



CENTRALINA
Community Economic
Development

**Centralina Economic Development District
Meeting Minutes
June 20, 2024**

Officer Present	Board Members Present	Centralina Staff and Guests Present
Cliff Brumfield, Vice Chair	Randy Collins Veronica Grantham Donny Hicks Angela Karchmer Patrick Lucitt	Anna Lu Wilson Christina Danis Guests Todd Black Ron Mahle

Call to Order

Chairman Cliff Brumfield called the meeting to order.

Roll Call

Anna Lu Wilson called the roll and noted that a quorum was not established.

Amendments to the Agenda

There were no amendments to the agenda.

Consent Agenda

Approval of the April 18, 2024, Centralina Economic Development District Meeting Minutes

Quarterly Financial Update

There was no quorum present, therefore the Consent Agenda items will be moved to the October 17, 2024, meeting.

Regular Agenda

Item 3. Gaston College Textile Technology Center and Fiber Innovation Center Overview

The Centralina Economic Development District (CEDD) supported Gaston College in securing an EDA Grant under the Assistance to Coal Communities initiative. This grant awarded \$1.1 million to Gaston College to purchase advanced manufacturing equipment to support existing textile and apparel firms, strengthen the talent pipeline, and promote entrepreneurial opportunities at the Fiber Innovation Center.

Jasmine Wade-Cox, Executive Director of the Textile Technology Center, provided a comprehensive overview of the center’s activities and training programs. These include four key product development areas and three specialized testing laboratories. Gaston College offers three textile education pathways for students and customized training programs

tailored for incumbent workers, ensuring a well-prepared and skilled workforce for the textile industry.

The Fiber Innovation Center will serve as a hub for advancing fiber technology, driving innovation, and supporting the development of high-performance, sustainable materials for a wide range of applications.

Item 4. Tour of Harney Hall and the new Fiber Innovation Center

Board members participated in a walking tour of the facilities, gaining firsthand insight into the intricate process of converting fibers into yarn and then into fabric. They learned about the diverse applications of these fabrics, including clothing, upholstery, fire protection, household items, and industrial products.

Item 5. Working Lunch – Regional Workforce Development Discussion

Board members engaged with Ms. Cox-Wade, asking insightful questions about various aspects of the Textile Technology Center's operations. They inquired about current enrollment numbers, the extent and nature of partner collaborations, and the specific employers that utilize the facility's resources and training programs. This interactive session provided a deeper understanding of the center's impact and the strategic partnerships that contribute to its success.

Comments from the Chair

The next Centralina Economic Development District meeting will be held on Thursday, October 17, 2024. This meeting will be held at the Centralina Office.

Adjournment

With no further business to be discussed, Chairman Cliff Brumfield adjourned the meeting at 12:31 p.m.