



EDACC Executive Committee			
October 21, 2025		7:30 AM	EDACC Conference Room
Meeting called by	Chairman, Rick Evans called the meeting to order @ 7:30 AM		
Type of meeting	Executive Committee Meeting		
Facilitator	Chairman, Rick Evans		
Note taker	Linda Peplau		
Adjourned	8:44 AM		
Attendees	Rick Evans, Stan Shepherd & Mark Wills		
Staff/Guests	Cheney Eldridge, Anita Patel, Stuart Hilsman & Linda Peplau		
Meeting Agenda			
1 minute	Chairman, Rick Evans		
Discussion	Chairman, Rick Evans called for a motion to jointly approve the agenda for the October 21, 2025, Executive Committee Meeting and the minutes for the September 19,2025, Executive Committee Meeting.		
Conclusions	Motion: Mark Wills 2nd: Stan Shepherd Motion carries unanimously (3-0)		
Minutes of Previous Meeting			
0 minutes	Chairman, Rick Evans		
Discussion	See above.		
Conclusions	Motion: Mark Wills 2nd: Stan Shepherd Motion carries unanimously (3-0)		



DACC Financial Report	
16 minutes	Treasurer, Mark Wills
Discussion	<p>Treasurer, Mark Wills, reported on the following items in the financial reports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Page 1 (balance sheet): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Provided a Balance Sheet/Statement of Net Position summary report. ○ Total Assets report. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Noted the W.Oak Phase III balance increase due to the non-refundable escrow deposit. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Escrow funds are a result of the 2 month closing extension allowance (16,000 acres). - Escrow funds will go towards the purchase price at closing. - Escrow funds will not be refunded if the closing does not take place. ○ Noted county audit entries/changes - for the accrual of office lease costs (amortization). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * County audit entry included the line addition of "Right of Use Lease Asset" * County audit entry included the line addition of "Accumulated Amortization Lease" * County audit entry included the line addition of "Due to Primary Government" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 3 White Oak Phase II lift station construction invoices- paid by Columbia County (2024). - EDACC will reimburse the county for 3 invoices paid to Blair Construction (lift station). ○ Open discussion on strategies to reimburse Columbia County for the lift station construction • Page 2 & 3 (monthly/September expenses): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Discussed expenditures for the month. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Standard monthly expenses look to be good per Mark Wills. * Explained the 2026 April Showcase expenditure (2nd half of house rental fee) • Page 6 (2026 FY budget). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Treasurer Mark Wills reported that the escrow proceeds are also reflective on page 6 of the Financials under "Sale of Property."
Conclusions	The Executive Committee unanimously agreed to present the <u>September 2025</u> financial reports to the board for review ONLY. The final approval will take place after the audit has been completed.
Chairman's Report	
16 minutes	Chairman, Rick Evans
Discussion	<p>Chairman, Rick Evans shared the following updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reported that the Annual Columbia County Chamber Golf Tournament at West Lake Country Club on 10.20.2025 was a success. • Rick expressed that it is good to see Cheney Eldridge back from having her daughter last month. • Open Record requests inquiry & updates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Staff's time spent on recent requests. ○ Attorney time & fees associated with the recent requests. ○ Discussed establishing rates for future open record requests. ○ Cheney Eldridge shared the process she and her staff have been taking with council's assistance.



Economic Development Updates	
27 minutes	Executive Director, Cheney Eldridge
Discussion	<p>Executive Director, Cheney Eldridge shared the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shared an update on the new PAYROLL REPORTING/PTO in Munis. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ EDACC staff must now manually enter their PTO and holidays in Munis. ◦ A Payroll report will be produced and emailed to the payroll department for processing. • Update on the changes in the employee benefit enrollment process. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Must be completed in person ◦ Allocated date and times for each department. <p>Project Manager, Anita Patel shared the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Masters planning updates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Caterer search update - front-runner/preferred choice due to price and accommodations. • Anita provided an SRS-CRO Qualifying Expenses update. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ She is still working on the final submission for reimbursement. <p>Project Manager, Stuart Hilsman shared the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stuart provided a project update. • Brownfields Coalition Assessment Grants: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Stuart reported on the regional collaboration for applying for the Brownfield Grant. ◦ Counties involved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * EDACC - Economic Development Authority of Columbia County * AEDA - Augusta Economic Development Authority * Development Authority of Burke County ◦ Grant amount = \$1.4 million ◦ No costs are associated with applying for the grant. ◦ EDACC involvement will require the board's approval at the next board meeting.
Old Business	
Discussion	N/A



New Business		
10 Minutes	Chairman, Rick Evans	
Discussion	<p>Chairman, Rick Evans shared the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• SRS-CRO Regional Housing Study recap:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Study was release was on October 08.2025.○ Study & presentation was conducted by KB Advisory Group.○ EDACC staff has obtained pamphlets for each county to share at the next EDACC board meeting.<ul style="list-style-type: none">* Aiken County* Allendale County* Barnell County* Burk County* Columbia County* Edgefield County* Mcduffie County* Richmond County• Treasurer Mark Wills started the following discussion:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Future investment preparations.○ Suggested organizing an Investment Committee○ Examining investment policies and investment options.○ Enlisting investment insight from Leanne Reece (County Director of Internal Services) & Chris Driver (Hull Barrett, PC)	
Calendar of Events		
4 Minutes	Chairman, Rick Evans	
Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• October 22, 2025- EDACC Board Meeting - 7:30 a.m.• November 14, 2025, Property Development Committee – 7:30 a.m.• November 14, 2025, Executive Committee Meeting – 8:30 a.m.• November 14, 2025, Existing Business & Workforce Committee - 9:30 a.m.• November 19, 2025, EDACC Board Meeting - 7:30 a.m.• December 17, 2025, EDACC Board Meeting - 7:30 a.m.	
Adjournment		
Conclusions	Chairman Rick Evans calls for a motion to adjourn @ 8:44. Motion: Stan Shepherd 2nd: Mark Wills Motion carries unanimously (3-0)	
Next meetings: November 14, 2025 @ 8:30 December 10, 2025 @ 7:30		Economic Development Authority Conference Room