

CATAWBA REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
REGULAR MEETING

Catawba Regional Center
Rock Hill, South Carolina
May 18, 2023

A regular quarterly meeting of the Catawba Regional Council of Governments Board of Directors was called to order at 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 18, 2023. 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 (in person)
Jim Fuller (in person)
Randy Ligon (in person)

Lancaster

Sean Corcoran (Zoom)

Union

Harold Thompson (Zoom)
Leroy Worthy (in person)

York

Dean Faile (in person)
Debi Cloninger (in person)
Chad Williams (in person)
Todd Lumpkin (in person)
Stacey Moore (Zoom)
P. N. Saksena (Zoom)
Wes Spurrier (Zoom)
Laura Ullrich (in person)
Robert Winkler (in person)
David O'Neal (Zoom)

The following members were absent:

Chester

Nettie Archie

Lancaster

Steve Harper
Russell Patrick
Charlene McGriff
Eddie Moore
Brandon Newton
Alston DeVenny

Union

Doug Gilliam
Phillip Russell II
Margaret Holloway

York

Mike Fuesser
Tom Hyslip
Derrick Lindsay
Watts Huckabee
Gynn Savage
William Roddey

Others present were:

Guest:

Ann Solan
Jim Walden
Joanie Winters

Staff:

Steve Allen
Amy Chitwood
Randy Imler
Tyler Lewis
Jessica Sawyers
Chris Schwartz

Following the Call to Order and Invocation, a motion was made to approve the minutes of the March 9, 2023, COG Board Meeting. The motion was duly seconded, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

I. Review of March 31, 2023 (9 month interim) Operating Statement

Ms. Chitwood reviewed the interim financial results as of April 30, 2023. As of that date, operating revenues were \$2,418,736 and operating expenses \$2,306,458, with revenues exceeding expenditures by \$112,278. Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) passthrough revenues and expenses were \$2,120,623. The pass-through expenditure for SCDHEC Brownfields Assessment Grant was \$700. After other income and expenses, total revenues exceeded expenses by \$200,589.

II. Consideration of Transportation Items

Mr. Allen presented transportation planning items for the Board's consideration, including proposed amendments to the Catawba Region's Rural Planning Work Program (RPWP), the Long-Range Transportation Plan's (LRTP) Priority Projects List, and South Carolina Department of Transportation 2022 System Transportation Asset Management Performance Report, as recommended by the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC).

SCDOT directed all of the COGs to adopt the System Performance Report in their Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). The 2022 Strategic Transportation Asset Management Plan (STAMP) System Performance Report presents the baseline, performance/condition measures, targets, and the progress made towards achieving those targets. Mr. Allen focused on the PM-2 (Infrastructure Condition) and PM-3 (System Reliability) performance measures. The CRCOG Board must adopt the 2- and 4-year targets within 180 days of adoption by the SCDOT. Mr. Allen noted that pavement and bridge improvements will not be funded by rural Guide Share funding (Regional Mobility Program). SCDOT has other resources for these system improvements.

The PM-2 Pavement and Bridge Condition Performance Measures are the percentage of interstate pavement, non-interstate, and National Highway System (NHS) bridges by deck area in good and poor condition over two- and four-years targets. In the performance period of 2018-2021, our region did well except for the percentage of NHS Bridges classified as in good condition, which

was slightly below the target. Mr. Allen explained what is expected for the next performance period, 2022-2025.

The PM-3 System Performance and Freight Movement measures the percentage of person-miles on the interstate system, non-interstate NHS, and the Truck Travel Time Reliability (TTR) in two- and four-years targets. In the first performance period, our region had very good numbers, and Mr. Allen explained the second performance period (2022-2025). A motion to approve the targets as presented was made, duly seconded, and unanimously passed.

Mr. Allen presented the FY24-25 RPWP which is updated every two years. The RPWP represents the rural transportation planning work which CRCOG conducts under agreement with the SCDOT. The funding from SCDOT is \$125,000 with local match required of \$31,250 (20%) totaling \$156,250, annually, for rural transportation and transit planning work. The proposed projects in the RPWP include the Long-Range Transportation Update, the 10-year Transportation Improvement Program, TAP Grant Application Support, Transit Support, Regional Mobility Program, Regional Coordination, CRCOG Area bike/pedestrian initiatives, and other regional initiatives. A motion to approve the recommended amendments was made, duly seconded, and unanimously passed.

Mr. Allen presented the 2015-2040 LRTP amendment priorities, which included removing a few projects due to funding changes and adding a sidewalk project in Clover. A motion to approve these amendments was made, duly seconded, and unanimously passed.

III. Consideration of FY24 Program of Work

Mr. Imler presented the Council's proposed FY24 Program of Work, which includes programmatic work with federal, state, and local governments and agencies. In Community Development, there are 49 grant projects for \$40.8 million in process, and eight applications are pending for an additional \$3.12 million. In the Rural Infrastructure Authority (RIA) SC Infrastructure Investment Program (SCIIP), staff wrote 12 of the 17 SCIIP grant applications in the Catawba Region, and CRCOG was successful in 10 of the 12 projects. CRCOG will administer a total of 12 SCIIP grants for \$85+ million, with total project costs of \$115+ million. The total infrastructure and community development grants currently awarded/under management is +\$125,000,000.

In Economic Development, Workforce funding is expected to remain stable at approximately \$2.7 million for SC Works Center operations, participant training, and program administration. All state goals were met for the most recent program year. Catawba Regional completed procurement for workforce center and contractor services for FY24; the contract was awarded to Equus Workforce Services (current provider). The Catawba SC Works Centers served approximately 7,300 people during the last program year.

In the lending department, there were 26 loans approved for \$6.36 million in FY23; 23 loans closed for \$4.4 million, and lending assets under management currently total +\$40 million. Next year, staff will be applying to recapitalize the existing Intermediary Relending Program (IRP) with a low-interest loan from USDA-Rural Development, and CRDC will identify explore becoming

an SBA Community Advantage lender. CRCOG also has been named to the Advisory Committee for the US Economic Development Administration (EDA) Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) Community of Practice for the Atlanta Federal Region.

In Brownfields, staff will be administering the two-year \$500,000 US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) assessment grant and an SC DHEC subgrant of \$1,000,000 for SC BEST statewide environmental assessments. Brownfield loans and sub-grants to be administered in FY24 include a \$1 million loan to a private developer for the environmental remediation of the Gordon Mill in Greenville and a \$200,000 sub-grant for Great Falls Republic Mill No.1.

In government services and planning, staff will continue work on rural transportation planning, geographic information systems (GIS) projects, local government technical assistance, hazard mitigation and Americans with Disabilities (ADA) plans, and other planning projects to support the region. On a super-regional basis, CRCOG planning staff will represent SC localities on the Pollution Reduction Planning Project (SC part of CLT MSA) with Centralina Regional Council for Air Quality, Solid Waste, Transportation, Fuel/Energy Efficiency.

The estimated total direct, indirect, and managed revenues of Catawba Regional Council of Governments in FY24 is +\$55 million. The life-to-date return on investment (ROI) for member dues is \$52.35:\$1. A motion to approve the FY2024 Program of Work was made, duly seconded, and unanimously passed.

IV. Consideration of the FY2024 CRCOG Operating Passthrough Budgets

Ms. Chitwood presented the FY2024 Operating and Passthrough budgets brought to the full Board as a motion from the Executive Committee. Significant changes include higher revenue for the Rural Infrastructure Authority projects due to the start of SCIIP grants. The planning department is fully staffed, and since the EDA Cares grant expires on 6/30/23, there will be additional projects and higher revenue via transportation planning funds and new technical assistance projects. In the lending section, additional Brownfields revenue is projected due to the SC BEST program and anticipated additional Brownfields RLF capital from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL).

For expenditures, personnel will increase due to anticipated hiring of three additional staff in the lending, grants, and communications areas. In FY2023, capital costs increased due to a new agency car and plumbing work in the Catawba Regional building. Professional Services increased in FY2023 because of legal expenses related to brownfields and grants. These expenses should moderate in FY2024 and return to more normal levels.

In pass-through grant funds, staff anticipates draws on the EPA Assessment Grant of \$300,000 and draws on SC Best sub-grant for \$350,000. Other income and expenses include anticipated drawdowns of \$1,700,335 from the COVID-19 RLF grant and a transfer to CRDC for the elevator upgrade (since the CRCOG occupies the 2nd floor). A motion was made and unanimously passed to approve the FY2024 Operating and Passthrough Budgets.

V. Announcement of Nominating Committee for Officer Elections on August 17, 2023

Mr. Winkler identified members of the Nominating Committee for FY24-26 Officer and At-large Executive Committee elections. Nominating Committee members are: Joe Branham, Chester County; Alston DeVenny, Lancaster County; Harold Thompson, Union County; and Todd Lumpkin, York County. The election of the Chair, Vice-Chair, and three (3) at-large Executive Committee members will be held at the COG Board meeting in August.

Other Business

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

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Randy Imler
Executive Director

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