



Northeast Georgia Regional Commission  
Atrium  
September 23, 2020 - 9:00 A.M.

## Minutes

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### Attendees

**Members:**

Tom Crow  
John Daniell  
Kelly Girtz  
Pat Graham  
Amrey Harden  
Joey Leslie  
Mike Renshaw  
Mark Saxon  
Harry Sims

**Alternates:**

Nathan Hester  
Chris Yancey

**Others:**

Julie Ball, NEGRC Executive Assistant  
Chip Ferguson, Atkinson Ferguson  
Brad Lanning, Jacobs Engineering  
Alicia Page, NEGRC Comptroller  
Burke Walker, NEGRC Executive Director

### Call to Order and Approval of July 2020 Meeting Minutes

Chairperson Pat Graham called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the July 22, 2020 meeting.

**Action:** A motion to approve the minutes was made by Mayor Kelly Girtz and seconded by Harry Sims. The motion passed unanimously.

### Financial Report

Alicia Page, NEGRC Comptroller, presented the financial report for the period ending August 31, 2020.

**Action:** A motion to approve the Financial Report as presented was made by Chairman John Daniell and seconded by Amrey Harden. The motion passed unanimously.

Alicia Page also presented the FY2021 proposed budget.

**Action:** A motion to authorize the distribution of the FY2021 proposed budget to the UOBWA as presented was made by Amrey Harden and seconded by Mike Renshaw. The motion passed unanimously.

## **Engineering & Operations Committees' Report**

The UOBWA Operations and Engineering Committees met prior to the meeting on September 22, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.

- Joey Leslie, Chairman of the Engineering Committee, reported on the request to replace ten (10) mixer units. An initial request was made to repair the units but it was more cost effective to replace them. A sole source with Philadelphia Mixers would be used to replace the mixers.  
**Action:** A motion to replace ten (10) mixer units was made by Joey Leslie and seconded by Harry Sims. The motion passed unanimously.
- Joey Leslie reported that Brad Lanning and Chris Adams from Jacobs described drought statistics. The statistical data used to create the drought model needed to be updated and was completed resulting in a possible need to update the drought plan trigger point to 35% from the current 40%.  
**Action:** A motion to amend the draught policy to reflect the change from 40% to 35% and also to approve the transmission of the amended policy to the APD for their approval was made by Joey Leslie and seconded by Commissioner Mark Saxon. The motion passed unanimously.
- Joey Leslie discussed Jacobs Water Supply Master Plan. He suggested that everyone review the plan, especially their population projections. Chairperson Graham mentioned that Brad Lanning's presentation on the Water Supply Master Plan was not included at the committee meeting and requested the presentation be made to the Engineering and Operations Committees.
- Joey Leslie reported on the proposals received from consultants for AWIA Compliance and the selection criteria used. He stated that eight (8) firms responded. EMI was the firm with the highest score based on the committee's review.  
**Action:** A motion was made for the board to move forward with retaining the services of EMI by Mike Renshaw and seconded by Harry Sims. The motion passed unanimously.
- Joey Leslie discussed the request by Jackson County Water and Sewer Authority (JCWSA) distribution system to extend the waterline across the dam. He requested that UOBWA sponsor this project through the Safe Dams program with Jacobs' oversight.  
**Action:** A motion for the Authority to sponsor the project with JCWSA and allowing them to work with Jacobs for the project's design review and construction was made by Joey Leslie and seconded by Chairman Tom Crow. The motion passed unanimously.
- Joey Leslie reported on the request for a Specified Act Permit that Commissioner Mark Saxon investigated for requesting the clearing of saplings on a homeowner's property. After further inquiry, the homeowner no longer wished to conduct the clearing; therefore, the committee decided it was a non-issue.

- Joey Leslie mentioned that JCWSA is considering the sale of water to Madison County and it involves both the UOBWA and Jackson County. They are beginning that process and looking at how to comply with all contracts and agreements. He stated they were not ready to present this information at the present time and will continue to review.

### **Operations and Management Report**

The Bear Creek Dam, Reservoir and Water Treatment Facilities Operation and Maintenance Report was presented by Brad Lanning. No action was taken on this agenda item.

### **Executive Session**

There was no need for an Executive Session.

### **Public Comment**

Georgia State Senator Frank Ginn signed up for public comment. Senator Ginn discussed HB 825 that would make the UOBWA tax exempt. He recommended looking at both local legislation that involves the four (4) counties as well as state legislation for changing it.

### **Other Business**

- The Second Amendment to the Utilities Services Agreement was presented by Chip Ferguson. The UOBWA had previously discussed extending Jacob's service agreement another five (5) years. The contract was also moved to a calendar year starting January 1, 2021. Jacobs changed their name to Operations Management International, Inc. on the new contract. This had previously been approved by the board.  
**Action:** A motion to approve this item was made by Harry Sims and seconded by Mayor Kelly Girtz. The motion passed unanimously.
- Chip Ferguson mentioned he is preparing an amendment to local legislation on the HB 825 bill and will work with legislative counsel and Senator Ginn.
- Chairperson Graham reminded everyone of the next meeting to be held November 18, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. She also mentioned that Amrey Harden is running for Commissioner in Oconee County and appreciates everything he has done for the board. She also said they would need to fill the At-Large seat at the November meeting. Amrey Harden said he has really enjoyed serving on the board. Chairperson Graham requested the board members submit their nominations for the At-Large position to her, Chip Ferguson, or Burke Walker through email.

### **Adjournment**

With no further business, Chairperson Graham adjourned the meeting at 9:56 a.m.



Julie Ball  
NEGRC Executive Assistant

November 18, 2020

Date of Approval