



**Executive Board Meeting Minutes
November 12, 2025**

Officers Present	Board Members Present	Board Members Not Present	Centralina Staff and Guests Present
Jay McCosh, Chairman Tony Long, Secretary Jarvis Woodburn, Treasurer David Scholl, Vice Chair	Martha Sue Hall Wes Hartsel Alex Patton Shawn Rush Jennifer Stepp Jennifer Teague Gene Houpe Kenny Wortman	Mike Barbee Ed Driggs Ed Hatley Bob Hovis Melissa Merrell Elaine Powell Kenny Godwin	David Hollars Denise Strosser Jason Wager Kelly Weston Linda Miller Narissa Claiborne Venecia Rock Hillary Keller Geraldine Gardner Guests Daniel Gougherty Bryan Frances Debra Conrad

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 September 10, 2025, Executive Board Meeting Minutes.
Action

Item 2: Approval of 2026 Centralina Board Meeting Schedule. Action

Item 3: Centralina Budget Amendment (FY25–26 operating and grant budgets).

Item 4: Centralina Economic Development District Appointments.

Approval: Mayor Pro Tem Hall (Albemarle), made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Commissioner Tony Long (Mint Hill) seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Regular Agenda Items

Item 5. Centralina Executive Director Update

Centralina Executive Director Geraldine Gardner provided updates on FY26 quarter-one priorities and upcoming engagement opportunities.

Item 6: FY2024 Annual Audit Report

Denise Strosser, Centralina's Finance Director, and Cherry Bekaert's representative Daniel Gougherty presented the annual financial statements and audit report for fiscal year ending June 30, 2025.

Approval: Commissioner Jarvis Woodburn (Anson County) made a motion to approve the Centralina Regional Council Annual Financial Report as of and for the Year Ended June 30, 2025, and the Audit Report of Independent contractor Cherry Bekaert. Mayor Pro Tem Hall seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Item 7. Item 10: Raleigh Relations Update

The Executive Board heard brief presentations from the finalists selected from the request for proposals (RFP) for state government relations services and advised Staff on their preferred firm.

Items 8: Federal Relations: 119th Congress FAP Updates

Strategics Consulting and staff provided the Executive Board with the Strategics Consulting Report (September – October 2025).

Approval: Council Member Jennifer Stepp, (City of Gastonia) made a motion to approve the September - October 2025 Strategics Consulting Performance Report. Mayor Pro Tem Hall seconded the motion.

Item 9: Primer on Long-Term Care Facilities

Centralina staff member and Area Agency on Aging Ombudsman, Hillary Kaylor shared with the Board the role of a Centralina Ombudsman. Ms. Kaylor explained how the partnership with other state and local agencies provides support to residents and their loved ones in both assisted living and skilled nursing facilities. Ms. Kaylor shared contact information with the Board and answered questions.

Item 9: Nomination Committee Formation

Narissa Claiborne, Centralina’s Board Administrator, outlined the 2026 nomination process for selecting Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer. The Board of Delegates will vote on these positions at the annual meeting on February 11, 2026.

Comments from the Executive Board and Centralina Staff

None.

Comments from the Executive Director

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

- November 13, 2025, 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. - Clear & Compliant: Mandatory Accessibility Guidelines for Government Communicators
- December 10, 2025, 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. - Centralina Regional Managers’ Group in-person meeting
- December 11, 2025, 10-11:30 a.m. - HR Affinity Group Virtual Meeting

Comments from Chair

- Next Executive Board meeting: January 14, 2026
- First Board of Delegates meeting: (Annual Meeting) February 11, 2026

Adjournment

With no further business to be discussed, Chairman McCosh adjourned the meeting at 6:48 p.m.