

CENTRAL PINES REGIONAL COUNCIL

BOARD OF DELEGATES MEETING AGENDA

Wednesday, August 27, 2025 | 6:00 – 8:00 pm

Central Pines Conference Room & Virtual

Chair Byron McAllister Presiding

Delegates & Alternates Attending:

Wilma Laney, Aberdeen
Sheveil Harmon, Angier
Brett Gantt, Apex
Thomas Beal, Broadway
Randee Haven O'Donnell, Carrboro
Jennifer Robinson, Cary
Michael Parker, Chapel Hill
Amanda Robertson, Chatham County
DeDreana Freeman, Durham
Michelle Burton, Durham County
Kathleen Ferguson, Hillsborough
Tim Forrest, Holly Springs (A)
Kirk Smith, Lee County
Katy Garcia, Micro
Steve Rao, Morrisville
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
Andy Moore, Smithfield
Shirlyn Moody, Taylortown

Susan Evans, Wake County
Nick Sliwinski, Wake Forest
Rick Hutchinson, Whispering Pines
Fleta Boyd, Wilson's Mills
Shannon Baxter, Zebulon

CPRC Staff Attending:

Grace Berry, Lead for NC Fellow
Matt Day, Transportation Director
Jenny Halsey, Assistant Executive Director
Jenisha Henneghan, Area Agency on Aging Director
Alana Keegan, Local Government Services Director
Hannah Schuette, Management Analyst
Beth Seidel, Clerk to the Board
Lindsay Whitson, Community & Economic Development Director
Lee Worsley, Executive Director

Guests Attending:

David Gantt
Charise Gantt
Andy Willis, NC Children's Hospital
Emily Ziegler, NC Children's Hospital

1. Call to Order

6:00 pm

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

Chair Byron McAllister called the meeting to order at 6:06 pm and reviewed the process for hybrid meetings. Beth Seidel, Clerk to the Board, completed the Roll Call and it was determined there was a quorum present at the meeting.

- d. Get to Know CPRC
Byron McAllister, Chair

Chair McAllister shared in December 1983, then-Chairman Richard Whitted appointed a 30-person committee to study development around Research Triangle Park. Chaired by Durham County Commissioner and Triangle J Council of Governments (TJCOG) delegate Becky Heron, the committee was tasked with reviewing existing development regulations, evaluating past and anticipated growth, and recommending ways to ensure high-quality development in the park's environs. The study's objectives were to prevent haphazard development and to protect and enhance property values. A copy of the resulting report was passed around the room as an example of TJCOG's regional collaboration in land use planning.

2. Review of Agenda 6:05 pm

- a. Review of Agenda
Byron McAllister, Chair
Potential Action: Chair McAllister will approve

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

3. Presentations & Recognition 6:10 pm

- a. Recognition of Immediate Past Chair Brett Gantt
Presenters: Byron McAllister, Chair
Potential Action: None – Information Only

Chair McAllister recognized Past Chair Brett Gantt for his leadership and service to the Central Pines Regional Council Board of Delegates and to the region. Chair McAllister noted Delegate Gantt's enthusiasm for local government and serving the public. Delegate Gantt's parents, David and Charise Gantt were in attendance in support. David Gantt served as a Buncombe County Commissioner and Chair of Land of Sky Council of Governments in the past.

Delegate Gantt remarked that he's enjoyed getting to know the region better and thanked the Board for their service.

- b. Recognition of Past 1st Vice Chair Randee Haven O'Donnell
Presenters: Byron McAllister, Chair

Potential Action: None – Information Only

Chair McAllister recognized Randee Haven O'Donnell for her service to the CPRC Board of Delegates in her role as 1st Vice Chair. He noted her passion for local government and tenacity to not back down when it comes to important issues.

Delegate O'Donnell shared how she got involved in Central Pines (formerly TJCOG), and how important it is to work together for the betterment of the region.

- c. The North Carolina Children's Hospital – A new anchor for our region
Presenter: Andy Willis, Executive Chief Planning and Development Officer, North Carolina Children's Hospital
Potential Action: None – Information Only

Andy Willis discussed the North Carolina Children's Hospital project and why a free-standing children's hospital is needed, and why the hospital is something that will benefit and should be of interest to the entire region.

UNC Health and Duke Health are partnering to create and build a world-class children's health system, starting with the first freestanding children's hospital in the Carolinas.

North Carolina Children's will be built upon the combined 150 years of expertise, exceptional care, groundbreaking research and teaching excellence provided by both health systems and the Duke and UNC schools of medicine.

NC Children's flagship hospital will have approximately 500 acute care beds. The 100-acre campus will also be home to a comprehensive behavioral health center with dedicated child and adolescent psychiatric beds.

The NC Children's campus also will include an ambulatory center of excellence, research and teaching facilities and resources for families such as the Ronald McDonald House. Space is also planned for hotels, restaurants and businesses to support children and their families who are traveling for care.

UNC and Duke Health recently announced a location for the hospital in Apex, NC, near the intersection of NC 540 and US 1.

- a. Year in Review & Member Survey
Presenters: Alana Keegan, Local Government Services Director
Potential Action: None – Information Only

Alana Keegan reviewed several highlights from FY 2024-2025 including the launch of the Regional Data Center, Member & Technical Assistance data, and the launch of the CPRC Conference Center. The Board was provided with copies of the Year in Review document, which goes into more detail on accomplishments in FY24-25. This document can be found online as well.

Ms. Keegan also shared information about the Annual Member Survey and encouraged the Board to participate in the survey. They were also encouraged to share the survey with their staff. A weekly leaderboard is being shared to encourage friendly competition.

6. Business 7:10 pm

7. Consent Agenda 7:30 pm

- a. Draft Minutes: May 28, 2025
- b. Contract Approval for Exult Engineering

Action: Adoption of Consent Agenda
Motion: Delegate Kathleen Ferguson
Second: Alternate Delegate Tim Forrest
Vote: Approved unanimously by roll call

8. Items Removed from Consent Agenda

9. Around the Region 7:35 pm

- a. Around the Region
Presenter: Byron McAllister, Chair

Chair McAllister shared about an incident that happened at a high school in Smithfield where a student came to school with an air-soft gun but it was handled well by the SRO and the police. Delegate Andy Moore (Smithfield) confirmed the incident. Chair McAllister asked for thoughts from the group.

Delegate Nick Sliwinski (Wake Forest) shared that they recently started a Mental Wellness Fair targeted toward youth. Staff have been trained in crisis counseling.

Delegate Kathleen Ferguson (Hillsborough) shared that having a social worker on the police force has been a significant help. The Mental Health Legislative Breakfast is a wealth of information and resources. It's a chance to speak with legislators who are active in the mental

health space. Mental Health First Aid Training is an excellent program and there is a youth training as well.

Delegate Shannon Baster (Zebulon) shared that they had launched a pilot program where social work employees responded to calls involving youth. This was a successful effort.

Delegate Mitchell Silver (Raleigh) wanted to distinguish the difference between mental illness and mental health. Our young people are watching us. How we practice our daily lives, our children are watching how we solve problems.

Susan Evans (Wake County) – Opioid funds have been used for preventative measures. Awarded grants to several organizations to provide mental health training to teachers, parents, community members to know how to respond to a youth in crisis. They have added a nurse navigation unit to the EMS.

Delegate Kirk Smith (Lee County) – Shared that Mental Health First Aid training is available. Lee County has used opioid funding to help fund mental health issues and they have hired two social workers with an emphasis on mental health.

10. Chair's Report

7:50 pm

a. Chair's Report

Presenter: Byron McAllister, Chair

Potential Action: None – Information Only

The Chair thanked the Board for a wonderful first meeting. He also thanked Past Chair Gantt for his leadership and enthusiasm.

11. Executive Director's Report

7:55 pm

a. Executive Director's Report

Presenter: Lee Worsley, Executive Director

Potential Action: None – Information Only

Lee Worsley shared the Executive Director's report with the Board, including printed and digital versions. This report included a Major Metro Regional Council Highlight, the Local Government Member Request Dashboard, CPRC with Lee tour of member governments, National Association of Regional Council (NARC) updates, and CPRC staff core value highlights.

Mr. Worsley also introduced several new employees who were in the room including Grace Berry, Lead for NC Fellow and Hannah Schruette, Management Analyst.

12. Other Business

a. Other Business

Presenter: Byron McAllister, Chair

Delegate Kirk Smith shared that Lee County's Athletic Park Grand Opening will be September 13 at 2:00 pm. There will be a drone display that night instead of fireworks.

Chair McAllister urged everyone to take the Member Survey and encourage their staff to take the survey.

13. Adjournment

8:00 pm

With there being nothing further, Chair McAllister adjourned the meeting at 7:38 pm.

Duly adopted this 22nd day of October 2025 while in regular session.


Byron McAllister, Board Chair

ATTEST:



Beth Seidel, Clerk to the Board
Central Pines Regional Council