

**RUTHERFORD COUNTY
289 NORTH MAIN STREET
RUTHERFORDTON, NC 28139
828-287-6045**

www.rutherfordcountync.gov



To the Citizens of Rutherford County:

County government is the shared responsibility of elected officials, staff, and many citizens who serve on various boards and commissions. Some board and commission seats require designated skills or training as specified by regulations. The Board of Commissioners must appoint persons who meet those guidelines.

The County Commissioners believe that Rutherford County will best be served when there is broad representation of volunteer citizens on boards and commissions. These boards should reflect participation which includes male and female citizens, persons from all geographic areas of the county, persons representing diverse racial and age groups, and consumers of public services. The participation of citizens is an integral part of the decision-making process the Commissioners use in striving to improve services to the residents of Rutherford County.

This booklet is to provide an introduction to the wide range of boards and commissioners on which citizens can serve. In addition to the ongoing boards and commissions listed, the Commissioners from time to time also appoint groups to address specific, short-term concerns such as the Rutherford County Tax Revenue Study Committee.

The Rutherford County Commissioners appreciate your interest in county government, and hope this booklet will prove to be helpful in acquainting you with some of the opportunities through which citizens can participate in local government.

If you would like further information about any of the boards and commissions listed, or if you would like to receive an application for appointment, contact the Clerk to the Board of Commissioners, 289 North Main Street, Rutherfordton, N.C. 28139. The telephone number is 828-287-6045. You can also visit the county's website at www.rutherfordcountync.gov.

ADVISORY PERSONNEL BOARD

3 Members appointed by the Board of County Commissioners

Purpose: To advise the Board of Commissioners and the county manager on county personnel problems; conduct hearings upon the request of the Board of Commissioners or of discharged, suspended, or demoted county employees.

Members: Appointed to serve three-year staggered terms. Shall not be eligible to serve for more than two (2) consecutive three-year terms on the board.

REGIONAL AGING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

20 Total Members with 5 from each county (Cleveland, Polk, McDowell, and Rutherford Counties)
1 of the 5 from Rutherford County shall be appointed by the Board of Commissioners

Purpose: To promote the welfare of all older persons in the county and to serve as advocates and spokesmen for the aging.

Members: Member appointed by the Board of Commissioners shall be a County Commissioner and term of office shall be commensurate with the Commissioner's term. Other members of the Committee shall serve one to three-year terms.

AIRPORT APPEALS BOARD

5 Members appointed by the Board of Commissioners

Purpose: To hear and decide appeals from any order, requirement, decision or determination made by the building inspector in the enforcement of the Airport Zoning Ordinance; to hear and decide special exceptions to the terms of the ordinance upon which such board of appeals under such regulations may be required to pass; and to hear and decide specific variances.

Members: Appointed to serve four-year staggered terms.

AIRPORT AUTHORITY

5 Members appointed by the Board of Commissioners

Purpose: A body corporate and politic having the powers and jurisdiction enumerated under HB 741, "An Act to Enable the County of Rutherford to Establish an Airport Authority for the Maintenance of Airport Facilities in the County" and additional powers as shall be conferred upon it by future acts of the General Assembly.

Members: Appointed to serve four-year staggered terms.

ARTS, PARKS, and RECREATION COMMISSION

9 Members appointed by the Board of County Commissioners

Purpose: To facilitate the development of wide ranging recreation programs for the citizens of Rutherford County. The commission shall determine objectives in enhancing recreation and prepare plans to achieve those objectives.

Members: The recreation commission shall be appointed by the Board of Commissioners. Three members are appointed for a term of one year, three members for a term of two years, and three members for a term of three years and until their successors qualify for office.

BROAD RIVER WATER AUTHORITY

8 Members that consist of two members from County of Rutherford, Town of Spindale, Town of Rutherfordton, and the Town of Ruth.

Purpose: To determine the policies and activities of the corporation within the confines of the stated purposes of the corporation as allowed and provided by Chapter 162A, Article 1, of the North Carolina General Statutes.

Members: Appointed to serve three-year staggered terms.

CAPITAL PLANNING AND FINANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

15 Members appointed by the Board of Commissioners.

Purpose: To determine the desirability of Rutherford County to participate in the funding of water and sewer system expansions through partnership arrangements with water and sewer providers in the county, to recommend the necessary funding source and to develop a program and methodology to prioritize projects and disperse funds.

Members: Appointed by the Board of Commissioners to serve two year terms.

COMMUNITY CHILD PROTECTION TEAM

15 Members with 5 being appointed by the Board of Commissioners.

Purpose: To recognize that children as bridges to the future will determine the state of society, and being aware that the experience of each child determines the whole persona of a child, each Community Child Protection Team will identify dynamics within communities that cause children to be at risk of harm. Upon identification, Community Child Protection Teams will advocate for eradication of unsafe environmental conditions. Community Child Protection Teams will work to eliminate unsafe conditions that impact child wellbeing through community education, team collaboration on strategies to effect change and recommendation for legislative changes.

Members: The Team shall consist of representatives of public and nonpublic agencies in the community that provide services to children and their families and other individuals who represent the diversity of the community. Membership is mandated by law and includes: the county director of social services, a law enforcement officer, an attorney, the executive director of the local community action agency, the superintendent of each local school administrative unit, a

member of the county board of social services, a local mental health professional, the local guardian ad litem coordinator, the director of the department of public health, a local health care provider, and up to five additional members to represent various county agencies that are appointed by the board of county commissioners.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE ADVISORY BOARD

10 Members appointed by the Board of County Commissioner

Purpose: To develop and facilitate the implementation of local community based corrections programs, in accordance with the provisions of NCGS 143B, Article 6A.

Members: Appointed members shall serve a three-year staggered terms.

DOMICILIARY HOME ADVISORY COMMITTEE

11 Members appointed by the Board of County Commissioner

Purpose: Works to maintain the intent of the Domiciliary Home Residents' Bill of Rights within the licensed domiciliary homes in this state. It is the further intent that the committee promotes community involvement and cooperation with domiciliary homes to ensure quality care for the elderly and disabled adults.

Members: Each member serves an initial one-year term; those reappointed to a subsequent terms serve a three-year term. Not less than, but as close to one-third of the membership of the Committee must be chosen from among persons nominated by a majority of the chief administrators of domiciliary homes in the county. In addition, one member of the committee shall be a person involved in the area of mental retardation.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

10 Members appointed by the Board of Commissioners

Purpose: To alleviate unemployment and underemployment within, and stimulate the economic development of, Rutherford County and its several municipalities by fostering and promoting business and industry, developing commerce and trade, and inducing the location of manufacturing, assembly, and commercial enterprises in Rutherford County.

Members: Appointments shall be two years and shall expire on June 30 in order to run with the fiscal year of the county.

FARMLAND PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

7 members appointed by the Board of Commissioners

Purpose: To promote agricultural values and general welfare of the county and more specifically, increase identity and pride in the agricultural community and its way of life; encourage the economic and financial health of agriculture; and increase protection from non-farm development and other negative impacts on properly managed farms.

Members: Each member should be a Rutherford County resident with each member representing one or more Agricultural Districts. At least five of the seven members shall be actively engaged in production agriculture. These members are appointed by the Board of Commissioners from the names of individuals submitted to the Board of Commissioners by the Soil and Water

Conservation District, the Cooperative Extension Service, the Farm Service Agency Committee, and the Rutherford County Farm Bureau with an effort to have the broadest geographical representation possible.

FIRE SERVICES' ADVISORY BOARD

1 Commissioner

Purpose: To manage the outside fire district funding working toward standardization of equipment and completing and maintaining projects that benefit each department.

Members: Appointed to serve four-year terms.

RUTHERFORD-POLK-McDOWELL DISTRICT BOARD OF HEALTH

18 Members

7 Members from Rutherford County appointed by the Board of Commissioners

Purpose: To make policies and rules and to be the adjudicatory body for the district department.

Members: Appointed to serve three-year terms not to exceed three consecutive three-year terms, unless the member is the only person residing in the district who represents one of the professions designated in this narrative. Members of the board shall include at least one physician licensed to practice medicine in NC, one licensed dentist, one licensed optometrist, one licensed veterinarian, one registered nurse, one licensed pharmacist, and one professional engineer.

HOME AND COMMUNITY CARE BLOCK GRANT COMMITTEE

No set limit to the number of members. Appointments made by the Board of County Commissioners.

Purpose: To plan for aging services in Rutherford County and decide how to allocate funding through the Home and Community Care Block Grant.

Members: Appointed to serve three-year staggered terms.

ISOTHERMAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

15 Members

4 Members appointed by the Board of County Commissioners

Purpose: Empowered to acquire, hold, and transfer real and personal property; enter into contracts; institute and defend legal actions and suits; and exercise such other rights and privileges as may be necessary in accordance with the Community College Laws of North Carolina.

Members: Appointed to serve four-year staggered terms. In addition to the four members appointed by the County Commissioners, the other members are appointed by the Board of Education and the Governor. The President of the Student Government Association serves as an ex-officio, non-voting member.

ISOTHERMAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

12 Members

3 Members appointed by the Board of County Commissioners

Purpose: Establish policies for the Commission which is a multi-county planning and development agency. Rutherford County members serve along with members from McDowell, Polk, and Cleveland Counties and municipal governments in the four-county area.

Members: Appointed to serve three-year staggered terms.

JURY COMMISSION

3 Members

1 Member appointed by the Board of Commissioners

Purpose: To prepare a list of prospective jurors.

Members: One member of the commission shall be appointed by the senior regular resident superior court judge, one member by the clerk of superior court, and one member by the board of county commissioners.

JUVENILE CRIME PROTECTION COMMITTEE

25 Members

7 Members appointed by the Board of Commissioners

Purpose: To assess the needs of youth in Rutherford County, to develop a plan of action to meet the needs of court adjudicated juveniles and youth at risk; screen program proposals submitted by groups or agencies and evaluate existing programs for effectiveness and improvement; serve as advocates for youth in need; and provide a single council for Rutherford County of interagency professionals and members of the public who shall meet the membership requirements for appointment to the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council pursuant to the Juvenile Justice Reform Act of 1998; and to administer funds allocated pursuant to said Act by the North Carolina Office of Juvenile Justice, local matching monies and other foundation, grant, or private monies made available for adjudicated or youth at risk programs.

Members: Except as staggered terms are provided under section 147-33.50 of the Juvenile Reform Act, by initial appointment to terms of one year for certain designated positions, the regular term of Council membership shall be for a period of two years. Members may be re-appointed for up to three additional terms for a maximum of six continuous years.

LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

6 Members appointed by the Board of Commissioners

Purpose: To formulate and adopt programs, policies, and regulations for the government of the library; to make recommendations to the governing body concerning the construction and improvement of buildings and other structures of the library system; to supervise and care for the facilities of the library system; to appoint a chief librarian or director of library services and with his advice, to appoint other employees of the library system; and to establish a schedule of fines and charges

for late return of, failure to return, damage to, and loss of library materials, and to take other measures to protect and regulate the use of such materials.

Members: One member shall be a member of the Board of Commissioners and the remaining five members shall consist of one person from each of the five Commissioners' districts. Each appointment of the five members shall be for a term of three years.

MOUNTAIN VALLEYS RC &D

26 Total Members with 3 from each county (Buncombe, Henderson, Madison, Transylvania, McDowell, Polk, Cleveland, and Rutherford Counties)

2 of the 3 will be appointed by the County Commissioners and one by the Soil and Water Conservation District.

The Land-of-Sky and Isothermal Regional Councils shall each appoint one member.

Purpose: To plan and promote the orderly conservation and development of certain resources in the area. These resources include, but are not necessarily limited to: Human, Land, Water, Wildlife, Forestry, Recreation and Cultural.

Members: Two of the three members from each county will be appointed by the County Commissioners and one by the Soil and Water Conservation District. The Land-of-Sky and Isothermal Regional Councils shall each appoint one member.

NURSING HOME ADVISORY COMMITTEE

6 Members appointed by the Board of Commissioners

Purpose: To visit nursing homes and appraise the general conditions under which persons are residing in the homes, thus working for the best interests of the residents.

Members: Of the 6 members, not less than one-third must be chosen from among persons nominated by a majority of the chief administrators of nursing homes in the county. Initial appointments are for a term of one year, and subsequent reappointments are for three years.

PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILDREN

35 Members appointed by Board of Commissioners. Appointees may represent more than one agency.

Purpose: To organize and operate exclusively for charitable and educational purposes within the meaning of sections 501©3 and 170©2 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 or the corresponding provisions of any future United States Revenue Laws, including the development of innovative approaches and strategies for aiding parents and families in the education and development of children in Rutherford County.

Members: The members are representatives of public and private nonprofit health and human service agencies, day care providers, the business community, foundations, county and municipal governments, local education units, and families. The members are appointed by the Board of Commissioners.

PLANNING COMMISSION

10 Members

2 members appointed by each Commissioner from their respective districts

Purpose: Makes studies of the county and surrounding areas and determines objectives to be sought in the development of the study area. Prepares plans for achieving these objectives and advises the Board of Commissioners concerning the means for carrying out plans. Performs any related duties that the Board of Commissioners may direct.

Members: Appointed to serve one-year terms.

RURAL PLANNING ORGANIZATION

4 Members appointed by the Board of Commissioners

Purpose: To develop long-range local and regional multi-modal transportation plans in cooperation with the North Carolina Department of Transportation. Provide a forum for public transportation in the transportation planning process. Develop and prioritize suggestions for transportation projects the Rural Transportation Planning Organization believes should be included in the state's Transportation Improvement Program. Conduct transportation related studies and surveys and provide transportation-related information to local governments and other interested organizations and persons. Undertake mutually agreed upon transportation related tasks to enhance transportation system development, coordination and efficiency.

Members: The membership shall consist of: one county commissioner representing each county, and one municipal elected official from each municipal member, one member of the Isothermal Planning and Development Commission Executive Committee will serve in an ex-officio (non-voting) capacity, and one member of the North Carolina Board of Transportation representing the Department of Transportation.

SWEEP

Number of members to be determined and appointed by the Board of County Commissioners

Purpose: Shall determine objectives in enhancing solid waste and prepare plans to achieve those objectives and shall develop policies, procedures, and means for carrying out plans in a coordinated and effective manner.

Members: Appointed to serve one-year terms.

SOCIAL SERVICES' BOARD

5 Members

2 Appointed by the Board of County Commissioners

2 Appointed by the Social Services' Commission

1 Appointed by the above four members

Purpose: Establishes county policies for programs established by Chapter 108 in conformity with the rules and regulations of the Social Services Commission and under the supervision of the Department of Human Resources.

Members: Each member serves a term of three years. No member will be eligible to serve more than two consecutive terms unless he/she is a Commissioner during the first two consecutive terms and is a member of the Board of County Commissioners at the time of reappointment.

TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

10 members

3 Appointed by the Board of Economic Development Commission

6 Appointed by each Chamber of Commerce in Rutherford County

1 Appointed by the County Commissioners

Purpose: To promote travel, tourism, retirement and conventions in Rutherford County through state, regional, national, and international advertising and promotions.

Members: The members consist of: three members of the Economic Development Commission, or their designees, appointed by the Board of the Economic Development Commission, a county commissioner, three owners or operators of hotels, motels, or other taxable accommodations, one appointed by each chamber of commerce in Rutherford County, and three individuals involved in tourist-related businesses who have demonstrated an interest in tourism development and who may or may not own hotels, motels, or other taxable accommodations. The initial terms of each of these appointees shall be determined by the Rutherford County Commissioners as follows: one one-year term, one two-year term, and one three-year term. Thereafter, the appointees shall serve for a term of three years.

TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION ADVISORY BOARD

The Transit Board shall consist of members to be appointed by County Commissioners. Appointees may represent more than one agency.

Purpose: To establish goals and objectives for the community transportation system providing efficient utilization of all available resources in the provision of safe, convenient, and reliable transportation services, and to facilitate mobility choices for all individuals including the elderly, disabled, and client of human service agencies.

Members: Appointed to serve three-year terms. Authority shall include: Core human service agencies – Department of Social Services, Mental Health, Senior Center, Health Department, and Vocational Workshop. Employment Security Commission, Job Link Career Centers/School to Work, Civic Community Organizations, Private Citizen(s), Chamber of Commerce/Economic Development, Business/Industry, Emergency Medical Services, Private Transportation Provider, Faith Community Leaders, Smart Start, County Commissioner. The County Manager and Director of Finance, Transit Director and Transit Administrative Assistant shall serve as *ex officio* members.

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

24 Members appointed by the Board of Commissioners

Purpose: To present the area's transportation needs.

Members: Appointed to serve two-year terms.

WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE

3 Members appointed by the Board of Commissioners

Purpose: To help implement a plan to protect the public water supply and reduce the risks that it will be contaminated.

Members: The members are appointed by the Board of Commissioners.

WATERSHED COMMISSION

3 members appointed by the Board of County Commissioners

Purpose: To develop and implement a flood control Watershed Project on the Second Broad River. Duties include procuring landrights, letting contracts on structures and maintenance of completed structures. The Watershed Commission works with the local, state, and federal government to coordinate funds to complete works of improvement.

Members: Appointed to serve six-year terms.

WATERSHED REVIEW BOARD

The Rutherford County Planning Commission shall serve as the watershed review board with 2 alternate members.

Purpose: To hear and decide appeals from any decision or determination made by the watershed administrator in the enforcement of this ordinance. It shall also have the power to authorize, in specific cases, minor variances from the terms of this ordinance as will not be contrary to the public interests where, owing to special conditions, a literal enforcement of this ordinance will result in practical difficulties or unnecessary hardship, so that the spirit of this ordinance shall be observed, public safety and welfare secured, and substantial justice done.

Members: The Rutherford County Planning Commission shall serve as the watershed review board and the 2 alternate members being appointed to one-year terms.

WESTERN HIGHLANDS LOCAL MANAGEMENT ENTITY

2 Members

Purpose: To ensure the provision of high quality, consumer responsive, culturally sensitive and cost-effective services to those who are living with mental illness, developmental disabilities, and substance abuse.

Members: Appointed to serve three-year terms.

WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA POLITICAL CAUCUS

1 County Commissioner and 1 Elected Official from each of 26 western counties.

Purpose: To monitor the actions of all state and federal funding streams and agencies.

Members: One county commissioner from each county and one elected official to represent each county's municipalities in the organizational structure.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

21 members overall with at least 51% from private-for-profit sector.

6 Members appointed by the Rutherford County Commission Chairmen

Purpose: To provide policy guidance for and exercise oversight with respect to activities under the Job Training Plan for the four counties in the Service Delivery Area in partnership with Units of General Local Government within the area (Region C Job Training Consortium).

Members: Members shall be appointed to fixed and staggered terms. One-third of the initial appointments shall be for one year, one-third shall be for two years, and one-third shall be for three years. Thereafter all appointments shall be for three years.