

Minutes
Western Piedmont Council of Governments
Bimonthly Policy Board Meeting
Tuesday, September 25, 2018
Town of Maiden Recreation Center

Members Present:

Barbara Pennell, Chair
Johnny Berry, Treasurer
George Holleman, Past Chair
Robert Smyre, At-Large
Chip Black, At-Large
Kitty Barnes, At-Large
Wayne Abele, At-Large
Johnnie Carswell, Alternate
Ronnie Setzer
Donald Robinson
Joie Fulbright
Kyle Hayman, Alternate
Bob Benfield
Dr. Caryl Burns
Jody York, Alternate
Larry Chapman
Joe Gibbons, Alternate
Marla Thompson
Forrest Fleming
Jerry Hodge
Gary McClure
Wayne Annas, Alternate
Malla Vue
Tommy Luckadoo
Helen Chestnut
Amparo Alfaro
Larry Yoder

Local Government/Agency:

Gamewell
Connelly Springs
Taylorsville
Maiden
Valdese
Catawba County
Burke County
Burke County
Cajah's Mountain
Catawba
Conover
Conover
Glen Alpine
Granite Falls
Hildebran
Hudson
Lenoir
Long View
Morganton
Newton
Rutherford College
Rutherford College
Appointed
Appointed
Appointed
Appointed
Appointed

Members Absent:

Josh Lail
Bob Floyd, Jr., Vice-Chair
Mike Labrose
Dale Sherrill
Dennis Anthony

Alexander County
Cedar Rock
Caldwell County
Claremont
Drexel

Vacant	Brookford
Rick Justice	Rhodhiss
Jill Patton, Secretary	Hickory
Keith Warren	Sawmills
Elle Engstrom	Appointed
Sara Moses	Appointed

Guests/Others Present:

Scott Hildebran, Lenoir
Mary Carter, Gamewell
Kenneth Geathers, Rutherford College
Trina Michael, Maiden
Danny Hipps, Maiden
Todd Herms, Maiden
Logan Shook, Cahah's Mountain
Chase Winebarger, Catawba
Todd Clark, Newton
Kim Colson, Department of Environmental Quality
Francie Durso, Department of Environmental Quality
Jennifer Haynie, Department of Environmental Quality

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

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 Maiden for hosting the meeting. Mayor Bob Smyre welcomed the Policy Board to the Town of Maiden.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

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

Unfinished Business/Reports

There was no unfinished business.

New Business

NC Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Master Plan

Staff from the NC Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Water Infrastructure, provided an update on the NC Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Master Plan.

NCDEQ Staff members present included Kim Colson, P.E. Division Director, Francie Durso, P.E., Senior Project Manager and Jennifer Haynie, Project Manager.

The full plan is available online at the following link.

http://portal.ncdenr.org/c/document_library/get_file?uuid=df1eeae-d14b-455d-9ad4-73b5d635f057&groupId=14655572

Site Marketing Services

WPCOG Community & Regional Planning Director, Alison Adams announced the addition of a new site marketing service offered by WPCOG. This new offering for local governments is a two-sided marketing document evaluating select parcels for potential development. WPCOG Planning Staff recently completed a site marketing project for Brookford. Ms. Adams shared the elements included in this new service, ways it could be modified, and the benefits it will provide to local governments and community organizations throughout the region. The marketing document includes:

- Site data (acreage, zoning, constraints, etc...)
- Housing statistics
- Transportation – daily traffic counts
- Aerials of the parcel/s being marketed
- Photos of the property's current conditions
- Proximity of major road and transportation corridors

Based on need of the community, the scope can be expanded to include more elements than what is listed above. These documents can serve as a very useful tool for communities to attract new development.

CEDS Update

WPCOG Executive Director, Anthony Starr presented a suggested modification to the Community Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) regarding grants and infrastructure. The amendment intends to aid the WPCOG and its local governments and partners with securing infrastructure grants. The CEDS Committee reviewed the proposed addition on August 28, 2018 and unanimously recommended approval.

Recommend CEDS Infrastructure Amendment:

Strategy- Extend access and improve service and capacity for necessary utilities including water, sewer and broadband, to businesses, schools and community facilities, low income households and other underserved neighborhoods and communities.

Metrics:

- Number and funding amounts of water and sewer grants awarded
- Number of additional businesses, organizations and housing units with water and sewer access or improved service
- Number of additional businesses, organizations and housing units with broadband service with added or improved service

Responsible Parties:

Local Governments, EDCs, WPCOG, broadband service providers, other federal and state agencies

Mr. Bob Smyre made a motion that the Policy Board approve the recommended addition to the CEDS as proposed. Ms. Kitty Barnes offered a second. The motion passed unanimously.

2nd Amendment of FY 2018 – 2019 Budget

Andrea Roper, WPCOG Finance Director, presented the 2nd Amendment of the 2018-2019 Budget. The 2nd Amendment of the 2018-2019 Budget reflects a total budget of \$15,687,207 and an operating budget of \$5,932,653 which represents an increase of the total budget from the July 24th, 2018 budget amendment of \$153,450.

The 2nd Amendment of the 2018-2019 Budget includes:

- Transportation increased by \$16,893 due to the increase in Passenger Sampling Revenues.
- Environmental Protection increased by \$17,000 due to the addition of several environmental assessment projects.
- Community Development increased by \$30,212 due to the addition of several new projects.
- Community and Regional Planning increased by \$25,068 due to the addition of a new community plan project.
- A decrease of \$9,992 in Economic Development due to actual funding for the current fiscal year.
- GIS/IT decreased by \$22,518 due to the decrease of anticipated contracts being funded by new Transportation and Planning contracts.
- An increase of \$60,580 in Regional Public Housing due to the addition of a new position.
- Area Agency on Aging Services received additional funding for caregiver directed vouchers, resulting in an increase of \$2,764.
- Salaries increased \$4,270 due to the addition of a new Regional Housing Authority position and the decrease of actual costs for personnel changes in Economic Development
- Retirement decreased \$138,003 and Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) increased by \$138,003 due to the LGERS 10.73% liability being paid off in June.
- Travel and supplies increased \$9,561 and \$22,887 respectively as the result of new projects being added to various departments.
- Legal Fees increased \$3,349 due to the new projects in Community Development.
- As a result of the addition of several new projects, Contingency increased \$216,337.
- All other changes to the expenditure lines reflect normal program needs.
- Regional Public Housing Pass Through funds increased by \$33,443 due to the use of reserve funds.

Staff requested the Policy Board to review and approve the 2nd Amendment of the 2018-2019 Budget.

Mr. George Holleman made a motion that the Board approve the 2nd Amendment of the 2018-2019 Budget as proposed. Mr. Larry Chapman offered a second. The motion passed unanimously.

Nominating Committee Appointments

Board Chair Barbara Pennell discussed the role and composition of the WPCOG Policy Board Nominating Committee. Each year at the September Policy Board meeting, four Policy Board members are asked to serve on the Nominating Committee. Under the WPCOG Charter, the Policy Board Chair appoints the Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee is responsible for presenting a slate of officers, Executive Committee members and appointed (non-elected) board members for the following year during the November meeting. The Nominating Committee includes a representative from all four counties. Traditionally, two county officials and two municipal officials compose the four-member committee. The following board members have been appointed and have agreed to serve on this year's nominating committee.

Wayne Abele – Burke County Commissioner
Kitty Barnes – Catawba County Commissioner
Larry Chapman – Town of Hudson Commissioner
George Holleman – Town of Taylorsville Mayor

WPCOG Past Board Chair, Wayne Abele, will serve as the Nominating Committee Chair. Staff will assist with scheduling a committee meeting shortly after the November election.

Staff Updates

Ms. Sherry Long, WPCOG Assistance Executive Director and Director of Community & Economic Development gave an ARC update as well as announced the hire of Paul Teague as the new Community & Economic Project Developer. Paul joins WPCOG from the Caldwell Economic Development Commission.

Adjournment

Mr. Larry Chapman made a motion that the meeting adjourn at 7:40 pm and the motion was seconded by Mr. Larry Yoder. The motion passed unanimously.