



CENTRAL PINES REGIONAL COUNCIL

SPECIAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, February 25 | 6:00 – 8:00 pm | Virtual

Chair Byron McAllister Presiding

Delegates & Alternates Attending:

Sheveil Harmon, Town of Angier
Michelle Burton, Durham County
Kathleen Ferguson, Town of Hillsborough
Robb English, Town of Hillsborough (A)
Sarah Larson, Holly Springs (A)
Kirk Smith, Lee County
Sally Greene, Orange County
Byron McAllister, Town of Selma
Susan Evans, Wake County

CPRC Staff Attending:

Grace Berry, Lead for NC Fellow
Jenny Halsey, Deputy Executive Director
Alana Keegan, Local Government Services Director
Hannah Schuette, Management Analyst
Beth Seidel, Member Engagement Coordinator
Lindsay Whitson, Community & Economic Development Director
Lee Worsley, Executive Director

Guests Attending:

LeAnn Bagasala, Mauldin & Jenkins PLLC

A = Alternate

1. Call to Order

- a. Call to Order
Byron McAllister, Board Chair

- b. Roll Call
Beth Seidel, Clerk to the Board

- c. Declaration of Quorum
Byron McAllister, Board Chair

Chair Byron McAllister called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm and went over housekeeping information. He reminded everyone about the

virtual meeting guidelines. Beth Seidel, Clerk to the Board, called roll and a quorum was met.

- d. Get to Know CPRC
Byron McAllister, Board Chair

Chair McAllister gave a brief overview of what the Executive Committee does for a few of the newer Executive Committee members.

2. Review of Agenda

- a. Review of Agenda
Byron McAllister, Board Chair
Potential Action: Chair McAllister will approve

Chair McAllister approved the agenda.

3. Presentations & Recognition

- a. FY2025 Audit Presentation
Presenter: LeAnn Bagasala, Mauldin & Jenkins, PLLC
Potential Action: None – Information Only

NC General Statute requires that each unit of local government have its accounts audited after the close of the fiscal year by a certified public accountant. Central Pines is under contract with Mauldin & Jenkins, PLLC to audit its financial statements and compliance required by the Uniform Guidance and North Carolina State Single Audit Implementation Act. Mauldin & Jenkins has issued unmodified opinions on both the financial statements and single audit compliance. Mauldin & Jenkins partner, LeAnn Bagasala, presented an executive summary of its FY24-25 audit results.

Delegate Susan Evans asked about the recommendation for Triangle West TPO, if that isn't resolved, how will that affect CPRC next year. Ms. Bagasala noted that they were able to substantiate from a testing perspective what they needed to in terms of expenditures. They don't hone in all transactions. From a risk perspective, CPRC is ultimately responsible.

Chair McAllister gave a bit of background on the partnership between Triangle West TPO and CPRC and how that works.

4. Public Hearing

5. Business

- a. Triangle J Corporation 501c3
Presenter: Jenny Halsey, Deputy Executive Director

Potential Action: None – Information Only

In 2019, the former Triangle J Council of Governments established the Triangle J Regional Corporation as an independent nonprofit organization. The Triangle J Regional Corporation is governed by representatives of elected officials and staff from jurisdictions within what is now the Central Pines Regional Council (CPRC) region.

The Triangle J Regional Corporation has not been active in recent years. As CPRC seeks to diversify funding opportunities and strengthen regional initiatives, staff propose reactivating the nonprofit entity.

In the coming weeks, staff will convene the current Triangle J Regional Corporation Board of Directors to discuss next steps. As part of this effort, CPRC will request approval to change the organization's name to align with CPRC's new brand. Additionally, staff will recommend aligning the nonprofit's Board of Directors with CPRC's Executive Committee to streamline governance and business operations.

CPRC staff have consulted with Ginger Booker, a nonprofit attorney, who specializes in nonprofit formation and assisted with the formation of the Triangle J Regional Corporation in 2019. Ms. Booker has reviewed and is supportive of the recommended path forward.

The current bylaws of the Triangle J Regional Corporation are included in this agenda packet for the Executive Committee's review.

Members of the Executive Committee were amenable to this change.

b. CPRC Digital Opportunity Hub

Presenter: Lindsay Whitson, Community & Economic Development Director

Potential Action: Place on Consent Agenda

Central Pines Regional Council was awarded funding from the Institute of Emerging Issues (IEI), based out of NC State University. This funding was issued to support county-wide digital opportunity planning in Johnston, Lee, Moore, and Orange counties. As part of this effort, we are creating a hub that hosts all digital opportunity plans in the region, in addition to various other tools that support digital opportunity planning and implementation. In place of a regional plan being created, CPRC is requesting that the Executive Committee approve a resolution of support for the hub hosted on CPRC's website.

There were a few questions from Orange County and Hillsborough about where they are in the process. Ms. Whitson shared that if they get

implementation dollars from IEI, we can provide the deliverables on behalf of the entire region. The grant that was awarded to Chatham and Durham was awarded because they already had Digital Opportunity Plans in place.

Delegate Kathleen Ferguson shared that they have a new IT Director, so this is new information to her. She asked for some background so she can share with Hillsborough's new IT Director.

6. Consent Agenda

Items on the Consent Agenda are considered routine and will be enacted by a single motion unless a member of the Executive Committee 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: November 18, 2025
- b. Draft Minutes: January 28, 2026
- c. CPRC Digital Opportunity Hub, Resolution #2026-02-01
- d. CPRC Budget Amendment 3, Resolution #2026-02-02
- e. Triangle West TPO Budget Amendment, Resolution #2026-02-03

Action: Adoption of Consent Agenda as presented

Motion: Delegate Kathleen Ferguson

Second: Delegate Michelle Burton

Vote: Approved unanimously by roll call

7. Items Removed from Consent Agenda

8. Around the Region

- a. Around the Region
Presenter: Byron McAllister, Board Chair

Chair McAllister asked members of the Executive Committee what type of conversations their Boards have had about Data Centers in their communities.

Michelle Burton, Durham County

Conversations regarding data centers are not currently taking place.

Susan Evans, Wake County

The Board has not had formal discussions on data centers. There is a group attempting to advance a data center proposal outside of Apex on County-owned land within the ETJ. Apex would need to annex the site to provide the necessary infrastructure. The County is receiving significant public feedback and is actively studying the issue. While there have not yet been Board-level conversations, discussions are anticipated.

Delegate Evans also noted coordination with Chatham County’s moratorium discussions and highlighted that blanket moratoria can create definitional challenges, as some facilities that may not be commonly perceived as data centers, such as large-scale server operations, could fall within that classification.

Kathleen Ferguson, Town of Hillsborough

The Assistant Town Manager shared relevant data internally across the organization. There is interest in the topic of data center decommissioning. Based on discussions through NARC, there appear to be limited examples or established models outlining decommissioning considerations within the approval process. At the General Assembly level, there has been discussion regarding local governments’ authority to adopt moratoria. Delegate Ferguson encouraged everyone to review the slides from Regional Day on this topic.

Local Government Services Director Alana Keegan shared additional resources on this topic.

9. Chair’s Report

a. Chair’s Report

Presenter: Byron McAllister, Board Chair

Potential Action: None – Information Only

Chair McAllister reported that Regional Day was amazing. He praised the staff for putting together fantastic presentations. Every presentation was valuable, some of our new members and community partners were oohing and aahing about things they learned at Regional Day.

Delegate Susan Evans seconded what the Chair said and asked if all the information from Regional Day could be sent out.

Delegate Kathleen Ferguson highlighted the presentation that Lee Worsley gave on Manager-Council relations, as well as Matt Day’s presentation on transportation projections.

10. Executive Director’s Report

a. Executive Director’s Report

Presenter: Jenny Halsey, Deputy Executive Director

Potential Action: None – Information Only

Deputy Executive Director Jenny Halsey thanked everyone who came out to Regional Day, especially Chair McAllister for helping emcee the event.

Ms. Halsey shouted out CPRC CFO Hope Tally for the award she recently received – CFO of the Year for NC. This is especially meaningful as she was working on an intense audit and implementing a new ERP system, which is a year-long process.

Ms. Halsey gave an update on the strategic plan. Senior leadership has been working on finalizing the plan for your review at the March meeting. We are hoping to start implementation on July 1.

11. Closed Session

12. Other Business

a. Other Business

Presenter: Byron McAllister, Board Chair

Chair McAllister and Vice Chair Susan Evans will be meeting with Chair and Vice Chair of Triangle West TPO in May to circle back on processes to improve that financial relationship.

13. Adjournment

With there being nothing further, the meeting adjourned at 7:07 pm.

Duly adopted this 25th day of March 2026 while in regular session.



Byron McAllister
Board Chair

ATTEST:



Beth Seidel
Clerk to the Board
Central Pines Regional Council