

**Minutes**  
**Western Piedmont Council of Governments**  
**Bimonthly Policy Board Meeting**  
**Tuesday, November 26, 2019**  
**Glen Oaks Golf Club, Maiden**

**Members Present:**

Barbara Pennell , Chair  
Bob Floyd, Jr., Vice-Chair  
Johnny Berry, Treasurer  
George Holleman, Past Chair  
Chip Black, At-Large  
Wayne Abele, At-Large  
Joseph L. Gibbons, At-Large  
Larry Yoder  
Johnnie Carswell, Alternate  
Ronnie Setzer  
Donald Robinson  
Dale Sherrill  
Joie Fulbright  
Kyle Hayman, Alternate  
Dennis Anthony  
Dr. Caryl Burns  
Larry Knight, Alternate  
Mike Smith, Alternate  
Larry Chapman  
Ronnie Williams  
Forrest Fleming  
Jerry Hodge  
Gary McClure  
Johnnie Greene, Alternate  
Amparo Alfaro  
Tommy Luckadoo  
Malla Vue  
Casey Pope  
Helen Chestnut

**Members Absent:**

Jill Patton, Secretary  
Kitty Barnes, At-Large  
James Weaver  
Mike Labrose  
Sheila Perkins

**Local Government/Agency:**

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

Hickory  
Catawba County  
Brookford  
Caldwell County  
Glen Alpine

Marla Thompson  
Rick Justice  
Elle Engstrom  
Sara Moses

Long View  
Rhodhiss  
Appointed  
Appointed

**Guests/Others Present:**

Donald Duncan, Conover  
Beth Rudisill, Maiden  
Danny Hipps, Maiden  
Trina Michael, Maiden  
Bryan Steen, Burke  
Logan Shook, Hildebran  
Mary Carter, Gamewell  
Tamara Brooks, Connelly Springs  
Sherri Bradshaw, Drexel  
Scott Hildebran, Lenoir  
Karen Clontz, Sawmills  
Randy Feierabend, Cahah's Mountain  
Todd Herms, Maiden  
Barbara Harmon, Rhodhiss  
Kenneth Geathers, Rutherford College  
Bob Smyre, Retired Maiden Mayor  
David Hood, Legal Counsel

**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  
Lori Dixon, Administrative Assistant  
Brad Moody, Code Enforcement Officer

**Call to Order/Welcome**

A regular meeting of the WPCOG Policy Board was called to order at 6:46 pm by Chair Barbara Pennell. Chair Pennell thanked the Town of Maiden for hosting the meeting.

**Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Minutes of the previous meeting were considered. Mr. Joie Fulbright made a motion to approve the minutes and Mr. Gary McClure offered second. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Unfinished Business/Reports**

There was no unfinished business or reports

### **New Business**

#### Conover NCWorks Lease Agreement Amendment

Wendy Johnson, Director of Workforce Development shared that the staff of the NCWorks Career Center, Catawba had requested blinds to be installed in the windows of the Career Center due to excessive sun glare during the afternoon hours of operation. The glare was making it difficult to see computer screens and in the summer time the heat also becomes intense. Staff requested that the lease be amended to reflect a slight increase to cover the cost of the blinds and installation.

Mr. Larry Yoder made a motion that the Policy Board approve the lease amendment as presented and authorize the Executive Director to execute the amendment and any related documents. Mr. John Black, Jr. offered a second. The motion passed unanimously.

#### RHA Closing the Waiting List

Ms. Stephanie Hanvey, Regional Housing Authority Director provided a brief background on the current open WPCOG Section 8 Housing Program's waiting list for housing assistance. The program began taking new housing applications on February 20, 2017. Approximately 3,000 families are currently waiting to be offered housing assistance. Under the current administration, families who submitted applications on day one, February 20, 2017 have not been offered assistance, and may never be offered assistance. Other families with specific preferences have been offered assistance multiple times. The administrative responsibilities of an open waiting list have increased due to continually processing submitted applications. Also, applicants who are dropped, are allowed to reapply again and again. An applicant could be dropped from the waiting list due to non-response to requests for paperwork, expired voucher, over-income limits or criminal history. Leaving the waiting list open has shown negative changes regarding service to both the disabled population and the population of families with children. Upon approval to close the waiting list, notice will be published in the local newspapers in each county by the first week of December. Notice will also be published on the WPCOG's website. The RHA plans to discontinue accepting applications on December 31, 2019 if approved by the board.

Mr. Larry Yoder made a motion that the Policy Board approve the closing of the waiting list for Section 8 applications effective January 1, 2020. Mr. Larry Chapman offered a second. The motion passed unanimously.

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> Amendment of FY 2019- 2020 Budget

Andrea Roper, Director of Finance requested a 3<sup>rd</sup> Amendment of FY 2019—2020 Budget The attached 3<sup>rd</sup> Amendment of the 2019-2020 Budget reflects a total budget of \$20,750,957 and an operating budget of \$7,330,620 which represents an increase of the total budget from the September 24, 2019 budget amendment of \$27,445.

Highlights of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Amendment of the 2019-2020 Budget include:

- Environmental Protection increased by \$9,915 due to additional revenue for environmental assessments and stormwater partnership.

- Community Development increased \$5,000 due to the addition of FY20 HUD Counseling contract.
- An increase of \$35,500 in Community and Regional Planning due to the addition of two new contracts.
- GIS Services increased \$2,196 due to the addition of several GIS projects.
- Area Agency on Aging Services increased \$911 due to an increase in LCA grant revenues.
- Workforce Development decreased \$28,001 due to a reduction in administration funding.
- Allocated fund balance increased by \$1,924 to reflect local administration expenses.
- Salaries, Compensated Absences, Group Insurance, and Retirement decreased due to the elimination of a GIS position.
- Contractual increased \$4,425 to cover expenses for WIOA, Youth Follow-up programs.
- Advertising/Subscriptions decreased \$29,722 due to the reallocation of WIOA funds to offset the decrease in administration funding.
- Contingency and Reserve for Future Use increased \$16,026 and \$73,171, respectively, due to the addition of new projects and reallocation of expenses in transportation.
- All other changes to the expenditure lines reflect normal program needs.

Mr. Donald Robinson made a motion that the board approve the third amendment of the 2019-2020 budget as proposed. Mr. John Black, Jr. offered a second. The motion passed unanimously

Nominating Committee Report and Board Leadership Election

Each year, the Board Chair appoints a nominating committee for the purpose of recommending person for the officers, Executive Committee and Appointed Delegates of the Policy Board, The Chair appointed Wayne Abele (Burke County), Larry Chapman (Hudson), Kitty Barnes (Catawba County) and George Holleman (Taylorsville) to serve as members of the 2019 Nominating Committee.

George Holleman made a motion and a second by Joie Fulbright. The motion passed unanimously

Chair Barbara Pennell recognized Mr. George Holloman as a member of the Nominating Committee. Mr. Holleman reviewed the purpose of the Nominating Committee as well as committee members. Each year, the Board Chair appoints a nominating committee for the purpose of recommending persons for the Officers, Executive Committee and Appointed Delegates of the Policy Board. The Chair appointed Wayne Abele (Burke County), Larry Chapman (Hudson), Kitty Barnes (Catawba County) and George Holleman (Taylorsville) to serve as members of the Nominating Committee.

Mr. Holleman presented the recommendations from the Nominating Committee listed below:

Position	Recommendation	Term Ends
Chair	Bob Floyd	Dec. 2020
Vice Chair	Jill Patton	Dec. 2020
Secretary	Johnny Berry	Dec. 2020
Treasurer	George Holleman	Dec. 2020
Immediate Past Chair	Barbara Pennell	Dec. 2020
Executive Committee At-Large	Wayne Abele	Dec. 2020
Executive Committee At-Large	Kitty Barnes	Dec. 2020
Executive Committee At-Large	Joesph L. Gibbons	Dec. 2020
Executive Committee At-Large	John “Chip” Black, Jr.	Dec. 2020

Policy Board Appointed Delegate	Amparo Alfaro	Dec. 2020
Policy Board Appointed Delegate	Casey Pope	Dec. 2020
Policy Board Appointed Delegate	Tommy Luckadoo	Dec. 2020
Policy Board Appointed Delegate	Helen Chestnut	Dec. 2020
Policy Board Appointed Delegate	Malle Vue	Dec. 2021
Policy Board Appointed Delegate	Jeanna Price	Dec. 2021
Policy Board Appointed Delegate	Randy Burns	Dec. 2021
Forum Representative	Wayne Abele	Dec. 2019
Alternate Forum Representative	Kitty Barnes	Dec. 2019

Mr. George Holleman presented the Nominating Committee report in the form of a motion that the Policy Board approve the nominations as presented by the Nominating Committee. Mr. Joie Fullbright offered a second. The motion passed unanimously.

#### Recognition of Outgoing Board Members

Chair Pennell thanked outgoing board members, Forrest Fleming of Morganton, Sara Moses Appointed Delegate and Elle Engstrom Appointed Delegate, for their service. Vice-Chair Bob Floyd recognized Chair Pennell for service to the board as Chair for the past two years. Executive Director, Anthony Starr also spoke and thanked Chair Pennell for her dedication and love for local government.

#### Staff Updates

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

1. Search for Town of Catawba Manager and Longview Police Chief have been successful.
2. The WPCOG generator is now installed and came in under budget.
3. The Housing Forum was a great success and positive feedback was received.

#### Closed Session – Pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11

- (a) (3) – To consult with an attorney to protect the attorney-client privilege.

The Policy Board went into closed session pursuant to NC General Statute 143-318.11(a) (3) to consult with an attorney to protect the attorney-client-privilege. The motion was made by Mr. Larry Yoder and seconded by Mr. Ronnie Setzer.

The regular meeting was reconvened by motion made by Mr. Donald Robinson, seconded by Mr. Larry Chapman.

#### Adjournment

Mr. Joie Fulbright made a motion that the meeting adjourn at 7:51 pm. The motion was seconded by Mr. Donald Robinson. The motion passed unanimously.