



**Executive Board Meeting Minutes
September 10, 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	Kenny Godwin Martha Sue Hall Wes Hartsel Alex Patton Shawn Rush David Scholl Jennifer Stepp Jennifer Teague	Mike Barbee Ed Driggs Ed Hatley Gene Houpe Bob Hovis Melissa Merrell Elaine Powell Kenny Wortman	Christen Robinson David Hollars Denise Strosser Jason Wager Kelly Weston Kenny Parker Linda Miller Michele Yard Michelle Nance Narissa Claiborne Venecia Rock Guests Shirley Speidell

Call to Order

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

Narissa Claiborne, Board Administrator, 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 June 11, 2025, Executive Board Meeting Minutes.

Item 2: Approval to Submit HMGP 7% Scoping Application for Regional Hazard Mitigation Projects

Approval: Commissioner Tony Long of Mint Hill made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Mayor Jennifer Teague of Harrisburg seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Regular Agenda Items

Item 3. Centralina Spotlight – Workforce Services

Centralina Workforce Development Director David Hollars shared an overview of specific services offered by the Centralina Workforce Board through its local NCWorks Career Centers.

Item 4. Centralina Executive Director Update

Centralina Executive Director Geraldine Gardner shared an update on FY26 quarter-one priorities, including a forecast of upcoming engagement opportunities. Geraldine Gardner also provided updates on engagement, programs and finance.

Item 5: Brownfields Update

Strategic Engagement and Technical Services (SETS) Manager Kelly Weston shared an overview of the Brownfields initiative. Weston discussed program components, including site assessment, learning/professional development and grant support.

Item 6. Federal Advocacy Update and Performance Report

Shirley Speidell of Strategics Consulting shared an update with the Board on Centralina's Federal Relations efforts, including the June – August 2025 Performance Report of activities. The Board was asked to approve the Strategics Consulting performance report.

Approval: Council Member Jennifer Stepp (City of Gastonia) made a motion to approve the June – August 2025 Strategics Consulting Performance Report. Council Member Shawn Rush (East Spencer) seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Item 10: Raleigh Relations Update

SETS Manager Kelly Weston updated the Board on State advocacy efforts, including the NC General Assembly's 2025 long session and provided feedback that will help shape the organization's approach to the 2026 short session.

Comments from the Executive Board and Centralina Staff

Commissioner Tony Long (Mint Hill) thanked SETS Director Kasia Thompson for providing post-meeting updates.

Comments from the Executive Director

Centralina Executive Director Geraldine Gardner shared upcoming events with the Board:

- September 18, 3-6 p.m. – Centralina Learns: UrbanPlan for Public Officials
- October 22, 1-2 p.m. – Centralina Learns: Digital Readiness for Safer Communities
- October 30, 10 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. – Regional Brownfields Summit
- On the Horizon: Private Sewers, Public Impact: What You Need to Know

Comments from the Chair

- October 8: Board of Delegates/Centralina Celebrates

Adjournment

With no further business to be discussed, Chairman McCosh adjourned the meeting at 6:09 p.m.