



**Centralina Economic Development Commission  
Annual Board Meeting  
Duke Mansion  
July 16, 2009**

**Commission Members Present**

Tom Anderson  
George Arena  
Mark Brady  
Joe Carpenter  
Astrid Chirinos  
Tim Gause  
Michael Geis  
Ron Leeper

John McKay  
Jonathan Marshall  
Dan Ramirez  
Joel Randolph  
Bill Thunberg  
Robert Van Geons  
Steve Warren

**Guest**

Dr. Steve Patterson, Director  
Energy Production and Infrastructure Center (EPIC)  
UNC-Charlotte

**Centralina Staff Present**

Laura Mundell, Director, CED  
Al Sharp, Executive Director, Centralina COG  
Victoria Rittenhouse, Program Assistant, CED

**1. *Call to Order:***

**Bill Thunberg** calls the meeting to order at 4:00PM.

**2. *Action: Approval of the Minutes***

**John McKay**: Motion to approve the minutes

**Ron Leeper**: Seconds the motion

All approve

**MOTION APPROVED**

**3. *Around the region***

**Astrid Chirinos**: new green company received WIA money for administration support staff and received support from the Urban League for interns. The internship will last for 5 weeks; the administrative support will be permanent positions.

**Jonathan Marshall:** Just sold \$180 M in bonds for the next phase of school construction

**Ron Leeper:** Construction in Mecklenburg county market still flat for the private sector.

**George Arena:** Lincoln County unemployment rate around 14%; building permits down, we did just begin construction of our new waste water treatment facility; DOT just opened a new piece of Hwy 16 through Lincoln County.

**Steve Warren:** Iredell County permits down working from a large surplus of vacant lots and preapproved subdivisions. Recently assigned a new task of seeking stimulus funds for the county. We have applied for the EECBG.

**John McKay:** SPCC legislature still working on the budget we are now working at 84% of last year's budget, the problem with that is we grew 12% as a system last year; that is 16,000 students, with 15 % less money to meet their needs; plus our enrollment went up by 12% over this same period for last fall semester. The economy is still impacting the Community colleges.

**Al Sharp:** We are hosting an intern from the UNC- School of Government for 6 weeks who is working on stimulus issues and his is available to assist anyone.

**Joe Carpenter:** Gaston unemployment near 14%, housing is down we have had several new industries looking to locate in the county.

**Michael Geis:** Housing starts have a large impact on our business as well as commercial development. We hit bottom last march last 30% of our revenue. We had a large downsizing in our workforce around 100 employees.

**Dan Ramirez:** In our area of engineering surveying it appears to be improving.

**Tim Gause:** all of the things describe here Duke Energy sees it at the meter. If a shift is laid-off we see the reduction in use of power. We are trying to align with cities and communities to leverage our incentives with the stimulus money they are receiving.

**Mark Brady:** Mooresville is feeling the effects of the downed economy especially in the real estate market. Our EDC is promoting lots of new opportunities.

**Tom Anderson:** Now being a small business owner we are very interested in the discussion of nationalized healthcare, what does that mean to us if we are required to incur this new cost of providing health care for our employees.

**Robert Van Geons:** Salisbury Rowan EDC has a new name 'Rowan Works' very busy in Rowan, lost of consolidation, Freightliner project, specialty chemical company. It is a positive for our region; it shows that we are still competitive on a global scale. If Freightliner comes through we have the potential to add 700-800 jobs.

#### 4. *Presentation:*

**Dr. Steve Patterson, Director**  
**Energy Production and Infrastructure Center**  
**UNC-Charlotte**  
(See attachment A)

#### 5. *Discussion of Renewable Energy: How does the Centralina Region participate?*

**Laura Mundell:** The question I would like to put before you is what those 10,000 other jobs in the energy economy where will those jobs come from and how will we meet the demand? Does the board think it is worthwhile for the CEDC to collaborate with other entities to look

at a feasibility analysis of what we have and what the gaps are and how we are going to meet that future demands.

The state of Texas used Angelou Economics to do an energy feasibility analysis.  
(See attachment B Executive Summary; “Growing the New Energy Economy in Texas”)

To do this we need to pull money together and hire a consultant, does the board think this is worth it? We can get funds from EDA and we will need to come up with a match.

**John McKay:** For Community Colleges to begin to offer programs for these new positions it would be of great value to the Community College system to have these future jobs identified so that we can target the relevant programs to create.

**Dan Ramirez:** What is the cost of the study? To clarify we need this study to identify what kind of workforce we have, what market and who is buying that product.

**Laura Mundell:** EDA would contribute \$85,000 and we would need to match that.

**Action:**

**Motion to consider hiring a consultant to conduct a study of all energy and economic growth in the Centralina region that will compliment/supplement on-going efforts and authorize staff to seek funds to support the study.**

**George Arena:** Motion to approve

**Ron Leeper:** Seconds the motion

**MOTION APPROVED**

**6. *Update on the Revolving Loan Fund (RLF)-Status Report***

**Laura Mundell:** The last meeting you authorized the moving forward with the RLF through EDA, targeting manufacturing firms and providing financing; we have applied to the Golden LEAF fund and state CDBG for matching funds.

**7. CEDC Meetings**

**Bill Thunberg:** The next meeting is scheduled for October 15, 2009 and will be held in the conference room at Centralina COG.

**8. *Action***

**Motion to adjourn**

**Bill Thunberg:** Motion to adjourn

**Michael Geis:** Seconds the motion

**MOTION APPROVED**

**Adjourn: 5:50PM**