



CENTRALINA
Community Economic
Development

**Centralina Economic Development District
Annual Meeting - Meeting Minutes
January 15, 2026**

Officer Present	Board Members Present	Centralina Staff and Guests Present
Cliff Brumfield, Board Chairman Dr. Leslie Johnson, Secretary/Treasurer	Lindsey Almond Jenn Bosser Gretchen Carson Rod Crider Juan Garzón Ronne Grantham Rodney Harris David Hollars Leslie Johnson Anna London Patrick Lucitt Ron Mahle Debbie Normandia-Berrios Melanie O'Connell Underwood Sha Rana Susan Rodriguez McDowell Bill Thunberg Elizabeth Underwood	Anna Lu Wilson Geraldine Gardner Christina Danis Shanta Watkins

Call to Order

Chairman Cliff Brumfield called the meeting to order.

Roll Call

Board Administrator, Shanta Watkins took the role. A quorum was established.

Amendments to the Agenda

There were no amendments to the agenda.

Consent Agenda

Approval of January 15, 2026, Consent Agenda

- 1. Approval of the 10/16/2025 Meeting Minutes**
- 2. Approval to update the Board meeting calenday**
- 3. Quarterly Financial Update through December 31, 2025**

Chairman Cliff Brumfield called for a motion to approve the January 15, 2026, CEDD consent agenda.

Jenn Bosser motioned to approve the consent agenda and Bill Thunberg seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Regular Agenda

Item 4. Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Update and EDA Partnership Planning Grant (PPG)

Anna Lu Wilson and Geraldine Gardner, Executive Director of Centralina Regional Council provided a CEDS implementation update and conducted an interactive vote to prioritize current goals and strategies for local and regional actions.

- Top 3 Regional priorities include: System alignment/Boost talent pipeline; Mobility choices/Regional transportation coordination; Cluster strategy/support advanced manufacturing.
- Top 3 Local priorities include: Support anchor institution engagement; Small business entrepreneurship; Utilities & infrastructure relating to employment; Support advanced manufacturing

Item 5. NC Commerce Debrief: Regional Narrative Calibration

Anna Lu Wilson and Geraldine Gardner reviewed the NC Commerce survey with the Board. They compared the CEDS to the survey results and aligned recommendations for a comment letter to be drafted to include the top 3 messages to be included. This included a lengthy discussion on the NC Tier system, regional alignment and state + regional coordination. Next steps: Staff will draft the letter and Board members are encouraged to co-sign with the Chair. The timeline for this item is February 2, 2026.

Item 6. CEDS 2027 Update Process & Guidance

Geraldine Gardner reviewed the CEDS 2027 update timeline and funding scenarios and requested Board direction on the preferred path forward. The board expressed interest in the modified update approach with targeted plan adjustments and a refreshed economic analysis.

Item 7. Officer elections & Call for Nominations

The Board received information about the Executive Officers bi-annual election process held in April. Current Chair Brumfield has agreed to serve another term if approved. The Vice Chair and Secretary/Treasurer positions will need nominations. The nominating committee will meet in a few weeks.

Comments from Staff and Executive Director

- Sha Rana – provided updates on the City and Advocate Health’s launch of the gBeta Charlotte Health at The Pearl initiative and the City’s continued progress on the Skilled to Build initiative.
- Bill Thunburg – asked for support with an upcoming Department of Defense Request for Information. Attached information and upcoming meeting January 22, 2026 in Kannapolis.
- Jenn Bosser – discussed the NC “Skills for the Future” initiative piloted by Iredell-Statesville Schools and Mooresville Graded School District
- David Hollars – announced Centralina Upskill Grants are available to employers for incumbent worker training.
- Cliff Brumfield - shared information and metrics on Lincoln County’s Health Academy model.

Comments from the Chair

The next Centralina Economic Development District meeting will be held on Thursday, April 16. This meeting will be held at the Centralina Office.

Adjournment

With no further business to be discussed, Chairman Cliff Brumfield adjourned the meeting at 5:20 p.m.