

TENTATIVE AGENDA AND MEETING NOTICE

WATAUGA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



Tuesday, December 2, 2025 at 5:30 PM



Watauga County Administration Building,
Commissioners' Board Room

TIME	#	TOPIC	PRESENTER	PAGE
5:30	1	Call Regular Meeting to Order		
	2	Approval of Minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none">November 18, 2025, Regular MeetingNovember 18, 2025, Closed Session		2
5:35	3	Board Organizational Matters <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. Election of OfficersB. Staff AppointmentsC. Fidelity BondsD. Commissioner Appointments to Boards & CommissionsE. Regular Meeting Schedule		12
5:40	4	Approval of the December 2, 2025, Agenda		19
5:45	5	Public Comment <ul style="list-style-type: none">Limited to a maximum of one hour, with time adjusted based on the number of speakers.	Braxton Eggers Chairman	20
5:50	6	2025 Governor's Volunteer Service Award Presentation	Rebecca Hall High Country United Way	21
5:55	7	Middle Fork Greenway Section 3A Stream Restoration – Bid Recommendation	Carrie Caviness Interface Environmental	22
6:00	8	Watauga County NCDOT Express Design Request	Jason Walker Planning and Inspections	24
6:05	9	Master Agreement between Watauga County and the NC Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services	Michelle Kasey Soil & Water Conservation	26
6:10	10	Miscellaneous Administrative Matters <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. Boards and Commissions	Deron Geouque County Manager	39
6:15	11	Commissioners' Comments	Braxton Eggers Chairman	41
6:20	12	Break		41
6:30	13	Closed Session <ul style="list-style-type: none">Attorney-Client Matters per G. S. § 143-318.11(a)(3)<ul style="list-style-type: none">Including Case No. 5:25-cv-157, <i>Watauga County Voting Rights Task Force v. Watauga County Board of Elections</i>Acquisition of Real Property per G.S. § 143-318.11(a)(5)		41
6:40	14	Adjourn		

A G E N D A I T E M 2 :

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

- November 18, 2025, Regular Meeting
- November 18, 2025, Closed Session

MEETING MINUTES

WATAUGA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Tuesday, November 18, 2025

The Watauga County Board of Commissioners held a regular meeting on Tuesday, November 18, 2025, at 5:30 P.M. in the Commissioners' Board Room located in the Watauga County Administration Building in Boone, North Carolina.

1. CALL REGULAR MEETING TO ORDER

Chairman Eggers called the meeting to order at 5:30 P.M. The following were present:

PRESENT: Braxton Eggers, Chairman
Todd Castle, Vice-Chairman
Emily Greene, Commissioner
Tim Hodges, Commissioner
Ronnie Marsh, Commissioner
Nathan Miller, County Attorney
Deron Geouque, County Manager
Katie Hancock, Clerk to the Board

Commissioner Marsh offered the prayer and Commissioner Hodges led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Eggers presented the November 4, 2025, regular and closed session meeting minutes.

Commissioner Marsh, seconded by Vice-Chairman Castle, moved to approve the November 4, 2025, regular meeting minutes as presented.

VOTE: Aye – 5
Nay – 0

Commissioner Marsh, seconded by Vice-Chairman Castle, moved to approve the November 4, 2025, closed session minutes as presented.

VOTE: Aye – 5
Nay – 0

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairman Eggers called for additions or corrections to the November 18, 2025, agenda.

County Manager Geouque requested the following additions to Agenda Item 9:

- Item 9E: Boards and Commissions - *High Country RPO Rural Transportation Advisory Committee*
- Item 9G: Proposed Resolution Establishing the Sheriff's Salary

Additionally, Chairman Eggers requested that Mr. David Jackson, President/CEO of the Boone Area Chamber of Commerce, and Ms. Hannah Robinson Michael of NC Child be added as presenters for Agenda Item 5 – *Resolution in Support of Addressing the Accessibility and Affordability of Early Childhood Education in the State of North Carolina*.

Commissioner Greene, seconded by Commissioner Hodges, moved to approve the November 18, 2025, agenda as amended.

VOTE: Aye – 5
Nay – 0

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

- **Sally Gill Johnson**, a resident of the Stoney Fork community in the 5th District, spoke in support of fair elections. She stated that most citizens value fairness in the electoral process and expressed concern about any artificial adjustment of voting districts for the benefit of any political party. Ms. Johnson urged the Board to act in the best interest of all residents of the county.
- **Alana Baird**, a resident of the Meat Camp District, thanked the Board for their work. She noted increased traffic in the county since 2004, partly due to the student population, while also recognizing the economic value students bring. Ms. Baird expressed concern about appointing individuals who do not live in their districts and opposed the use of taxpayer funds for the current lawsuit. She questioned the 9.7% redistricting deviation and criticized Senator Ralph Hise for actions she believes disenfranchise voters. She encouraged the County to pursue mediation to resolve the matter.
- **Cathy Williamson**, a resident of Blowing Rock, asked that immigrants be added to the community prayer list. She expressed concern over increasingly divisive election practices and noted that Senator Hise's maps were rejected by 71% of voters in November. Ms. Williamson stated that voters can distinguish good policy from bad and cautioned that disregarding election outcomes undermines proper governance.
- **Tyler Brown**, a student at Appalachian State University and a voter in District 2, spoke regarding election integrity and county funding priorities. He urged the Board not to use what he described as unconstitutional maps proposed by Senator Hise and asked that taxpayer funds be directed instead toward supporting farmers, homeowners, schools, and local businesses.
- **Misty Mayfield**, a resident of Vilas, thanked the Board for the opportunity to speak. She stated that she was among the 71% of voters who supported the recent referendum and expressed concern that its outcome was being disregarded. Ms. Mayfield noted that Commissioner Marsh was elected with 60% of the vote and questioned why the will of 71% of voters would not be given equal consideration.
- **Kristen Ryberg**, a resident of District 4, thanked the Board for the opportunity to speak and commended them for serving the public interest. She expressed support for fair elections and fair maps, stating that the recent election was unconstitutional and violated the First and Fourteenth Amendments, preventing full and accurate representation. Ms. Ryberg urged the Board to prioritize the concerns of citizens over politics, noting that the County could set a positive example by doing so. She asked the Board to settle the lawsuit as soon as possible.

5. RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF ADDRESSING THE ACCESSIBILITY AND AFFORDABILITY OF EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION IN THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

David Jackson, President/CEO of the Boone Area Chamber of Commerce, provided an update on early childhood initiatives supported by the County's investment. He thanked the Board for their support and summarized activities of the Chamber Foundation and Watauga EDC related to early childhood education (ECE) as an economic development priority:

- **Pathways to Accreditation Program:** Leveraged \$60,000 County investment to secure \$50,000 in grant funding, fully funding the program for the coming year with curriculum enhancements.
- **Summer Childcare Assistance:** \$15,024 distributed across nine centers to support childcare workers; impact data will be shared with state legislators.
- **Holiday "Gift of Stabilization":** \$62,200 raised to support all 28 licensed centers, Watauga Afterschool, licensed PreK, and WYN students, helping centers stabilize and support families.
- **EXCEL NC Luncheon:** Scheduled December 3 to introduce a new program connecting business leaders to ECE priorities through economic development.

Hannah Robinson Michael of NC Child highlighted statewide and local childcare challenges, noting the loss of 100,000 parents from the workforce since 2019 creating an extensive economic impact. She emphasized that lack of affordable childcare limits hiring and retention, particularly for young mothers, and stressed the need for local government and business collaboration.

Chairman Eggers thanked both presenters for their ongoing work, describing their efforts as inspiring for the community.

Commissioner Hodges, seconded by Commissioner Greene, moved to adopt the resolution in support of addressing the accessibility and affordability of early childhood education in the State of North Carolina as presented.

VOTE: Aye – 5
Nay – 0

6. ORDINANCE TO REGULATE SOLICITATION

The Watauga County Sheriff's Office requested that the Board consider adopting an ordinance regulating solicitation. The proposed ordinance is intended to enhance public safety by reducing hazards to motorists and pedestrians. The Sheriff's Office noted that it frequently responds to complaints regarding individuals soliciting in roadways and along rights-of-way, which can create traffic hazards, crash risks, and welfare concerns. The ordinance was reviewed by the County Attorney.

County Attorney Miller noted that under N.C. General Statute § 153a-45, adoption requires a unanimous vote; if unanimous approval is not achieved, the ordinance may be brought back at a subsequent meeting for a majority vote. The ordinance was developed in partnership with the Town of Boone and is similar to measures implemented in Asheville and other areas.

Vice-Chairman Castle, seconded by Commissioner Marsh, moved to adopt the proposed ordinance regulating solicitation.

VOTE: Aye – 5
Nay – 0

7. EMERGENCY SERVICES MATTERS

A. EMS Equipment Request

Juan Bowen, EMS Chief, requested approval to purchase emergency medical equipment for the upfit of the current and ordered EMS fleet. The request includes three (3) Power Load devices, eight (8) LUCAS devices, and seven (7) stair chairs at a total cost of \$438,411.78. Chief Bowen noted that the purchase will upgrade and outfit the new EMS trucks and that all equipment comes with a 100% warranty for the lifetime of the device. LUCAS devices typically last about five years, and stair chairs will provide enhanced patient transport capabilities.

In response to questions, Chief Bowen confirmed that this is the last major equipment purchase planned for the fleet and that ideally, there would be one device per truck. Funds for this purchase are available as part of the EMS capital project.

Commissioner Greene, seconded by Commissioner Hodges, moved to approve the purchase of three (3) Power Load devices, eight (8) LUCAS devices, and seven (7) stair chairs in the amount of \$438,411.78 from Stryker Sales, LLC.

VOTE: Aye – 5
Nay – 0

B. EMS Vehicle Request

Will Holt, Emergency Services Director, requested approval to purchase a vehicle for the EMS Chief at a total cost of \$66,936.90. The cost includes \$44,186.90 for the chassis from Parks Ford via the NCSA contract and \$22,750 for the upfit through ETA, the County's current upfitter for Emergency Services vehicles and half of the County's ambulances. Funds are available for this purchase as part of the EMS capital project. Mr. Holt noted that the vehicle upfit will allow Mr. Bowen to function fully as a paramedic.

Vice-Chairman Castle, seconded by Commissioner Marsh, moved to approve the purchase of a vehicle for the EMS Chief from Parks Ford (chassis) and ETA (upfit) in the amount of \$66,936.90.

VOTE: Aye – 5
Nay – 0

C. Procurement of Equipment and Supplies for EMS Division

Juan Bowen, EMS Chief, requested approval to purchase equipment and supplies necessary for the operation of the EMS department at a total cost of \$98,084.59 from Bound Tree Medical. The purchase includes consumable items, such as medications, nasal cannulas, and bandaging supplies, as well as durable equipment, including suction units.

Vice-Chairman Castle asked about the quantity of supplies, and Chief Bowen explained that this bulk order is intended to carry them through the new fiscal year. County Manager Geouque noted

that additional supplies obtained from Craig Sullivan, owner of Watauga Medics, Inc., would not expire.

Commissioner Hodges, seconded by Commissioner Greene, moved to approve the purchase of EMS equipment and supplies in the amount of \$98,084.59 from Bound Tree Medical.

VOTE: Aye – 5
Nay – 0

D. Procurement of NetClock Equipment

Will Holt, Emergency Services Director, requested approval to purchase NetClock equipment for the new Communications Center at a total cost of \$16,850.00. The NetClocks provide legally traceable time for the Communications Center and all agencies served. Funds for this purchase have been budgeted through the 911 Emergency Telephone Surcharge Fund as part of the capital project. Mr. Holt noted that this purchase is part of the spend-down approved at the previous Board meeting.

Commissioner Marsh, seconded by Vice-Chairman Castle, moved to approve the purchase of NetClock equipment in the amount of \$16,850.00 from Mobile Communications America, Inc.

VOTE: Aye – 5
Nay – 0

8. TAX MATTERS

A. Monthly Collections Report

County Manager Geouque presented the October 2025 Monthly Collections Report on behalf of Mr. Tyler Rash, Tax Administrator.

The report was presented for informational purposes only, and no Board action was required.

B. Refunds and Releases

Mr. Geouque also presented the October 2025 Refunds and Releases Report for Board approval, noting that the release report appears different this month due to an error in the tax software, which required the report to be generated using an alternate method

Vice-Chairman Castle, seconded by Commissioner Hodges, moved to accept the October 2025 Refunds and Releases Report.

VOTE: Aye – 5
Nay – 0

9. MISCELLANEOUS ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

A. Change Order 11 for Emergency Services Facility

Greene Construction, Inc. submitted Change Order Request 11 for the Emergency Services Facility project to account for weather-related delays between August 1 and August 30, 2025. Work was halted for 12 days due to wet conditions, exceeding the five-year August average of 8.4 days.

The contractor requested a four (4) calendar day extension, updating the contract completion date to April 3, 2026. This change order is for time only and does not affect project costs. County Manager Geouque noted the project is progressing quickly, with the roof expected to be completed within eight working days, weather permitting.

Commissioner Marsh, seconded by Commissioner Greene, moved to approve Change Order 11 to extend the contract completion date by four (4) days.

VOTE: Aye – 5
Nay – 0

B. Emergency Watershed Protection Engineering Services Selection

The County recently issued a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for engineering services for the Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program. Following review by the County Manager, Emergency Services Director, and Soil and Water Technician, staff recommended awarding contracts to Blue Ridge Environmental Consultants, P.A. and Brushy Fork Engineering Division, PLLC. A total of 54 potential waterway sites have been identified, with Brushy Fork covering the western portion of the County and Blue Ridge covering the eastern portion, approximately 27 sites each. The County reserves the right to reassign projects between firms or terminate any EWP projects not yet designed or bid.

County Manager Geouque noted that the government shutdown has delayed progress and that the County must initially fund projects, though reimbursement from the NRCS is expected. Chairman Eggers and Brian Bonville, technician with the Soil and Water Conservation, discussed prioritization based on need and project cost, which ranges from \$10,000 to \$300,000 for most sites. County Manager Geouque emphasized including contract provisions to address funding and approval uncertainties.

Vice-Chairman Castle, seconded by Commissioner Greene, moved to approve the award of engineering services contracts for the EWP Program to Blue Ridge Environmental Consultants, P.A. and Brushy Fork Engineering Division, PLLC.

VOTE: Aye – 5
Nay – 0

C. Old Cove Creek Project Bid Award

The County solicited bids for the reconstruction of the Old Cove Creek facility, receiving three (3) bids. Greene Construction was identified as the lowest responsive bidder at \$2,481,513, which includes a base bid of \$1,741,095 for like-for-like reconstruction and \$740,418 for proposed enhancements.

Proposed funding sources include \$500,000 from FEMA for the insurance deductible and up to \$1,000,000 from insurance proceeds, leaving a potential funding gap of \$981,513, contingent on receipt of FEMA and insurance funds. To address the shortfall, the County is pursuing supplemental funding through PARTF, OSBM, and TDA. Initial project funding would be provided through Cash Flow Loans from the North Carolina Department of State Treasury, with any remaining gap funded from the General Fund Balance if supplemental funding is not secured.

County Manager Geouque explained the base bid represents replacement of the prior facility, while alternates represent enhancements. He noted that work cannot begin until FEMA provides approval. Will Holt, Emergency Services Director, explained that FEMA's site inspection undervalued the project and noted that Hazard Mitigation was delayed during the government shutdown. Chairman Eggers and Commissioner Greene emphasized the need to inform the community about the delay and the reason work has not yet started.

Commissioner Hodges, seconded by Commissioner Marsh, moved to award the bid to Greene Construction in the amount of \$2,481,513, including the alternates.

VOTE: Aye – 5
Nay – 0

D. Budget Amendment

The Finance Office submitted a budget amendment to allocate Fiscal Year 2025 funding for the Sanitation Capital Reserve Fund in accordance with North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) requirements. The amendment transfers \$1,595 from Landfill Retained Earnings to the Capital Reserve Fund to meet annual reserve requirements. County Manager Geouque noted that the adjustment is made annually to account for inflation, as required by the state.

Vice-Chairman Castle, seconded by Commissioner Greene, moved to approve the budget amendment as presented.

VOTE: Aye – 5
Nay – 0

E. Boards and Commissions

Valle Crucis Historic Preservation Commission

Mr. Geouque presented a request regarding the Valle Crucis Historic Preservation Commission. The terms of Mr. Scott Jensen and Mr. Pat Brown are expiring, and both have expressed a desire to continue serving on the commission for a three-year term. Chairman Eggers noted that he felt confident in the reappointments.

Chairman Eggers, seconded by Vice-Chairman Castle, moved to reappoint Mr. Jensen and Mr. Brown to the Valle Crucis Historic Preservation Commission for three-year terms.

VOTE: Aye – 5
Nay – 0

Volunteer Application for Advisory Committees – Phillip Hardin

Mr. Geouque presented a volunteer application from Mr. Phillip Hardin of Banner Elk (Shawneehaw Township), expressing interest in serving on the Watauga County Board of Adjustment or the Watauga County Social Services Board. Mr. Hardin is currently the Economic Services Director for Buncombe County Health and Human Services and has 37 years of experience in social services, including serving as a Department of Social Services Director. He also served 12 years on the City of Asheville Board of Adjustment, including four years as Chair.

One alternate seat on the Watauga County Board of Adjustment is currently vacant, with a term expiring in November 2026. Chairman Eggers noted he had spoken with Mr. Hardin and was confident in his qualifications.

Chairman Eggers, seconded by Commissioner Greene, moved to appoint Mr. Phillip Hardin to the alternate position on the Board of Adjustment, with the term expiring in November 2026.

VOTE: Aye – 5
Nay – 0

F. Announcements

County Manager Geouque announced the following upcoming events:

- *Occupational Building Addition Ribbon Cutting – CCC&TI*
The Trustees of Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute have invited the Board of Commissioners to attend the ribbon cutting for the Occupational Building Addition on Thursday, November 20, 2025, at 2:00 P.M. on the Watauga Campus. An invitation was provided, and attendees are asked to RSVP by November 13, 2025.
- *Watauga County Employee Christmas Luncheon*
The Watauga County Employee Christmas Luncheon will be held on Tuesday, December 9, 2025, at Dan'l Boone Inn, with two seating times at 11:30 A.M. and 1:00 P.M. County Manager Geouque added that this event provides an opportunity for the Board to visit with County employees.

It was noted for the record that a majority of the Board may be present at these events, as well as at an upcoming Blue Ridge Energy event; however, no County business will be discussed at any of the gatherings.

G. Proposed Resolution Establishing the Sheriff's Salary

Mr. Geouque stated that, in accordance with N.C. General Statute §153A-92, the Board is required to establish the Sheriff's salary prior to the candidate filing period so that filing fees may be calculated. The proposed resolution sets the entry-level salary at \$120,902, consistent with the County's current pay plan.

Commissioner Marsh, seconded by Vice-Chairman Castle, moved to adopt the resolution setting the Sheriff's salary as presented.

VOTE: Aye – 5
Nay – 0

10. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

- **Chairman Eggers** announced that Comeback Shack is hosting an event this evening in which 20% of proceeds will go toward paying off Watauga County Schools' lunch debt.

11. CLOSED SESSION

At 6:44 PM, Commissioner Marsh, seconded by Vice-Chairman Castle, moved to enter Closed Session pursuant to G.S. § 143-318.11(a)(3) to discuss matters protected by attorney-client privilege, including Case No. 5:25-cv-157, and pursuant to G.S. § 143-318.11(a)(5) to consider matters related to the acquisition of real property.

VOTE: Aye – 5
Nay – 0

At 7:47 PM, Vice-Chairman Castle, seconded by Chairman Eggers, moved to resume the open meeting.

VOTE: Aye – 5
Nay – 0

12. ADJOURN

At 7:48 PM, Chairman Eggers, seconded by Commissioner Marsh, moved to adjourn the meeting.

VOTE: Aye – 5
Nay – 0

Braxton Eggers, Chairman

ATTEST: Katie Hancock, Clerk to the Board

AGENDA ITEM 3:

BOARD ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

Manager's Comments:

A. Election of Officers

Since there is currently no Chairman, it has been customary for the County Manager to conduct the election. However, a commissioner may handle this duty if the Board prefers. Nominations for Chairman are taken from the floor, and the election is determined by a simple majority of the Board.

Once a Chairman is elected, they will call for nominations for Vice-Chair. After both officers are elected, the new Chairman assumes their duties and presides over the meeting.

At this time, commissioners may change their seating arrangements if they wish, or they may choose to do so at a later meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 3:

BOARD ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

Manager's Comments:

B. Staff Appointments

It has been the local practice for the Board to act on the following staff appointments, all of whom serve at the pleasure of the Board. These include the County Manager, Deron Geouque; the Clerk to the Board, Katie Hancock; the Substitute Clerks to the Board, Monica Harrison (Human Resources Manager) and Macy Chirco (Human Resources Coordinator); and the County Attorney. The County Attorney may be appointed by individual name or by firm, whichever the Board deems appropriate.

In addition, the Board may appoint a separate Department of Social Services Attorney, or the appointed County Attorney may fulfill this role at the Board's discretion.

Board action is required to make the reappointments.

A G E N D A I T E M 3 :

BOARD ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

Manager's Comments:

C. Fidelity Bonds

Board action is required to set the specific name fidelity bonds for the positions detailed in the packet.

Mr. Deron Geouque will be present for discussion.



WATAUGA COUNTY FINANCE OFFICE

814 West King St., Room 216 - Boone, NC 28607 - Phone (828) 265-8007 Fax (828) 265-8006

MEMORANDUM

TO: Deron Geouque, County Manager
FROM: Deidre Guy, Assistant Finance Director
SUBJECT: Fidelity Bonds, Official and Authorized Signers
DATE: November 25, 2025

The following fidelity bonds are in place and require the annual approval of the Watauga County Board of Commissioners. Currently, the County Manager serves as Deputy Finance Director in the absence of the Finance Director and is bonded as such. The Finance Director, County Manager, and Chair of the Board of Commissioners serve as the authorized signers for disbursements on all County accounts. Additional signers and Deputy Finance Officers on the Inmate Commissary account only are Randy Greene, James Sharpe, Barry Trivette, and Eric Davis. Official depositories of the County are First National Bank, Truist Bank, NC Capital Management Trust Fund, and Multi-Bank Securities.

<u>Position</u>	<u>Bond Amount</u>	<u>Statutory Requirement</u>
Finance Director	\$1,000,000	Amount equal to 10% of the Annual budgeted funds, up to \$1,000,000, NCGS 159-29
Deputy Finance Director/ County Manager	\$50,000	
Tax Collector	\$50,000	Amount considered reasonable by BCC, NCGS 105-349-c
Register of Deeds	\$50,000	At least \$10,000, but no more than \$50,000, NCGS 161-4
Sheriff	\$25,000	Amount considered reasonable by BCC, but no more than \$25,000, NCGS 162-8

Board approval is requested for the bonds, official depositories and the authorized signers as listed above.

AGENDA ITEM 3:

BOARD ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

Manager's Comments:

D. Commissioner Appointments to Boards & Commissions

Included in the packet is a list of Boards and Commissions on which the Commissioners have previously served. Some of these are legal requirements, while others are at the request of the agencies. Most appointments can be made by the Chairman of the Board, although several require action by the full Board. Accordingly, it has been the practice for the Chairman to submit a list of appointments for Board approval. If more than one nomination is made for a particular appointment, the Board may vote on each nomination separately.

Commissioner Appointments to Boards & Commissions

as of December 2024

BOARD/COMMISSION	MEMBER
Appalachian District Health Department	Castle
Appalachian Theatre Board of Trustees Ex-Officio Member	Greene
AppalCART Authority	Marsh
Blue Ridge Resource Conservation & Development Area	Eggers
Children's Council	Greene
Child Protection Team	Greene
Cooperative Extension Advisory Leadership Board	Castle
Economic Development Commission	Hodges
Educational Planning Committee (2 appointees)	Eggers & Castle
EMS Advisory Committee	Marsh
High Country Council of Governments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Executive Board Rural Transportation Advisory Committee 	Eggers
Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (JCPC)	Marsh
Humane Society	Castle
Library Board	Greene
Motor Vehicle Valuation Review Committee	BCC
New River Service Authority Board	Marsh
Northwest Regional Housing Authority (five-year term expires 12/13/2029)	Pat Vines
POA Advisory Committee (Home & Community Care Block Grant)	Eggers
Sheriff's Office Liaison	Eggers & Marsh
Vaya Regional Board (Region 3)	Eggers & Castle
Social Services Advisory Board	Hodges
Watauga County Arts Council (added February 2020)	Greene
Watauga County Fire Commission	Marsh
Watauga County Personnel Advisory Committee	Chair or Vice-Chair
Watauga County Recreation Commission	Eggers & Castle
Watauga Medical Center Board of Trustees	Castle
W.A.M.Y. Community Action	Hodges
Watauga Opportunities, Inc.	Hodges
Workforce Development Board	Chairman

A G E N D A I T E M 3 :

BOARD ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

Manager's Comments:

E. Regular Meeting Schedule

The Board's regular meetings are currently scheduled for the first and third Tuesday of each month at 5:30 PM. This schedule may continue or be changed at the Board's discretion.

A G E N D A I T E M 4 :

APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 2, 2025, AGENDA

Manager's Comments:

Now that the Board has been officially constituted, it is appropriate for the Board to take action to approve the agenda.

A G E N D A I T E M 5 :

PUBLIC COMMENT

Manager's Comments:

Public Comment is limited to a maximum of one hour, with time adjusted based on the number of speakers.

A G E N D A I T E M 6 :

2025 GOVERNOR'S VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD PRESENTATION

Manager's Comments:

Rebecca Hall, Executive Director of the High Country United Way, will present the 2025 North Carolina Governor's Volunteer Service Awards. The 2025 award winners are Kay Borkowski, Martha Gentry, Christy McKinney, Joyce Creed, Loyce Warren, and George Bartholomew.

The Governor's Volunteer Service Award recognizes individuals and groups who demonstrate outstanding volunteer service and make a significant contribution to their community. Each winner will be highlighted with a brief summary of their nomination.

This presentation is for informational purposes only, and no action is required from the Board.

AGENDA ITEM 7:

MIDDLE FORK GREENWAY SECTION 3A – STREAM RESTORATION BID RECOMMENDATION

Manager's Comments:

Carrie Caviness of Interface Environmental Consulting, LLC will present the results of the bidding process for the Middle Fork Greenway Section 3A Stream Restoration project and the recommendation for contract award.

Seven (7) firms submitted bids, with the three lowest as follows:

- Baker Grading & Landscaping: \$421,000.00
- Wildlands Construction: \$599,728.54
- North State Environmental: \$628,881.20

All bidders met licensure, insurance, and bid bond requirements. Based on bid price and compliance, IEC and Blue Ridge Conservancy recommend awarding the contract to Baker Grading & Landscaping, Inc. Funds for the project are as follows:

1. Land and Water Fund – Administer through Blue Ridge RC&D
2. Division of Water Resource – Administer through High Country Council of Governments
3. Matching Funds – Middle Fork Greenway

Board action is requested to award the bid in the amount of \$421,000 to Baker Grading & Landscaping, Inc.



To: Watauga County Commissioners

From: Carrie Caviness, PHD, PE, Interface Environmental Consulting

Date: November 25th, 2025

Re: Middle Fork Greenway Section 3A Stream Restoration

This memo serves to detail the Middle Fork Greenway Section 3A Stream Restoration bidding process and Interface Environmental Consulting (IEC) and Blue Ridge Conservancy's (BRC) recommendation to the Watauga County Commissioners for contract award.

IEC along with Jennings Environmental, PLLC. assembled the bid documents including instructions, alternatives, technical specifications to accompany the project's construction documents. This package was provided to Mr. Deron Geoque and Ms. Anita Fogle and posted to the County's website on September 23rd, 2025 at 8:00am. A mandatory pre-bid meeting was held onsite on October 3rd, 2025. Advertisement of the bid was posted in the Watauga Democrat and Ashe Post Times news organizations. IEC also disseminated the bid package to HUD and SBE/DBE General Contracting firms per recommendations by the High County Council of Governments staff.

The bid opening occurred on October 14th, 2025. Seven (7) firms submitted bids for the proposed project. Bids were opened by Carrie Caviness (IEC) at the County Administration building. Dr. Caviness was accompanied by Blue Ridge Conservancy and Watauga County staff during bid opening, review, tabulation, and recognition of the apparent low bidder. All bidders met and provided proof of the required licensure/insurance, and bid bond. The three lowest bids received are given below:

Contractor	Base Bid
Baker Grading & Landscaping	\$421,000.00
Wildlands Construction	\$599,728.54
North State Environmental	\$628,881.20

IEC and BRC recommend the MFG Section 3A Stream Restoration project be awarded to Baker Grading & Landscaping, Inc. based on the bid price and all other bid requirements which were successfully met.

Sincerely,

Carrie Caviness, PhD, PE

Interface Environmental Consulting, LLC.

CC: Greg Jennings, PE, Jennings Environmental, PLLC.

Wendy Patoprsty, Blue Ridge Conservancy

A G E N D A I T E M 8 :

WATAUGA COUNTY NCDOT EXPRESS DESIGN REQUEST

Manager's Comments:

Jason Walker, Director of Planning and Inspections, will present the County's P9.0 prioritization project for the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP).

Watauga County may submit one project for Express Design. Based on guidance from David Graham, High Country COG, and Dean Ledbetter, NCDOT, the most competitive project without an Express Design is:

- H111016 – NC 105 Bypass: Widen to 3 lanes with 5-foot paved shoulders for bicycles

The Board may recommend this project or select another. A final recommendation is required before the end of the year for submission to NCDOT.

Board action is requested to recommend a project for Express Design.



WATAUGA COUNTY

*Department of
Planning & Inspections*

126 Poplar Grove Connector Suite 201 • Boone, North Carolina 28607 (828) 265-8043

TTY 1-800-735-2962

Voice 1-800-735-8262

or 711

FAX (828) 265-8080

Memorandum

Date: November 21, 2025
To: Board of Commissioners
Deron Geouque, County Manager
From: Jason Walker, Director of Planning & Inspections
Re: Watauga County NCDOT Express Design Request

David Graham, Transportation Planner for the High Country Council of Governments, has reached out to us about the upcoming P9.0 projects. To help minimize NCDOT programming issues once projects are selected for funding in State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), it is critical to make sure that projects submitted for evaluation through the prioritization process have had an Express Design engineering analysis performed. Therefore, identification of the most competitive candidate projects for Express Design as early as possible is important so they can be submitted for the next round of prioritization (P9.0) as required by NCDOT.

We are eligible to submit one project for an Express Design. David has spoken with Dean Ledbetter, NCDOT Division 11 Corridor Development Engineer, and the most competitive project for Watauga County that does not have an Express Design is:

H111016 - NC 105 Bypass - Widen to 3 lanes with 5-foot paved shoulders to accommodate bicycles.

The Board may choose to recommend this project or select another project if desired. A final recommendation from the Board is needed before the end of the calendar year so that David can submit it to NCDOT.

A G E N D A I T E M 9 :

**MASTER AGREEMENT BETWEEN WATAUGA COUNTY AND THE NC
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES**

Manager's Comments:

Michelle Kasey, Soil and Water Conservation, requests approval and signatures on the Master Agreement Amendment to add \$100,000 in funding for Hurricane Helene Technical Assistance.

These additional funds will support technical assistance related to Hurricane Helene response activities.

Board action is requested to approve the Master Agreement Amendment.

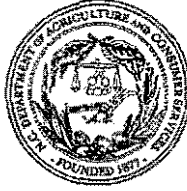
Katie.Hancock

From: Michelle Kasey
Sent: Friday, November 21, 2025 9:50 AM
To: Board Packet
Subject: December 2 Commissioners' agenda

Commissioners and County Manager,

Agenda Item: Master Agreement between Watauga County and the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

Need approval and signatures on the Master Agreement Amendment to include an additional \$100,000 in Hurricane Helene Technical Assistance. The additional funds are offered to support technical assistance for Hurricane Helene response activities.



Steve Troxler
Commissioner

North Carolina Department of Agriculture
and Consumer Services

N. David Smith
Chief Deputy Commissioner

November 14, 2025

Ms. Michelle Kasey
Watauga Soil & Water Conservation District
971 West King Street
Boone, NC 28607

CONTRACT NUMBER: 25-039-4037
AMENDMENT NUMBER: 01-2026

Dear Ms. Kasey:

On behalf of Commissioner Steve Troxler and the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, please be advised that your updated Master Agreement contract has been approved. This update adds additional funding for the 2025-2026 fiscal year; the amendment revises the total award amount to \$170,976.00. Your approved project end date remains June 30, 2028.

Two original contract amendment packets must be completed and returned to the NCDA&CS, making sure that the contracts and certain forms have been signed, dated, and witnessed. Since this is a witness contract, there are two (2) options to complete the contract. It is acceptable to have everyone sign the contract electronically or submit two (2) original signed contracts. Depending on the method you choose, please return as shown below:

Electronic Signed Contract:

Tinesha McNeil
Administrative Specialist
Tinesha.mcneil@ncagr.gov

Original signatures mail:

Tinesha McNeil, Administrative Specialist
N.C. Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
Division of Soil & Water Conservation
1614 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699

By completing these documents, you are agreeing to the specific stipulations, the general terms and conditions and specific reporting requirements. All authorized representative signatures must be in blue or black ink. Please use the Contract Check Off List to ensure all attachments are included and are in the correct order for each contract packet.

One fully executed; original amendment will be returned to you for your records. If you have any questions about your amendment or any of the forms contained in your offer packet, please contact Tinesha McNeil at 919.707.3775 or Tinesha.McNeil@ncagr.gov.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for participating in the efforts to protect the soil and water resources of our state.

Sincerely,

N. David Smith
Chief Deputy Commissioner

Enclosures



NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES
Steven W. Troxler, Commissioner

CONTRACT AMENDMENT "CHECK OFF LIST" for Grantee

This form must be returned with your completed contract amendment package.

INSTRUCTIONS: Check the YES boxes in the left column for the document titles that are being returned with the two signed, dated and witnessed (for government entities) or notarized (for non-government entities) copies of the contract amendment with signatures in blue ink. Be sure to include all the other documents specified in your contract amendment package. If ☒ NO has been checked off for you, that document is not required for this grant program or project.

GRANTEE ORGANIZATION NAME: Watauga Soil & Water Conservation District Soil and Water Conservation District

PROJECT TITLE/NAME: DSWC-District Matching and Technical Assistance Agreement

CONTRACT #: 25-039-4037 **AMENDMENT #:** 01-2026

Check one Box	DOCUMENT TITLE <i>ALL SIGNATURES MUST BE IN BLUE INK</i>	DEPARTMENT USE - DOCUMENTS ATTACHED	GRANTS & CONTRACTS USE - DOCUMENTS ATTACHED
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Contract Amendment "Check Off List" for Grantee	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Contract Amendment Cover	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Attachment A – Signature Card	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Attachment B - Contract Scope of Work and Payment Provisions	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF WAKE



North Carolina Department of Agriculture
and Consumer Services

Division of Soil and Water Conservation

DSWC-District Matching and Technical
Assistance Agreement - Governmental

Amendment Number: 01-2026
Contract Number: 25-039-4037

This document amends the Contract bearing the effective date of July 1, 2024, between the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, hereinafter referred to as the "Agency" and the **Watauga Soil & Water Conservation District** Soil and Water Conservation District, hereinafter referred to as the "Grantee."

The Grantee's tax ID number is **56-6001816**. The Congressional District Number is **5th**. The District's UEI number is **X7B4LX1QQMX6**.

As provided for under the terms of the original Contract, the Agency and the Grantee agree to amend the contract provisions as outlined below.

I. Section IV.: Agency's Duties:

The previous Section IV is hereby deleted and replaced with the following:

The DSWC hereby agrees to pay the Grantee in the manner and in the amounts specified in the Contract Documents. The total amount paid by the DSWC to the Grantee shall not exceed **\$170,976.00**.

This amount consists of: \$10,000.00 in federal funds.

This amount consists of: \$160,976.00 in State funds

The Grantee's matching requirement is **\$60,976.00**, which consists of:

In Kind	\$
Cash	\$60,976.00
Cash and In-kind	\$
Cash and/or In-kind	\$60,976.00
Other/Specify	\$

The total Contract amount is **\$231,952.00**.

Departmental Use Only

**ORIGINAL CONTRACT and
Amendment 1:**

AMU: 101340-1003703
ACCOUNT: 56900140
AMOUNT: \$7,200

AMU: 203778-2710
ACCOUNT: 56500164
AMOUNT: \$53,776

AMU: 101340-1003791
ACCOUNT: 56400067
AMOUNT: \$10,000

AMU: -
ACCOUNT:
AMOUNT: \$

AMU: 203704-1001611
PROJECT CODE: 10H00000025
AMOUNT: \$100,000.00

II. Contract Scope of Work and Payment Provisions:

The previous Attachment B: Scope of Work and Payment Provisions is hereby deleted and replaced with the attached Attachment B: Scope of Work and Payment Provisions. The revision is necessary to add funding for the 2025-26 fiscal year.

Also, this amendment shall serve as notification to the Grantee that it shall submit to the Agency the documents outlined below:

1. Signature Card (Attachment A)

All other terms and conditions as set forth in the original Contract document shall remain in effect for the duration of this Amendment.

This Amendment is continued on the next page.

Signature Warranty:

The undersigned represent and warrant that they are authorized to bind their principals to the terms of this Contract.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Grantee and the Agency execute this Contract as an electronic original, each party will be provided a fully executed copy via electronic mail. It is required that each party retain a fully executed copy of this contract.

Grantee: **Watauga Soil & Water Conservation District Soil and Water Conservation District**

Signature of Authorized Representative Date

Printed Name Title

Witness:

Signature Date

Printed Name Title



North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

Signature of Authorized Representative Date

N. David Smith, Chief Deputy Commissioner

ATTACHMENT B

Scope of Work and Payment Provisions

The Watauga Soil & Water Conservation District will complete the following activities and supply the following deliverables:

1. District Matching Funds – Funds for district operating support are allocated to each county equally, subject to that District’s documentation that matching funds equal to or exceeding the allocated amount are available for match. To be eligible to receive matching funds the Grantee shall:
 - a. Submit by March 31 of each fiscal year an ‘Application for Matching Funds for Soil & Water Conservation Districts’ showing the amount of matching funds requested by the Grantee and documenting the source and amount of matching funds provided by the Grantee. The Grantee shall not count as match the funds that were allocated by the Commission for technical assistance cost share nor those local funds pledged to match technical assistance cost share. **Matching Funds not requested by June 15 shall be unencumbered from this Contract.**
 - b. Upload to the Agency’s SharePoint site:
 - i. The approved minutes of all district board meetings held during the period of the Contract.
 - ii. Term of office documentation for each board supervisor for their current term
 1. Oath of Office
 2. Employment Certification Form for District Supervisors (Form 201)
 3. Election report for elected seats (Form 200)
 - iii. Supervisor Disclosure Form (NC-CSPs-SD) – Due annually for each board supervisor by February 28
 - iv. Documentation that an Annual Audit, required by the Local Government Budget and Fiscal Control Act, has been completed for the prior fiscal year. This may be completed by a certified public accountant, or an internal audit conducted in compliance with NC General Statue 139-7.
2. Cost Share Technical Assistance – cost share funds for technical assistance positions are allocated to districts by the Commission and through the Agency in accordance with its rules and procedure, 02 NCAC 59D .0108. To be eligible to receive technical assistance cost share, the Grantee shall:
 - a. Submit by June 1 of each fiscal year, the District Strategy Plan for cost share programs for the upcoming fiscal year, including a request for technical assistance funds. The request for technical assistance funds should include the name of each employee who does technical work to support Commission Cost Share Programs and an upload of those employees’ Job Approval Authority.
 - b. Implement cost share program activities in the District, pursuant to Commission rules and policies.
 - c. Submit a Quarterly Cost Share Technical Assistance Request for Payment on the Division’s Forms Site Page at least annually and no more frequently than quarterly documenting actual

expenditures and match expenditures by the Grantee in support of technical assistance for Commission cost share programs.

- d. Work with the technical supervisor to upload an updated Individual Development Plan in AgLearn for each employee performing work on Commission cost share program contracts.
 - e. Have in place a secondary employment policy consistent with the Commission's Guidelines on Secondary Employment and shall upload to the Agency's SharePoint site an annual Secondary Employment Form for each employee performing work on Commission cost share program contracts. The initial Secondary Employment Form shall be submitted annually on or before October 15 of each year. The Grantee shall submit an updated form along with its quarterly Request for Payment of Technical Assistance if the secondary employment changes or other potential conflicts of interest of a subject employee arise after the initial submission.
3. NRCS Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) Technical Assistance Supplement – supplemental Technical Assistance funds are eligible to claim, up to \$10,000 by September 30, 2025, for deliverables provided according to the unit costs below. After September 30, 2025, unclaimed funds will be recalled and added to funding for the next fiscal year, and a new payment cap will be established.

Deliverables must have been provided between October 1, 2024 - January 20, 2025, and May 15, 2025, to present (or as otherwise required by the Natural Resources Conservation Service).

Deliverables that exceed the \$10,000 cap that were provided during permitted dates, will be eligible to be invoiced in the next funding cycle.

DELIVERABLE COMPONENT	UNIT COST
IRA related Field Visits	\$150
IRA related Application Processing	\$200
IRA related Application Cost Estimates	\$200
IRA related Survey & Design	\$1,000
IRA related Contract Development and Management Assistance	\$250
IRA related Practice Implementation and Oversight	\$500
IRA related Practice Check out	\$750

To be eligible to receive NRCS IRA Technical Assistance Supplement, the Grantee shall:

- a. Submit by September 30, 2026, an invoice request for reimbursement at unit cost amounts above through FormSite.
 - b. Upload to the Agency's SharePoint site Conservation Assistance notes (NRCS-CPA-6 notes) for projects invoiced under item 3.a.
4. Hurricane Helene Technical Assistance – a technical assistance allocation to support Hurricane Helene response is provided to select districts through the Agency. To be eligible to receive Helene Technical Assistance, the Grantee shall:
- a. Support Hurricane Helene response activities; including BMP repair and implementation, damage assessments, and federal and state cost share disaster response program support.

- b. Hire local staff or subcontract work to accomplish item 4.a. Costs associated with local staff may include salary, benefits, mileage, equipment, travel cost, or other operating expenses.
- c. Submit a Quarterly Helene Technical Assistance Request for Payment on the Division's Forms site page at least annually, and no more frequently than quarterly. Up to \$25,000 may be requested, per quarter, while activities are underway. Payments may be awarded in advance; receipts for the previous quarter activities will be required.
- d. Submit a quarterly list of projects the hired staff or subcontractor has supported. Reports should be submitted to kristina.fischer@ncagr.gov. Reports are due by October 20 (July, August, September), January 20 (October, November, December), April 20 (January, February, March), and July 20 (April, May, June).
- e. By June 30, each year, the Grantee shall submit a summary report of activities accomplished using the technical assistance funds, and documentation of actual expenditures totaling at least the amount of the awarded funds. If documentation of actual expenditures is below the awarded amount, Grantee will be expected to repay any balance amount greater than \$25,000. Grantee may request exception for repayment for extenuating circumstances.

CONTRACT BUDGET

The following budget reflects the maximum authorized payment for each activity described in the scope of work.

Activity 1: District Matching Funds

Fiscal Year	Maximum Amount Awarded	District Match Requirement
2024-25	\$3,600	\$3,600
2025-26	\$3,600	\$3,600
2026-27		
2027-28		

Activity 2: Cost Share Technical Assistance

Budget Category	Salary/ Benefits	Mileage	Equipment	Travel	Other	Total (Max Award)
2024-25 Award	\$26,888					\$26,888
2024-25 Match						\$26,888
2025-26 Award	\$26,888					\$26,888
2025-26 Match						\$26,888
2026-27 Award						\$0
2026-27 Match						\$0
2027-28 Award						\$0
2027-28 Match						\$0

* Actual expenditures can deviate from the annual budget by up to 10% without requiring a budget adjustment. Deviations exceeding 10% must be approved in advance by the Accounting Technician or Manager for the Agriculture Cost Share Program.

Activity 3: NRCS IRA Technical Assistance Supplement

Fiscal Year	Maximum Amount Awarded	District Match Requirement
2024-25	\$10,000	\$0.00
2025-26		
2026-27		
2027-28		

Activity 4: Hurricane Helene Technical Assistance

Fiscal Year	Maximum Amount Awarded	District Match Requirement
2025-26		
2026-27	\$100,000	\$0.00



CONTRACT and FINANCIAL DOCUMENTS SIGNATURE CARD

INSTRUCTIONS:

Please read and fill in the required information for each field as applicable. Signatures must match the Contract signatures. A revised form must be submitted prior to processing any contractual documents, submitting "Request for Payments," or any other financial documents if the affixed signature(s) are no longer valid. This form may be duplicated if more than two people are signing for the organization.

SECTION I

Date:	
Legal Applicant Organization/Agency Name:	
Federal Tax Identification Number:	

SECTION II

CERTIFICATION:

By affixing my signature below, I certify that person(s) identified are designated as having legal signing authorization on behalf of the above named organization for the purposes of executing contractual documents as well as preparing, approving, and executing all financial documents to include "*Requests for Payments*." I understand the legal implications of all misrepresentation(s), which include but are not limited to defrauding the State of North Carolina and certify via my signature below, I have full authority to execute this Agreement on behalf of the named organization.

GOVERNMENT ENTITIES ONLY (Must match Contract signature)

Authorized Government Official	CFO, Controller, or Other Authorized Government Official
Printed Name:	Printed Name:
Title:	Title:
Email Address:	Email Address:
Signature:	Signature:

A G E N D A I T E M 1 0 :

MISCELLANEOUS ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Manager's Comments:

A. Boards and Commissions

Watauga Economic Development Commission

The terms of Lee Rankin, Virginia Wallace, and Suzanne Livesay on the Watauga Economic Development Commission are expiring at the end of 2025. Each was appointed to a three-year term and is eligible to serve two consecutive terms.

Virginia Wallace and Suzanne Livesay have expressed a willingness to serve another term if reappointed. Lee Rankin is unable to serve another term.

This item is presented for first reading; however, the Board may waive the first reading requirement and proceed with appointments at this time if it so chooses.

Katie.Hancock

From: Joe Furman <joe@boonechamber.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 20, 2025 10:47 AM
To: Deron.Geouque
Cc: Katie.Hancock; David Jackson
Subject: Boards and Commissions

Deron,

The Board of Commissioners select and appoint 3 at-large members to the Watauga Economic Development Commission in addition to the standing members. The current 3 appointees are Lee Rankin, Virginia Wallace, and Suzanne Livesay. Each were appointed to 3-year terms that expire at the end of 2025. They are eligible to serve 2 back-to-back terms. Ms. Wallace and Ms. Livesay are both willing to serve another term if reappointed; Ms. Rankin is unable to serve another term.

Please add this to an upcoming Commissioners meeting agenda. Are new volunteer applications needed from Ms. Wallace and Ms. Livesay? Thanks!

Joe

Joseph A. Furman
Director of Economic Development
Boone Area Chamber of Commerce
579 Greenway Drive, Suite 101
Boone, NC 28607
joe@boonechamber.com
(828) 264-2225

A G E N D A I T E M 1 1 :

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS


A G E N D A I T E M 1 2 :

BREAK

A G E N D A I T E M 1 3 :

CLOSED SESSION

- Attorney-Client Matters – G.S. § 143-318.11(a)(3)
 - Including Case No. 5:25-cv-157, *Watauga County Voting Rights Task Force v. Watauga County Board of Elections*
- Acquisition of Real Property – G.S. § 143-318.11(a)(5)



SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS

FROM BOARD MEETING



Watauga County
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



PUBLIC COMMENT SIGN-IN

WATAUGA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MEETING DATE: December 2, 2025

WATAUGA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS PUBLIC COMMENT RULES

At the April 18, 2023, Watauga County Board of Commissioners meeting, the Board amended the policy for public comment before the Board as follows:
In accordance with North Carolina General Statutes 160A-81.1, the Watauga County Board of Commissioners establishes the following policy and rules regarding Public Comment.

- The Board does hereby establish a time period of up to sixty (60) minutes, for an open forum, at the beginning of each regular meeting to hear citizen comments.
- Persons who wish to speak must register on the sign-up sheet located on the information desk outside the meeting room. Sign-up sheets will be available one hour prior to the start of each meeting.
- Speakers shall provide their name and address at the start of their comments.
- Each speaker is allocated up to three (3) minutes to speak. No public comment period shall extend beyond one (1) hour. The Chair reserves the right to reduce the time limitation for individual speakers in order to meet the one (1) hour time limit and as necessary for efficient conduct of business.
- A speaker may not share or relinquish any remaining time they have not used to another speaker and shall only be allowed to speak once during the public comment period.
- Speaker substitutions at the meeting are not allowed.
- Comments are to be directed to the Board as a whole. The forum is intended to provide the Board of Commissioners an opportunity to hear citizens. It is not intended to subject the Board to answering impromptu questions. Citizens will be expected to be civil in their language and presentation and not to engage in slander or name-calling.
- Speakers shall refrain from personal attacks and/or threats directed towards County staff, elected Board members, or members of the public. Insults, profanity, use of vulgar language or gestures, or other inappropriate behavior are not allowed.
- Speakers shall limit their comments to matters that are germane to, or within the jurisdiction of the Watauga County Board of Commissioners.
- Speakers shall address the Board with any, and all public comments. Comments, questions, jeering, or other interruptions from the audience are not allowed. Speakers shall likewise not address or respond to members of the audience.
- The Chair, or presiding officer, has the authority to enforce the Rules of Decorum. Failure to obey these Rules may result in the forfeiture of the remaining speaking time and possible criminal charges. Individuals who engage in egregious or repeated violations may be asked to leave the meeting.
- During the open forum, speakers should not discuss any of the following:
 - a. Matters which concern the candidacy of any person seeking public office, including that of the person addressing the Board.
 - b. Matters in current or anticipated litigation.
 - c. Advertising or promoting the sale of products, services, or private enterprise.
 - d. Promoting any contest or lottery.

SPEAKER LIST

Please clearly print your name. By printing your name, you acknowledge that you have read, understood, and agree to abide by the rules outlined above.

Please state your name before speaking.

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------|
| 1. <u>Rebecca Ann Adair</u> | 6. _____ |
| 2. <u>Emma Hyatt</u> | 7. _____ |
| 3. <u>Alana Baird</u> | 8. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 9. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 10. _____ |

ADDITIONAL SIGN-UP SPACE AVAILABLE ON THE BACK.