Mission Statement

The Eastern Carolina Council’s mission is to improve the region’s quality of life by providing planning, economic development and human services to local governments and area residents by maximizing resources and collaborating regionally.

Eastern Carolina Council (ECC) is one of sixteen multi-county planning and development regions in North Carolina. Regional Councils are governed by local, public, and private sector appointments. These Councils are forums where local officials determine priorities for the larger area of which their communities are an integral part.

The ECC provides the organizational mechanism for local officials to address and deal with region-wide issues. By joining together, local governments create a valuable instrument for crossing political jurisdictions.

The Council helps satisfy the requirement of most funding agencies for a regional system of cooperation, coordination, and accountability. Regional councils bring together the leadership necessary to coordinate plans, programs and projects that deal with common problems and challenges, and to achieve mutual goals and objectives.

ECC is located in Region P. Region P covers nine counties including Carteret, Craven, Duplin, Greene, Jones, Lenoir, Onslow, Pamlico, and Wayne County.
As the President of the Eastern Carolina Council (ECC) for FY12/13, I am especially pleased to report that this has been a year of positive change for the organization. We entered the year having resolved a number of challenges and we are ready to move forward.

With the support of our member governments, we performed solidly. The staff successfully transitioned to a new financial reporting system which provides detailed information needed to track and assign revenue and expenses. The Executive Director retired making room for long-time employee Judy Hills to assume this role. A new Finance Director was hired. Auditors were complimentary of staff in their management of the organization. There were no audit exceptions and ECC ended the fiscal year with an increase in the fund balance.

In June, Green County Commissioner, Denny Garner, was selected to lead ECC for FY 13/14 and I know that the organization will continue to provide excellent services to the region under his leadership. We look forward to the new fiscal year as an opportunity to continue to serve our great region and its citizens.

Respectfully,

Steven Keen
President (2011-2013)

The challenge for FY 13/14 for ECC will be continuing to support our governments in whatever way we can. The legislature has made a number of decisions that have impacted both organizations and governments in our region and ECC was not immune. ECC had been receiving a small amount of state funds, but that has been taken away. There are significant changes within the state departments and divisions that we do business with.

Not only have their functions been realigned, but the leadership has changed as well. While some might see these differences as negative, ECC sees these as opportunities to work more closely with governments in our region and with the new leaders at the state level. It is imperative that we stand strong and that we stand united during these difficult times. We encourage you to seek out ECC to help you meet your local government’s needs. ECC is your regional organization and we are here to serve.

Respectfully,

Denny Garner
President
In November of 2012, the ECC Board of Director’s elected me as the Interim Executive Director and then in March of 2013 they officially appointed me as the Executive Director of ECC. As a long time employee of this organization, I am committed to serving our region and look forward to the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead. As a strong advocate of regionalism, I believe that there is much more that we can accomplish by coalescing and aligning our goals. It is amazing what we can do when we let go of the concepts of control and credit.

When you look at the depth and breadth of the projects and services provided by our small staff, you will see that ECC does a great deal with the resources that we are given. Small governments with no or few staff are particularly in need of our help. Member dues paid by counties and municipalities ensure that ECC can continue to meet the required matches for certain funding and that staff is available when help is needed. We appreciate those who have been and are currently members of ECC and we hope that all local governments will continue to support our staff, so our staff can continue to support governments. Please let us know how we can better serve you.

Respectfully,

Judy Hills
Executive Director
Area Agency on Aging

The Area Agency on Aging’s (AAA) mission of empowering senior citizens is achieved through advocacy and education. The AAA seeks to enhance living standards, provide responsive services, maximize tax dollar use, coordinate local programs and assist aging program service providers in the nine county ECC region.

AAA Administration

◊ In March, ECCAAA hosted a regional conference “We’ll Do It Our Way” focusing on person centered thinking for care and services. There were approximately 100 attendees.
◊ In June, AAA happily welcomed January Brown to the team. January, a Human Service Planner, is administering the Family Caregiver Support Program.
◊ The NC General Assembly recently passed legislation that requires all nursing homes and adult care homes to conduct drug screenings before hiring, and at any time after employment as situations arise. This is called Drug Testing for Long-Term Care Applicants and Employees, Senate Bill 542, now signed into law. This has been a priority for the Senior Tar Heel Legislature for several years. ECCAAA’s regional Senior Tar Heel delegation was instrumental in this new law.

Home and Aging Community Care Block Grant

◊ Aging service providers throughout the region expended $5,163,850 for home and community based services. This includes federal, state, and local funding.
◊ Service providers throughout the region provided 543,792 units of services to eligible older adults. Units of service include meals (both at the senior center and home delivered), transportation, and in-home aide assistance.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Top 3 Programs that deliver the most units:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Home Delivered Meals</strong>—190,276 meals; average meal cost = $5.88</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Congregate Nutrition</strong>—159,327 meals; average meal cost = $6.63</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>In Home Aid Services</strong>—113,986 hours or service = $15.29</td>
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</table>

◊ Programmatic assessments were conducted for Senior Center Operations, Care Management, Adult Day Care/Day Health, In Home Services, and Transportation.
Our region now has six senior centers that are certified as Senior Centers of Excellence by the NC Division of Aging and Adult Services:
* Carteret Senior Services
* Greene County Senior Services
* Lenoir County Council on Aging, Inc.
* Onslow County Senior Services
* Pamlico County Senior Services
* Wayne County Service on Aging—Peggy Seegars Senior Center

Consumer contributions collected for FY 12-13 totaled $104,215 from program participants.

Evidence-Based Health Promotion Programs

ECCAAA received $43,180 to provide Evidence-Based Health Promotion programs. One hundred percent of this funding was allocated to service providers in each county to ensure that these programs are available for older adults residing in their counties.

ECCAAA coordinated 15 Living Healthy and 13 Living Healthy with Diabetes workshops. ECCAAA has 47 active leaders throughout region with nearly 220 people completing this 6-week workshop.

ECCAAA has developed an Evidence-Based Health Promotion program Business Plan. We are charging for trainings and are working to sustain these programs at the regional level.

ECCAAA coordinated two Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program Instructor trainings, and one Matter of Balance Leader training.

ECCAAA has become a leader in the state for Evidence-Based Health Promotion programs. Staff members who are Master Trainers have been requested to assist other regions in facilitating lay leader trainings including the 2012 Chronic Disease Self Management program update. We have conducted Living Healthy/Living Healthy with Diabetes leader trainings and recertification for Albemarle Commission and First Health of the Carolinas in Pinehurst.
Ombudsman Program

◊ The Regional Ombudsman handled 159 complaints for the region. There were 98 resolved cases, 10 partially resolved and only nine unresolved. The remainder of cases were referred to other agencies or the client/complainant took action.

◊ The ombudsman documented 1,283 reported activities. The activities include technical assistance, long term care visits, advocacy efforts, facility/Community Advisory Committee trainings, participation in Division of Health and Service Regulations surveys, community presentations, and media contact.

◊ There are 13 Community Advisory Committees with 95 volunteers.

◊ The Ombudsman program hosted the first annual Elder Abuse Awareness Walk in Lenoir County. The event took place at the NC State Veterans Home in Kinston, and was held in partnership with Lenoir Department of Social Services and the Lenoir County Council on Aging. Thirty individuals including two county commissioners participated.

◊ The Ombudsman Program along with the Family Caregiver Program hosted five Virtual Dementia Tours in long term care facilities across the region. Participants included long term care staff, doctor’s offices, transport agencies, caregivers, and department of social services.

◊ The Ombudsman Program presented a workshop on Long Term Care (LTC) options at the Alzheimer Conference in Craven County in August 2012 and at the AAA Annual Aging Conference in March 2013. We also presented on Abuse and Neglect in LTC at the Elder Abuse Conference in Craven County.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>OMBUDSMAN PROGRAM</th>
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<tr>
<td>Facility visits to Adult Care and Nursing Homes</td>
<td>446</td>
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<td>Training for CAC volunteers</td>
<td>62</td>
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<tr>
<td>In service education to facilities</td>
<td>13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Education presentations to Community groups</td>
<td>24</td>
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<tr>
<td>Development or growth of Family Councils</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Consults with LTC Facilities</td>
<td>126</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Family Caregiver Support Program

◊ Expanded contracts, revised program guidelines, special projects and direct service provision has allowed ECC to reach more families through this program who otherwise would not had assistance or support.
Family Caregiver Support Program (Cont.)

◊ In 2012/2013 a total of 2,051 units of in-home respite were provided directly by ECC. There were 391 units of institutional respite provided directly from ECC. These services were provided to establish a consumer directed care model for respite care, to better serve caregivers in remote and underserved areas of the region.

◊ The FCSP provided various educational events throughout the region to include: Virtual Dementia Tours, a simulation exercise designed to allow participants the opportunity to better understand and respond to the needs of persons with dementia; continuous interaction in regional support groups; and involvement in County Senior Games programs. We conducted caregivers workshops, retreats, conferences, and trainings. We also conducted face to face and phone inquiries for informational purposes from caregivers throughout the region and assisted them with their needs.

◊ In partnership with North Carolina Baptist Aging Ministry, the Family Caregiver Support Program supplied the material to build four ramps.

◊ Supplemental materials were provided, including: incontinence supplies and nutritional supplements. Grandparents raising their grandchildren were also offered supplemental support through provision of clothing, respite care relief through 4-H camps (10 families serviced through ECC camp vouchers), and care related items to include serving 267 members throughout the region. Grandparent services have been delivered through partnerships with school systems, cooperative extension services, and local senior service providers.
ECC's Economic Development Department plays a vital role in assisting local governments to identify and apply for grants, hold essential training seminars for local officials, design programs and strategies for economic development, and attract resources to support development activities for the needs of the community. ECC staff has worked on a number of projects and initiatives during FY 12/13. They are too numerous to list all of them, but here is a sampling:

- River Bend Comprehension Plan
- Consultation with the Town of Dover regarding a town-owned building
- Completed the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for the Albemarle Commission
- Completed the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for ECC
- Provided technical assistance to the Maysville Small Town Economic Prosperity Team
- Provided technical assistance to the Warsaw Small Town Economic Prosperity Team
- Provided technical assistance to the Fremont Small Town Economic Prosperity Team
- Consulted with Town of Vandemere regarding a potential park
- Participated on the Community Transformation Grant team
- Participated on the Lenoir 2020 Team
- Worked on application to secure a Department of Defense Office of Economic Adjustment funding for additional protections of MCAS Cherry Point, Atlantic Field, Bogue Field and the two bombing ranges in the Pamlico Sound
- Consulted with the Town of Beulaville regarding parks and recreation
- Facilitated a retreat for the Town of Maysville commissioners
COLLABORATION
◦ Coordinated with three other Councils of Governments to finalize the requirements of an EDA grant to educate businesses and governments on continuity planning for catastrophic events. This project won a National Association of Development Organization’s Innovation Award.

GRANT WRITING
◦ Drafted Parks and Recreation Trust Fund application for the Town of Wallace. The town was awarded $470,000.
◦ Assisted the Town of Faison to complete an Economic Development Administration grant application for water system improvements. The town was awarded $1,500,000.

TRAINING
◦ Hosted the Division of Water Resources BMP Manual training.
◦ Hosted the required ethics training for elected officials.

Additionally ECC staff attended many meetings on topics pertinent to our region. ECC’s Weekly Information Bulletin provides short articles on a number of different topics and provides a calendar of events to keep our local governments informed and up-to-date. We are constantly seeking new ways to be of service. Please contact ECC when you have a project or need and we’ll do what we can to assist.
Rural Planning Organization (RPOs)

RPOs are designated by the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) as the official transportation planning organization for their regions. ECC serves as staff to the Down East Rural Planning Organization (DERPO) in Carteret, Craven, Jones, Onslow, and Pamlico counties. As well as the Eastern Carolina Rural Planning Organization (ECRPO) in Duplin, Greene, Lenoir, and Wayne counties. RPOs across the state are charged with prioritizing projects for the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) including highway, bicycle, and pedestrian projects. RPOs are also important partners in developing Comprehensive Transportation Plans (CTP). CTPs are long-range (25-30 year) plans that identify problems or deficiencies and propose recommendations to address those problems. These recommendations are the basis for future NCDOT projects.

Strategic Transportation Investments

Strategic Transportation Investments, also known as the Strategic Mobility Formula, is a new way to fund and prioritize transportation projects to ensure they provide the maximum benefit to our state. It allows NCDOT to use its existing revenues more efficiently to fund more investments that improve North Carolina’s transportation infrastructure, create jobs, and help boost the economy.

The Strategic Mobility Formula will allow us to use our existing resources more efficiently and effectively and help us move forward more quickly with important projects that will enhance mobility and revitalize communities. It will benefit metro areas that need projects focused on easing congestion and enhancing safety, while allowing small towns to invest in projects that help improve access to medical services, economic centers, education and recreation. (Continued on next page.)
Ms. Tuttle holds a Masters in Community and Regional Planning with a concentration in Environmental Planning from the University of Texas at Austin. During her graduate studies, she interned with the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization in Austin, TX and the Texas Coastal Watershed Program in Houston, TX. At ECC, she assists with the Down East and Eastern Carolina Rural Planning Organizations (DERPO and ECRPO), as well as, other planning activities and projects within the Planning Department.

NC Association of Rural Planning Organizations

In January, Patrick Flanagan, with the Down East RPO, was elected President of the North Carolina Association of Rural Planning Organizations (NCARPO). The NCARPO is made up of all the RPO planners from across the state and various NCDOT members. The group meets quarterly to discuss transportation issues and exchange ideas on how to better serve the transportation needs of the public.
Trent Woods

On behalf of the Town of Trent Woods, ECC applied for and received a Clean Water Act 205(j) Grant awarded by the NC Division of Water Quality to inventory and map out the town’s stormwater infrastructure. By using Global Positioning System (GPS) and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) technology, ECC staff mapped out the location and condition of stormwater infrastructure and produced a stormwater system poster describing the various features and conditions of the system. ECC also produced an educational brochure for the town’s residents on how residents can prevent runoff pollution, a set of field maps for the town staff that will be useful for daily maintenance and flood events, and a report which evaluates the town’s existing stormwater ordinances and provides recommendations for additional ordinances and stormwater management practices.
Locally Coordinated Plans

ECC staff assisted in the 2013 update of Locally Coordinated Plans (LCP) for Carteret, Craven, Duplin, Greene, Jones, Lenoir, Pamlico, and Wayne Counties.

An LCP identifies the public transportation needs of individuals with disabilities, older adults, and low-income individuals and provides strategies for meeting those needs. Public transportation is currently provided in these eight counties by the Carteret County Area Transportation System (CCATS), Craven Area Rural Transit System (CARTS), Duplin County Rural Transit System, Greene County Transportation, Lenoir County Transit, and Goldsboro-Wayne Transportation Authority (GATEWAY Transit), respectively. Using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) technology and U.S. Census Bureau data, ECC staff produced maps of the population with disabilities, households with population 65 years and older, and households with no vehicle in each county by census tract. These maps were included in the updated LCPs and also used in public meetings where community stakeholders identified the needs and gaps in existing public transportation services. During these meetings, community stakeholder comments were summarized in needs and strategy charts like the one shown above for Lenoir County.
Regional Bicycle Planning
Eastern Carolina Council planning staff is finishing a multi-year, multi-jurisdiction planning initiative funded by the Bicycle and Pedestrian Division of the NCDOT. The plan is called the Croatan Regional Bicycle Plan, which includes Carteret, Craven, Jones, Onslow, and Pamlico Counties and the municipalities located within the five county region. The document is a blue print for these local governments and the NCDOT to move forward in promoting safe, fun, and efficient cycling for many different levels of riders. Included in the plan are recommended regional and local improvements, implementation strategies, and maps of the regional route (a total of 144 miles) and also of the shorter, secondary routes that link communities to each other and important destinations in the region. Along with the plan, the planner created a promotional bike and hike map that identifies existing areas that are desirable for cyclist and hikers coming to the area.

Oriental Technical Assistance
The planning staff at ECC was approached by the Town of Oriental in Pamlico County with a request for assistance in three planning related issues: damage to town streets due to construction traffic, the use of travel trailers and RVs as long-term residential units, and the designation of parks and recreation areas in their own zoning district. The Planning staff researched municipal practices related to these three topics and presented the findings to the Oriental Planning Board and made recommendations for various courses of action. The Planning Board recommended to the town council that some of their regulations be changed as a result of the ECC research.

Trent Woods Technical Assistance
Since 2008, the Eastern Carolina Council Planning Department has served as consulting planners for the Town of Trent Woods in Craven County. Since that time ECC planning staff has processed over 200 zoning permits and associated flood zone permits. In addition to weekly permitting assistance, the ECC planning staff has assisted with subdivision reviews, zoning code interpretations, zoning map amendments, and GIS updates to an interactive zoning and floodplain mapping tool. ECC planning staff continues to serve the planning needs of the Town of Trent Woods in an efficient and cost effective manner.
## Region Representatives

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<td>Carteret County</td>
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<td>Greg Ricker</td>
<td>Village of Walnut Creek</td>
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** Denotes Executive Committee Member FY 12-13
FINANCIAL REPORT

FY 2012-13 Beginning Fund Balance: $339,005

Revenue

- Federal Grants: $5,156,987
- State Government: $418,244
- Local Dues: $213,560
- Local Projects: $46,109
- Other: $174,345
- In-kind: $4,000

TOTALS: $6,013,245

Expenses

- General Government: $375,969
- Transportation: $311,733
- Environmental Protection: $0
- Economic & Physical Development: $123,679
- Human Services: $5,201,864

TOTALS: $6,013,245

Fund Balance 5-Year History

FY 2012-13 Ending Fund Balance: $470,704
President  Mr. Denny Garner  Greene County Commissioner
(1st) Vice President  Mr. Shane Turney  Mayor Pro Tem of Trent Woods
(2nd) Vice President  Mr. Robin Comer  Carteret County Commissioner
Treasurer  Mr. Edward Riggs, Jr.  Mayor Pro-Tem of Alliance

Executive Committee

Mr. S.A. Blizzard, Jr.  Beulaville Commissioner
Mr. Jay Bender  Mayor of Pollocksville
Mr. Edward Cromartie  Wayne County Commissioner
Mr. Larry Gladney  LaGrange Councilman
Mr. Ray McDonald  Mayor of Mount Olive
Mr. Dick Macartney  N. Topsail Beach Alderman
Ms. Pat Prescott  Pamlico County Commissioner
Mr. Bill Taylor  Councilman of Morehead City
Mr. Kennedy Thompson  Duplin County Commissioner
Mr. Steve Tyson  Craven County Commissioner