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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wullenwaber Promoted to Deputy Executive Director, Hogg Announced as Planning Director

Mid-Carolina Regional Council is pleased to announce the promotion of Samantha Wullenwaber to Deputy Executive Director and the hiring of Haley Hogg as Planning Director. These two seasoned local government professionals will play key roles in leading the Council's continued growth and in carrying out the organization's mission to serve Mid-Carolina's member governments in Cumberland, Sampson, and Harnett Counties.

"I am extremely excited that Samantha's leadership role within our organization and the region is expanding and thrilled to welcome Haley to our team. Samantha has proven herself to be an invaluable member of the Mid-Carolina Team and has positioned us to deliver true value to our member governments. I have no doubt that Haley will also be an invaluable asset to our organization and our member governments," said Justin Hembree, Mid-Carolina Regional Council Executive Director.

Samantha Wullenwaber joined Mid-Carolina Regional Council in December 2021 as Director of Local Government Services. During her time with the Council, Samantha has greatly expanded services offered to member governments. Among many other accomplishments, she has written over \$20 million in grants, provided much needed planning, zoning, financial, and administrative consulting services, created the Council's Code Enforcement Division, provided for temporary staffing for various municipalities, assisted member governments with employment searches, and played a key role in the development of several land use plans. In her new senior leadership role, Samantha will continue to oversee the operations of the Local Government Services Department and will oversee the day-to-day administration of Council operations.

Samantha began her career in public service with the City of Dunn in 2008 as a Planning Technician and quickly rose through the ranks to become the City's Director of Planning and Inspections. In 2018, she joined the Town of Clayton, one of the fastest growing communities in North Carolina, as Planning Director. In March 2021, Samantha was selected to serve as Spring Lake's Interim Town Manager where

she implemented numerous fiscal and budgetary processes to ensure the Town's improved financial health. Samantha holds an undergraduate degree from East Carolina University and a Master's in Public Administration from the University of North Carolina at Pembroke. She is a certified planner through the American Institute of Certified Planners and a Certified Zoning Official. Samantha serves on the Regional Land Use Advisory Commission Board of Directors and is a member of the Board of Directors of Cape Fear Christian Academy.

Haley Hogg will join the Mid-Carolina Team as the organization's Planning Director on February 1 as part of the Local Government Services Department. Haley will lead the Council's planning efforts with special focus on providing direct services to Mid-Carolina member governments. Haley brings a wealth of experience to the Council, having most recently served as Planning Manager for Hearth Pointe Development. Haley began her public service career as a Zoning Enforcement Officer with the City of Hickory. Later in her career, she joined the Town of Clayton as a Planner I and in only five years climbed the career ladder to become a Senior Planner. Haley holds an undergraduate degree from East Carolina University. She is a certified planner through the American Institute of Certified Planners, a Certified Zoning Official, and a member of the American Planning Association.

About Mid-Carolina Regional Council

Mid-Carolina Regional Council is a voluntary coalition of local governments and functions as a multi-county planning, development, and human services organization. The Council provides technical assistance to its member governments and administers programs that benefit the region's communities and citizens. The Council's mission is to provide creative regional solutions to relevant and emerging issues in Cumberland, Harnett, and Sampson Counties, North Carolina while providing a standard of excellence in the delivery of federal, state, regional, and local services. Learn more at www.mccog.org.