Centralina Economic Development District
Meeting Minutes
October 22, 2026 4:00 p.m.

Officer Present	Board Members Present	Centralina Staff and Guests Present
Denise Strosser, Interim President	Lindsey Almond Jenn Bosser Cliff Brumfield Gretchen Carson Michael Coone Rod Crider Juan Garzón Ronne Grantham Rodney Harris David Hollars Leslie Johnson Anna London Patrick Lucitt Debbie-Normandia-Berrios Melanie O'Connell-Underwood Sha Rana Susan Rodriquez-McDowell Bill Thunberg	Christina Danis Nick Elder Patrick Pierce Shanta Watkins Anna Lu Wilson

Call to Order
Chair 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 10/22/2026 Consent Agenda

1. **Approval of the 06/18/2026 Meeting Minutes**
2. **Approval of the 2027 Meeting Schedule**
3. **Approval of the Quarterly Financials through 9/30/2026 and FY27 Placeholder Budget**
4. **Approval NCRR Grant Agreement & Subaward Agreement**
5. **Approval of the EDA Disaster Supplemental Grant Agreement**

Chair Cliff Brumfield called for a motion to approve the October 22, 2026, CEDD consent agenda and to table the Board meeting times until the end of regular business.

Bill Thunberg motioned to approve the consent agenda and Melanie O'Connell-Underwood seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Regular Agenda

Item 6. Election of Interim President and Chief Operating Officer

The CEDD Board considered the election of Denise Strosser as Interim President and Chief Operating Officer following her appointment by Centralina Executive Board on September 9, 2026. Chair Cliff Brumfield called for a motion to approve the recommendation. David Hollars motioned to approve Denise Strosser's appointment and Sha Rana seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Item 7. Centralina Executive Director Search Update

CEDD Board member Jenn Bosser, who serves on the Executive Director Selection Committee, provided an update on Centralina Regional Council's search for a permanent Executive Director. The ad for an ED has been reposted with the application being November 11. Candidate reviews will be in November and December with final interviews in January. No Board action was requested.

Item 8. CEDS Annual Report

Staff presented the 2026 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Annual Report and highlighted key activities from the reporting period. The Board was asked to approve the update for submission to the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA). Chair Cliff Brumfield called for a motion to approve. Susan Rodriguez-McDowell motioned to approve the CEDS Annual Report and Anna London seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Item 9. 2027-2031 CEDS Update – Board and Public Engagement

Staff reviewed the timeline for the 2027–2031 CEDS, previewed the draft stakeholder survey and shared information from the NC Commerce LEAD team. Board members were asked to review the survey and complete the CEDS Board (aka Steering Committee) Feedback Form. No formal vote was requested.

Reflections/Comments from the Chair

Chair Cliff Brumfield opened the floor for discussions to change to CEDD Board meeting times. The Board concluded to adjust times from 4 p.m. to 12 p.m. with lunch provided. Chair Cliff Brumfield called for a motion to approve. Bill Thunberg motioned to approve the meeting time change and Susan Rodriguez-McDowell seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

The next Centralina Economic Development District meeting will be held on Thursday, January 21, 2027 at Centralina Regional Council. Key actions will include the Annual Public Meeting and a CEDS Update – SWOT and Emerging Issues.

Adjournment

With no further business to be discussed, Chair Cliff Brumfield adjourned the meeting at 4:55 p.m.