



Eastern Carolina Council

Minutes

General Membership Board Meeting

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

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
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)
Maria Robles, Caucus Rep., Jones County (Town of Pollocksville)
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)-*via Zoom*

General Membership Board in Attendance:

Shawn Condon, Town of La Grange-*via Zoom*
Paul Jordan II, Town of Oriental
Linda Marshall, Town of Alliance
Tamara Pieratti, Town of Swansboro-*via Zoom*
Jerry Riggs, Town of Cedar Point-*via Zoom*
Trudy Solomon, Town of Surf City

ECC Staff in Attendance:

David Rosado, Interim Executive Director
Carol Bell, Finance Director
Jenny Miller, Finance Consultant
Kim Baker, Deputy Finance Director
January Brown, Interim AAA Director
Susan Wolf, Administrative Assistant

Guests in Attendance:

Knox Proctor, ex-officio

Wesley Boykin, Town of Warsaw

1. **Welcome, Invocation, and Call to Order** –President Ed Riggs Jr. called the meeting to order at 6:37 p.m. President Riggs welcomed everyone and asked Greene County Commissioner Bennie Heath to provide the invocation. Commissioner Heath gave thanks for our fellowship and requested prayers for all in need. President Riggs then requested everyone to introduce themselves and the area they are representing.

2. **Adoption of Agenda** – *Ed Riggs Jr., President*

President Riggs requested a motion to adopt the Agenda as presented.

A motion to adopt the agenda as presented was made by Greene County Commissioner Bennie Heath and 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 8, 2026
- b. **Area Agency on Aging Update**
- c. **Economic Development – CEDS Update**
- d. **Local Government Services Update**

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

A motion to approve the Consent Agenda was made by Lorraine Washington, 2nd Vice President, and seconded by Pamlico County Caucus Representative Carol DeMoranville; the motion passed 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 stating that the Check Register is for the month of February 2026, and the Financial Statement through January 31, 2026. Treasurer Edwards asked if there were any questions or comments; none were offered.

5. Area Agency on Aging - HCCBG – January Brown, Interim AAA Director

January Brown, Interim AAA Director presented to the Board an overview of the Home and Community Care Block Grant (HCCBG). She went over the allocation process and then explained the roles of each stakeholder: County Commissioners, Lead Agencies, and Aging Planning Boards. Next, she discussed the importance of meeting the actual needs of your communities by reviewing the funding of programs and checking waiting list for services needed. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please contact January Brown at jbrown@eccog.org.

6. North Carolina department of Environmental Quality – An update on the Viable Utilities program in ECC region- Bob Taylor, Program Development Coordinator, Viable Utilities Unit

Bob Taylor, Program Development Coordinator, Viable Utilities Unit, addressed the Board concerning the number of distressed utilities within the ECC region. He stated that The Viable Utilities Program was signed into law on July 1, 2020 to identify and designate distressed local government units, provide a process to assist in the development of capacities that promote utility viability, and administer the Viable Utility Reserve.

Mr. Taylor then reviewed the Viable Utility Programs objectives, funding opportunities, and technical support and assistance available. He listed the Resource Agency Partners for Waste and Wastewater Utilities (RAPWU) and how each partner is a valuable contributor. Finally, he explained the importance of Regional Partnership, especially shared management support, workforce development, educating and retaining qualified individuals, and how everything is connected to the priorities set in the 2023-2027 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) plan.

Mr. Taylor can be reached through ECC Local Government Services Senior Community Planner Carlton Gideon at cgideon@eccog.org.

7. ECC’s Executive Director’s Report – David Rosado, Interim Executive Director

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

- **Regional Opioid Project** – The Recovery Alliance Initiative (RAI) will present the results of the regional Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Asset Mapping and Capacity Assessment at the county managers meeting on March 18, 2026, and at the next ECC Executive Committee Board meeting on April 9, 2026. During this presentation, RAI will highlight key findings from the asset mapping project and outline the progress and next steps that RAI and its partners are taking to address substance use disorders and the challenges our communities face in supporting individuals affected by SUD. Also, the next RAI Eastern North Carolina Task Force meeting will be held from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m., Thursday, April 9, 2026 at the Harrison Center, located at 311 Middle Street, New Bern, NC.

- **Digital Inclusion Implementation**- ECCs continues to support the efforts of the Regional Digital Inclusion Plan to address the identified needs within our region by providing implementation funding to each county in the amount of \$7,500. ECC communicated with leadership within each county seeking input on how the county would like to utilize the funding. As a result, ECC has engaged in partnership with East Carolina University's (ECU) Link and Learn program serving Carteret, Craven, Duplin counties, and the Eastern Carolina Workforce Development, Inc (ECWD) to serve Lenoir, Onslow, Pamlico, and Wayne counties. Greene and Jones counties will use implementation funds directly utilizing existing programs. ECC will develop Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) with the partnering organizations for each county. Funding was provided by (NCDIT) NC Department of Information Technology and Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation.
 - **ECC to host Ethics Training for Elected Officials** - ECC is partnering with Attorney Trey Ferguson of Sumrell Sugg to provide the required ethics training for newly elected and re-elected local government officials. The event will be held from 6:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 19, 2026. Although this training will be offered live virtually, the In-person training is highly recommended. Registration for the training can be found on the ECC website www.eccog.org.
 - **ECC Orientation** – On March 2, 2026, ECC provided an in-person orientation for new members; Tammy Pieratti (Town of Swansboro), Glenn Price (Town of Wallace), Maria Robles (Town of Pollocksville), and Cheryl Smith (Town of Warsaw), to familiarize them with the organization’s mission, operations, and Board responsibilities. Orientation is still available for new or existing members that were unable to attend on a one-to-one basis. To schedule orientation please contact Interim Executive Director David Rosado at 252-638-3185 ext. 3013 or drosado@eccog.org.
8. **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 is needed and asked for a motion.

A motion to go into Closed Session was made by 1st Vice President Frank Emory, and seconded by Treasurer Cindy Edwards; motion passed unanimously.

Closed Session was called at 7:30 p.m.

The Open Session resumed at approximately 8:45 p.m.

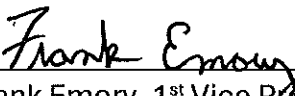
9. Member Comments –

There were no member comments after the open session resumed.


10. Adjournment –

There being no further business, 2nd Vice President Lorraine Washington moved to adjourn, seconded by Havelock Commissioner Cynthia Evans-Robinson, the meeting was adjourned at about 8:49 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Frank Emory, 1st Vice President



David Rosado, Interim Executive Director