

CATAWBA REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
REGULAR MEETING

Catawba Regional Center
Rock Hill, South Carolina
August 14, 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, August 14, 2025. Notice of the meeting was sent to the local newspaper and posted on the Council's website.

The following members were present:

Chester

John Agee
Nettie Archie
Joe Branham, Vice-Chair
Randy Ligon
Carlos Williams

Lancaster

Brian Carnes
Sean Corcoran
Alston DeVenny
Charlene McGriff, Chair

Union

Ernest Moore
Harold E. Thompson
Leroy Worthy

York

Debi Cloninger (Zoom)
Dean Faile
Brent Faulkenberry
Mike Fuesser
Tom Hyslip
Bo Legg
Todd Lumpkin
Stacey Moore
Laura Ullrich

The following members were absent:

Lancaster

Eddie Moore
Brandon Newton
Russell Patrick

Union

Doug Gilliam
Phillip Russell II

York

Watts Huckabee
William Roddey
Guynn Savage
Chad Williams

Others present included the following:

Guests

Tom Couch (York County)

Kayla Nelums (SC Energy
Office)

Chenille Williams (SC Energy
Office)

Staff

Amy Chitwood
Randy Imler

Eleanor Mixon

Erika Stahl

Following the Call to Order and Invocation, a motion was made to approve the minutes of the May 22, 2025, COG Board Meeting. The motion was duly seconded, and the minutes were approved unanimously as written.

I. Review of FYE25 Internal Financial Statements

Ms. Chitwood presented the FYE25 internally generated year-end financial statements. For FYE25 (6/30/25), total operating revenue before passthroughs was \$3,413,877. Total operating expenses before passthroughs were \$3,036,154, generating a residual operating surplus of \$332,627. Total passthrough revenues and expenses were \$2,515,000. EDA COVID-19 RLF grant revenue was \$804,295. Insured replacement costs (air conditioning units) were \$139,881, and the transfer to CRDC for the parking lot improvements was \$49,650, bringing the Council's total residual revenues (net income) to \$992,487 for FY25. The net income amount is mostly the result of the EDA COVID-19 RLF grant and interest income on deposits. As a result, the Council's total fund balances increased to \$21,495,612 at FYE25. The Board received this report as information.

II. Presentation by the State Energy Office

Ms. Nelums and Ms. Williams with the State Energy Office (SEO) in the South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff presented information about the SEO programs and resources and solicited feedback on how to best support local governments and public entities. The SEO's mission is to advance energy strategy and policy through education and outreach and promote the efficient use of all energy sources. Ms. Nelums and Ms. Williams also provided examples of recent projects which have been funded by grants through the SEO.

III. Consideration of Transportation Items – 5310 Rural Transit Grant Recommendations

Ms. Stahl presented Section 5310 Transit Grant rankings and recommendations from the Grants Review Committee. Section 5310 grant funds are used to purchase vehicles for transit programs operating throughout the region that serve older individuals and those with disabilities. Catawba Regional COG does not run this grant program, but Catawba Regional does facilitate a process to rate/rank proposals from throughout the region as part of the COG's contractual work with SCDOT. The SCDOT application deadline was on or before July 25, 2025. Two Catawba Region applications were sent to the COG from the SCDOT Office of Public Transit on July 29, 2025, for review. The applications were for Union County Disabilities and Special Needs (two replacement cutaway vans) and York County Disabilities and Special Needs (one new purpose-built van). The Grants Review Committee met on August 8, 2025, to review and rank the applications. The Union County Disabilities and Special Needs application ranked as number one with the York County Disabilities and Special Needs application ranked second.

A motion was made to approve the Grants Review Committee's recommended rankings for Federal Transit Administration Section 5310 Rural funding awards from the South Carolina Department of Transportation for FY2025-26. The motion was seconded, and following discussion, the motion passed unanimously. The COG Board recommendation will be forwarded to the State Commission in advance of its meeting next week.

IV. Director's Report: Awards/Recognitions, and Presentations

Mr. Imler provided a brief update regarding recent awards/recognitions, and items to be presented as information for the Board.

- Catawba Regional received two 2025 Aliceann Wohlbruck Impact Awards from the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) for the Town of Jonesville Streetscape Improvements and the Chester County Emergency Response GIS Application projects.
- The U.S. Departments of Labor, Commerce, and Education recently released an overarching policy statement about how to advance workforce development. The strategy is organized around five pillars with significant emphasis on leveraging technologies, specifically artificial intelligence. Mr. Imler provided Board members with a copy of a NADO (National Association of Development Organizations) article titled "Trump Administration Rolls out New Interagency Workforce Development Plan" that provides greater detail on the new workforce strategy.
- President Trump signed an Executive Order (EO) titled "Improving Oversight of Federal Grantmaking" on Thursday, August 7. While the Order appears to be primarily focused on science grants and higher education, it also covers other discretionary federal funding programs. Mr. Imler provided the Board with a handout of a NADO article about this titled "Trump Administration Signs Executive Order Governing Federal Grantmaking."

V. 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 seven other members of the COG's Executive Committee. Three 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 three at-large Executive Committee members. The nominations for these roles, respectively, were as follows: Joe Branham, Harold Thompson, Alston DeVenny, Stacey Moore, and Todd Lumpkin.

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

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. Following discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

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

COG Board Members present from each of the four counties briefly caucused. Each county selected a county representative to serve on the Executive Committee. The chosen Executive Committee county representatives are as follows:

- Nettie Archie – Chester County
- Charlene McGriff – Lancaster County
- Leroy Worthy – Union County
- Chad Williams – York County

VI. Other Business

Mr. Imler provided information about the upcoming SCCOGs Annual Training Conference, which will be held on November 23-25, 2025, at Embassy Suites, Kingston Plantation in Myrtle Beach, SC. All COG Board members are invited and encouraged to attend. A copy of the registration form was given to the Board members and will be distributed via email soon.

VII. 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 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Randy Imler
Executive Director