

Meherrin River Regional Jail Authority Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, May 7, 2026

The Meherrin River Regional Jail Authority Board held their meeting in the Meherrin River Regional Jail Board Room.

I. Call To Order

Members Present are as follows:

Captain Steve Kennedy, Dinwiddie County Sheriff's Office
Kevin Massengill, Dinwiddie County Administrator
Captain Joseph Lopresti, Brunswick County Sheriff's Office
Leslie Weddington, Brunswick County Administrator
Major Brent Evans, Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office
Alex Gottschalk, Mecklenburg County Administrator
Tom Tanner, Mecklenburg County Board of Supervisors

Others in attendance are as follows:

Rodney Jacobs, Superintendent
Brendan Hefty, Hefty, Wiley & Gore, P.C.
Jennifer Derrenbacker, Finance Director
Shelley Slaughter, Executive Secretary
Ben Wilson, Davenport

II. Remote Participation

The Jail currently has a Remote Participation Policy that was adopted in November 2025 that allows members to call in remotely as long as there is a physical quorum, up to twice a year. State code states this policy must be adopted annually. Tom Tanner made a motion to re-adopt the Remote Participation Policy. Captain Joseph Lopresti seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor of the motion.

III. Closed Meeting

Leslie Weddington requested to attend the meeting remotely. Leslie called in and stated that she is in Charles City, Virginia taking care of a loved one. Captain Joseph Lopresti made a motion to allow Leslie Weddington to attend the MRRJA Board Meeting remotely. Captain Steve Kennedy seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor of the motion.

Major Brent Evans made a motion to go into closed session pursuant to Section 2.32-3711 (A) (1) of the Code of Virginia for a discussion of a personnel matter involving the evaluation of the

Superintendent. Tom Tanner seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor of the motion.

IV. Return to Open Meeting and Certification

Major Brent Evans made a motion that the Jail Authority return to open meeting and certify by roll call vote that to the best of each member's knowledge only public business matters lawfully exempted from the open meeting requirements of the Freedom of Information Act and identified in the motion to go into closed meeting were heard, discussed or considered in the closed meeting. Captain Joseph Lopresti seconded the motion. By roll call vote, the motion was unanimously passed:

Ayes: Alex Gottschalk, Major Brent Evans, Tom Tanner, Captain Steve Kennedy, Kevin Massengill, Captain Joseph Lopresti and Leslie Weddington.

V. Approval of Agenda

Tom Tanner made a motion to approve the May 7, 2026 agenda. Captain Joseph Lopresti seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor of the motion.

VI. Approval of Minutes

Alex Gottschalk made a motion to approve the March 26, 2026 Board Meeting Minutes. Captain Joseph Lopresti seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor of the motion.

VII. New Business

A. Superintendent's Report

1. Superintendent's Evaluation – The MRRJA Board had a very favorable evaluation for Superintendent Rodney Jacobs. The Board is very pleased with the leadership that he has demonstrated in the past year. The Board also appreciates that Superintendent Jacobs gives credit to the staff at MRRJ for his success.
2. Election of Officers
 - a. Chairman
 - b. Vice-Chairman
 - c. Secretary

The Authority bylaws call for authority election of officers by July 1 of each year. The current officers are Kevin Massengill, Chairman; Leslie Weddington, Vice-Chairman; and Alex Gottschalk, Secretary.

Tom Tanner made a motion to keep the same slate of officers. Major Brent Evans seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor of the motion.

B. Superintendent's Report

1. VRA Refunding – Ben Wilson with Davenport discussed the timeline, options and Parameters Resolution for the possible refunding of the Jail's 2016C bonds in VRA's summer pool. VRA does not require that all bonds be paid off, which means we have the option of not including the Mecklenburg facility portion of the bonds. We also have the option of not refunding certain maturities of the bonds that are not performing as well. Davenport presented 3 scenarios; Scenario 1 – Refund all bonds that could be called that are allocable to the Brunswick facility, Scenario 2 – Refund only select maturities of the bonds that are allocable to the Brunswick facility based on how well those bonds are performing, Scenario 3 – Refund all allocable bonds to include Brunswick and Mecklenburg facilities.

George Scruggs with Davenport drafted the Parameters Resolution at the request of the Finance Committee. The Finance Committee will have the final say on which maturities will be refunded. The resolution will allow Davenport to continue to work with the Finance Committee to continue to monitor the rates associated with our 2016C bonds and to determine if we want to proceed with the refunding and which scenario to move forward with. The refunding will not proceed if the NPV Savings Percentage is less than 3%. Alex Gottschalk stated that Mecklenburg County wants to purchase the Mecklenburg facility and would not want this portion to be included in the refunding.

Once the resolution is approved by the MRRJA Board, Davenport will brief each Member Jurisdiction Board on the refunding opportunity and get their consideration of approval authorizing the issuance through VRA. Each Member Jurisdiction Board must approve Support Agreements to move forward. The VRA Bond Sale will be July 21, 2026 and interest rates will be locked in at that time. The VRA Bond Closing will be August 4, 2026. The Finance Committee will touch base with Davenport prior to the July 21, 2026 sale to ensure the best numbers are agreed upon. Davenport will keep the Finance Committee updated with VRA estimates as they become available. Tom Tanner made a motion to approve the Parameters Resolution as presented. Captain Joseph Lopresti seconded the motion. All members present voted by Roll Call Vote:

Yays: Captain Joseph Lopresti, Leslie Weddington, Captain Steve Kennedy, Kevin Massengill, Major Brent Evans, Alex Gottschalk, Tom Tanner

Nays: N/A

Motion Carried.

2. Board Meeting Schedule – The proposed FY27 Board Meeting Schedule was presented. It is proposed to keep our meetings quarterly, on the first Thursday of August, November and May at 12:30 p.m. February's meeting will be held on February 18, 2027 at 12:30 p.m. due to conflicting meetings. Major Brent Evans made a motion to approve the presented Board Meeting Schedule. Captain Steve Kennedy seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor of the motion.
3. Monthly Status Report – The monthly report for the months of January 2026 through March 2026 were presented and discussed.

STAFFING UPDATE – Staffing has been higher in the past, but this is the highest it's been since April 2021. Over the last few months we have lost a few. Four were lost due to disciplinary actions, 1 from a health issue and 1 new hire that said this job is just not for him. We have 2 interviews scheduled for May 8, 2026. This past year we have been building on morale and letting staff know they are appreciated. The Jail will continue this.

4. Work Force Policy – The Work Force Policy and Trustee Eligibility Analysis was provided to the Board for their review and to discuss any necessary action to assist with gaining more eligible trustees for this program. Superintendent Rodney Jacobs recommends removing the “must be convicted” restriction. This would allow offenders that have not yet been convicted, but meet all the necessary criteria, to be a Work Force Trustee. Captain Joseph Lopresti made a motion to modify the Work Force Policy by removing the conviction requirement to allow pre-trial offenders to participate in the Work Force Program. Captain Steve Kennedy seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor of the motion. The Board will continue to review the Work Force Policy and will bring any other possible modifications to be discussed at the August Board Meeting.
5. Quarterly Financial Report – 3rd Quarter FY2026 – As of March 31, 2026, we have collected 62.42% of our budgeted revenues and spent 57.33% of our budgeted expenses. Expenses are slightly lower than revenues due to lower ADP and staff vacancies. At the end of the third quarter, ADP was 223 with Brunswick accounting for 29%, Dinwiddie 29% and Mecklenburg 42%.

As of March 31, 2026, the Actual True-Up shows Brunswick would receive a refund of \$28,266, Dinwiddie would owe \$11,320, and Mecklenburg would owe \$16,947. The Projected True-Up as of June 30, 2026 shows that Brunswick would receive a refund of \$37,654, Dinwiddie would owe \$15,079 and Mecklenburg would owe \$22,575.

6. FY26 – 2% Bonus – On April 23, 2026 we received notification from the Compensation Board that a 2% bonus effective June 1, 2026 was approved by the 2026 Session of the General Assembly. The net cost to the authority is \$23,670, which is due to a few locally funded positions that are not reimbursed by the Compensation Board. Due to available FY26 vacancy savings, the Jail recommends paying the 2% bonus to all MRRJ employees through these unused funds rather than proceeding with a budget amendment. Tom Tanner made a motion to use unused vacancy savings to fund the June 1, 2026 2% bonus to all MRRJ employees. Major Brent Evans seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor of the motion.
7. Robinson, Farmer, Cox Associates Engagement Letter – The Audit Engagement Letter with Robinson, Farmer, Cox Associates was presented. This needs to be reviewed, approved and executed by the Chairman of the Board and submitted to Robinson, Farmer, Cox Associates prior to the start of the FY26 Audit. Alex Gottschalk made a motion to approve the Chairman, Kevin Massengill, and Superintendent Rodney Jacobs, to sign the Engagement Letter provided by Robinson, Farmer, Cox Associates, PLLC. Captain Joseph Lopresti seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor of the motion.
8. Proposed FY27 Budget – The proposed FY27 budget was presented at the March 26, 2026 Board Meeting and there have been no changes. Alex Gottschalk made a motion to approve the FY27 Budget as presented in the amount of \$22,158,236 implementing all changes as of

July 1, 2026. Captain Joseph Lopresti seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor of the motion.

VIII. Good of the Order

Tom Tanner thanked Superintendent Rodney Jacobs and staff for all of their hard work. Superintendent Rodney Jacobs thanked Shelley Slaughter for all of her hard work to ensure National Correctional Officer Week was a success.

Major Brent Evans inquired about the budget and positions of the Mecklenburg Facility if Mecklenburg County purchases it. Those positions would be lost; however, we would lose less revenue than we would expense so we would come out ahead around \$1.5 million.

IX. Next Meeting

The next Board meeting has been scheduled for Thursday, August 6, 2026, at 12:30 p.m. at the Meherrin River Regional Jail Board Room. Lunch will be provided.

X. Adjourn

There being no further business, a motion was made by Tom Tanner to adjourn the meeting. Major Brent Evans seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor of the motion.