

CENTRAL PINES REGIONAL COUNCIL

BOARD OF DELEGATES MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, April 23, 2025 | 6:00 – 8:00 pm

Central Pines Conference Room & Virtual

Chair Brett Gantt Presiding

Delegates & Alternates Attending:

Sheveil Harmon, Angier
Brett Gantt, Apex
Thomas Beal, Broadway
Randee Haven O'Donnell, Carrboro
Jennifer Robinson, Cary
Amanda Robertson, Chatham County
DeDreana Freeman, Durham
Bryan Haynes, Fuquay-Varina
Kathleen Ferguson, Hillsborough
Matt Hughes, Hillsborough (A)
Chris Deshazor, Holly Springs
Butch Lawter, Johnston County
Mark Swan, Knightdale
Kirk Smith, Lee County
Katy Garcia, Micro
Tom Adams, Moore County
Steve Rao, Morrisville
Jean Hamilton, Orange County
Sally Green, Orange County (A)
Jeff Morgan, Pinehurst
Stacy Johnson, Princeton
Rebecca Salmon, Sanford
Byron McAllister, Selma
Andy Moore, Smithfield
Shirlyn Moody, Taylortown
Susan Evans, Wake County

Nick Sliwinski, Wake Forest
David McGowan, Wilson's Mills

CPRC Staff Attending:

Jenny Halsey, Assistant Executive Director
Alana Keegan, Local Government Services Director
Chris Lawson, Community Development Senior Planner
Carolyn Pennington, Regional Ombudsman
Thomas Porter, Triangle West TPO Planner
Beth Seidel, Clerk to the Board
Lindsay Whitson, Community & Economic Development Director
Lee Worsley, Executive Director

Guests Attending:

Hill Carrow, 2029 World University Games
David Webb, Governor Stein's Office
Renee Castellano, Governor Stein's Office
Kyle Leopard, Strategics Consulting

1. Call to Order 6:00 pm

- a. Call to Order
Brett Gantt, Chair
- b. Roll Call
Beth Seidel, Clerk to the Board
- c. Declaration of Quorum
Brett Gantt, Chair

Chair Brett Gantt called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm and reviewed

the process for hybrid meetings. Beth Seidel, Clerk to the Board, completed Roll Call and it was determined there was a quorum present at the meeting.

d. Get to Know CPRC
Brett Gantt, Chair

Chair Gantt shared that in 1972, the governing board at CPRC was asked to provide regional comments on a federal grant application from the N.C. Office of Forest Resources, seeking to develop recreation and nature study facilities at Clayton State Forest, a 250-acre tract on the Wake-Johnston County line. The \$38,046.55 federal grant, matched by in-kind expenditures for a total project cost of \$76,099.31, aimed to enhance the existing State Forest's benefits to citizens and promote environmental education. This initiative, supported by a motion from Mr. Ewing and seconded by Mr. Bradshaw, marked an early step toward what is now known as Clemmons Educational State Forest, aligning with regional goals for outdoor recreation and environmental awareness.

2. Review of Agenda 6:05 pm

a. Review of Agenda
Brett Gantt, Chair
Potential Action: Chair Gantt will approve

Action: Chair Gantt reviewed the agenda and declared that the agenda was approved.

3. Presentations & Recognition 6:10 pm

a. Membership Request: Taylortown
Presenters: Brett Gantt, Chair
Potential Action: Vote on Membership Approval by Roll Call

The Town of Taylortown, located in Moore County, is requesting membership in Central Pines Regional Council, effective April 23, 2025. At the Town's recent Board Meeting, the Council adopted the attached resolution accepting and approving Central Pines Regional Council's Bylaws and Charter Resolution and is now petitioning for membership.

All requirements for CPRC membership have been fulfilled, and the request for membership must be approved by the Board of Delegates to become official.

Alana Keegan, CPRC Local Government Services Director shared that she and Delegate Wilma Laney went to Taylortown to provide an overview of the work that Central Pines does. They discussed a few ways that CPRC could be of assistance. Delegate Laney gave her

thoughts as a Delegate.

Mayor ProTem Shirlyn Moody shared a bit about the Town of Taylortown. They have been a community since 1905 and became incorporated in 1987. Taylortown has a 5 person Board.

Action: Approval of CPRC membership resolution for Taylortown, Resolution #2025-04-01

Motion: Delegate Sheveil Harmon

Second: Delegate Randee Haven O'Donnell

Beth Seidel facilitated a roll call vote, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Executive Director Lee Worsley gave a few remarks welcoming Taylortown and talked about how far the organization has come over the years. At this time, the organization is now only one member government shy of 100%. Mr. Worsley thanked the Chair for his leadership on this effort, as well as the staff and Board for their hard work.

Delegate Jennifer Robinson also shared that a lot of the growth has happened because of Lee Worsley's leadership. Central Pines was at 37 members when Lee came on board.

- b. Introductions from Governor Stein's Office
Potential Action: None – Information Only

North Carolina welcomed a new governor in 2025 for the first time in eight years. Josh Stein, who previously served as the state's Attorney General, was elected to office beginning in January. David Webb, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs and Outreach for Governor Josh Stein introduced himself, as well as Rene Castellanos, Regional Outreach Advisor. They shared their roles and areas of focus and briefly discussed the Governor's priorities as they relate to regional collaboration and local government partnerships.

David Webb will be the point of contact for the Central Pines region. He is located in Raleigh and will make his contact information available. Rene Castellanos handles everything Durham and west.

The Governor's budget prioritizes workforce development and education. There is also a focus on strengthening families and lowering costs (including housing, early childhood, etc.). Another priority is improving education. There is a \$4 Billion bond to support infrastructure for schools, which will assist with each county receiving \$10 Million at least. Also included are teacher raises and free breakfast

for students. Finally, there is a priority on keeping North Carolinians safe – law enforcement raises, body cameras for all law enforcement officers.

Delegate Jeff Morgan asked if there would be any coordinated effort for license tag readers statewide, rather than individual jurisdictions. Mr. Webb said he would flag this for the Secretary of Public Safety and will follow up.

Delegate David McGowan said that Wilson's Mills has signed a resolution and is sending it to the State House opposing legislative preemption of local government planning and zoning. This includes Senate Bills 495, 497, 499, 587, 688, and House Bill 765. Delegate McGowan asked which way the Governor's Office was leaning on this topic. He said that this is an attempt to take away the ability of towns, municipalities, and counties to control and direct the planning and zoning of their towns.

Mr. Webb shared that the Governor is interested in 499 and wants to have conversations around it. He will speak with Legislative Director John Lucy who is much more in the weeds of the different bills and will be able to provide a synopsis on where the Governor's office stands and will provide that to CPRC.

Delegate Tom Adams asked if there could be a coordinated effort with other COGs across the state to help with a resolution. Mr. Webb asked Mr. Worsley if he could get a read on what members are thinking and pass that straight to the Legislative Director. Several delegates asked to coordinate with NCLM and NCACC.

Delegate Steve Rao asked about guidance on regional issues like transportation, housing, and broadband. Mr. Webb said he could put them in touch with the staff members who work with each of those areas.

c. World University Games

Presenter: Hill Carrow, Chief Executive Officer

Potential Action: None – Information Only

Lee Worsley introduced Hill Carrow, CEO of the North Carolina Organizing Committee, who presented to the Board on the work underway to prepare for the event and the immense impact of it on our region and local communities.

The World University Games are the world's second-largest global Olympic multisport event, behind only the Summer Olympics. The World University Games have not been held in the U.S. since 1993, but

the 2029 Games will be played in our region. As the name would suggest, the World University Games include the top collegiate athletes from around the world, which makes North Carolina's University Hub Region with its 19 colleges and universities and more than 260,000 college students, an ideal host community for the Games.

The Games will be held over a 12-to-13-day period in July of 2029 at more than 40 venues. The World University Games include a Cultural Program, an Education Program, and a World Conference in addition to the sports events and ceremonies. The North Carolina Organizing Committee or NCOC is the Local Organizing Committee (LOC) responsible for planning, development, and execution of the 2029 FISU World University Games.

There were several questions from the Board on more details about the games.

4. Public Hearing

7:00 pm

a. Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Recommended Budget

Presenter: Lee Worsley, Executive Director

Potential Action: Conduct Public Hearing

Prior to the board meeting, the Executive Director sent his recommended budget to members and alternates of the Board of Delegates and the managers of CPRC's member governments. At this evening's meeting, the Executive Director gave highlights of the recommended budget.

The recommended budget is \$37,009,528, which is an 8.5% decrease from 2023-2024 adopted budget (\$40,452,456).

The Recommended Member Assessment (Dues) is:

- \$0.44 per capita up to 300,000 population (*unchanged from last year*)
- \$0.20 per capita after 350,000 population (*increased from 300,000*)
- County members pay for the unincorporated population. Additionally, county members pay an Aging Match for the Area Agency on Aging program

Note: Until Fiscal Year 2023-24, the per capita rate had been unchanged since Fiscal Year 1996-1997. Rate increases were implemented in FY 23-24 and FY 24-25. Increases were needed to address increased costs for personnel and other inflationary functions and to begin to build fund balance.

Member Investment represents a small percentage of the budget (2.5%) but is the most critical funding component. Every \$1 of member investment leverages an additional \$38.43 in funding from other sources.

Mr. Worsley shared some of the organizational threats for each of the Focus Areas and what can be done to support the region.

Administratively, the organization is planning to implement a new finance and human resource system for the organization, as well as launching a revision to the organization's Strategic Plan and implementing software to better track and display progress on the Plan's progress.

Indirect expenses cover the essential items that are needed for CPRC staff members to do their jobs. This includes facility lease, computers, office equipment, finance support, administrative support, HR support, executive support, audit, and legal costs. The indirect rate is applied to salaries and fringe charged against each project to spread actual costs similarly across all programs. Member dues do not fund internal operations. Member dues are used for direct expenses to further CPRC's mission.

Recent news reports discuss caps of 15% and reigning in indirect costs because of large endowments. The President's budget discusses Indirect Policy changes, including "ultimately cap recoverable costs." What is playing out in the news right now is simply not the case for CPRC. Indirect allows each program to fairly share in funding a competent, financially compliant organization. It pays for essential organizational infrastructure – nothing more.

- \$2.51 million is generated through indirect charges to our programs to fund internal operations
- A rate reduction to 15% would mean a \$1.63 million internal operations funding reduction to \$882,786
 - A 77-cent member dues increase would be needed to make up the difference. (1 cent = \$21,090)
 - Conversely, a draconian cut approach to get spending to new levels would be catastrophic to CPRC operations – abandoning our building lease, requiring staff to provide their own IT equipment, halting finance software replacement, removing all travel and memberships for ED, Assistant ED and Finance Team, significant administrative layoffs (finance, HR)

Contingency funding is down significantly this year to fund a new finance system.

Chair Gantt opened the Public Hearing at 7:54 pm. There were no comments, so the public hearing was closed.

Any input received during tonight's meeting will be discussed. The Board of Delegates will consider adoption of the Budget Resolution during their May 28th, 2025 meeting.

5. CPRC Program/Service Spotlight 7:20 pm

a. Planning Technical Assistance

Presenters: Chris Lawson, Community Development Senior Planner

Potential Action: None – Information Only

Planning Technical Assistance is offered to member governments, which can allow us to expand staff capacity as it relates to planning and zoning. Technical assistance can last for as long as the local government needs and the type of assistance can range from performing all planning and zoning-related duties, including current planning, to working as needed on individual projects such as long-range plans and planning processes, and implementation of planning-related documents. Since Central Pines is a local government, members can receive technical assistance without following bidding processes that are typically required to hire consultants or support staff.

Chris Lawson, CPRC Community Development Senior Planner, gave the Board an overview of the services that are offered to CPRC members.

6. Business 7:30 pm

a. Federal Action Plan

Presenters: Kyle Leopard, Strategics Consulting & Alana Keegan, Local Government Services Director

Potential Action: Place on Consent Agenda

Over the past few months, Central Pines leadership has worked with our federal lobbyist, Strategics Consulting, to develop a formalized Federal Action Plan. This will be the first document of this type to be created by CPRC and adopted by the board. This document is intended to comprehensively and succinctly our federal priority areas to legislative offices, federal agencies and the administration, and member governments.

These priority areas are reflective of current and potential opportunities to advance our region's goals through federal funding or partnership and protect critical programs at Central Pines Regional Council that ensure quality of life across the region. Alana Keegan, CPRC Local Government Services Director and Kyle Leopard from Strategics Consulting shared the items included in the action plan and its intended use.

Several Delegates asked that the World University Games efforts be included in the Federal Action plan.

7. Consent Agenda 7:35 pm

- a. Central Pines 2025 Federal Action Plan (weave WUG into priorities)
- b. North Carolina Health Insurance Pool (NCHIP), Resolution #2025-04-02
- c. Foreign Trade Zone #93 – Temporary Delegation of Application Approval Process
- d. Draft Minutes: January 22, 2025

Action: Adoption of Consent Agenda
Motion: Delegate DeDreana Freeman
Second: Delegate Kathleen Ferguson
Vote: Approved unanimously by roll call

8. Items Removed from Consent Agenda

9. Around the Region 7:40 pm

- a. Around the Region
Presenter: Brett Gantt, Chair

10. Chair's Report 7:50 pm

- a. Chair's Report
Presenter: Brett Gantt, Chair
Potential Action: None – Information Only

11. Executive Director's Report 7:55 pm

- a. Executive Director's Report
Presenter: Lee Worsley, Executive Director
Potential Action: None – Information Only

12. Other Business

- a. Other Business
Presenter: Brett Gantt, Chair



Sheveil Harmon mentioned the Evergreen Exchange and how nice it was to have the time to discussion.

Butch Lawter will be in touch with the Nominating Committee in the next week.

13. Adjournment 8:00 pm

With there being nothing further, Chair Gantt adjourned the meeting at 8:14 pm.

Duly adopted this 28th day of May 2025 while in regular session.



Brett Gantt, Board Chair

ATTEST:



Beth Seidel, Clerk to the Board
Central Pines Regional Council