

Executive Committee Meeting
6:30 p.m. - Thursday, May 13, 2021
Third Floor Conference Room
233 Middle Street, New Bern, NC

AGENDA

1. **Welcome, Invocation, and Call to Order**
2. **Adopt Agenda - Jay Bender, President**
3. **Consent Agenda – Jay Bender, President**
 - a. Executive Committee Meeting – March 11, 2021
 - b. Special Executive Committee Meeting - March 24, 2021
 - c. Financial Statement
 - d. C.E.D.S. update
4. **Budget & Audit Committee Report – Shane Turney, Treasurer**
5. **Budget Presentation – Jenny Miller, Finance Director**
6. **myFutureNC – Jeni Corn, Ph.D., Director of Strategic Initiatives**
7. **Officers Nominating Committee – Jay Bender, President**
8. **Bylaw Committee update – Bill Taylor, 1st Vice President**
9. **Member Comments**
10. **Adjournment**



Eastern Carolina Council

3.a. Minutes-March 11, 2021



Minutes

Executive Board Meeting
6:30 p.m. - Thursday, March 11, 2021
Third Floor Conference Room
233 Middle Street, New Bern, NC

Minutes

ECC Executive Committee in Attendance:

E.T. Mitchell, Craven County Commissioner
Frank Emory, Jones County Commissioner
Steve Wiggins, Mount Olive Commissioner
Roland Best, Lenoir County Commissioner
Johnnie Ray Kinsey, City of New Bern Commissioner
Ed. Riggs, 2nd Vice President
Shane Turney, Treasurer
Bill Taylor, 1st Vice President
Jay Bender, President
Freeman Hardison, Wayne County Commissioner
Bob Cavanaugh, Carteret County Commissioner
Bennie Heath, Greene County Commissioner
Arthur Robinson, Greene County caucus
Jesse Dowe, Duplin County Commissioner

ECC Staff in Attendance:

Katie Bordeaux, Executive Director
Jenny Miller, Finance Director
Leighann Morgan, Deputy Finance Director/Transportation Director
B.J. Eversole, Senior Transportation Planner
Mickey Anderson, Transportation Planner

Guest in Attendance:

Jill Quattlebaum, Attorney, Grady Quattlebaum

- 1. Welcome, Invocation, and Call to Order** – President Jay Bender called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. Quorum was met.
- 2. Adopt Agenda - Jay Bender, President**
President Jay Bender pointed out the added item #11 AAA HCCBG & Monitoring Update on the agenda.

Commissioner Kinsey motioned to approve the agenda with the items moved, seconded by Commissioner Best, and motion was unanimously approved.

3. Consent Agenda – Jay Bender, President

- a. Executive Board Meeting Minutes – January 14, 2021
- b. Special Called Executive Board Meeting Minutes – January 28, 2021
- c. Financial Statement

Commissioner Kinsey motioned to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Commissioner Dowe, and motion was unanimously approved.

4. Closed Session Minutes – Jill Quattlebaum, Grady & Quattlebaum

- a. January 14, 2021
- b. January 28, 2021

Attorney Quattlebaum distributed the closed session minutes to the Executive Committee in sealed envelopes for review. Commissioner Robinson collected the minutes and returned the minutes back to Attorney Quattlebaum.

Commissioner Riggs motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Mitchell, and motion was unanimously approved.

5. Budget & Audit Committee Report – Shane Turney, Treasurer

Treasurer Turney stated the Budget & Audit Committee met before the Executive Committee Board meeting to go over the check register, proposed budget, RFP of auditor, and the audit presentation.

6. Audit Presentation – Robbie Bittner & Sarah Kate Willis, RSM

Mr. Bittner presented the FY 2019/2020 Audit report to the Budget & Audit Committee. ECC's audit received a Clean Unmodified Opinion with one material weakness noted in the general fund with the accounts payable module. No issues/concerns or disagreements with management or staff were reported.

7. Audit RFP – Jenny Miller, Finance Director

Finance Director stated a Request for Proposal was issued for audit services and two firms responded. The two firms were the current ECC auditors (PB Mares) and Sharpe Patel CPA firm out of Raleigh. The ECC's current auditors three-year proposal came in at \$93,600 and Sharpe Patel, CPA came in at \$88,096 for a three year contract. Sharpe Patel only has offices in Raleigh and the City of Kinston is the only government within our region that they are in contract. Based on PB Mares recently changing from their old firm, RSM, no local offices in our area for Sharpe Patel, and the minimal cost difference not being worth



the additional work that would be required on staff to get new auditors onboard, Finance Director Miller recommended continuing with PB Mares at this time.

Commissioner Taylor motioned to stay with PB Mares, seconded by Commissioner Best.

The Executive Committee discussed changing auditors every five years.

Vote of 8 "nay" and 6 "yay"

Commissioner Mitchell motioned to switch audit firm to Sharpe Patel. The motion was not seconded.

8. ECC By-Law Committee Update – Bill Taylor, 1st Vice President

Commissioner Taylor stated the By-law Committee met three times by virtual and in-person means. The Committee's recommendations are in the agenda packet for review. Commissioner Taylor asked the Board to review the amendments and return comments by April 12, 2021 to the Executive Director.

9. RPO Overview – B.J. Eversole, Senior Transportation Planner and Mickey Anderson, Transportation Planner

Mr. Eversole and Mr. Anderson gave a presentation on the Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP), funding, prioritization and the SPOT process. Eastern Carolina Rural Planning Organization (ECRPO) has submitted 21 new submissions and the Down East Rural Planning Organization (DERPO) has submitted 20 new submissions. They explained the local impact points and they work with DOT and other RPO to split and add points to projects to receive a better score to receive funding.

10. Recovery & Resiliency Funding Resource Guide for Local Governments – Katie Bordeaux, Executive Director

Executive Director Bordeaux exhibit the Recovery & Resiliency Funding Resource Guide that ECC was awarded a grant for recovery and resiliency. Deputy Finance Director shared the link on the Eastern Carolina Council website where a pdf format can be found.

11. AAA HCCBG & Monitoring Update – Jenny Miller, Finance Director

The North Carolina Division of Aging acknowledged March 10, 2021 that there is an error in the ARMS (reimbursement system used by the state Division of Aging to collect all information and issue payments) system. Most of the Aging money does not reconcile and in some cases the state reimbursed the wrong providers. This has been an ongoing issue since the system broke at the close of the last fiscal year. Currently, the ECC is working with DAAS on how to resolve the issues without causing problems with the audit confirmations at year end for our entire region.

Approximately 6.5 million of ECCs funding is pass thru and the part we are referring. We have also heard that there will be an additional COVID funding coming shortly which will increase the liability amount.

The ECC is providing a mandatory provider meeting on April 28, 2021 and will be in contact with county finance staff once decisions are made and everything is reconciled. Finance Director Miller reiterated that this change of reimbursements will be a big undertaking. ECC's total budget that was just presented is \$8,101,539, of that amount, \$7,520,883 are Aging funds (93% of our budget) and is affected by this problem.

When the ARMS system broke, DAAS realized that the ECC was the only COG in the state that the pass thru funds go directly to the providers rather than to the COG. This created more issues as the ARMS system could not be as easily programmed to operate in this manner when the other COGs were not, so effective July 1, 2021 the ECC will be receiving the funds directly and sending the funds to counties and providers.

The ECC was also advised we would not receive additional administrative funding to distribute the funds. It became clear that the money we were using in house for different outreach or projects that staff had been working on should have been used for this purpose. We began asking many questions because ECC will now be signing checks and forwarding funds, which means we are 100% liable if this is not handled properly. The magnitude of this is that each month HCCBG reimbursements are approximately \$400,000. ECC's fund balance is approximately \$500,000.

Per the grant requirements, the ECC is issued aging funds to monitor and provide technical assistance to ensure our providers are using these funds within the guidelines. If this is not done, we have defaulted on our obligation and would owe any non-reimbursable money back to the Division. We began looking into how monitoring had been done to make sure this would not be an issue and if any changes need to be addressed prior to issuing a statement to the region about the changes for the HCCBG funding process and learned that we had some major issues that needed to be corrected prior to this transition.

The Aging Director began provider monitoring to see exactly who we needed to work with and what were the major non-compliant issues. We also had a change due to COVID and did not do in person monitoring, we did desk audits which some providers were not pleased with. It does require them to upload documents in the computer which is a change, but this was beyond our control. The Aging Director is also asking for a lot more documentation and writing up things that are ineligible. This was not done properly in the past (records as far back as 2016 indicate no monitoring to some providers) and we know some providers may not be happy and may reach out to superiors with complaints, therefore we want to ensure our Board is aware and prepared for these conversations and understand what is occurring. The Aging funds are no different than any other grant funds providers receive and they must be held to the requirements of the grant or costs are ineligible. They will now be monitored accordingly so that ECC is not the entity in default of our requirements of the grant and liable for the paybacks.

12. Member Comments – no comments

13. Closed Session - NC G.S. 143-318-11(a)(3) and NC G.S. 143-318-11(a)(6)

Commissioner Heath motioned to enter a closed session, seconded by Commissioner Dowe and motion was carried unanimously approved.

14. Adjournment

Commissioner Heath motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Dowe and motion was carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Jay Bender, President

Katie Bordeaux, Executive Director



Eastern Carolina Council

3.b. Minutes-March 24, 2021

Special Called Meeting
5:00 p.m. - Wednesday, March 24, 2021
Third Floor Conference Room
233 Middle Street, New Bern, NC

Minutes

Executive Committee in Attendance:

Roland Best, Lenoir County Commissioner
Johnnie Ray Kinsey, City of New Bern Commissioner
Ed Riggs, 2nd Vice President
Shane Turney, Treasurer
Bill Taylor, 1st Vice President
Jay Bender, President
Jesse Dowe, Duplin County Commissioner
Bennie Heath, Greene County Commissioner
Arthur Robinson, Town of Hookerton Commissioner
Freeman Hardison, Wayne County Commissioner

ECC Staff in Attendance:

Katie Bordeaux, Executive Committee
Jenny Miller, Finance Director
Leighann Morgan, Deputy Finance Director/Transportation Director

1. Welcome, Invocation, and Call to Order

President Bender called the meeting to order at 5:22 p.m. Commissioner Heath gave the invocation.

2. Adopt Agenda - Jay Bender, President

Commissioner Robinson motioned to adopt the agenda, seconded by Commissioner Best, and motioned carried unanimously.

3. Auditor RFP – Shane Turney, Treasurer

Treasurer Turney stated the previous meeting the Board voted to switch auditors, this company has no COG experience. Finance Director Miller asked the Board to reconsider their vote considering the new influx of HCCBG monies, and set up that is already occurring with the current auditor.

Commissioner Heath stated with management changing with the current auditor there will be a new set of eyes. *Commissioner Heath motioned to resend prior action, seconded by Commissioner Dowe, and motioned carried unanimously.*

Finance Director Miller thanked the board for the reconsideration.



4. Closed Session - NC G.S. 143-318-11(a)(3) and NC G.S. 143-318-11(a)(6)

Commissioner Taylor motioned to enter closed session, seconded by Commissioner Dowe, and motion carried unanimously.

5. Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Jay Bender, President

Katie Bordeaux, Executive Director



Eastern Carolina Council

3.c. Financials

Financial Statement of Activity
Eastern Carolina Council of Governments
For 3/31/2021

001	M-T-D Actual	Y-T-D Actual	Annual Budget	Budget Remaining	Percent Used
Revenues					
4703. Other Revenue	0.00	(21,411.03)	(18,070.00)	(3,341.03)	(118.49)
4707. Interest	0.00	0.17	0.00	0.17	0.00
4713. Local Revenue	0.00	157,496.00	161,420.00	(3,924.00)	97.57
Total Revenues	0.00	136,085.14	143,350.00	(7,264.86)	94.93
Expenses					
5457. Board Meeting	922.24	2,106.71	2,824.31	717.60	74.59
5465. President Allowance	300.00	1,350.00	1,800.00	450.00	75.00
5502. Training	0.00	770.00	6,856.00	6,086.00	11.23
5700. Mileage Expense	72.80	372.73	4,877.34	4,504.61	7.64
5701. Hotel, Meals, Incidentals	0.00	0.00	2,053.00	2,053.00	0.00
5705. Annual Meeting	0.00	912.99	912.99	0.00	100.00
5720. Salary	8,900.15	72,592.41	162,104.65	89,512.24	44.78
5721. 401K	264.61	2,145.01	7,149.00	5,003.99	30.00
5722. FICA	670.01	5,432.59	15,239.00	9,806.41	35.65
5724. Health Insurance	1,161.40	9,258.84	16,200.00	6,941.16	57.15
5725. Dental Insurance	43.13	345.44	700.00	354.56	49.35
5726. Retirement	791.14	6,413.28	11,300.00	4,886.72	56.75
5736. Unemployment Benefits	59.98	194.89	320.00	125.11	60.90
5749. Legal Fees	9,687.50	37,910.54	44,461.66	6,551.12	85.27
5750. Consultant	0.00	718.75	37,000.00	36,281.25	1.94
5751. Audit	0.00	10,140.88	10,336.88	196.00	98.10
5752. Rent	0.00	35,140.50	57,939.00	22,798.50	60.65
5754. Equipment Lease	1,049.49	4,410.19	6,000.00	1,589.81	73.50
5757. Insurance & Bonding	0.00	8,372.09	8,372.09	0.00	100.00
5758. Postage	3.75	1,103.75	2,000.00	896.25	55.19
5759. Printing/Publication	0.00	365.57	2,884.00	2,518.43	12.68
5760. Telephone, Cell Service	58.40	1,160.55	3,622.00	2,461.45	32.04
5761. Utilities	272.08	5,450.91	13,000.00	7,549.09	41.93
5768. Broadband	0.00	1,112.80	3,540.00	2,427.20	31.44
5769. Computer Related Purchase	0.00	55.56	2,424.00	2,368.44	2.29
5770. Office Supplies	1,551.02	7,170.54	11,385.00	4,214.46	62.98
5771. IT System Administration	763.63	7,430.02	13,350.00	5,919.98	55.66
5772. Dues & Subscriptions	0.00	5,143.66	9,159.82	4,016.16	56.15
5773. Janitorial	0.00	5,950.00	9,896.00	3,946.00	60.13
5774. Advertising	70.94	70.94	3,500.00	3,429.06	2.03
5775. Maintenance & Repairs	38.00	3,640.26	3,702.26	62.00	98.33
5776. Administration Website	0.00	1,125.00	1,125.00	0.00	100.00
5778. Copier Costs/Paper	0.00	(601.94)	3,103.00	3,704.94	(19.40)
5779. Bank Charges	30.42	186.78	500.00	313.22	37.36
5899. Indirect Cost	(27,414.74)	(251,121.57)	(336,287.00)	(85,165.43)	(74.67)
Total Expenses	(704.05)	(13,169.33)	143,350.00	156,519.33	(9.19)
Excess Revenue Over (Under) Expenditures	704.05	149,254.47	0.00	149,254.47	0.00

Financial Statement of Activity
Eastern Carolina Council of Governments
For 3/31/2021

003	M-T-D Actual	Y-T-D Actual	Annual Budget	Budget Remaining	Percent Used
Revenues					
4701. Federal Revenue	287,368.01	2,920,795.37	8,071,875.00	(5,151,079.63)	36.18
4702. State Revenue	0.00	153,038.92	431,945.00	(278,906.08)	35.43
4711. MIS Revenue	351.05	2,334.95	4,500.00	(2,165.05)	51.89
4712. Appropriated Fund Balance	0.00	0.00	23,000.00	(23,000.00)	0.00
4713. Local Revenue	0.00	54,035.00	54,566.00	(531.00)	99.03
4714. In-Kind Revenue	0.00	0.00	87,079.00	(87,079.00)	0.00
4717. ECC Match	0.00	98,914.00	138,914.00	(40,000.00)	71.21
Total Revenues	287,719.06	3,229,118.24	8,811,879.00	(5,582,760.76)	36.65
Expenses					
5456. Match Cash & Inkind	0.00	0.00	87,079.00	87,079.00	0.00
5460. MIS Fee	423.13	2,385.78	4,500.00	2,114.22	53.02
5502. Training	0.00	4,938.00	6,091.15	1,153.15	81.07
5510. Program Services	2,259.39	5,086.08	289,454.68	284,368.60	1.76
5700. Mileage Expense	633.17	2,565.03	7,251.95	4,686.92	35.37
5701. Hotel, Meals, Incidentals	0.00	0.00	500.00	500.00	0.00
5705. Annual Meeting	0.00	1,678.70	1,678.70	0.00	100.00
5720. Salary	46,520.04	425,630.76	643,282.92	217,652.16	66.17
5721. 401K	1,379.99	12,639.67	58,296.94	45,657.27	21.68
5722. FICA	3,431.22	30,860.85	42,410.75	11,549.90	72.77
5724. Health Insurance	7,113.95	66,961.49	103,821.63	36,860.14	64.50
5725. Dental Insurance	297.87	2,818.30	5,571.84	2,753.54	50.58
5726. Retirement	4,126.24	37,792.92	55,626.06	17,833.14	67.94
5736. Unemployment Benefits	312.81	1,073.80	2,103.59	1,029.79	51.05
5749. Legal Fees	4,145.83	20,752.78	22,169.46	1,416.68	93.61
5750. Consultant	106,000.00	200,984.50	39,500.00	(161,484.50)	508.82
5751. Audit	0.00	23,559.12	31,282.17	7,723.05	75.31
5752. Rent	0.00	1,020.00	1,340.00	320.00	76.12
5758. Postage	8.25	269.00	1,583.00	1,314.00	16.99
5759. Printing/Publication	352.99	11,733.88	12,481.38	747.50	94.01
5760. Telephone, Cell Service	845.06	6,382.92	11,697.00	5,314.08	54.57
5768. Broadband	0.00	9,242.26	12,310.24	3,067.98	75.08
5769. Computer Related Purchase	1,189.61	7,944.19	15,919.79	7,975.60	49.90
5770. Office Supplies	3,148.51	31,855.65	51,364.60	19,508.95	62.02
5771. IT System Administration	7,636.37	31,118.47	37,927.00	6,808.53	82.05
5772. Dues & Subscriptions	100.00	10,304.69	16,115.69	5,811.00	63.94
5774. Advertising	448.00	966.00	1,484.00	518.00	65.09
5775. Maintenance & Repairs	0.00	500.00	500.00	0.00	100.00
5778. Copier Costs/Paper	0.00	976.15	2,780.00	1,803.85	35.11
5780. Aging P & A Payroll Exp	0.00	150.00	300.00	150.00	50.00
5781. Employment Screening	0.00	86.00	86.00	0.00	100.00
5863. 844 ECC TRANSPORTATION SERVICES	0.00	540.00	540.00	0.00	100.00
5899. Indirect Cost	27,414.74	251,121.57	406,784.46	155,662.89	61.73
6200. HCCBG PASS-THRU FUNDS	0.00	1,775,784.00	6,571,880.00	4,796,096.00	27.02
6300. Pass thru	0.00	16,593.00	16,593.00	0.00	100.00
6600. LEGAL AIDE	3,717.00	28,065.00	21,229.00	(6,836.00)	132.20
6700. Sr. Center Gen Purpose	7,149.00	38,172.00	83,867.00	45,695.00	45.51
6800. III-D	889.00	11,463.00	27,476.00	16,013.00	41.72
6900. CARES FCSP- CRAVEN	9,180.00	62,644.00	117,000.00	54,356.00	53.54
Total Expenses	238,722.17	3,136,659.56	8,811,879.00	5,675,219.44	35.60
Excess Revenue Over (Under) Expenditures	48,996.89	92,458.68	0.00	92,458.68	0.00

Financial Statement of Activity
Eastern Carolina Council of Governments
For 3/31/2021

007	M-T-D Actual	Y-T-D Actual	Annual Budget	Budget Remaining	Percent Used
Revenues					
4703. Other Revenue	6,263.98	45,775.91	0.00	45,775.91	0.00
Total Revenues	6,263.98	45,775.91	0.00	45,775.91	0.00
Expenses					
5501. Special Project - Education grant	0.00	22,006.64	0.00	(22,006.64)	0.00
5720. Salary	2,909.42	71,287.40	0.00	(71,287.40)	0.00
5722. FICA	222.57	5,453.50	0.00	(5,453.50)	0.00
Total Expenses	3,131.99	98,747.54	0.00	(98,747.54)	0.00
Excess Revenue Over (Under) Expenditures	3,131.99	(52,971.63)	0.00	(52,971.63)	0.00



Eastern Carolina Council

3.d. C.E.D.S. update

CEDS Update

The Eastern Carolina Council of Governments (ECC) Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy calls for the Council to be a convener of trainings to help with the region's growth. To develop trainings for the areas of focused, the ECC surveyed the region's professional staff and elected officials. Survey results showed topics that were of importance are the following:

- Funding for capital projects for public entities such as police departments and water departments
- Growth of a town- how to fund capital projects, projects that would improve the safety and health of a town's community
- Economic Development Planning & Land Use Advisory Board (Processes & Procedures)
- Downtown revitalization, attracting industry and business development

Met with the Golden LEAF Foundation to provide information on where regional council of governments need assistance. Connected governments looking for funding for capital projects for public entities with the Gold LEAF Foundation.

North Carolina Governor Cooper appointed the ECC Executive Director to the Geospatial Information Council. The Executive Director has been working with managers in the region on how data from the Council may assist their work.

The ECC's Regional Managers Meeting in November included presenters from the UNC School of Government on Growth of a town- how to fund capital projects, projects that would improve the safety and health of a town's community

- Economic Development Planning & Land Use Advisory Board (Processes & Procedures)
- Downtown revitalization, attracting industry and business development

The Executive Director has worked with the UNC School of Government on the logistics of developing a training on Chapter 160D.

The Executive Director is developing an Economic Development Summit to be held in the fall of 2021.

The Executive Director attended the Homegrown Leaders East seminar and is currently working with the NC Rural Center to host an upcoming leadership training for the counties in ECC's region.

One or more of the ECC staff participated in the following:

- Participate in regional disaster recovery coordinator monthly meetings.
- Participate in National Flood Insurance Program Training
- Worked with the state council of governments association to develop a statewide impact report.
- NC Electricities partnership with another Council of Governments.
- Attended NC Inclusive Disaster Recovery Network - Monthly Meetings



Executive Director's Report

May 13, 2021

Carteret Beaufort Airport Authority

The attached letter dated March 26, 2021 was submitted to the Airport Authority. On April 7, 2021 Deputy Finance and Transportation Director Morgan and Executive Director Bordeaux met with Airport Authority Chair Pat Joyce and Business Manager Kristen Jayne. On April 15, 2021 Chair Joyce and Business Manager Jayne provided a \$16,000 check and the two attached documents.

Onslow County Down East Rural Planning Organization (DERPO)

On January 22, 2021, Onslow County provided the ECC notice that the County is withdrawing their DERPO membership and joining the Jacksonville Metropolitan Planning Organization (JUMPO). At the March 11, 2021 Executive Committee Board, the Board requested the Executive Director work with Secretary Boyette regarding Onslow County's delinquent dues for the DERPO. Attached are correspondences.

Legislative Update

The North Carolina Association of Regional Councils of Governments (NCARCOG) represents 16 regional councils of governments (COGs), and it advocates for regional solutions to address multi-jurisdictional issues or opportunities, coordinates state and federal program service delivery, and builds strategic partnerships to improve the prosperity of rural and urban North Carolina.

Policy Priorities

- 1. Modify rules, regulations, or legislation to include COGs as eligible entities for state and federal grants.**

The federal Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular 2 CFR 200. 64 (l) identifies a Council of Governments (COG) as an eligible local government for the purpose of applying for and receiving federal grant awards. NCGS 160A-475(1) and 153A-395 allow COGs to apply for, accept, receive, and dispense grants made available to it by the State of North Carolina, the United States of America or any of its agencies, any local government, and any private or civic agency. Some program rules and grant applications, at the state and federal levels, do not list COGs as eligible program administrators, applicants, or sub-recipients. These limitations prevent COGs from applying for regional based grants, and/or delivering regionally significant programs in each COG service area.

Action Requested:

NCARCOG requests the members of the North Carolina General Assembly add Councils of Governments to the list of eligible entities for state and federal grant programs. In addition, NCARCOG requests the members of the North Carolina delegation to the U.S. House of Representatives, and the U.S. Senate also add Councils of Governments to the list of eligible entities for federally funded grants and programs.



2. Establish COGs as the entity to develop regional pre-disaster hazard mitigation plans and to perform regional resilience planning and coordination.

Smaller units of local governments within each COG region may have a limited capacity to apply for emergency management grants, and successfully manage all the training and compliance requirements for the duration of the grant. North Carolina COGs have successfully managed regional disaster and recovery efforts and have extensive experience with emergency management grants. The COGs could serve as designated grant recipients, grant administrators, provide regional communication and coordination activities, and provide the necessary technical assistance to ensure grant compliance standards are met. COG involvement would enhance recovery and resiliency efforts and allow more local governments to participate in funding opportunities.

COGs have coordinated, planned, and delivered planning and programming services on a multi-jurisdictional basis for the past fifty years. Pre-Disaster Hazard Mitigation (PDM) plans, now called the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) grant program require local government leaders from multiple cities and counties to develop a coordinated plan to identify goals, action steps, and projects to limit the impact of natural and man-made disasters. COGs are already engaged in resiliency planning efforts within their regions, and each COG is engaged with local government leaders on a multi-jurisdictional basis. PDM/BRIC plans are required to be performed every five years, and regularly assessed to determine progress towards implementing the plan. COGs can provide planning professionals to work with local government leaders to develop BRIC plans, and to work with local governments to implement the high priority projects to limit the impacts from future disasters.

Action Requested:

NCARCOG requests legislative and policy authorization for the North Carolina Department of Emergency Management to use COGs to provide BRIC planning services, training, grant administration, grant application assistance, or any other service requested by a qualifying local government for it to utilize Federal Emergency Management Agency funds.

3. Build partnerships and capacity for COGs to provide financial administration for local governments.

Local governments must meet audit, budget, and internal control requirements established by the NC Local Government Commission (LGC), and many have done so successfully over the decades. An entire generation of local government officials is leaving the workforce due to retirement and some areas of the state may find it difficult to find the qualified professionals needed to remain compliant with LGC standards. COGs are an extension of local government, with professional finance staff, that are uniquely qualified to assist local governments in need of temporary financial services. COGs have the ability and authority to partner with the LGC, North Carolina League of Municipalities (NCLM), and North Carolina Association of County Commissioners (NCACC) to meet the audit, compliance, and financial administration needs of local governments.



Action Requested:

NCARCOG requests the LGC's consideration for policy changes to allow COGs to serve a stronger role providing financial administration services to local governments in need of such services. In addition, NCARCOG requests consideration from the members of the North Carolina General Assembly to set aside funding to create a financial administration program to assist small local governments and municipalities with returning to a compliant status.

4. Support the expansion of high-speed broadband throughout North Carolina.

The availability of high-speed broadband, defined by the FCC a 25 megabits per second download speed and 3 megabits per second upload speed, is critical to the economic resilience of local governments throughout North Carolina. The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the need to increase availability of high-speed broadband to ensure continuation of local government services, local economies, education, workforce training, and nearly every other aspect of private or public operations that rely on internet connectivity to function.

Action Requested:

NCARCOG supports legislative and policy that increases the availability of high-speed broadband throughout North Carolina and urges the members of the North Carolina General Assembly to continue to provide funding to study, build, and upgrade broadband infrastructure to ensure the private and public entities across the state can function and compete in the global economy while maintaining safe and effective public services vital to the health and welfare of North Carolina citizens.

5. Advocate for additional funding for aging, community development, infrastructure, and workforce programs.

COG regions across the state are working with local government leaders to plan and coordinate services and programs for a rapidly increasing older adult population, expand or upgrade water and sewer capacity to accommodate growth and development within each region, developing partnerships to improve access to workforce housing, and coordinating workforce and/or economic development opportunities with area employers to provide the skilled workers needed for economic growth.

Action Requested:

NCARCOG requests consideration of additional funding for the Home and Community Care Block Grant (HCCBG) to support growing older adult populations, an increase in funding for water and sewer infrastructure projects, policy flexibility to increase opportunities to partner with workforce housing agencies or organizations, and the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) to support local workforce development boards in developing innovative approaches to training citizens for skilled jobs within each region.



6. Build strategic partnerships to improve regional delivery of services.

COGs were established by units of local government, rural and urban, coming together to solve local and regional issues. COGs play a role in convening leaders within each region and coordinating with multiple types of organizations to deliver programs, projects, or services. COGs are best positioned for the delivery of federal, state, and local programs or services on a regional basis due to the ability to scale a service or program to meet the needs of each region, or to work cooperatively across multiple regions when needed or required.

Action Requested:

Advocate for an increase in the use of COGs to administer and/or implement governmental services and programs that are intended to be delivered on a multi-county basis. Advocate that COGs serve as the default mechanism to delivery regionally based services. Oppose the creation of new regional offices or regional service areas that split COG regions.

Aging Update

April was Parkinson's Disease (PD) month. Parkinson's is a progressive neurological disorder. This means symptoms continue and worsen over time. There are no cures-only treatment options to manage the symptoms. One million Americans have PD. About 60,000 people are diagnosed with PD each year. Men are 1 ½ times more likely to have Parkinson's than women. The average age of PD onset is 60 years old. Signs and symptoms can be different for everyone, they may include:

- Tremor
- Slowed movement
- Rigid muscles
- Impaired posture and balance
- Speech changes
- Writing changes

The cause of Parkinson's is unknown, ways to prevent the disease also remain unknown. Some research has shown that regular aerobic exercise might reduce the risk of PD.

April was also National Volunteer Month. Celebrating National Volunteer Month will be different considering the COVID-19 Pandemic that is keeping us all inside.

Our older population is especially vulnerable during this time. They may have trouble accessing food and services. They are also facing mental health challenges due to loneliness and isolation. Here are a few ideas to help senior citizens in your community.

- ❖ Delivering groceries or meals.
- ❖ Help at a food bank.
- ❖ Partner with a senior to help them with chores.
- ❖ Help with technology so they can stay connected.



Social media is a way to let people know you are available to help. Let your friends know or post on your neighborhood or community Facebook page.

The ECC has volunteer opportunities available as a Community Advisor Committee (CAC) member with the Ombudsman Program.

May is Older Americans Month. Every May, the Administration for Community Living leads our nation's observance of Older Americans Month. The theme for 2021 is "**Communities of Strength**". Older adults have built resilience and strength over their lives through successes, failures, joys, and difficulties. Their stories and contributions help to support and inspire others. This Older Americans Month, we will celebrate the strength of older adults and the Aging Network, with special emphasis on the power of connection and engagement in building strong communities.

On June 15th, 2006 World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) was launched by the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse and the World Health Organization at the United Nations to unite communities around the world in raising awareness about elder abuse. WEAAD serves as a call-to-action for our communities to raise awareness about abuse, neglect, and exploitation of elders, and reaffirm our country's commitment to the principle of justice for all.

Aging Director O'Connor, Family Caregiver Support Specialist Brown, and Executive Director Bordeaux presented to the elected officials an information session on ECC Aging services that are currently offered in their country. Each presentation was tailored to the county's demographics, services provided, and allocation amounts. All county clerks were provided a PowerPoint copy of the presentation. Some clerks opted to not show the PowerPoint.

Planning Update

Eastern Carolina Council of Governments partners with Atlantic Beach on Watershed Restoration and Stormwater Resiliency Plan

The Atlantic Beach Watershed Restoration and Stormwater Resiliency Plan project team consisted of the ECC (Finance Director, Deputy Finance Director, and Executive Director), the Town of Atlantic Beach, LDSI Engineering Firm, and North Carolina Coastal Federation.

Atlantic Beach's water resources have tremendous inherent value for recreation, tourism, and fishing. Significant recreational and habitat areas surround the watersheds including piers, sounds, islands, and the Atlantic Ocean. Improvements in water quality can be achieved by using stormwater management techniques that reduce the volume of stormwater runoff caused by new developments

The Town of Atlantic Beach project is to proactively develop a watershed restoration and stormwater resilience plan to actively reduce stormwater runoff within two of its three 12-digit HUCs (Drum Shoals & Beaufort Inlet). The goal of the plan is to reduce stormwater runoff caused by a 2-year 24-hour storm to the amount that occurred during the baseline condition of the 1980's. Thorough analysis has determined that since the 1980's, the volume of runoff caused by a 2-year 24-hour storm has increased by 28.6 acre-feet reducing the stormwater runoff by 28.6 acre-feet is equivalent to a reduction of approximately 0.19 gallons per square foot across the entire land-area of Atlantic Beach. The project examined the past and present hydrologic conditions influencing the stormwater runoff impacts and recommends methods and



strategies for reducing. Stormwater runoff can have a negative impact on water quality and excessive stormwater runoff can cause hazardous flooding conditions. Based on aerial imagery and the analysis conducted within this report, a large increase in impervious surfaces resulting from development has caused a large increase in stormwater runoff. This plan lays out cost effective methods for reducing and attenuating stormwater runoff, reducing residential flooding, improving water quality of runoff, helping to restore the usefulness of the water resources, and increasing stormwater resilience of the Town of Atlantic Beach.

The final plan approved by the Town Council in March includes 25 proposed stormwater project site locations, proposed stormwater treatment methods, and suggested local ordinance language to implement within the Town of Atlantic Beach. The plan focuses on the importance of disconnecting impervious surfaces that currently tie directly into the existing drainage infrastructure. Doing so will allow a portion of the stormwater to infiltrate into the Town's fast-draining sandy soils to mitigate flooding while subsequently enhancing the water quality of the infiltrated stormwater. The Atlantic Beach Watershed Restoration & Stormwater Resilience Plan focuses on the application of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Nine Minimum Elements, the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Section 319 office guidelines, and the practiced coastal watershed restoration methodology developed by the plan's partners.

This Watershed Restoration & Stormwater Resilience Plan provides a comprehensive framework to address water quality impairments within two of the three Atlantic Beach watersheds. The watersheds have experienced increased volumes of stormwater runoff because of changes in land coverage and land use. Stormwater runoff can transport harmful bacteria and other contaminants into surrounding water bodies and impair the water quality and usefulness of these resources. Additionally, the watersheds have experienced nuisance flooding in residential areas because of stormwater runoff. By reducing, storing, and re-routing stormwater runoff, water quality can be enhanced in the surrounding water bodies while reducing nuisance flooding.

Stormwater runoff is one of the primary contributing factors to the degradation of water quality within the Atlantic Beach watersheds and surrounding water bodies. Increased development and impervious surface coverage across Atlantic Beach since the 1980's have altered the natural landscape, redirected surface flow, and minimized infiltration of stormwater runoff into the ground. The alterations to surface coverage have impacted the overall hydrology of the watershed by reducing the total area of naturally covered land that is able to infiltrate stormwater. Consequently, stormwater that cannot infiltrate into the ground becomes runoff that travels across the surface and becomes contaminated with bacteria, nutrients, sediment, and other pollutants that are present within the watershed. This increase in stormwater runoff puts a strain on existing drainage infrastructure that may not have been initially designed to accommodate the current level of impervious surface.

This plan seeks to address:

1. Restoring and maintaining the water quality of the two HUCs within Atlantic Beach
2. Reducing instances of localized flooding to improve safety and protect property
3. Improving the resilience of the Town's infrastructure by reducing the demand on stormwater infrastructure through nature-based stormwater retrofits



4. Prioritizing cost-effective Low Impact Development and stormwater retrofit techniques to address stormwater management

5. Analyzing the effects of sea level rise on existing stormwater infrastructure

See final draft plan and presentations in final report attachments. The media covered development of the plan. It was also featured on Coastal Federation social media, CRO and on the Town of Atlantic Beach and LDSI web sites.

<http://atlanticbeach-nc.com/stormwater-resiliency-plan/>

<https://www.newsbreak.com/north-carolina/atlantic-beach/government/2159103930584/atlantic-beach-planners-forward-watershed-plan-for-council-for-approval>

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