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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Land of Sky Regional Council Recognizes Marshall Mayor Aaron Haynie and Madison County Manager Rod Honeycutt
Madison County, NC – December 5, 2025

Land of Sky Regional Council's annual awards were conferred during their Board of Delegates meeting on December 3, 2025. The Land of Sky Regional Council is a multi-county, local government planning and development organization that provides technical assistance and project administration to local governments in Buncombe, Henderson, Madison, and Transylvania counties.

During the annual awards event, the Council recognized thirty-one state, regional, and local leaders. Marshall Mayor Aaron Haynie and Madison County Manager Rod Honeycutt were among the 2025 recipients. Land of Sky Chairwoman and Brevard Mayor Maureen Copelof presented Haynie and Honeycutt with the awards based upon the following citations:

Town of Marshall Mayor Aaron Haynie has served our region as Mayor of the Town of Marshall since 2024. Mayor Haynie has led the Town's Helene response and recovery efforts. As one of the hardest hit communities in Western North Carolina, Marshall faced devastating flooding which destroyed the Town Hall and much of the Town's infrastructure. Mayor Haynie has been a regional leader in Helene recovery efforts, and he has served the community with the highest levels of professionalism and distinction.

Colonel Rod Honeycutt has served as County Manager for Madison County since 2022 after thirty-seven years of service in the US Army. Colonel Honeycutt has led the Helene response and recovery efforts in Madison County with a high degree of professionalism and service excellence. Colonel Honeycutt is a native of Western North Carolina.

During the ceremony, Mayor Haynie said that he "was honored to accept this award on behalf of the town employees, county leaders, our citizens, the thousands of volunteers, and the state and federal leaders who made our recovery from Hurricane Helene possible. They are the ones who truly deserve this recognition."

Honeycutt stressed that growing up on the banks of the French Broad River made the "Helene devastation personal" and that "recovery was possible because of the public safety officers, elected officials, our neighbors helping neighbors, and the 302 dedicated public servants he works for".

Photos courtesy of Land of Sky Regional Council

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