

**NORTHEAST GEORGIA REGIONAL COMMISSION
COUNCIL MEETING
ATHENS HOLIDAY INN
JUNE 21, 2012
NOON**

MINUTES

The June meeting of the Northeast Georgia Regional Commission Council was held on Thursday, June 21st at Noon at the Athens Holiday Inn. Chairman Jim Joiner called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m.

Members Present:

Yearwood, Danny
Bridges, Robert
Houston, Lamar
Lyon, Tommy
Sanders, Bud
Bicknell, Hunter
Joiner, Jim
Short, Shane
Cox, Alan
Nalls, Billy
Dove, Anthony
Gandy, Roy
Ainslie, Andy
Brooks, Stenette
Roseberry, Jerry
Ivie, Charles
Harden, Amrey
Boggs, Ronnie
Little, Kevin
Knight, Harry

Members Absent:

Graham, Ernie
Denson, Nancy
Eisenman, Emily
Guest, Larry
Palmer, Bill
Wright, Glenn
Finch, Charles
Thurman, Larry
Blackmon, Jody
Perriman, Fred
Morgan, Kathy
Turner, Frank
Davis, Melvin
Pittard, Billy
Yeany, Russ
Thompson, Greg
Lee, Kay
Roberts, Roy
Lewis, Vince

Associate Members Present:

Ouzts, Buddy
Horton, Harold
Seymour, Joel

Media Present:

Blake Giles, Oconee Enterprise

Guests Present:

Marsay Simpson
Kevin Poe
Sheila Briggs
Kevin Hamby

Staff Present:

Jim Dove, Executive Director
Mott Beck, Executive Assistant
Evans Brinson, Comptroller
Carol R. Cofer, WIA Director
Burke Walker, Planning & Government Services Director
Nina Kelly, Project Manager
Rhonda Keeter, WIA Planner
Kay Bridges, Accounting Manager

WELCOME AND APPROVAL OF MAY MEETING MINUTES

Chairman Jim Joiner welcomed members, guests, media, and staff. He asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the May meeting. Such a motion was made by Mr. Lamar Houston and seconded by Commissioner Tommy Lyon. The motion carried unanimously.

ITEMS OF LOCAL INTEREST

Newton County: No report.

Oconee County: The County recently passed a \$20.2 million General Fund budget. For the sixth consecutive year, there is no increase in the millage rate. Bishop Company has broken ground on a 485,000 sq. foot shopping mall on the new Oconee Connector. This is a \$100 million dollar investment and will be known as the Epps Bridge Center. Oconee County schools have a new Superintendent. Caterpillar is on schedule; and the County, along with Walton County, has made application through GEFA for Governor's Water Funds to help support the Hard Labor Creek Reservoir.

Oglethorpe County: Mr. Ronnie Boggs advised that Commissioner Billy Pittard sends his appreciation for everyone's thoughts and prayers. There has been a 4.5% drop in revenues; however, it is not anticipated that this will cause a loss in services to the citizens.

Walton County: Commissioner Kevin Little reported that the Baxter Pharmaceutical signing is monumental to the region, and officials continue to work on an incentive package. The project is on track, and the first of six buildings (administration) will be opening during early 2013. The BOC has passed the FY13 Budget, which is \$131,000 less than last year, and there will be no tax increase for citizens. The economy in Walton County has remained steady throughout the recession, as industries continued to offer employment. Funds for the Hard Labor Creek project look promising.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Audit & Finance: The Committee met prior to the Council meeting and reviewed financial statements for the eleven-month period ending May 31, 2012. A review of the account balances indicates that the Regional Commission is in strong financial condition. Cash and near cash assets exceed total liabilities, excluding the capital lease debt, by \$683,000. Revenues exceed expenses by \$4,066, and financial activity for the eleven-month period was approximately 11/12ths of the annual 2012 Budget. A motion to approve the financial statement as presented was made by Mr. Amrey Harden and seconded by Commissioner Anthony Dove. 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. **CITY OF PORTERDALE** – Certified Local Government (CLG) Application through the Historic Preservation Division of the Department of Natural Resources.
2. **CITY OF JEFFERSON** – Assistance in researching salary information for staff positions, including ranges based on tenure.
3. **CITY OF BOGART** – Developing, advertising, and reviewing a Request for Proposal (RFP) for a rehabilitation plan for the historic Bogart school building.

Based upon recommendation from the Executive Director, a motion to approve the technical assistance requests for the month for inclusion in the FY2012 Program of Work, effective June 21, 2012, was made by Mr. Houston and seconded by Mr. Joel Seymour. The motion carried unanimously.

Planning & Government Services: The Planning & Government Services Committee met prior to the Council meeting to discuss upcoming efforts regarding the update to the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). A memorandum was forwarded to Council members urging them to participate in this effort, which will strengthen the region's competitiveness in creating jobs. Also, the Committee nominated and appointed Oxford Mayor Jerry Roseberry to serve as Vice Chairman of the Committee.

Personnel: At the Council meeting in April, the Committee met to conduct the annual evaluation of the Executive Director. After it was finalized, a copy was forwarded to Council members for review and comment. There were no negative comments or suggested changes, and a motion to accept the evaluation was made by Mr. Buddy Ouzts and seconded by Commissioner Little. The motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

As everyone knows, the original headquarters experienced a flood five weeks ago. The carpet is dry and damaged drywall has been replaced. Dalton Carpet staff will be on site June 25th replacing baseboards, and Servpro will then come in to shampoo carpet and move furniture. An insurance policy covered all damages, with the exception of the \$500 deductible.

Executive Director Dove advised that he and Executive Assistant Mott Beck have been to Jasper and Morgan Counties to make a presentation on T-SPLOST, and they will go to Morgan County on July 9th. Executive Director Dove has also been a guest on WNGC to talk about this initiative. The Regional Commissions cannot advocate for the T-SPLOST, but can educate the public.

Executive Director Dove attended the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) Summer Board meeting in Utah on June 9th – 12th, and Ms. Beck will attend GMA on June 23rd – 26th in Savannah. Executive Director Dove will also

attend the Development District Association of Appalachia (DDAA) Summer Board meeting in Brasstown Valley on July 29th – 31st.

Staff is busy finishing up Fiscal Year 2012 projects prior to June 30th. The Fiscal Division is preparing for the Annual Audit by Clifton, Lipford, Hardison & Parker, which will be concluded by September 30th. An Audit report will be available for the Council at a future meeting

REVIEW PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

As is 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 Commissioner Danny Yearwood and seconded by Mr. Roy Gandy. The motion carried unanimously.

RECOMMENDATION REGARDING THE REVISED FY12 AMENDED BUDGET AND THE FY13 BUDGET

Council members were e-mailed copies of the Revised FY2012 and the FY2013 Budget prior to the meeting. Mr. Harden provided highlights of both budgets. In FY2012, the total expenditures are expected to be \$11,285,424, and total revenues are expected to be \$11,303,187. These expected expenditures and revenues will produce an excess of revenues over expenses of \$17,763. A motion to approve the Revised FY2012 Budget was made by Mr. Harden and seconded by Commissioner Dove. The motion carried unanimously. In FY2013, anticipated expenditures are \$12,302,510, and total revenues are expected to be \$12,355,599. This will result in an excess of revenues over expenses of \$53,088. The region will receive \$20.28 in federal and state dollars for each dollar of member dues. The FY2013 Budget does not include any salary adjustment for Regional Commission staff. A motion to approve the proposed FY13 Budget was made by Mr. Harden and seconded by Commissioner Dove. The motion carried unanimously.

RECOMMENDATION ON THE FY13 PROGRAM OF WORK

At this time, Executive Director Dove presented highlights of the FY2013 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 RC 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 yearly Program of Work. A motion to adopt the FY2013 Program of Work was made by Commissioner Little and seconded by Mr. Harden. The motion carried unanimously.

WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD UPDATE

At this time, WIA Director Carol R. Cofer gave an update on Workforce Development activities. She introduced seven Northeast Georgia Workforce Investment Board members that were in attendance. Ms. Cofer provided an update on the Summer Youth Program. There are 142 WIA eligible youth working at 79 different worksites located in the 12 counties. Youth will work 30 hours per week for five weeks. Mrs. Cofer provided an update on Program Year 2012 funding, which will provide an additional \$300,000 above funds for the current year. She provided information on WIA customers at various training institutions including technical colleges, proprietary schools, universities and colleges, and other training entities. Ms. Cofer advised that she has been meeting with officials from Caterpillar regarding workforce issues.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

The Personnel Committee voted in April to present 25-year plaques to eligible employees, and one every five years thereafter. Three employees have surpassed the 25 years and will begin the rotation. At this time, Commissioner Littler presented plaques to Ms. Rayburn, Rhonda Keeter, and Kay Bridges. In fact, Ms. Rayburn has been an employee of the Commission for 30 years this month. Commissioner Little thanked them for their dedication and loyalty to the Commission.

OTHER BUSINESS

There will not be a meeting in July. The next meeting will be held on August 16th.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Martha J. Beck
Executive Assistant