



Foothills Regional Commission
Full Board Meeting
September 18th, 2025
Minutes

Board Members Present

- **Chair:** Fred Baisden, Polk County
- **Vice-Chair:** Max Hopper, Cleveland County
- Jack Shytle, Town of Polkville
- Jimmy Dancy, Town of Rutherfordton
- Doug Bridges, Cleveland County
- Tommy Greene, Town of Boiling Springs
- David Guy, Town of Ruth
- Ashley Wooten, McDowell County
- Carol Pritchett, Town of Lake Lure
- Dean Buff, McDowell County
- Rick Howell, City of Shelby
- Scott Webber, Town of Spindale
- Mike Lugo, Rutherford County

FRC Staff Present

- Danna Stansbury
- Charlotte Sullivan
- Annette Staley
- Alan Toney
- Amanda Scott
- Sophie Schaefer

FRC Staff Absent

- Pam Hall
- Laura Lunch

Board Members Absent

- **Secretary:** Bryan King, Rutherford County
- Jeffery Emory, Town of Grover
- Tom Helton, Town of Ellenboro
- Scott Neisler, City of Kings Mountain
- Ray Padgett, Town of Lawndale
- Jeff Swink, Town of Bostic
- David Moore, Polk County
- Marche Pittman, Polk County
- Larry Dooley, Cleveland County
- Peter O'Leary, Chimney Rock Village
- Rodney Willis, Town of Bellwood
- Dee Dee Bright, Town of Forest City
- Janet Gerald, Town of Kingstown
- Steve Garrison, Rutherford County
- Melanie Talbot, City of Saluda
- Mark Phillips, Town of Columbus

Guests Present

- Kerri Melton, Cleveland County
- Ashley Linder, Town of Kingstown
- Tony Fogleman, Cleveland Community College
- Zoe Montgomery, McDowell County



Call to Order

Foothills Regional Commission (FRC) full board meeting was held at Cleveland Community College in the Speaker Moore Advanced Technology Center, Room 7270, on September 18th, 2025. Chairman Fred Baisden called the meeting to order at 12:09 pm and welcomed everyone. The meeting began with an invocation by Chairman Baisden, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and State Salute to the North Carolina Flag. The board then enjoyed lunch together.

Approval of Minutes

Chairman Baisden introduced the minutes from the June 17th, 2025, Full Board Meeting for discussion.

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

Local Updates

- Mayor Carrol Pritchett (Lake Lure): Reported significant progress on lake debris removal, with over one million tons cleared. Target completion is October 31, 2025. Celebration scheduled for Saturday, September 27, at 11 a.m.
- Mayor Jimmy Dancy (Rutherfordton): RS Central High School is celebrating its 100th anniversary.
- Commissioner Doug Bridges (Cleveland County): Announced the 101st Cleveland County Fair next week and the ongoing “Liberty Mountain” play in Kings Mountain.
- Jack Shytle (Town of Polkville): Reported on the recent Burns High School Rodeo event.
- David Guy (Mayor of Bostic / on behalf of Congressman Tim Moore): Shared FEMA’s commitment of up to \$1 billion in western NC recovery investment by October 31.
- Scott Webber (Spindale Town Manager): Reported centennial celebrations for Spindale and the upcoming completion of the North Slope Skate Park and Pump Track in October.
- Ashley Wooten (McDowell County Manager): Gave FEMA and recovery updates; reported Old Fort Elementary has reopened and will host a community event.
- Other local officials shared updates on schools, infrastructure projects, and community events.

Reports and Presentations

Cleveland Community College (Tony Fogleman)

- Fogleman provided an update on Cleveland Community College (CCC), noting this was the College’s first opportunity to host the group outside of Rutherford County. He shared enrollment highlights, reporting 9,259 students for 2024–2025, with 33% participating through Career & College Promise (high school dual enrollment). Enrollment increased across all terms, including

an 11% increase in fall, 15% in spring, and 21% in summer. Credit hour funding also rose significantly.

- Fogleman reported that CCC held its largest commencement to date, with 852 graduates and nearly 1,200 credentials awarded. CCC has recently been a Bellwether Award finalist for both its Electric Lineworker Academy and its Firefighter Academy. The Lineworker Academy was also named the 2025 Outstanding Registered Pre-Apprenticeship Program in North Carolina.
- Fogleman highlighted program growth in cybersecurity (an NSA-designated Center of Academic Excellence), athletics, and short-term workforce training, including fire, EMS, electrical lineworker, barbering, and corrections programs. Apprenticeships and employer partnerships continue to expand with companies such as Clearwater, PPG, KSM, and others.
- CCC also provides training for the Catawba Two Kings Casino, offering dealer training operating 24/7 to meet employer needs. Additional upcoming programs include elementary education pathways, chemical process/lithium concentrator training with Albemarle, EV technology, veterinary technology, physical therapy assistant, and expansion of barbering/esthetics due to high demand.
- Fogleman shared updates on CCC's North Campus, which houses CDL, heavy equipment operations, and animal science programs. The County recently assisted in securing 25 acres for continued expansion, and CCC is adding 21 acres to support CDL and heavy equipment growth. CCC is also the only community college in North Carolina operating a comprehensive on-site prison education program, offering welding, carpentry, plumbing, and electrical trades.
- Facilities updates included renovation and expansion of the Bowie Health Sciences Center, campus signage upgrades, and plans for a new \$23 million Student Center, scheduled to break ground in fall 2024. This facility will centralize enrollment, financial aid, and student services, and serve as a new campus gateway.
- In closing, Fogleman answered questions, including one about CCC's mascot—the Yeti, selected by community and student vote.

Finance Update

(Charlotte Sullivan, Finance Director)

- Presented cash flow as of August 31st:
 - \$3.7 million in Investment Account (NCCMT)
 - \$694,841 in Section 8 Housing Account
 - \$124,637 in the General Fund Account
 - \$2,688 in the Payroll Account
- Budget Amendment #2: \$485,239
 - Aging - \$54,000
 - Economic Planning & Community Development - \$31,239
 - WIOA - \$100,000
 - General Operations - \$300,000

Chair Baisden introduced Budget Amendment #2 for discussion.

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

Workforce Development

(Annette Staley, Workforce Development Director)

- Approved One-Stop Operators and lease renewal for the Rutherford office.
- Received \$750,000 Pathway Home Grant for inmate reentry services.
- Disaster recovery grant continues to support 13 employees at 11 sites.
- Two local students to receive Governor's Awards at the NCWorks Conference on October 16. them trained.

Economic Development

(Alan Toney, Economic Development Director)

- Secured \$1.5 million ARC funding for infrastructure projects in Boiling Springs, Grover, and Forest City.
- Submitted EDA grant applications totaling \$20 million.
- Continuing projects: Lake Lure Comp Plan, CDBG grants, transitional housing facility.

Executive Director Report

(Danna Stansbury, Executive Director)

- Update on flood-damaged FRC building; potential relocation to former Wells Fargo building in Forest City.
- Serving as interim manager for Columbus since May.
- Reported on NADO national awards: Ageless Innovation (Aging), Statewide
- Legislative Breakfast tentatively scheduled for January 26, 2026, at the Tryon International Equestrian Center.
- Preparing rollout of CDBG Disaster Recovery funds under "Stronger Together" initiative.
- Recognized East Alabama Regional Planning & Development Commission for \$1,000 donation to support FRC staff.
- Reminded the Board of the Annual Christmas Lunch/meeting on December 11th at Isothermal Community College.

Action Items

- June 17th, 2025, minutes were approved. The motion was made by Tommy Greene and seconded by Doug Bridges.
- Budget Amendment #2 was approved. The motion was made by Tommy Greene and seconded by Jack Shytle.

Closed Session for Executive Committee

Chairman Baisden requested a motion to enter closed session pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11(a)(6) to discuss a personnel matter. (1:38 pm)

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

Adjournment

- Chairman Baisden adjourned the meeting at 2:05 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Chairman, Fred Baisden



Secretary, Bryan King