



September 10, 2025

Executive Board Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, September 10, 2025

In-person with a virtual option

Join by computer:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85855172282>

Meeting ID 858 5517 2282

or Call 646-931-3860,85855172282#

Chairman Jay McCosh will convene a meeting of the Centralina Executive Board **on Wednesday, September 10, 2025, at 5:00 p.m.** The meeting will be held in person at the Centralina office (located at 10735 David Taylor Dr., Suite 250, Charlotte, NC 28262) with a virtual attendance option via Zoom.

Time	Item	Presenter
5:00 p.m.	Call to Order	Jay McCosh
	Roll Call	
	Pledge of Allegiance	
	Amendments to the Agenda (if any)	
Consent Items: Consent agenda items may be considered in one motion and without discussion, except for those items removed by a Board Member.		
5:05 p.m. Item 1 5 minutes <i>Pages 4-6</i>	Approval of June 11, 2025, Executive Board Meeting Minutes Approval of June 11, 2025, Executive Board Meeting Minutes. The minutes from the June 11, 2025, meeting have been distributed to all members of the Executive Board and should be approved if correct. Action/Recommendation: Motion to approve June 11, 2025, Executive Board meeting minutes.	Jay McCosh
Item 2 <i>Pages 8-12</i>	Approval to Submit HMGP 7% Scoping Application for Regional Hazard Mitigation Projects Approval authorizes Centralina to apply to NCEM for FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) Project Planning scoping funds to support regional project planning for flood mitigation priorities identified by Centralina region communities through the recent LOI process.	Christina Danis
Regular Agenda Items		
5:10 p.m. Item 3 5 minutes <i>Page 14</i>	Centralina Spotlight – Workforce Services The Centralina Workforce Development Board Director will provide an overview of specific services offered by the Board through its local NCWorks Career Centers. Action/Recommendation: <i>Receive as information</i>	David Hollars
5:15 p.m. Item 4 10 minutes <i>Pages 16-17</i>	Centralina Executive Director Update The Executive Director will provide a brief update on FY26 quarter one priorities, including a forecast of upcoming engagement opportunities. Action/Recommendation Receive as information and provide feedback as requested.	Geraldine Gardner
5:25 p.m.	Brownfields Update	Kelly Weston



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Time	Item	Presenter
Item 5 10 minutes <i>Pages 19-21</i>	The Board will receive an overview of Centralina's Brownfields Program, including current site assessment projects and upcoming educational and engagement opportunities. Action/Recommendation: <i>Receive as information and help promote upcoming brownfields program learning events</i>	
5:35 p.m. Item 6 10 minutes <i>Pages 23-25</i>	Federal Advocacy Update and Performance Report Strategics consulting and staff will provide an update on the 2025 Federal advocacy agenda progress. Action/Recommendation: Motion to approve the Strategics Consulting Quarterly Performance Report (June 2025 – August 2025).	Geraldine Gardner and Shirley Speidell
5:45 p.m. Item 7 15 minutes <i>Page 27</i>	Raleigh Relations Update The Board will review and reflect on Centralina's state advocacy activities for the NC General Assembly's 2025 long session and provide feedback to shape the organization's approach to the 2026 short session. Action/Recommendation: Receive as information and provide the requested feedback.	Kelly Weston
6:00 p.m. 5 minutes	Comments from the Executive Board and Centralina Staff	Board Members and Staff
6:05 p.m. 5 minutes	Comments from the Chair	Jay McCosh
6:10 p.m.	Adjournment to Centralina Forum Conversation	Jay McCosh
6:15 p.m. 20 minutes	Centralina Board Members will engage in a facilitated peer-led discussion for elected officials.	Tony Long

Centralina Regional Council complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability. Centralina Regional Council will make reasonable accommodations in all programs/services to enable participation by an individual with a disability who meets essential eligibility requirements. Centralina Regional Council's programs will be available in the most integrated setting for each individual. If any accommodation is necessary for participation, please contact the Clerk to the Board, 10735 David Taylor Drive, Charlotte, NC 28262, phone at (704) 348-2728. Please allow 72 hours' advance notice for preparation. Visit our website: www.centralina.org



CENTRALINA

REGIONAL COUNCIL

Item 1



**Executive Board Meeting Minutes
June 11, 2025 - 5:00 p.m.**

Officers Present	Board Members Present	Board Members Not Present	Centralina Staff and Guests Present
Jay McCosh, Chairman Tony Long, Secretary Jarvis Woodburn, Treasurer	Ed Driggs Kenny Godwin Martha Sue Hall Wes Hartsel Melissa Merrell Shawn Rush Jennifer Stepp Jennifer Teague Kenny Wortman	Mike Barbee Ed Hatley Gene Houpe Bob Hovis Alex Patton Elaine Powell David Scholl	Narissa Claiborne Denise Strosser Kelly Weston Tisha Steen Jason Wager Michelle Nance Linda Miller Katie Kutcher Guests Leslie Mazingo

Call to Order

Chairman Jay McCosh (McAdenville) called the meeting to order.

Narissa Claiborne, Clerk to the Board, called roll and noted a quorum present.

Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman McCosh called for the Executive Board to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Amendments to the Agenda.

None.

Consent Agenda

Item 1: Approval of April 9, 2025, Executive Board Meeting Minutes.

Item 2: Review and approval of the FY25-26 budget amendments for the operating and grant pass-through budgets.

Item 3: Finance Committee Authorization

Item 4: Confirmation of Centralina Economic Development District Board Members

Item 5: Centralina Workforce Development Consortium/Centralina Regional Council Agreement Approval

Item 6: Centralina Area Agency on Aging FY26 Contract, based upon FY25 Funding Approval

Regular Agenda Items

Item 7. Centralina Spotlight – Facilitation Services

Centralina’s Strategic Engagement and Technical Support (SETS) Director Kasia Thompson briefed the Executive Board on the facilitation services that Centralina and the SETS Team provide to local governments.

Item 8. FY25-26 Workplan Review and Approval

Centralina’s Deputy Director Michelle Nance shared a briefing on the proposed FY25-26 Workplan, which included the first year of the new Centralina Strategic Plan, goal highlights and priority action items.

Chairman Jay McCosh called for a motion to approve the FY25-26 Workplan.

Council Member Tony Long (Mint Hill) made the motion. Council Member Wes Hartsel (Norwood) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Item 9. Strategic Consulting Federal Relations Plan Update and Contract Approval

Leslie Mzingo of Strategics Consulting shared an update with the Board on Centralina’s Federal Relations efforts, including an annual performance report of activities for June 2024-May 2025. The Board was also asked to approve the Strategics Consulting services proposal and fee for the period of July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2027.

Chairman Jay McCosh called for a motion to approve two motions:

Motion 1: Accept the Federal Relations Annual Report for June 2024 through May 2025.

Motion 2: Approve the Strategics Consulting services proposal and fee and enter a contract for the period of July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2027.

Motion 1: Commissioner Kenny Wortman (Cabarrus) made the motion. Council Member Tony Long (Mint Hill) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion 2: Commissioner Tony Long made the motion. Council Member Wes Hartsell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Item 10: Raleigh Relations Update

SETS Manager Kelly Weston updated the Board on State advocacy efforts. Weston also shared the results of the May 14 open-house member engagement activity, which detailed the Board’s stance on whether to support or oppose specific legislation.

Item 11: In-Focus Discussion: Regional Resilience & Recovery

Christina Danis, Centralina’s Economic Development Director, shared an update and emphasized the importance of the Regional Resilience Collaborative, highlighting the Built to Last Event.

Closed Session

Chairman McCosh called for a motion to approve the closed session to discuss a personnel matter.

Mayor Pro Tem Hall (Albemarle) made the motion. Council Member Tony Long seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Driggs (Charlotte) made a motion to end the closed session and Council Member Tony Long seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Regular Meeting Resumed

In the regular meeting, Chairman Jay McCosh called for a motion to approve the specified (closed session) personnel matter.

Council Member Tony Long made a motion to approve a compensation adjustment for the Executive Director. Council Member Shawn Rush (East Spencer) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Comments from the Executive Board and Centralina Staff

- Martha Sue Hall and the Executive Board thanked Michelle Nance for her service.

Comments from the Executive Director

- None

Comments from the Chair

- June 25: Built to Last: Hazard Mitigation Initiative Session
- October 8: Board of Delegates/Region of Excellence Awards
- September 10: Next Executive Board meeting
- August 13: Next Board of Delegates Meeting

Adjournment

With no further business to be discussed, Chairman McCosh adjourned the meeting at 6:40 p.m.



CENTRALINA

REGIONAL COUNCIL

Item 2



Executive Board Agenda Item Cover Sheet

Board Meeting Date:	September 10, 2025	Agenda Item Type:	Consent:	X	Regular:	
Submitting Person:	Anna Lu Wilson	Presentation Time:				
Presenter at Meeting:	Christina Danis	Phone Number:	704-688-6502			
		Email:	Cdanis@centralina.org			
Alternate Contact:	Anna Lu Wilson	Phone Number:	704-385-4790			
		Email:	alwilson@centralina.org			
Submitting Department:	CEDD Admin	Department Head Approval:	C. Danis			
Title of documents as shown in the Agenda: Approval to Submit HMGP 7% Scoping Application for Regional Hazard Mitigation Projects						
Description of Agenda Item: <i>(This wording will be used to summarize the item on the agenda cover page.)</i>						
Authorizes Centralina to apply to NCEM for FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) Project Planning scoping funds to support regional project planning for flood mitigation priorities identified by Centralina region communities through the recent LOI process.						
Background & Basis of Recommendations:						
<p>Following Tropical Storm Helene (DR-4827-NC), FEMA has made Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funds available, including a 7% set-aside for scoping and project planning. Centralina conducted a regional LOI process with jurisdictions and engineering firms to identify potential flood hazard mitigation projects and confirm interest in regional technical assistance. The responses demonstrate both a need and opportunity to advance project readiness by funding feasibility studies, engineering design support, benefit-cost analysis and compliance with FEMA's Environmental and Historic Preservation (EHP) requirements. A regional application allows Centralina to provide shared capacity for smaller jurisdictions, ensure projects align with FEMA-approved Hazard Mitigation Plans and position member governments for future HMGP construction funding.</p> <p>Submitting a regional 7% scoping application will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leverage federal funding to strengthen local hazard mitigation priorities. • Provide cost-effective technical services across multiple jurisdictions. • Accelerate project readiness through on-call engineering and benefit-cost support. • Ensure compliance with FEMA and NC Emergency Management guidance. 						
Requested Action / Recommendation:						
That the Executive Board approve the submission of the regional HMGP 7% Scoping Application authorizing Centralina Regional Council and the HMGP applicant in accordance with 44CFR.						

<p>Authorize staff to include community mitigation projects identified in their Hazard Mitigation Plans (HMPs) and support Centralina to engage with selected RFP engineering partners as needed to support mitigation project needs for next step shovel readiness and funding needs.</p>	
<p>Time Sensitivity: <i>(none or explain)</i></p>	<p>Application is due October 6, 2025 at 5 pm into the NCEM Sales Force portal.</p>
<p>Budget Impact: <i>(none or explain)</i></p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Attachments: <i>(none or list)</i></p>	<p>CED 05242025_SUPPORT.pdf AdvanceAssistanceAttachment_Centralina.pdf</p>

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) Overview

The Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) is a FEMA-funded program, administered in North Carolina by the Department of Public Safety’s Division of Emergency Management (NCEM). It provides funding after federally declared disasters to reduce or eliminate future damages and losses. Eligible projects include flood mitigation, property acquisition or elevation, stormwater improvements, structural retrofits and other measures that protect lives and infrastructure.

For the Tropical Storm Helene disaster declaration (DR-4827-NC), HMGP includes a **7% Scoping/Advance Assistance set-aside** that helps communities develop shovel-ready mitigation projects. These funds can support preliminary engineering, environmental review, benefit-cost analysis and other planning activities required to prepare competitive HMGP construction applications. Applications require attached Resolution by the Centralina Executive Board. (AdvancedAssistanceAttachment_Centralina.pdf)

Centralina’s Regional Role

Centralina Regional Council has taken a proactive regional approach to this opportunity by:

- **Launching a Request for Letters of Interest (LOIs):** From both jurisdictions and private engineering firms, to identify potential mitigation projects and technical partners across the nine-county Centralina region. Communities and Engineering firms that submitted an LOI include:

Communities

- Mecklenburg County
 - Community Action Group: surrounding the Catawba River, Mountain Island Lake, Lake Wylie and the entire Catawba-Wateree system.
- Town of Harrisburg, Cabarrus County
- Town of Mount Pleasant, Cabarrus County
- Town of Spencer, Rowan County
- Union County

Private Engineering Firms

- ESP Associates, Inc.
- IEM

- Kimley-Horne
- **Facilitating Regional Capacity:** Offering shared grant administration and technical assistance for jurisdictions with limited capacity to manage HMGP requirements.
- **Hosting the “Built to Last” Workshop:** Bringing together nearly 100 stakeholders (local governments, FEMA, NCEM, consultants and nonprofits) to build knowledge of HMGP processes, project development and funding opportunities.
- **Convening a Regional Hazard Mitigation Working Group:** Meeting monthly to align local mitigation priorities, track project readiness and coordinate regional strategies.

This work positions Centralina to submit a strong **7% Scoping Application by the October 6, 2025 deadline**, advancing multiple regional mitigation projects simultaneously and ensuring they meet FEMA’s Environmental and Historic Preservation (EHP) checklist requirements.

**RESOLUTION
DESIGNATION OF APPLICANT'S AGENT
North Carolina Division of Emergency Management**

Organization Name (hereafter named Organization) Disaster Number

Applicant's State Cognizant Agency for Single Audit purposes (If Cognizant Agency is not assigned, please indicate):

Applicant's Fiscal Year (FY) Start: Month: Day:

Applicant's Federal Employer's Identification Number: -

Applicant's Federal Information Processing Standards (FIPS) Number:

PRIMARY AGENT	SECONDARY AGENT
Agent's Name	Agent's Name
Organization	Organization
Official Position	Official Position
Mailing Address	Mailing Address
City, State, Zip	City, State, Zip
Daytime Telephone	Daytime Telephone
Facsimile Number	Facsimile Number
Pager or Cellular Number	Pager or Cellular Number

BE IT RESOLVED BY the governing body of the Organization (a public entity duly organized under the laws of the State of North Carolina) that the above-named Primary and Secondary Agents are hereby authorized to execute and file applications for federal and/or state assistance on behalf of the Organization for the purpose of obtaining certain state and federal financial assistance under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief & Emergency Assistance Act, (Public Law 93-288 as amended) or as otherwise available. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the above-named agents are authorized to represent and act for the Organization in all dealings with the State of North Carolina and the Federal Emergency Management Agency for all matters pertaining to such disaster assistance required by the grant agreements and **the assurances printed on the reverse side hereof.** BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED THAT the above-named agents are authorized to act severally.

PASSED AND APPROVED this day of , 20

GOVERNING BODY	CERTIFYING OFFICIAL
Name and Title	Name
Name and Title	Official Position
Name and Title	Daytime Telephone

CERTIFICATION

I , (name) duly appointed and (title) of the Governing Body,
do hereby certify that the above is true and correct copy of a resolution passes and approved by the Governing Body of
(organization) on the day of , 20

Date: Signature: _____



CENTRALINA

REGIONAL COUNCIL

Item 3



Executive Board Agenda Item Cover Sheet

Board Meeting Date:	September 10, 2025	Agenda Item Type:	Consent:		Regular:	X
Submitting Person:	David Hollars	Presentation Time:	5 minutes			
Presenter at Meeting:	David Hollars	Phone Number:	704-348-2717			
		Email:	dhollars@centralina.org			
Alternate Contact:	Christen Robinson	Phone Number:	(704) 347-4710			
		Email:	crobinson@centralina.org			
Submitting Department:	Workforce Development	Department Head Approval:	David Hollars			
Title of documents as shown in the Agenda: Centralina Spotlight – Workforce Development						
Description of Agenda Item:						
<p>The Centralina Workforce Development Board Director will provide an overview of specific services offered by the Board through its local NCWorks Career Centers.</p>						
Background & Basis of Recommendations: To highlight the work of the Centralina Workforce Development Board and a successful partnership of NCWorks and the NCDOT.						
Requested Action / Recommendation: Receive as information and provide feedback as requested.						
Time Sensitivity: <i>(none or explain)</i>	None					
Budget Impact: <i>(none or explain)</i>	None					
Attachments: <i>(none or list)</i>	N/A					



CENTRALINA

REGIONAL COUNCIL

Item 4

Executive Board Agenda Item Cover Sheet

Board Meeting Date:	September 10, 2025	Agenda Item Type:	Committee work sessions:		Regular:	X
Submitting Person:	Geraldine Gardner	Presentation Time:	10 minutes			
Presenter at Meeting:	Geraldine Gardner	Phone Number:	704-351-7130			
		Email:	ggardner@centralina.org			
Alternate Contact:		Phone Number:				
		Email:				
Submitting Department:	Executive	Department Head Approval:	G. Gardner			
Title of documents as shown in the Agenda: Executive Director Update						
Description of Agenda Item: <i>(This wording will be used to summarize the item on the agenda cover page.)</i>						
<p>The Executive Director will provide a brief update on FY26 quarter one priorities, including a forecast of upcoming engagement opportunities.</p>						
Background & Basis of Recommendations:						
<p>The Executive Director provides a quarterly report to the Board of Delegates on fiscal year workplan implementation and success stories. Interim reports to the Executive Board will provide details on current priorities, road blocks and issues for awareness.</p>						
Requested Action / Recommendation:						
<p>Receive as information and provide feedback as requested.</p>						
Time Sensitivity: <i>(none or explain)</i>	None					
Budget Impact: <i>(none or explain)</i>	None					
Attachments: <i>(none or list)</i>	September Executive Director Update					



SEPTEMBER EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE

1) Engagement Highlights

Centralina is embarking on an organization-wide stakeholder mapping project to better understand how to grow connections with our regional stakeholders.

Member Engagement	State & Federal Engagement
New member orientation with the Town of Harmony	August Advocacy meeting on 8/15 with Rep. Moore in Mt. Holly – 18 attendees
County: Annual meetings with Mecklenburg & Stanly County Managers	August Advocacy meeting on 8/15 with Rep. Harrigan in Lincoln - 11 attendees
Municipal: Huntersville, Harrisburg, Stallings	Participation at the Sept. NC Transportation Summit
Town of Peachland (Anson Co.) submitted notice of withdrawal	Participation in the NCGA Regionalism Working Group hearing on 8/7 (Economic Development and Foreign Trade (EDFT) Caucus)

2) Department & Program Highlights

Kudos & Accomplishments	For Your Awareness
Linda Miller recognized with a national award: 2025 USAging Excellence in Leadership Award	North Mecklenburg Housing Initiative kicking off
We received three (3) 2025 NADO Impact Awards from the National Association of Development Organizations	Working to speed up implementation of CDBG-NR grants in Norwood, Stanly Co., Anson Co., Ansonville, Lilesville and Morven
New NCWorks Career Centers opened in Mooresville and Statesville!	Selected Mobility Hub pilot communities: Belmont, Kannapolis, Huntersville and Lincoln County
Completed the Regional Digital Opportunity Plan and seven County Chapters for NCDIT IEI grant after 27 months of work to support their development	New Vets Directed program run by AAA is up to 15 clients

3) Financial Highlights

Grants in Development or Submitted	Technical Assistance Projects Under Contract
USAging Caregiver Navigator Grant (Awarded)	Success Story: Supported Waxhaw in recruiting their new Town Manager
EDA Disaster Recovery Readiness Grant (In Development)	New: Marvin Community Survey; Harrisburg & Albemarle On-Call Planning Services
Pursuing a first of its kind Regional Hazard Mitigation Grant in collaboration with local governments (In Development)	Ongoing: Albemarle Strategic Planning; Gaston Co. Strategic Planning; Anson Co. Strategic Planning
205J grant collaboration with Mecklenburg Co. Stormwater Services (In Development)	

4) Upcoming Events

- Centralina Learns: UrbanPlan for Public Officials. September 18th, 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm @Centralina’s offices
- Centralina Celebrates: Board Meeting & Region of Excellence Awards. October 8th, 4:00 pm-7:00 pm @Gastonia Conference Center 145 Dr M.L.K. Jr. Way
- Save the Date! 2025 Brownfields Summit, October 31st @Centralina
- November Executive Board Forecast: FY25 Annual Audit Presentation; Long Term Care Facility Information Session; State and Federal Priorities for 2026; Nominating Committee Formation



CENTRALINA

REGIONAL COUNCIL

Item 5



Executive Board Agenda Item Cover Sheet

Board Meeting Date:	September 10, 2025	Agenda Item Type:	Consent:		Regular:	X
Submitting Person:	Kelly Weston	Presentation Time:	10 minutes			
Presenter at Meeting:	Kelly Weston	Phone Number:	704-348-2728			
		Email:	kweston@centralina.org			
Alternate Contact:	Kasia Thompson	Phone Number:	704-381-3680			
		Email:	kthompson@centralina.org			
Submitting Department:	Strategic Engagement & Technical Services	Department Head Approval:	Kasia Thompson			
Title of documents as shown in the Agenda: Regional Brownfields Program Briefing						
Description of Agenda Item: <i>(This wording will be used to summarize the item on the agenda cover page.)</i> The Board will receive an overview of Centralina’s Brownfields Program, including current site assessment projects and upcoming educational and engagement opportunities.						
Background & Basis of Recommendations: The US Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) Brownfields Program empowers states, communities, and other stakeholders to collaborate on preventing, assessing, cleaning up, and reusing vacant properties where the presence of hazardous substances and contaminants complicate redevelopment. In 2024, the EPA awarded Centralina received a \$1.5 million brownfields assessment coalition grant assist local communities with conducting environmental assessments, developing clean up plans, and facilitating community engagement activities. Initial assessment activities will focus on identified sites in Spencer, Mount Holly, and Albemarle.						
Requested Action / Recommendation: Receive as information and help promote upcoming brownfields program learning events.						
Time Sensitivity: <i>(none or explain)</i>	None					
Budget Impact: <i>(none or explain)</i>	None					
Attachments: <i>(none or list)</i>	Centralina Regional Brownfields Program Flyer					



Centralina Brownfields Program

Throughout the region, some communities have properties that are high value but currently sit abandoned, idled and under used due to either a recognized or perceived contamination. Centralina Regional Council is here to help unlock the full potential of these places through our Brownfields Program.

What are Brownfields?

“Brownfield” sites are high potential properties that go unused due to the hazards (or concern of potential hazards) on the site. Sometimes, these properties can be a thorn in the side of communities and stall even the most vigorous attempts to invest and revitalize our communities. In response to this issue, Centralina is coordinating with the Environmental Protection Agency and Stantec Consulting Services Inc. on a program to identify, examine and mitigate these sites so that communities can move forward with their development plans without fear of exposing themselves to any latent toxins or chemicals.

Next Steps

Centralina is actively seeking **candidate sites** to include in the regional program. All communities in our nine-county region are eligible to participate. Centralina has been awarded **federal funding** to support a series of site assessments, the first step in reusing a brownfield property, and will use those funds to support communities in planning for site reuse and moving from site assessment to clean-up activities.

Why Should You Participate

Through this program, Centralina will help communities transform contaminated blights into prime real estate that will provide value for your community well into the future. As part of the program, we will offer educational sessions for local leaders to better understand how to integrate brownfields in their community, conduct site assessments and create redevelopment plans. A regional stakeholder committee will be created to help identify sites and prioritize where funding is spent. Centralina will continue to seek additional funding to aid with future clean-ups, expand the program to include focused revitalization.

POTENTIAL BROWNFIELDS IN YOUR COMMUNITY



Gasoline

Some underground fuel storage tanks have suffered punctures that leaked petroleum into the soil and groundwater.



Dry Cleaners

Older dry cleaner facilities used toxic solvents that can evaporate into the air or seep into building structures, sidewalks and streets.



Manufacturing Facilities

Antiquated factories oftentimes have been found to have hexavalent chromium and volatile organic compounds as contaminants.



READY TO GET STARTED?

Reach out to our Strategic Engagement & Technical Services Manager, Kelly Weston, at (704) 348-2728 or kweston@centralina.org to discuss how we can help.



CENTRALINA

REGIONAL COUNCIL

Item 6

Board Agenda Item Cover Sheet

Board Meeting Date:	September 10, 2025	Agenda Item Type:	Consent:		Regular:	X
Submitting Person:	Geraldine Gardner	Presentation Time:	20 minutes			
Presenter at Meeting:	Geraldine Gardner and Leslie Mozingo	Phone Number:	704-351-7130			
		Email:	ggardner@centralina.org			
Alternate Contact:	Narissa Claiborne	Phone Number:				
		Email:	nclaiborne@centralina.org			
Submitting Department:	SETS	Department Head Approval:	G. Gardner			
Title of documents as shown in the agenda: Federal Advocacy Update and Performance Report Approval						
Description of Agenda Item: <i>(This wording will be used to summarize the item on the agenda cover page.)</i>						
<p>Strategics consulting and staff will provide an update on the 2025 Federal advocacy agenda progress, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ FY26 Budget & Reconciliation Process ○ Follow-up of the August Advocacy Meetings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Congressman Tim Moore and Congressman Patrick Harrigan ○ Transition impact on Centralina grants and policies ○ Pending legislation 						
Background & Basis of Recommendations:						
The Executive Board reviewed and approved advocacy agendas at the November 2024 meeting for the 119 th Congress. Staff have been working to implement the agenda with support from Strategics (Federal).						
Requested Action / Recommendation:						
Motion to approve the Strategics Consulting Quarterly Performance Report (June 2025 – August 2025).						
Time Sensitivity: <i>(none or explain)</i>	Timely input on activities will help to inform continued engagement.					
Budget Impact: <i>(none or explain)</i>	None					
Attachments: <i>(none or list)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quarterly 2025 Performance Report 					

**GOALS AND ACTIVITIES FOR STRATEGICS CONSULTING
June - August 2025 REPORT**

1. Build, maintain, and enhance relationships with Members of Congress and the federal agencies:

- Coordinated and participated in August Advocacy meetings with U.S. Representative Pat Harrigan and with U.S. Representative Tim Moore.
- Invited U.S. Representative Addison McDowell's Legislative Director to participate in the August Board of Delegates Board Meeting and Mobility Forum.
- Coordinated and participated in meeting with staff from Senator Budd's office and Representative McDowell's office.
- Continued advocacy with the Congressional delegation to address delays in EDA's Partnership Planning Grants and DOE's Clean Cities program.
- Alerted ED to a newly formed partnership between U.S. Departments of Education and Labor to integrate the federal education and workforce system, including WIOA Title II programs.
- Analyzed and reported on Community Project Funding Developments.
- Informed Centralina about staff changes within Congressional delegation.

2. Develop advocacy strategies around the approved Federal Action Plan on regional priorities and implement in coordination with Centralina's management:

- Finalized materials for the June Executive Board meeting, including federal update and annual report, and presented information in person.
- Facilitated and collaborated in regular strategy sessions for advocacy on critical federal programs with a special focus on aging and other critical issues including: paused grant funding, FEMA reform, OAA and WIOA programs, and housing.
- Monitored and analyzed developments on the One Big Beautiful Bill and its impacts to Centralina Regional Council.
- Analyzed and reported on developments regarding the President's more detailed partial FY26 Budget Request and on programmatic funding developments in the House and Senate FY26 Appropriations process.
- Updated Federal Relations Calendar for, and participated in, monthly calls with ED.

3. Provide information and support related to federal grant opportunities in coordination with Centralina staff:

- Provided clarification and additional information on DOE policy changes related to indirect cost limits.
- Work with Congressional Delegation to gain additional information regarding the release of Clean Cities program funding.
- Reviewed and recommended edits on the Regional Infrastructure Accelerator grant application.
- Coordinated and implemented advocacy strategy for the Regional Infrastructure Accelerator grant application.

- Wrote three Capital Corner articles: *Budget Action in Congress: Key Legislative Tasks*, *Rebuilding FEMA: Proposals for Federal Disaster Response*, and *Surface Transportation Reauthorization: A New Chapter Post-IIJA*.
- Alerted ED to US Conference of Mayors letter advocating for CDBG and HOME funding.
- Monitored and reported on new HOME language in the Senate THUD Appropriations bill.
- Reported on and analyzed the bipartisan Road to Housing Act passed by the Senate Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee.
- Provided Grants Alerts, as well as weekly updates on Requests for Information from federal agencies.
- Provided Strategics' comprehensive, bi-annual Grants Forecast in July, which included over 50 pages of active or forecasted funding opportunities from federal agencies and non-profits.

4. Respond to trouble shooting requests from members and Centralina on federal issues:

- Inquired with USDOT regarding COG eligibility for Rural and Tribal Assistance Pilot Program.
- Inquired with ACL and HHS regarding COG eligibility for three separate aging program grants.
- Shared key insights and explanations regarding budget reconciliation.

For more information, contact Shirley Speidell at shirley@strategics.consulting.



CENTRALINA

REGIONAL COUNCIL

Item 7



Executive Board Agenda Item Cover Sheet

Board Meeting Date:	September 10, 2025	Agenda Item Type:	Consent:		Regular:	X
Submitting Person:	Kelly Weston	Presentation Time:	20 minutes			
Presenter at Meeting:	Kelly Weston	Phone Number:	704-348-2728			
		Email:	kweston@centralina.org			
Alternate Contact:	Geraldine Gardner	Phone Number:	704-351-7130			
		Email:	ggardner@centralina.org			
Submitting Department:	Strategic Engagement & Technical Services	Department Head Approval:	Kasia Thompson			
Title of documents as shown in the Agenda: Raleigh Relations Update						
Description of Agenda Item: <i>(This wording will be used to summarize the item on the agenda cover page.)</i> The Board will review and reflect on Centralina’s state advocacy activities for the NC General Assembly’s 2025 long session and provide feedback to shape the organization’s approach to the 2026 short session.						
Background & Basis of Recommendations: The Executive Board reviewed and approved Centralina’s state advocacy agenda at its November 2024 meeting for the NC General Assembly’s 2025 long session. Centralina staff have been working to advance these agendas with support from consulting firm EQV Strategic.						
Requested Action / Recommendation: Receive as information and provide requested feedback.						
Time Sensitivity: <i>(none or explain)</i>	None					
Budget Impact: <i>(none or explain)</i>	None					
Attachments: <i>(none or list)</i>	None					