

**NORTHEAST GEORGIA REGIONAL COMMISSION  
COUNCIL  
MAY MEETING / ANNUAL MEETING  
ATHENS HOLIDAY INN  
MAY 18, 2017  
NOON**

**MINUTES**

**Members Present:**

Graham, Pat  
Jennings, Tommy  
Denson, Nancy  
Ferrelle, Dodd  
Houston, Lamar  
Lyon, Tommy  
Palmer, Bill  
Smith, Jeffery  
Crow, Tom  
Plott, Roy  
Shaw, Jim  
Pennamon, Carl  
Dyer, Dave  
Scarborough, John  
Perriman, Fred  
Bentley, David  
Banes, Marcello  
Roseberry, Jerry  
Daniell, John  
Ivie, Charles  
Pittard, Billy  
Little, Kevin  
Chambers, Joyce  
Fordyce, Cary  
Ledford, Howard  
Roberts, Roy

**Members Absent:**

Blechinger, Linda  
Guest, Larry  
Brock, Phil  
Workman, Stone  
Blackmon, Jody  
Gandy, Roy  
Ainslie, Andy  
Turner, Frank  
Harden, Amrey  
Berry, Rick  
Johnson, Jesse  
Thompson, Greg  
O'Rourke, Tate

**Staff Present:**

Jim Dove, Executive Director  
Mott Beck, Executive Assistant  
Alicia Page, Comptroller  
Burke, Walker, Director of Planning & Government Services

**Associate Members Present:**

Ouzts, Buddy  
Horton, Harold

**Guests Present:**

Chuck Williams  
Rusty Haygood  
Byron Lombard  
Gary Usry  
Steve Smith  
Cheryl Smith  
Jon Herschell  
Beth Williams  
Lovette Lombard  
Helen Lombard  
Bill Lombard  
Ryan Lombard  
Martin Boyd  
Ralph Richardson

**WELCOME AND APPROVAL OF APRIL MEETING MINUTES**

Due to the absence of Chairman Frank Turner, Vice Chairman Jerry Roseberry 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 April meeting. **Such a motion was made by Mr. Tommy Jennings and seconded by Mr. David Bentley. The motion passed unanimously.**

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Audit & Finance:** Members of the Finance Committee met prior to the Council meeting and reviewed the financial statements for the ten-month period ending April 30, 2017. Revenues exceeded expenditures by \$42,275.45. Financial activity for the period was at approximately 83% of the FY2017 Budget projections overall. Comptroller Alicia Page presented the proposed Fiscal Year 2018 budget. The budget presented is a balanced budget and shows a reduction of 4.14% overall from the previous Fiscal Year 2017 Budget. A recommendation was made to present the proposed FY18 Budget to the Council for consideration at the June meeting. **A motion to accept this report was made by Mr. Lamar Houston and seconded by Mr. Cary Fordyce. The motion carried unanimously.**

**Program of Work:** No technical assistance requests were received last month; therefore, the Committee did not meet.

**Planning & Government Services:** The Committee met prior to the Council meeting to review the Regional Plan's Agenda currently under development by PGS staff. This agenda is expected to be ready for submission to DCA for review next month. No formal action was required at this time.

## **ANNUAL REPORT OF STAFF ACTIVITIES**

At this time, Executive Director Jim Dove gave an in-depth report on staff activities for Fiscal Year 2018 and highlighted accomplishments of each division. He also advised that staff continues to facilitate administrative efforts relative to the Upper Oconee Basin Water Authority, and he and Executive Assistant Mott Beck continue to facilitate retreats/planning sessions for local governments and related organizations throughout the region. A total of 125 such sessions have been conducted to date. A copy of the Staff Activities Report is on file at Regional Commission Headquarters.

## **DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS (DCA) ACTIVITIES AND PARTNERSHIP WITH REGIONAL COMMISSIONS**

At this time, DCA Deputy Commissioner Rusty Haygood briefed the Council on activities of that Department and their partnership with Regional Commissions. There have been concerns as to whether some of the federally funded programs would be included in the 2018 Budget; however, just recently a Continuing Resolution was introduced that would preserve funding at some level, with an approximate 50% reduction. In fact, ARC had a slight increase in funding. In the current year CDBG cycle, there were 114 applications totaling \$70 million. DCA has approximately \$35 million at their disposal for this round of applications, meaning that half of the

communities will be funded. The Fall CDBG Conference will proceed as planned. Mr. Haygood advised that DCA is taking a “step back” and focusing mainly on local planning efforts. For instance, when grant applications are received, DCA will determine projects are being funded that are consistent with the applicants’ local plans. With the economy on the increase, DCA’s goal is to have their staff back in the field and engaged with communities throughout the State. This is where the Regional Commissions can be of major assistance. They would be able to advise DCA as to the areas where there would be more interest, and where DCA’s resources are needed the most. City of Monticello and Jasper County officials will be visiting DCA offices in the coming week for one of these sessions, and DCA is planning to have multiple sessions with local communities annually. Applications and a timeline for these sessions will be provided by DCA in the near future. Mr. Haygood also briefed the Council on legislative matters that were of interest to DCA. Members had an opportunity to ask questions after the presentation.

### **PRESENTATION OF AWARDS**

The next item on the agenda was presentation of awards that are given annually by the Regional Commission. State Representative **Chuck Williams** was the 2017 recipient of the Robert L. and Betty Williford Distinguished Northeast Georgian Award. He has represented District 119, including Oconee County and a portion of Clarke County, since winning a Special Election in July, 2011. Representative Williams’ legislative committee assignments have included Agriculture and Consumer Affairs, Appropriations, Banks and Banking, Higher Education, Information and Audits, and Natural Resources and Environment. He is a graduate of Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College and the University of Georgia. Representative Williams is a past chair of the Oconee County Chamber of Commerce, Oconee County Industrial Development Authority, Georgia Bankers Association, and the Georgia Future Farmers of America Alumni Association. In addition, he has served on the University Of Georgia Alumni Association Board Of Directors and the Executive Committee of the Georgia Forestry Association. He and his wife **Beth** live in Oconee County.

Greene County Manager **Byron Lombard** was honored at the event as Local Government Administrator of the Year. Mr. Lombard was retained as Manager in 1999 after serving previously as Public Works Director. He is a graduate of Georgia Tech with a degree in Business Management. He is very involved in the local community serving as coach of youth sports, fire chief, emergency medical technician, and director of the county emergency management agency. As chief executive officer for the county, his responsibilities include oversight of the day-to-day activities of the county staff who are not employees of a constitutional officer. Mr. Lombard and wife **Lovette** have resided in the county since 1989.

## **APPOINTMENT OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

The two-year term of officers will end in July; and in keeping with the Bylaws, the following were appointed to a Nominating Committee to develop a slate of officers.

**Kevin Little, Chair**  
**Billy Pittard**  
**Lamar Houston**

The Committee met immediately following the meeting. Nominees will be presented at the June meeting.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

The next meeting will be held on June 15<sup>th</sup>.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Martha J. Beck  
Executive Assistant