

Amendment to the Agenda

1. Advanced Manufacturing Project and Contract

The Centralina Council of Governments requested written proposals for the purpose of selecting a consultant to analyze small and medium sized manufacturing businesses in the region to determine the need for an advanced manufacturing center serving targeted businesses.

The recently completed Regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, *No Boundaries*, called for the incorporation of advanced manufacturing in every sector that can use it. This is a portion of the EDA funding for the current year.

The purpose of the study:

- To create and sustain advanced manufacturing resources that will serve targeted small and medium sized manufacturing enterprises (SMEs) in the Centralina region providing expertise and support to innovative enterprises in a targeted sector.
- To encourage the continued growth and prosperity of manufacturing firms in the region and to employ innovative technologies and advanced manufacturing processes to compete in the global market.
- To develop highly specialized niches in the manufacturing sector in the region.

The project is divided into stages to allow for better understanding of: 1) current manufacturing in the region, 2) opportunities in emerging technologies within the region, 3) the strategy and action plan to accomplish the desired actions, and 4) evaluation methods to gauge the success of the center(s).

After a competitive process that involved our stakeholders in evaluating six competitive proposals, Angelou Economics was recommended to complete the analysis. The contract outlines the process and site visits in the region. Total cost for the project as currently proposed is \$132,500. Centralina is in discussion with the Catawba Regional Council of Governments in South Carolina to join us in this regional analysis. Their participation would change the overall contract amount. The cost would be borne by the Catawba Regional Council of Governments but reflected in this contract.

Action Requested: I move to authorize the Executive Director to sign the contract with Angelou Economics, implement the study with Centralina Economic Development Commission, amend Centralina's budget to include the contract, and authorize the Executive Director to expand the contract amount by as much as 15% to allow for Catawba Regional Council of Governments' participation and funding.

2. Amendment to Audit Contract

Centralina's auditors, Dixon Hughes PLLC, are in the process of completing the audit for fiscal year ending June 30, 2005. The original contract agreed to perform and report the audit to the Local Government Commission by November 30, 2005. Due to delays, the auditors have requested to extend the submittal date to January 15, 2006.

Action Requested: I move submitting the June 30, 2005 audit to the Local Government Commission by January 15, 2006.