

**NORTHEAST GEORGIA REGIONAL COMMISSION
COUNCIL MEETING
ATHENS HOLIDAY INN
JUNE 18, 2015
NOON**

MINUTES

The June meeting of the Northeast Georgia Regional Commission Council was held on Thursday, June 18, 2015 at Noon at the Athens Holiday Inn.

Members Present:

Blechingner, Linda
Eisenman, Emily
Houston, Lamar
Lyon, Tommy
Palmer, Charles
Bullard, Ed
Duvall, Valerie
Plott, Roy
Trammel, Gene
Dyer, Dave
Dove, Anthony
Gandy, Roy
Ainslie, Andy
Perriman, Fred
Bentley, Dave
Ellis, Keith
Roseberry, Jerry
Turner, Frank
Davis, Melvin
Ivie, Charles
Harden, Amrey
Pittard, Billy
Johnson, Jesse
Little, Kevin

Members Absent:

Graham, Pat
Graham, Ernie
Denson, Nancy
Guest, Larry
Brock, Phil
Crow, Tom
Fenn, Josh
Blackmon, Jody
Boggs, Ronnie
Thompson, Greg
Fordyce, Cary
Roberts, Roy

Staff Present:

Jim Dove, Executive Director
Mott Beck, Executive Assistant
Evans Brinson, Comptroller
Burke Walker, Planning & Government Services Director
Carol Cofer, Workforce Development Director

Associate Members Present:

Ouzts, Buddy
Seymour, Joel
Crawford, Charlie

Guests Present:

Josh Finley
Jason Tinsley
Daniela Belton
Tate O'Rourke
Craig Intro

CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF MAY MEETING MINUTES

Chairman Kevin Little called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m. He welcomed members, guests and staff. He asked for a motion to approve the May meeting minutes. Such a motion was made by Mr. Frank Turner and seconded by Commissioner Gene Trammell. The motion carried unanimously.

ITEMS OF LOCAL INTEREST

Jackson County: The City of Braselton is experiencing an increase in housing permits, and a number of road projects are ongoing. The City of Jefferson has received the 404 Permit for the Parks Creek Reservoir, and the land acquisition phase of the project will begin soon. Due to the reputation of the Jefferson City School System, annexation requests have been going up steadily. Jefferson's housing permit requests are up, and the City has an 840,000 sq. ft. spec building completed and ready for a tenant. UGA is developing a Downtown Master Plan for the City of Jefferson which will include in-fill housing and greenways. The budget process has begun for the City of Commerce.

Jasper County: Work has begun on passing lanes at three locations along Hwy. 83 between Monticello and Shady Dale, and the Downtown Connector widening project is underway. Also, a truck route around the City is in the planning stage. The Board of Commissioners, Downtown Development Authority, Industrial Development Authority, Chamber of Commerce, and the City of Monticello are all working together to plan for the future of Jasper County. Executive Director Dove will be moderating a meeting in Monticello on June 24th with representatives from aforementioned entities to answer questions and concerns from the citizens of Jasper County. It was also noted that Project Administrator Jim Moneyhun has been instrumental in the administration of a grant award for the County. Regarding Economic Development, a specialty flooring company is building a new facility and will employ 20 persons initially. After 24 months, it is anticipated there will be between 40 or 50 employees. During the summer months, a Market Festival is held every Saturday on the square in Downtown Monticello.

Madison County: The Madison County Rotary Club will be constructing its 600th handicap ramp soon, and Governor Deal will be invited to attend this very important event. There has been one resignation on the BOC, and a special election will be held to fill that unexpired term. Chairman Dove has announced that he will not run again. With the anticipated four-laning of Highway 72, there has been some interest in locating a feed mill in the old Weyerhaeuser Plant. Housing permits are up in the County, and two new stores are locating in Danielsville. The County is finishing water lines that run to Commerce, Royston, and Franklin County.

Morgan County: Baxter employees are buying homes in Morgan County. The BOC will be supporting the Hospital Authority and moving forward with plans for a rural hospital. Funding from a HUD 242 Grant is being explored, and construction is slated to begin as soon as January 1, 2016. Construction of a \$7 million senior community will begin in July. The City of Madison purchased the Gilmore House in 2013, and a renovation project utilizing World Business Enterprise funds was soon undertaken. It is presently occupied by Heart Garden, Inc., a cannery and community kitchen. The public safety facility renovations are complete. Mannington Mills is in the process of being renovated and will add an additional 200 jobs. A new Captain D's and Pizza Inn have opened in the City.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Audit & Finance: The Committee met prior to the Council meeting and reviewed the financial statements for the eleven-month period ending May 31, 2015. Revenues exceeded expenses by \$33,238. A motion to approve the report as presented was made by Mr. Turner and seconded by Commissioner Andy Ainslie. The motion carried unanimously.

Program of Work: The Program of Work Committee met prior to the Council meeting to review the following technical assistance requests for the month.

1. **ATHENS-CLARKE COUNTY** – Assistance with using Global Positioning System (GPS) equipment to digitize public trails. The GPS data will be used to map existing trails in the county. There is no fee for this assistance as its costs are provided through the Commission's Department of Transportation (GDOT) contract.
2. **MORGAN COUNTY** – Assistance in developing a OneGeorgia EDGE application for the Mannington Mills expansion project. The fee for developing this application is \$1,500.

Based upon recommendation from the Executive Director, a motion to approve the technical assistance requests for the month for inclusion in the FY2015 Program of Work, effective June 18, 2015, was made by Commissioner Billy Pittard and seconded by Mr. Dave Bentley. The motion carried unanimously.

Planning & Government Services: The Committee met prior to the Council meeting and reviewed several items of interest. One item discussed was the progress of the region's adopted Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). Through this Fiscal Year, the Division assisted in applications that resulted in creating and retaining 529 jobs with \$88 million in public/private investment. Also, the Committee believes the CEDS twelve implementation strategies remain current to the regional economy and will be used into the next Fiscal Year. Nothing discussed required Council action.

Personnel: The Personnel Committee met in April to conduct the annual evaluation of the Executive Director. A copy was forwarded to members for comment and questions prior to the meeting. As indicated in the evaluation, Executive Director Dove has had another successful year at the Regional Commission, and excelled in all areas. Because of his leadership, NEGRC is considered "the best in the State". A motion to accept the evaluation as presented was made by Mayor Emily Eisenman and seconded by Commissioner Pittard. The motion carried unanimously. Mayor Eisenman will discuss the evaluation with Executive Director Dove immediately following the Council meeting, and it will be placed in his Personnel File.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director Dove attended the NADO Summer Board meeting in Portland, ME on June 6th - 8th.

Executive Director Dove met individually recently with DCA Commissioner Camila Knowles on June 3rd at her office. They discussed partnerships between DCA and Regional Commissions. Ms. Knowles advised that she is undertaking a major restructuring at DCA.

Appalachian Regional Commission Executive Director Scott Hamilton visited Georgia May 27th – 29th. On Friday the 29th, he spent time in Elbert County with City and County staff, DCA staff, and Regional Commission staff to view some projects that had been funded by ARC along with potential projects. He was accompanied by Annaka Woodruff and Rusty Haygood of DCA and Cheryl Smith of the Department of Economic Development. While in Elbert County, Bob Thomas and Lanier Dunn joined Executive Director Dove and Executive Assistant Mott Beck.

Ms. Beck will be attending the Annual Conference of the Georgia Municipal Association in Savannah June 26th – 29th. She is in charge of the GARC Booth and will be present at the exhibit herself.

RECOMMENDATION REGARDING THE REVISED FY15 BUDGET AND THE PROPOSED FY16 BUDGET

Council members were e-mailed copies of the Revised FY2015 and the Proposed FY2016 Budget prior to the meeting. Mr. Turner provided highlights of both budgets. In FY2015, the total expenditures are anticipated to be \$13,573,504, and total revenues are expected to be \$13,613,828. These anticipated expenditures and revenues are expected to produce an excess of revenues over expenses of \$40,324. The amount necessary to match the various grants is expected to be \$262,133. A motion to approve the FY2015 Budget was made by Mr. Turner and seconded by Mr. Bill Palmer. The motion carried unanimously. In FY2016, total expenditures are expected to be \$13,955,086, and total revenues are expected to be \$13,984,098. This will result in an expected excess of revenues over expenses of \$29,013. The amount

necessary to match our various grants is expected to be \$247,290. Considering the amount of federal and state dollars to be received in FY2016, the leveraging effect of local funds is considerable. The region will receive \$22.49 in federal and state dollars for each dollar of member dues. To comply with Department of Audit recommendations, dues are calculated using the most recent region population figures, and results in a \$11,715 increase in total dues income for FY2016. The FY2016 Budget does include a salary adjustment for RC staff that results in a 3.40% increase in total salaries. A motion to approve the proposed FY2016 Budget was made by Mr. Turner and seconded by Mr. Bentley. The motion carried unanimously.

RECOMMENDATION ON THE FY2016 PROGRAM OF WORK

At this time, Executive Director Dove presented highlights of the FY2016 Program of Work. Copies of the document were e-mailed to Council members prior to the meeting. As in past years, the NEGRC has an ambitious Program of Work and has included all items required by State and Federal grantor agencies. The Regional Commission will be continuing a number of ongoing efforts and will continue to present new technical assistance requests to the Council each month for approval and inclusion in the Annual Program of Work. A motion to adopt the FY2016 Program of Work was made by Mayor Linda Blechinger and seconded by Mr. Roy Gandy. The motion carried unanimously.

REVIEW OF PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

As customary each year in June, the Council conducts the annual NEGRC evaluation based on Performance Standards adopted in September 2009. Executive Director Dove read the standards, and a motion stating that the Regional Commission has met the performance standards was made by Mayor Jerry Roseberry and seconded by Commissioner Trammell. The motion carried unanimously.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The Nominating Committee was Chaired by Melvin Davis and included Fred Perriman, and Lamar Houston. After careful deliberation, the following were nominated to serve a two-year term as an officer of the Northeast Georgia Regional Commission Council.

Chairman	-	Frank Turner
Vice Chairman	-	Jerry Roseberry
Secretary	-	Billy Pittard

A motion to accept the slate of officers as presented was made by Mr. Gandy and seconded by Mr. Harden. The motion carried unanimously.

TRANSITION OF OFFICERS

At this time, Chairman Little administered the Oath of Office to the new officers. Following the Oath, Chairman Little expressed appreciation for being allowed to serve and thanked everyone for their dedication and service to the Northeast Georgia Regional Commission. He then turned the gavel over to Chairman Frank Turner.

OTHER BUSINESS

Chairman Frank Turner thanked everyone for attending and expressed appreciation for allowing him to serve as Chairman of the Council. He advised that the next meeting will be held on August 20th.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Martha J. Beck
Executive Assistant