

**Minutes of the
Albemarle Commission Board of Delegates
July 16, 2026 6:00 P.M.**

Opening

Chairman Robert Kirby called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Invocation

Commissioner Tracey Johnson led the Invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance

Commissioner Johnson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Determination of Quorum

The presence of a quorum was determined by Clerk to the Board, Amber Morse, with nine members (9) present in person, and two (2) members present via Zoom.

<u>Name</u>	<u>County</u>
Tiffney White	Camden
Robert Kirby	Chowan
Paul O'Neal	Currituck
Connie Hedrick – At-Large	Currituck
Dave Forsythe	Gates
Jan Moore	Hyde
Earl Pugh – At-Large	Hyde
Tommy Everett	Tyrrell
Tracey Johnson	Washington
Ann Keyes – Alternate*	Washington

Absent Members

Sissy Aydtlett - Alternate	Camden
Bob Woodard Sr.	Dare
Brian Silvers – At-Large	Gates
Wallace Nelson- Alternate	Perquimans
Tim Corprew	Perquimans
Lloyd Griffin	Pasquotank
Jordan Davis - Alternate	Tyrrell

** Attended as the alternate member. Because the regular voting member was present, this member did not serve as the voting representative and was not counted toward the quorum.*

Partners, staff, and guests present:

Staff members:

David Whitmer, Executive Director
Amber Morse, Assistant Executive Director, Clerk to the Board
Trina Scippio, Finance Officer
Ethan Sommers, Transportation Planner
Laura Alvarico, Area Agency on Aging (AAA) Director

Guests and Partners

Brock Mitchell, Attorney

Amendments of Agenda:

Chairman Kirby requested consideration of amendments to the agenda. The following amendments were proposed:

- Add item 11A: DEQ Weatherization Grant
- Add item 11B: Tyrrell County Flood Mitigation Agreement

Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Johnson made a motion to approve the agenda as amended, seconded by Commissioner Tiffney White. With no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

Approval of Minutes from June 2026

Commissioner Paul O'Neal stated that although he voted present on the agenda approval at the June 2026 meeting, his intent was to vote affirmative, and requested that the minutes be corrected to reflect an affirmative vote on the agenda approval. Commissioner O'Neal made a motion to approve the June 2026 Board of Delegates meeting minutes with that revision, seconded by Commissioner White. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comments:

None.

Success Stories

AAA Director Alvarico presented a success story on behalf of the AAA and Assistant Director Amber Morse presented a success story on behalf of the NWDB.

Old Business

None.

New Business

- A. **DEQ Weatherization Grant:** AAA Director Alvarico presented a request from DEQ for the Albemarle Commission to consider administering the FY 2027 annual weatherization program for Region C after no applications were received from their RFP process. Commissioner Tommy Everett made a motion to authorize the administration of Region C Annual Weatherization, seconded by Mrs. Connie Hedrick. After some discussion, the motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.
- B. **Tyrrell County Flood Mitigation Agreement:** Executive Director Whitmer presented a proposed reimbursement agreement with Tyrrell County for flood mitigation work. After some discussion, Commissioner O'Neal made a motion to approve the agreement with Tyrrell County and authorize an agreement with Hyde County under the same terms, if accepted by Hyde County. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Everett and passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

Finance

- A. **Finance Report:** Finance Officer Trina Scippio presented the financial reports and provided updates on the finance internship ending, membership dues, the updated federal mileage reimbursement rate, fiscal year-end closeout, and audit preparation.
- B. **Budget Amendment #2027-BA1:** Commissioner White made a motion to approve Budget Amendment #2027-BA1 as presented, seconded by Commissioner Everett. With no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

Committee Reports:

Executive Committee: None.

Finance Committee: None.

Staff Reports

AAA: Director Alvarico provided updates on grants received for wheelchair ramps and home-delivered meals, farmers market voucher and fan distribution, and an upcoming emergency preparedness workshop for older adults.

Community Development: Director Alvarico provided updates on urgent repair, essential single-family rehabilitation, and weatherization projects.

ARPO (Albemarle Rural Planning Organization): Transportation Planner Ethan Sommers provided updates on the Hyde County Comprehensive Transportation Plan, pedestrian safety call for projects, the Edenton intercity bus stop, the US-64 express design, and State Transportation Improvement Program project prioritization.

NWDB: Assistant Executive Director Amber Morse shared information regarding the Tyrrell Prison Work Farm Work Release Program and opportunities for businesses to participate.

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Whitmer reported that the Northeastern Workforce Development Board has received approval for \$750,000 in state funding. He also provided updates on recent preparedness trainings held in partnership with SBP and his participation in a rural listening session at College of The Albemarle. He concluded by informing the Board of the passing of Mideast Commission Executive Director Bryant Buck.

Chairman & Board Delegate Reports

Commissioner Ann Keyes provided updates on hospital outreach and economic development efforts in Washington County.

Commissioner Everett provided updates on a lightning-related communications outage in Tyrrell County, the settlement of a federal lawsuit, and county transportation priorities.

Commissioner White provided an update on the new high school, budget completion, and Finance Officer vacancy.

Mrs. Hedrick provided updates on the opening of Tulls Creek Elementary School, the passing of Commissioner Owen Etheridge, and Fourth of July celebrations.

Commissioner O'Neal provided updates on the State Auditor's Mid-Currituck Bridge report, proposed ferry tolls, and other transportation-related issues affecting Currituck County.

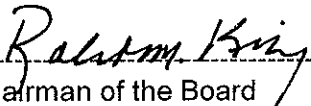
Commissioner Forsythe provided an update on Gates County transportation priorities.

Commissioner Moore provided updates on the Hyde County budget and school construction.

Chairman Kirby provided updates on the Chowan County budget, the new high school, Edenton Steamers season, and an economic development incentive approved by the Town of Edenton.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:02 pm was made by Commissioner White and seconded by Mrs. Hedrick. The motion passed unanimously.



Chairman of the Board

Attested by:

Amber MR

Clerk to the Board, Amber Morse

Date 9/17/26