



EDACC Existing Business and Workforce Development Committee		
July 10, 2026		EDACC Conference Room
Called by	Jean Garniewicz (via phone) - called the meeting to order at 9:13	
Meeting	Existing Business and Workforce Development Committee	
Facilitator	Jean Garniewicz (via phone)	
Note taker	Linda Peplau	
Adjourned	9:39 AM	
Attendees	Jean Garniewicz (via phone), Rick Evans & Kerry Bridges	
Staff/Guests	Cheney Eldridge, Anita Patel & Linda Peplau	
Meeting Agenda		
1 minute	Jean Garniewicz	
Discussion	Jean Garniewicz called for a motion to jointly approve the agenda for the July 10, 2026, Existing Business and Workforce Development Committee meeting & the minutes for the March 13, 2026, Existing Business and Workforce Development Committee meeting.	
Conclusions	Motion: Kerry Bridges 2nd: Rick Evans The motion passed unanimously (2-0)	
Minutes of Previous Meeting		
0 minutes	Jean Garniewicz	
Discussion	See above.	
Conclusions	Motion: Kerry Bridges 2nd: Rick Evans The motion passed unanimously (2-0)	



Old Business		
16 minutes		
Discussion	Cheney Eldridge provided the below updates: • Existing Industry Visits Updates: ○ Club Car tour - Reported that the Club Car tour was very successful in strengthening the support partnership. - The tour providing the EDACC an opportunity to explore industry needs. - Ideas for potential tour improvements were offered and discussed. - After sharing his insights from the tour, Kerry Bridges rated it a 10/10. -The committee agreed that supporting the community’s existing industries is important. - Rick Evans suggested sending a survey to industries prior to visits to help guide discussion topics. - Kerry suggested offering lunch during visits to foster deeper relationship building opportunities. ○ Cleanova (formerly Micronics) - Cheney provided an overview of the Regional Workforce Apprenticeship Program, noting that Cathey Rucker (HR Director) and Stuart Hilsman have been collaborating with Julie Langham (Augusta Tech) to address a sewing production laborforce shortage and to explore pioneering a new curriculum to help meet that need. - A tour of their manufacturing facilities was suggested, and Kerry recommended inviting Julie Langham to join the visit to add additional value and insight. ○ Kerry provided logistics for the upcoming tour of Plant Vogtle, scheduled for October 2, 2026. ○ Anita reminded the committee that a tour of the new hospital in Grovetown is set for July 22nd. ○ Anita Patel shared an update regarding the visit of the Consul General of India, Ramesh Babu Lakshmanan, to Palmetto Industries on Friday, June 19, where he met with industry representatives to discuss supply issues and promote trade opportunities with India.	
New Business		
9 minutes		
Discussion	Cheney Eldridge provided the below updates: • Wage Survey Update ○ Wage Survey went live 07/09/2026 ○ This year, the survey will focus on compensation data rather than both pay and benefits. ○ Survey will be open until Friday, August 7th with the completed survey summary coming out early September. ○ The committee suggested offering various incentives—such as raffles for gift cards or event tickets, lunch, a coffee truck, or an ice cream social—to help increase survey participation and support successful data collection. • Cheney shared that Stuart is coordinating additional industry tours, and dates will be communicated once they are finalized. • Anita provided some new retail updates, including Paris Baguette, Biscuit Belly and new construction near Patriot Park.	
Adjournment		9:39 AM
Conclusions	Jean Garniewicz called for a motion to adjourn: Motion: Rick Evans 2nd: Kerry Bridges The motion passed unanimously (2-0)	
Next meeting: September 09, 2026 @ 9:00		Economic Development Authority Conference Room