



**Central Pines Regional Council
Board of Delegates**

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 22, 2025 | 6:00 – 8:00 pm
Virtual | Chair Brett Gantt Presiding

Delegates & Alternates Attending:

Wilma Laney, Aberdeen
Brett Gantt, Apex
Randee Haven O'Donnell, Carrboro
Jennifer Robinson, Cary
Sarika Bansal, Cary (A)
Michael Parker, Chapel Hill
DeDreana Freeman, Durham (A)
Mike Lee, Durham County
Janice Gregorich, Foxfire
Bryan Haynes, Fuquay-Varina (A)
Kathleen Ferguson, Hillsborough
Chris Deshazor, Holly Springs
Tim Forrest, Holly Springs (A)
Butch Lawter, Johnston County
Mark Swan, Knightdale
Katy Garcia, Micro
Steve Rao, Morrisville
Jean Hamilton, Orange County
Sally Green, Orange County (A)
Jerry Williams, Pinebluff
Jeff Morgan, Pinehurst
Pamela Baldwin, Pittsboro
Stacy Johnson, Princeton
Mitchell Silver, Raleigh
Ronnie Currin, Rolesville
Rebecca Wyhof Salmon, Sanford
Mark Akinosho, Sanford (A)

Byron McAllister, Selma
Susan Evans, Wake County
Nick Sliwinski, Wake Forest
Joe DeLoach, Wendell
David McGowan, Wilson's Mills
Shannon Baxter, Zebulon

CPRC Staff Attending:

Patty Barry, Senior Water Resources
Planner
Alana Keegan, Local Government
Services Director
Sterling McDonald, Stormwater
Education Coordinator
Beth Seidel, Member Engagement
Coordinator
Lindsay Whitson, Community &
Economic Development Director
Lee Worsley, Executive Director
Doug Plachcinski, DCHC MPO Director

Guests Attending:

Rose Vaughn Williams, NCLM
Erin Wynia, NCLM
Kevin Leonard, NCACC
Adam Pridemore, NCACC

A = Alternate

1. Call to Order

- a. Call to Order and Welcome
Official: Brett Gantt, Chair
- b. Roll Call
Beth Seidel, Clerk to the Board
- c. Declaration of Quorum

Official: Brett Gantt, Chair

Chair Brett Gantt called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm and reviewed the process for hybrid meetings. Beth Seidel, Clerk to the Board, completed Roll Call and it was determined there was a quorum present at the meeting.

d. Get to Know CPRC

Chair Gantt shared information on one of the first budgets for the organization. The recommended budget for the Research Triangle Regional Planning Commission for Fiscal Year 1961-1962 was a total of \$41,815. Funding for the year came from \$15,578 in Federal grants, \$500 for Hillsborough Grant "61 and 62" and \$25,750 from the local government members.

Funding was spent in the following ways:

- \$26,155 for the Regional Land Development-Sewerage Facilities Study, and
- \$15,660 for general purposes, which included the rent of the offices for the council -257 square feet at the Hanes Building in RTP for a total of \$385; one Durham Telephone line, a bold face directory listing and long distance calls for a total of \$570; 2,500 miles of travel at \$0.08 a mile, and the purchase of a map file, a 4 drawer vertical file and a typewriter for a total of \$660

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 New Board Members

Presenter: Brett Gantt, Chair

Potential Action: None – Information Only

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. Chair Gantt welcomed each of the new Board members.

Incoming Board Members and Alternates include:

- Delegate Michelle Burton, Durham County
- Alternate Delegate Mike Lee, Durham County
- Delegate Tom Adams, Moore County
- Alternate Delegate, Jim Von Canon, Moore County
- Delegate Mitchell Silver, City of Raleigh

Several of the new members gave a brief introduction.

- b. Resolution of Sympathy for Mayor Jerry Medlin, Town of Benson, Resolution #2025-01-04

Presenter: Brett Gantt, Chair

Potential Action: Place on Consent Agenda

Chair Gantt read the resolution of sympathy for Mayor Jerry Medlin, Town of Benson.

Lee Worsley, Executive Director shared several memories of working with Mayor Medlin.

Delegate Byron McAllister shared a few words about Mayor Medlin from his work experience with him in Johnston County. Delegate Steve Rao also shared a few words about what a wonderful man Mayor Medlin was. Delegate Butch Lawter shared about the Mayor's love for the Town of Benson and for Johnston County.

- c. Membership Request: Foxfire Village

Presenter: Brett Gantt, Chair

Potential Action: Vote on approval of resolution of membership

Foxfire Village, located in Moore County, is requesting membership in Central Pines Regional Council, effective January 22, 2025. At their recent Village 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.

Mayor Janice Gregorich shared that she was anxious to get started working with CPRC and are glad to be a part of the organization again.

Action: Approval of CPRC membership resolution for Foxfire Village, Resolution #2025-01-01

Motion: Delegate Kathleen Ferguson

Second: Delegate Wilma Laney

Beth Seidel facilitated a roll call vote, and the motion was approved unanimously.

d. Legislative Outlook for 2025

Presenters: Kevin Leonard, NC Association of County Commissioners, Executive Director; Adam Pridmore, NC Association of County Commissioners, Deputy General Counsel; Rose Vaughn Williams, NC League of Municipalities, Executive Director; Erin Wynia, NC League of Municipalities, Director of Government Affairs

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.

Kevin Leonard and Adam Pridmore from the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners and Rose Vaughn Williams and Erin Wynia from the North Carolina League of Municipalities provided 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.

4. Business

a. CPRC Spotlight: Clean Water Education Partnership

Presenters: Patty Barry, Senior Water Resources Planner; Sterling McDonald, Stormwater Education Coordinator

Potential Action: None – Information Only

Patty Barry and Sterling McDonald gave an overview of the Clean Water Education Partnership (CWEP). 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.

b. 2024 Member Satisfaction Survey Results

Presenter: Alana Keegan, Local Government Services Director

Potential Action: None – Information Only

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. Alana Keegan reviewed the results and notable trends from the 2024 Member Satisfaction Survey.

Key Metrics included:

- 83% of respondents either agreed or strongly agreed with the statement: I am satisfied with Central Pines' work in the past year
- 62% of respondents either agreed or strongly agreed with the statement: I know who to contact at CPRC when I have a specific request or need
- 60% of respondents either agreed or strongly agreed with the statement: Central Pines is a leading organization in the region
- 36% of respondents either agreed or strongly agreed with the statement: Our region has a cohesive vision for land use, transportation, housing, and open space
- 73% of respondents feel very informed or informed about the role of CPRC and what the organization does in the region

Additional Takeaways:

- Continued room to improve in communicating our role, value, and offerings.
- Information gathering and providing opportunities for shared learning remain essential member benefits.

c. Update from The Forum

Presenter: Kathleen Ferguson, Delegate

Potential Action: None – Information Only

Delegate Kathleen Ferguson gave an overview of the December 2024 Forum meeting. 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.

Ms. Ferguson mentioned that a large portion of government workers are using artificial intelligence (AI), however there is very little policy work that addresses this topic. Robert Hiatt from Upper Coastal COG is piloting an AI

Academy. Ms. Ferguson shared that there are four books that are great resources on how to utilize AI effectively. There are also policy templates from the School of Government available for local governments and COGs.

Ms. Ferguson discussed 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.

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.

d. 2025 Regional Day

Presenters: Alana Keegan, Local Government Services Director; Beth Seidel, Member Engagement Coordinator

Potential Action: None – Information Only

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.

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: October 23, 2024
- b. Resolution of Sympathy for Mayor Jerry Medlin, Town of Benson, Resolution #2025-01-04

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 Chris DeShazor

Beth Seidel 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

Lee Worsley shared news that Alana Keegan has returned from maternity leave after the birth of her son. He also congratulated Beth (Davis) Seidel on her marriage.

Mr. Worsley stated that the CWEP program is a great example of shared services and how the COG can serve as a place for multiple local governments to come together to leverage and scale up your impact. This is also a way to check the box for those who are regulated.

Mr. Worsley welcomed Foxfire to the COG and noted that we are slowly working towards 100% membership.

It's beginning to be retreat season, and CPRC is facilitating several retreats in the region.

We were notified that the Town of Pittsboro received a \$1M RAISE grant that our grant team helped write for a bike/ped plan. These grants are very competitive. Staff also provided support in Chatham County with their Our State Our Homes grant program. Lee County was also a recipient of this grant. Our Housing team helped with that application.

Mr. Worsley mentioned that our thoughts are with the City of Raleigh and the police officer who was shot in the line of service.

9. Chair's Report

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

No report.

10. Around the Region

- a. Prompt: Share something in your local government/community that has never happened before.
Presenter: Brett Gantt, Chair

Morrisville – Breaking ground on the first demonstration project for Downtown Morrisville.

Carrboro & Orange County – Opening their first municipal library in Carrboro. Rep. Valerie Foushee will be there to help with the dedication.

Apex – Passing their first comprehensive parks and recreation master plan.

11. Other Business

- a. Other Business
Presenter: Brett Gantt, Chair

None.

12. Adjournment

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

With there being nothing further, the Chair Gantt adjourned the meeting at 8:09 pm.

Duly adopted this 23rd day of April 2025 while in regular session.



Brett Gantt
Board Chair

ATTEST:



A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Beth Seidel", is written over a solid horizontal line. The signature is positioned to the right of a large, empty square bracket on the left margin.

Beth Seidel
Clerk to the Board
Central Pines Regional Council