

**NORTHEAST GEORGIA REGIONAL COMMISSION
COUNCIL MEETING
ATHENS HOLIDAY INN
APRIL 20, 2017
NOON**

MINUTES

Members Present:

Jennings, Tommy
Denson, Nancy
Ferrelle, Dodd
Lyon, Tommy
Palmer, Bill
Smith, Jeffery
Crow, Tom
Plott, Roy
Shaw, Jim
Pennamon, Carl
Workman, Stone
Dyer, Dave
Gandy, Roy
Ainslie, Andy
Perriman, Fred
Banes, Marcello
Roseberry, Jerry
Turner, Frank
Daniell, John
Ivie, Charles
Harden, Amrey
Berry, Rick
Johnson, Jesse
Little, Kevin
Fordyce, Cary

Members Absent:

Graham, Pat
Blechinger, Linda
Houston, Lamar
Guest, Larry
Brock, Phil
Scarborough, John
Blackmon, Jody
Bentley, David
Pittard, Billy
Thompson, Greg
Chambers, Joyce
Ledford, Howard
O'Rourke, Tate
Roberts, Roy

Associate Members Present:

Ouzts, Buddy
Adams, Louise
Pitts, Flemmie

Guests Present:

Abby Cox
Jack Eisenman
Andrew Seaver
Chuck Williams
Paul Chambers
Steve Smith
Daniella Perry
Marty Seagraves
Eve Anthony
Vickie Gasaway
Mary Nunn
Kathy Branyan
Freda Reed
Teresa Williams
Merry Howard
Dee Pelewski
Kelsey Tyner
Dan McGee
Rebecca Stephens

Staff Present:

Jim Dove, Executive Director
Mott Beck, Executive Assistant
Alicia Page, Comptroller
Carol R. Cofer, Workforce Development Director
Burke Walker, Local Gov't. Services Director
Peggy Jenkins, Area Agency on Aging Director
Michel Kelley, Area Agency on Aging Assistant Director
Anne Hansen, Quality Assurance Specialist
Toshia Lewis, Gateway Manager
Katurah Patterson, Gateway Counselor/CCTP Coach

CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF MARCH MEETING MINUTES

Chairman Frank Turner called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m. He welcomed members, guests, and staff. He asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the March meeting. **Such a motion was made by Mr. Tommy Jennings and seconded by Mr. Cary Fordyce. The motion carried unanimously.**

ITEMS OF LOCAL INTEREST

Barrow County: A number of highway improvements are ongoing in the county. Three interchanges will be improved along Highway 316 in Barrow County over the next three years including overpasses at Highways 81, 11, and 53. Also in the planning stages is a bypass west of Winder from Highway 11, coming off I-85, down to Highway 316. A SPLOST referendum will be coming up soon, and staff is beginning to plan for projects that will be included in the SPLOST.

Clarke County: No report was given.

Elbert County: Officials met recently with DOT staff to discuss Highway 17. DOT has ordered a \$3 million study to discuss the possible realignment and widening of the Highway 72 corridor which would bypass Bowman and possibly Elberton. The study will be completed by 2018. Elberton wants to be considered one of the inland ports, and the short line rail spur and widening of Highway 17 would assist in this effort. Rusty Warner is the new Economic Director in the County. Bowman has placed a moratorium on all development in the City. Elbert County is in need of a Chamber Director due to the retirement of long time Director Phyllis Brooks. The newly renovated Samuel Elbert Hotel in Elberton recently held Open House.

Greene County: The City of Union Point continues to be at odds with the County over the Service Delivery Strategy and certain services and is appealing the Judge's ruling in favor of Greene County's position. There has been an increase in building recently at Reynolds Plantation, with 96 homes under construction at this time. The Oconee Brewing Company opened in Greensboro on April 20th. The Commissioners continue to support the continuation of the East-West Connector project and its latest phase is the Liberty Connector that is slated to open this summer. This will dramatically improve access back and forth to the Liberty communities and other southeast areas in the County.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Audit & Finance: Members of the Finance Committee met prior to the Council meeting and reviewed the financial statements for the eight-month period ending March 31, 2017. Revenues exceeded expenditures by \$55,616.53. Financial activity for the eight-month period was approximately 68% of the FY2017 Budget

projections. **A motion to accept the report as presented was made by Mr. Amrey Harden and seconded by Mr. Jim Shaw. 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 MAXEYS** – Assistance in planning and promoting the “Firefly Trail” within the City. There is no fee for this assistance.
2. **CITY OF ELBERTON** – Assistance in updating their Urban Redevelopment Plan (URP). The fee for this assistance will not exceed \$5,000.

Based upon recommendation of the Executive Director and the Committee, **a motion to approve the technical assistance requests for inclusion in the FY2017 Program of Work, effective April 20, 2017, was made by Mayor Dodd Ferrelle and seconded by Commissioner Carl Pennamon. The motion carried unanimously.**

Planning & Government Services: The PGS Committee met prior to the Council and discussed three draft planning documents related to regional planning. These included the Regional Resource Management Plan, the Regional Assessment, and the Stakeholder Involvement Program. After reviewing, the PGS Committee recommended forwarding the draft documents to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs for their review, and a resolution by the Council is required for this action. **A motion to approve the resolution and forward the aforementioned documents to DCA for review and comment was made by Commissioner Tommy Lyon and seconded by Mr. Bill Palmer. The motion carried unanimously.** After DCA’s review, the Council will consider adoption of the Regional Plan.

Personnel: The Committee met prior to the Council to conduct the Annual Evaluation of the Executive Director. Executive Assistant Mott Beck will prepare a draft of the evaluation and forward to Committee members for review and comment. It will then be forwarded to the full Council prior to action at the June meeting.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

The Development District Association of Appalachia (DDAA), including 73 local development districts in a 13-state region extending from New York to Mississippi, held its annual conference at the Crystal Gateway Marriott in Washington, D.C. on March 19th – 21st. Executive Director Dove currently serves as the Immediate Past President of the DDAA. Planning & Government Services Director Burke Walker also attended the conference. In addition to the DDAA Executive Board Meeting and the DDAA Annual Membership Meeting, the dinner banquet included an address by Appalachian

Regional Commission Federal Co-Chair Earl Gohl and a presentation by Youngstown State University President and former Head Football Coach at Ohio State University Jim Tressel. Other sessions at the conference were devoted to workforce development, higher education, economic development, energy, and entrepreneurship. Executive Director Dove also attended the 2017 National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) National Policy Conference which was held on the same dates at the same hotel and overlapped with the DDAA conference. He is a nine-term member of the NADO Board. In addition to the Board of Directors meeting, various sessions focused on challenges facing the Economic Development Administration (EDA), strengthening the regions through economic diversification, aging policy, workforce development, transportation, current political landscape, and rural policy priorities.

All staff personnel evaluations have been completed and discussed with staff. The evaluations were placed in the individual's Personnel File and will be used to determine salary action when developing the FY18 Budget.

A Census meeting was held on Monday at headquarters to begin discussing steps in getting an accurate count on the 2020 Census and is in regard to what is called the Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA). LUCA is the only opportunity for local governments to review and update the Census Bureau's residential address list for their jurisdiction.

Executive Director Dove addressed the Leadership Jasper meeting held on March 28th. This program is designed to help leaders and potential leaders develop leadership skills required to improve local conditions for economic development within communities. It is part of a comprehensive plan to involve citizens, leaders and future leaders in the process of development decisions and governance. Following Executive Director Dove's presentation, NEGRC Council Member Stone Workman addressed the group.

Executive Director Dove and Ms. Beck have two more retreats scheduled. The City of Monroe will have their session on May 16th, and the Jackson County Board of Commissioners' Retreat will be held on June 21st. We look forward to working with both of these groups.

At this time, Executive Director Dove advised that Barrow County Commissioner Pat Graham had mentioned that perhaps there could be a cooperative effort in planning for the NG911. Members seemed to be interested in working together, and Executive Director Dove and PGS Director Burke Walker are working on some ideas at this time. After the ACCG and GMA conferences and everyone has settled down, perhaps the NEGRC can host an informational meeting for everyone and get someone to address the group. Additional information will be forthcoming.

GEORGIA DIVISION OF AGING SERVICES

It was a pleasure have as the keynote speaker Abby Cox, Director of the Division of Aging Services (DAS). Ms. Cox expressed her appreciation to the Council and Executive Director Dove for inviting her to visit with the group for a second time. She was delighted to report that DAS has made great strides in the past few years with increased opportunities and services for the senior population of our state. She stated that Governor Deal and the Georgia Legislators were very good to the Aging Network in the FY2018 Budget. The following are examples: 1) \$4.2 million for non-Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services; 2) \$750,000 for home delivered and congregate meal services; 3) a little over \$766,000 for additional adult protective services and public guardianship supervisors; and 4) \$4.1 million for the Georgia Alzheimer's Project. One of the most critical programs offered is Adult Protect Services which provides a mechanism to report abuse, neglect or exploitation of disabled adults or elder persons who are not residents of nursing homes and personal care homes. Ms. Cox stressed the importance of promoting a greater awareness of all resources available to aid in taking care of our seniors. One very valuable resource that is a part of the NEGRC is the Aging and Disability Resource Connection (ADRC). This program streamlines access to long-term care by serving as a one-stop-shop for consumers' aging and disability related information, counseling, referral, and planning needs. In closing, she stressed the importance of senior centers as they continue to advocate for our senior population.

UPDATE ON SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAM

At this time, Workforce Development Director Carol Cofer gave an update on the upcoming Summer Youth Program. Worksite packets were mailed on April 12th and are due back by May 10th. Youth will begin work on June 5th and work through July 8th. Participants will work up to 30 hours per week at \$7.50 an hour. Students are covered under the Workforce Development Board's Comp Insurance Policy. The Program serves approximately 120 Youth, which are typically 10 to 25 participants per county. Staff is currently recruiting WIOA eligible graduating seniors who are not planning to attend a four-year college upon graduation.

APPOINTMENT OF AWARDS COMMITTEE

At the meeting in May, annual awards are given for the Local Government Administrator of the Year and the Distinguished Northeast Georgia Service Award. Chairman Turner appointed the following members to serve on the Awards Committee: Lamar Houston, Chair; Amrey Harden, and Harold Horton. The Committee met following the Council Meeting to nominate persons to receive these awards.

OTHER BUSINESS

The next meeting will be held on May 18th.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 1:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Martha J. Beck
Executive Assistant