

# **CENTRAL PINES REGIONAL COUNCIL**

## **BOARD OF DELEGATES MEETING AGENDA**

Wednesday, May 28, 2025 | 6:00 – 8:00 pm

Central Pines Conference Room & Virtual

Chair Brett Gantt Presiding

### ***Delegates & Alternates Attending:***

Wilma Laney, Aberdeen  
Sheveil Harmon, Angier  
Brett Gantt, Apex  
Thomas Beal, Broadway  
Randee Haven O'Donnell, Carrboro  
Jennifer Robinson, Cary  
Amanda Robertson, Chatham County  
DeDreana Freeman, Durham  
Michelle Burton, Durham County  
Kathleen Ferguson, Hillsborough  
Matt Hughes, Hillsborough (A)  
Chris Deshazor, Holly Springs  
Mark Swan, Knightdale  
Kirk Smith, Lee County  
Katy Garcia, Micro  
Jean Hamilton, Orange County  
Sally Greene, Orange County (A)  
Jerry Williams, Pinebluff  
Jeff Morgan, Pinehurst  
Pamela Baldwin, Pittsboro  
Stacy Johnson, Princeton  
Mitchell Silver, Raleigh

Ronnie Currin, Rolesville  
Rebecca Salmon, Sanford  
Byron McAllister, Selma  
Susan Evans, Wake County  
Nick Sliwinski, Wake Forest  
Rick Hutchinson, Whispering Pines

### ***CPRC Staff Attending:***

Autumn Cox, Regional Ombudsman  
Jenny Halsey, Assistant Executive  
Director  
Jenisha Henneghan, Area Agency on  
Aging Director  
Alana Keegan, Local Government  
Services Director  
Carolyn Pennington, Regional  
Ombudsman  
Lindsay Whitson, Community &  
Economic Development Director  
Lee Worsley, Executive Director

### ***Guests Attending:***

Cody Morris, Kenan Institute

#### **1. Call to Order**

6:00 pm

- a. Call to Order  
*Brett Gantt, Chair*
- b. Roll Call  
*Alana Keegan, Local Government Services Director*
- c. Declaration of Quorum  
*Brett Gantt, Chair*

Chair Brett Gantt called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm and reviewed the process for hybrid meetings. Alana Keegan, Local Government Services Director, completed the 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 from the minutes of the November 20, 1980, Triangle J Council of Governments Board meeting. At this meeting, the Triangle J Council of Governments Board of Delegates reviewed an economic report by Lee Capps and James A. Street analyzing Region J's growth trends.

The study found that the region's population was growing more than twice as fast as national and state averages and was projected to reach 763,000 by 1990—a 22% increase from 1978. Half of the growth from 1960 to 1978 was due to in-migration. The region also had a notably high employment rate of 52%, suggesting a tight labor market that would require new businesses to import workers or invest in training. Employment growth from 1970 to 1978 varied across the region: manufacturing in rural counties like Chatham, Johnston, and Lee; government jobs in Wake and Orange; and a rise in service industries in Durham.

2. Review of Agenda

6:05 pm

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

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

3. Presentations & Recognition

6:10 pm

a. Economic Briefing and Regional Economic Analysis  
*Presenter: Cody Morris, Senior Economic Research Analyst, Kenan Institute of Private Enterprise*  
Potential Action: None – Information Only

The Frank Hawkins Kenan Institute of Private Enterprise is a fabulous resource in our region that helps to develop and promote innovative, market-based solutions to vital economic issues. The Institute aims to foster an entrepreneurial spirit to stimulate economic prosperity and improve the lives of people in North Carolina, across the country and around the world. In recent years, the organization has taken on a pivotal role in economic analysis and data collection that can help local governments understand the broader economic environment and the ways that economic growth is impacting our region.

Cody Morris, a Senior Economic Research Analyst and North Carolina lead for the Institute provided a high-level overview of the state of our economy and factors that the Board and individual local governments

should consider in upcoming decisions such as tariffs, bond market shifts, and changes in local industries. He also discussed the Institute's analysis on the Raleigh-Durham metro, through the American Growth Project, which looks holistically at the CPRC region to understand productivity, primary sectors, and future growth.

After several questions from members of the Board, Chair Gantt thanked Mr. Morris for his presentation.

#### 4. Public Hearing

#### 5. CPRC Program/Service Spotlight

6:50 pm

##### a. World Elder Abuse Awareness

*Presenters: Jenisha Henneghan, Area Agency on Aging Director & Autumn Cox, Regional Ombudsman*

Potential Action: None – Information Only

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) is observed annually on June 15th. This day serves as a global call to action to raise awareness of the abuse, neglect, and exploitation experienced by older adults. As our population ages, ensuring the safety, dignity, and rights of older individuals becomes increasingly critical.

WEAAD highlights the importance of community engagement and education in preventing such mistreatment, empowering both older adults and those who care for them to recognize and respond to abuse.

Ombudsmen serve as dedicated advocates for residents in long-term care facilities, working to protect their rights and well-being. By providing education during WEAAD events, the Ombudsman program raises awareness not only among care providers but also within the broader community. Their efforts help ensure that residents and their families understand how to identify and report abuse, fostering safer, more responsive care environments.

#### 6. Business

7:10 pm

##### a. Consideration of Central Pines Regional Council Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget

*Presenters: Lee Worsley, Executive Director*

Potential Action: Place on Consent Agenda

On April 21, 2025, Central Pines Executive Director Lee Worsley submitted the Fiscal Year 2025-26 Recommended Budget to members and alternates of the Board of Delegates and the managers of CPRC's member governments.

The Executive Director presented the Recommended Budget during the April 23, 2025, meeting, and the Board held the required Public Hearing. No members of the public spoke during the Public Hearing, and the Board did not request any changes to the Budget.

Since the presentation of the Recommended Budget, several changes have been made to the budget document to reflect additional information received since April 23. The final recommended budget is \$36,356,099, which is an additional \$653,429 decrease from the originally recommended budget of \$37,009,528. Those changes include:

- Removing EDA funding since there is uncertainty about the program's continuation. This required reallocating the Community and Economic Development Director and a Senior Planner to other projects.
- Reallocating the Southeast Region Crescent Authority funding to contractual due to newly announced indirect and fringe cost caps from the Authority and the President's identification of the Authority as an agency to be eliminated. This required reallocating the Community and Economic Development Director to other projects.
- At Lee County's request, removing the grant administration of the historic Lee County Courthouse and returning administration to Lee County. This required reallocating the Community and Economic Development Director and a Planner I to other projects.
- As a result of the potential elimination of EDA funding, Southeast Crescent funding, and the removal of a project from Lee County, the newly proposed Planner I in the Environment and Resilience area was reduced to a Planning Assistant position, and the position was reduced to 80% from 100%. Additionally, member dues funding for the Water Resources Program Manager was fully removed, and the position was reallocated fully to project funding.
- CPRC has been notified of a \$40,000 contract with the Community Land Trust in Orange County. The 5% for the Senior Planner shifted off EDA will move to this project.
- CPRC has been notified of a \$12,000 grant from the NC Tobacco Trust to support Sanford as part of their Sanford Agriculture Marketplace project. Some time for the Planner I shifted off the Lee County project and was added to this project.
- The first of four planned funding years for a Federal Department of Energy (DOE) grant (TEST Program) is scheduled to end on August 15, 2025. Despite numerous requests, we have not guaranteed that the funding will continue. As a result, we are not budgeting the funding going forward at this time.
- Central Pines has housed the Clean Cities Program, another US DOE program, for nearly two decades. Recent US House budget actions

put the program at risk, so it is not in the budget for next year. The uncertainty of TEST and Clean Cities requires a reduction in force of one filled CPRC position, effective August 15, 2025.

- The Administration and Non-Departmental Budgets have been reduced significantly. The indirect percentage has dropped from 42.8116% in the Recommended Budget to 38.8684%, lower than last year's indirect percentage. As a result, many administrative items have been significantly reduced.

The CPRC Board of Delegates was asked to consider Resolution 2025-05-01 as part of the Consent Agenda. The Resolution includes the Fiscal Year 2025-26 Budget Resolution, the proposed Pay and Classification Tables for Central Pines Regional Council, and the Triangle West TPO, which CPRC acts as an administrative host.

b. Nominating Committee Report for 2025-2026 Officers

*Presenter: Butch Lawter, Nominating Committee Chair*

Potential Action: Consider recommendations of Nominating Committee, solicit any nominations from the floor, vote on FY25-26 Board Officers

DeDreana Freeman was standing in for Nominating Chair Butch Lawter. The Nominating Committee has completed its deliberations and presents its recommendation herein for the 2025-2026 Central Pines Regional Council Officers. The Committee considered all expressions of interest by Board Members and an effort was made to select candidates who have demonstrated commitment to regionalism.

After due consideration, the Nominating Committee submits the following nominations for election to the respective offices named:

- Chair: Byron McAllister
- First Vice Chair: Susan Evans
- Second Vice Chair: Sheveil Harmon
- Secretary/Treasurer: Chris DeShazor

Although not an elected office, Brett Gantt will serve as Immediate Past Chair.

The proposed slate of officers was moved to the Consent Agenda.

**7. Consent Agenda**

7:30 pm

- a. Recommended Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget (Resolution 2025-05-01)
- b. Draft Minutes: April 23, 2025
- c. Nominating Committee Report

Action: Adoption of Consent Agenda

Motion: Delegate Ronnie Currin

Second: Delegate Kathleen Ferguson



Vote: Approved unanimously by roll call

8. Items Removed from Consent Agenda

9. Around the Region

7:35 pm

a. Around the Region

*Presenter: Brett Gantt, Chair*

Chair Gantt asked the group what the biggest surprise they've had in their experience serving as an elected official. Some of the responses included:

- The amount of time it takes to get through the grocery store
- You get more objections to taking down a water tower than putting one up
- People have a lot more excitement and fervor for changing the number of minutes in a downtown parking space than over the budget
- How much people think they have control over things
- Inflation when it comes to bids
- People want things done yesterday, but it doesn't happen that way
- The amount of change that's taken place in 24 years
- Learning about the many topics they have to know
- Awards given
- There is no one career path to be a politician
- How contentious meetings can be over the smallest issues
- How nice it is for small town people to get to work with larger communities through CPRC
- How important a duck population is at a town pond
- How slowly things move
- Many people think that their elected position is their full-time job

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

Executive Director Lee Worsley took a moment to recognize the outstanding work of CPRC staff and highlighted the Core Value Recognition shared during staff meetings.

- Amanda Richardson – Excellent Customer Service
- Jasmine Wilson & Jennifer Link – Solutions & Results
- Ashley Price, Jasmine Wilson, & Jennifer Link – Data Driven Decision Making
- Eve He – Excellent Customer Service
- Finance Team – For their help with the Albemarle Commission's Finance System
- Grant Writing Team
  - Chatham County - \$350,000 grant for energy assessments in 10 county facilities and retrofits in two of those buildings
  - Orange County - \$196,000 grant to install solar at the Cedar Grove Community Center

Delegate Ronnie Currin noted that Executive Director Lee Worsley was also a large part of the COG's success since his time here.

The Local Government Career Expo will be Saturday, June 7, one at the Friday Center in Chapel Hill and one at the Rocky Mount Event Center. This event is to promote the value of working for local government. Jurisdictions can still sign up through Friday.

## 12. Other Business

### a. Other Business

*Presenter: Brett Gantt, Chair*

Delegate Byron McAllister mentioned the passing of Smithfield Council Member Marlin Lee. He has served on their Board since 2013.

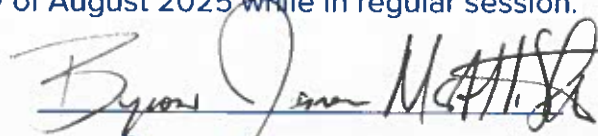
Delegate DeDreana Freeman recognized Chair Gantt for his service and leadership.

## 13. Adjournment

8:00 pm

With there being nothing further, Chair Gantt adjourned the meeting at 8:10 pm.

Duly adopted this 27<sup>th</sup> day of August 2025 while in regular session.



Byron McAllister, Board Chair

ATTEST:



Beth Seidel

Beth Seidel, Clerk to the Board  
Central Pines Regional Council