CENTRALINA REGIONAL COUNCIL

Board of Delegates Meeting Minutes – August 12, 2026

Delegate/Alternate Present		Jurisdictions with Delegate/Alternate Present
Crystal	**Buchaluk**	Town of Indian Trail
Charlie	**Council**	Town of Badin
Edd	**Driggs**	City of Charlotte
Tom	**Eck**	Village of Marvin
T. Scott	**Efird**	Stanly County
Nick	**Gallo**	Town of Pineville
Jamie	**Hammill**	Town of Misenheimer
Christopher	**Harrington**	Town of Lilesville
Felina	**Harris**	Town of Troutman
Naomi	**Hatchell**	City of Kannapolis
Doug	**Hendrix**	City of Statesville
Jimmy	**Holmes**	Town of Rockwell
Fred	**Illarrza**	Village of Marvin
Susan	**Johnson**	Mecklenburg
Tony	**Long**	Town of Mint Hill
Jay	**McCosh**	At-Large Member
Melissa	**Merrel**	Union County
Alex	**Patton**	Lincoln County
Liz	**Poole**	Mount Pleasant
Elaine	**Powell**	Mecklenburg County
Autumn	**Rierson-Michael**	Town of Davidson
Shane	**Robinson**	Town of Lowell
Shawn	**Rush**	Town of East Spencer
David	**Scholl**	Town of Stallings

Tamara	**Sheffield**	City of Salisbury
Lauren	**Shoemaker**	Town of Mount Holly
Pat	**Sledge**	Town of Spencer
Heather	**Smallwood**	Town of Huntersville
Jennifer	**Stepp**	City of Gastonia
Amelia	**Stinson-Wesley**	Town of Pineville
Jennifer	**Teague**	Town of Harrisburg
Dana	**Tucker**	Town of Mooresville
Jarvis	**Woodburn**	Anson County

Call to Order
Chairman David Scholl, Town of Stalling, called the meeting to order.
Pledge of Allegiance
Delegates stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.
Amendments to the Agenda
There were no amendments to the agenda.

Consent Agenda
Chairman Scholl noted that a quorum was present.

Item 1: Approval of May 13 2026, Meeting Minutes - Board of Delegates Meeting

Approval:
Chairman Scholl called for a motion to approve the consent agenda. Council Member Tony Long, of Mint Hill approved of the motion. Commissioner Jarvis Woodburn seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Regular Agenda
Item 2: Centralina Spotlight – Region of Excellence & October Board Meeting Forecast

Kasia Thompson, Centralina's Strategic Engagement and Technical Services Director, provided the Board with a brief overview of the 2026 Region of Excellence Awards program. Thompson shared that nominations are currently open and encouraged Delegates to nominate an individual, organization, or community initiative that has made a significant impact within their locality.

- Thompson noted that award recipients will be recognized this fall and highlighted through Centralina's website, social media channels, and newsletter. The nomination deadline is **August 14, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.**
- The **2026 Region of Excellence Award** categories include:
- Nance Award for Regional Collaboration – Honoring outstanding regional cooperation among governments and stakeholders.
- Aging in Action – Recognizing impactful programs that support older and/or disabled adults.

- Local Government Innovation – Celebrating creative, efficient solutions that maximize limited resources.
- Improving Quality of Life – Highlighting projects that enhance access to services and amenities for all.
- Connected Communities – Showcasing efforts to improve transportation, mobility and efficiency.
- James D. Prosser Excellence in Government Leadership Award – Awarded to a public servant who demonstrates exceptional leadership and integrity.

Item 3: Executive Director Search

Centralina Board Chairman David Scholl provided an update on the recruitment process for the organization's next Executive Director. Scholl outlined the roles and responsibilities established in the Centralina Bylaws related to the selection process and highlighted opportunities for Board involvement throughout the recruitment. Scholl noted that additional updates will be provided at the next Board of Delegates meeting. He also shared the proposed recruitment timeline and reviewed feedback gathered through surveys of both Board members and staff, which will help inform the search and selection process for Centralina's next Executive Director.

July- August

- RFP released for the selection of search services
- RFP review committee selected Development Associates
- Stakeholder survey released to Board, Staff and Regional Managers
- Ad Hoc Search Committee forming
- Position advertisement in development

September -October

- Executive Board update on 9/9
- Development Associates ongoing review of candidates and Search Committee assessment of candidates

November- December

- Goal for Executive Board to make decision at the 11/18 meeting and candidate negotiations

Item 4: Executive Director Updated and FY27 Workplan Review

Centralina Executive Director, Geraldine Gardner, began her update highlighting the FY26 performance results with the Board, including:

- **98% Workplan actions completed or in progress**
- **37** Local government service clients
- **282** Member engagement activities completed
- **335** Local government technical requests fulfilled or questions answered
- **9** National awards received
- **269** Participants at professional development, peer network meetings
- **192** Participants in Centralina AAA programs
- **85** New partnerships developed
- **1226:** Employers served through workforce development services

Gardner then shared the FY27 Workplan including Centralina's Mission and Vision and the current year goals, priority areas and priority actions, including: 1. Collaborate to prepare, plan and act on issues that respond to today's needs and tomorrow's opportunities. 2. Strengthen capacity, efficiency and innovative practice to improve quality of life and enhance economic opportunity. 3. Cultivate relationships to advance regional awareness, collaboration and impact. 4. Invest in the talent and infrastructure needed to support Centralina as a highly performing, highly desirable place to work.

Item 5: Business Model and Financial Sustainability Strategy

Executive Director Geraldine Gardner introduced business consultant Tena Olson of Greenhouse Partners, who led a discussion with the Board on developing a business model that creates long-term value. Olson emphasized the importance of establishing a sustainable business model that aligns organizational resources, strategic priorities, and stakeholder needs. The discussion explored key considerations for ensuring long-term organizational success and adaptability in a changing environment.

Item 6: Centralina Forum: AI Economy & Data Centers: Regional Opportunities, Challenges and Local Readiness

Centralina welcomed Lindsay Courtney South Central Regional Director Office of U.S. Senator Ted Budd and Chris Miller, AICP Director, Civic & Infrastructure Services IBTS who shared with the Board facts regarding data centers. Including specifics regarding data centers and how they differ depending on the community it lives in. The Board received an update on trends in data center development, emphasizing that projects vary significantly in their resource requirements and community impacts. Discussion centered on how utilities and local governments can proactively prepare for potential data center growth, maximize economic opportunities, address infrastructure needs, and coordinate regionally to support responsible development. The session also included breakout discussions focused on opportunities, challenges, regional collaboration, and community readiness strategies. Lastly Centralina's Christina Danis, Centralina Economic Development Director asked the Board to participate in a breakout session identifying four major topics

1. What opportunities and challenges do data centers create for the utility?
2. What actions can utilities take to ensure data centers are developed in a way that benefits the community and utility planning?
3. What would regional collaboration or support from organizations such as Centralina be needed?
4. How should member communities begin preparing for data center growth?

Comments from the Chairman

Chairman Scholl concluded the meeting with remarks recognizing Geraldine Gardner, Centralina's Executive Director, for her outstanding leadership, dedication, and many accomplishments throughout her tenure with the organization. Chairman Scholl expressed the Board's appreciation for Geraldine's exceptional service and the significant impact she has made in advancing Centralina's mission and regional partnerships. He also acknowledged that Geraldine will be departing Centralina in September and wished her continued success in her future endeavors.

That the next Executive Board meeting will be held on September 9, and the next Board of Delegates meeting will take place on October 14, 2026. Chairman Scholl referred Delegates to the slides to review the upcoming Centralina events.

Adjournment

With no further business to be discussed, Chairman Scholl adjourned the meeting at 7:12 p.m.