Eastern Carolina Council (ECC) is the Regional Council of Governments that serves the nine counties in Region P: Carteret, Craven, Duplin, Greene, Jones, Lenoir, Onslow, Pamlico, and Wayne.

Message from Outgoing President 3
Message from the Executive Director 4

Programs and Services

Human Services 5
Economic Development 11
Planning 13
Financial Report 16
ECC Staff 17
Regional Representatives 18
Executive Board 19

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.
The Eastern Carolina Council of Governments has completed yet another stellar year. While I’d like to be able to take credit for that, the accolades must be shared with the ECC officers, the ECC Board, and the ECC staff. Teamwork is the hallmark of our Council. The Board provides guidance and direction while the officers work with the staff to ensure that ECC stays the course. The Budget and Audit Committee is an integral part of this equation. Those members ensure that ECC is financially stable and that our audits are clean. We are happy to report as we end FY 13/14 that ECC is in excellent financial shape and our auditors have given us high marks for managing those funds. Additionally ECC has undergone a number of programmatic reviews and there have been no findings of note.

In this report the staff will tell you about the many ECC projects and programs for this past year. In addition to these, ECC provided individual assistance to a number of local governments. This staff does not just wait to be called; if they see a need they make the appropriate contact to offer help. If you are asking “What has ECC done for me lately?” then you are asking the wrong question. You should be asking, “What can ECC do to help me?” ECC provides valuable services to our region. We can only do so with your continued support.

Having lost my seat on the Greene County Commission, my Presidency of ECC will end in December. As a long-time member of this Board, I have seen ECC struggle through difficult times but know that the organization is on solid footing. Were the services that ECC provides not valuable to the region, ECC would have disappeared by now, yet ECC is now in its 47th year of existence as a regional entity. And that about sums it up.

Thank you for allowing me to be President of this organization for these past several years. I wish you and ECC every success now and in the future.

9 Counties
62 Municipalities
2014 Population: 662,240
2014 Median Age: 34.9
2014 Median Household Income: $41,354
2014 Number of Households: 254,723
2014 Average Household Size: 2.48
2014 Total Housing Units: 306,056
2014 Home Ownership Rate: 51.7%
2014 Median Home Value: $165,628
2014 Labor Force: 250,977
2014 Avg. Unemployment Rate: 9.0%
Greetings:

This was my first full year as the Executive Director of the Eastern Carolina Council. The department managers and staff have worked hard to ensure that ECC remains strong as evidenced by having a clean audit and by being able to add to the fund balance. Our primary programs are doing very well and local governments continue to utilize our services for special needs, grant writing, planning and other services. Hardly a day goes by that we don’t receive an email or a call requesting information or some assistance.

Our Board members are actively engage with ECC. The meetings always have more than just the needed quorums. Several of our General Membership Board members regularly attend the Executive Committee meetings. This is a positive sign of the overall health of our organization.

I thank the ECC Board for their support and encouragement. And I thank the ECC staff for their continued professionalism and excellent service to our local governments. You are the heart and soul of ECC.

We sincerely hope that 62 of our municipalities and all nine of our counties will see the benefit of being members of ECC and continue to support the organization. The value of ECC lies in what it does for the region as a whole, not for what it might do for individual entities. With your support ECC can continue to meet its obligations for the required matches for certain funding streams and can continue to be a valuable resource. We look forward to serving you!

A Message from Judy Hills
Executive Director

The real leader has no need to lead — he is content to point the way.
Henry Miller

The growth and development of people is the highest calling of leadership.
Harvey Firestone
The Eastern Carolina Council Area Agency on Aging (ECC AAA) is responsible for the development and coordination of services for older adults as mandated by the Older Americans Act.

ECC AAA provides administrative support for:

◊ **Regional Aging and Advisory Committee**
◊ **Senior Tar Heel Legislature**
◊ **Community Advisory Committees**
◊ **Technical assistance for programs that serve older adults**

**Mission Statement**

The Eastern Carolina Council Area Agency on Aging will advocate, plan, develop, and support a comprehensive system of quality services designed to attain and preserve quality of life, health, and independence of older adults, individuals with disabilities, and caregivers.
Service providers throughout the region expended $4,471,495 for home and community based services. This includes federal, state and local funding.

Service providers throughout the region provided 501,193 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.

The top 3 programs that deliver the most units are:

1. Home Delivered Meals—179,319 meals; average meals cost = $5.94
2. Congregate Nutrition—147,005 meals; average meals cost = $6.21
3. In Home Aid Services—108,591 hours of service; average cost = $14.88

Programmatic assessments were conducted for Senior Center Operations, Housing and Home Improvement, In Home Services, and Transportation

Consumer contributions collected for FY 2013-14 totaled $102,046 from program participants.

Region P now has 6 Senior Centers that are Certified as Centers of Excellence by 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
The Eastern Carolina Council Area Agency on Aging (ECC AAA) has been identified as the Local Contact Agency (LCA) for skilled nursing facility referrals. Jillian Hardin serves as the lead for the Local Contact Agency. When a nursing facility resident seeks to return back to their community, the nursing facility will make a referral to the State; the State then fields the referrals out according to demographics. The EEE AAA serves 9 counties. Jillian Hardin, as an Options Counselor then makes a personal visit to the resident to identify what services would be needed in order to transition back home. In 2013-2014, ECC AAA provided several outreach visits, in-services, and one meeting in New Bern for the purpose of providing information on this referral process. The event, called Community Transitions was held in Dec. 2013, with nearly 20 social workers and skilled nursing facility administrators in attendance. We are making progress in helping these facilities to understand our role as the LCA and as they understand, we are receiving more referrals.

The Seniors’ Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP) counsels Medicare beneficiaries and caregivers about Medicare, Medicare supplements, Medicare Advantage, Medicare Part D, and long-term care insurance. The counselors on our toll-free line offer free and unbiased information regarding Medicare health care products. We also help people recognize and prevent Medicare billing errors and possible fraud and abuse through our NC Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) Program.

MIPPA grant funds were utilized by the ECC AAA to produce a commercial featuring Joan Gracie and Carolyn Bland. The purpose of this commercial was to get people to call and apply for the low subsidy prescription options. There have been over 180 calls received and over 30 applications have been submitted as a result of this commercial.
MFP is a state demonstration project that assists people who live in inpatient facilities to move into their own communities with supports.

The Project is funded by Medicaid dollars through a partnership between North Carolina’s Division of Medical Assistance and the federal agency, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

In order for a person to qualify for the Project, the person must:

- Have received care in a hospital, skilled nursing facility or an intermediate care facility for people with develop mental disabilities for at least three months and meet the Community Alternatives Program (CAP) or the Program of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) eligibility requirements; and be receiving Medicaid services before the transition; and choose to move to a “qualified residence.”

A “qualified residence” is:

- a person’s own home
- a person’s family’s home
- a person’s own apartment
- a group home with four or fewer people*.

*in North Carolina this option is only available under the Innovations Waiver

In May/June of 2014, there were 26 visits made to facilities in our region to deliver Local Contact Agency (LCA)/MFP information.
June 15th is designated as World Elder Abuse Awareness Day each year. North Carolina recognizes from Mother’s Day to Father’s Day each year as Elder Abuse Awareness Month. The ECC/AAA Ombudsman Program has held annual “Walks” in June in Onslow County for the past three years and in Lenoir County for the past two years.

The goal of the Elder Abuse Awareness Walks is to educate the community on what constitutes Elder Abuse, how to prevent abuse, who to report allegations of abuse to, and to provide national and state statistics on abuse. This year the event in Onslow was held at the New River Waterfront Park in Jacksonville on June 6th. We had approximately 25 participants in the Walk. The Lenoir County Walk was held at the North Carolina State Veterans Home in Kinston on June 13th. The number of participants for this year’s event tripled in size, totaling 80+ attendees. Our goal for 2015 is to add additional Walks throughout our nine county region.

OMBUDSMAN

There are two fulltime Ombudsman, Angelia Pridgen and Renee Kea, who serve the nine counties in Region P. This region has 26 nursing homes and 71 adult care homes. We have 13 Community Advisory Committees, with a total of 88 volunteers.

Region P Ombudsman received a total of 145 complaints for 2013-2014 with 93 resolved or partially resolved. We turned 32 over to regulatory agencies for further action. The remainder were either withdrawn, or the client/complainant took action, or were explained. Only 6 were not able to be resolved.

The Regional Ombudsman provided 823 Technical Assistance/documented ombudsman activities for the 2013/2014 year. We conducted 116 visits to nursing homes, 168 to adult care homes, and 39 to family care homes. The hours spent visiting the facilities total 667.4 hours. We also provided 38 in-service trainings to facility staff, as well as, 18 community education events. The Ombudsman program provided 100 consults with long term care (LTC) staff regarding resident rights.

Angelia Pridgen and Renee Kea both received certification to facilitate the Virtual Dementia Tour trainings to our nursing and adult care homes. During the 2013/2014 year, we provided 6 different Virtual Dementia Tour simulations to long term care faculties, DSS employees, and to Marines at Camp Lejeune Military Base.
Services Provided to Family Caregivers

The Family Caregiver Support Program assists unpaid individuals who serve as caregivers to frail elderly members and grandparents raising their grandchildren by providing them with:

- Information about available services in your community
- Assistance in connecting you with the available supportive services
- Individual counseling, support groups, and training for caregivers to help them in making decisions and solving problems related to their caregiving role
- Respite care in the form of in-home assistance, adult day care, or group respite to provide the caregivers with a temporary relief from their caregiving duties
- Supplemental services to assist the caregiver as needed such as incontinence supplies, nutrition supplements, minor home modifications, and assistive devices

In conjunction with Craven County, ECC AAA used Family Caregivers Support Program (FCSP) funds to assist with the construction of the George Street Adult Day Respite Program, known as The Sunshine Center. The Sunshine Center assists local Craven County caregivers’ with the opportunity to have their loved ones socialize, while also providing the caregiver with an opportunity to take a break.
Eastern Carolina Council has the primary responsibility to assist local governments with a myriad of requests. These requests range from small tasks that can be handled expeditiously to others that may require more extensive work over a period of several months. ECC does charge for certain technical assistance projects, but at a much lower rate than a comparable consultant would cost. ECC consults with local governments to identify and apply for grants; holds essential training seminars for local officials; designs programs and strategies specific to a community; and works to attract resources to support development activities for the needs of the community. Examples of the projects and initiatives for the FY 2013-2014 include:

**TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**

◊ Parks and Recreation Plans/Updates for the Towns of Wallace, North Topsail Beach and City of New Bern

◊ Water system project administration for the Town of Faison for the Economic Development Administration grant

◊ Salary studies for the Towns of North Topsail Beach and Newport

◊ Survey & Focus Group meetings for the Jacksonville Onslow Sports Commission

◊ Completed and submitted Parks & Recreation Trust Fund application for the Town of Richlands and the City of New Bern

◊ Assisted Carteret County with submitting an application to the Office of Economic Adjustment for a grant to help protect Marine Corps Air Station at Cherry Point

◊ Prepared a Business Development Plan for the Town of Fremont

◊ Provided assistance to the Town of Fremont Small Town Economic Prosperity committee

**COMMUNITY PROJECTS**

◊ Conducted a retreat for the Beaufort-Morehead City Airport Authority and produced a strategic plan

◊ Provided information to the Wallace Airport Board

◊ Conducted staff training for the Town of Swansboro and the Town of Mount Olive

◊ Hosted a meeting of the regions’ Economic Developers

◊ Organized quarterly meetings of the region’s local government managers

◊ Facilitated a meeting regarding a new farmers’ initiative for Pender/Onslow counties

◊ Conducted a manager search for the Town of Newport
“Whether you think you can, or think you can’t – you’re right.” — Henry Ford, Ford Motor Company founder

“Progress always involves risks. You can’t steal second base and keep your foot on first.” — Frederick Wilcox

The North Carolina Association of Regional Councils led a collaborative partnership with assistance from the US Economic Development Administration, North Carolina Department of Commerce - Division of Community Development and the US Department of Housing & Urban Development to create the NC Statewide Strategy for Comprehensive Community and Economic Development.

The first initiative was to conduct uniform Regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies (CEDS) across North Carolina. These regionally significant CEDS then served as the foundation to create the NC Statewide Strategy for Comprehensive Community and Economic Development that can help to shape an economically sustainable economy for North Carolina while helping to build our communities for tomorrow’s jobs.

NC Tomorrow lays out the challenges we have to overcome at the regional level and synthesizes these challenges to highlight the most common ones and asks the question what strategies we can promote in common, even though we are a diverse group.

The broad goals in the Executive Summary are: Building on the Region’s Competitive Advantages and Leverage in the Marketplace; Establish and Maintain a Robust Regional Infrastructure; Create Revitalized, Healthy and Vibrant Communities; and Develop Talented and Innovative People.

COMMUNITY PROJECTS cont...

♦ Hosted a webinar on social media
♦ Participated on the Planning Committee of the Allies for Cherry Point’s Tomorrow
♦ Completed an application for a local non-profit to secure funding for an afterschool care program—awarded
♦ Facilitated Boards retreats for Greene County, the Town of Oriental, the Town of Maysville, and the Town of Warsaw
♦ Conducted a small town economic development retreat with 32 attendees representing 17 towns in the region

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies

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The broad goals in the Executive Summary are: Building on the Region’s Competitive Advantages and Leverage in the Marketplace; Establish and Maintain a Robust Regional Infrastructure; Create Revitalized, Healthy and Vibrant Communities; and Develop Talented and Innovative People.
Locally Coordinated Plans

ECC staff assisted in the 2013 update of Locally Coordinated Plans (LCP) for Carteret, Craven, Duplin, Greene, Lenoir, 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 six 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.
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.

Prioritization 3.0 Process

RPOs and Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) across the state were required by state law to develop a local input methodology for prioritizing all transportation projects (highway, bicycle and pedestrian, public transportation, aviation, rail and ferry) within the RPO boundary that may compete for state and federal funding, and to submit the methodology to NCDOT for approval. The DERPO and ECRPO developed a prioritization method in an effort to satisfy the quantitative, data-driven requirements of the legislation while protecting the discretion of local officials by incorporating subjective, qualitative local input where possible.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SPOT 3.0 Scores</th>
<th>SPOT</th>
<th>Local Input Points</th>
<th>Division Points</th>
<th>Other RPO/MPO Points</th>
<th>Total Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Statewide</td>
<td>37.25</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>37.25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Regional</td>
<td>25.21</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>55.21</td>
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<tr>
<td>Division</td>
<td>27.09</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>76.84</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Local Methodology Scores</th>
<th>Quantitative</th>
<th>Qualitative</th>
<th>Subtotal</th>
<th>Discretionary Points (+/-)</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Rank</th>
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<tr>
<td>Regional</td>
<td>18.01</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>68.01</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>68.01</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Division</td>
<td>27.09</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>77.09</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>77.09</td>
<td>1</td>
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The project prioritization resulting from the DERPO and ECRPO’s local input methodology was used by the RPOs to assign local input points to projects. NCDOT combined these RPO local input points with NCDOT Division Engineer input points, other MPO/RPO local input points, and NCDOT’s quantitative project score to calculate a final score for each project. These final scores will be considered along with other factors including the completion of environmental and engineering plans and corridor spending caps, by NCDOT to create the draft 10-year State Transportation Improvement Program.
ECC assisted the Town of Atlantic Beach by scanning 1,234 of the town’s paper maps on ECC’s large-scale, high-resolution color scanner. This set of maps included commercial building, ditch line, dredging, elevation, flood, governmental, planning, plot plan, street, sewer line, topography, water and utility, and zoning maps. The maps varied in size and condition, with some being very faded or torn.

After scanning, a total of 43 faded, discolored or difficult-to-read maps were digitally touched up by ECC using the software program Adobe Photoshop. All scanned and digitally touched up maps were provided to the Town of Atlantic Beach in a PDF format.

If your municipality or county is interested in having maps scanned, please contact ECC’s Planning Department for a quote. ECC is able to scan all maps which have a short side no longer than 40 inches. ECC can provide scanned maps in a digital format or as printed hard copies. Torn maps will be repaired by ECC prior to scanning. Faded, discolored, or difficult-to-read maps can be digitally touched up by the ECC Planning staff.

Town of North Topsail Beach Access Parking Study

Parking is a problem for many beach communities across the United States and across the world. The town of North Topsail Beach is no exception with a seasonal influx of visitors and part-time residents that doubles the population. Additionally there is a considerable amount of vacant lots and land that leave room for the future growth and development of the town which will further complicate the current parking problems. ECC conducted a Beach Access Parking Study that looked at the existing parking inventory, pay-to-park solutions, and non-pay-to-park options, as well as solutions from other communities. All of this information was compiled, along with photos to create a working document for the Town of North Topsail Beach as they work to accommodate a growing population.
## FUND BALANCE - 4 years

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FUND BALANCES</th>
<th>FY 10-11</th>
<th>FY 11-12</th>
<th>FY 12-13</th>
<th>FY 13-14</th>
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<td>Total General Fund Balance</td>
<td>$433,222</td>
<td>$339,005</td>
<td>$495,415</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unassigned Fund Balance</td>
<td>$232,111</td>
<td>$31,506</td>
<td>$272,205</td>
<td>$342,127</td>
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<td>Stabilized Funds</td>
<td>$201,111</td>
<td>$306,999</td>
<td>$223,210</td>
<td>$159,348</td>
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### REVENUES AND EXPENSES

#### REVENUES

- **SOURCE** | **REVENUE**
- Federal Grants | $3,369,984
- State Grants   | $1,852,014
- Local Dues     | $209,914
- Interest Income| $1,224
- Contract Services | $90,544
- In-Kind        | $4,717

#### EXPENSES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DEPARTMENT</th>
<th>EXPENSES</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General</td>
<td>$36,206</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>$256,916</td>
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<tr>
<td>Economic Development</td>
<td>$115,025</td>
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<tr>
<td>Environmental Protection</td>
<td>$18,339</td>
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<tr>
<td>Human Services</td>
<td>$4,990,526</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
ECC Annual Report  FY 2013-2014

Eastern Carolina Council

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“The achievements of the organization are the results of the combined effort of each individual”
Vince Lombardi
**CARTERET COUNTY**
- Stephen Blizzard: Town of Newport
- **Robin Comer**: Carteret County
- Clarkson Edwards: Town of Pine Knoll Shores
- Marianna Hollinshed: Town of Beaufort
- John Lotspih: Town of Atlantic Beach
- Sam Meadows, III: Town of Cedar Point
- Mitchell Russell, Jr.: Town of Bogue
- **Bill Taylor**: Town of Morehead City
- Pete Wylie: Town of Indian Beach

**CRAVEN COUNTY**
- Frank Bottorff: City of Havelock
- Richard Bowers: Town of Vanceboro
- John Chittick: Town of Bridgeton
- Brenda Garvey: Town of River Bend
- Dred Mitchell, Jr.: Town of Cove City
- Victor Taylor: City of New Bern
- **Shane Turney**: Town of Trent Woods
- **Steve Tyson**: Craven County
- James Walker: Craven Co. Private Sector
- John Wetherington: Town of Dover

**DUPLIN COUNTY**
- **Sam Blizzard, Jr.**: Town of Beulaville
- Woody Brinson: Town of Kenansville
- Shawn Condon: Town of Warsaw
- Warren Hepler: Town of Wallace
- Clayton Herring, Jr.: Town of Rose Hill
- Carolyn Kenyon: Town of Faison
- Jackial Swinson: Town of Greenevers
- James Whitehead: Town of Magnolia
- **Kennedy Thompson**: Duplin County

**GREENE COUNTY**
- **Denny Garner**: Town of Snow Hill
- **Arthur Robinson**: Town of Hookerton

**JONES COUNTY**
- **Jay Bender**: Town of Pollocksville
- Darlene Spivey: Town of Trenton
- Edward Waltz: Town of Maysville
- **Shane Turney**: Town of Trent Woods
- **Steve Tyson**: Craven County
- James Walker: Craven Co. Private Sector
- John Wetherington: Town of Dover

**LENOIR COUNTY**
- **Larry Gladney**: Town of LaGrange
- Sammy Whitehurst: Town of Grifton

**ONSLOW COUNTY**
- John Lister: Town of Swansboro
- **Dick Macartney**: Town of N. Topsail Beach
- McKinley Smith: Town of Richlands

**PAMLICO COUNTY**
- Vennie Himbry: Town of Bayboro
- Sherry Howlett: Town of Vandemere
- Booker Jones: Town of Mesc
- Julia Lee: Town of Grantsboro
- **Pat Prescott**: Pamlico County
- **Edward Riggs, Jr.**: Town of Alliance
- Larry Summers: Town of Oriental

**WAYNE COUNTY**
- **Edward Cromartie**: Wayne County
- Billy Ray Davis: Town of Eureka
- **Ray McDonald, Sr.**: Town of Mount Olive
- Blake Proctor: Town of Pikeville
- Greg Ricker: Village of Walnut Creek
# 2013-14 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Mr. Denny Garner</td>
<td>Greene County Commissioner</td>
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<tr>
<td>(1st) Vice President</td>
<td>Mr. Shane Turney</td>
<td>Mayor Pro Tem of Trent Woods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(2nd) Vice President</td>
<td>Mr. Robin Comer</td>
<td>Carteret County Commissioner</td>
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<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Mr. Edward Riggs, Jr.</td>
<td>Mayor Pro Tem of Alliance</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mr. Sam Blizzard, Jr.</td>
<td>Beulaville Commissioner</td>
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<td></td>
<td>The Honorable Jay Bender</td>
<td>Mayor of Pollocksville</td>
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<td>Mr. Edward Cromartie</td>
<td>Wayne County Commissioner</td>
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<td>Mr. Larry Gladney</td>
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<td></td>
<td>The Honorable Ray McDonald</td>
<td>Mayor of Mount Olive</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mr. Dick Macartney</td>
<td>N. Topsail Beach Alderman</td>
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<td>Mrs. Pat Prescott</td>
<td>Pamlico County Commissioner</td>
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<td>Mr. Bill Taylor</td>
<td>Council Member of Morehead City</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mr. Kennedy Thompson</td>
<td>Commissioner of Duplin County</td>
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<td>Mr. Steve Tyson</td>
<td>Commissioner of Craven County</td>
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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 organization 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.

Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success.

Henry Ford