

**Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments
Executive Committee Meeting
March 26, 2026
Virtual**

Members Present:

John Alston, Warren Co.
Zelodis Jay, Granville Co.
Jimmy Clayton, Person Co. Alternate
Carolyn Faines, Vance Co.
Walter Gardner, Town of Warrenton

Tony Cozart, Granville Co.
Tom Lane, Town of Butner
Betty Wright, Town of Louisburg
Angelena Kearney-Dunlap, Warren Co.

Members Absent:

Melissa Elliott, City of Henderson
Logan Davis, Franklin County
Donald Long, Person County

Mark Phillips, City of Roxboro
Danny Wright, Vance County

COG Staff:

Diane Cox, Executive Director
Katie Conner, Finance Director
Lou Grillo, Workforce Director

Call to Order

Chairperson Carolyn Faines called the meeting to order and welcomed members. Ms. Faines asked Katie Conner, COG staff, to call role. Role was called with 8 members present and 1 alternate. A quorum was met.

Approval of the Consent Agenda

Chairperson Faines asked for the pleasure of the Board with regard to the Consent Agenda, which contained:

- A. January 29, 2026 Board Minutes
- B. February 2026 Finance Report
- C. February 2026 Budget Amendment
- D. 2026 Audit Contract with Thompson, Price, Adams & Co., P.A.

Motion #1

A motion was made to approve the Consent Agenda by Zelodis Jay. Betty Wright seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Comments from the Public

Chairperson Faines asked if there were any additional public comments on issues concerning the COG. Again, members of the public were asked to register in advance. There were no comments registered.

2026-2027 Assessment Rate

Chairperson Wright asked Executive Director Diane Cox to move forward with recommending the assessment rate to remain at .66 cents per capita based on the 2020 Census data. The funds will be used to match State and Federal grants totaling over 4.5 million dollars. Total assessments from all local governments total \$151,724.

Motion #2

Tom Lane moved that the 2026-2027 Assessment Rate be approved as presented. Zelodis Jay seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments Workforce Development Department Downsizing & Direct Service Provider Approval

Diane Cox, Executive Director of Kerr-Tar COG, reported that only one response was received to the RFP for the provision of WIOA services for the upcoming fiscal year. After reviewing the submission, a committee of the Workforce Development Board, in coordination with staff, determined that the respondent did not meet the minimum qualifications required to provide the services. As a result, the committee recommended that the COG provide WIOA services directly in-house.

The Workforce Development Board met on March 10, 2026, to discuss the committee's recommendation and voted unanimously to recommend to the COG Board that the COG serve as the direct service provider for WIOA services effective July 1, 2026. The Board noted that EDSI had served as the provider for approximately ten years but did not submit a proposal in response to the RFP.

Motion #3

A motion was made by John Alston to approve for the COG to serve as the direct service provider for Adult, Dislocated Worker, and Youth WIOA programs at the NC Works Career Center effective July 1, 2026. (This request was previously presented to and approved by the Kerr-Tar Workforce Development Board on March 10, 2026). Tony Cozart seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Cox presented an analysis demonstrating a decline in WIOA federal funding from approximately \$2.2 million to \$1.3 million over the past ten years. She explained that, due to the continued reduction in funding, staffing reductions at the Workforce Development Board level – separate from the service provider – would be necessary. Ms. Cox noted that two positions funded through WIOA would need to be eliminated. Discussion also took place regarding the opportunity for affected employees to transition into service provider positions at the NC Works Career Center. All positions associated with the NC Works Career Center direct service provider model will be posted internally for existing COG staff.

Lou Grillo, Workforce Development Director, reviewed the proposed organizational chart effective July 1, 2026, which includes seven COG-funded positions located at the

NC Works Career Center, a new finance and compliance position, and two re-entry program staff positions funded through a federal grant extending through 2029.

Motion #4

A motion was made by Angelena Dunlap-Kearney to approval the elimination of two COG positions (Performance & Accountability Coordinator and Program Specialist) within the Workforce Development Department. Betty Wright seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Other Business from the Executive Board

Executive Director Diane Cox acknowledged Walter Gardner's presence on the call and extended condolences on behalf of everyone regarding the passing of his wife, Mishew.

Adjournment

Motion #5

Motion made by Tom Lane to adjourn. Betty Wright seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia S. Cox, Executive Director
Secretary to the Board of Directors