

COUNTY MANAGER'S OFFICE

Statement of Purpose

Catawba County operates under a County Manager form of government adopted by the Board of Commissioners on March 1, 1937. The County Manager is charged with the responsibility for translating the policies and programs of the Board of Commissioners into action. The Manager is also responsible for coordinating, supervising, and recommending alternative solutions to growing problems and issues. As Chief Administrator of County government, he is responsible to the Board of Commissioners for administering all departments of County government under the Board's general control and to serve as liaison officer to the public and groups within the County and between the County, State, and Federal agencies.

Outcomes

1. Oversee the implementation and achievement of the Board of Commissioners Fiscal Year 2009/10 goals.
2. Effectively direct and supervise the administration of all County offices, departments, and agencies under the authority of the Board of Commissioners.
3. Provide a program of public information on important issues. Keep citizens abreast of matters which affect their daily lives through the use of various media outlets and public information programming.
4. Respond professionally and effectively to requests from Catawba County citizens for assistance or information related to the functions of county government.
5. Provide timely information to Board of Commissioners for planning and decision-making.
6. Prepare and administer a balanced budget for Fiscal Year 2011.
7. Participate actively in local, State and national organizations such as the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners, National Association of Counties, International City/County Management Association, North Carolina City/County Management Association, and local managers groups to strengthen intergovernmental relationships and share ideas.
8. Monitor legislation proposed by the North Carolina General Assembly and, where applicable, propose legislation that would be beneficial to Catawba County.

Outcome Performance Measures:

1. The Board of Commissioners' annual evaluation of the County Manager, which addresses their satisfaction with the performance of him and County staff. The evaluation refers to all of the outcomes listed and a satisfactory rating on that evaluation is evidence of achievement.
2. The Board of Commissioners' Annual Report to the public on the outcome of their Annual Goals.

County Manager

Reinventing Department

Organization: 120050

	2007/08 Actual	2008/09 Current	2009/10 Requested	2009/10 Approved	Percent Change
Revenues					
Cable TV Reimbursement	\$28,000	\$28,000	\$28,000	\$28,000	0%
Indirect Cost	0	0	56,227	56,227	100%
General Fund	707,259	779,608	824,786	852,786	9%
Total	\$735,259	\$807,608	\$909,013	\$909,013	13%
Expenses					
Personal Services	\$685,500	\$764,858	\$866,963	\$866,963	13%
Supplies & Operations	49,759	42,750	42,050	42,050	-2%
Capital	0	0	0	0	0%
Total	\$735,259	\$807,608	\$909,013	\$909,013	13%
Employees					
Permanent	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	0%
Hourly	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0%
Total	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	0%

Fiscal Year 2007/08 Outcome Achievements

Total Outcomes	Achieved	Partially Achieved	Not Achieved	Success Rate
15	15	0	0	100%

Budget Highlights

The Catawba County Manager's Office is responsible for planning and implementing the directives of the Board of Commissioners, strategically managing the various County departments, and developing an annual budget.

The budget includes a change in funding source for the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) Fellow program. For several years, Catawba County has participated in this fellowship program that gives future public managers the opportunity to shadow existing managers and gain hands-on experience performing various projects requiring research and evaluation that staff time otherwise would not have been available to complete. In past years, this position was funded through County Manager reinventing surplus which resulted in the full cost of the position not being reflected in the annual budget. Since County departments as a whole benefit from this position, a more appropriate funding source is indirect costs paid by non-internal service departments to help support these types of positions.

Performance Measurement

Fiscal Year 2009/10

Outcomes for Fiscal Year 2009/10 focus on providing excellent customer service and fiscally

sound public policy, administration, and programs to the citizens of Catawba County. The emphasis of the County Manager's Office continues to be on providing customer service to internal and external customers, the Board of Commissioners and County Departments, and to the general public. Outcomes are based upon the extent to which requests for information are responded to in a timely manner and that citizens are kept abreast of information pertinent to County government.

Fiscal Year 2008/09

The County Manager's Office is on track to achieve all of its outcomes for the current fiscal year.

- Economic development incentives were approved by the Board for Poppelmann in the first half of the fiscal year, resulting in further growth of this company and job creation. In addition, seven industries, including Target, Williams-Sonoma, Convergys, Turbotec, Covation, Fiber-line, and FedEx Ground, are anticipated to create 2,100 new jobs 2008 and 2009 (1,406 of those coming in 2009).
- The County continues to support its three school systems with current and capital expense funding with one-half of its local revenues going to the schools. Teacher supplements are provided to recruit and retain the best teachers.
- In an effort to improve our County's ranking in community college funding, the budget included a 13% current expense increase for Catawba Valley Community College, which moved us to 19th in funding out of 58 community colleges. Our goal is to eventually be within the top ten to fifteen counties in providing support to our community college which brings so much to the County in the way of academic improvement and workforce development.

Fiscal Year 2007/08

The County Manager's Office achieved all eight outcomes for Fiscal Year 2007/08. The County worked with the Schools, the Chamber of Commerce, and others to gain overwhelming support of the local option ¼ cent sales tax in November. The proceeds from the ¼ cent tax will provide needed funds for debt service for a new Public Safety Center and expansion to the Justice Center for Courts and the District Attorney's Office, education current expense, water and sewer infrastructure and a multi-jurisdictional park.

The County Manager's Office is partnering with the three school systems, Champions of Education, Catawba Valley Community College (CVCC), and the Hickory Metro Higher Ed Center (HMHEC) to increase the educational attainment level in Catawba County. Efforts include funding for continued implementation of FORESIGHT educational strategies, particularly school supplements, technology, a four-year building program, and additional funds for current expense.

The Public Information Officer continues to work to keep the public informed through news releases, radio addresses, the public information channel, RSS feeds and an electronic newsletter. Improvements have also been made to the County website to include the availability of audio and video podcasts.

The County continues to work to enhance economic development. The Fiscal Year 2007/08 budget contained funding for the Catawba County Economic Development Corporation, the Greater Hickory Metro Convention and Visitors Bureau, and the Catawba County Chamber of Commerce. In addition, the County supports the Hickory Metro Higher Education Center and the Center for Engineering Technologies. Catawba County and the City of Hickory agreed to provide incentives for 3 major economic development projects: ADEVCO, a call center which will create 400-600 jobs; Sutter Street Manufacturing, a furniture manufacturing company that will create 820 jobs over the next 5 years; and Convergys, a technical support and customer service center that will create 446 jobs and result in a \$4,000,000 renovation and equipment investment to the former Corporate Marketing Facility on 7th Street SE. The County also continued investments in the EcoComplex which will not only increase the County's tax base and create new jobs but will prolong the life of our Landfill. In addition, the County joined the counties of Alexander, Burke, and Caldwell, and the cities of Hickory, Newton, and Conover in forming the Western Piedmont Regional Transit Authority, which will provide community transportation in the four-county, three-city region.

Four pieces of legislation with positive impacts for Catawba County passed during the 2008 legislative session including: legislation for a one-time distribution of additional lottery funds to counties resulting in \$800,000 additional for our school systems; repeal of the unfunded mandate that counties pay for the implementation of Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) phone system in courthouses which would have cost the County approximately \$100,000 annually; defeat of attempts to eliminate the prohibition on collective bargaining for public employees; and reestablishment of Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (JCPC) funding in the State's continuation budget. One of the Commissioner's top legislative priorities was to raise the homestead exclusion to \$35,000. A bill was introduced by our local delegation which did not pass but received positive comments about legislation being reintroduced during the 2009 Long Session.