

**NORTHEAST GEORGIA REGIONAL COMMISSION  
COUNCIL MEETING  
ATHENS HOLIDAY INN  
JUNE 16, 2011  
NOON**

**AGENDA**

The June meeting of the Northeast Georgia Regional Commission Council was held on Thursday, June 16<sup>th</sup> at noon at the Athens Holiday Inn. Chairperson Stenette Brooks called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m.

**Members Present:**

Yearwood, Danny  
Thompson, Chip  
Houston, Lamar  
Lyon, Tommy  
Mayers, Tom  
Bicknell, Hunter  
Joiner, Jim  
Short, Shane  
Hill, Charles  
Nalls, Billy  
Faust, Ron  
Gandy, Roy  
Ainslie, Andrew  
Brooks, Stenette  
Roseberry, Jerry  
Turner, Frank  
Davis, Melvin  
Harden, Amrey  
Pittard, Billy  
Crawford, Charlie  
Knight, Harry  
Lee, Kay  
Roberts, Roy

**Members Absent:**

Graham, Ernie  
Denson, Nancy  
Mercer, Jim  
Guest, Larry  
Sanders, Bud  
Wright, Glenn  
Newsome, Glenn  
Dove, Anthony  
Perriman, Fred  
Morgan, Kathy  
Walter, Joe  
Yeany, Russ  
Little, Kevin  
Thompson, Greg  
Lewis, Vince

**Associate Members Present:**

Ouzts, Buddy  
Horton, Harold  
Seymour, Joel  
Pitts, Flemmie  
Jackson, Julian

**Guests Present:**

Katy Porter  
Bob Thomas  
Jordan Chinouth  
Marsay Simpson

**Staff Present:**

Jim Dove, Executive Director  
Mott Beck, Executive Assistant  
Evans Brinson, Comptroller  
Burke Walker, Director of Planning & Government Services  
Peggy Jenkins, Area Agency on Aging Director  
Dave Van De Weghe, Principal Planner

**WELCOME AND APPROVAL OF MAY MEETING MINUTES**

Chairperson Brooks welcomed members, guests, and staff. She asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the May meeting. Such a motion was made by Mr. Roy Gandy and seconded by Commissioner Hunter Bicknell. The motion carried unanimously.

## ITEMS OF LOCAL INTEREST:

**Jackson County:** Commissioner Hunter Bicknell, Chairman of the Northeast Georgia Regional Transportation Roundtable (RTR), reported that the RTR Executive Committee has met on several occasions to begin the process of "paring down" the project list for the region. He believes that a great deal of progress has been made thus far, and that T-SPLOST is a good opportunity to move transportation forward in Northeast Georgia. The Jackson County Parks and Recreation Department will host three age groups of the Dizzy Dean World Series, beginning Thursday, July 14<sup>th</sup> and ending on July 19<sup>th</sup>. Work continues on the re-routing of Hwy. 124 and Zion Church Road in Braselton. The County and municipalities are renegotiating the SPLOST. Executive Director Dove and Executive Assistant Mott Beck will be facilitating a retreat for the County on July 19<sup>th</sup>. A search is underway for a County Manager, and the position will close in the next six to eight weeks. The former Banks-Jackson-Commerce Hospital is now under new leadership and will be called the Northridge Medical Center. A new CVS pharmacy is under construction in Jefferson.

**Jasper County:** The County recently implemented a Reverse 911 System, and it is now fully operational. The Recreation Department has been discussing the five-year plan in order to determine direction and how to move forward in the future. Commissioner Hill praised the Public Work Department for its response and dedication during the recent storm damage. The County has a 10% decrease in the digest, and was able to cut \$1 million from the budget. The school system received a \$1.7 million grant for technology in kindergarten through eighth grade. Road resurfacing continues in the County.

**Morgan County:** The County continues the budget process and will use \$1.3 million of the Fund Balance to offset a 15% reduction in property values. An Energy Efficiency Expo was held in conjunction with the Madison Fest, and information from various utility providers and the green industry was available for distribution to the public. There was considerable damage from recent storms in the County and the City of Madison, and the area was declared a Presidential Disaster Area. The County is conducting an analysis of its building and permitting fees in order to ensure that fees are appropriate. Bulldog Fabrication has located in an existing building, resulting in 100 new jobs.

**Oglethorpe County:** A \$7 million sewerage project, a cooperative effort between the cities of Crawford and Lexington, the Board of Education, and the Board of Commissioners, has been completed. A Town Hall meeting will be held on June 21<sup>st</sup> to gain public input on the comprehensive plan update. Renovations to the exterior of the courthouse, an \$85,000 project, will begin soon; and \$3 million in SPLOST funds will be used to completely renovate the courthouse interior. Resurfacing of 11.5 miles of roads should be complete within the next week, and 65% of this work is done by the County workforce. Athens-Clarke County has assisted the County with recycling efforts. LOST negotiations and the Service Delivery Strategy update are due this year, and both initiatives are complete. The SPLOST resolution was approved and will be on the ballot in November.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Audit & Finance:** The Committee met prior to the Council meeting. Members reviewed the financial statements for the eleven-month period ending on May 31, 2011. A review of the account balances indicated that the Regional Commission is in good financial condition, with cash and near cash assets exceeding total liabilities, excluding the capital lease debt, by \$708,000. Revenues exceed expenses by \$1,623. A motion to approve the financial statement as presented was made by Mr. Frank Turner and seconded by Mr. Lamar Houston. The motion carried unanimously.

**Program of Work:** There were no technical assistance requests for the past month. However, Director Jim Dove and Executive Assistant Mott Beck met with the Committee and reviewed and discussed the FY2012 Program of Work.

**Planning Advisory:** The Committee met on June 6<sup>th</sup> at headquarters. Members reviewed a preliminary list of identified stakeholders for the Regional Plan. This group will provide critical input on the direction of the plan. Staff presented a proposed list of dates and locations, as well as a suggested format, for the first round of stakeholder meetings. The Committee also reviewed an informational poster for the Regional Plan that will serve to orient the public to the planning process.

**Government Services:** The Committee met prior to the Council meeting and reviewed community and economic development activities, planning activities, and member reports. Members discussed the consolidation of the Planning Advisory and Government Services Committees into a single committee to better serve its members. The consolidation will become effective July 1<sup>st</sup>, and the Committee will be known as the Planning and Government Services Committee. Members also reviewed the FY12 DCA Planning Contract and the required, supporting resolution, and it is the Committee's recommendation that the resolution be adopted by the Council. A motion to accept this recommendation and adopt the resolution authorizing submission of the 2010-2013 Short-Term Work Program Update to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs for review was made by Commissioner Tommy Lyon and seconded by Mr. Frank Turner. The motion carried unanimously.

**Personnel:** At the Council meeting in April, the Personnel Committee met to conduct the annual evaluation of the Executive Director. Director Dove has enjoyed another very successful year. His leadership, dedication, and devotion to the organization are outstanding, and it was the consensus of the Committee to present to Director Dove an exemplary evaluation. A motion to accept the evaluation was made by Mayor Jim Joiner and seconded by Mr. Ron Faust. The motion carried unanimously. Director Dove was presented with a plaque of appreciation for his excellent leadership and dedicated service. Mayor Joiner met with Director Dove after the meeting to discuss the evaluation, and it will be placed in his Personnel File.

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Director Dove and Ms. Beck will be conducting their second retreat for the City of Jefferson on June 18th. They will also be facilitating a retreat for the Jackson County Board of Commissioners on Tuesday, July 19<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Beck will be representing the Regional Commission at the annual meeting of the Georgia Municipal Association in Savannah on June 24-28. She will be in charge of setting up and dismantling the GARC booth, as well as manning the booth for one time slot.

Director Dove and Ms. Beck continue to be very involved with efforts pertaining to the Transportation Investment Act of 2010. Todd Long forwarded his version of "Northeast Georgia Projects Unconstrained by Funding" on June 1<sup>st</sup>. The Regional Transportation Roundtable Executive Committee met on the afternoon of June 1<sup>st</sup> and all day on June 2<sup>nd</sup> to hear presentations from local governments regarding projects they had submitted. The Executive Committee met again on June 13<sup>th</sup> to continue project review and consider county priorities. The Council will continue to receive updates.

The term of Private Sector Representatives to the Council ends on June 30<sup>th</sup>. During the next few weeks, a notification will be forwarded to Commission Chairs and Mayors so that they will have an opportunity to jointly nominate someone from their counties to serve on the Council during the next term.

## **RECOMMENDATION REGARDING THE REVISED FY11 AMENDED BUDGET AND THE FY12 BUDGET**

Council members were e-mailed copies of the Revised FY2011 and the FY2012 Budget prior to the meeting. Mr. Turner provided highlights of both budgets. In FY2011, the total expenditures are expected to be \$13,755,907. These expected expenditures and revenues will produce an expected excess of revenues over expenses of \$1,465. A motion to approve the Revised FY2011 Budget was made by Mr. Turner and seconded by Commissioner Lyon. The motion carried unanimously. In FY2012, the expenditures are expected to be \$10,202,048, and total revenues are expected to be \$10,204,016. This will result in an expected excess of revenues over expenses of \$1,967. The region will receive \$16.20 in federal and state dollars for each dollar of member dues. A motion to approve the proposed FY12 Budget was made by Mr. Lamar Houston and seconded by Mr. Harry Knight. The motion carried unanimously.

## **RECOMMENDATION ON THE FY12 PROGRAM OF WORK**

At this time, Director Dove presented highlights of the FY2012 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 proposed FY2012 Program of Work was made by Mr. Houston and seconded by Mr. Gandy. The motion carried unanimously.

### **REVIEW OF PERFORMANCE STANDARDS**

As it customary each year in June, the Council conducts the annual NEGRC evaluation based on performance standards adopted in September 2009. 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 Commissioner Kevin Little. The motion carried unanimously.

### **CHRONIC DISEASE SELF MANAGEMENT PROGRAM (CDSMP)**

At this time, Katy Porter gave a report on the Chronic Disease Self Management Program (CDSMP). The University of Georgia Foods and Nutrition program contracts with the Northeast Georgia Area Agency on Aging to provide this program. CDSMP helps participants cope with ongoing health conditions such as arthritis, high blood pressure, diabetes, heart disease, fibromyalgia, anxiety, and depression. The program includes six weekly workshops that discuss techniques to deal with problems such as frustration, fatigue, pain and isolation, appropriate exercise for maintaining and improving strength, flexibility, and endurance, appropriate use of medications, communicating effectively with family, friends, and health professionals, nutrition, and how to evaluate new treatments. Workshops are held in community settings such as senior centers, churches, libraries, clinics and hospitals. The sessions include people with many different health conditions and are led by two trained leaders who may be professionals, peer leaders living with a chronic condition, or a caretaker of someone with a chronic condition. This program is free of charge.

### **OVERVIEW OF THE COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING PROCESS AND POTENTIAL CHANGES**

The next item on the agenda was a presentation by Principal Planner Dave Van De Weghe on potential changes to the comprehensive planning process. The state is currently making changes to the minimum planning standards to reduce the burden and expense to local governments. The state legislature passed Senate Bill 86 to enact changes, but Governor Deal did not sign the bill into law. Instead, he has instructed DCA to examine its minimum standards. In response, DCA has formed committees to examine the planning and Development of Regional Impact (DRI) standards this summer. DCA is offering a five year deferral to local governments with comprehensive plans due in 2011 or 2012. In the future, it is anticipated that plans will only have to meet basic requirements, and the Regional Commission will prepare them at no cost to local governments. Also, the DRI process will serve strictly to notify interested parties; no recommendations for approval or disapproval will be included. Additionally, Senate

Bill 157 was signed into law, changing standards for Solid Waste Management Plans. Under the new law, local solid waste plans require no regional or state review, the 25 percent waste reduction goal is eliminated and annual reporting is no longer required.

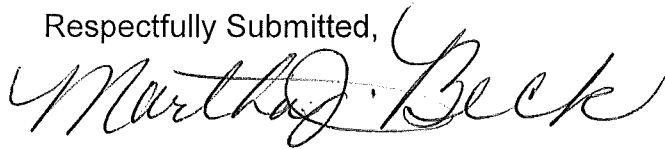
**OTHER BUSINESS**

There will not be a meeting in July. The next meeting will be held on August 18<sup>th</sup>.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Martha J. Beck". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name.

Martha J. Beck  
Executive Assistant