

**Minutes of the
Albemarle Commission Board of Delegates
September 17, 2026 6:00 P.M.**

Opening

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

Invocation

Chairman Kirby led the Invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Kirby 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>
Robert Kirby	Chowan
Paul O'Neal	Currituck
Connie Hedrick – At-Large	Currituck
Jan Moore	Hyde
Earl Pugh – At-Large	Hyde
Tim Corprew	Perquimans
Lloyd Griffin	Pasquotank
Tommy Everett	Tyrrell
Tracey Johnson	Washington

Absent Members

Tiffney White	Camden
Sissy Aydlett - Alternate	Camden
Bob Woodard Sr.	Dare
Dave Forsythe	Gates
Brian Silvers – At-Large	Gates
Wallace Nelson - Alternate	Perquimans
Jordan Davis - Alternate	Tyrrell
Ann Keyes – Alternate	Washington

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
Rachel Clipston, Northeastern Workforce Development Board (NWDB) Director

Guests and Partners

Brock Mitchell, Attorney

Amendments of Agenda:

None

Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Tracey Johnson made a motion to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Commissioner Tim Corprew. With no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

Approval of Minutes from July 2026

Commissioner Johnson made a motion to approve the July 2026 Board of Delegates meeting minutes as presented, seconded by Commissioner Paul O'Neal. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

Public Comments:

None.

Success Stories

AAA Director Alvarico presented a success story on behalf of the AAA and NWDB Director Rachel Clipston presented a success story on behalf of the NWDB.

Old Business

None.

New Business

- A. **Resolution in Support of Equitable Ferry Access for Ferry-Dependent Communities:** Executive Director Whitmer presented the resolution to the Board for discussion. Commissioner Johnson requested that, if approved, a copy of the resolution be sent to DMV Commissioner Paul Tine. Following additional discussion, Commissioner O'Neal moved to approve the resolution as presented, seconded by Commissioner Tommy Everett. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote. Chairman Kirby requested that the resolution be accompanied by a cover page noting its unanimous approval.
- B. **Administration of EDA Grant – Town of Hertford:** Executive Director Whitmer presented information regarding the Albemarle Commission's potential administration of an EDA grant for the Town of Hertford if awarded. Commissioner Everett moved to approve the Commission's administration of the grant, contingent upon the Town receiving the award, seconded by Commissioner Johnson. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

Finance

- A. **Finance Report:** Finance Officer Trina Scippio presented the financial reports and provided updates on her UNC School of Government Finance Officer classes, local dues, audit progress,
- B. **Budget Amendment #2027-BA2:** Commissioner Corprew made a motion to approve Budget Amendment #2027-BA2 as presented, seconded by Commissioner Everett. With no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

Committee Reports:

Executive Committee: Commissioner Corprew reported that the Executive Committee met on September 9. The Committee reviewed information and the agenda for the upcoming Board meeting and voted on the replacement of the conference room AV equipment.

Finance Committee: None.

Staff Reports

AAA: Director Alvarico provided updates on funding for congregate and home delivered meals, recent monitoring, upcoming Medicare open enrollment, and upcoming events.

Community Development: Director Alvarico provided updates on urgent repair, essential single-family rehabilitation, and weatherization projects as well as the upcoming annual weatherization contracts.

ARPO (Albemarle Rural Planning Organization): Transportation Planner Ethan Sommers reported on recent meetings and public hearings attended, and the adoption of the local input assignments as recommended by the counties.

NWDB: Director Clipston reported that the Division of Workforce Solutions is ending all temporary staffing contracts, affecting two staff members in the region. She also reported on the award of a \$50,000 business engagement grant and upcoming events, including the annual Real World event and hiring events.

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Whitmer presented the major projects and initiatives report to the Board. He also reported on his recent presentation to the Washington County Board of Commissioners and reminded counties of upcoming at-large appointments. Commissioner Everett requested that a letter be sent to the Governor, Secretary of Transportation, and Tess Judge expressing the Board's dissatisfaction with an upcoming meeting regarding ferry tolls being held in Asheville. The Board reached a consensus to proceed with the letter. Executive Director Whitmer will draft the letter and submit it to the Executive Committee for approval.

Chairman & Board Delegate Reports

Commissioner Lloyd Griffin reported on the recent discussion around data centers in Pasquotank County and recent Marine Fisheries meeting.

Commissioner Jan Moore reported on the groundbreaking of the 2nd phase of their new school.

Mrs. Connie Hedrick reported on a recent listening session and the opening of Tulls Creek Elementary School.

Commissioner O'Neal reported on the recent appointment of Steve Hedrick to the Currituck County Board of Commissioners. He also reported on an upcoming discussion regarding a proposed letter to Governor Stein supporting an appeal of the recent ruling regarding the State's management of coastal fisheries.

Commissioner Johnson reported on a recent merger of Dominion Energy and NextEra.

Commissioner Everett reported on preliminary planning for a new school, sewer pipe project, water improvement project, and paving of Highway 94.

Commissioner Corprew reported on the recent pay study completed, opening of new school, and passed moratorium on data centers.

Chairman Kirby reported on LifeWise Academy beginning in Chowan County Schools, appointed the Executive Committee to serve as the Nominating Committee, and discussed the upcoming evaluation of the Executive Director.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:34 p.m.



Chairman of the Board

Attested by:



Clerk to the Board, Amber Morse
Date 10/15/20

