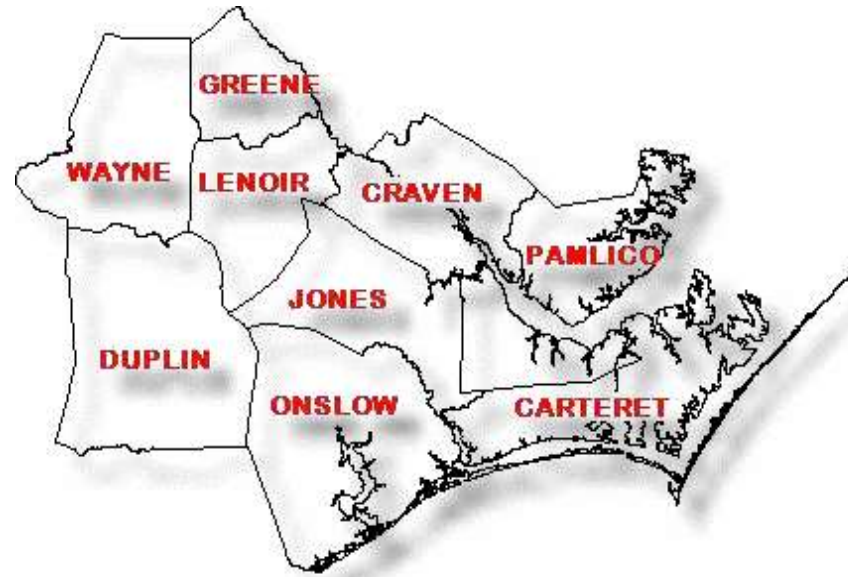


Presentation about the Eastern Carolina Council (ECC) by Executive Director David Bone



**Town of Swansboro
February 27, 2024**



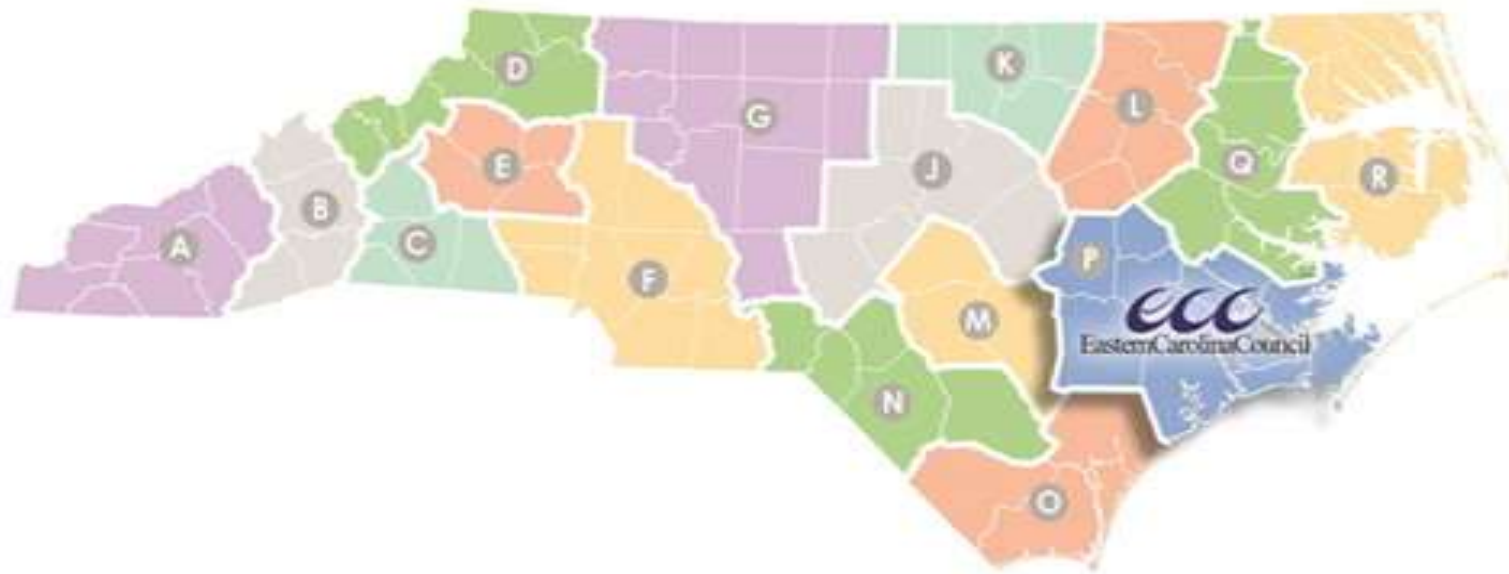
Introduction – David Bone:

- Started work as ECC Executive Director in 2022
- 20 years in local government management – as both a county and town manager
- Most of my career has been in eastern NC



Information about ECC:

- The Neuse River Council of Governments (d/b/a Eastern Carolina Council, or ECC) was established by the North Carolina Legislature in 1967 as one of 16 councils of government regions in the state.



Information about ECC:

- We are a membership organization.
- We are a local government with a regional focus.
- We are a conduit between local governments in our region and state/federal partners.



Information about ECC:

- We provide technical assistance to local governments and administer projects and programs which benefit our region's citizens.
- ECC is comprised of nine counties (Carteret, Craven, Duplin, Greene, Jones, Lenoir, Onslow, Pamlico, and Wayne) and 62 incorporated municipalities.



Mission:

To improve the region's quality of life by providing human, planning, and economic development services to local governments and area residents by leveraging resources and collaborating regionally.



ECC Finances:

- Financially, we operate more like a nonprofit.
- Most of our budget comes from grant funds – over 90%.
- Other revenue sources include membership dues and technical assistance fees for service.
- ECC's 2023-24 Budget includes approximately \$8.7 million.
- The biggest part of our budget is the Area Agency on Aging Department.
- A lot of the Aging budget involves pass-through state and federal funds that we distribute to county/municipal senior centers and service providers.



Area Agency on Aging (AAA)



Serving Carteret, Craven, Duplin, Greene, Jones, Lenoir, Onslow, Pamlico and Wayne Counties

Purpose of Area Agency on Aging

- Works with counties and providers to serve and advocate for the senior population in the region
- Develops area plans for comprehensive and coordinated system of care for home and community services
- Monitors all programs funded by the Older Americans Act
- Advocates on behalf of older adults and their caregivers



Purpose of Area Agency on Aging

- Administers Long-Term Care Ombudsman program
- Administers Family Caregiver Program
- Establishes network of strong advocates including Senior Tar Heel Delegates, Community Advisory Committees, Regional Aging Advisory Committees, Service Providers, and other advocates



Ombudsman Program

- Protects and preserves resident rights in nursing homes and adult care homes
- Investigates and resolves complaints on behalf of residents, families, and facilities
- Provides in-service training and education to facility staff
- Provides elder abuse awareness for community groups and organizations



Family Caregiver Program (FCSP)

- Provides caregivers with accurate and timely information on services in their counties
- Partners with other organizations to offer training for caregivers
- Monitors FCSP funds that are allocated to counties annually
- Educates community on caregiver issues and services

Planning, Economic Development, & Grants



Rural Planning Organizations (RPOs)





RPO Four Core Duties

- Develop, in cooperation with the Department (NCDOT), long-range local and regional multimodal transportation plans
- Provide a forum for public participation in the transportation planning process
- Develop and prioritize suggestions for transportation projects the organization believes should be included in the State's Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)
- Provide transportation-related information to local governments and other interested organizations and persons.

(North Carolina General Statute)



RPO Structure

- Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC)
 - Local elected officials and North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) Board Member
- Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC)
 - Staff from local governments and NCDOT
- Lead Planning Agency (LPA)
 - Administrative Entity (Council of Governments or Local Governments)

Community Development & Planning



Serving Carteret, Craven, Duplin, Greene, Jones, Lenoir, Onslow, Pamlico and Wayne Counties

Services to Local Governments

- ECC Planning staff assists local governments on current planning issues such as zoning, and related land-use issues
- This work has included the development and update of numerous types of ordinances (UDOs, Zoning, Subdivision, Historic Preservation, Public Nuisances, Minimum Housing, Flood Damage Prevention, and other codes), and plans (Comprehensive, Land Use, Bicycle/Pedestrian, etc.), as well as performing administrative services for primarily smaller municipalities



Services to Local Governments

- Consulting with member governments
 - Informal—phone or email advice/assistance
 - Formal—including site visits and recommendations
- Education and information
- Grant Writing / Grant Administration



Technical Assistance (TA) Projects

- American Recovery Plan (ARP) planning and reporting assistance (time-limited, funded through the State)
- Disaster Recovery technical assistance (time-limited, funded through the State)
- Training / Various Workshops / Regional Convenings

Technical Assistance (TA) Projects

Fee for service

- Ordinance Reviews
- Comprehensive Land Use Plan
- Parks & Recreation Comprehensive Plan / Master Plans
- Grant writing
- Planning and Zoning Administration



Administrative Technical Assistance (TA) Projects and Related Services

- Executive Searches
- Retreat facilitation

Economic Development



EasternCarolinaCouncil

Serving Carteret, Craven, Duplin, Greene, Jones, Lenoir, Onslow, Pamlico and Wayne Counties

Economic Development Planning

- ECC is the Economic Development Administration (EDA) designated Economic Development District
- In this role, ECC works with counties and municipalities and their economic developers if they have an EDA Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance grant application



Economic Development Planning

- ECC is the designated Local Development District (LDD) representative for the Southeast Crescent Regional Commission
- In this role, ECC works with counties, municipalities, and other organizations apply for grant funds from the Southeast Crescent Regional Commission (a federal agency working to improve economic conditions in rural, coastal communities in nine southeastern states)



Economic Development Planning

- We can also help communities connect with:
 - The International Economic Development Council (IEDC) and
 - The Kenan Center
- for economic development study projects

Economic Development Planning

- ECC has the responsibility to develop and implement a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for the region, which details the region's Economic and Community Development priorities (updated in 2023).
- It is online at <https://eccog.org/economic-development-planning/>.

Partnering/Collaboration Relationships Include:

- NCDOT – Transportation
- EDA, Southeast Crescent Regional Commission – Economic Development
- UNC School of Government – training opportunities
- NC Office of Resiliency and Recovery (NORR) – Regions Innovating for Strong Economies and Environment (RISE) program
- International Economic Development Council – connecting communities for free economic development / planning technical assistance
- NCSU Institute for Emerging Issues – Digital Inclusion Planning
- Wayne County – County and towns – Regional Water discussions
- NC Rural Water Assn. – Lead Service Line Inventory Requirements



Recent Projects & Initiatives

Some recently-completed projects and initiatives include:

- RISE Eastern NC (completed 2023)
- Area Agency on Aging – Grocery Assistance Program for Seniors (ended in 2023)
- Recreation Master Plan / Comprehensive Recreation Plan / PARTF Grant application – Town of Beulaville
- Planning Board training – Greenevers, Pink Hill, and Peletier
- Fire/EMS Chief Search – Newport



Current Projects & Initiatives

Some current projects and initiatives include:

- ARP Technical Assistance
- Disaster Recovery Technical Assistance
- 160D Review – Oriental and Pikeville
- Subdivision review – Town of Richlands
- Comp Plan – Town of Pink Hill
- Zoning services – Pink Hill, Peletier
- Grant writing – Pine Knoll Shores
- Grant administration – Beulaville and Faison



Providing Training Opportunities is a Focus

Some recent / Training Workshops include:

- Grant writing
- Ethics for Elected Officials
- Geographic Information System (GIS) Best Practices
- NCDOT State Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP) 101
- Disaster Resilience Workshops
- Federal Grant Programs
- FEMA's Community Rating System
- EPA Brownfields Program



Regional Partnership and Collaboration Is Key

Some recent / upcoming ECC collaboration and advocacy efforts include:

- Senior Tar Heel Legislature (advocating for seniors)
- 2023 Legislative Breakfast
- Transportation Summit – October 2023
- Quarterly City-County Managers / Mayors Meetings
- 2024 Legislative Breakfast (in the works)
- COG Legislative Day – May 8th
- 3 Regional IEDC efforts (focused on Military Retention, Workforce Housing, and Talent Attraction)



Focus and Vision for the Future

Moving forward, ECC wants to:

- Create value for our members
- Continue to expand our services and regional impact



ECC Strategic Priorities:

- Developed in the spring and approved by the Board in June 2023.
- Will be developed annually as part of the annual budget process.

Some Benefits of ECC Membership Include:

- Regional collaboration / advocacy
- Regional partnership
- Economic Development support
- Support for Aging Services
- Planning support / technical assistance
- Access to grant information, grant writing, grant administration services
- Training / workshops for elected officials and staff
- Administrative support (employee recruitment searches, other)



Cost of ECC Membership:

- Membership dues for municipalities in 2024-25 will be 40-cents per capita.
- Other COGs charge up to 83.4-cents per capita.
- Dues would be \$1,562 for Swansboro, which is a small price for the benefits provided.



Ask:

- 7 communities saw the value of ECC membership in the current year (Craven County, Onslow County, City of Jacksonville, City of New Bern, Town of Peletier, and Town of Magnolia all rejoined ECC in recent weeks).
- We encourage the Town of Swansboro to be an active member of ECC in 2024-25.



Thank you for the opportunity to share our story!

Comments or Questions?

Please contact me

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