



Eastern Carolina Council

Minutes

Executive Committee Board Meeting

6:30 p.m. - Thursday, February 12, 2026

Third Floor Conference Room

233 Middle Street, New Bern, NC

Executive Committee in Attendance:

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

General Membership Board in Attendance:

Paul Jordan II, Town of Oriental

ECC Staff in Attendance:

David Rosado, Interim Executive Director
Carol Bell, Finance Director
Jenny Miller, Consultant
Kim Baker, Deputy Finance Director
January Brown, Interim AAA Director
Angelia Pridgen, Lead Regional Ombudsman
Lauren Latshaw, Regional Ombudsman
Susan Wolf, Administrative Assistant

Guests in Attendance:

Knox Proctor, ex-officio

- 1. Welcome, Invocation, and Call to Order** – Ed Riggs, Jr., President, called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m. President Riggs welcomed everyone. Commissioner Bennie Heath gave the invocation proclaiming how grateful and blessed we are to have made it through the snowstorm, that there are still many in need and to keep them in our thoughts and prayers as we honorably serve Eastern Carolina Council of Government and our communities.

2. **Adoption of Agenda** – President Riggs opened with a correction to the Agenda, that item #6 Local Government Services will not be presented this evening and then asked for question or comments on this evening’s agenda. No questions or comments were made; therefore, President Riggs requested a motion to adopt the agenda as corrected.

A motion to adopt the agenda as corrected was made by Greene County Commissioner, Bennie Heath, and seconded by 1st Vice President Frank Emory; the motion passed unanimously.

3. **Consent Agenda** – *Ed Riggs, Jr., President*
 - a. **Minutes** – Executive Committee Board Meeting – November 13, 2025
 - b. **Area Agency on Aging Update**
 - c. **Economic Development – CEDS 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 1st Vice President Frank Emory, and seconded by Jesse Dowe, Duplin County Commissioner; 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 January 2026, and the Financial Statement through December 31, 2025. She requested questions or comments concerning the Check Register and Financial Statement; none were offered. Treasurer Edwards stated that the Budget & Audit Committee met this evening to review and discuss the FY 2023-2024 Audit Response Letter and the results will be addressed next, Item #5 on Agenda.

5. FY 2023-2024 Audit Response Letter – David Rosado, Interim Executive Director

Interim Executive Director Rosado stated that a letter of Response to Audit for FY 2023-2024 has been drafted, addressing all findings and areas of concern regarding the audit and corrective action taken, if necessary, to be in compliance with all Federal, State, and local guidelines. He also stated that the corrective actions taken, along with the hiring of financial director Carol Bell, will solve future audit issues which FY 2024-2025 have been contracted for; therefore, restoring the financial structure and stability of ECC. IED Rosado then explained the process for sending the letter to NC Local Government Commission/NC Department of State Treasurer, answered Board Members questions, and then asked for a motion to approve the letter of Response to Audit for FY 2023-2024.

A motion to approve FY 2023-2024 Audit Response Letter was made by Greene County Commissioner Bennie Heath, and seconded by Duplin County Commissioner Jesse Dowe; the motion was approved unanimously.

6. Local Government Services - Larry Faison, ECC Local Government Service Consultant

Removed from Agenda.

7. Area Agency on Aging Ombudsman Presentation – Angelia Pridgen, Lead Regional Ombudsman and Lauren Latshaw, Regional Ombudsman

Lauren Latshaw opened the presentation by providing a brief background into the establishment of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman program in 1972 through the Older Americans Act of 1965 with its mission to protect residents' rights and improve the quality of care and life for residents in long-term care facilities by providing access and advocacy services that assist residents in protecting the health, safety, welfare, and rights. Lauren explained that Ombudsman's clients are the residents and the facility is considered their homes. Ombudsman must act with confidentiality and protection of identity, obtain consent of resident to be involved and take resident-directed actions noting that the Ombudsman program is not a regulatory agency. Next, Angelia reviewed the residents' rights and the five most common complaints. She then explained Community Advisory Committees (CAC) and the roles, responsibilities, requirements, and importance of all the volunteers. They concluded by saying that June is Elder Abuse Awareness Month and answered Board Members' questions. It was at this time that Commissioner Bennie Heath gave a genuine heart-felt "Thank You" to Angelia and Lauren for everything they do for the residents in our 9-county region through the Ombudsman Program.

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

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

- ECC will host Ethics Training for Elected Officials with Attorney Trey Ferguson of Sumrell Sugg to provide the required ethics training for newly elected and re-elected local government officials. The training will be held from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., Thursday, March 19, 2026.
- ECC will provide an orientation for new members to familiarize them with the organization's mission, operations, and Board responsibilities. The orientation is from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Monday, March 2, 2026; current members welcomed.
- RAI Presentation will be presented at the April 9th, 2026 Executive Committee Board meeting. RAI will share the finished assessment, including a regional asset map, capacity analysis, geospatial access review, and planning insights for our nine-county region. For your county's result, please visit ECC website [www.eccog.org/local government services/regional opioid project](http://www.eccog.org/local-government-services/regional-opioid-project).

Also, RAI will be having a meeting at the ECC office (233 Middle St, New Bern) on Tuesday, March 17, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. All are welcome to attend.

- Regional Opioid Task Force -
ECC, RAI and partners met in Jacksonville at the Onslow County Health Department on January 29, 2026 where Patrick Flanagan, Transportation Services Director for Carteret County Area Transit (CCATS), and Danny Ferucci, Executive Director of Onslow United Transit System (OUTS) shared an overview of state-level transportation coordination, funding pathways, and how Integrated Mobile Division (IMD) and North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) programs can support regional transportation efforts.

As a result of the meeting in Onslow County, ECC has an opportunity to assist the region by providing Regional Mobility Management Services funded through NCDOT to identify service gaps and coordinate human service transportation, reducing duplication and improving convenience. The established regional transportation subcommittee will meet for the first time on February 17, 2026, at 10:30 a.m. to continue discussions and plans to connect transit systems regionally.

The next RAI Task Force meeting will be held at 10:00 a.m., Thursday, February 26, 2026, at the Harrison Center in New Bern.

9. Closed Session – Attorney-Client Privilege & Personnel

- a. NC General Statute § 143-318.11 (a)(3)**
- b. Attorney-Client Privilege and § 143-318.11 (a)(6)**
- c. Personnel. G.S. 143-318.11(1) – Confidential Information**

President Riggs stated that a Closed Session was needed this evening and asked for a motion.

A motion to go into Closed Session was made by Bennie Heath, Greene County Commissioner, and seconded by Duplin County Commissioner Jesse Dowe; motion passed unanimously.

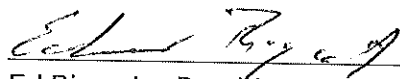
Closed Session was called at 7:21 p.m.

The Open Session resumed at 7:44 p.m.

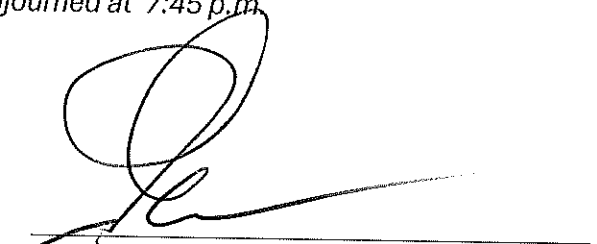
10. Member Comments – No Member comments were offered.

11. Adjournment – With no further business, a Motion to Adjourn was made by Carteret County Caucus Representative Bill Taylor, and seconded by Bennie Heath, Greene County Commissioner; the Board unanimously adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Ed Riggs Jr., President


David Rosado, Interim Executive Director