



Eastern Carolina Council

Minutes

Executive Committee Board Meeting

6:30 p.m. - Thursday, November 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)
Mark Brewington, County Manager Caucus Rep. (Pamlico County)
Carol DeMoranville, Caucus Rep., Pamlico County (Town of Minnesott Beach)
Jesse Dowe, Duplin County Commissioner
Cindy Edwards, Treasurer (City of Jacksonville)
Frank Emory, 1st Vice President (Jones County Commissioner)
Cynthia Evans-Robinson, City of Havelock
Bennie Heath, Greene County Commissioner
Ed Riggs Jr., President (Pamlico County Commissioner)
Bill Taylor, Caucus Rep., Carteret County (Town of Morehead City)
Shane Turney, Caucus Rep., Craven County (Town of Trent Woods)
Billy Ward, Caucus Rep., Duplin County
Lorraine Washington, 2nd Vice President (Caucus Rep., Greene County)

General Membership Board in Attendance:

Linda Marshall, Town of Alliance

ECC Staff in Attendance:

David Rosado, Interim Executive Director
Jenny Miller, Consultant
Kim Baker, Deputy Finance Director
January Brown, Interim AAA Director
Mickey Anderson, Senior Transportation Planner
Susan Wolf, Administrative Assistant

Guests in Attendance:

N/A

1. **Welcome, Invocation, and Call to Order** –Ed Riggs, Jr., President, called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m. President Riggs welcomed everyone. Commissioner Bennie Heath provided a blessed & thankful invocation.

2. **Adoption of Agenda** – President Riggs opened with a request for questions or comments on this evening’s agenda. No questions or comments were made; therefore, President Riggs requested a motion to adopt the agenda as presented.

A motion to adopt the agenda as presented was made by Jones County Caucus Representative, Mayor Jay Bender, and seconded by Jones County Commissioner, 1st Vice President Frank Emory; the motion passed unanimously.

3. **Consent Agenda** – *Ed Riggs, Jr., President*
 - a. **Minutes** – Executive Committee Board Meeting – September 11, 2025
 - b. **Area Agency on Aging Update**
 - c. **Economic Development** – CEDS Update, SCRC Update
 - d. **Local Government Services Update**

President Ed Riggs asked if there were any questions about the consent agenda or any items for discussion.

A motion to approve the Consent Agenda was made by Bennie Heath, Greene County Commissioner, and seconded by 2nd Vice President Lorraine Washington; the motion was approved unanimously.

4. **Budget & Audit Committee Report** – *Cindy Edwards, Treasurer*
 - a. **Check Register**
 - b. **Financial Statements**
 - c. **Committee Information & Recommendations**

Treasurer Cindy Edwards presented the Budget & Audit Committee Report to the Board and reviewed the Check Register for the month of October 2025, and the Financial Statement through September 30, 2025. She requested questions or comments concerning the Check Register and Financial Statement; none were offered. Treasurer Edwards provided information on Budget Amendment #2, Item 5 on the Agenda, stating that this amendment is for Aging Funds received and recommended to the Board that Budget Amendment #2 be approved.

5. ECC Budget Amendment #2 – Ed Riggs Jr., President

President Riggs opened the floor for questions or comments on Budget Amendment #2 presented by Treasurer Edwards. No questions or comments were given; therefore, he requested a motion to approve Budget Amendment #2.

A motion to approve Budget Amendment #2 was made by 1st Vice President Frank Emory, and seconded by Jesse Dowe, Duplin County Commissioner; the motion passed unanimously.

6. Board Meeting Schedule for 2026 - Ed Riggs, Jr., President

President Riggs stated there will not be a December meeting and presented the 2026 Meeting Schedule (Meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month). He requested a motion to approve the 2026 Meeting Schedule.

A motion to approve the 2026 Meeting Schedule as presented was made by 2nd Vice President Lorraine Washington, and seconded by Bennie Heath, Greene County Commissioner; the motion was approved unanimously.

7. Annual Update for 2023-2027 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Plan and Resolution – David Rosado, Interim Executive Director

Interim Executive Director David Rosado presented the 2025 Annual Update for 2023-2027 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Plan to the board and explained that ECC is the Economic Development District (EDD) for the nine-county Eastern Carolina region of North Carolina, as designated by the U.S. Department of Commerce/Economic Development administration (EDA). He stated that a survey was conducted in October 2025 to obtain feedback about Economic Development concerns and priorities from local communities. IED Rosado reviewed the Priorities of the 2023-2027 CEDS Plan and stated the 2025 CEDS Annual Update contains the following:

- Highlights of Economic Development Activities
- Highlights of Key Changes to the Regional Economy
- Evaluation of Action Plan & Goals/Adjustments of Priorities & Strategies
- Next Year's Goals

The 2025 Annual Update/Resolution & 2023-2027 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Plan can be found on ECC's website: www.eccog.org.

Pamlico County Caucus Representative Carol DeMoranville expressed concerns about being able to achieve the Priorities set forth in the CEDS Plan. IED Rosado stated that the Goals and Priorities are obtainable and presented the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy 2025 Annual Update Resolution to the Board.

A motion to approve the Resolution was made by Mayor Jay Bender, and seconded by Bill Taylor, Carteret County Caucus Representative; the motion passed unanimously.

8. Family Caregiver Support Program Presentation – January Brown, Interim AAA Director

Interim AAA Director January Brown opened by announcing that November is National Caregivers month with a theme of “Plug-In to Care, our connection to better caregiving” focusing on connecting caregivers to tools, support, and resources in their communities. She also added that November is Alzheimer's Awareness month. Interim AAA Director Brown reviewed the programs available with ECC AAA and the relationships with providers and caregivers, noting that the “Client” is the caregiver. She stated ECC staff continues to provide ombudsman services, educational programs, and connections with senior centers to provide needed supplies for events and educational materials. Many resources are available and can be found on ECC’s website: www.eccog.org AAA Resources Page.

9. Executive Director’s Report – David Rosado, Interim Executive Director

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

- ECC is planning to host Ethics Training for Elected Officials with Attorney David Baxter of Sumrell Sugg to provide the required ethics training for newly elected and re-elected local government officials. The event is being planned for February of 2026 – details forthcoming.
- The North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (NC DEQ) has invited ECC to participate in the NC Flood Resiliency Blueprint Program to support the development of River Basin Action Strategies for the White Oak and Cape Fear River Basins. NC DEQ is partnering with Councils of Government (COGs) and providing funding to support local governments’ participation in the Blueprint process. Within the White Oak River Basin, three communities have been preliminarily identified as meeting the program criteria: Town of Beaufort, Jones County, and Onslow County.

ECC has submitted a budget proposal to initiate training and outreach activities for these communities as the first step in the Blueprint engagement process. The NC DEQ would like to complete this project by the spring of 2026 to be able to be included in the legislative session for funding.

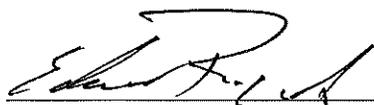
- House Bill 694, April 3, 2025, directs the Environmental Finance Center (EFC) at the School of Government (SOG) at UNC-Chapel Hill to study and obtain feedback on water and wastewater regionalization and identify areas of the state where the cost of water or wastewater services could be lowered and quality of services improved. The EFC shall report its findings and recommendations to the chairs of the House Oversight Committee, the chairs of the Senate Committee on Regulatory Reform, and the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations by April 1, 2026. The North Carolina Association of Regional Councils of Government (NCARCOG) was interviewed by the SOG on October 31, 2025.
- The New Bern Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is seeking to expand its planning area to include Cove City, Dover, Vanceboro, and Havelock within Craven County that are currently participating in the Eastern Carolina Council's Down East Rural Planning Organization (ECC DERPO). ECC will meet with each community to discuss the potential implication of how it may affect the level and scope of services they currently receive through the DERPO.

10. Member Comments – President Riggs asked for any questions or concerns.

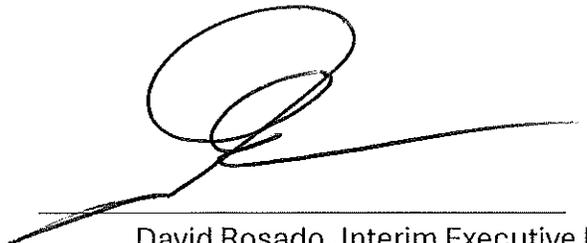
Greene County Commissioner Bennie Heath stated the re-opening of the Federal Government through January 2026 and requested update on ECC audit status. President Riggs stated that the auditors visited and are proceeding, promising to keep everyone informed of any updates. Treasurer Edwards added that a brief survey email has been sent to board members by Thompson, Price, Scott, Adams & Company P.A. as part of the audit process.

11. Adjournment – *With no further business, a Motion to Adjourn was made by Commissioner Bennie Heath, and Seconded by 1st Vice President Frank Emory; passing unanimously, the meeting was adjourned by President Riggs at 7:41 p.m.*

Respectfully Submitted,



Ed Riggs Jr., President



David Rosado, Interim Executive Director