



General Membership Meeting
6:30 p.m. - Thursday, March 9, 2023
Third Floor Conference Room
233 Middle Street, New Bern, NC

Zoom: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82845938805?pwd=UGlWR2FnMExDMllrcjITSGVvUkM0QT09>

Minutes

Executive Committee Members in Attendance:

Roland Best, Lenoir County Commissioner
Arthur Robinson, 2nd Vice President
Jay Bender, President
Ed Riggs, 1st Vice President
Steve Wiggins, Town of Mount Olive Commissioner
Jesse Down, Duplin County Commissioner
Bennie Heath, Greene County Commissioner
Kyle DeHaven, County Managers caucus
Karen Lewis, City of Havelock Commissioner
Bill Taylor, Town of Morehead City Commissioner
Bob Cavaughn, Carteret County Commissioner (via Zoom)

General Membership Members in Attendance:

Patty Leonard, Town of River Bend Appointee
Cage King, Town of Wallace Commissioner
Donnie Watson
Barbara Jones, Town of Cove City Commissioner
Allen Price, Town of Oriental Commissioner (via Zoom)
Evenlyn Paul, Town of Grantsboro Commissioner (via Zoom)

Guest in Attendance:

Knox Proctor, Attorney, Ward & Smith
Tammy Childers, Executive Director, ECWDB
Rhonda Murray, Director, Community Plans & Liaison Office, MCAS Cherry Point (via Zoom)

ECC Staff in Attendance:

David Bone, Executive Director
Melinda McGuire, Finance Director
Heather O'Connor, AAA Director
January Brown, Deputy AAA Director
Leighann Morgan, Deputy Finance Director
Holly Craighead, Community Planner

1. Welcome, Invocation, and Call to Order

President Bender called the meeting to order at 6:39 p.m. Second Vice President Robinson gave the invocation. Introductions around the room were made. Executive Director Bone introduced Holly Craighead as the new Community Planner.

2. Adopt Agenda – James Bender, President

Mrs. Leonard motioned to adopt the agenda, seconded by Commissioner Heather, and motion was approved unanimously.

3. Consent Agenda – James Bender, President

- a. **Minutes – General Membership January 12, 2023**
- b. **Contribution Based Benefit Cap Report**
- c. **C.E.D.S. Update**
- d. **Community Planning/Technical Assistance Update**
- e. **Area Agency on Aging Update**
- f. **Transportation Update**

Second Vice President Robinson motioned to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Mrs. Leonard, and motion was approved unanimously.

4. Budget & Audit Committee Report – Ed Riggs, Jr., 1st Vice President

- a. **Check Register**
- b. **Financial Statements**
- c. **Committee Information & Recommendations**

First Vice President Riggs stated the Budget & Audit Committee met earlier to discuss the check register, and financials and the auditors are scheduled to start late April.

5. Update on the Eastern Carolina Workforce Development Board – Tammy Childers, Executive Director, ECWDB

Ms. Childers talked about the Eastern Carolina Workforce Development Board being the designated administrative/fiscal agent for the Federal and State workforce development funds appropriated by the North Carolina Department of Commerce to operate employment and training services in a nine county local area. Members of the board are appointed by the Elected Officials of their respective counties in accordance with criteria established by the Governor. The ECWDB administers workforce development programs funded through the Federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. Their role is to ensure that the local workforce development system is market-driven and responsive to meeting the employment and training needs of both job seekers and employers. The ECWDB collaborates with local businesses, government, and education partners to develop effective programs and services that improve the workforce. They are creating a talent pipeline that will result in satisfied employers offering long-term employment and increased wage earnings.

6. ECC AAA Investment in Assistive Technology for Older Adults and Caregivers – January Brown, Deputy AAA Director

Mrs. Brown presented on utilizing technology with older adults. The AAA has been working with the Joy For All Companion Pets and giving them to senior centers for their older adults with dementia. The AAA has been assembling and distributing assistive technology kits to providers to educate their older adults on devices that can assist them in their home to live independently. The AAA purchased Obie Interactive systems for each senior center, these systems allow older adults to engage in social and cognitive interactive activities. Since COVID, Senior Centers are in the need to reach older adults at home. The Owl Video systems helps facilitate virtual meetings and classes to engage with the homebound person.

7. Discussion of Reaffirmation/Election of Municipal Caucus Representatives on the ECC Executive Committee – Jay Bender, President

The General Membership Board reaffirmed to keep the general tradition of picking caucus' on an even year after the municipal elections.

8. Executive Director's Report – David Bone, Executive Director

Executive Director Bone highlighted some items from the consent agenda. The grocery reimbursement program has worked with over 1,300 applicants reimbursing over \$350,000 to seniors through February 2023. The new ombudsman will be on Monday. AAA staff would like to have Dementia Live training for board members that have not gone through the experience. The audit will start in April for the fiscal year 21/22. Finance is currently working on next years budget and budget discussions will begin next month. Holly Craighead is teaching a grant writing class on March 20-21 and have 31 of the 35 seats filled. Holly and Carlton have sent out surveys to communities to make sure they are compliant with ARP criteria and if technical assistance is needed. The Disaster Recover program, working with Upper Coastal Plains COG to acquire the services of a consultant to assist with strategic planning for disaster recovery, resiliency, and assisting communities with grant writing for water, wastewater, and stormwater infrastructure. ECC has begun working with the consultant and other staff members from other COGS to develop a statewide curriculum for disaster recovery training to be provided to local governments. ECC is required to provide this training to every local government in the region.

ECC has applied for a Duke Energy Resilience Accelerator program. ECC is proposing a regional resiliency funding program that would assist governments with providing local matches for resiliency projects.



9. Member Comments – no comments

10. Adjournment

The meeting was unanimously adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Jay Bender, President

David Bone, Executive Director