

Governor's Advisory Committee on Western North Carolina Recovery

March 6, 2026 | 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Universal Advanced Manufacturing Center (Building #22), Combined Conference Rooms 105 & 106
McDowell Technical Community College
634 College Dr, Marion, NC 28752

AGENDA

- 10:00 Call to Order and Introductory Remarks
Senator Kevin Corbin (presiding) and Mayor Esther Manheimer, Co-Chairs
- Welcome
Dr. J.W. Kelley, President, McDowell Technical Community College
- 10:10 Water and Sewer Project Awards and Unmet Needs
Andy Miller, Deputy Secretary for Infrastructure and Environmental Assistance, NC
Department of Environmental Quality (NC DEQ)
Shadi Eskaf, Director, Division of Water Infrastructure, NC DEQ
- 10:25 Remarks
Governor Josh Stein
- 10:30 Blue Ridge Parkway: Status of Repairs and Timeline for Future Work
Tracy Swartout, Superintendent, Blue Ridge Parkway, National Park Service
Leesa Brandon, External Affairs Specialist, Blue Ridge Parkway, National Park Service
- Update from the Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation
Dr. Carolyn Widner, Chief Executive Officer, Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation
- 11:00 The Critical Role of Philanthropy in Recovery
Tara Scholtz, Vice President, Programs, Community Foundation of Western North Carolina
Sarah Grymes, Vice President of Community Engagement, Dogwood Health Trust
Luke Howe, Executive Director, AMY Wellness Foundation
Ret Boney, Disaster Relief Fund Program Director, NC Community Foundation
- 11:20 Consider Resilience Subcommittee Funding Recommendations from February Meeting
- 11:30 Recovery Updates
Director Matt Calabria, Governor's Recovery Office for Western North Carolina (GROW
NC) and Chief Deputy Director Emily Gangi, GROW NC
- 11:50 Next Steps - Director Matt Calabria
- Input on agenda items for next meeting: What needs and programs would committee members like to discuss?
 - Next meeting: Monday, April 20, 10:00am – 12:00pm (virtual)
- 12:00 Adjourn