



Eastern Carolina Council

Minutes

General Membership Board Meeting

6:30 p.m. - Thursday, October 9, 2025

Third Floor Conference Room

233 Middle Street, New Bern, NC

Executive Committee in Attendance:

Mark Brewington, County Manager Caucus Rep. (Pamlico County)

Carol DeMoranville, Caucus Rep., Pamlico County (Town of Minnesott Beach)

Jesse Dowe, Duplin County Commissioner

Frank Emory, 1st Vice President (Jones County Commissioner)

Cynthia Evans-Robinson, City of Havelock

Tim Harrell, Wayne County Commissioner, *via Zoom*

Bennie Heath, Greene County Commissioner

Rick Prill, City of New Bern

Ed Riggs Jr, President (Pamlico County Commissioner)

Bill Taylor, Caucus Rep., Carteret County (Town of Morehead City)

General Membership Board in Attendance:

Courtney Barnhill, Town of Cape Carteret

Kathy Driver, Town of Pine Knoll Shores

Barbara Jones, Town of Cove City

Patty Leonard, Town of River Bend

Linda Marshall, Town of Alliance

ECC Staff in Attendance:

David Rosado, Interim Executive Director

Carol Bell, Finance Director

Kim Baker, Deputy Finance Director

January Brown, Interim AAA Director

Mickey Anderson, Senior Transportation Planner

Susan Wolf, Administrative Assistant

Guests in Attendance:

Todd McNeill, NC Association of Regional Councils of Government

5. FY 2024-25 Annual Report – David Rosado, Interim Executive Director

Interim Executive Director Rosado presented the FY 2024-25 Annual Report to the Board. He briefly went over each section of the report pointing out some highlights of events and services ECC offers through the Area Agency on Aging, Local Government Services (Planning-ECRPO & DERPO), and Economic Development departments. The FY2024-25 Annual Report is available the ECC website www.eccog.org. under Administration.

6. North Carolina Association of Regional Councils of Governments (NCARCOG) - Todd McNeill Executive Director

Recently appointed Executive Director of the NC Association of Regional Councils of Government, Mr. Todd McNeill introduced himself to the Board stating he was present to listen to the needs and concerns of the local communities/council of government. Having served as a Member of the High-Country Council of Governments' Board of Directors, an Ashe County Commissioner, and Member of the Board of Directors of the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners, Mr. McNeill brings a wealth of knowledge to assist local governments with innovative solutions, collaborations, and partnerships throughout the region. Mr. McNeill can be contacted at 336-501-2980 or executivedirector@ncarcog.org.

7. Regional Planning Organization (RPO) Presentation – Mickey Anderson, Senior Transportation Planner

Senior Transportation Planner Mickey Anderson updated the ECC Board on the role of the Rural Transportation Planning Organizations (RPOs), stating that ECC hosts two RPOs - Eastern Carolina Rural Planning Organization (ECRPO) & Down East Rural Planning Organization (DERPO). He explained that by North Carolina State Law and with cooperation from the NCDOT, a 30-year Comprehensive Transportation Plan is developed and updated every 10 years. Next, Mr. Anderson went over the State's Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP) and the process of prioritizing regional and local transportation projects. He reviewed the scoring steps for each project and discussed the current NCDOT funding issues as they relate to implementation of transportation projects. More information on RPOs can be found on ECC's website www.eccog.org or contact Mickey Anderson at 252-638-3185 ext. 3019.

8. Executive Director's Report – *David Rosado, Interim Executive Director*

The following are some highlights of Interim Executive Director David Rosado's Report:

- On September 29, 2025, in New Bern, ECC IED Rosado attended a regional cross-sector collaboration with Recovery Alliance Initiative (RAI) and other organizations involved with recovery programs in Eastern NC to develop strategies to combat substance abuse disorders (SUDS). Lead by Rulo Strategies, this meeting developed partnerships and collectively worked to address gaps and strengths in systems of care. Future meetings focusing on shared regional priorities such as transportation, aligning efforts, and exploring how to structure and sustain this work will be held on October 23rd in New Bern and December 4th in Kinston.
- On September 24, 2025, from 10:00 AM to 11:45 AM at the Coastal Carolina Community College, Jacksonville, NC, the North Carolina Department of Commerce along with the University of North Carolina School of Government's nclMPACT Initiative held a listening session to assist in the development of the state's 2026 Comprehensive Strategic Economic Development Plan (CEDS). This session, in addition to the previous seven in-person listening sessions and one virtual listening session, gathered public input on regional strengths, challenges and opportunities related to economic development. Information gained from these listening sessions will be analyzed and used to develop the state's 2026 Comprehensive Strategic Economic Development Plan (CEDS).
- On September 25, 2025, ECC hosted the International Economic Development Council (IEDC), where the communities of Cove City, Fremont, Magnolia, Maysville, New Bern, and Surf City that had participated in a 5-step project, held a workshop to discuss findings and recommendations. Dana Crater, Director of Advisory Services for IEDC; Lara Frita, Director for the Division of Economic Opportunities for Frederick County, Maryland; and Magaly Rivera, Business Solutions Officer for the Carolina Small Business Development Fund, discussed the SOARs Scoring, shared their experiences, and offered other valuable knowledge and resources to improve the participating community's town center development plans.
- ECC will be entering into a partnership with NC Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). DEQ is currently developing a North Carolina Flood Resiliency Blueprint tool (the "Blueprint") accessible by each of the State's 17 river basins creating one unified effort that increases community flood resilience. ECC will be participating in Phase III of this project with details forthcoming.

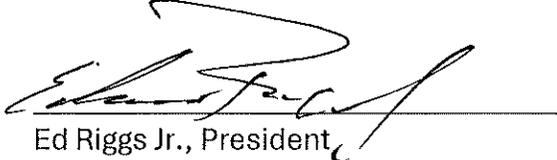
9. **Member Comments** – President Riggs asked Interim Executive Director David Rosado to address the current status of the Government Shut Down. IED Rosado stated he, with other COG Executive Directors, has been in contact with the State about how to conduct daily operations, apply funding and proceed going forward. The State has verbally advised the COGs that State Funding will be available starting October 1st through December 31st, 2025, and are waiting on an official letter from the State confirming this. IED Rosado promised to keep everyone informed of any updates.

President Riggs thanked Interim Executive Director Rosado for the report and the good job he is doing under difficult circumstances. He thanked the ECC Staff for their hard work; the Board appreciates everyone’s efforts.

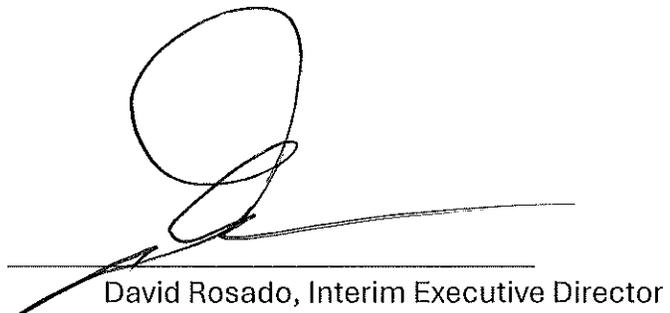
Cynthia Edwards-Robinson, City of Havelock, thanked Interim Executive Director Rosado as well, stating that he should continue to “go one day at a time-on the correct path.”

10. **Adjournment** – *President Riggs asked if there was any further business, A Motion to Adjourn was Duly Made and Seconded: Passing unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:48 p.m.*

Respectfully Submitted,



Ed Riggs Jr., President



David Rosado, Interim Executive Director