Yes **No**

If yes, please include documentation in the appropriate meeting folder [HERE](#).

Is Any Additional Action/Communication Required:

- Public Hearing Other:
- Newspaper Notice Required
- Website
- Press Release
- Social Media

Meeting Date:

January 22, 2025

Agenda Location:

Presentations & Recognition

Item Title:

Resolution of Sympathy for Mayor Jerry Medlin, Town of Benson

Presenter(s):

Brett Gantt, Chair

Background:

Town of Benson Mayor and Central Pines Regional Council Delegate Jerry Medlin passed away peacefully at the age of 87 on November 13, 2024, surrounded by his loving children. Mayor Medlin was a dedicated community member and public servant, who represented his community and our region with passion. During this time, Chair Gantt will read a resolution of sympathy honoring Mayor Medlin for the board to place on consent agenda for adoption.

Recommendation:

Place on Consent Agenda

Focus Area:

Administrative

Will Documentation Be Included for Agenda Packet:

Yes No

If yes, please include documentation in the appropriate meeting folder [HERE](#).

Is Any Additional Action/Communication Required:

- Public Hearing
- Newspaper Notice Required
- Website
- Press Release
- Social Media
- Other:

Resolution of Sympathy

In Remembrance & Honor of Jerry Medlin

WHEREAS, the death of Jerry Medlin on November 13, 2025, leaves us with a deep feeling of sorrow for the loss of such a respected community leader; and

WHEREAS, Jerry was a lifelong resident of Benson, North Carolina, growing up in the Elevation community and serving as President of his class at Benson High School; and

WHEREAS, Jerry is survived by his daughter, son, daughter-in-law, grandchildren, brother, sister-in-law, and beloved cat Baby Girl; and

WHEREAS, Jerry had a strong, determined work ethic, graduating from Campbell College with a Business degree and serving as a member of the National Guard while continuing to work on his family's farm; and

WHEREAS, Jerry served the Town of Benson with distinction, as a Town Commissioner for 4 years and Mayor for 7 years, and served as a Delegate on the Central Pines Regional Council Board since 2018; and

WHEREAS, Jerry had a passion for community and public service, building relationships with national, state, regional, and local community members, and serving on numerous community boards including the Benson Singing Convention Board, Johnston County Mayors' Association, and I-95 Crossroads of America Economic Development Alliance; and

WHEREAS, Jerry made time for his other passions, including as a devoted Mason for over 50 years, a member of the American Legion, and a dedicated gardener; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Central Pines Regional Council Board of Delegates hereby extends to the members of his family and community this expression of sincere regret for his loss and hope that they will be consoled by the memories of his exemplary life, respected leadership, and many achievements.

Duly adopted this 22nd day of January, 2025 while in regular session.

Brett Gantt
Chair

Meeting Date:

January 22, 2025

Agenda Location:

Presentations & Recognition

Item Title:

Legislative Outlook for 2025

Presenter(s):

Kevin Leonard, NC Association of County Commissioners, Executive Director

Rose Williams, NC League of Municipalities, Executive Director

Erin Wynia, NC League of Municipalities, Director of Government Affairs

Background:

Central Pines Regional Council is pleased to have fabulous partners at the statewide level that conduct a wide range of legislative advocacy and education efforts on behalf of our local governments.

Staff from the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners and League of Municipalities will join the board to provide an overview of the impacts of the 2024 election in North Carolina, laws going into effect that will affect local governments, opportunities on the horizon to engage with new and returning legislators and cabinet members, and ways Central Pines Regional Council Board and staff can partner with their organizations to support local governments.

Recommendation:

None-Information Only

Focus Area:

Member Support & Strategy

Will Documentation Be Included for Agenda Packet:

Yes **No**

If yes, please include documentation in the appropriate meeting folder [HERE](#).

Is Any Additional Action/Communication Required:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public Hearing | <input type="checkbox"/> Press Release |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice Required | <input type="checkbox"/> Social Media |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Website | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: |



2025-2026 NCACC Legislative Goals Package

Approved at the November 2024
NCACC Legislative Goals Conference



TOP FIVE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITY GOALS

Approved and Ranked at the 2024 NCACC Legislative Goals Conference

After the voting body concluded adopting our state and federal legislative goals (beginning on p. 2), delegates were asked to rank the state goals in order of importance to establish the top five legislative priority goals. The Credentials Committee and NCACC staff then compiled the votes to determine the results.

- Support legislation promoting teacher and classified school personnel recruitment and retention, including state funding for increased salaries.
- Seek legislation to repeal NCGS 105-275(45), which mandates that counties must exclude 80 percent (80%) of the appraised value of a solar energy electric system from property taxation. If repeal of NCGS 105-275(45) is not feasible, then seek legislation to require the State of North Carolina to provide funding to any county that is forced to lose tax revenue due to NCGS 105-275(45) in an amount equal to the lost tax revenue to said county.
- Seek legislation to provide increased recurring state funding in keeping with comparable sales for farmland preservation initiatives and additional flexibility to counties related to farmland preservation.
- Seek legislation expanding state funding to provide essential medical, mental health, substance use disorder and social services to persons incarcerated in local detention facilities.
- Seek governmental funding to assist counties that have limited resources with construction of critical facilities.



COUNTY ADVOCACY GOALS

Approved at the 2024 NCACC Legislative Goals Conference

Agriculture

- **[Top Legislative Priority Goal]** Seek legislation to provide increased recurring state funding in keeping with comparable sales for farmland preservation initiatives and additional flexibility to counties related to farmland preservation.
- Seek legislation amending G.S. 106-740 to provide for an adequate time to hold a public hearing, and to investigate and develop recommendations on proposed acquisitions of qualifying farmland within a voluntary agricultural district.

Environment

- Seek legislation to provide additional resources for preventative storm damage maintenance and disaster mitigation in all 100 counties.
- Support legislation for clean water funds and hold companies that have manufactured emerging and other contaminants such as coal ash, PFOA, PFOS and other PFAS chemicals financially liable for cleanup and mitigation efforts.
- Seek additional resources and legislation to repair, govern, and maintain distressed water and sewer systems and to expand access to water and sewer for unserved residents.
- Support state funding to research and combat invasive species.

General Government

- Seek legislation, funding and other efforts to expand digital infrastructure broadband capability to the unserved and underserved areas and residents of the state.
- **[Top Legislative Priority Goal]** Seek governmental funding to assist counties that have limited resources with construction of critical facilities.
- Seek legislation to authorize the electronic publication on the websites of the boards of county commissioners of public notices and advertisements that are ordinarily required to be published in the newspaper or posted on private property.
- Support legislation to increase the number of state-funded county Veteran Services Officers to at least one per county.
- Seek statutory flexibilities, funding and other resources to ensure continuity of county services and a robust recovery for counties impacted by Hurricane Helene and any other natural disasters.
- Seek legislation to provide recurring funding to state affordable housing programs, such as the Workforce Housing Loan program.



Health and Human Services

- Seek additional resources and state leadership for adult protective services, senior services and foster care.
- Seek legislation to increase resources for behavioral health and intellectual and developmental disabilities services and facilities, including dedicated resources for treatment of substance use disorders; care for individuals in county jails; inpatient crisis beds; and community paramedicine projects.
- Seek legislation that promotes opioid and other substance use prevention, intervention, harm reduction, treatment and recovery initiatives.
- Seek additional state resources for early childhood education, childcare services and pre-K programs.
- Seek legislation to increase recurring state funding to local health departments for foundational/essential public health services.
- Support legislation that restores state funding for accreditation for local health departments and to the Association of North Carolina Boards of Health for training activities required for accreditation.
- Support legislation requiring Pharmacy Benefit Managers (PBMs) to disclose pricing, rebate arrangements and reimbursement practices to ensure fairness and accountability.
- Seek legislation to cover all costs associated with the School Nurse Funding Initiative.
- Seek state resources to fund dedicated physical spaces and necessary staffing to serve foster children held in county custody.

Justice and Public Safety

- **[Top Legislative Priority Goal]** Seek legislation expanding state funding to provide essential medical, mental health, substance use disorder and social services to persons incarcerated in local detention facilities.
- Seek legislation to increase the amount paid to county jails by the state to the full cost reimbursement for housing sentenced inmates.
- Seek increased state funding to fully support drug treatment courts and other specialty courts.

Public Education

- Support school calendar policy that promotes optimal student outcomes and best meets the needs of local communities.
- Support legislation that promotes education attainment and career and college readiness by increasing funding to expand apprenticeship and internship programs, trade certification and workforce development programs, as well as increased student support services in public schools with a focus on dropout prevention and an increase in the dropout age.
- Seek legislation and funding to expand registered apprenticeship tuition waivers to an applicant's 25th birthday to align with the opportunity youth demographic.



- Seek additional revenue sources to address statewide public school and community college capital needs and ensure methods used to distribute school capital funding considers the needs of both low-wealth and growing counties.
- Support legislation modernizing public school funding models in a changing school funding landscape to provide all public school students with an excellent education, including investments to assist communities in eliminating achievement disparities.
- Support increased funding to provide counties an equal opportunity to implement school security measures.
- **[Top Legislative Priority Goal]** Support legislation promoting teacher and classified school personnel recruitment and retention, including state funding for increased salaries.

Tax and Finance

- Seek legislation to give counties flexibility with use of occupancy taxes.
- **[Top Legislative Priority Goal]** Seek legislation to repeal NCGS 105-275(45), which mandates that counties must exclude 80 percent (80%) of the appraised value of a solar energy electric system from property taxation. If repeal of NCGS 105-275(45) is not feasible, then seek legislation to require the State of North Carolina to provide funding to any county that is forced to lose tax revenue due to NCGS 105-275(45) in an amount equal to the lost tax revenue to said county.
- Seek legislation that allows for equitable application of the homestead exemption for all 100 counties.
- Seek legislation to preserve existing local revenue by providing just compensation to counties for property acquired by the state and removed from the ad valorem tax base.
- Seek legislation allowing counties to levy the Article 43 and Article 46 sales taxes for any legal purpose and optionally to include specific language on the sales tax referendum ballot indicating how the proposed tax proceeds will be spent.
- Seek legislation to replace the existing sales tax refund for local governments and nonprofit entities with a sales tax exemption.
- Seek revisions to NCGS 105-187.19(b) so that the Scrap Tire Disposal Tax currently credited to the State General Fund are instead credited to the Scrap Tire Disposal Account.



FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE GOALS

Approved at the 2024 NCACC Legislative Goals Conference

Federal Legislative Goals

- Support funding for behavioral health programs and services to address the opioid and substance use epidemic and support flexibility for counties to use funds for prevention and recovery.
- Support measures to reduce the number of people with mental illness in county jails and legislation that would allow individuals in custody to continue receiving Medicaid and other federal health benefits until they are convicted, sentenced and incarcerated.
- Oppose unfunded mandates and changes in eligibility for federal programs that shift costs to counties.
- Seek federal legislation to increase Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) payments for counties.
- Seek legislation, funding and other efforts to expand digital infrastructure and broadband capability to the unserved and underserved areas and residents in North Carolina and provide affordable high-speed internet services to all residents including low-income customers.
- Support increased funding for disaster preparation, assistance and mitigation; legislation or policy changes that expedite and expand county use of federal disaster assistance funds; legislation or policy changes to streamline and expedite the FEMA individual assistance process; and legislation to review and update flood maps more frequently in counties experiencing high rates of population growth and counties prone to flooding.
- Support efforts to promote food system resiliency, such as ways to strengthen North Carolina's food system and increase access to affordable, healthy food options.
- Support additional flexibility and an extension in the deadline for spending American Rescue Plan (ARP) State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF).
- Support strong regulation and enforcement along with necessary funding or reimbursement to state and local governments when a federal agency, such as the EPA regulates emerging contaminants and other discharges into drinking water sources.

LEGISLATIVE GOAL STATEMENTS

RECOMMENDED BY THE NCLM BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The following goal statements are NOT listed in any priority order.

- **Expand funding opportunities for disaster resiliency and recovery efforts.**
 - North Carolina has faced a number of damaging natural disasters in recent years, including the unprecedented storm that devastated western North Carolina in the fall of 2024.
 - To fully recover from these natural disasters requires a broad approach that focuses on infrastructure, housing and economic losses.
 - Federal assistance and private insurance will not be enough to address these ongoing, critical needs or mitigate damage when future disasters hit.
- **Establish long-term funding streams that adequately address water, sewer, stormwater, transportation and other infrastructure needs.**
 - Infrastructure – including roads, water, sewer, stormwater, parks and beaches – are critical to economic development and job creation.
 - Many cities in the state are growing, creating a constant need for investment to keep pace with population growth; many cities and towns also have aging infrastructure that must be replaced.
 - Creating long-term and more permanent funding streams for infrastructure will ensure adequate investments so that North Carolina thrives now and into the future.
- **Expand state transportation funding streams for construction and maintenance of municipal and state-owned secondary roads.**
 - Current Powell Bill and other state funding is not adequate to address transportation needs, particularly as they affect municipal and state-owned secondary roads.
 - In many cities and towns, major commuting corridors are not receiving the level of investment needed to keep pace with traffic.
 - More investment is needed for these roads if existing residents are to embrace business and residential growth

- **Increase funds to remediate contamination in local water supplies.**
 - Local municipal water systems and their ratepayers increasingly are footing the costs of cleaning up PFAS and other “forever” chemicals from drinking water supplies.
 - As more regulations are set at the state and federal level to limit these chemicals in water supplies, costs will escalate.
 - Cities primary recourse to try to recoup the cost for utility ratepayers is through the courts.

- **Expand incentives and funding for local economic development.**
 - Funding is simply inadequate in many cities and towns to encourage job growth.
 - State grants and incentives are often targeted in ways that fail to assist the areas in greatest need of job creation.
 - Maintaining or expanding funding for film tax credits, major industrial site development, downtown development and renewable energy tax credits helps cities and towns across the state.

- **Create incentives to encourage the development of diverse housing options.**
 - Housing affordability continues to be a significant problem across many areas of North Carolina, affecting people of different income levels.
 - The lack of affordable housing acts as a major impediment to business and workforce recruitment.
 - State incentives to encourage the construction of housing for people of various income levels are extremely limited.

- **Provide resources to rehabilitate or purchase blighted properties.**
 - In many cities and towns, blighted properties act as an impediment to economic and business growth.
 - Cities and towns have limited means to address these properties, particularly in more rural, smaller communities.
 - Rehabilitating blighted properties can help address North Carolina’s housing needs.

- **Create incentives that encourage and adequately fund regionalized water and sewer solutions.**
 - A number of municipal water and sewer systems continue to financially struggle with deferred maintenance needs.
 - These challenges came about largely due to population and job losses in rural areas, leading to an erosion of taxpayer and ratepayer bases.
 - While legislators and municipalities have begun to address these issues with the creation of the Viable Utility Reserve and the use of ARPA funding, state estimates show needs still exceed expenditures by several billion dollars.

- **Reduce regulatory conflicts between state agencies that discourage voluntary consolidation, merger and interconnection of municipal utility systems.**
 - Municipalities have contractually obtained older, smaller utility systems of other municipalities and private enterprises in order to provide better and more efficient services to residents and businesses.
 - Older laws and regulations impose penalties on mid-size and large municipalities due to state agencies requiring them to pay for relocation of utilities when those penalties would have been reduced or eliminated for the smaller entities they were purchased from.
 - The State should work to reduce and eliminate these conflicts which have the effect of discouraging voluntary consolidation, merger and interconnection of municipal utility systems.

- **Create an orphan road program whereby the state improves those roads to N.C. Department of Transportation standards before municipalities assume maintenance responsibilities.**
 - So-called orphan roads are typically created when a street in a subdivision is not built to state or municipal standards, and the developer walks away without an agreement for maintenance.
 - The abandoned road can leave homeowners on the hook for the cost of maintenance.
 - For cities and towns, these abandoned roads can serve as a deterrent to voluntary annexation agreements even as the residents seek municipal services.

- **Provide local revenue options beyond the property tax.**
 - Roughly 40 percent of municipal general fund revenue is generated by local property taxes.
 - Cities have little to no authority to raise significant revenue in other ways.
 - A lack of diverse, local tax options can affect economic growth, as well as cause large swings in revenue based on economic changes.

- **Support technical assistance programs to assist municipalities with securing or maintaining grants or other necessary municipal resources.**
 - Many municipalities do not have the resources to seek or administer grants, even as that source of funding could help meet the needs of residents.
 - State, federal and other grant funding offers a significant opportunity for cities and towns to improve infrastructure or enhance services.
 - Providing technical assistance to these municipalities can provide them with access to grant funding, providing resources not otherwise available to them.

- **Address the needs of a changing municipal workforce through state assistance that supports employee retention, including training and recruitment.**
 - Municipalities across the state are facing staffing issues as current workers age and retire.
 - Training and retention resources are limited and competing with wages offered in the private sector can be difficult.
 - The use of training and recruitment tools across state and local government boundaries can improve public sector workforce availability.

- **Update the annexation petition thresholds to make voluntary annexations easier to initiate.**
 - Voluntary annexation by petition currently requires 100 percent consent from all property owners, a threshold that can be impossible to meet even if a majority of property owners can benefit by utilizing their property for business or residential purposes.
 - Lowering the threshold from 100 percent represents a middle ground that would still reflect the will of property owners but not handicap communities' ability to economically thrive.
 - The ability of a city or town to grow and reflect its urban footprint is vital to its financial health; city services are relied on by residents whether they live in or near municipal boundaries.

- **Preserve authority for extraterritorial jurisdiction to ensure that growth is well-planned and investments by homeowners and business owners are protected.**
 - A community's land-use planning tools, including ETJ, are vital as infrastructure investments are made that pave the way for economic growth.
 - Protecting homes and businesses from incompatible uses continues to be an important feature of ETJs. As of 2022, at least 14 counties in North Carolina had no zoning restrictions, with several others being only partially zoned.
 - Protecting neighborhoods from incompatible uses ultimately protects the value of residents' homes and property.

- **Protect the ability of municipal elected officials, acting on behalf of local voters, to determine election formats, districts and other election matters currently under their purview.**
 - Locally-elected municipal officials are best positioned to understand the wishes of local voters and how those should be applied to local election matters.
 - In many areas, residents prefer to avoid political polarization when it comes to the practical tasks of municipal government.
 - Locally-elected municipal officials are in their communities every day and accessible to voters.

Meeting Date:

January 22, 2025

Agenda Location:

Business

Item Title:

Central Pines Regional Council's Clean Water Education Partnership (CWEP)

Presenter(s):

Patty Barry (Senior Water Resources Planner), Sterling McDonald (Stormwater Education Coordinator)

Background:

The Clean Water Education Partnership (CWEP) is a cooperative effort between local governments and state agencies to protect water quality in the Tar-Pamlico, Neuse, and Cape Fear River Basins. **CWEP aims to protect North Carolina's waterways from stormwater pollution through public education and outreach.** CWEP is governed by a Steering Committee that is composed of representatives from each partner jurisdiction or agency. CWEP began in fiscal year 2002 with just 10 partners, and today it has grown to 44 local government partners and counting.

Recommendation:

None-Information Only

Focus Area:

Environment & Resilience

Will Documentation Be Included for Agenda Packet:

Yes No

If yes, please include documentation in the appropriate meeting folder [HERE](#).

Is Any Additional Action/Communication Required:

- Public Hearing
- Newspaper Notice Required
- Website
- Press Release
- Social Media
- Other:

Meeting Date:

January 22, 2025

Agenda Location:

Business

Item Title:

2024 Member Satisfaction Survey Results

Presenter(s):

Alana Keegan, Local Government Services Director

Background:

As a membership organization, it is critical for Central Pines to continually assess the value being provided and satisfaction of our local governments. A membership survey was sent out broadly to our stakeholders throughout the month of August 2024. At this time, the board will receive an overview of the results and any notable trends or follow-up items.

Recommendation:

None-Information Only

Focus Area:

Member Support & Strategy

Will Documentation Be Included for Agenda Packet:

Yes **No**

If yes, please include documentation in the appropriate meeting folder [HERE](#).

Is Any Additional Action/Communication Required:

- Public Hearing
- Newspaper Notice Required
- Website
- Press Release
- Social Media
- Other:

Meeting Date:

January 22, 2025

Agenda Location:

Business

Item Title:

Update from The Forum

Presenter(s):

Kathleen Ferguson, Delegate to the Forum

Background:

The Forum is a delegation organized by the NC Association of Regional Councils (NCARCOG) of elected officials from the board of each Council of Governments in the state of NC. The group champions regional policy solutions for challenges facing local governments across the state and advocates for regionalism at the state and federal levels. Kathleen Ferguson, Town of Hillsborough, is the current delegate on behalf of Central Pines Regional Council Board of Delegates. Ronnie Currin, Town of Rolesville, is the alternate delegate.

During this time, Ms. Ferguson will discuss general updates from the group on their 2025 Legislative Strategy and the formally adopted Legislative Agenda for the Association which includes the following policy priorities. These priorities are further outlined in the policy agenda attached.

1. Build partnerships and capacity for COGs to provide financial administration for local governments.
2. Provide ongoing funding for COGs to continue disaster resiliency efforts for communities and establish COGs as the entity to develop regional pre-disaster hazard mitigation plans.
3. Modify the Prosperity Zones to conform to COG regions.
4. Build strategic partnerships to improve regional delivery of services
5. Modify rules, regulations, or legislation to include COGs as eligible entities for state and federal grants.

Recommendation:

None-Information Only

Focus Area:

Administrative

Will Documentation Be Included for Agenda Packet:

Yes

No

If yes, please include documentation in the appropriate meeting folder [HERE](#).

Is Any Additional Action/Communication Required:

Public Hearing

Newspaper Notice Required

Website

Press Release

Social Media

Other:

Meeting Date:

January 22, 2025

Agenda Location:

Business

Item Title:

2025 Regional Day

Presenter(s):

Alana Keegan, Local Government Services Director

Beth Davis, Member Engagement Coordinator

Background:

Regional Day 2025, hosted by Central Pines Regional Council will provide valuable knowledge and insights to help elected officials thrive, deepen their understanding of our region, and network and build relationships with neighboring colleagues and critical partner organizations. Presentations and panel discussions will cover the historical context and data showcasing our region's growth and the value of partnerships between communities. Attendees will explore the vision for our region and the implications of regional growth. By the end of the event, participants will have a comprehensive understanding of our region's structure and function, and how their individual community fits into the larger network.

The event will include a panel of elected officials discussing lessons learned in their tenure and tips for new elected officials they wish they had known. During this time, the Board will have the chance to share guidance on what they feel would be most valuable to cover in the panel.

Recommendation:

None-Information Only

Focus Area:

Member Support & Strategy

Will Documentation Be Included for Agenda Packet:

Yes No

If yes, please include documentation in the appropriate meeting folder [HERE](#).

Is Any Additional Action/Communication Required:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public Hearing | <input type="checkbox"/> Press Release |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice Required | <input type="checkbox"/> Social Media |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Website | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: |



NCARCOG Overview

The North Carolina Association of Regional Councils of Governments (NCARCOG) represents 16 regional councils of governments (COGs), and it advocates for regional solutions to address multi-jurisdictional issues or opportunities, coordinated state and federal program service delivery, and building strategic partnerships to improve the prosperity of rural and urban North Carolina.

Policy Priorities

1. Build partnerships and capacity for COGs to provide financial administration for local governments.

Many local governments struggle with poor financial administration in North Carolina. This leads to inaccurate financial statements, higher risk of errors and fraud, and incomplete or inaccurate information for local elected bodies to use for key decision-making for the public welfare. Local governments must meet audit, budget, and internal control requirements established by the state and national standards, and many have done so successfully over the decades. An entire generation of local government officials is leaving the workforce due to retirement, and many areas of the state find it difficult to find the qualified professionals needed to remain compliant with state and national accounting standards. COGs are an extension of local government, with professional finance staff, who are uniquely qualified to assist local governments in need of temporary and ongoing financial services. COGs have the ability and authority to partner with the Local Government Commission (LGC), North Carolina League of Municipalities (NCLM), and North Carolina Association of County Commissioners (NCACC) to meet the audit, compliance, and financial administration needs of local governments. However, additional capacity is needed to meet the financial administration needs of local governments.

Action Requested:

The NCARCOG requests the North Carolina General Assembly to appropriate \$3.95 million in recurring funding for COGs to create a financial administration program to employ 32 additional finance professionals in the 16 regions to assist small local governments with returning to a compliant status. These positions will serve as “boots on the ground.” This program will serve 60 to 120 local governments with priority for units with limited means and those units on the LGC’s Unit Assistance List.

2. Provide ongoing funding for COGs to continue disaster resiliency efforts for communities and establish COGs as the entity to develop regional pre-disaster hazard mitigation plans.

As we face both natural and manmade disruptions, our communities' health, safety, and economic stability are at risk. In bolstering pre-disaster resiliency, financial grant administration, and post-disaster recovery efforts, local governments must be proficient in effectively managing public assistance dollars. The NCARCOG provided disaster recovery financial administrative training programs to local governments, and other disaster public assistance stakeholders, with state funds that expired in June of 2024. The NCARCOG program funded by the state, and supported by the NC Division of Emergency Management, is adaptable to address specific nuances to geography and organizational structure, among other challenges, and ensures all requirements of the public assistance process are in place prior to a disaster. This improves the efficient and effective use of taxpayer dollars incurred during Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) recognized disasters.

Recent disasters have demonstrated that many local governments within each COG region have a limited capacity to apply for emergency management grants, and successfully manage all the training and compliance

NCARCOG Contacts

Justin Hembree, NCARCOG Board Chair | jhembree@mccog.org

Anthony Starr, Legislative Chair | anthony.starr@wpcog.org

Chris Wall, NCARCOG Legislative Affairs Director | cwall@eqvstrategic.com



requirements for the duration of the grant. North Carolina COGs have successfully managed regional disaster and recovery efforts and have extensive experience with emergency management grants. The COGs could serve as designated grant recipients, grant administrators, provide regional communication and coordination activities, and provide the necessary technical assistance to meet grant compliance standards.

COG involvement would enhance both pre-disaster and post-disaster recovery and resiliency efforts by developing pre-disaster long term recovery plans and serve as the bridge between state and local leadership and thus allow more local governments to participate in federal and state hazard, resiliency and mitigation funding opportunities that specifically address local needs.

Action Requested:

NCARCOG requests a recurring annual appropriation of \$3.9 million to build capacity, continue disaster resiliency efforts (e.g. local financial administration training, technical assistance to communities during post-disaster recovery periods, creation of disaster recovery plans, etc.), and conduct hazard mitigation planning. The NCARCOG also requests legislative and policy direction for the North Carolina Department of Emergency Management to use COGs to create and facilitate implementation of regional hazard mitigation plans and to provide training, grant administration, grant application assistance, or any other service requested by a qualifying local government.

3. Modify the Prosperity Zones to conform to COG regions.

Eight Prosperity Zones were created in 2014 when the state eliminated the previously designated economic development regions. The designation of the Prosperity Zones intended to improve collaboration among state agencies and to improve customer service. However, the Prosperity Zones do not have a dedicated administrative structure, have been largely ineffective, and duplicate efforts of COGs. Many COGs already serve as the Economic Development Administration's designated economic development districts and local development districts for the Appalachian Regional Commission and Southeast Crescent Regional Commission. The assigned geographies of the Prosperity Zones do not follow natural economic, transportation, political, or cultural patterns and are often too large to foster cooperation within those regions.

COG regions better reflect natural patterns within the state and already contain human infrastructure among a range of programs including planning, transportation, workforce development, community and economic development, etc. Using COG regions as the basis for Prosperity Zones would decrease duplication and confusion for local governments and facilitate better coordination of services.

Action Requested:

The NCARCOG requests the North Carolina General Assembly to modify the eight Prosperity Zones to conform to the 16 COG regions. When necessary, state agencies can assign multiple COG regions to state staff personnel.

NCARCOG Contacts

Justin Hembree, NCARCOG Board Chair | jhembree@mccog.org

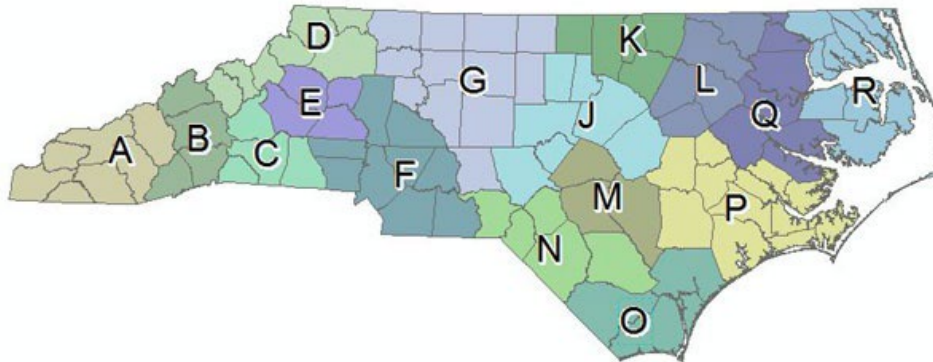
Anthony Starr, Legislative Chair | anthony.starr@wpcog.org

Chris Wall, NCARCOG Legislative Affairs Director | cwall@eqvstrategic.com



4. Build strategic partnerships to improve regional delivery of services.

Rural and urban local governments established COGs to come together to solve local and regional issues. COGs play a role in convening leaders within each region and coordinating with multiple types of organizations to deliver programs, projects, or services. COGs are best positioned for the delivery of federal, state, and local programs or services on a regional basis due to the ability to scale a service or program to meet the needs of each region, or to work cooperatively across multiple regions when needed or required.



Action Requested:

Advocate for an increase in the use of COGs to administer and/or implement governmental services and programs that are intended to be delivered on a multi-county basis. Advocate that COGs serve as the default mechanism to deliver regionally based services. Oppose the creation of new regional offices or regional service areas that split COG regions. Request state agencies and the General Assembly consider modifying other state-designated regions to align with COG regions or to avoid splitting COG regions.

5. Modify rules, regulations, or legislation to include COGs as eligible entities for state and federal grants.

The federal Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular 2 CFR 200. 64 (l) identifies a council of governments (COG) as an eligible local government for the purpose of applying for and receiving federal grant awards. NCGS 160A-475(1) and 153A-395 allow COGs to apply for, accept, receive, and dispense grants made available to it by the State of North Carolina, the United States of America or any of its agencies, any local government, and any private or civic agency. Some program rules and grant applications, at the state and federal levels, do not list COGs as eligible program administrators, applicants, or sub-recipients. These limitations prevent COGs from applying for regional based grants, and/or delivering regionally significant programs in each COG service area.

Action Requested:

NCARCOG requests the members of the North Carolina General Assembly add councils of governments to the list of eligible entities for state and federal grant programs. In addition, NCARCOG requests the members of the North Carolina delegation to the U.S. House of Representatives, and the U.S. Senate also add councils of governments to the list of eligible entities for federally funded grants and programs.

NCARCOG Contacts

Justin Hembree, NCARCOG Board Chair | jhembree@mccog.org

Anthony Starr, Legislative Chair | anthony.starr@wpcog.org

Chris Wall, NCARCOG Legislative Affairs Director | cwall@eqvstrategic.com



Central Pines Regional Council Board of Delegates
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, October 23, 2024 | 6:00 – 8:00 pm Hybrid
Central Pines Regional Council
4307 Emperor Blvd., Durham, NC

Delegates & Alternates Attending:

Wilma Laney, Aberdeen
Sheveil Harmon, Angier
Brett Gantt, Apex
Randee Haven O'Donnell, Carrboro
Jennifer Robinson, Cary
Sarika Bansal, Cary (A)
Heidi Carter, Durham County
Kathleen Ferguson, Hillsborough
Chris Deshazor, Holly Springs
Mark Swan, Knightdale
Katy Garcia, Micro
Steve Rao, Morrisville
Jean Hamilton, Orange County
Jeff Morgan, Pinehurst
Pamela Baldwin, Pittsboro
Ronnie Currin, Rolesville
Rebecca Wyhof Salmon, Sanford
Byron McAllister, Selma
Susan Evans, Wake County
Nick Sliwinski, Wake Forest
Rick Hutchinson, Whispering Pines
Shannon Baxter, Zebulon

CPRC Staff Attending:

Beth Davis, Member Engagement
Coordinator
Matt Day, Transportation Director
Jenny Halsey, Assistant Executive
Director
Jenisha Henneghan, Area Agency on
Aging Director
Lee Worsley, Executive Director

Guests Attending:

Russ Overton, Cary Deputy Town
Manager
Shelley Curran, Cary Assistant Town
Manager
Virginia Johnson, Cary Town Clerk
Scot Berry, Cary Assistant Town Manager
Carissa Kohn-Johnson, Town of Cary
Lori Bush, Town of Cary
Harold Weinbrecht, Town of Cary Mayor
Angela Reincke, Town of Apex
Atuya Cornwell, Town of Chapel Hill
Wade Walcutt, City of Durham
LeAnne Kennedy, City of Durham
Brian Fork, Carolina Hurricanes
Shane Willis, Carolina Hurricanes

1. Call to Order

- a. Call to Order and Welcome
Official: Brett Gantt, Chair
- b. Roll Call
Beth Davis, Member Engagement Coordinator
- c. Declaration of Quorum
Official: Brett Gantt, Chair

Chair Brett Gantt called the meeting to order at 6:06 pm and reviewed the process for hybrid meetings. Beth Davis, Member Engagement Coordinator, completed Roll Call and it was determined there was a quorum present at the meeting.

d. Get to Know CPRC

Chair Gantt pointed out the Get to Know CPRC fact sheet on CPRC's very first program of work from December 1959 when the organization was known as Research Triangle Regional Planning Commission. This information will be posted online after the meeting.

2. Review of Agenda

a. Review of Agenda

Official: Brett Gantt, Chair

Potential Action: Chair Gantt will approve

Action: Chair Gantt reviewed the agenda and declared that the agenda was approved.

3. Presentations and Recognitions

a. Recognition of National Association of Regional Councils Past Chair

Jennifer Robinson

Presenter: Brett Gantt, Chair

Delegate Jennifer Robinson recently completed a term as the National Association of Regional Councils President. The National Association of Regional Councils (NARC) serves as the national voice for regions by advocating for regional cooperation as the most effective way to address various community planning and development opportunities and issues.

Delegate Robinson also led Central Pines Regional Council as its Board Chair from 2014 to 2016. Central Pines and NARC would like to express their appreciation and gratitude to Delegate Robinson for her continued leadership.

Erich Zimmerman, Executive Director of NARC gave remarks, along with Harold Weinbrecht, Mayor of Cary, and CPRC Executive Director Lee Worsley. Delegate Robinson shared that it's been a pleasure to serve on both the Central Pines Regional Council Board of Delegates as well as the National Association of Regional Councils. She also mentioned that there is now an opening to serve on the NARC Board for the NC/SC Delegation and encouraged anyone interested to check it out.

Delegate Robinson was recognized with several gifts of appreciation, and in addition, she will have her name and position with NARC on a placard hung in the CPRC Office.

b. New Member – Town of Pinebluff

Presenter: Brett Gantt, Chair

Potential Action: Vote on approval of resolution of membership

The Town of Pinebluff, located in Moore County, is requesting membership in Central Pines Regional Council, effective October 23, 2024. At the Town's recent Board Meeting, the Council adopted a resolution accepting and approving Central Pines Regional Council's Bylaws and Charter Resolution and is now petitioning for membership.

All requirements for CPRC membership have been fulfilled, and the request must be approved by the Board of Delegates to become official.

Action: Approval of CPRC membership resolution for the Town of Pinebluff, Resolution #2024-10-01

Motion: Delegate Kathleen Ferguson

Second: Delegate Byron McAllister

Ms. Davis facilitated a roll call vote, and the motion was approved unanimously.

c. Carolina Hurricanes, Professional Sports, & Economic Development

Presenter: Carolina Hurricanes CEO Brian Fork and Hurricanes Director of Youth Hockey & Community Outreach Shane Willis

The Carolina Hurricanes have made the region their home for the last 25 years and are the only top-tier professional sports franchise in our market.

Brian Fork and Shane Willis from the Carolina Hurricanes discussed the history of the franchise, how youth hockey has grown in the region and discussed recently unveiled plans to redevelop the property that surrounds the Hurricanes home ice, the Lenovo Center.

Several Board members asked questions at the conclusion of their presentation, and they were presented with a gift of appreciation.

d. Parks & Recreation Panel

Panelists: Angela Reincke, Town of Apex Parks Planning Manager, Atuya Cornwell, Town of Chapel Hill Parks & Recreation Director, Wade Walcutt, Director of Durham Parks & Recreation

This Parks and Recreation panel discussion featured representatives from Durham, Chapel Hill, and Apex, who explored the unique aspects of their respective departments. Each panelist gave a brief overview of their parks and recreation programming, highlighting key initiatives, facilities, and community engagement efforts.

Panelists were asked about upcoming changes, challenges they face, and how they are partnering with surrounding communities. The Board asked several questions, and panelists were presented with a gift of appreciation.

4. Business

a. Hurricane Helene Relief

Presenter: Lee Worsley, Executive Director

Potential Action: None – Information Only

Hurricane Helene inflicted historic damage on communities in western North Carolina. Since then, numerous local governments across the state and in other states have come to the aid of these communities. CPRC Executive Director Lee Worsley updated the Board on ways Central Pines has supported regional councils and local governments in the West since the event.

Efforts include:

- Partnering with NC City/County Management Association to create a Resource Hub
- Hosting weekly virtual office hours for managers, with managers from the central and eastern parts of the state serving as coaches
- CPRC Executive Director Lee Worsley was deployed to Land of Sky Regional Council from October 6-12 to assist with needs
- CPRC Regional Recovery & Resilience Coordinator Langston Alexander is deployed this week to Polk County to assist with residential damage assessment as a Certified Floodplain Manager
- CPRC CFO Hope Tally assisted Land of Sky Regional Council with plan to pay their employees due to finance system being down (did not have to implement)
- There are many other examples, but these are just a few.
- NC COG Association partnership with Civic Local Foundation to help local government employees who have had major losses

5. Consent

Items on the Consent Agenda are considered routine and will be enacted by a single motion unless a member of the Board or Delegates requests an item be removed. Any item that is removed from the Consent Agenda will be considered individually after the Consent Agenda.

a. DRAFT Minutes: August 28, 2024

Chair Gantt reviewed the items on the Consent Agenda and asked if any items needed to be moved. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda.

Action: Adoption of Consent Agenda.
Motion: Delegate Kathleen Ferguson
Second: Delegate Susan Evans

Ms. Davis facilitated a roll call vote, and the Consent Agenda was approved unanimously.

6. Items Removed from Consent Agenda

7. Public Hearings

8. Executive Director's Report

- a. Executive Director's Report
Presenter: Lee Worsley, Executive Director
Potential Action: None – Receive as Information

Mr. Worsley thanked the Board for welcoming Pinebluff as a new member and recognized the Chair for making this a priority.

The next meeting will be an informal celebration on Wednesday, December 4 with a floating reception at 5:00 pm and recognition at 6:00 pm. This will be in-person only.

Save the Date for the next Regional Day, which will be February 21, 2025. This event is open to all elected officials, but especially new elected officials to learn more about regional resources available.

9. Chair's Report

- a. Chair's Report
Presenter: Brett Gantt, Chair

Chair Gantt thanked Mr. Worsley for the efforts being made in Western NC. This is also a learning experience for our members here to learn how to be more prepared when disaster strikes.

10. Around the Region

- a. Prompt: What is one new item in this year's budget that you are most excited about?
Presenter: Brett Gantt, Chair

Hillsborough – River Walk; recently opened skate park

Morrisville – Using generative AI to help with searchability of documents and engaging with residents in the Town.

Rolesville – Over the next 3 years, there are funds to help develop a municipal complex, including a new town hall, new police station, and new fire station. There are also funds for a new library. Delegate Currin encouraged everyone in Wake County to vote on the library bond.

Carrboro/Orange County – Partnership to open the Orange County branch library in Carrboro, which has been in the works for 30+ years.

Micro – They are excited to update playground equipment.

11. Other Business

- a. Other Business
Presenter: Brett Gantt, Chair

12. Adjournment

- a. Adjourn the Meeting
Potential Action: Motion to Adjourn

With there being nothing further, the Chair Gantt adjourned the meeting at 8:13 pm.

Duly adopted this 22nd day of January 2025 while in regular session.

Brett Gantt
Board Chair

ATTEST:

Beth Davis
Clerk to the Board
Central Pines Regional Council