

**Minutes**  
**Western Piedmont Council of Governments**  
**Bimonthly Policy Board Meeting**  
**Tuesday, July 24, 2018**  
**Town of Long View – WPCOG Office Building**

**Members Present:**

Barbara Pennell, Chair  
Bob Floyd, Jr., Vice-Chair  
Johnny Berry, Treasurer  
George Holleman, Past Chair  
Robert Smyre, At-Large  
Chip Black, At-Large  
Kitty Barnes, At-Large  
Wayne Abele, At-Large  
Josh Lail  
Johnnie Carswell, Alternate  
Ronnie Setzer  
Joie Fulbright  
Kyle Hayman, Alternate  
Dennis Anthony  
Dr. Caryl Burns  
Ben Honeycutt  
Larry Chapman  
Marla Thompson  
Ronnie Williams, Alternate  
Forrest Fleming  
Rick Justice  
Gary McClure  
Keith Warren  
Malla Vue  
Tommy Luckadoo  
Helen Chestnut  
Amparo Alfaro  
Elle Engstrom  
Sara Moses

**Members Absent:**

Mike Labrose  
Donald Robinson  
Dale Sherrill  
Jill Patton, Secretary  
Ben Willis

**Local Government/Agency:**

Gamewell  
Cedar Rock  
Connelly Springs  
Taylorsville  
Maiden  
Valdese  
Catawba County  
Burke County  
Alexander County  
Burke County  
Cajah's Mountain  
Conover  
Conover  
Drexel  
Granite Falls  
Hildebran  
Hudson  
Long View  
Maiden  
Morganton  
Rhodhiss  
Rutherford College  
Sawmills  
Appointed  
Appointed  
Appointed  
Appointed  
Appointed  
Appointed

Caldwell County  
Catawba  
Claremont  
Hickory  
Lenoir

Vacant

Bob Benfield

Jerry Hodge

Larry Yoder

Brookford

Glen Alpine

Newton

Appointed

**Guests/Others Present:**

Scott Hildebran, Lenoir

Mary Carter, Gamewell

Sherri Bradshaw, Drexel

Kenneth Geathers, Rutherford College

Donald Duncan, Conover

Alan Jackson, United Arts Council

Kathy Greathouse, Arts Council of Catawba County

Chris Wagoner, Rhodhiss

Logan Shook, Cahah's Mountain

Chris Todd, Sawmills

David Draughn, Long View

Stephanie Watson, Long View

James Cozart, Long View

James Brinkley, Long View

**WPCOG Staff Present:**

Anthony Starr, Executive Director

Sherry Long, Assistant Executive Director/Community & Economic Development Director

Ashley Bolick, Director of Administrative Services and Human Resources

Andrea Roper, Finance Director

Wendy Johnson, Director of Workforce Development

Alison Adams, Community & Regional Planning Director

Jason Toney, Communications Specialist

Tina Miller, Director of Area Agency on Aging

Stephanie Hanvey, Director of Regional Housing

**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 Town of Long View for hosting the meeting. Mayor Marla Thompson welcomed the Policy Board to the Town of Long View.

**Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Minutes of the previous meeting were considered. Mr. Ronnie Setzer made a motion to approve the minutes and Mr. Forrest Fleming offered a second. The motion passed unanimously.

**Unfinished Business/Reports**

There was no unfinished business.

## **New Business**

### The Economic Impact of Arts, Science and History Nonprofit Organizations in Catawba County

Executive Director of the United Arts Council of Catawba County introduced Alan Jackson, who serves on the United Arts Council board. Mr. Jackson presented a report entitled "Arts and Economic Prosperity: The Economic Impact of Nonprofit Arts & Cultural Organizations & Their Audiences". The results of the report come from a survey of 885 people at various events in Catawba County during 2016. The full report can be found on the United Arts Council website, [www.artscatawba.org](http://www.artscatawba.org).

### EnVision Center Demonstration

Stephanie Hanvey, WPCOG Director of Regional Housing updated the board on the EnVision Center Demonstration. In December 2017, HUD released a notice to solicit public comments regarding EnVision Center Demonstrations. One month later, HUD announced a desire to obtain commitment letters from Housing Authorities interested in being chosen as an EnVision Center Demonstration site. The WPCOG Regional Housing Authority (RHA) responded on February 12, 2018 with a commitment letter to HUD's Housing Secretary Ben Carson. Along with the RHA commitment letter, 29 letters of support were submitted from local municipalities, partners, and boards in our region. Each of these letters expressed support to our commitment to house an EnVision Center and to assist low-income individuals with a pathway to self-sufficiency.

In May 2018, The RHA received word from the Regional Deputy Administrator's office in Atlanta that they would like to visit WPCOG and tour a few of partner agencies. Regional Deputy Administrator, Chris Taylor along with other HUD colleagues visited the WPCOG RHA Tuesday May 22, 2018. They also toured the NC Works Career Center and the Senior Center in Catawba County. The RHA conducted a presentation regarding our organizations ability to operate an EnVision Center.

On June 7, 2018 The RHA was contacted and made aware that we were chosen as 1 of 17 sites nationwide who will participate in running an EnVision Center. On Friday, WPCOG held a press conference with the Southeast Regional Administrator, Denise Cleveland Leggett and Regional Deputy Administrator, Chris Taylor in attendance. Several WPCOG board members and local elected officials were present as well.

### 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment of FY 2018-2019 Budget

Andrea Roper, WPCOG Finance Director, presented the 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment of the 2018-2019 Budget. The 1st Amendment of the 2018-2019 Budget reflects a total budget of \$15,533,757 and an operating budget of \$5,812,646 which represents an increase of the total budget from the May 22, 2018 budget amendment of \$369,128.

The 1st Amendment of the 2018-2019 Budget includes:

- Transportation increased by \$21,899 due to the addition of the Burke Transit Grant Project.
- Community Development decreased by \$48,686 due to personnel changes.
- Community and Regional Planning increased by \$104,121 due to the addition of several new projects, including KB Reynolds Quality of Life Project, Head Start Assessment, Hickory Graphic Design, and Code Enforcement contracts.
- An increase of \$5,359 in Economic Development due to the addition of the Rutherford County Recreation Plan and the Catawba County Building Reuse Project.

- Area Agency on Aging Services received additional funding, resulting in an increase of \$6,452.
- Workforce Development decreased by \$38,800 due to funding reductions.
- A decrease in supplies of \$41,148 due to WIOA funding decreases.
- Maintenance-Equipment increased by \$12,500 for software license.
- Capital Outlay increased by \$33,000 for a new server and code enforcement vehicle.
- As a result of the addition of several new projects, Contingency and Reserve for Future Use increased \$32,810 and \$12,000 respectively.
- All other changes to the expenditure lines reflect normal program needs.
- Aging Pass Through funds increased by \$312,474 due to an increase in funding.

Staff requested the Policy Board to review and approve the 1st Amendment of the 2018-2019 Budget.

Mr. George Holleman made a motion that the Board approve the 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment of the 2018-2019 Budget as proposed. Ms. Kitty Barnes offered a second. The motion passed unanimously.

#### Staff Updates

Mr. Anthony Starr, WPCOG Executive Director updated the Board on the Claremont Manager search as well as shared that WPCOG planning staff have been invited along with other regional planning staff to present about the WPCOG Vacant Housing Task Force at the state wide planning conference.

Ms. Sherry Long, WPCOG Assistance Executive Director and Director of Community & Economic Development gave an ARC update.

#### Adjournment

Mr. Larry Chapman made a motion that the meeting adjourn at 7:30 pm and the motion was seconded by Mr. Joie Fulbright. The motion passed unanimously.