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**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF
THE GOLDEN L.E.A.F. (Long-term Economic Advancement Foundation), INC.**

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of The Golden L.E.A.F. (Long-term Economic Advancement Foundation), Inc. (the “Foundation”), was noticed for and convened on April 1, 2026, at the North Carolina State Plant Sciences Building in Seminar Rooms A, B, and C located at 840 Oval Drive, Raleigh, NC 27606. Board members participating in the meeting were Barry Dodson, Michael Easley, Jr., Jim Harrell, Buddy Keller, Jeffrey Lee, Laurence Lilley, Brian Raynor (Chair), Bobbie Richardson, David Rose, Jarette Sampson, Tom Taft, and Bill Webb. Also present were Scott T. Hamilton, President, Chief Executive Officer of the Foundation; Ted Lord, Senior Vice President/ General Counsel of the Foundation; Kasey Ginsberg, Vice President/ Chief of Staff of the Foundation; Erica Smith, Vice President of Finance of the Foundation; J.P. Boyd, Vice President of Investments of the Foundation; Marilyn Chism, Director of Programs of the Foundation; Ginger Mustamaa, Director of Programs Administration of the Foundation; Jenny Tinklepaugh, Communications Manager of the Foundation; Brynn Fann, Program Officer and AV/ Tech Coordinator of the Foundation; and Byron Kirkland, legal counsel to the Foundation. Jenny Tinklepaugh served as secretary of the meeting.

Mr. Kirkland called the roll of the Board members.

Mr. Raynor called the meeting to order and declared a quorum to be present.

Mr. Lord introduced Ms. Mustamaa to the Board and she provided information about her background. The Board welcomed her to the Foundation staff.

Mr. Hamilton told the Board members that they would hear from several North Carolina State University staff and faculty members about the work of the University and the Plant Sciences Initiative. He then introduced Garey Fox, Dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALs). Dean Fox discussed efforts of the University to future-proof the food supply. He noted an increased student interest

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in CALS, with applications up 10% in the most recent year. He discussed strategies to maintain strong connections with rural communities, including guaranteed admission for students with an AAS degrees and a rural internship program. He also discussed research strategies and opportunities for innovation and potential changes for Cooperative Extension, including new staffing models and the need for agents specializing in digital technologies.

Dr. Adrian Percy, Executive Director of the N.C. Plant Sciences Initiative (PSI), then addressed the Board. Dr. Percy discussed the collaborative nature of the PSI and its work across colleges at the University. He said that its focus areas are impact in North Carolina, workforce development, and serving as a center for excellence in inter-disciplinary research.

Next, Dr. Cranos Williams, the Platform Director for Data-Driven Plant Sciences and the PSI, presented information on BeanPACK, a web-based decision support tool for North Carolina farmers. Dr. Cranos discussed the development of the technology and the engagement of the College of Engineering, PSI, and CALS in the process. He explained the benefits of the technology for North Carolina farmers and plans for continued development and implementation.

The Board then heard from two extension agents who have been involved in PSI. Andrea Gibbs, who is based in Hyde County, discussed efforts to leverage connections of extension agents with local farmers to accelerate adoption of technologies on farms. She spoke specifically of her service in the PSI Extension Agent Network and her work assisting research regarding cover crops and developing a network for management of flooding and saltwater intrusion. Karen Blaedow, who is based in Henderson County, discussed her work in the N.C. Extension Agent Network, which includes 32 North Carolina counties. She discussed the benefits of collaboration with other agents and opportunities she received, including participation in a national project investigating issues related to phosphorus sustainability.

Dr. Timothy Kelleher, Professor in the Departments of Entomology and Plant Pathology and Horticultural Science, then discussed the Genome Editing Center for Sustainable Agriculture at PSI. He

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explained the mission of the center, which is to shorten the timeline to put genetic innovations into growers' hands, to build a commercial research pipeline, to foster innovation, and to develop new gene editing tools. He discussed specific opportunities for gene editing to add value to North Carolina's major crops, including sweet potatoes and cotton.

Finally, North Carolina State University Chancellor Kevin Howell welcomed the Board to campus. He discussed the many ways that Golden LEAF and the University collaborate, including the Golden LEAF Scholars program. He noted the increased interest in students and applicants in CALS and in agriculture. He also discussed the importance of support for expansion of Cooperative Extension and applied research that will benefit North Carolina agriculture.

Following the presentations the Board toured the PSI, saw several labs and the greenhouses at the facility, and heard from researchers and leaders of private companies based at the PSI building. Following the tour, Mr. Raynor declared the meeting of the Board to be in recess until 9:15 a.m. on Thursday, April 2, at the same location.

The meeting of the Board of Directors reconvened at the North Carolina State Plant Sciences Building in Seminar Rooms A, B, and C located at 840 Oval Drive, Raleigh, NC 27606 on Thursday, April 2, 2026. Board members participating in the meeting were Barry Dodson, Michael Easley, Jr., Don Flow, Jim Harrell, Buddy Keller, Jeffrey Lee, Laurence Lilley, Brian Raynor (Chair), Bobbie Richardson, David Rose, Jarette Sampson, Tom Taft, and Bill Webb. Also present were Scott T. Hamilton, President, Chief Executive Officer of the Foundation; Ted Lord, Senior Vice President/ General Counsel of the Foundation; Kasey Ginsberg, Vice President/ Chief of Staff of the Foundation; Erica Smith, Vice President of Finance of the Foundation; J.P. Boyd, Vice President of Investments of the Foundation; Ginger Mustamaa, Director of Programs Administration; Jenny Tinklepaugh, Communications Manager of the Foundation; Brynn Fann, Program Officer and AV/ Tech Coordinator of the Foundation; and Byron Kirkland, legal counsel to the Foundation.

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Mr. Kirkland called the roll of the Board members.

Mr. Raynor called the meeting to order and declared a quorum to be present.

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the February 5, 2026 regular meeting of the Board.

The motion was seconded and carried.

Mr. Raynor asked Mr. Keller to give the report of the Investment Committee. Mr. Keller reported that the Investment Committee approved the minutes of the open and closed sessions of its February 4, 2026 meeting. The Committee also received a report from the Foundation's investment staff and consultants regarding the Foundation's asset allocation, investment performance, and other matters. He reported that the Committee heard an update on the current market, approved an investment of up to \$12 million in TrueBridge Capital Partners Fund IX (Cayman), L.P., and approved a termination of the Foundation's investment in Varde Credit Partners, Ltd.

In the absence of the Chair of the Programs Committee, Mr. Raynor presented the report of the Programs Committee.

Mr. Raynor reported that the Programs Committee approved the minutes of the open and closed sessions of its February 4, 2026 meeting.

Mr. Raynor identified the following interests that were disclosed by members of the Board:

- Mr. Lilley disclosed that his son is Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Commerce and Mr. Lilley will abstain from the discussion and vote regarding projects for which Golden LEAF knows the Department of Commerce will or may provide funding.
- Mr. Webb disclosed that he serves as Chair of the Rural Infrastructure Authority and will abstain from the discussion and vote regarding projects for which the Rural Infrastructure Authority is or may be a funder.

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Mr. Raynor informed members of the Board that he would report the recommendations of the Programs Committee by reference to the recommendations sheet distributed prior to the meeting and available at the meeting. The recommendations sheet is included as Attachment A to these minutes.

Mr. Raynor reported that the Programs Committee recommended that the Board take the actions on Attachment A regarding the application received in the Economic Catalyst Program, which is item numbered 1. Mr. Raynor presented the recommendation in the form of a motion and the motion carried. Mr. Lilley declared a duality of interest because his son serves as Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Commerce and abstained from the discussion and the vote. Mr. Webb declared a duality of interest because he serves as Chair of the Rural Infrastructure Authority and abstained from the discussion and vote.

Mr. Raynor reported that the Programs Committee recommended that the Board take the actions on Attachment A regarding the Stage 2 applications received in the Open Grants Program that are items numbered 2-4 and 6-7. Mr. Raynor presented the recommendation in the form of a motion and the motion carried.

Mr. Raynor reported that the Programs Committee recommended that the Board take the action on Attachment A regarding the Stage 2 application received in the Open Grants Program that is item numbered 5. Mr. Raynor presented the recommendation in the form of a motion and the motion carried. Mr. Lilley declared a duality of interest because his son serves as Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Commerce and abstained from the discussion and the vote. Mr. Webb declared a duality of interest because he serves as Chair of the Rural Infrastructure Authority and abstained from the discussion and vote.

Mr. Raynor reported that the Programs Committee recommended that the Board take the actions on Attachment A regarding the Stage 1 applications received in the Open Grants Program, which are

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items numbered 8-20. Mr. Raynor presented the recommendation in the form of a motion and the motion carried.

Mr. Raynor reported that the Programs Committee recommended that the Board defer action on the application received in the SITE Program, which is item numbered 21 on Attachment A. Mr. Raynor presented the recommendation in the form of a motion and the motion carried.

Mr. Raynor reported that the Programs Committee recommended that the Board take the action on Attachment A regarding the application received in the Community-Based Grants Initiative in the North Central Prosperity Zone, which is item numbered 22. Mr. Raynor presented the recommendation in the form of a motion and the motion carried.

Mr. Raynor reported that the Programs Committee recommended that the Board take the action on Attachment A regarding the statement of work from the North Carolina Community College System for the Golden LEAF Community College Scholarship (2026-2027), which is item numbered 23. Mr. Raynor presented the recommendation in the form of a motion and the motion carried.

Mr. Raynor reported that the Programs Committee recommended that the Board take the actions on Attachment A regarding the grant modification requests in state appropriated programs, which are items numbered 24 and 25. Mr. Raynor presented the recommendation in the form of a motion and the motion carried.

Mr. Raynor reported that the Programs Committee recommended that the Board take the actions on Attachment A regarding the grant modification requests that are items numbered 26 and 28. Mr. Raynor presented the recommendation in the form of a motion and the motion carried.

Mr. Raynor reported that the Programs Committee recommended that the Board take the action on Attachment A regarding the grant modification request that is item numbered 27. Mr. Raynor presented the recommendation in the form of a motion and the motion carried. Mr. Lilley declared a

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duality of interest because his son serves as Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Commerce and abstained from the discussion and the vote.

Mr. Raynor reported that the Programs Committee recommended that the Board take the action on Attachment A regarding the Hurricane Helene Relief Initiative grant modification request, which is item numbered 29, and on the recommendation to decline all pending applications in the Initiative, which is item numbered 30. Mr. Raynor presented the recommendation in the form of a motion and the motion carried.

Mr. Raynor reported that the Programs Committee heard updates on the Golden LEAF Schools Initiative, NC Ag Leads, the preliminary FY27 Programs Budget, and strategic planning, which are items numbered 31-33 on Attachment A.

Mr. Raynor reported that the Programs Committee recommended that the Board take the action on Attachment A regarding items under other business that are items numbered 34 and 35. Mr. Raynor presented the recommendation in the form of a motion and the motion carried.

Mr. Raynor reported that the Programs Committee recommended that the Board take the action on Attachment A regarding the item under other business that is item numbered 36. Mr. Raynor presented the recommendation in the form of a motion and the motion carried. Mr. Lilley declared a duality of interest because his son serves as Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Commerce and abstained from the discussion and the vote. Mr. Webb declared a duality of interest because he serves as Chair of the Rural Infrastructure Authority and abstained from the discussion and vote.

Mr. Raynor reported that the Programs Committee recommended that the Board take the action on Attachment A regarding the item under other business that is item numbered 37. Mr. Raynor presented the recommendation in the form of a motion and the motion carried.

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In the absence of the Chair of the Finance Committee Chair, Mr. Raynor gave the report of the Finance Committee. He reported that the Committee approved the minutes of its February 5, 2026 meeting, received the report of Ms. Smith, and received an update regarding the Foundation's budget.

Mr. Raynor asked Mr. Rose to give the report of the Personnel/Nominations Committee. Mr. Rose reported that the Personnel/Nominations Committee approved the minutes of its February 5, 2026 meeting.

Mr. Raynor asked Mr. Dodson to give the report of the Audit Committee. Mr. Dodson reported that the Audit Committee approved the minutes of its February 5, 2026 meeting. Mr. Dodson reported that the Committee reviewed the Foundation's FY2026 audit plan with Andrea Taylor, who will serve as Engagement Partner with the Foundation's external auditors, BDO USA, LLP ("BDO"). The Audit Committee also voted to retain BDO to conduct the Foundation's FY2026 financial statement audit and single audit. The Committee also confirmed that the team lead for the Audit is within the term limits set by the Committee. At the meeting, the Committee members completed Objectives 3 and 4 of the Audit Committee's Statement of Objectives.

Mr. Dodson reported that the Audit Committee recommended that the Board approve BDO's proposed Agreement for Tax Services for the Foundation's 2026 Fiscal Year between BDO and the Foundation and authorize Ms. Smith to execute the agreement on behalf of the Foundation. Mr. Dodson presented the recommendation in the form of a motion and the motion carried.

Mr. Raynor asked if there was other business to come before the Board.

Mr. Easley shared that Ed Roach, former Board member and Board Chair, passed away after a battle with cancer. Mr. Roach was an important Board member for the Foundation, providing guidance with many projects, including the Foundation's support of the State's efforts to secure Spirit Aerosystems' manufacturing facility at the North Carolina Global Transpark in Lenior County.

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Mr. Raynor asked Ms. Ginsberg to give the legislative update. Ms. Ginsberg reported that Senator Berger lost in the primary election, though he will finish his term as both senator and President Pro Tempore. A new President Pro Tem will be chosen after the November elections, with formal installation in January. She added that this marks a significant transition for the Senate, which has not experienced a leadership change in many years. Ms. Ginsberg reported that some incumbent House members also lost primaries, which will create opportunities to build relationships with new members. She also reported that the House and Senate appear divided on budget priorities, making reaching a comprehensive budget agreement difficult. She reported that staff will prioritize meeting with newly elected officials after November to build awareness of the Foundation's work.

Mr. Raynor asked Mr. Hamilton to give the President's report. Mr. Hamilton reported that the Foundation is actively managing a large portfolio of projects, including 106 pending applications and 241 active grants. In 2026 so far, 153 requests have been received, with 43 grants approved. The Food Distribution Assistance Program is also nearing completion, with 15 active projects remaining.

Mr. Hamilton reported that he attended the NC Economic Development Association's 60th anniversary, the Martin County Chamber of Commerce meeting, and NC East Alliance meeting. He added that he has continued outreach including meetings with community college presidents. He has met a total of 74 presidents, including the new presidents at James Sprunt and Rockingham community colleges.

Mr. Hamilton reported that there have been several Golden LEAF Scholars events. He shared that Board and staff attended the Fayetteville State University event on February 12th, the Elizabeth City State University event on March 11th, and the NC Wesleyan University event on March 19th. He added that the upcoming event at East Carolina University on April 7th will include a tailgate and a baseball game, where he will throw out the first pitch.

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Mr. Hamilton shared that the Foundation has two open positions, a part-time Scholarship Associate role, which came open when the person in that position left for a full-time job, and a Program Officer position which will come open upon Program Officer Jason Rochelle's retirement in June.

Mr. Hamilton also noted that HVAC upgrades at the Lawrence Davenport Retreat Center are underway but slightly delayed. The next board meeting is scheduled for June 3rd and 4th at the Lawrence Davenport Retreat Center.

With no other business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned.

Jenny Tinklepaugh, Secretary of the Meeting

Read and approved:

Brian Raynor, Chair of the Board

**Attachment A
Programs Committee Recommendations**

#	Organization	Project Title	Programs Cmte Rec	Comments Special Conditions
1	Wilson Economic Development Council (Wilson EDC)	Wilson Corporate Park Sewer Upgrade	\$1,492,520.00	<p>a) Golden LEAF funds are to be used for expansion or improvement of public sewer infrastructure reasonably necessary to serve Johnson & Johnson or its affiliates or subsidiaries (the "Company") and that have the capacity to serve the Company and others.</p> <p>b) Release of funds is contingent on the Grantee providing evidence that the Company has agreed to allow the Grantee and Golden LEAF to verify the Company's job creation and retention figures, wages, and benefits by reviewing NCUI-101 forms and/or through other means satisfactory to Golden LEAF.</p> <p>c) Release of funds is contingent on the Grantee providing evidence of an inducement agreement, performance agreement, or similar agreement demonstrating that the Company is obligated to create at least 288 new jobs with average annual wages of at least \$104,921. The deadline for creation of the new jobs must be no later than December 31, 2030. The jobs must be located at the new manufacturing facility the Company will construct in Wilson County, and must be in addition to the jobs associated with the Company's job creation project in Wilson that was announced in 2024. The agreement must include appropriate consequences should the Company fail to satisfy its obligations. The President of Golden LEAF may approve minor variations from these requirements.</p>

Open Grants Program Stage 2 Proposals				
#	Organization	Project Title	Programs Cmte Rec	Comments Special Conditions
2	Bladen's Bloomin' Agri-Industrial, Inc.	White Lake Sewer	Defer	
3	Dunn Police Athletic & Activities League, Inc.	Dunn PAL Campus Renovation and Career Readiness Expansion	\$0.00	
4	Jackson County Economic Development	Webster Village	\$500,000.00	
5	Metropolitan Community Health Services, Inc.	Aurora Healthcare Expansion Initiative	\$400,000.00	
6	Opportunities Industrialization Center, Inc. (RMOIC)	Building Economic Futures: OIC's Regional Workforce and Business Development Hub	\$0.00	
7	Robeson Community College	Advanced CTE Equipment Initiative	\$500,000.00	
Open Grants Program Stage 1 Proposals				
#	Organization	Project Title	Programs Cmte Rec	Comments Special Conditions
8	5&2 Training Institute Inc	Automotive Technician Workforce Development Program	Y	
9	Appalachian Mountain Health	Building Back Better: A Healthcare Investment that Creates Jobs and Restores Hope	Y	
10	Firsthealth of the Carolinas Inc	FirstHealth Moore Regional-Hoke, Sterile Processing Department Expansion	Y	
11	Harnett Regional Jetport	Harnett Regional Jetport Corporate Area Development	Y	

12	Martin, County of	Martin County Paramedics & Quick Response Vehicles	Y	
13	Meredith College	Addressing North Carolina's Nursing Shortage Through Simulation-Based Technology	Y	
14	Wingate University	Rural Telehealth Workforce Center	Y	
15	ElevIQ Foundation Inc	Rural Workforce Capability Alignment & Career Pathways Initiative	N	
16	High Country Council of Governments	High Country Circular Economy Catalyst	N	
17	National Center for Construction Education Research	High School Builder Program launch in five NC schools	N	
18	Neighborhoods Hands	Community Workforce Development	N	
19	North Carolina State University	WNCStrong Youth Service Corps	N	
20	Still Us Foundation	Still Us Rural Dementia Workforce Initiative	N	
SITE Programs Proposals				
#	Organization	Project Title	Programs Cmtc Rec	Comments Special Conditions
Development				
21	Surry County Economic Development Foundation	Twin Oaks Business Park	Defer	Release of funds is contingent on Golden LEAF approval of a legal mechanism or structure that will provide assurances acceptable to Golden LEAF that the property to be improved with Golden LEAF funds will be used for industrial purposes.

CBGI Proposal				
#	Organization	Project Title	Programs Cmtc Rec	Comments Special Conditions
22	Working Landscapes	Soil Amendments and Value-Added Enterprise (SAVE)	\$0	Project endorsed by Warren County.
Golden LEAF Scholarships				
#	Organization	Project Title	Programs Cmtc Rec	Comments Special Conditions
23	North Carolina Community College System	Golden LEAF Community Colleges Scholarship (2026-2027)	Award a programmatic contract of \$3,060,000	<p>a) The term of the contract is 13 months, commencing on the Award Date. Golden LEAF may extend the term of the Contract by providing notice in writing. All project-related expenses must be incurred during the term of the contract. The provisions of this Agreement that by their nature extend beyond the term of the contract will survive the end of the term of the contract.</p> <p>b) \$2,980,000 of contract funds are to be used for scholarships and up to \$80,000 may be used by NCCCS for administrative costs of implementing the project and coordinating the activities of the participating campuses.</p> <p>c) Scholarship funds may be awarded on an annual basis or for shorter periods at a maximum amount of \$2,250/year for curriculum students and \$1,850/year for continuing education students.</p> <p>d) NCCCS agrees to submit to Golden LEAF for approval policies and procedures governing the Program that include: 1) the student eligibility and selection criteria and process; 2) the process for allocating (and reallocating) funds among participating colleges; 3) acceptable uses of funds; and 4) marketing and branding guidelines for participating</p>

				<p>colleges. These policies and procedures must reflect the following: i) a strategy for reallocating scholarship funds among colleges to ensure, to the extent practical, funds are allocated to meet demand; ii) priority funding may be made available to colleges in counties determined by Golden LEAF; iii) colleges may retain and award scholarship funds throughout the school year (subject to the reallocation process described above) with unused funds to be returned to NCCCS by June 25, 2027; iv) colleges must participate in a program management conference with NCCCS; v) at least 25% of funds must be reserved for students enrolled in a Workforce Continuing Education pathway/course that is offered for at least 96 contact hours and leads to a state and/or industry-recognized credential; vi) funds may be used for the total cost of attendance; vii) campuses must use reasonable efforts to ensure that Golden LEAF scholarship funds do not displace state or federal grants available to the student.</p> <p>e) NCCCS must follow Golden LEAF brand guide requirements for use of Golden LEAF logo and must receive Golden LEAF approval for use of Golden LEAF logo on marketing materials.</p> <p>f) NCCCS must collaborate with Golden LEAF on program-related outreach and communications including communications directly with Golden LEAF scholars.</p>
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State Appropriated Programs Modification Requests				
#	Organization	Project Title	Programs Cmte Rec	Comments Special Conditions
24	City of Elizabeth City	Sanitary Sewer Pump Station Replacement	Y	Increase award from \$996,300 to \$1,459,407 (increase of \$463,107).
25	City of Washington	Washington Medical District Storm Water Project	Y	Increase award from \$3,030,000 to \$4,030,000 (increase of \$1,000,000).
Grant Modification Requests				
#	Organization	Project Title	Programs Cmte Rec	Comments Special Conditions
26	Appalachian State University	Preparing the Rural Nursing Workforce: Lab Expansion at App State Hickory Campus	Authorize the President and Chair of the Board, with the assistance of counsel, to approve modifications to the Grantee Acknowledgment and Agreement.	

27	Brunswick County	Highway 74/76 Industrial Park Water Project	Y, with conditions	<p>Approve the following conditions and authorize the President to implement them through appropriate agreements and/or modifications to the Grantee Agreement for the project:</p> <p>1) If the Epsilon Advanced Materials (the "Company") does not announce its intent to move forward with the project by March 31, 2027, the Golden LEAF award will be terminated without further action by Golden LEAF. For the Company's announcement to satisfy this condition, it must include a date certain by which the Company expects to begin construction of its facility and/or when it expects to begin production at its facility. The announcement must also confirm that the project will be of substantially the same scope as originally announced.</p> <p>2) If the Company satisfies the requirement that it announce its decision to move forward, the Company must make material progress on construction of the facility within one year of that announcement or the award will be terminated without further action by Golden LEAF. Material progress on construction of the facility includes, at a minimum, significant site work conducted by the Company at the Brunswick County site.</p> <p>3) No Golden LEAF funds will be released until the Company has incurred construction expenses of at least \$100 million at the project site. Those expenses must be incurred no later than June 30, 2029. If the Company has not incurred at least \$100 million in construction expenses</p>
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				at the project site by June 30, 2029, the award will be terminated with no further action by Golden LEAF. 4) If the conditions above are satisfied and Brunswick County is eligible to receive Golden LEAF funds for the project, Golden LEAF funds may be used to reimburse Brunswick County for expenses incurred constructing public infrastructure consistent with the approved project budget, even though construction may have been completed at the time of the reimbursement.
28	Caldwell County	Foothills Regional Airport Industrial Park Due Diligence	Y	Increase award by \$26,490 to \$76,490 to allow additional work regarding potential cemetery on the property.
Hurricane Helene Relief Initiative				
#	Organization	Project Title	Programs Cmtc Rec	Comments Special Conditions
29	Baptists on Mission	Helene Relief Project	Y	Increase award from \$3,690,000 to \$4,570,000 (increase of \$880,000)
30	Hurricane Helene Relief Initiative Applications	N/A	Y	Decline all pending applications in the Hurricane Helene Relief Initiative, a list of which was provided in the Board materials.
Strategic Planning				
#	Topic		Comments Special Conditions	
31	Golden LEAF Schools Update		Staff will provide an update regarding Golden LEAF Schools, including information from recent reports submitted by DPI and updates from in person visits.	

32	NC Ag Leads Update	Staff will provide an update regarding NC Ag Leads, including next steps regarding potential funding for ag innovation and workforce development.
33	Preliminary Programs FY27 Budget/Strategic Planning Update	Staff will present a proposed preliminary FY27 Programs budget following the guidance regarding determination of availability of funds provided by the Board at the January retreat. Staff will also present updates on strategic planning topics discussed at the January retreat including shell buildings, community college collaboration, and support for small businesses.
Other Business		
#	Topic	Comments Special Conditions
34	Authority to Manage Inactive Applications	Authorize staff to remove draft applications that are more than 60 days old from the grants portal and to require applicants to submit a Stage 2 application within two Board meetings of receiving an invitation to submit or be subject to administrative declination.
35	The Forward Fund	Invite a comprehensive application through the SPARC initiative.
36	Town of Bladenboro/Project Jay	Accept OneNC agreement as satisfying performance agreement requirement in the Golden LEAF Grantee Agreement. This agreement requires the company to meet the county average wage to receive incentives, which is \$46,852.
37	Methodist University/Methodist University Cape Fear Valley School of Medicine	Authorize the Chair of the Board and the President to approve a budget modification of approximately \$1.6 million, shifting funding from current approved items to costs for equipment used for ultrasound training for students, exam rooms used for training with standardized patients, and a simulation area for student training.