

Governor's Advisory Committee on Western North Carolina Recovery

September 25, 2026 | 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Floyd Conference Room (317/318), Campus Center
Mars Hill University
120 Cascade Street
Mars Hill, NC 28754

AGENDA

- 10:00 Call to Order and Introductory Remarks
Mayor Esther Manheimer (presiding) and Senator Kevin Corbin, Co-Chairs
- Welcome
Dr. Tracy Parkinson, President, Mars Hill University
- 10:10 Western North Carolina Economic Recovery Plan
Sharon Decker, Tapestry Collaborative
David Jackson, Co-Chair, Long-Term Economic Recovery Subcommittee
Dr. Laura Leatherwood, Co-Chair, Long-Term Economic Recovery Subcommittee
- 10:35 Remarks
Governor Josh Stein
- 10:40 Impact of Helene on Small Businesses and Remaining Needs
Matt Raker, Executive Director, Mountain BizWorks
Small business representatives
- 11:05 2025 Tourism Data & Funds for Tourism Development Authorities
Wit Tuttell, Executive Director, VisitNC
Marlise Taylor, Director, Tourism Research, VisitNC
- 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, October 19, 10:00am – 12:00pm (virtual)
- 12:00 Adjourn