



Central Pines Regional Council Board of Delegates

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, October 25, 2023 | 6:00 – 8:00 pm Hybrid

Central Pines Regional Council

4307 Emperor Blvd., Durham, NC

Delegates & Alternates Attending:

Wilma Laney, Aberdeen
Bob Smith, Angier
Brett Gantt, Apex
Thomas Beal, Broadway
Ranee Haven O'Donnell, Carrboro
Jennifer Robinson, Cary
DeDreana Freeman, Durham
Heidi Carter, Durham County
Ken Marshburn, Garner
Kathleen Ferguson, Hillsborough
Timothy Forrest, Holly Springs
Butch Lawter, Johnston County
Bill Carver, Lee County
Katy Garcia, Micro
Steve Rao, Morrisville
Jean Hamilton, Orange County
Pamela Baldwin, Pittsboro
Donald Rains, Princeton
Rebecca Salmon, Sanford
Bill Haiges, Siler City
Susan Evans, Wake County
Chad Sary, Wake Forest
Linda Vandercook, Whispering Pines

CPRC Staff Attending:

Alana Keegan, Local Government
Services Director

Jenny Halsey, Assistant Executive
Director
Hope Tally, Chief Finance Officer
Hunter Fillers, Housing Program
Manager
Beth Davis, Member Engagement
Coordinator
Lee Worsley, Executive Director
Lindsay Whitson, Community &
Economic Development Director
Emily Barrett, Environment & Resilience
Director
Tara Nattress, Management Analyst
Melissa Lowell, CPSS Chatham County
Street Outreach Coordinator
Katie Davis, Finance Manager
Patty Barry, Senior Water Resources
Planner

Guests Attending:

Matt Mulhollem, Mayor of Archer Lodge
Bryan Chadwick, Archer Lodge Town
Administrator
Mark Wilson, Former CPRC Delegate
Jane Wilson
Leslie Mazingo, Strategics Consulting
Kyle Leopard, Strategics Consulting

1. Call to Order

6:00 pm

- a. Call to Order and Welcome
Official: Butch Lawter, Chair
- b. Roll Call
Alana Keegan, Local Government Services Director
- c. Declaration of Quorum
Official: Butch Lawter, Chair

Chair Lawter called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm and reviewed the process for hybrid meetings. Alana Keegan, Local Government Services Director, completed Roll Call and it was determined there was a quorum present at the meeting.

2. Review of Agenda

a. Review of Agenda

Official: Butch Lawter, Chair

Potential Action: Chair Lawter will approve

Action: Chair Lawter declared that the agenda was approved as presented.

3. Presentations and Recognitions

a. Recognition of Immediate Past Chair DeDreana Freeman

Presenter: Butch Lawter, Chair

Potential Action: None – Information Only

Chair Lawter thanked Ms. Freeman for her service to the Board and noted her passion for local government. Delegate Don Rains echoed the Chair's comments about how supportive Ms. Freeman has been. He shared that she is always forward-thinking and passionate about the growth of this organization. Delegate Ken Marshburn shared that she was very cooperative and easy to work with and wished her all the best. Delegate Pamela Baldwin commented that she was a great chair and appreciated her leadership.

b. Recognition of Former Board Member & Past Officer Mark Wilson

Presenter: Butch Lawter, Chair

Potential Action: None – Information Only

Chair Lawter recognized Mr. Mark Wilson, former Delegate for Archer Lodge for his service to Archer Lodge, Johnston County, and to TJCOG/CPRC. He shared that Mr. Wilson has a heart for service and stepped in to do whatever was needed. Delegate Don Rains said he got to know Mr. Wilson through TJCOG and they served as officers together. He shared about their experience working on the personnel policy together and noted his attention to detail. Delegate Kathleen Ferguson shared about his appreciation of the military, his poetry, and his service to his community.

Executive Director Lee Worsley stated how proud he was to have worked for Mr. Wilson. He's very passionate and caring about the staff at TJCOG/CPRC and how much of an advocate he was for them. Mr. Worsley noted how proud Mr. Wilson was of the Veteran's Memorial Park, and stated how very appreciative he is of his service to the organization. Chair Lawter recognized the Mayor of Archer Lodge & Town Administrator who spoke on

Mr. Wilson's dedication to serving others. Chair Lawter presented Mr. Wilson with tokens of appreciation.

Mr. Wilson shared that he has enjoyed his time so much. He has been honored to serve with each member of the Board.

c. New Employee Introductions

Presenter: Jenny Halsey, Assistant Executive Director

Potential Action: None – Information Only

Jenny Halsey, Assistant Executive Director, announced three new staff members who have joined the CPRC team recently, including Patty Barry, Melissa Lowell, and Katie Davis.

Emily Barrett, Environment & Resilience Director introduced Patty Barry, Senior Water Resources Planner. Patty shared her varied experiences in water and soil science and municipal government. She loves all things environmental and is excited to be working with Central Pines.

Hope Tally, Chief Finance Officer introduced Katie Davis, Finance Manager. Katie has a background in accounting with Chatham County and with a nonprofit. She shared that she has 4 children and a small farm that keeps them busy.

Lindsay Whitson, Community & Economic Development Director introduced Melissa Lowell, Certified Peer Support Specialist Chatham County Street Outreach Coordinator. Melissa has been working to help the unsheltered in Chatham County to access the resources they need to get back on their feet. She enjoys rock climbing, visiting beaches, and hiking.

Chair Lawter noted the passion that each of the new employees are bringing to the table.

4. Business

a. US EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant

Presenter: Emily Barrett, Environment & Resilience Director

Potential Action: None – Informational Only

Emily Barrett introduced the CPRG program. Central Pines was awarded a 4-year \$1M US EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) in August of this year to do a regional climate plan for Johnston, Wake, Durham, Chatham, Person, Granville, Orange, and Franklin counties. These counties represent the 2-MSA (metropolitan statistical area) region of Raleigh-Cary and Durham-Chapel Hill. This grant is known as the Phase 1 Planning Grant for the CPRG effort, which is managed by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The first deliverable for the Phase 1 grant is both technical—creating a greenhouse gas inventory for our region, and a collaborative

one, requiring extensive outreach to summarize existing climate plans in the region and to reflect metro-area sentiment about the climate change mitigation tactics (those actions that prevent climate-warming air emissions or sequester or take-up climate-warming air emissions) that best suit our metro-area. This work will create a **Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP)** due by March 1, 2024. Phase 2 of the CPRG work is a \$4.6B competitive funding opportunity that would fund climate change mitigation tactics listed in the PCAP. Optional notice of intent letters will be due February 1, 2024, and final applications are due April 1, 2024. The software that will be used to evaluate emissions is Clear Path.

Resources Ms. Barrett mentioned include [Project Drawdown](#) and [Regeneration Solutions](#) (scroll down to “cities” that starts with “electrify everything.” Other sections are relevant to our region as well). Shuchi Gupta, Senior Planner at CPRC is also working on this project.

Delegate Don Rains thanked Emily for her leadership, and added that in rural areas, land conservatories are something that need to be done to protect the environment and will keep forestry and farming active.

Delegate Brett Gantt asked if the partners participating from both MSAs will be counties and municipalities, which Ms. Barrett confirmed. Delegate Gantt asked if this would be very competitive, which it will be, however this amount of money goes a long way. Ms. Barrett mentioned that EPA emphasized systems change and innovation, and not being afraid to think big. Delegate Jean Hamilton noted that Orange County is finalizing their climate action plan and asked how CPRC is coordinating those efforts. Ms. Barrett shared that we have an intern who is looking at commonalities among communities. Delegate Heidi Carter shared that she was very excited about this. She asked if this is focused on government or communities in general, and if government, are the schools included. Ms. Barrett responded that this involves both and that we can use the power of the Triangle Sustainability Partnership.

b. Federal Government Affairs Update

*Presenters: Alana Keegan, CPRC Local Government Services Director;
Leslie Mazingo, Strategics Consulting*
Potential Action: None – Information Only

Alana Keegan introduced Leslie Mazingo who owns Strategics Consulting, a federal lobbying firm, who will be providing an update on the Federal Government. Ms. Mazingo also introduced Kyle Leopard and Ryan Murphy. Mr. Leopard helps with CPRG as well and is team leader for CPRC.

Status of Electing a House Speaker:

Ms. Mozingo shared that House Speaker has been elected, Mike Johnson from Louisiana. He was the 4th nominee and received all 220 Republican votes. His first order of business was a resolution of support for Israel. He also indicated some issues he wants to work on including budget deficits to reduce government spending. Ms. Mozingo said to expect changes with the rules for Speaker.

What's next - FY24 Appropriations and the Continuing Resolution (CR): There are 12 appropriation bills. Congress is trying to get away from continuing resolutions; CRs have become so common (132 CRs since 1998; average of 5 per year); the difference between Senate and House appropriations is over \$140 billion. The bottom line is to look at the federal budgets and see how dollars are being spent. Ms. Mozingo encouraged delegates to look at what federal funding their local governments rely upon.

The Farm Bill includes much more than just farms (also includes SNAP program, etc.). There is discussion about making significant cuts to the IRA and fill in gaps in farm bill.

Status of BIL, IRA, and Federal Competitive Grants:

The good news is that BIL, IRA and federal competitive grants will be here for 3 more years (these are temporary and will go away). There are federal competitive grants that aren't going to go away, which is good for local governments. All of these programs don't change much between administrations. All that is needed is an adjustment of applications for key areas that have changed with the administration.

Ms. Mozingo encouraged everyone to let their local government managers know that she will be there doing a workshop on grant readiness and competitiveness in January.

Delegate Brett Gantt noted the rail line that's going through 6 different congressional districts and asked how to make sure that is a priority. Ms. Mozingo said to start early and not be shy to reach out to them for educational purposes. She said some people will take meetings after they've been elected before they are sworn in. She also suggested reaching out to the staff and getting to know them.

- c. Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Annual Interim Report

Presenter: Lindsay Whitson, Community & Economic Development Director

Potential Action: Consider adopting as part of the consent agenda

Resolution #2023-10-01 approving CEDS Annual Interim Report

Chair Lawter recognized Lindsay Whitson to present on the CEDS Annual Interim Report. The CEDS is a document that serves as an internal and external capacity builder. It helps strengthen local and regional communities and serves as a collaborative tool.

Ms. Whitson reviewed the framework of the CEDS, which includes economic conditions, SOAR approach, strategic direction/action plans, evaluation framework, and economic resiliency.

The Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) is a regional blueprint for economic development across the Central Pines region. It is a five-year document that requires an annual interim report to track progress towards implementation, recognize potential areas for improvement, and outline upcoming activity that is anticipated. The 2023 Annual Interim Report and complete CEDS is available for review on Central Pines Regional Council's [website](#), and at any time throughout the year, input is welcomed and highly encouraged.

The CEDS is a requirement that CPRC fulfills through our partnership with the US Economic Development Administration (EDA). The CEDS strives to align with other local, regional, and statewide planning documents and is a tool that can be used when pursuing competitive grant opportunities and to facilitate regional collaboration.

What's next? Align the CEDS with CPRC's new strategic framework, continue to seek investment opportunities from local and federal funding sources, increase storytelling to highlight successes of CEDS implementation and local accomplishments, and updated county profiles to be utilized for grants and reports by CPRC and member governments.

Delegate Bill Carver said that when he saw the CEDS document he contacted the CEO of the Sanford Area Growth Alliance to ask if he was aware of the CEDS. He also mentioned community colleges and how they tied into the biotech project. He asked about how we interfaced with economic developers on the county level.

Alternate Delegate Steve Rao commented that these biotech jobs can make a big impact. He mentioned incorporating AI.

Ms. Whitson is asking the Board to consider adopting the resolution for the CEDS Annual Interim Report as a part of the Consent Agenda.

- d. Discussion of Board of Delegates and Executive Committee Meeting Changes and Bylaws Revisions
Presenter: Lee Worsley, Executive Director

Potential Action: It is recommended that the Board of Delegates discuss the proposed changes to the Board of Delegates & Executive Committee Meetings and consider approval.

Chair Lawter asked Lee Worsley to review the proposed changes to the meeting schedule and bylaws revisions.

Highlights include:

- Move the number of Board meetings from 9 scheduled (July & December are typically cancelled) to 6 scheduled meetings and emphasize in-person, interactive, and “worth the trip” content
- Board would retain all current authority – only changing meeting dates and structure of the meeting
- Proposed schedule would include meetings scheduled in January, April, June, August, October, and December (December would be informal)
- Subcommittees (aligned with focus areas) would provide reports to the Board during each meeting

Subcommittees

- Subcommittee for each Focus Area (need additional thought around Aging and Transportation)
- Subcommittee on regional policy issues
- Board members would be asked to indicate which subcommittee they prefer to serve on and would be expected to serve on one. Board Chair would make appointments.
- Subcommittees would be rounded out by other local government member elected officials with interest, staff, stakeholders, and others with subject matter interest/expertise.
- The purpose is to get more people engaged in CPRC work, allow focus area leads to have a better line of sight to elected officials, and to have a sounding board and advisory group on CPRC's current and potential work.

Proposed Changes to Bylaws

- Change all references to Triangle J/TJCOG to Central Pines/CPRC
- Change meeting dates to allow Board to adopt a schedule each year so dates aren't dictated by the bylaws (adopted October 1 of previous year)
- Clarifies quorums to address instances where delegate and alternate may not be appointed by a local government member
- Removes ability for Executive Director to be called President
- Clarifies Executive Director prepares a recommended budget (removes in cooperation with the Treasurer and Executive Committee)

- Removes Executive Director as Secretary to Board and clarifies that Executive Director designates a Clerk
- Removes Section 5 since it is contained in the Charter
- Changes Member Assessment amount to current amount
- Strike 1986 reference to member assessment that is not needed

CPRC attorney has reviewed bylaw changes, and the Executive Committee provided input during the September 27, 2023 meeting.

Delegate Don Rains shared that the Executive Committee met in September and made a few changes that made sense. He stated that it provided some clarity and stated that it was a very good document.

Delegate Kathleen Ferguson echoed Delegate Rains' comments and emphasized the subcommittees.

Delegate Bill Carver recommended that we move forward with the resolution at this meeting.

Delegate Susan Evans asked for clarification on the proposed schedule changes.

Mr. Worsley also recommended that the motion include the new schedule that was sent.

Delegate Ferguson recommended that the proposed changes be moved to the consent agenda.

Delegate Randee O'Donnell shared that she was excited for the changes.

5. Consent

Items on the Consent Agenda are considered routine and will be enacted by a single motion unless a member of the Board or Delegates requests an item be removed. Any item that is removed from the Consent Agenda will be considered individually after the Consent Agenda.

- a. DRAFT Minutes: August 23, 2023
- b. Adoption of Resolution #2023-10-01 CEDS Annual Interim Report
- c. Consider Adoption of Resolution #2023-10-02 Revised Bylaws

Chair Lawter reviewed the items on the Consent Agenda and asked if any items needed to be moved. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda.

Action: Adoption of Consent Agenda with amendments as noted, which includes the adoption of the proposed 2024 Schedule of Meetings and meeting structure.

Motion made by Delegate Kathleen Ferguson to accept the consent agenda.

Motion seconded by Delegate Pamela Baldwin.
Ms. Keegan facilitated a roll call vote, and the Consent Agenda was approved unanimously.

6. Items Removed from Consent Agenda

7. Public Hearings

8. Executive Director's Report

a. Executive Director's Report

Presenter: Lee Worsley, Executive Director

Potential Action: None – Receive as Information

Mr. Worsley reminded the Board that the November Board meeting will be moved up one week to not conflict with Thanksgiving. There may be some changes depending on circumstances.

Technical assistance-finance seems to be a needed resource among our local governments. Mr. Worsley has been talking with the team about what we can do to help. We are currently assisting 3 communities with finance, and 4-5 additional communities have requested assistance. We are looking into multiple options to assist our members with these requests.

Mr. Worsley welcomed everyone to the new space and stated that the staff is excited to host everyone. He mentioned that there is still some work to be done for the space to be completed. CPRC has already hosted a department head meeting for the Town of Morrisville. Mr. Worsley emphasized that the space is the local government members' as much as it is the Regional Council's and encourages members to make use of it.

9. Chair's Report

a. Chair's Report

Presenter: Butch Lawter, Chair

Potential Action: None - Receive as Information

Chair Lawter encouraged everyone to participate in Project Green Light in honor of our veterans.

10. Around the Region

a. Around the Region Reports/Updates

Potential Action: None – Receive as Information

Delegate Ken Marshburn noted they are starting to implement the budget that was passed. Road building is very expensive, and they may have to reconfigure their plans. They are waiting for the outcome of the election. There is one contested seat for the Council.

Alternate Delegate Steve Rao mentioned they have a new manager in Morrisville. He also emphasized the Smart Cities Conference coming up in November. He encouraged everyone to attend. Alternate Delegate Rao wished everyone a Happy Diwali.

Delegate Kathleen Ferguson – Hillsborough recently adopted their comprehensive sustainability plan and won a statewide award for their plan. They graduated largest class of Government 101 citizen's academy; one of their historically underserved communities (Fairview) was well represented. Their cohort created a community action plan. The last Friday Art Walk is coming up.

Delegate Don Rains – Princeton is working on a new waste treatment plan, connectivity with the county. They are working on easements for flood mitigation and drainage for a new community center.

Alternate Delegate Jean Hamilton – She is happy to be here. Orange County is going through a season of initiatives, including a strategic plan, a climate action plan, land use plan, capital needs for public school plan. They are excited and are hoping it will all come together to help prioritize issues.

Delegate Susan Evans – Wake County allocates community capital dollars for nonprofits that need capital expansions. Applications are open through December 14, for projects that tie in with their strategic goals.

Delegate Jennifer Robinson – Cary is excited about the opening of a signature park in the heart of downtown on November 19 and welcomes everyone to come and see the new park. Chair Lawter shared that he got a sneak peek, and it was wonderful.

Delegate DeDreana Freeman – Durham will have a new mayor.

Delegate Randee Haven O'Donnell – The 203 Library will be opening next summer, in partnership with Orange County. They have a very active and engaged race equity commission has been active and reaching out to the community. The climate action team has been engaging in a green neighborhood initiative, giving grants to neighborhood initiatives. Those applicants are preparing to present. Delegate O'Donnell shared that she is also one of the homes participating in Solarize the Triangle. They are in the implementation phase of a comprehensive plan that goes into 2040. Soon they will have a new manager, mayor, and clerk.

Delegate Katy Garcia – (Micro) had the pleasure of being invited to an event at the Johnston Co. Arts Council promoting a published book with local art, and she wanted to highlight that.

Delegate Timothy Forest – Holly Springs will be celebrating HollyFest this weekend. It's one of their biggest events of the year. Last year they had over 15,000 visitors, and this is free to attend.

Delegate Wilma Laney – Aberdeen approved a partnership with Habitat for Humanity for self-help opportunity program for Sandhill station. Habitat received a large grant from Jeff Bezos and will be building a variety of homes over 103 acres in Aberdeen.

Chair Butch Lawter – Johnston County Commissioner's Promise offers free tuition for students who graduates from a public high school in Johnston County. This year, 700 students are going tuition-free to community colleges.

11. Other Business

- a. Other Business

Presenter: Butch Lawter, Chair

12. Adjournment

- a. Adjourn the Meeting

Potential Action: Motion to Adjourn

With there being nothing further, the meeting was adjourned at 8:03 pm.

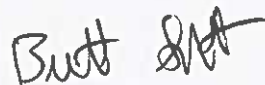
Action: Motion to adjourn.

Motion made by Delegate Kathleen Ferguson.

Motion seconded by Ken Marshburn.

Vote – Unanimous

Duly adopted this 24th day of January 2024 while in regular session.



Brett Gantt
Board Vice Chair

ATTEST:



Beth Davis
Clerk to the Board
Central Pines Regional Council