Western Piedmont Council of Governments

1880 Second Avenue NW | Hickory, 28601
PO Box 9026 | Hickory, NC 28603
828.322.9191 | Fax: 828.322.5991 | www.wpcog.org

Creative Regional Solutions Since 1968

TO: Mayor Joseph L. Gibbons
Lenoir City Council
City Manager Scott Hildebran

FROM: Kyle Case, Community & Economic Development Manager, WPCOG
SUBJECT: Public Hearing for a Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Application
DATE: October 06, 2026

In order to submit a North Carolina Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) application to the North Carolina Department of Commerce Division of Community Revitalization (DCR), two public hearings are required to notify the citizens of available funding opportunities and allow them to ask questions and make public comments regarding the submission of any application. The city held the first public hearing on February 17, 2026 and this, the second public hearing has been publicly advertised for tonight's meeting.

Background: The City of Lenoir is seeking CDBG-DR funding for construction of a new backup generator at the George L. Bernhardt Water Treatment Plant located at 5474 Water Works Road, Granite Falls, NC 28630. This project will provide hazard mitigation and risk reduction addressing an urgent need at the City of Lenoir's water treatment plant and, therefore, safeguard potable water for more than 25,000 customers in Caldwell County. Currently, the Water Treatment Plant relies on a backup generator that is more than 20 years old. During Hurricane Helene, the WTP was without power for more than 2 days and relied solely on the backup generator during that time. Due to the age of the generator and the outdated controls, it had to be cycled on and off in order to synchronize with the electrical grid. While the generator was able to continue providing power to the plant, the cycling impacted the functionality of the pumps and created a high-pressure zone in the system. This led to greater wear and tear on the pumps and other components of the plant and had the potential to impact the water quality. This new generator will enhance the resiliency of the backup system with the old generator remaining in place for redundancy. This will add an extra layer of mitigation and prevent City of Lenoir water customers from potential future outages like those suffered by other regional cities in the wake of Helene.

Proposed Application: This $4,491,520 CDBG-DR application proposes the construction of a new backup generator at the George L. Bernhardt Water Treatment Plant located at 5474 Water Works Road, Granite Falls, NC 28630 to address an urgent need of the City's water system.

Requested Action: After the public hearing is closed and the City Council is in session, if the Council is so inclined, a motion will be needed for the following actions:

- Approval of the Authorizing Resolution

Sample Language:

I move to approve the Authorizing Resolution to submit a $4,491,520 grant application to the North Carolina Department of Commerce Division of Community Revitalization (DCR).

Executive Committee: Randy Burns, Chair | Larry Yoder, Vice Chair | Larry Chapman, Secretary | George B. Holleman, Treasurer | Joseph L. Gibbons, Past Chair | **At-Large Members:** Mike LaBrose | Cole Setzer | Jill Patton | Chris Jernigan | **Executive Director,** Anthony W. Starr

Serving: Alexander County | Taylorsville | Burke County | Connelly Springs | Drexel | Glen Alpine | Hildebran | Morganton | Rutherford College | Valdese | Caldwell County | Cajah's Mountain | Cedar Rock | Gamewell | Granite Falls | Hudson | Lenoir | Rhodhiss | Sawmills | Catawba County | Brookford | Catawba | Claremont | Conover | Hickory | Long View | Maiden | Newton