

Governor's Advisory Committee on Western North Carolina Recovery

May 22, 2026 | 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Tillman Dining Room, The Brumit Center for Culinary Arts and Hospitality
Magnolia Building
Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College
Asheville, NC 28801

AGENDA

- 10:00 Call to Order and Introductory Remarks
Mayor Esther Manheimer (presiding) and Senator Kevin Corbin, Co-Chairs
- Welcome
Dr. John Gossett, President, Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College
- 10:10 Critical Role and Importance of Long-Term Recovery Groups
Eliza Edwards, Community Partnerships Director, GROW NC
Chris Sigmon, Executive Director, Yancey Long-Term Recovery Group
- 10:35 Remarks
Governor Josh Stein
- 10:40 Wildfire Mitigation Efforts Across WNC
Jason Guidry, Division Director, Forest Protection, NC Forest Service
James Melonas, Forest Supervisor, US Forest Service
Cavan Fitzsimmons, Deputy Forest Supervisor, US Forest Service
Melissa Patton, Executive Director, Carolina Land and Lakes RC&D
- 11:10 Resources for Resilience: WNC Resiliency & Recovery Project
Ann DuPre Rogers, Executive Director, Resources for Resilience
- 11:25 Recovery Updates
Director Matt Calabria 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, June 22, 10:00am – 12:00pm (virtual)
- 12:00 Adjourn