



Minutes
General Membership Board Meeting
6:30 p.m. - Thursday, March 13, 2025
Third Floor Conference Room
233 Middle Street, New Bern, NC

Executive Committee in Attendance:

Jay Bender, Caucus Rep., Jones County (Mayor of Pollocksville)
Kyle DeHaven, County Manager Caucus Rep., via Zoom (Greene County)
Jessee Dowe, Duplin County Commissioner
Cindy Edwards, City of Jacksonville
Frank Emory, 1st Vice President (Jones County Commissioner)
Tim Harrell, Wayne County Commissioner, via Zoom
Bennie Heath, Greene County Commissioner
Chadwick Howard, Craven County Commissioner, via Zoom
Ed Riggs Jr, President (Pamlico County Commissioner)
Cynthia Evans-Robinson, City of Havelock
Bill Taylor, Treasurer (Caucus Rep., Carteret County)
Shane Turney, Caucus Rep., Craven County (Town of Trent Woods)

General Membership Board in Attendance:

John O'Daniel, Town of Atlantic Beach, via Zoom
Ryan Kelley, Town of Indian Beach
Kathy Driver, Town of Pine Knoll Shores
Patty Leonard, Town of River Bend
Linda Marshall, Town of Alliance
Carol DeMoranville, Town of Minnesott Beach
Allen Price, Town of Oriental, via Zoom
Sandra Snipes, Town of Vandemere
Wayne Jackson, Town of Fremont
Danny Keel, Town of Mount Olive

ECC Staff in Attendance:

David Bone, Executive Director
Carol Bell, Finance Director
Kim Baker, Finance Specialist
David Rosado, AAA Director

Guests in Attendance:

Knox Proctor, Attorney, Ward & Smith
Walter LaRoque, RAAC and STHL Chair

1. **Welcome, Invocation, and Call to Order** – Ed Riggs, Jr., President, called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m. Commissioner Heath provided the invocation. President Riggs welcomed everyone and asked everyone to go around the room to introduce themselves.
2. **Adoption of Agenda** – President Riggs asked for a motion to adopt the agenda. *Council Member Cindy Edwards motioned to adopt the agenda, seconded by 1st Vice President Frank Emory; the motion was approved unanimously.*
3. **Consent Agenda** – *Ed Riggs, Jr., President*
 - a. **Minutes** – General Membership Board Meeting – January 9, 2025
 - b. **Economic Development Update** – funded through E.D.A. Partnership Planning and Southeast Crescent Regional Commission
 - c. **Area Agency on Aging Update**
 - d. **Community Planning/Technical Assistance Update**
 - e. **Transportation Update**

President Ed Riggs then asked if there were any questions about the consent agenda or any items for discussion. *Patty Leonard motioned to approve the Consent Agenda as presented, seconded by Council Member Cindy Edwards, the motion was approved unanimously.*

4. **Presentation – Regional Aging Advisory Committee (RAAC) and Senior Tar Heel Legislature (STHL) Update** – Walter La Roque, Chairman of ECC's RAAC and STHL, with the assistance of David Rosado, AAA Director, provided updates on the two committees. Mr. La Roque went over the 2025-26 Legislative Agenda Priorities. STHL members establish 5 priorities that are presented to the North Carolina General Assembly (NCGA).
 - Adult Protective Services (APS) funding
 - Senior Centers funding
 - Home & Community Care Block Grant funding
 - Older Adult Housing
 - New Community Based Services ProgramThe supplemental priorities are
 - Long Term Care Ombudsman Program
 - Healthcare Workforce Crisis
 - Nursing Home Staffing Standards

5. **Health Insurance for ECC Employees** – Executive Director David Bone spoke about the search for health insurance for ECC Employees. He stated that the NC League of Municipalities announced February 24, 2025, that its Health Benefits Trust will close June 30, 2025. He went over the steps ECC is working on to find replacement insurance within the cost guidance recommended by the Budget and Audit Committee. Mr. Bone noted that several options are under consideration, and they are waiting on quotes from The Hill Group and Mark III.

6. **Budget & Audit Committee Report**
 - a. **Check Register**

b. Financial Statements

c. Committee Information & Recommendations

Treasurer Bill Taylor spoke about a routine meeting of the Budget & Audit Committee. The most important element of the meeting was updates. He noted the 22/23 audit is 90% complete. We should see an update in April. He stated the committee anticipates the last audit will be completed by July 2025 and ECC will be current. Mr. Taylor spoke about a new report presented by finance to the Budget & Audit committee. The report is a reading of the monthly cash balance. Mr. Taylor spoke about the O'Mark's building lease renewal. The lease renewal date is May 31st. He stated they have begun the negotiation process. Mr. Taylor spoke briefly about the insurance renewal search. He noted that David Bone and finance have been given guidelines for the renewal and the rate should be within a percentage of what we normally pay. Mr. Taylor asked if there were any questions. Council Member Cindy Edwards inquired about the red line figures on the financial report for indirect cost. Finance Director Carol Bell explained that it was due to the timing of the reimbursements.

7. Executive Director's Report – The following are some highlights of Executive Director David Bone's report:

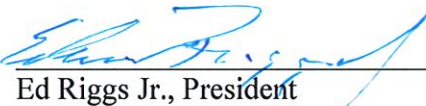
- **FY2023 Audit**-Work on the FY2023 Audit is proceeding well. We hope to have the audit presentation on April.
- **Town Manager Recruitment** – I am assisting Mount Olive with their Town Manager search. The first review of applications began on March 11th.
- **Legislative Breakfast held February 24th** – ECC hosted its Regional Legislative Breakfast at the La Grange Community Center. Thank you to the approximate 115 in attendance! Thank you to the Legislators who were able to attend, Sen. Michael Lazzara, Sen. Bob Brinson, Rep. Jimmy Dixon, and Rep. Chris Humphrey. Thank you to our entire Legislative Delegation for your support. Thank you to our members. Thank you to our event sponsors, Duke Energy, Mark III, Jones-Onslow EMC, WithersRavenel, and the Town of La Grange.
- **National Senior Nutrition Month** – March 2025 – March is the National Senior Nutrition Month. Nutrition programs will highlight healthy eating and promote the importance of senior nutrition.
- **Monitoring the Changing Federal Landscape** - There is a lot of speculation about the potential impacts on federal funding due to the actions of the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE). Along with colleagues in other COGs, we continue to monitor the changing landscape.



Executive Director David Bone also referenced some future events:

- **NCARCOG Legislative Day on April 2, 2025** – The NC Association of Regional Councils of Government (NCARCOG) has scheduled its Legislative Day for April 2, 2025. This is when COG Directors, staff and Board members travel to the Legislature to advocate for COGs. I have scheduled some preliminary appointments. There are two positions per COG.

- **Recovery Alliance Initiative 2025 Mid-Year Symposium** – RAI is hosting its “Healthy Recovery Communities” symposium on March 13-14 at the Riverfront Convention Center in New Bern. ECC is partnering with RAI on the Regional Opioid Mapping Project. The Symposium was designed for people from all sectors to come together and discuss recovery solutions that can benefit this region.
8. President Riggs skipped to number 9 to ask if there were any member comments. Hearing none, he went on to speak about the closed session.
Commissioner Heath motioned to go to closed session, seconded by Council Member Cindy Edwards; the motion was approved unanimously.
Closed session for G.S. 143-318.11(a)(3) for attorney-client privilege and G.S. 143-318.11(a)(6) for a personnel matter was called to order.
9. **Member Comments** – none.
10. **Adjournment** – The open session resumed about 8:33 p.m. There being no further business, *a motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Heath, seconded by Mayor Bender; the motion was unanimous.*

Respectfully Submitted,


Ed Riggs Jr., President


David Bone, Executive Director

David Rosado, Interim Executive Director