EasternCarolinaCouncil

Minutes
General Membership Board Meeting
6:30 p.m. - Thursday, June 11, 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, *via Zoom*
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), *via phone*
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)
Lorrine Washington, 2nd Vice President (Caucus Rep., Greene County)

General Membership Board in Attendance:

Barbara Jones, Town of Cove City
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
Angelia Pridgen, Lead Ombudsman
Mickey Anderson, Senior Transportation Planner
Susan Wolf, Administrative Assistant

Guests in Attendance:

Knox Proctor, ex-officio, *via Zoom*

Due to the quorum requirement for the General Membership Board Meeting not being satisfied this evening, the Executive Committee will act for the General Membership Board as stated in the Eastern Carolina Council of Government Bylaws.

1. **Welcome, Invocation, and Call to Order** –1st Vice President Frank Emory called the meeting to order at 6:43 p.m. 1st Vice President Emory welcomed everyone and asked Craven County Caucus Representative Shane Turney to provide the invocation.

2. **Adoption of Agenda** – *Frank Emory, 1st Vice President*

   1st Vice President Emory stated that an Agenda Item needs to be added to this evening Agenda. Extension of Audit Contract for FY 2024-25 Audit will be added as Agenda Item 7a. Next, he asked for questions or comments on this evening's agenda; none were offered.
   1st Vice President Emory requested a motion to adopt the agenda as corrected.

   A motion to adopt the agenda as corrected was made by Treasurer Cindy Edwards, and seconded by 2nd Vice President Lorrine Washington;
   the motion was approved unanimously.

3. **Consent Agenda** – *Frank Emory, 1st Vice President*
   a. **Minutes** – General Membership Board Meeting – March 12, 2026
   b. **Area Agency on Aging Update**
   c. **Economic Development – CEDS Update**
   d. **Local Government Services Update**

   1st Vice President Emory 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 Bill Taylor, Carteret County Caucus Representative, and seconded by Craven County Caucus Representative Shane Turney;
   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. She stated that the Check Register is for the month of May 2026, and the Financial Statement through April 30, 2026. Treasurer Edwards asked if there were any questions or comments; none were offered.

5. **FY 26-27 Budget Presentation** – *Carol Bell, Finance Director*

Finance Director Carol Bell presented the FY 2026-2027 Budget to the Board asking Interim Executive Director Rosado to read the Budget Message at the beginning of the packet. Finance Director Bell reviewed each section of the FY 2026-27 Budget stating that the total budget for fiscal year 2026-2027 is balanced at $6,071,125.00. She then addressed questions, comments, or concerns from those in attendance.

6. **Public Hearing for the FY 26-27 Budget-** *Frank Emory, 1st Vice President*

1st Vice President Emory stated that a Public Hearing, in accordance with the General Statutes of North Carolina and the Local Government Budget and Fiscal Control Act, is required for the FY 2026-27 Budget and requested a motion to Open the Public Hearing.

A motion to Open the Public Hearing was made by 2nd Vice President Lorrine Washington, and seconded by Craven County Caucus Representative Shane Turney;
the motion passed unanimously.

During the Public Hearing, 1st Vice President Emory asked for questions, comments, or concerns on the FY 2026-27 Budget from everyone in attendance; none were offered.

A motion to Close the Public Hearing and return to the Executive Committee Meeting was made by 2nd Vice President Lorrine Washington, and seconded by Craven County Caucus Representative Shane Turney; the motion passed unanimously.

7. **Adoption of the FY 26-27 Budget** – *Frank Emory, 1st Vice President*

1st Vice President Emory continued the Executive Committee Meeting by requesting a motion to adopt the FY 2026-27 Budget as presented by Finance Directory Carol Bell.

A motion to adopt the FY 2026-27 Budget as presented was made by Bill Taylor,
Carteret County Caucus Representative, and seconded by Treasurer Cindy Edwards;
the motion was approved unanimously.

7a. Extension of Audit Contract FY 2024-25 – *Frank Emory, 1st Vice President*

Interim Executive Director Rosado explained that the Audit Contract for FY 2024-25 with Thompson, Price, Scott, Adams & Company. P.A. needs to be extended from June 30, 2026 to July 15, 2026 in order to provide adequate time for completion and Board approval.

Therefore, 1st Vice President Emory requested a motion to Extend the Audit Contract with Thompson, Price, Scott, Adams & Company. P.A. for FY 2024-25 to July 15, 2026.

A motion to approve the Extension for FY 2024-25 Audit Contract with Thompson, Price, Scott, Adams & Company. P.A. w*as made by 2nd Vice President Lorrine Washington, and seconded by Ed Riggs Jr., President; the motion passed unanimously.*

8. **Resilient Communities Planning Guide**- *Brian Byfield, Resilient Communities Program Manager, from The State Resiliency Office, NC Department of Environmental Quality*

Mr. Byfield opened with the mission of The State Resiliency Office to build North Carolina's resilience to the impacts of disasters caused by extreme weather events. He stated that a Resilient North Carolina is a state where our communities, economies, and ecosystems are better able to rebound, positively adapt to, and thrive amid changing conditions and challenges, including disasters and climate change. He explained the importance of Resilience Planning and offered a NC Resilient Communities Planning Guide containing The PLAYBOOK, which has four phases; Prepare, Assess, Plan, and Implement, and the IDEA BOOK, discussing 14 topics. For further information on NC Resilient Communities Program contact Brian Byfield, program manager, at 919-576-4744 or brian.byfield@deq.nc.gov.

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

IED Rosado opened with congratulations to Mickey Anderson for his new position with the City of Jacksonville Planning Department and thanked him for his 6 years of service to ECC.

- **242 Craven Street Update** – ECC was notified by John Robert Mattocks, owner of the property, that a tenant signed a lease for the location effective July 1, 2026, and ECC will be relieved of its lease responsibility effective June 30, 2026. This will eliminate the $2,900 monthly lease responsibility going into FY 26-27 resulting in meaningful cost savings for the organization.

- **Digital Inclusion Update** - 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 in each county. ECC was able to provide each of our nine counties with $7,500.00 supporting partners that address regional workforce, economic development, and digital literacy who directly support workforce readiness, talent development, and access to employment opportunities as well as digital education. During our September 10, 2026 Executive Committee Board meeting, ECC will hear from one of organizations that served Carteret, Craven, and Duplin counties where they will share their program and accomplishments with this project.

- **Southeast Crescent Regional Commission (SCRC) Plan** – The Eastern Carolina Council (ECC) received a grant in the amount of $23,926 from the Southeast Crescent Regional Commission (SCRC) for Federal Fiscal Year 25-26 to implement regional priorities that strengthen ECC's capacity to deliver regional economic development and planning services across its nine-county service area by providing direct technical assistance to local governments in areas such as grant writing,. addressing topics such as water and sewer improvements, broadband expansion, transportation planning, and workforce development. These efforts will assist ECC advance projects that align with the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS).

- **COSSUP Grant Update** – The Eastern Carolina Council (ECC) has applied for the Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Use Program (COSSUP) in partnership with Rulo Strategies and Recovery Alliance Initiative (RAI), requesting approximately $1.6 million over three years from the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA). If awarded, this initiative will strengthen ECC's ability to support local governments and partners in delivering more coordinated and effective responses to substance use disorder across the region. Expected notification of funding is before September 30, 2026 with implementation beginning as soon as January 2027. If ECC is not funded during this Federal Fiscal Year (FFY), ECC will re-apply when the next FFY begins in October 2026.

- **IRS Update** – ECC continues to work with retained IRS Enrolled Agent Devan Brown to address federal payroll tax matters for prior fiscal years. While historical IRS matters remain unresolved, ECC has made substantial progress in addressing the underlying issues, improving internal controls, and pursuing available appeal processes. Management will continue working toward a final resolution that protects the organization's financial interests while maintaining full compliance with federal requirements. Agent Devan Brown will meet again with the IRS sometime at the end of June 2026.

10. **Closed Session –*Not Necessary this Evening***

11. **Member Comments –**There were no members' comments.

12. **Adjournment –**

There being no further business, Carteret County Caucus Representative Bill Taylor moved to adjourn, and seconded by 2nd Vice President Lorrine Washington, the meeting was adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Frank Emory, 1st Vice President

David Rosado, Interim Executive Director