



EDACC Board Meeting Minutes						
June 25, 2025				7:30 AM		EDACC Conference Room
Meeting called by	Chairman, Rick Evans - called the meeting to order @ 7:30					
Type of meeting	Board Meeting					
Facilitator	Chairman, Rick Evans					
Note taker	Linda Peplau					
Adjourned	8:16 AM					
Board Attendance	Rick Evans	Y	Mark Wills	Y	Stan Shepherd	Y
	Jim Cox	Y	Jean Garniewicz	Y	Kerry Bridges	Y
	Mark Herbert	Y	Ben Stapleton	ABSENT	Rick Toole	Y
Staff/Guests	Cheney Eldridge, Chris Driver, Anita Patel, Stuart Hilsman, Linda Peplau, Dr. Steven Flynt (CCBOE), Skyler Andrews (The Augusta Press).					
Meeting Agenda						
1 minute	Chairman, Rick Evans					
Discussion	Chairman, Rick Evans calls for a motion to jointly approve the agenda for the June 25, 2025, EDACC Board Meeting & the minutes for the May 28, 2025, EDACC Board Meeting.					
Conclusions	Motion: Mark Wills 2nd: Jean Garniewicz Motion carries unanimously (8-0).					
Minutes of Previous Meeting						
0 minutes	Chairman, Rick Evans					
Discussion	See above.					
Conclusions	Motion: Mark Wills 2nd: Jean Garniewicz Motion carries unanimously (8-0).					
DACC Financial Report						
8 minutes	Treasurer, Mark Wills					
Discussion	<p>Treasurer, Mark Wills, reports on the following items in the May 2025 financial reports.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Summarized the current balance sheet on page 2.Directed to board to page 3 & 4, provided a summary of the May expenses.<ul style="list-style-type: none">Phase 1 White Oak loan was paid out of the Debt Service acct. on 04.25.2025 (I/O) (due May 1st).Phase 2 White Oak loan was paid by the Columbia Co. on 04.2025 (I/O) (due May 1st).Page 5 & 6, provided a summary of FY2025/11-month total expenses.Directed to board to page 7 for a current budget review.Mark Wills reports that starting July 1st the county finance department will be preparing EDACC's monthly financials.Page 7, discussion on the Bad Debt line item from Destination Retail's unpaid loan.Destination Retail conversation and updates on the last recipient's (SmokeShow BBQ) development status.					
Conclusions	<p>Chairman, Rick Evans calls for a motion to approve the May 2025 Financial Reports.</p> <p>Motion: Jim Cox 2nd: Jean Garniewicz Motion carries unanimously (8-0).</p>					

Chairman's Report	
4 Minutes	Chairman, Rick Evans
Discussion	<p>Chairman, Rick Evans shares the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • White Oak Park Phase III: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Assigns Cheney Eldridge as EDACC's media and public spokesperson for any questions. ○ Rick Evans requests that the board directs the public to the Technology Park website. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * The website will be a great tool to help mitigate concerns by addressing the most frequently asked questions.
Project Updates	
5 minutes	Project Manager, Stuart Hilsman
Discussion	<p>Project Manager, Stuart Hilsman shares the following updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided an update on the Annual Compensation & Benefits Survey for existing industries (responses are due 07.18.2025). • Shared information on the Georgia Artificial Intelligence in Manufacturing (Georgia AIM) program.
Economic Development Update	
6 minutes	Executive Director, Cheney Eldridge
Discussion	<p>Executive Director, Cheney Eldridge shares the following updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided a RFI report. • Cheney announced that she has been selected to be on the Search Committee for Augusta Technical College's new President. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ She will assist with reviewing applications. ○ Target decision date is October 2, 2025. • Cheney reports that she will be attending a luncheon on 06.25.2025, to meet the new Director for the Savannah River National Laboratory (SRNL), Dr. Johnney Green. • Finance software conversion (from QB to Munis): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Launch date is 07.01.2025 • Provided a phishing email alert.

Public Comments		
20 minutes	Dr. Steven Flynt (CCBOE) & Kerry Bridges (GA Power)	
Discussion	<p>Dr. Steven Flynt (CCBOE) shares the following school updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provided school building construction updates.<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ N. Columbia Elementary is set to open with over 700 students.◦ The construction of Lakeside High and Evans High is currently in progress.◦ Summer construction is in full swing. Summer is the best time to get faster construction results.• Provided some growth projections for the county.<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Historically, some schools have been functioning in full capacity.• Finance successes:<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Shared some information on school tax breaks for senior citizens.◦ Cost per pupil = Columbia Co. is currently rated 5th lowest in the state of Georgia on expenses for each student.• Shared information and impacts on the School Choice program. <p>Kerry Bridges (GA Power) shares the following GA Power updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reported that the PSC (GA Public Service Commission) has agreed to freeze base rates for 3 years (2025 to 2028).• GA Power is projected to add 50,000 more customers a year.• Kerry shares information on summer and winter rates for GP.<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ GA Power aids income-qualified customers through their Energy Assistance programs.• Informs the attendees that hurricane season started June 1st.<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Provided tips for a successful personal hurricane readiness plan.• Covered the importance of all electric generation sources to work together for a successful energy output for the state.<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ nuclear◦ solar◦ natural gas◦ coal◦ renewable energy <p>Jim Cox & Rick Evans, both report low voter turnout for the Special Primary Public Service election held on June 15, 2025.</p>	
Calendar of Events		
1 minute	Chairman, Rick Evans	
Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• July 11, 2025 Property Development Committee @ 7:30• July 11, 2025 Existing Business & Workforce Committee @ 8:30• July 16, 2025 Executive Committee Meeting @ 7:30• July 23, 2025 EDACC Board Meeting @ 7:30	
Closed Session		
minutes	N/A	
Adjournment		8:16 AM
Conclusions	Chairman, Rick Evans calls for a motion to adjourn the June 25, 2025, board meeting at 8:16 a.m. Motioned: Mark Wills 2nd: Jim Cox Motion carries unanimously (8-0)	
Next meeting: July 23,2025		EDACC All