

MEMBERS

Counties

Alamance
Caswell
Davidson
Davie
Forsyth
Guilford
Montgomery
Randolph
Rockingham
Stokes
Surry
Yadkin

Municipalities

Archdale
Asheboro
Bermuda Run
Bethania
Biscoe
Boonville
Burlington
Candor
Clemmons
Cooleemee
Danbury
Denton
Dobson
East Bend
Eden
Elkin
Elon
Franklinville
Gibsonville
Graham
Green Level
Greensboro
Haw River
High Point
Jamestown
Jonesville



Board of Delegates

Agenda

Wednesday, December 20, 2023

12:00 noon

1398 Carrollton Crossing Drive, Kernersville, NC 27284

Item

ZOOM

Board of Delegates

<https://zoom.us/j/98490276882>

You can also dial in using your phone.

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Access Code: 984 9027 6882

Official

Katie Mitchell

Clerk to the Board

A. Call to Order, Welcome, Moment of Silence, and Pledge of Allegiance

Alvin Foster

Chair

B. Action Items

- 1) Request for approval of October 18, 2023 PTRC Board of Delegate Minutes (attachment)**

Alvin Foster

Chair

- 2) Officer Elections**

Kevin Austin, Chair

Nominating Committee

C. Consent Items

- 1) Request to authorize receipt of \$35,000 in county transfer support funds from the NC Commerce Division of Workforce Solutions**

Wendy Walker-Fox

WED Director

- 2) Request for authorization to enter into contract with Legal Aid of NC for legal services grants for period Dec. 1, 2023-Sept. 30, 2024**

Adrienne Calhoun

AAA Director

- 3) Request for authorization to enter into contract with NCDAAS and local funded partners for State Senior Center General Purpose funding for period July 1, 2023- June 30, 2024**

Adrienne Calhoun

AAA Director

MEMBERS

Kernersville
King
Lewisville
Lexington
Liberty
Madison
Mayodan
Mebane
Midway
Mocksville
Mount Airy
Mt. Gilead
Oak Ridge
Pilot Mountain
Pleasant Garden
Ramseur
Randleman
Reidsville
Rural Hall
Seagrove
Sedalia
Staley
Stokesdale
Stoneville
Summerfield
Thomasville
Tobaccoville
Trinity
Troy
Village of
Alamance
Walkertown
Wallburg
Walnut Cove
Wentworth
Whitsett
Winston-Salem
Yadkinville
Yanceyville

4) Request for authorization to apply for and accept a grant for \$29,000 from Reidsville Area Foundation **Jesse Day**
Reg. Planning Director

5) Request for approval to enter into contract with City of Eden to apply for FEMA BRIC funding **Jesse Day**
Reg. Planning Director

6) Request for approval to participate, and provide in-kind match for, a grant application to USDOT Thriving Communities Regional Pilot Program **Jesse Day**
Reg. Planning Director

7) Request for approval to apply for and accept US EPA's Brownfields Assess. Coalition Grant in the amount of \$1.5million **Jesse Day**
Reg. Planning Director

8) Request for approval of Local Technical Assistance Projects (3) **Jesse Day**
Reg. Planning Director

D. New Business

Alvin Foster
Chair

E. Roll Call Vote

Katie Mitchell
Clerk to the Board

F. Informational Item- NCLM Letter

Matthew Dolge
Executive Director

G. Special Presentation- Outgoing Delegates

Alvin Foster
Chair

H. Executive Director's Report

Matthew Dolge
Executive Director

I. Around the Region

At this time, Board members are asked to discuss any upcoming events or informational items that pertain to their local government or region.

Alvin Foster
Chair

J. Chairman's Remarks and Announcements

Alvin Foster, Chair

1) PTRC Executive Committee Meeting
Wednesday, February 7, 2024 12noon (Lunch 11: 30a.m) **Hybrid**

2) PTRC Board of Delegates Meeting
Wednesday, February 21, 2023 12noon (Lunch 11: 30a.m) **Hybrid**

3) 2023 & 2024 PTRC Meeting Dates

ACTION ITEM #2

M-E-M-O-R-A-N-D-U-M

TO: Board of Delegates, Piedmont Triad Regional Council
FROM: Mr. Kevin Austin, Nominating Committee Chair
DATE: December 20, 2023
RE: Nomination of 2024 PTRC Officers

The Nominating Committee (Alvin Foster, Mark Richardson, Marikay Abuzuaiter, Rick Morris, Kevin Austin, Darrell Frye), met prior to the November Executive Committee to agree on the 2022 PTRC Officers. Their recommendation to the Board can be found below.

Position	Incumbent
Chair	Mark Richardson, Rockingham County
Vice-Chair	Marikay Abuzuaiter, City of Greensboro
Treasurer	Rick Morris, Stokes County
Secretary	Dwight Lake, Town of Mayodan
Immediate Past Chair	Alvin Foster, Town of Yanceyville

For reference, verbiage from the Bylaws regarding officers can be found below.

Article II. Officers

Section 1. Officer Positions

The officers of the Piedmont Triad Regional Council shall consist of a Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer, and Secretary, all of whom are to be selected from among the Council members. Appointment of Immediate Past Chair to serve as an ex-officio of the nominating committee. Section 3 Terms also defines the qualifications and eligibility of delegates to serve as officers.

Section 2. Annual Election of Officers

The current officers, along with four additional Executive Committee members appointed by the Chair, will present a proposed slate of officers to the Executive committee for their approval. The Executive Committee will present their nominations annually at the regular December meeting, which shall be considered the annual meeting of the Council.

ACTION ITEM #2 CONTINUED

Section 3. Terms

The officers shall serve for one year or until their successors have been duly elected. The officers, starting with the Chair, must alternate being a Delegate of a county or municipal government. Delegates in contiguous officer positions must come from different counties. An officer may not serve more than two consecutive one-year terms in the same office. Eligibility to hold a Council office shall be a minimum of one year as a Council Delegate.

Section 4. Duties of Officers

- A. **The Chair** shall preside at all meetings of the Council and shall conduct meetings in an orderly and impartial manner so as to permit a free and full discussion by the Delegates of such matters as may be brought to the Council. The Chair shall have the same voting rights as other Delegates. The Chair may appoint such advisory committees as he/she finds to be necessary or desirable.
- B. **The Vice-Chair** shall perform all the duties of the Chair in the absence of the Chair, or in the event of the inability of the Chair to act, and shall perform such other duties as the Council may delegate.
- C. **The Treasurer** shall review the financial transactions of the Council, including the audit, prior to the audit's presentation to Delegates, and shall perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the Council or by the Chair.
- D. **The Secretary** shall review all minutes of the Council, and shall perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the Council or the Chair.

ACTION REQUESTED:

To approve the nominating committee's recommendation regarding 2024 Officers.

M-E-M-O-R-A-N-D-U-M

TO: Board of Delegates, Piedmont Triad Regional Council
FROM: Wendy Walker-Fox, Workforce and Economic Development Director
DATE: December 20, 2023
RE: County Transfer Support Funding

In Support of continued Statewide workforce board realignment efforts, the North Carolina Department of Commerce Division of Workforce Solutions (DWS) is providing funding in the amount of \$35,000.00.

The funding will be used to assist staff with the operational, administrative, and logistical activities related to the transferring of Alamance, Davidson, and Randolph Counties to the Piedmont Triad Regional Workforce Development Board local area.

This type of funding is needed to sustain operations and maintain continuity of service to employers and individuals, during the transfer process. PTRC is appreciative of the Division’s support.

ACTION REQUESTED:

Authorize receipt of \$35,000.00 in county transfer support funds from the NC Commerce Division of Workforce Solutions.

M-E-M-O-R-A-N-D-U-M

TO: Board of Delegates, Piedmont Triad Regional Council
FROM: Adrienne Calhoun, Director, Area Agency on Aging
DATE: December 20, 2023
RE: Request authorization to enter into contract with Legal Aid of North Carolina, Inc. for Legal Services grants for the period December 1, 2023 – September 30, 2024.

ARPA funds provide a unique opportunity to consider needs and service delivery that have the potential to respond to unmet needs of older adults and family caregivers. The PTRC AAA is taking a regional approach in distributing these funds-based on the priorities established by the North Carolina Division of Aging and Adult Services.

The PTRC AAA made ARPA Legal Services grants available of up to \$185,710. These funds were available to Legal Services providers in one or more of the following counties: Alamance, Caswell, Davidson, Davie, Forsyth, Guilford, Montgomery, Randolph, Rockingham, Stokes, Surry, and Yadkin. Funds are for providing legal assistance to people age 60 years of age or older. The legal assistance program, also referred to as the legal services program, is intended to protect and secure the rights, benefits, and dignity of older persons. Priority consideration was given to proposals that addressed the needs of older adults who are underserved and/or underrepresented.

Total Amount Awarded: \$185,710.

The chart on the following page indicates funding awards.

CONSENT ITEM #2 CONTINUED

County	Agency	Funding Award
Alamance	Legal Aid of North Carolina, Inc.	\$18,255
Caswell	Legal Aid of North Carolina, Inc.	\$2,421
Davidson	Legal Aid of North Carolina, Inc.	\$17,991
Davie	Legal Aid of North Carolina, Inc.	\$4,549
Forsyth	Legal Aid of North Carolina, Inc.	\$40,745
Guilford	Legal Aid of North Carolina, Inc.	\$57,647
Montgomery	Legal Aid of North Carolina, Inc.	\$2,742
Randolph	Legal Aid of North Carolina, Inc.	\$15,354
Rockingham	Legal Aid of North Carolina, Inc.	\$9,702
Stokes	Legal Aid of North Carolina, Inc.	\$4,741
Surry	Legal Aid of North Carolina, Inc.	\$7,600
Yadkin	Legal Aid of North Carolina, Inc.	\$3,963

Action Requested:

Requesting for authorization to enter into contract with Legal Aid of North Carolina, Inc. for Legal Services grants for the period December 1, 2023 – September 30, 2024.

M-E-M-O-R-A-N-D-U-M

TO: Board of Delegates, Piedmont Triad Regional Council
FROM: Adrienne Calhoun, Assistant Director, Area Agency on Aging
DATE: December 20, 2023
RE: Request authorization to enter into contract with the North Carolina Division of Aging and Adult Services and local funded partners for state Senior Center General Purpose funding for the period July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024.

Each year after approval by the North Carolina General Assembly, the North Carolina Division of Aging and Adult Services allocates funding to senior centers based on certification status throughout the region. This year, the North Carolina Division of Aging and Adult Services allocated funded based on the certified biennium budget from last year. The state total is \$1,265,309 with a local match of \$421,770 for a grand total of \$1,687,079. The local match will remain at 25% and can be cash or in-kind.

This year's total allocation to Region G is \$240,118 the highest allocation to any region in North Carolina. Our region's allocation is the result of a high number of senior centers who received Center of Excellence or Center of Merit designation.

The attached chart lists all of the senior centers in the region and the proposed contract amount. Of the 26 senior centers in Region G, there are 18 centers of Excellence, 3 centers of Merit, and 5 noncertified centers. The level of certification dictates the amount of Senior Center General Purpose funds allocated to a senior center. The chart reflects the amount by certification and the appropriate match.

ACTION REQUESTED:

Request for authorization to enter into contract with the North Carolina Division of Aging and Adult Services and local service providers for state Senior Center General Purpose funding for the period July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024.

**Senior Center General Purpose Funds
State Fiscal Year 2023-2024**

Senior Center General Purpose		
Contractor	Senior Center	State Allocation
Alamance		
City of Burlington/ Burlington Recreation and Parks Department	***J. R. Kernodle Senior Center	\$11,093
Caswell		
Caswell County	Caswell County Senior Services	\$3,719
Davidson		
Davidson County	***Lexington Senior Center	\$11,093
	***Thomasville Senior Center	\$11,093
Davie		
Davie County	*** Davie County Senior Center	\$11,093
Forsyth		
Shepherd’s Center of Kernersville	***Kernersville Senior Enrichment Center	\$11,093
Shepherd’s Center of Greater Winston-Salem	***Shepherd’s Center of Greater Winston-Salem	\$11,093
Guilford		
City of Greensboro /Greensboro Parks & Recreation Department	***Mabel Smith Senior Center	\$11,093
City of Greensboro/Greensboro Parks and Recreation Department	Trotter Active Adult Center	\$3,719
City of High Point / High Point Parks and Recreation Department	***Roy B. Culler Senior Center	\$11,093
Senior Resources of Guilford	***Evergreen Lifestyle Center	\$11,093

CONSENT ITEM #3 CONTINUED

Montgomery		
Town of Troy	***Troy-Montgomery Senior Center	\$11,093
Randolph		
Randolph County Senior Adults Association	Archdale Senior Center	\$3,719
	***Liberty Senior Center	\$11,093
	**Asheboro Senior Center	\$7,283
	**Randleman Senior Center	\$7,283
Rockingham		
City of Eden / Parks and Recreation Department	**Garden of Eden Senior Center	\$7,283
City of Reidsville	***RCARE	\$11,093
Madison/Mayodan Recreation Commission	Madison/Mayodan Senior Center	\$3,719
Stokes		
Stokes County	***Walnut Cove Senior Center	\$11,093
City of King	***City of King Senior Center	\$11,093
Surry		
YVEDDI	***Surry County Senior Center	\$11,093
YVEDDI	Pilot Mountain Senior Center (satellite center)	\$3,719
Yadkin		
YVEDDI	***East Bend Senior Center	\$11,093
YVEDDI	***Yadkin County Senior Center	\$11,093
YVEDDI	***Yadkin Valley Senior Center	\$11,093
TOTAL REGIONAL ALLOCATION		\$240,118
** Center Noncertified (5)	25% Local Match (Cash or In-Kind)	
** Center of Merit (3)	Noncertified Centers	\$1,238
*** Center of Excellence (19)	Centers of Merit	\$2,428
	Centers of Excellence	\$3,698

M-E-M-O-R-A-N-D-U-M

TO: Board of Delegates, Piedmont Triad Regional Council
FROM: Jesse Day, Regional Planning Assistant Director
DATE: December 20, 2023
RE: Authorization to apply for and, if awarded, accept a capacity-building grant addressing healthy food systems work in Rockingham County; funding application to be submitted to the **Reidsville Area Foundation**.

PTRC’s Planning Department is seeking approval to submit a capacity-building grant to the Reidsville Area Foundation to build collective power, reduce inefficiencies, and encourage sustainability within the Rockingham County food system. Members of PTRC’s Piedmont Triad Regional Food Council (PTRFC) expressed desires to better connect existing resources and create long-term, sustainable solutions to local food insecurity rates.

The PTRFC responded with an application for \$29,000 in capacity-building funds to work in three primary veins:

- *Connect Rockingham County services and providers* – working closely with local leaders and food enterprises to update community asset maps and food security data. This also includes joint presentations and data sharing with local leaders to help define where community energy and focus exists presently for food retail and food enterprise projects.
- *Offer ongoing community awareness and education* – convening a Rockingham County Food Task Force to create buy-in and advocacy from local governments, local champions, existing health-related initiatives, and nonprofit leadership. In addition to creating community consensus on initiatives to support, this work will provide needed support to form a community-led and sustained food council specific to Rockingham County.
- *Prepare for financing* – providing technical assistance for healthy food retailers, food enterprises, and entities supporting them, to access external funding opportunities. Leveraging PTRC’s grant-seeking resources and the PTRFC’s growing relationships with CDFIs looking to fund healthy food entities, this work will include hosting convenings, professional development sessions, and providing Q&A sessions with lenders.

The grant does not require a match and its period of performance is one year (Jan ’24 – Dec ’24).

Application deadline was Monday, November 27th.

ACTION REQUESTED: The PTRC Planning Department requests authorization to apply for and, if awarded, accept a capacity-building grant from the Reidsville Area Foundation for \$29,000.

M-E-M-O-R-A-N-D-U-M

TO: Board of Delegates, Piedmont Triad Regional Council
 FROM: Jesse Day, Regional Planning Director
 DATE: December 20, 2023
 RE: Authorization to Enter into Contract to Assist the City of Eden to Apply for FEMA BRIC funding.

The Regional Planning Department requests to enter into contract for grant preparation assistance for the City of Eden. The work will ensure a competitive application by the City to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program for a project entitled, *Repairing shoreline and siphon system for “greener rivers” in the City of Eden.*

The City has a critical need to replace a wastewater siphon system, protect its only water intake point, and reshape green spaces along a critical economic and social corridor. The siphon system that has two of its three pipes irrepealably clogged. This siphon is also close to the City’s sole water intake point, making it vulnerable to flooding, erosion, and pollution. The City has a comprehensive vision to incorporate an investment into its wastewater system into a greenway construction project at the convergence of the Dan and Smith Rivers that affords many design features to address nature-based solutions, including riverbank repair and reconstruction, buffer zones and riparian areas. Total Federal funds requested for the project are tentatively \$5 million. The City is providing matching funds for at least 10% of the total project costs, which meets the match requirement for eligible applicants that qualify as an Economically Disadvantaged Rural Community (EDRC).

A team within PTRC’s Regional Planning department is prepared to offer the following services:

- Lead on all grant writing and managing the application process;
- Research for, and preparation of, the Benefit-Cost Analysis (BCA) – a crucial and labor-intensive component of the application;
- Navigating, and submitting within, the federal grants portal;
- Serving as a liaison with the state’s Hazard Mitigation Division, which conducts an extensive review before compiling applications into a package to submit to FEMA for final review/award decision; and
- Leading the sub-applicant meetings with the state’s review team, which are scheduled for January 4-5, 2024.

The timeline for this work follows the submission process, beginning immediately and extending to February 26, 2024, when the state submits its package of applications to FEMA.

The PTRC can accomplish this contract for a total cost not to exceed \$5,000. Any required travel would be reimbursed at the federally approved rate.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Planning Department requests approval to enter into contract providing grant preparation services for the City of Eden for a cost not to exceed \$5,000.

M-E-M-O-R-A-N-D-U-M

TO: Board of Delegates, Piedmont Triad Regional Council
FROM: Jesse Day, Regional Planning Director
DATE: December 20, 2023
RE: Request Authorization to Participate In, and Provide In-Kind Match for, a Grant Application to U.S. Department of Transportation’s Thriving Communities Regional Pilot Program.

PTRC’s Regional Planning Department is seeking approval to participate in, and provide in-kind support for, a collaborative application to U.S. DOT’s Thriving Communities Regional Pilot Program. Central Pines Regional Council is the applicant with PTRC and the UNC School of Government as partners for a three-year project to provide services for communities facing barriers to transportation infrastructure advancement and implementation. With funding up to \$2 million over the three years, our organizations will offer:

- Technical support (on-site staff support, trainings, grant development, etc.),
- Build knowledge (operational assessments and process analysis), and
- Create peer exchange (facilitate a Community of Practice for partnering across jurisdictions and leveraging resources).

The application focuses on Chatham, Lee, northern Moore and Randolph counties for their program eligibility (having disadvantaged communities) and the expected impact of recent economic investment (Toyota Battery Plant, VinFast, Wolfspeed, etc.). These investments will have local governments playing a key role in determining how some 14,000 new workers will live, work, and recreate in the area.

The proposed capacity-building services can be offered to communities that provided a signed Letter of Commitment in the application process. PTRC issued a call to participate and the participating jurisdictions in Randolph County are Liberty, Staley, Franklinville, Asheboro, Randolph County, and Ramseur.

PTRC is providing \$20,500 of in-kind support via staff time from the Piedmont Triad Rural Planning Organization.

Application deadline was Tuesday, November 28th.

ACTION REQUESTED:

The PTRC Planning Department requests authorization to participate in, and provide in-kind match for, a grant application to U.S. Department of Transportation’s Thriving Communities Regional Pilot Program.

M-E-M-O-R-A-N-D-U-M

TO: Board of Delegates, Piedmont Triad Regional Council
FROM: Jesse Day, Regional Planning Director
DATE: December 20, 2023
RE: Request Authorization to Apply For, and If Awarded Receive, a Grant Application to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s Brownfields Assessment Coalition Grant Program for \$1.5 million.

PTRC’s Regional Planning Department is seeking approval to apply for, and if awarded receive, a U.S. EPA Brownfields Assessment Coalition Grant for \$1.5 million. PTRC would be the lead member of a regional coalition that includes the City of Eden, Town of Mayodan, City of Thomasville, and City of High Point. These funds would help repurpose substantial and environmentally compromised properties, including:

- Former American Warehouse Mill in Eden;
- 300 Oak Street in High Point;
- A former wastewater treatment plant and landfill in Mayodan; and the
- Former Loftin and Black Furniture Mill in Thomasville.

The above jurisdictions do not currently have access to EPA Assessment program dollars, making the priority sites particularly viable for coalition support.

PTRC has extensive Brownfields assessment experience and expertise that we are looking to build upon with this application. Prior work includes EPA Assessment grants in 2009, 2014 and 2018, as well as an active Revolving Loan Fund for \$1 million for cleanup of eligible sites. Outputs for the new Assessment work include regular community outreach events/meetings, educational presentations, cleanup planning services, and more than 60 important studies completed that are necessary for redeveloping Brownfield sites (Phase I Environmental Site Assessments, Phase II ESAs, applications to North Carolina Brownfields program, and others).

The period of performance for this grant is four years. No matching funds were required.

Applications were due November 13, 2023.

ACTION REQUESTED:

The PTRC Regional Planning Department requests authorization to apply for, and if awarded receive, a Brownfield Assessment Coalition grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for \$1.5 million.

M-E-M-O-R-A-N-D-U-M

TO: Board of Delegates, Piedmont Triad Regional Council
FROM: Jesse Day, Regional Planning Director
DATE: December 20, 2023
RE: Local Technical Assistance Projects: 1) Annexation Technical Assistance - Town of Mount Gilead; 2) Ordinance Assistance to Midway; 3) Ordinance Assistance to Wentworth

- 1) Mt. Gilead Annexation Technical Assistance - The Regional Planning Department requests authorization to receive funding through a Contract Services agreement with the Town of Mount Gilead as the Town embarks on annexing roughly 645 acres along Lilly’s Bridge Road in Montgomery County. The County, Town and Lennar Carolinas, LLC entered into a Development Agreement this summer that grants the right to annex to the Town. Lennar plans to construct more than 900 residential properties over the next nine years.

Jesse Day, Regional Planning Director, Adam Shull, Regional Planning Assistant Director, and Ginger Booker, former PTRC Assistant Director, will be the primary staff providing consultative services to the Town.

The scope of services includes activities for which PTRC will lead:

- Clarifying key steps and deliverables in the legislative process;
- Ensuring communication and regular meetings between County, Lennar and Town staff;
- Develop local legislation, provisions and effective date of annexation;
- Track amount, source, and administrative burden of funds Lennar expects legislature to appropriate for additional infrastructure; and
- Create a development profile detailing what developer restrictions Lennar implements (HOA requirements, potential age registrations on residents, etc.) and impact for the Town.

The scope also includes assistance with activities for which the Town must lead:

- Creating zoning for annexation area;
- Filing and Recording requirements;
- Creating a new official GIS map of Town with annexation area;
- Coordinating with County Board of Elections and effects of any new voting districts; and
- Studying impact on rural fire service.

The proposed budget is not to exceed \$25,000 and the period of performance is one year through November 2024.

ACTION REQUESTED: The PTRC Planning Department requests authorization to receive funding through a Contract Services agreement with the Town of Mount Gilead for an amount **not to exceed \$25,000** for technical assistance with the annexation process for one year ending November 2024.

CONSENT ITEM #8 CONTINUED

- 2) Town of Midway Ordinance Update - The Regional Planning Department requests to enter into contract for planning services with the Town of Midway for minor updates to the Commercial Core Overlay District. The services will include modifications to the ordinance to update references and graphics to be more congruent with the rest of the Town ordinances.

ACTION REQUESTED:

Request for approval to enter into contract providing professional planning services from February 2024 to April 2024 to **Midway for \$4,500**. The Town of Midway has signed an agreement letter.

- 3) Town of Wentworth Ordinance Review – The Regional Planning Department requests to enter into contract for planning services with the Town of Wentworth to review 160D updates and identify areas for improvement and to update review procedures for special use permits and any other errors or discrepancies.

ACTION REQUESTED:

Request for approval to enter into contract providing professional planning services from November 2023 to January 2024 to **Wentworth for \$2,500**. The Town of Wentworth has approved the budget amount and has received an agreement letter for signature.

M-E-M-O-R-A-N-D-U-M

TO: Board of Delegates, Piedmont Triad Regional Council
FROM: Matthew Dolge, Executive Director
DATE: December 20, 2023
RE: NCLM Letter Discussion

PTRC Board Members,

Please see the attached letter, sent to Alvin Foster from the North Carolina League of Municipalities (NCLM). The letter references a section in the proposed but not adopted legislation from the recent Technical Corrections Bill. In this legislation, it is my understanding that House leadership included a provision to reallocate \$15 million previously allocated to the NCLM to a software development project with firm called SimplySolv. The letter from the NCLM is inaccurate and misleading. There are key components of it that I can easily correct for you at this time.

When I was contacted by the NCLM Executive Director (who informed me about the legislation – I was not even aware it had been filed) I informed her, accurately, that we had been contacted months before about being a conduit for funding to this project. We did not lobby for this project, nor did we ask for money to be taken from the NCLM. The project was instigated by members of the General Assembly. PTRC does not lobby legislators because that is not our role as a local government entity. We have an advocacy contract with a North Carolina firm. If we were advocating for a project our board would take the lead in that effort. No board action or staff action on behalf of this project was ever undertaken. The NCLM staff knows this and their letter is a clear misrepresentation of the facts.

I informed the NCLM staff that we did know about the possibility of this project for as long as six months. I was honestly shocked that the NCLM, with its extensive lobbying staff and budget, did not know they had an issue. I was told that some legislators were concerned with the slow spend down rate of this funding and wanted it on the ground in use.

When I was informed about this legislation by the NCLM staff I contacted our advocacy firm and confirmed all off the facts listed above. On a second call with the NCLM staff I once again reiterated that the League did not have a PTRC problem, it had a legislative problem. I fully endorsed their efforts to get this issue turned around. I did not pledge to “never accept a reallocation of funds from the NCLM”. PTRC is in the business of serving our members and their citizens. If we can help the State meet a goal and in the process make friends with key legislative leaders, that is a good outcome. This money was not for PTRC. It was a pass through to a legislative priority that PTRC was asked to administer. Once again, the NCLM staff knows this, but continues to misrepresent the facts. If the staff at the NCLM is implying that PTRC stepping aside would keep legislative leaders from activating a program they favor they appear naïve.

INFORMATIONAL ITEM CONTINUED

PTRC's leadership team met the day after this issue arose. I informed them of the NCLM's concern and my response. I was directed to monitor the process and keep them informed. Since we had not advocated in Raleigh in any way, we continued that stance. I was informed that the NCLM had made contact with the legislators proposing this change and were given a reprieve to show that they could activate the funds appropriately. I believe that is where we are currently. PTRC is comfortable with this outcome, as we were, once again, only an administrative entity for this legislative priority.

My career began as a Town Manager. I have always supported the NCLM. We would look forward to genuine two-way relationship with the NCLM. I appreciate that the NCLM staff is likely embarrassed by being caught off guard. I hope they take this opportunity to effectively educate members of the NCGA about their program of work and this project in particular. Our small units of government need fiscal assistance, and PTRC continues to offer technical assistance on any such issue our members face. Great outcomes rarely need to be defended. As always, the Executive Committee and board will discuss this issue and I will take their lead in addressing future programming.

I am available to discuss any issue. Thank you for your continued support.

Matthew Dolge

INFORMATIONAL ITEM CONTINUED



November 16, 2023

Mayor Alvin Foster
Chairman, PTRC Board
PO Box 727
Yanceyville NC 27379-0727

434 Fayetteville Street
Suite 1900
Raleigh, NC 27601
919-715-4000
nclm.org

Dear Chairman Foster and other municipal members of the Piedmont Triad Regional Council Board Executive Committee,

We, the members of the North Carolina League of Municipalities Executive Committee, are writing you to share a very serious concern and to make a request. Our concern is an action recently undertaken by the Piedmont Triad Regional Council (PTRC) to lobby the NC General Assembly for funding that had been previously appropriated for the NC League of Municipalities (NCLM). PTRC gave no notice to NCLM leadership of its effort to redirect this funding to PTRC, and the sudden legislative provision was both made public and voted on by legislators in less than 24 hours. At issue for our organization and the cities we serve was \$15 million in State and Local Relief Funds (American Rescue Plan) funding that legislators appropriated to the League for services to NC cities and towns. Since then, we have built out an extensive financial technical assistance program, with a budget approved by our full Board of Directors that goes through December 2026.

While the provision in that particular legislation has been set aside for now, we know there is still an effort to get money for a company called SimplySolv and that PTRC is willing to run that funding through the PTRC. Therefore, we are very concerned that PTRC will renew its request to redirect the NCLM funding or agree to take the funding if so appropriated by the General Assembly.

We write to ask you, as the Council's leaders, to *withdraw any previous agreement to accept redirected funds and to neither request nor accept future funding from the General Assembly that had been previously designated by the General Assembly for the NC League of Municipalities*. We are anxious to hear your answer to this request and ask that you provide your answer in writing at your earliest convenience and by November 27th at the latest. You can respond to us all us all by responding to scollins@nclm.org

Further, we ask that you seek funding for SimplySolv from some other source. We have no objection if you want to run funding for SimplySolv through the PTRC. We simply ask that you look for another funding source than what the NC General Assembly had designated for the League.

We hope you understand our grave concern. If this effort had been, the League would have had to shut down ~~for~~ a program that benefits so many of our members. This would have been truly a sad occurrence in our local government history, and for some cities, it would have been a devastating blow. We are so proud of what we have built for our cities and the services we will provide them these next years. Redirecting these funds to SimplySolv would have closed our popular and successful program.

INFORMATIONAL ITEM CONTINUED

Cities have so much need in North Carolina. There is room for us to work together for the good of all without actions like those taken by PTRC. In these post-Covid times, League leaders and staff are meeting with regional council leadership from around the state on a regular basis. We would like very much for us to work together with one voice for those we serve, rather than taking such a tremendous hit from an entity that serves the same governments as the League. These are times to partner together, to communicate, and not to hurt each other. We hope to have a good partnership with you and look forward to hearing from you very soon.

Sincerely,

The NC League of Municipalities Board of Directors' Executive Committee

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William Harris", with a horizontal line underneath.

William Harris, President, NCLM, Commissioner, Fuquay-Varina
Mark Anthony Middleton, 1st VP, NCLM, Mayor Pro-Tem, Durham
Martha Sue Hall, 2nd VP, NCLM, Mayor Pro-Tem, Albemarle
Scott Neisler, Immediate Past President, NCLM, Mayor, Kings Mountain
Owen Thomas, Executive Committee, NCLM, Councilmember, Lumberton
Jody McLeod, Executive Committee, NCLM, Mayor, Clayton
Karen Alexander, Executive Committee, NCLM, Mayor, Salisbury

Cc: Matthew Dolge, Executive Director, PTRC



December 15,2023

Commissioner Harris and Members of the NCLM Executive Committee,

This correspondence is a response, as requested, to your letter to me as chair of the Piedmont Triad Regional Council (PTRC). Let me make it very clear, the PTRC did not initiate the use of NCLM assigned funds, nor did we lobby for them. As you are surely aware, the reassignment of funding was initiated by members of the North Carolina General Assembly.

PTRC was asked by our advocacy firm if we could receive and administer the reassigned funds. This ask was made because of our strong history of effective programming and fiscal management. The goal of the funding was to be the production and testing of a software application to lessen the administrative burden on all local governments in North Carolina by data mining and submitting financial reports to the Local Government Commission.

Your staff contacted our Executive Director and asked why we had introduced legislation to take the NCLM ARPA allocation. PTRC was not aware of any legislation at that point. After a discussion with our advocacy firm PTRC and I, through Legislative contacts, did assist in the stopping of reassignment of NCLM previously assigned funds. I hope it is clear that NCLM did not have a PTRC problem, but rather had a NCGA problem.

It has not and never will be the intention of the PTRC to take any action that damages the NCLM. The same should be true of the NCLM towards the PTRC, as we serve many of the same members. The PTRC Executive Committee wants to be clear that PTRC serves all the members of the Triad, counties and municipalities. A primary function of the PTRC is the administration of programs and funds that benefit our members, region and North Carolina. It is a dereliction of duties for PTRC to reject programming that will assist its members.

I am sure NCLM agrees that acrimony and recrimination is not in either of our best interests. Thus, my goal is twofold.

1. Implement a communication structure between the PTRC and NCLM that not only assures periodic contact between designated persons but is a point of immediate contact when any issue arises. Sharing information that affects the other or both organizations should be the norm, not the exception.
2. To start a process to build a strong relationship between the NCLM and the PTRC (and we would hope, all Councils of Government). We do serve many of the same citizens. Many times, both of us provide similar, if not identical programs/services that at the least could share information. A strong relationship must be a two-way street, with the interests of both parties being recognized. It should also avoid duplication and competition in service delivery, which is a concern of PTRC.



As specifically requested, PTRC asserts that we did not in this instance nor will we ever initiate reassignment of funds assigned to NCLM, as NCLM asserts the same. As fellow local government elected officials, thank you for your service to the municipalities of North Carolina. We welcome further discussion as is appropriate to our shared goals.

Sincerely,

Alvin W Foster
Chairman Piedmont Regional Council



2023 Meeting Dates

1398 Carrollton Crossing Drive

Kernersville, NC 27284

12noon

PTRC Executive Committee 1st Wednesday	PTRC Board of Delegates 3rd Wednesday
November 1, 2023— cancelled	November—none
December 6, 2023	December 20, 2023



2024 Meeting Dates

1398 Carrollton Crossing Drive

Kernersville, NC 27284

12noon

PTRC Executive Committee 1st Wednesday	PTRC Board of Delegates 3rd Wednesday
January - none	January - none
February 7, 2024	February 21, 2024
March 6, 2024	March - none
April 3, 2024	April 17, 2024
May 1, 2024	May - none
June 5, 2024	June 19, 2024
July - none	July - none
August 7, 2024	August 21, 2024
September 4, 2024	September - none
October 2, 2024	October 16, 2024
November 6, 2024	November - none
December 4, 2024	December 18, 2024