

CATAWBA REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
REGULAR MEETING

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Catawba Regional Center  
Rock Hill, South Carolina  
November 20, 2025

A regular meeting of the Catawba Regional Council of Governments Board of Directors was called to order at 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 20, 2025. 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, Chair

Lancaster

Corey Barnes  
Brian Carnes  
Sean Corcoran (Zoom)  
Charlene McGriff (Zoom)

Union

Ernest Moore  
Harold E. Thompson, Vice  
Chair  
Leroy Worthy

York

Brent Faulkenberry (Zoom)  
Mike Fuesser  
Watts Huckabee (Zoom)  
Tom Hyslip  
Bo Legg  
Todd Lumpkin (Zoom)  
Heath Sessions (Zoom)  
Chad Williams (Zoom)

The following members were absent:

Chester

John Agee  
Nettie Archie  
Randy Ligon  
Carlos Williams

Lancaster

Alston DeVenny  
Eddie Moore  
Brandon Newton

York

Debi Cloninger  
Dean Faile  
Stacey Moore  
William Roddey  
Gyynn Savage  
Laura Ullrich

Union

Doug Gilliam  
Phillip Russell II

Others present included the following:

Guests

Lisa Cook, Fort Mill  
Thomas Couch, York County

Iva Drakeford, Heath Springs  
LaToya Grate-Adams, SCDOT  
(Zoom)

Carmen Miller, Tega Cay  
Jason Paul

Staff

Steve Allen  
Amy Chitwood  
Randy Imler

Eleanor Mixon  
Elizabeth Morgan  
Grazier Rhea

Jessica Sawyers  
Chris Schwartz

Following the Call to Order and Invocation, a motion was made to approve the minutes of the August 14, 2025, COG Board Meeting. The motion was duly seconded, and the minutes were approved unanimously as written.

I. Presentation of the Draft COG FY25 Annual Audited Financial Statements and Financial Retrospective (2009 – 2025)

Mr. Imler reviewed CRCOG’s 2025 audited financial statements and stated that the COG received an unmodified, or “clean,” audit report from Burkett, Burkett & Burkett CPAs. The COG’s total net position was \$16,886,326 as of June 30, 2025. The total fund balance equaled \$21,503,398. The difference between net position and fund balance is the unfunded GASB 68 (pension) and GASB 75 (OPEB) liabilities. These liabilities totaled approximately \$5 million. The net revenues over expenditures including passthrough contracts equaled \$1,128,677, which increased the fund balance by \$1,128,677. Approximately \$804,000 of this was the final draw of the EDA Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) COVID-19 grant.

Mr. Imler and Ms. Chitwood explained that the COG’s audit is still in draft form because the final Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Compliance Supplement for 2025 has not been finalized. Burkett, Burkett & Burkett used a draft version and does not anticipate any changes to the CRCOG audit. However, professional standards do not currently allow for the release of the final version of the single audit until the final Compliance Supplement is released. Burkett, Burkett & Burkett will notify the COG when the documents are in final form.

Mr. Imler then provided a retrospective commentary of financial performance for CRCOG from 2009-2025. There was an upward trend in CRCOG’s unassigned fund balance from 2009 to 2025 except for a 2020 decrease attributed to COVID. Since 2020, the unassigned fund balance has increased to over \$1.4 million. CRCOG’s restricted fund balances, which are centered around RLF funds, increased from approximately \$4 million in FY09 to just under \$20 million in FY25. The total CRCOG fund balance was \$21.5 million as of the end of FY25. Significant increases were due largely to the increase in restricted lending loan fund balances over time.

II. Presentation of the October 31, 2025, (4-month interim) FY26 Operating Statement

Ms. Chitwood presented the October 31, 2025, (4-month interim) internally prepared FY26 operating statement. As of October 31, total assets equaled \$22,421,934, and total liabilities were \$710,961. The fund balance total was \$21,710,973. Current revenues in excess of expenditures were \$195,707. Operating revenues were \$1,179,354, and operating expenses were \$983,647. Revenues exceeded expenditures by \$195,707. The COG is ahead in revenues at this time as dues are paid at the beginning of each quarter and the State has already funded 50% of the State Aid to Councils of Governments grant for the fiscal year. Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) and Brownfields (SCDES and EPA) passthrough revenues and expenditures totaled \$761,430. The Board received this report as information.

III. Consideration of Transportation Items

- 1) Safety Targets for 2022-2026

Mr. Allen presented the SC Department of Transportation (DOT) 2022-2026 FAST ACT Safety Targets for adoption (attached). The five targets include the following: total traffic fatalities, traffic fatality rate per 100 million miles traveled, total serious injuries, serious injury rate per 100 million miles traveled, and non-motorized fatalities and serious injuries. The safety targets are adopted on an annual basis, and the COG has historically adopted the Statewide targets.

A motion was made to approve the SCDOT 2022-2026 FAST ACT Safety Targets. As this came as a recommendation from the Executive Committee, no second was required. Following discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

2) LRTP Amendments

Mr. Allen provided an overview of the recommended 2025-2050 Long Range Transportation Plan's (LRTP) Priority Projects List amendments (attached). The Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) recommends that four Union and Lancaster County projects be added to the list and one Union County project be removed.

A motion was made to approve the 2025-2050 LRTP Priority Projects List amendments. Since this came as a recommendation from the Executive Committee, no second was required. Following discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

3) TIP Amendment

Mr. Allen also provided an overview of a recommended FY 2024-2033 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) amendment (attached), which would add one intersection / turn lane project in Chester County to the TIP. This amendment is recommended by the TAC.

A motion was made to approve the proposed FY 2024-2033 TIP amendment. Because this came as a recommendation from the Executive Committee, no second was required. Following discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

IV. Recognition of 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Wylie Hydro Power Station and Dam

Mayor Bo Legg presented information to the Board about the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Duke Energy Wylie Hydro Power Station and Dam, which was celebrated this past Saturday. This hydro project was the first hydro-electric dam on the Catawba River and represented the beginning of what is now Duke Energy, a top three national utility in terms of revenues and one of the country's top ten largest utilities when measured by the number of residential customers.

V. Update on SCIIP Projects

Ms. Schwartz provided an update on the South Carolina Infrastructure Investment Program (SCIIP) projects under management by the COG. The Catawba Regional COG is managing \$94.1 million in SCIIP funding for 12 projects with total project costs of \$142.3 million. The grant period ends on June 1, 2026. \$65.9 million of the SCIIP funds (70%) have been drawn so far. Three projects have drawn all of their SCIIP funding, and two others have only a few hundred dollars of

SCIIP funding remaining. One project has been completed and monitored. With COG assistance, two localities requested additional SCIIP funding from funds which were reallocated from elsewhere in the state. From these requests, \$106,379 in additional SCIIP funding was received, and a request for \$221,129 is pending. Along with these projects, the South Carolina Rural Infrastructure Authority (SC RIA) allocated \$500,000 to each COG to cover SCIIP project administration costs. As of October 31, 2025, the COG has drawn 76% of the SC RIA administration funds. This funding has greatly reduced grantees' administration cost burden.

COG staff highlighted two SCIIP projects. Ms. Schwartz discussed the Union and Jonesville Regional Wastewater Project which will regionalize the system and convey the wastewater flow from the Town of Jonesville to the City of Union's wastewater system. This will increase infrastructure capacity and eliminate deficiencies. Project partners include the Town of Jonesville, City of Union, Union County, and the SC Power Team.

Ms. Morgan reviewed the Town of Fort Lawn's Wastewater Infrastructure Upgrade Project. This project does not just involve the Town of Fort Lawn but also E&J Gallo, Chester County, Lancaster County Water and Sewer District, and the City of Lancaster. At the end of the project, the Town will have a bigger and better pump station with a generator and a robust sewer line with capacity for new industrial growth, both of which will provide resiliency for the Town. The Lancaster side of the project, which received funding from the Economic Development Administration (EDA) and SC RIA, will have increased lines as well, creating a whole system improvement.

#### VI. CDBG and SC RIA Applications Reminder

Ms. Rhea provided the Board with information about applications submitted in fall 2025. Eight Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), two SC RIA, and three Municipal Association of South Carolina (MASC) applications were submitted. The Community Development Department is currently writing three Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) and four Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) applications.

Ms. Rhea also informed the Board about when new grant applications for the CDBG and SC RIA programs are due as well as program requirements. The COG's Community Development Department sent out a notice to local governments and water and sewer districts on November 17 about grants that will be due in the spring. The CDBG infrastructure application request deadline is mid-March 2026 with applications due in mid-April. SC RIA infrastructure applications will be due on March 23, 2026. South Carolina Department of Environmental Services (SCDES) State Revolving Fund (SRF) loan applications are due in the spring as well. In the emailed notice, the COG asked localities to fill out a Local Government Request for Grant Application Assistance form if application assistance is desired. The Community Development Department requested that these forms be submitted no later than January 9, 2026.

#### VII. Update on Regional Workforce Housing Study and 2026 Catawba Regional Elected Officials Forum

Mr. Imler provided an update on the Regional Workforce Housing Study. A Request for Qualifications was posted, and responses were received from 11 consultants. The selection

committee interviewed three firms and selected Community Scale LLC. Contract negotiations are in progress, and the contract is to be executed by December 2. The study will take place during the first six months of 2026.

Mr. Imler informed the Board that the 2026 Catawba Regional Elected Officials Forum will take place on January 8, 2026, at the Gateway Conference Center in Richburg, SC. Community Scale will be the keynote speaker. Community Scale will discuss how the firm will approach the study and anticipated outputs. In addition, Marc Truesdale, Budget Director for the Ways and Means Committee of the SC House of Representatives, will present an overview of the state budget at the Elected Officials Forum.

VIII. Announcement of 2026 COG Board Meeting Dates

Mr. Imler presented the following meeting dates for the upcoming calendar year. These dates are subject to change.

- February 5, 2026 (Joint meeting for CRDC Annual Membership Meeting)
- May 14, 2026 (Budget Meeting)
- August 27, 2026 (Regional Workforce Housing Study Report)
- November 19, 2026 (Review of FY26 Audited Financial Statements)

IX. Other Business

There was no other business.

X. 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 adjourned at 5:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Randy Imler  
Executive Director