

CATAWBA REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Catawba Regional Center
Rock Hill, South Carolina
November 12, 2024

A regular meeting of the Catawba Regional Council of Governments Executive Committee was held in-person, at 12:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 12, 2024.

The following members were present:

Nettie Archie	Stacey Moore
Joe Branham, Vice Chair	Harold Thompson
Alston DeVenny	Chad Williams
Charlene McGriff, Chair	Leroy Worthy

Others present were:

Staff

Steve Allen	Randy Imler
Ed Brock	Eleanor Mixon
Amy Chitwood	Jessica Sawyers

Guests

Jim Bennett, CRDC President	Kim Smith, Burkett & Burkett, CPAs
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Following the Call to Order and Invocation, a motion was made to approve the minutes of the September 10, 2024, COG Executive Committee meeting.

I. Review of CRCOG 2024 Annual Audited Financial Statements

Ms. Kim Smith, CPA, of Burkett, Burkett & Burkett CPAs, presented the FY2024 Audit. The auditor's report showed an unmodified or clean opinion. There were no significant changes in accounting policies this year and no noteworthy audit adjustments other than updating the leases for the current year. All of the accounting estimates determined by management were considered reasonable, and no changes were required. Ms. Smith also reviewed the Reports on Internal Control and on Compliance and noted no significant deficiencies or material weaknesses in internal controls.

As of June 30, 2024, CRCOG had \$22,217,277 in total assets and \$5,246,742 in total liabilities. Total revenues increased from 2023 to 2024 by 8% , primarily due to grant draws under the EDA COVID 19 Revolving Loan Fund grant, the net benefit changes in deferred inflows and outflows, the insurance proceeds from storm damage, and increased interest income. There was an increase in net position of \$1,682,298 in FY24 compared to an increase of \$1,301,302 in the prior year.

CRCOG's total unrestricted net position, exclusive of GASB-related adjustments, increased from \$1,285,593 in FY23 to \$1,533,291 in FY24. The total net position for CRCOG increased from

\$13,873,722 in FY23 to \$15,556,020 in FY24. CRCOG's unassigned/unreserved fund balance increased from \$1,201,135 in FY23 to \$1,449,356 in FY24, and the total fund balance increased from \$18,892,870 in FY23 to \$20,374,721 in FY24.

Mr. Imler reported on trends over the past 15 years. The total net position of CRCOG, inclusive of GASB 68 and 75 pension and other post-employment benefits liabilities, increased from \$4,293,554 in fiscal year (FY) 2009 to \$15,556,020 in FY24. Net position increased from \$4.3 million in 2009 to \$8.1 million in 2013; CRCOG implemented GASB 68 (pension) and GASB 75 (OPEB) in 2015 and 2018, respectively, which reduced total net position due to the GASB accounting liabilities. Total net position increased from a low of \$3.85 million in 2019 to \$15.55 million in 2024 due to approximately \$10 million in EDA COVID-19 Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) grants, changes in pension and OPEB balances, and profitable Council operations. GASB 68 and 75 liabilities are uncurable at the local level.

Unrestricted Net Position (UNP) decreased from \$889,971 in 2009 to (\$3.5 million) in 2024. CRCOG implemented GASB 68 (pension) and GASB 75 (OPEB) in 2015 and 2018, respectively, which dramatically reduced total UNP due to the addition of unfunded pension and OPEB accounting liabilities. Total UNP increased from a low of (\$4 million) in 2022 to (\$3.5 million) in 2024 due to changes in pension and OPEB accounting liability balances and profitable Council operations.

Total CRCOG fund balances increased from \$4,421,422 in FY09 to \$20,374,721 in FY24, an average of 24% per year. Unlike the statement of net position, the fund balance statements do not include GASB 68 and 75 liabilities. Increases from FY13 to FY19 were due largely to assumption of other regions' RLF funds. Increases from FY20 to FY24 were due largely to EDA COVID-19 RLF grant proceeds and profitable Council operations.

CRCOG's unassigned fund balance increased from \$913,256 in FY09 to \$1,449,356 in FY24, an average increase of 3.9% per year. A decline in FY20/21 was due to the pandemic and repayment of a portion of the Council's Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan. CRCOG unassigned fund balances have recovered to \$1.45 million at FYE24 due to profitable Council operations.

The Executive Committee received this report as information.

II. Review of 10/31/24 (4-month interim) FY25 Operating Statement

Ms. Chitwood reviewed the October 31, 2024, (four-month interim) FY25 operating statement. Operating revenues were \$1,156,539, and operating expenses were \$974,303, with revenues exceeding expenditures by \$182,236. Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) and Brownfields (SCDES and EPA) passthrough revenues and expenditures totaled \$976,090. EDA COVID-19 RLF grant revenue was \$804,295. This grant has now been fully drawn down. Total revenues exceeded expenses by \$986,531. The Executive Committee received this report as information.

III. Consideration of Transportation Items

1) Safety Targets for 2024-2025

Mr. Allen presented the SC Department of Transportation (DOT) 2024-2025 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.

2) TIP Amendments

Mr. Allen also provided an overview of the recommended Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) amendments (attached), which would add three intersection projects in Chester, Lancaster, and Union Counties to the TIP while removing one Lancaster County system improvement project. These amendments are recommended by the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC).

3) LRTP Amendments

Mr. Allen provided an overview of the recommended 2015-2040 Long Range Transportation Plan's (LRTP) Priority Projects List amendments (attached). The TAC recommends that three Chester and Lancaster County projects be added to the list and one York County project be removed.

A motion was made, duly seconded, and, following discussion, passed unanimously to recommend the SCDOT 2024-2025 FAST ACT Safety Targets, the proposed TIP amendments, and the 2015-2040 LRTP amendments for priority projects to the full COG Board for approval.

IV. Consideration of Proposed Update to COG Policies to Include Harassment Policy

Mr. Imler and Ms. Chitwood presented a draft Harassment Policy to address violence, harassment, sexual harassment, and bullying, following the request made by the Executive Committee at the September 10, 2024, Executive Committee meeting. If approved, this policy will be added to the COG's personnel manual.

If Executive Committee members have any concerns with the Harassment Policy following the meeting, they are to notify Mr. Imler.

Following discussion, a motion was made to approve the Harassment Policy exclusive of the polygraph language. The motion was duly seconded and passed unanimously. A copy of the amended Harassment Policy (exclusive of polygraph language) is attached as a permanent part of these minutes.

V. Consideration of 2025 COG Board Meeting Dates

Mr. Imler presented the following potential dates for the upcoming year:

- February 13 or 27, 2025 (Joint meeting for CRDC Annual Membership Meeting)

- May 22, 2025
- August 14 or 28, 2025
- November 20, 2025

The selected dates will be announced at the COG Board meeting on November 21, 2024.

VI. Other Business

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Randy Imler
Executive Director