

Minutes
Western Piedmont Council of Governments
Bimonthly Policy Board Meeting
Tuesday, July 23, 2019
City of Newton Fire Station 1, Newton NC

Members Present:

Barbara Pennell, Chair
Jill Patton, Secretary
Johnny Berry, Treasurer
George Holleman, Past Chair
Joe Gibbons, At-Large
Chip Black, At-Large
Wayne Abele, At-Large
Larry Yoder
Johnnie Carswell, Alternate
Ronnie Setzer
Donald Robinson
Barbara Beatty, Alternate
Dale Sherrill
Joie Fulbright
Kyle Hayman, Alternate
Dennis Anthony
Dr. Caryl Burns
Ben Honeycutt
Larry Chapman
Marla Thompson
Ronnie Williams, Alternate
Forrest Fleming
Jerry Hodge
Gary McClure
Wayne Annas, Alternate
Johnnie Greene, Alternate
Helen Chestnut
Amparo Alfaro
Tommy Luckadoo
Casey Pope
Malla Vue

Local Government/Agency:

Gamewell
Hickory
Connelly Springs
Taylorsville
Lenoir
Valdese
Burke County
Alexander County
Burke County
Cajah's Mountain
Catawba
Catawba County
Claremont
Conover
Conover
Drexel
Granite Falls
Hildebran
Hudson
Long View
Maiden
Morganton
Newton
Rutherford College
Rutherford College
Sawmills
Appointed
Appointed
Appointed
Appointed
Appointed

Members Absent:

James Weaver
Mike Labrose
Kitty Barnes, At-Large

Brookford
Caldwell County
Catawba County

Bob Floyd, Jr., Vice-Chair

Sheila Perkins

Rick Justice

Elle Engstrom

Sara Moses

Cedar Rock

Glen Alpine

Rhodhiss

Appointed

Appointed

Guests/Others Present:

Mary Carter, Gamewell

Logan Shook, Hildebran

Tamara Brooks, Connelly Springs

Sherri Bradshaw, Drexel

Chase Winebarger, Catawba

Seth Eckard, Valdese

Karen Clontz, Sawmills

Rebecca Bentley, Hudson

Ed Sain, Newton

Christopher White, Foothills Weather Network

Kevin Hartman, NC Radar Project

Brad Panovich, WCNC-TV

Charlotte Williams, Hickory

Gary Stafford, Valdese

Bryan Steen, Burke County

Karyn Yaussy, Catawba County

Rick French, Alexander County

Russell Greene, Alexander County

David Draughn, Long View

Mike Wilkes, Burke County

Dino Dibernardi, Caldwell County

Randy Feierabend, Cahah's Mountain

Robbie Wilkie, Caldwell County

Todd Clark, Newton

John Stiver, Newton

WPCOG Staff Present:

Anthony Starr, Executive Director

Sherry Long, Assistant Executive Director/Director of Community & Regional Development

Ashley Bolick, Director of Administrative Services and Human Resources

Andrea Roper, Finance Director

Wendy Johnson, Director of Workforce Development

Jason Toney, Communications Specialist

Stephanie Hanvey, Director of Regional Housing Authority

Call to Order/Welcome

A regular meeting of the WPCOG Policy Board was called to order at 6:45 pm by Chair Barbara Pennell. Chair Pennell thanked the City of Newton for hosting the meeting. City of Newton Mayor Pro-Tem, John Stiver welcomed the Policy Board to the City of Newton.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

Minutes of the previous meeting were considered. Mr. Donald Robinson made a motion to approve the minutes and Mr. Larry Chapman offered a second. The motion passed unanimously.

Unfinished Business/Reports

There was no unfinished business.

New Business

NC Radar Project

WPCOG Executive Director, Anthony Starr, introduced Brad Panovich, Chris White and Kevin Hartman to speak about the NC Radar Project. The Western Piedmont Council of Governments region is part of an area in Western North Carolina not adequately covered by National Weather Service radars. The current radar system cannot see lower altitude weather due to the radar location in the Greenville-Spartanburg area. This issue directly impacts hazard mitigation and public safety.

Currently, the following counties (all of our region) are affected by the radar gap: Forsyth, Davie, Catawba, Burke, Cleveland, Lincoln, Gaston, Mecklenburg, Guilford, Randolph, Cabarrus, Rowan, Davidson, Stanley, Union, Alexander, McDowell, Wilkes, Caldwell and Montgomery. The total population of this area is 4,297,991 meaning roughly 41% of NC is inadequately protected due to gaps in radar coverage.

A potential project is developing to provide enhanced radar coverage for the Western Piedmont, Centralina (Charlotte), and Piedmont Triad (Winston-Salem, Greensboro) regions. A group of professionals, meteorologists, local government officials, and COG Directors are discussing a potential project to remedy this issue.

Mr. Starr said that he and other COG directors are looking at possible grants that would cover most of the installation or upfront cost. It is possible that data from the radar could be sold to the National Weather service to help cover ongoing cost but that some of the operation and maintenance cost would more than likely be shared by local governments.

Ms. Charlotte Williams, City of Hickory Council member asked what a potential timeline looked like.

Mr. Brad Panovich, said that securing the funding would take the longest. Installation would take a few months.

Mr. Kyle Hayman, Conover City Council member asked what was the life span of this type of radar equipment.

Mr. Panovich answered 25 years.

Mr. Starr thanked the guest speakers for presenting their information to the board.

Workforce Development Board By-Law Update

Wendy Johnson, Director of Workforce Development presented suggested updates to the Workforce Development Board by-laws. In keeping with the current workforce climate, the Workforce Development staff recommended changes to the Workforce Development Board By-Laws making a minor update to Article III, Section 1. Regular Meetings, to include accessibility. A change to Section 10 regarding voting is also recommended.

Article III, Section 1. Regular Meetings:

The Board shall meet at such time and place as determined by the Board Chair. **The WDB meetings will be held in accessible buildings with accessible materials available upon request.** The Board will meet no less than five times per year. Five working days' notice shall be delivered to each member stating a reasonable time, date and place of the meeting and the meeting's purpose.

Article III, Section 10. Proxy Representation and Voting:

A member providing written voting instructions to the Chairman may have his/her representative cast a vote in accordance with the instructions on the specific item(s). **To promote and ensure full support of workforce board members, use of technology, such as phone and Web-based meetings is not utilized.**

Staff requests the Policy Board to review and approve the addition to the Workforce Development Board By-Laws.

Mr. George Holleman made a motion that the Policy Board approve the update to the Workforce Development Board By-Laws to include accessibility. Mr. Larry Yoder offered a second. The motion passed unanimously.

2019 ESFRLP Assistance Policy & Procurement and Disbursement Policy for Alexander & Catawba Counties

Ms. Sherry Long, Assistant Executive Director and Director of Community & Economic Development presented the 2019 ESFRLP Assistance Policy and the Procurement and Disbursement Policy for Alexander and Catawba Counties. This Policy explains what the program requirements are and how the program will operate during the cycle of funding. The funding agency for this program is the NC Housing Finance Agency.

Staff requests that the board review and approve the 2019 Essential Single Family Rehabilitation Loan Pool Assistance Policy and the Procurement and Disbursement Policy.

Mr. Chip Black made a motion that the Policy Board adopt the 2019 Urgent Repair Assistance Policy and the Procurement and Disbursement Policy as presented. Mr. Joie Fulbright offered a second. The motion passed unanimously.

1st Amendment of the FY 19-20 Budget

Andrea Roper, WPCOG Finance Director presented the 1st Amendment of the 2019-2020 WPCOG Budget that reflects a total budget of \$20,033,040 and an operating budget of \$6,702,464 which represents an increase of the total budget from the May 28th, 2019 budget amendment of \$468,764.

The 1st Amendment of the 2019-2020 Budget includes:

- General Government increased \$14,696 due to new financial administration contracts.
- Community and Regional Planning decreased by \$13,926 due to decreases in planning contract amounts.
- Economic Development decreased and Fund Balance Appropriated increased, respectively, by \$22,234 due to a revenue data entry error in the previous budget.
- Area Agency on Aging Services decreased \$2,076 due to reduced funding for the Project Care and UNCA grant.
- Compensated Absences decreased \$4,600 to better reflect actual anticipated expenses.
- Travel decreased \$4,486 due to the allocation of funds to telephone and printing
- Telephone increased \$6,760 due to the addition of new positions requiring mobile phones and tablets.
- Supplies decreased \$4,036 due to the increase of salaries charged to Project Care along with the reduction in funding.
- Contingency decreased \$20,028 and Reserve for Future Use increased \$25,910 to allocate funds for use in future periods.
- All other changes to the expenditure lines reflect normal program needs.
- WIOA Pass Through funds increased by \$470,269 to reflect admin fees for the program.

Staff requests that the Board review and approve the First Amendment of the 2019-2020 Budget.

Mr. Larry Yoder made a motion that the Policy Board approve the 1st Amendment of the 2019-2020 Budget as proposed. Mr. Jerry Hodge offered a second. The motion passed unanimously.

Staff Updates

Mr. Anthony Starr provided the following staff updates to the board:

- WPCOG has started working with both Cahah's Mountain and Sawmills councils, assisting them with their searches for new managers.
- Visitors to the office will notice the new access control system is now in place and operational.
- WPCOG has three new employees. Brad Moody, Code Enforcement Officer; Jack Cline, Stormwater Administrator; Dustin Milsaps, Planning/Transportation Technician.
- Internally, the GIS Department is now part of the Planning Department and Scott Miller is now Director of IT and Facilities.
- Air and Water Quality conference is coming up. All board members are invited to attend.
- The Workforce Development budget has been cut by about 8%. Workforce Development Director, Wendy Johnson has been asked to serve on a state task force to look at the future of NCWorks Career Centers.

Ms. Sherry Long announced that she and her staff are working to submit grant applications this month totaling over \$3 million.

Ms. Stephanie Hanvey, Director of Regional Housing Authority said that the WPCOG Section 8 program is over capacity. Currently approximately 1,800 people are on the waiting list. WPCOG has 1,109 vouchers.

Adjournment

Mr. Larry Chapman made a motion that the meeting adjourn at 7:55 pm and the motion was seconded by Mr. Johnny Berry. The motion passed unanimously.