



Foothills Regional Commission  
Full Board Meeting  
June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
Minutes

**Board Members Present**

- **Chair:** Fred Baisden, Polk County
- **Vice-Chair:** Max Hopper, Cleveland County
- Janet Gerald, Town of Kingstown
- Jack Shytle, Town of Polkville
- Jimmy Dancy, Town of Rutherfordton
- Doug Bridges, Cleveland County
- Steve Garrison, Rutherford County
- Tommy Greene, Town of Boiling Springs
- David Guy, Town of Ruth
- Melanie Talbot, City of Saluda
- Ashley Wooten, McDowell County
- Scott Webber, Town of Spindale
- Mark Phillips, Town of Columbus

**Guests Present**

- Carlos Arredondo, Rostan Solutions
- Carolyn Zumpino, Triad Associates
- Connor Brown, Congressman Edwards' Office
- Lake Silver, Congressman Edwards' Office
- Brett Keeter, Congressman Tim Moore's Office
- Jordan Barnes, Congressman Tim Moore's Office
- Scott Boyd, NC Association of County Commissioners

**FRC Staff Absent**

- Laura Lynch

**Board Members Absent**

- **Secretary:** Bryan King, Rutherford County
- Jeffery Emory, Town of Grover
- Tom Helton, Town of Ellenboro
- Rick Howell, City of Shelby
- Mike Lugo, Rutherford County
- Scott Neisler, City of Kings Mountain
- Ray Padgett, Town of Lawndale
- Jeff Swink, Town of Bostic
- Carol Pritchett, Town of Lake Lure
- David Moore, Polk County
- Marche Pittman, Polk County
- Dean Buff, McDowell County
- Larry Dooley, Cleveland County
- Peter O'Leary, Chimney Rock Village
- Rodney Willis, Town of Bellwood
- Dee Dee Bright, Town of Forest City

**FRC Staff Present**

- Danna Stansbury
- Charlotte Sullivan
- Amanda Scott
- Annette Staley
- Penny Martinez
- Pam Hall
- Alan Toney



## Call to Order

Foothills Regional Commission (FRC) full board meeting was held at Isothermal Community College in the Engineering Technology & Workforce Development Center, room 215 A, on June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Chairman Fred Baisden called the meeting to order at 12:01 pm and welcomed everyone. The meeting began with an invocation led by Jack Shytle, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and State Salute to the North Carolina Flag. The board then enjoyed lunch together.

## Public Hearing

In accordance with North Carolina General Statute 159-12, Chairman Baisden opened a public hearing to receive community input on the FY 2025–2026 budget.

No public comments were presented. The public hearing was formally closed, and the regular meeting resumed.

## Approval of Minutes

Chairman Baisden introduced the minutes from the March 27, 2025, Full Board Meeting for discussion.

- No objections were raised.
- Motion to approve: Jimmy Dancy.
- Seconded by: Tommy Greene.
- Motion passes unanimously.

## Budget

**(Charlotte Sullivan, Finance Director)**

- Presented the FY25/25 budget totaling \$16,388,359
  - Aging Department: \$3,562,300
  - Economic Planning & Development: \$2,681,171
  - Housing: \$6,651,834
  - Workforce: \$2,706,692
  - General Operations: \$786,362
- The budget includes a 3.5% salary increase for full-time employees and an indirect cost rate of \$0.59 on salaries.
- Noted challenges in budgeting for the Aging department due to state uncertainty.

Chairman Baisden introduced the FY25/26 Budget for discussion.

- No objections were raised.
- Motion to approve: David Guy.
- Seconded by: Ashley Wooten.
- Motion passes unanimously.

- Presented the Indirect cost plan and explained how it allocates our funding to each department and what our overhead will be.

Chair Baisden introduced the Indirect Cost Plan for discussion.

- No objections were raised.
- Motion to approve: Doug Bridges.
- Seconded by: Janet Gerald.
- Motion passes unanimously.

## Reports and Presentations

### **Roston Solutions (Carlos Arredondo)**

- Provided status of FEMA Public Assistance Projects, including Polk County, Kings Mountain, Boiling Springs, Rutherfordton, and Chimney Rock.
- Polk County: \$2.4M for the Turner Shoals Dam siphon system and an emergency access road, and \$1.2M for the debris removal project.
- Tryon: Harmon Field project (primary disaster site), \$589,000 obligated; more anticipated.
- FRC: Est. \$500,000 in building damage; pursuing possible replacement facility.
- Kings Mountain: Road repairs are needed, but electrical and gas have been repaired. No money is obligated, as more documentation is required. The estimated damages are \$1.7 to \$2M.
- Boiling Springs and Rutherfordton: Considering facility replacement vs. repair options.
- Chimney Rock Village: Approximately \$1.2M is obligated; the main issues involve water/sewer access and business continuity.
- Reinforced the importance of documentation post-obligation and advised staff to prepare for close-out and audit steps.

### **Carolyn Zumpino (Triad Associates)**

- Outlined plan for leveraging Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds.
- Triad Associates has \$1.7 billion in funded projects; it brings regulatory and application expertise.
- Working with FRC to develop a unified regional application representing all member municipalities.
- Community engagement and municipal input will guide project selection.

## Finance Update

### (Charlotte Sullivan, Finance Director)

- Presented the Cash Flow Report (as of April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025)
  - \$3.4 million in North Carolina Capital Management Trust
  - \$687,972 in Section 8 Housing Account
  - \$88,923 in General Funds Account
  - \$8,143 in Payroll Account
- Presented Budget Amendment #6: \$1,625,000
  - Aging - \$775,000
  - Economic Planning & Development - \$115,000
  - Housing - \$330,000
  - WIOA - \$405,000

Chairman Baisden introduced Budget Amendment #6 for discussion.

- No objections were raised.
- Motion to approve: Janet Gerald.
- Seconded by: Jimmy Dancy.
- Motion passes unanimously.
  
- Explained to the board that the Fraud, Waste & Abuse Policy needs to be adopted to satisfy legal requirements.

Chairman Baisden introduced the Fraud, Waste & Abuse Policy for discussion.

- No objections were raised.
- Motion to approve: Max Hopper.
- Seconded by: Jimmy Dancy.
- Motion passes unanimously.

## Housing

### (Pam Hall, Housing Director)

- Section 8 budget concerns remain unresolved: continued monitoring with HUD officials.
- 5 new VASH vouchers received; 24 currently leased; more available.
- Veterans must apply through VA Asheville (Fran Bryson).
- Title V success: Guynelle McEntire transitioned from a part-time position to a full-time FRC Housing staff position.

## Workforce Development

**(Annette Staley, Workforce Development Director)**

- Disaster grant supporting 12 active worksites (e.g., McDowell County, Chimney Rock, Chambers of Commerce).
- Promoted Business Edge layoff aversion grant: up to \$10,000 reimbursement for disaster-related employer expenses.
- OJT Wage Reimbursement Program for businesses under 25 employees; pays up to 50% of new hire wages to get them trained.

## Economic Development

**(Alan Toney, Economic Development Director)**

- Closing out prior ARC, EDA, and CDBG grants to prepare for new opportunities.
- Kingstown sewer project underway.
- Broadband funding delays due to BEAD guideline changes. New guidance prohibits favoring fiber over satellite.
- Counties must reapply under the updated strategy; officials are urged to contact state/federal reps.

## Disaster Recovery Update

**(Penny Martinez, Disaster Recovery & Resiliency Manager)**

- Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) projects are advancing with 23 site visits scheduled.
- The Chimney Rock package plant decision was finalized with assistance from Congressman Moore's office.
- Regional interconnect studies are underway in Marion/McDowell/Old Fort and Chimney Rock/Lake Lure.
- Monthly community meetings continue, and outreach events are held at Ingles and public locations to assist residents with FEMA applications and buyout programs.
- Hazard mitigation support extended to individual properties; buyout/stabilization options available.

## Executive Director Report

(Danna Stansbury, Executive Director)

- Reviewed proposed FY25–26 board meeting calendar. Legislative Breakfast tentatively planned for January at the Equestrian Center.
- Rotating board meetings across the four counties is recommended due to space limitations.
- The former Rutherford Cancer Center contained potential temporary office space, which could accommodate the whole staff.
- An interim management contract with the Town of Columbus is underway; FRC staff are splitting coverage.
- The Disaster Recovery & Resiliency Workshop, which was announced, is scheduled for June 24, 2025, at the exact location; 20 RSVPs have been confirmed so far.

## Action Items

- March 27, 2025, minutes were approved. The motion was made by Jimmy Dancy and seconded by Tommy Greene.
- The FY25/26 Budget was approved. The motion was made by David Guy and seconded by Ashley Wooten.
- The Indirect Cost Plan was approved. The motion was made by Doug Bridges and seconded by Janet Gerald
- Budget Amendment #6 was approved. The motion was made by Janet Gerald and seconded by Jimmy Dancy.
- The Fraud, Waste & Abuse Policy was approved. The motion was made by Max Hopper and seconded by Jimmy Dancy.

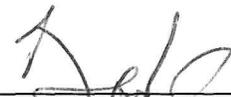
## Announcements & Adjournment

- Next meeting: September 18, 2025
- Meeting adjourned at 1:19 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Chairman, Fred Baisden



Secretary, Bryan King