

CATAWBA REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
REGULAR MEETING

Catawba Regional Center
August 19, 2021

A regular meeting of the Catawba Regional Council of Governments was called to order at 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 19, 2021, at the Catawba Regional offices and via Zoom. Notice of the meeting was sent to the local newspaper and posted on the Council's website.

The following members were present:

Chester

Joe Branham
Jim Fuller
Rep. Randy Ligon
Wanda Stringfellow

Lancaster

Alston DeVenny
Charlene McGriff
Rep. Brandon Newton
Russell Patrick

Union

Frank Hart, Chair
Harold Thompson

York

Wes Burton
Mike Fuesser
Brandon Guffey
Nikita Jackson
Todd Lumpkin
David O'Neal
P. N. Saksena
Wes Spurrier
Chad Williams
Robert Winkler

The following members were absent:

Chester

Nettie Archie

Lancaster

Sean Corcoran
Steve Harper
Eddie Moore

Union

Rep. Doug Gilliam
Margaret Holloway
Leroy Worthy

York

Paul Basha
Sen. Wes Climer
Derrick Lindsay
Scott Patterson
Bump Roddey
Greg Rutherford
Guynn Savage

Others present included:

Guests

Paul Dillingham	Jamison Johnson
Christina Lewis	Jerome Pearson
Machael Peterson	Ann Solan
Theresa Thomas	Steve Willis

Staff

Randy Imler	Steve Allen
Autumn Cauthen	Amy Chitwood
Kara Drane	Nicole Lawing
Tyler Lewis	Rob Jackson
Grazier Rhea	Eleanor Mixon
Corrie Alewine	Randy Pellisero

The Quarterly Meeting of the Catawba Regional Council of Governments was called to order by Chairman Hart. A motion was made, and duly seconded to approve the minutes from the May 6, 2021 COG Board meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

I. Review of 6/30/2021 Internal Financial Statements.

Ms. Chitwood presented the 12-month internally prepared financial statements as of June 30, 2021. The Council of Governments has four funds: the COG main operating fund, the Revolving Loan Fund (RLF), the SC Agribusiness Loan Fund (SCALF), and the new COVID-19 Revolving Loan Fund. For FY21 (fiscal year 2021) Operating revenues were \$2,623,700, and operating expenditures totaled \$2,392,674, bringing net operating residual to \$231,026. Passthrough revenues and expenses of \$2,303,224 and RLF (SCALF & C-19) grant draws of \$3,586,491, less a \$50,000 transfer to the Development Corporation, generated total COG net income of \$3,767,517, due primarily to grant proceeds in the COVID-19 Revolving Loan Fund. Total fund balances increased from \$8,870,483 at FYE20 to \$13,007,631 at FYE21. The year-end financial statements are attached to these minutes.

II. Consideration of 5310 Transit Grant Recommendations.

The SC Department of Transportation (SCDOT) Office of Public Transit requires organizations applying for Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5310, Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program, to forward applications to their local Council of Governments for rating and ranking. Ms. Kara Drane shared information on the one Small Urban application and two Rural applications received by Catawba Regional. There were fewer applications this year due to the funding already received by transit providers from the CARES Act. Ms. Drane presented the recommended Transit Grant rankings for 5310 Transit funding. These rankings were presented as a motion from the Executive Committee.

A motion was made (no second required) to approve the recommended Transit Grant rankings for 5310 Transit funding as presented. Following discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

III. Consideration of Amendments to the FY 2021-2027 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

Mr. Allen provided the Board with an overview of recommended TIP amendments which are:

- 1) **TIP Project Addition** – York County - SC 55 (Kings Mtn Street) Bike Path project (Phase 2), from Irish Downs Drive (Local) to Barret Road (S-46-1086), is 0.97 Miles and will cost an estimated at \$1,200,000. This project was originally intended to be part of a larger sidewalk project, but at the recommendation of the local SCDOT Project Manager, the Phase 2 part of the project needed to be broken out into an individual project. The Phase 1 project, located on Bethel Street, was completed earlier this year and is located between Clover High School and Fred Caldwell Chevrolet, in Clover.
- 2) **TIP Project Removal** – Chester County SC-9 Crossover - SC-9 between SC 901 and SC 223; 1.19 Miles and will add \$1,209,000 back into the TIP. This project is being removed due to lack of purpose and need.

A motion was made, and duly seconded to approve the recommended TIP amendments as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Consideration of United Way of York County Workforce Grant.

Ms. Lawing shared information regarding a \$45,000 grant from United Way of York County, which Catawba Regional COG applied for and received in 2020. The COG has been awarded the grant for another year. Grant funds are utilized for soft skills training for York County individuals seeking employment.

A motion was made to approve the acceptance of the \$45,000 United Way of York County grant as presented. The motion was duly seconded and passed within dissent.

V. Presentation – SC Supreme Court Rulings Related to User Fees.

Mr. Dillingham of the law firm Spencer & Spencer and legal counsel for the COG provided a review of recent SC Supreme Court rulings related to user fees and potential ramifications of the rulings.

VI. Community & Economic Development Grant Program Update.

Ms. Rhea discussed grants awarded in the summer of 2021 (CARES Act, Community Development Block Grants [CDBG], SC Rural Infrastructure Authority [RIA], SC Parks, Recreation & Tourism [SC PRT]) and deadlines for future funding rounds. She then reviewed the current, active grants for the Catawba Region before providing summary information regarding US Economic Development Administration (EDA) American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) grant funds. Following Ms. Rhea's presentation, discussion ensued. Documentation providing further information on current grants and grant opportunities is attached.

VII. Election of CRCOG Officers and Executive Committee Members.

Per COG Bylaws, the Officers of the Council are the Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary/Treasurer. (The duties of the Secretary/Treasurer are carried out by the Council's Executive Director.) In addition to the Chair and Vice Chair, there are six other members of the COG's Executive Committee. Two Executive Committee members are elected at-large by the full Board. Four Executive Committee members are elected by caucus of COG Board members from each county.

A. Report of the Nominating Committee

Mr. DeVenny, Chair of the Nominating Committee, presented nominations for Chair, Vice Chair, and two at-large Executive Committee members. The nominations for these roles, respectively, were as follows: Robert Winkler, Charlene McGriff, Harold Thompson, and Jim Fuller.

B. Consideration of the Slate of Officers and any Additional Nominations

Following the Nominating Committee's report, the floor was opened for additional nominations. No additional nominations were received. A motion was made and seconded to close the nominations and approve the slate of officers and at-large Executive Committee members as presented by the nominating committee. The motion passed unanimously.

C. County Caucuses for Election of County Representatives to CRCOG Executive Committee (1 per county)

COG Board Members present (in person and on Zoom) from each of the four counties briefly caucused. Each county selected a county representative to serve on the Executive Committee. The chosen representatives for FY22-23 are:

- Russell Patrick – Lancaster County
- Joe Branham – Chester County
- Todd Lumpkin – York County
- Frank Hart – Union County

VIII. 50th Anniversary Celebration & SC COGS Annual Training Conference.

Mr. Imler discussed the 50th Anniversary Celebration, planned for October 21 from 4:30 – 6:00 p.m., and the SC COGS Training Conference, which is planned for November 21-23, 2021, at Kingston Plantation in Myrtle Beach, SC. All Board members are encouraged to attend both events.

IX. Other Business/Regional Roundup.

Representatives from each county provided brief highlights about projects and activities in their respective cities and counties.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Randy Imler".

Randy Imler
Executive Director