

Southern Municipal Finance Society



Disaster Recovery, Rebuilding, and Resilience Conference

September 23 – 25, 2026

Investing in Resilience: Rebuilding WNC Communities



An aerial photograph of a city at dusk. The city is illuminated with warm lights, and the surrounding area is covered in dense green trees. In the background, a range of mountains is visible under a soft, orange-hued sky.

Investing in Resilience: Rebuilding WNC Communities

Moderator:

Tony McEwen, American Flood Coalition Carolinas

Speakers:

Rod Honeycutt, County Manager, Madison County, NC

Alex Phares, Director of Disaster Resilience, Fahe

Carol Pritchett, Mayor, Town of Lake Lure, NC



AMERICAN FLOOD COALITION

American Flood Coalition

Southern Municipal Finance Society

September 23, 2026

Tony McEwen, Carolinas Director



American Flood Coalition

A nonpartisan coalition committed to driving transformational adaptation



What we do

Local

- **Understanding community challenges** and connecting leaders to solutions
- **Scaling innovative flood solutions** and elevating local insights
- **Creating and expand access to resources** to empower local leaders

State

- **Policy research** to inform legislative solutions
- **Tailored recommendations** to find the right solution for each region
- **State-by-state comparison** to guide the implementation of policy

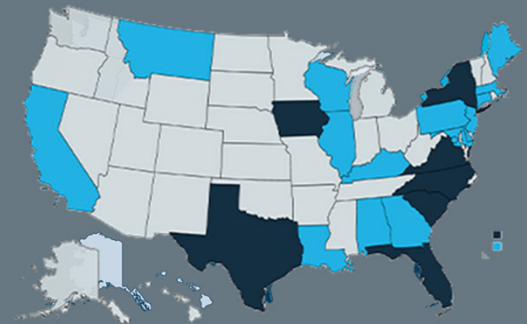
Federal

- **Fixing the federal data:** Drive smarter infrastructure investments with updated and forward-looking data.
- **Protecting communities:** Untangle federal programs to ensure taxpayer dollars get out the door faster and go further.
- **Empowering state and local leadership:** Unlock proactive strategies to drive federal investment and tackle flooding statewide.
- **Defending national security:** Ensure military readiness so service members can train and deploy 365 days a year.

Active in 23 states

500+ Members

54 Federal Champions



Western NC Recovery & Resilience Partnership



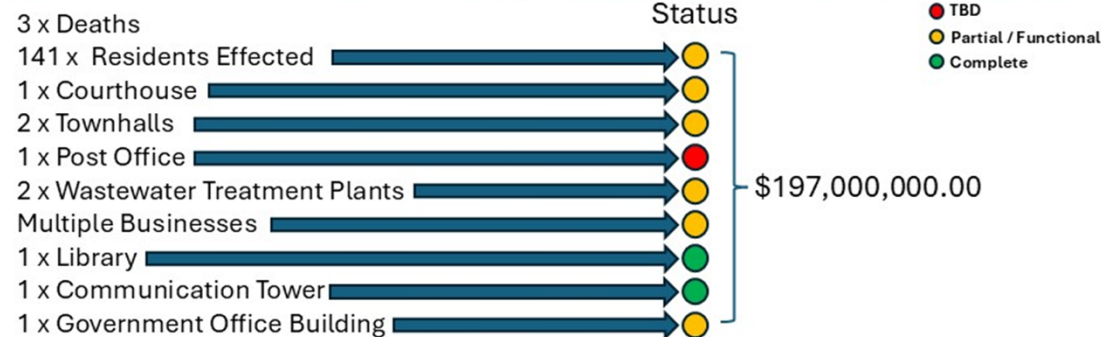
Lake Lure Helene impact shots



Lake Lure Helene impact shots



Madison County, North Carolina



1916: 23 ft

Normal: 7 1/1 ft
 Minor: 8 ft
 Major: 13 ft

27 SEP: 20.1 ft

Hurricane Helene - a once in a generation storm will take a generation to repair the damage.
 Madison County Manager
 Rod Honeycutt

FAHA work in Eastern Kentucky



Housing Development Alliance





We are at an important moment in time to honor significant flooding tragedies by making progress on public policy.



An aerial photograph of a city at dusk, with mountains in the background. The city lights are visible, and the sky is a mix of orange and blue. The title text is overlaid on the image.

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QUESTIONS?



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