



EDACC Board Meeting Minutes						
July 23, 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	8:32 AM					
Board Attendance	Rick Evans	Y	Mark Wills	Y	Stan Shepherd	Y
	Jim Cox	ABSENT	Jean Garniewicz	Y	Kerry Bridges	Y
	Mark Herbert	Y	Ben Stapleton	Y	Rick Toole	Y
Staff/Guests	Cheney Eldridge, Chris Driver, Anita Patel, Stuart Hilsman, Linda Peplau, Dr. Steven Flynt (CCBOE), Dr. Tom Clark (CSRA Alliance for Fort Gordon), Commissioner, Trey Allen (CCBOC), Skyler Andrews (The Augusta Press).					
Meeting Agenda						
2 minutes	Chairman, Rick Evans					
Discussion	Chairman, Rick Evans calls for a motion to jointly approve the agenda for the July 23, 2025, EDACC Board Meeting & the minutes for the June 25, 2025, EDACC Board Meeting.					
Conclusions	Motion: Jean Garniewicz    2nd: Kerry Bridges    Motion carries unanimously (8-0).					
Minutes of Previous Meeting						
0 minutes	Chairman, Rick Evans					
Discussion	See above.					
Conclusions	Motion: Jean Garniewicz    2nd: Kerry Bridges    Motion carries unanimously (8-0).					
DACC Financial Report						
9 minutes	Treasurer, Mark Wills					
Discussion	<p>Treasurer, Mark Wills, reports on the following items in the June 2025 financial reports.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Prefaces his reporting by stating that the <b>June Financials are for reviewing only</b>.</li><li>• Approval of this month's financials will come after FY2025 audit has been completed.</li><li>• Summarized the current <b>balance sheet</b> on page 2.</li><li>• Directed to board to page 3 &amp; 4 (month/<b>June expenses</b>):<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Reported that June's expenses were minimal and looked appropriate.</li><li>○ Highlighted &amp; discussed the <b>Accumulated Depreciation (office equipment/furniture)</b>.</li></ul></li><li>• Directed to board to page 7 (<b>2025 FY budget</b>):<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Provided a report summary of FY2025's budget.</li><li>○ Discussed county appropriations monthly, distribution breakdown, staff compensation and overage.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>* Rick Evans explains that appropriation overage was due to compensation adjustments.</li></ul></li><li>○ Reported that the FY2025 funds were managed very well, ending with the total expenses reflecting a -11%.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>* The line items that were over in expenses such as attorney fees (due to projects) were offset by line items with less expenses.</li></ul></li></ul></li><li>• Financial system conversion to <b>Munis</b> (county municipal financial system):<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ The county will start producing our financial reports next month (July-2025).</li></ul></li></ul>					
Conclusions	No need for approval until finalization of FY2025 audit.					

Chairman's Report	
1 Minute	Chairman, Rick Evans
Discussion	Chairman, Rick Evans yields his time to allow Executive Director, Cheney Eldridge, staff and committee chairs to report on all the recent activities. He opens the floor to Committee Reports.
EDACC Committee Reports	
7 minutes	Stan Shepherd for Property Development Committee Jean Garniewicz for Existing Business Development & Workforce Dev.
Discussion	<p><b>Stan Shepherd</b> for the <b>Property Development Committee</b>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reported that with the new Tech Park project at White Oak, the Property Committee's main topic is White Oak and it's future developments.</li> </ul> <p><b>Jean Garniewicz</b> for the <b>Existing Business Dev. &amp; Workforce Dev.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jean congratulated Stuart Hilsman for a job well done on his one-year anniversary with EDACC.</li> <li><b>Existing Industry visits</b> (conducted by Stuart Hilsman): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Micronics - manufacturer of filtration systems <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Micronics acquired FLSmidth in July 2023</li> <li>* Micronics merged with Cleanova in March 2025</li> </ul> </li> <li>Healthwise, Nutritional, Resources Inc.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Stuart Hilsman shared that he and Anita Patel met with <b>Dr. Brooks Smith (Director of CTAE=Career, Technical &amp; Agricultural Education)</b> on 07.09.2025 to begin building a partnership with community programs to market to talent for workforce placement. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work-Based Learning Internships (student participation has gone from 30 to 600).</li> <li>CTAE Pathways - trade skills, placement and bridging</li> <li>Be Pro Be Proud experience - interactive learning</li> <li>Untapped workforce opportunities</li> <li>Talent retention programs</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Project Updates	
8 minutes	Project Manager, Stuart Hilsman & Project Manager, Anita Patel
Discussion	<p>Project Manager, <b>Stuart Hilsman</b> shared the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provided a brief Wage Survey update (deadline is 08.01.2025).</li> <li>• Provided a RFI report: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Front end of White Oak Industrial Park.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Project Manager, <b>Anita Patel</b> shares the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Technology Park website: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Technology Park website link (<b>www.whiteoak-techpark.com</b>):</li> <li>○ The <b>Tech Park</b> link has been added to the EDACC website for easy access (provided a virtual tour of the website).</li> <li>○ Successfully collaborated with county administrators for the creation and final approval of the <b>website content</b>.</li> <li>○ The website's content will be updated as the project progresses.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Executive Director, Cheney Eldridge shares the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shared insight into a meeting that she and Alison Couch participated in with a concerned community member, to answer questions pertaining to the Tech Park.</li> <li>• She is open to meeting with anyone that has questions of any kind pertaining to the Tech Park and its developments.</li> <li>• Cheney expresses her goal to be as transparent as possible with everyone involved.</li> </ul>
Economic Development Update	
2 minutes	Executive Director, Cheney Eldridge
Discussion	<p>Executive Director, Cheney Eldridge shares the following updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provided an <b>Augusta Technical College's Search Committee update</b> (new college president search). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Narrowing down the applicants.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Shared that her staff will be attending <b>GEDA's annual conference in Savannah GA (Sept. 17 -Sept. 19)</b>.</li> </ul>

## Public Comments

14 minutes	Dr. Steven Flynt (CCBOE), Dr. Tom Clark (CSRA Alliance for Fort Gordon), Commissioner, Trey Allen (CCBOC) & Skyler Andrews (The Augusta Press)
Discussion	<p><b>Trey Allen</b> (CCBOC) shared the following county updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WellStar updates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Announced that a Chief Administrator for WellStar in Columbia County (Grovetown) has been announced.</li> <li>The opening target date is set sometime in the 1st qtr. of 2026 (aiming for early of next year).</li> </ul> </li> <li>Commissioner, Allen congratulated the EDACC staff for a job well done on the Tech-Park website.</li> </ul> <p><b>Dr. Tom Clark</b> (CSRA Alliance for <b>Fort Gordon</b>) shared the following fort updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The installation will officially be renamed Fort Gordon. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Renaming Ceremony is set for Sept. 26, 2025.</li> <li>The installation will return to the original name but honoring a different individual. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>** MSG Gary Gordon, a Medal of Honor recipient, Delta Force operator, and hero of the Black Hawk Down mission.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>Colonel Nancy Harris will be replacing Colonel Anthony Kazor as the Garrison Commander.</li> <li>The fort contributed \$7.5 billion in economic impact to the surrounding communities/region.</li> <li>Training population is projected to grow and trainees will reside within the garrison at the training post. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Installation personnel growth projections: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* FY26: 32,500</li> <li>* FY27: 33,100</li> <li>* FY28: 33,200</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>A 17% reduction in garrison staffing will impacting gate access hours. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gate 1: Open 24/7</li> <li>Gates 5 &amp; 6: Open daily from 4:45 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Announced that Jet Blue is working on providing a direct flight from Augusta to Tampa &amp; Ft. Lauderdale.</li> <li>TechNet Augusta is set for August 18-24, 2025, to provide technical solutions for Army challenges.</li> </ul> <p><b>Dr. Steven Flynt</b> (CCBOE) shared the following school updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provided school building construction updates &amp; an architectural rendering book (passed around for viewing).</li> <li>Integration of a new technology and A.I. curriculum. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Robotic programs</li> <li>NexGen cyber for K-12 students (cyber education)</li> </ul> </li> <li>Road and traffic routing improvements that will positively impact the Junior Achievement Discovery Center of The CSRA and the surrounding traffic.</li> </ul> <p><b>Skyler Andrews</b> with The Augusta Press shared that he is looking forward to exploring White Oak's new Tech-Park website and appreciates the easy access to it.</p>
Discussion	



Calendar of Events		
0 minutes	Chairman, Rick Evans	
Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• August 06, 2025 Business Recruitment &amp; Incentive Program Committee @ 7:30</li><li>• August 20, 2025 Executive Committee Meeting @ 7:30</li><li>• August 27, 2025 EDACC Board Meeting @ 7:30</li></ul>	
Closed Session		
19 minutes	Chairman, Rick Evans	
Discussion	<p>Chairman, Rick Evans calls for a motion to enter closed session. Motion: Jean Garniewicz    2nd: Mark Herbert    Motion carries unanimously (8-0)</p> <p>Chairman, Rick Evans calls for a motion to exit closed session. Motion: Kerry Bridges    2nd: Ben Stapleton    Motion carries unanimously (8-0)</p>	
Conclusions	<b>Chris Driver (Legal Counsel) reported that 2 property matters were discussed during the closed session.</b> <b>NO ACTION WAS TAKEN on the 2 property matters discussed.</b>	
Adjournment		8:32 AM
Conclusions	Chairman, Rick Evans calls for a motion to adjourn the July 23, 2025, board meeting at 8:32 a.m. Motioned: Mark Wills    2nd: Kerry Bridges    Motion carries unanimously (8-0)	
Next meeting: August 27,2025		EDACC All