

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

Members Present:

John Alston, Warren Co.
Logan Davis, Franklin Co.
Jimmy Clayton, Person Co. Alternate
Carolyn Faines, Vance Co.
Walter Gardner, Town of Warrenton

Danny Wright, Vance County
Tom Lane, Town of Butner
Betty Wright, Town Louisburg
Angelena Kearney-Dunlap, Warren Co.

Members Absent:

Melissa Elliott, City of Henderson
Tony Cozart, Granville Co.
Donald Long, Person Co.
Zelodis Jay, Granville Co.

Mark Phillips, City of Roxboro

COG Staff:

Diane Cox, Executive Director
Katie Conner, Finance 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 regarding the Consent Agenda, which contained:

- A. March 26, 2026 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
- B. April 2026 Finance Report
- C. 2027 Urgent Repair Program Assistance Policy
- D. 2027 Urgent Repair Program Procurement Policy

Motion #1

A motion was made to approve the Consent Agenda by Danny Wright. Tom Lane 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 Budget Presentation

Diane Cox, Executive Director, presented the FY 2025-2026 budget review and the proposed FY 2026-2027 budget for Executive Board recommendation to the full COG Board.

Ms. Cox reported that the total approved budget as of July 1, 2025, was \$5.9 million, with an amended budget of \$7.99 million as of April 30, 2026. The FY 2025-2026 budget included 18 full-time staff positions and three contract positions. No new permanent positions were added during the fiscal year; however, a six-month temporary position was added in April 2026.

Member Government dues remained approved at \$0.66 per capita. No Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) was approved for staff during FY 2025-2026. A 3% retention bonus was approved following confirmation of federal funding. Ms. Cox also noted the transition in the Finance Director position during the fiscal year.

Additional financial highlights included monthly health insurance costs of \$14,595, an LGERS contribution rate of 14.39%, and approval of a financial software upgrade totaling \$51,900.

Ms. Cox then reviewed the proposed FY 2026-2027 budget highlights. The proposed budget includes approximately \$6.7 million in Federal, State, and Local funding, for a total proposed budget of \$6,701,407.

The FY 2026-2027 staffing plan includes 24 full-time staff positions and one contract position. The budget proposes the elimination of two existing Workforce Development positions and the creation of eight new Workforce Development positions related to direct service provision at the NCWorks Career Center.

Additional proposed budget highlights include:

- Member Government dues remaining at \$0.66 per capita;
- A proposed 5% COLA adjustment for staff;
- Monthly health insurance costs estimated at \$19,241;
- An LGERS contribution rate of 15.10%;
- A 37% indirect cost rate, representing a 12% decrease from FY 2025-2026; and
- Anticipated expiration of ARPA funding in September 2026.

Ms. Cox also provided a programmatic overview for FY 2026-2027.

Within Workforce Development, the organization will serve as the direct service provider for Adult, Dislocated Worker, and Youth services and oversee operations of the

regional NCWorks Career Center. The organization will continue serving as lead agency for the multi-regional PROWD – First Step Act Initiative through 2029 and as lead coordinating agency for the local Re-Entry Council through December 2026. Workforce Development staff will continue coordinating with economic development entities and employers to align workforce talent with industry needs.

Planning Department activities will continue to include technical assistance, grant writing, and grant administration services for local governments, as well as Planning and Zoning services for member governments as needed. Staff will also continue participation in the Tar-Pamlico and Upper Neuse River Flood Blueprint Advisory Committee.

The Area Agency on Aging will continue providing funds administration and quality assurance for regional aging service providers while coordinating with the state's eleven Councils of Government on the Community Care Hub initiative. Additional services include Ombudsman advocacy for long-term care residents, elder abuse prevention outreach and education, caregiver respite vouchers, and regional coordination of the Senior Medicare Patrol program.

Housing programs will continue administration of Essential Single Family Rehabilitation Programs for Franklin, Granville, Person, and Vance Counties, administration of the Urgent Repair Program, and pursuit of additional housing funding opportunities.

RPO activities will include convening the STIP Process Review Committee, administering Section 5310 Elderly and Disabled Transportation Assistance funding, assisting communities with multimodal planning initiatives, scoring projects for the 2028-2037 STIP, collaborating with NCDOT on the Regional CTP Vision, and continuing the Safe Routes to Schools Initiative and Clean Fuels Advanced Technology Program.

Community and Economic Development efforts will continue supporting local governments with infrastructure and economic development grant projects, convening a regional economic development and a childcare summit, assisting community partners with grant writing and administration, supporting the Regional Food Council, implementing the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), and marketing the Revolving Loan Fund for small businesses.

Ms. Cox also noted the organization's continued administration of the Kerr-Tar Regional Economic Development Corporation and the Region K Community Assistance Corporation.

Highlights from the proposed FY 2026-2027 budget include a 5% COLA adjustment for employees. The proposed budget is based on an estimated \$6.7 million in Federal, State, and Local funding. Ms. Cox noted decreases in fringe benefits and the Indirect Cost Rate compared to the previous fiscal year.

Additionally, Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) services will be brought in-house, resulting in the creation of new positions to support direct service delivery. As a result, the Council of Governments (COG) will staff a total of 24 full-time positions under the proposed FY 2026-2027 budget.

Motion #2

Danny Wright moved that the 2026-2027 Proposed Budget be recommended to the COG Board as presented. Tom Lane seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Other Business

No other business report.

Adjournment

Motion # 3

Motion made by Angelena Kearney-Dunlap to adjourn. Waltner Gardner seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia S. Cox

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