



Minutes

Executive Committee Board Meeting

6:30 p.m. - Thursday, May 14, 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)
Cindy Edwards, Treasurer (City of Jacksonville)
Frank Emory, 1st Vice President (Jones County Commissioner)
Cynthia Evans-Robinson, City of Havelock
Ed Riggs Jr., President (Pamlico County Commissioner)
Maria Robles, Caucus Rep., Jones County (Town of Pollocksville)
Bill Taylor, Caucus Rep., Carteret County (Town of Morehead City)
Shane Turney, Caucus Rep., Craven County (Town of Trent Woods)
Lorraine Washington, 2nd Vice President (Caucus Rep., Greene County)

General Membership Board in Attendance:

Paul Jordan II, Town of Oriental
Ryan Kelley, Town of Indian Beach
Linda Marshall, Town of Alliance

ECC Staff in Attendance:

David Rosado, Interim Executive Director
Carol Bell, Finance Director
Jenny Miller, Consultant
Kim Baker, Deputy Finance Director
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 6:37 p.m. President Riggs welcomed everyone and 2nd Vice President Lorraine Washington gave the invocation.
2. **Adoption of Agenda** – President Riggs stated that Agenda Item #5-Draft FY 26-27 Budget Presentation and Item #6-ECC Operations Update will be switched in the order presented this evening. He then asked for questions or comments on this evening's agenda; none were offered. President Riggs requested a motion to adopt the agenda as corrected.

A motion to adopt the agenda as corrected was made by 1st Vice President Frank Emory, and seconded by 2nd Vice President Lorraine Washington; the motion passed unanimously.

3. **Consent Agenda** – Ed Riggs Jr., President
 - a. **Minutes** – Executive Committee Board Meeting – April 9, 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 about the consent agenda or any items for discussion.

A motion to approve the Consent Agenda was made by Pamlico County Caucus Representative Carol DeMoranville, and seconded by Craven County Caucus Representative Shane Turney; 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 reviewing the Check Register for the month of April 2026 and Financial Statement through March 31, 2026. She requested questions or comments concerning either report; none were offered. Treasurer Edwards stated that a draft of FY 2026-27 budget was discussed in the Budget & Audit Committee meeting and will be presented under Agenda Item #6 by Carol Bell, Finance Director. After the FY 2026-27 Proposed Budget has been presented, the board will discuss issues, concerns, or questions in Closed Session.

7. ECC's Executive Director's Report – *Davis Rosado, Interim Executive Director*

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

- Digital Inclusion – ECC is serving as the regional lead and coordinating entity, working closely with county governments, community partners, and implementation stakeholders to further support locally driven digital inclusion projects that address regional workforce, economic development, and digital education; therefore, connecting residents with telehealth, e-government services, online education, and access to reliable internet service and essential devices.

Through funding provided by Building a New Digital Economy in North Carolina (BAND-NC), NC Department of Information Technology, NC State University (NCSU) Institute for Emerging Issues, and Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation, ECC Digital Inclusion Implementation provided \$7,500.00 to each of the nine counties. The next phase, which must be completed by September 30, 2026, ECC will be seeking larger scale funding opportunities to address and narrow barriers identified in each county's digital inclusion plan.

- Southeast Crescent Regional Commission (SCRC) – Southeast Crescent Regional Commission (SCRC) has awarded Eastern Carolina Council (ECC) a grant for Federal Fiscal Year 2025-26 for \$23,926 to implement regional priorities that strengthen capacity, coordination, and economic resilience. This grant will enable ECC to provide direct technical assistance to local governments in areas such as grant writing, water and sewer improvements, broadband expansion, transportation planning, and workforce development across its nine-county region.
- NCCF Groundbreaking – On May 4, 2026, ECC attended the ground-breaking ceremony where the North Carolina Coastal Federation's (NCCF) Aquaculture Shellfish Mariculture Hub in Carteret County kicked off its next phase in this nearly 10-year project. Funded in part through the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) and the Golden Leaf Foundation, the hub, which is the first of its kind in North Carolina, will serve as a centralized working waterfront facility providing water access, cold storage, equipment, processing space, and logistics support that individual growers often cannot afford on their own. ECC serves as the EDA grant manager, ensuring compliance financial oversight, and regional alignment with economic development priorities, including resilience and job creation thus increasing incomes for coastal business and position Eastern North Carolina as a leader in sustainable "blue economy" growth. The Aquaculture Shellfish Mariculture Hub is expected to bring North Carolina's oyster industry into a \$100 million sector by 2030.

- COSSUP Grant Update – The Eastern Carolina Council (ECC), in partnership with Rulo Strategies and Recovery Alliance Initiative (RAI), has submitted an application, before the May 11th, 2026 deadline, for the Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Use Program (COSSUP). This application is requesting approximately \$1.6 million over three years from the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), and if awarded, possible notification as soon as June 1, 2026, this initiative will strengthen ECC’s ability to support local governments and partners in delivering more coordinated and effective responses to substance use disorders across the region.

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 was needed this evening and asked for a motion.

A motion to go into Closed Session was made by 2nd Vice President Lorraine Washington, and seconded by 1st Vice President Frank Emory; motion passed unanimously.

Closed Session was called at 7:24 p.m.

The Open Session resumed at 8:26 p.m.

Cindy Edwards moved that the following payments be made to ECC staff before the end of the 2025-2026 fiscal year on a one-time, non-recurring basis, to thank the staff for the extraordinary efforts made and extra duties performed under trying circumstances over the past year:

- 5% of salary for each staff member;
- an additional payment of up to 10% of salary for January Brown, subject to funds availability; and
- an additional payment of up to 25% of salary for David Rosado, also subject to funds availability.

In announcing these payments, it will be emphasized that no precedent is being set for these payments to recur. Staff will be given an opportunity to adjust withholdings for these payments.

Members noted in brief discussions on Ms. Edwards' motion that it is unfortunate that ECC is not in a position to make COLAs or other permanent pay adjustments at this time, but that the focus now is on preserving employment for all staff to the extent possible.

Bill Taylor seconded the motion with the amendment that at this time there be no changes in positions or titles, and there was consensus that the motion as amended be considered.

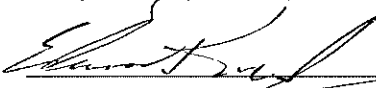
The motion as amended passed unanimously.

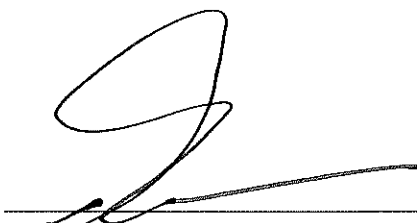
9. Member Comments

Cynthia Evans-Robinson announced that the City of Havelock has decided to leave ECC so she will no longer be participating in meetings. Ms. Evans-Robinson noted that she is saddened by this decision, has faith in ECC, believes that ECC will flourish, and hopes to return. She also told the Board she had been honored to serve.

10. Adjournment –There being no further business, on motion of Bill Taylor, seconded by Frank Emory, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at about 8:29 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Ed Riggs Jr., President

David Rosado, Interim Executive Director