



EDACC Existing Business and Workforce Development Committee	
January 9, 2026	EDACC Conference Room
Called by	Jean Garniewicz - called the meeting to order at 8:30
Meeting	Existing Business and Workforce Development Committee
Facilitator	Jean Garniewicz
Note taker	Linda Peplau
Adjourned	9:37 AM
Attendees	Jean Garniewicz, Rick Evans & Kerry Bridges
Staff/Guests	Cheney Eldridge, Anita Patel, Stuart Hilsman & Linda Peplau
Meeting Agenda	
1 minute	Jean Garniewicz
Discussion	Jean Garniewicz called for a motion to jointly approve the agenda for the January 09, 2026, Existing Business and Workforce Development Committee meeting & the minutes for the November 14, 2025, Existing Business and Workforce Development Committee meeting.
Conclusions	Motion: Kerry Bridges 2nd: Rick Evans The motion passed unanimously (3-0).
Minutes of Previous Meeting	
0 minutes	Jean Garniewicz
Discussion	See above.
Conclusions	Motion: Kerry Bridges 2nd: Rick Evans The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Old Business

14 minutes

Discussion	<p>Jean Garniewicz asked Kerry Bridges for a Georgia Power community update.</p> <p>Kerry Bridges shared the following GA Power updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shared that every 3 years GA Power goes through the process of filing an Integrated Resource Plan. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The plan will take approximately 18 months to complete. ○ The plan is designed to evaluate power needs and support load forecasting. ○ The plan develops new strategies and processes to be implemented as power needs grow. ○ The Georgia Public Service Commission has approved a three-year freeze on base rates. ○ Georgia Power is committed to helping its customers by freezing the base rate, which is expected to save each customer approximately \$100 per year. ○ Start date for the rate freeze is 01/01/2026 and ends on 12/31/2028. • Large Load customer info: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ PSC (GA Public Service Commission) aproved some new rules for new large-load customers (100 MW of energy) to protect their existing customers. * The collection of collateral will be required of the new large-load customer. * Georgia Power will collect infrastructure costs upfront from new large-load customers to mitigate financial risks and reduce the burden on existing customers. * Kerry noted that Georgia is highly attractive to hyperscalers due to the state’s strong collaboration and business-friendly approach with companies. • Georgia Power filed and was approved for 9900 additional MW of power generation to meet demands. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Kerry shared and illustrated, using a diagram, the current power load usage along with the additional 9,900 MW load requirement. ○ GP filed a qtlly load pipeline with the PSC. ○ Reported on the load profile for Georgia Power customers as well as battery storage advances. • Hurricane relief update. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ GA Power will submit a recovery relief request related to Hurricane Helene to the Public Service Commission.
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New Business	
28 minutes	
Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Education Plan: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Jean Garniewicz initiated a discussion on plans to establish a system for public education about data centers, ensuring the most current and accurate information is available for Q&A sessions. ○ Rick Evans suggested creating a fact sheet with a Q&A section to distribute to the public and potential future project stakeholders. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Rick stated, "Our goal is to provide existing industries with the resources they need." * Kerry and Stuart share some topics for the hand out. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Water - Power - Land ○ Kerry Bridges suggested developing a platform of subject matter experts to host a webinar aimed at educating stakeholders and addressing frequently asked questions related to data centers, including topics such as power usage, water consumption, and other key considerations. ○ As part of community education efforts, Kerry shared the following points: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Strategies GP uses for power allocation during both summer (high temps) and winter seasons (cold temps). * Plant Vogtle runs 93% of the year. * Kerry reported that the U.S. has postponed the retirement of several coal power plants, with some facilities now extending their retirement dates beyond 2035. * The goal is always to improve the efficiency of existing assets. * Collaboration with other counties to achieve optimal efficiency.
Conclusions	<p>Jean noted that she is confident the end user will collaborate with their PR team to develop solid informational resources for the public, complementing our efforts.</p>



Updates	
23 minutes	Stuart Hilsman
Discussion	<p>Stuart Hilsman shared the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided the committee with a brief project & visit update. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Shared updates on public relations efforts regarding the current project. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Workforce topics highlights will be including Fort Gordon and Augusta University. ○ Stuart provided key takeaways from his recent meeting with the representative from ATC. ○ Reported that the current project is expected to deliver improvements in workforce retention. ○ Stuart shared that he and Anita are scheduled to meet with Augusta Sportswear and tour their facility today, January 9, 2026, at 10:30 a.m. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Augusta Sportswear Brand (ASB) was acquired and rebranded into Momentec Brands. * A job fair has been scheduled for the end of January 2026 to support thier recruitment efforts. <p>Rick Evans contributed the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reminded the committee of the upcoming Strategy Session on Monday. • Current Project Planning Discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Projected needs for facilitation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Hotels * Food * Workforce * Identified available property for campus staging. ** Anita Patel recommended collaborating with the CVB to help meet these needs. **Jean suggested leveraging existing contacts to help secure the required resources and meet project needs.
Conclusions	<p>The committee collectively recommended visiting other industries to gain insights and best practices and suggested inviting committee members to participate in these visits when available.</p> <p>Jean Garniewicz expressed appreciation to Kerry Bridges for sharing his valuable expertise and insights during the meeting.</p>
Adjournment	
Conclusions	9:37 AM
Conclusions	Jean Garniewicz called for a motion to adjourn: Motion: Kerry Bridges 2nd: Rick Evans The motion passed unanimously (3-0)
Next meeting: March 13, 2026 @ 9:00	Economic Development Authority Conference Room