



Date: October 17, 2024

Time: 12:00 p.m.

Location: Trumps Catering

Minutes

Members Present:

Ronnie Boggs
Michael Coile
John Daniell
Dodd Ferrelle
Pat Graham
Daniel Graves
Doug Haynie
Todd Higdon
John Howard
Tommie Jennings
Deborah Krause
Carol Myers
Bill Palmer
Fred Perriman
Billy Pittard
Shane Short
Lanier Sims
William Trimier
Brad Tucker

Members Absent:

Phil Brock
Tom Crow
John Daniell
David Eady
Kelly Girtz
Serra Hall
Bruce Henry
David Hunt
Jesse Johnson
Janet Jones
Terry Lawler
Dee Lindsey
Blake McCormack
Wendell McNeal
Jay Paul
Jim Shaw
David Thompson
DeAshley Thurman
Lee Vaughn

Guests Present:

Marty Clark, Jackson County
Stephen Goad, North High Shoals
Jim Hix, Jackson County BOC
Allen Hulme, Elbert County
Tony Rogers, DAJC
Carol Williams, WDB

Staff Present:

Amber Bailey
Mark Beatty
Carol Cofer
Peggy Jenkins
Sophia Primer
Burke Walker

Call to Order

Chairperson John Daniell called the meeting to order at 12:32 p.m. He asked that everyone rise and join him in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. Guests or visitors were invited to introduce themselves.

Chairperson Daniell informed the attendees that the September 19, 2024 minutes were distributed prior to the meeting. He called for a motion to approve the minutes unless there were any additions or corrections. A motion was made by Mr. Brad Tucker and seconded by Mayor Fred Perriman to approve the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.



Items of Local Interest

Chairperson Daniell announced that today, three counties would report on items of local interest. These include Newton, Oconee, and Walton Counties. He invited the county representatives to provide their reports.

Newton County – Lanier Sims

- Archer Aviation is nearing completion on their one million square foot facility in Covington. This company builds electric vertical take-off aircrafts.
- Georgia Piedmont Technical College is building a CDL truck driving range.
- Senior Services has broken ground on a new West side facility.
- The Industrial Development Authority and Chamber of Commerce worked together to send two tractor trailers full of supplies to Augusta to assist with Hurricane Milton relief efforts.

Oconee County- John Daniell

- The road project at State Route 53 at Snows Mill Road and Rocky Branch Road will begin in the coming months. ER Snell was the low bidder.
- Two roundabout projects should be opened for bidding at the end of October.
- William and Betty Dawson Park on Rock Branch Road is in the engineering phase. Preplanning with the engineering firm is underway.
- Heritage Park on Highway 441 will undergo improvements. Bidding should open for that project in 2025.

Walton County- Shane Short

- The \$140 million jail construction project is well underway. Work should be completed in six to eight months.
- The Hard Labor Creek Water Treatment Facility is nearing the end of its design phase. This project will cost an estimated \$160 million.
- A new \$40 million park is being built in Walnut Grove and it will include pickle ball courts.
- Activity on the economic side is doing well as several large projects are interested in Walton County.

Committee Reports

Audit & Finance – Mayor Fred Perriman

Mayor Perriman said the Audit & Finance Committee members met earlier today and reviewed one item that required Council action today.

The Committee reviewed the August 2024 financial statements for the 2st month of the fiscal year that reported revenues in excess of expenditures by \$264,748.83.

Mayor Perriman made motions to accept the August 2024 financial report. The motions passed unanimously.



Program-of-Work –Mayor Dodd Ferrelle

Mayor Ferrelle said the Program-of-Work Committee met prior to today's Council meeting and reviewed one technical-assistance request and one project closeout that required Council action today.

The project request included the following:

- The City of Social Circle requested assistance in updating their Comprehensive Plan's Future Land Use Element. The fee for this assistance is \$3,000.

The project closeout included the following:

- The City of Jefferson for facilitating an annual retreat for their Downtown Development Authority. The project completion letter was sent on October 4, 2024.

Based on recommendations by the Executive Director followed by the Committee's review, Mayor Ferrelle made motions to approve this project request and project closeout for inclusion in the FY2025 program-of-work. The motions passed unanimously.

Planning and Government Services – Mayor John Howard

Mayor Howard said the Planning and Government Services Committee members met earlier today and reviewed the progress and recommendations of criteria for updating the Regionally Important Resources (RIR) Management Plan, which the PGS Division began earlier this year. PGS staff have assembled a list of 100 environmental and cultural resources across the twelve counties and will begin incorporating these into the document and updating the mapping data associated with it. A draft document should be available for Council review in mid-2025.

There were no items requiring Council action.

Executive Committee Report – John Daniell

Chairperson Daniell stated that the Executive Committee met on September 26, 2024 to discuss three items. The proposed bylaws amendments were distributed to Council members with the meeting notice and include the following:

- To replace the Program-of-Work Committee Chairperson with the Personnel Committee Chairperson on the Executive Committee and to update the name of the Planning and Government Services Committee.
- To review and continue developing the proposed Remote Work Plan.
- To discuss the search for a new Executive Director.

The updated bylaws will be circulated before the November Council meeting and require a super majority for approval. Chairperson Daniell asked Council members to make every effort to attend the November meeting.



Chairperson Daniell stated that the Executive Director Selection Committee would include the NEGRC Council officers: Chairman John Daniell, Mr. Shane Short and Mayor Dodd Ferrelle. The Selection Committee will also include the Finance Committee Chair, Mayor Fred Perriman and the Personnel Committee Chair, Mayor Doug Haynie. Mayor Haynie has also appointed Mr. Bruce Henry and Mr. Ronnie Boggs from the Personnel Committee to serve on the Selection Committee. Eight resumes that met the Selection Committee's criteria have been received and will be reviewed by the Committee. The position announcement will remain active until the position is filled. All resumes are being submitted to NEGRC Executive Assistant and HR Manager, Amber Bailey.

Executive Director's Report – Burke Walker

Executive Director Burke Walker greeted the Council and thanked everyone for their attendance.

EDA Reauthorization

Executive Director Walker stated that an effort is underway at the federal level by a stakeholder coalition to support Senate Amendment 3103 that's included in the Senate National Defense Authorization Act. This amendment would reauthorize the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration (EDA). EDA is a federal partner with our Commission and other Commissions nationwide and provides funding to support our PGS staff and their economic development planning activities. EDA has not been re-authorized in twenty years so it's an important development for us and other Regional Commissions. The National Association of Development Organization (NADO) has provided information and a template for those interested in learning more. Please contact the NEGRC for more information if you're interested.

NADO Award

Executive Director Walker informed the Council that the NEGRC's Workforce Division received a NADO Impact Award for their "Educator Externships" Program. This year's awards were given across twenty-one states. NEGRC Workforce Division Director, Carol Cofer will formally receive this award in October at NADO's conference in New Orleans. We're pleased to receive this year's 2024 Aliceann Wohlbruck NADO Impact Award and are proud of the accomplishments of our Workforce staff and their school and employer partners.

DDAA Board of Directors

Executive Director Walker stated that the final meeting of this year for the Development Districts Association of Appalachia will be held in Greenville, SC from December 9-11, 2024. This will be his last meeting as a board member representing Georgia on the thirteen-state association. The DDAA supports its member organizations in programs in partnership with the Appalachian Regional Commission. Next year's appointment for a Georgia representative to the DDAA board will be made at the annual board meeting in March (9-12) 2025.



Georgia Transportation Infrastructure Bank

Executive Director Walker informed the Council that Graham Foster of GTIB reached out to ask for help in announcing their loans and grants programs for transportation projects for cities and counties. The application process begins on October 22, 2024 and continues through January 14, 2025. In past years, 10-12 loans and grants have been awarded annually and several of our counties have participated in the program. More information, once available, will be listed on the NEGRC website.

There were no questions or comments, so Executive Director Walker concluded his report.

Other Business

There was no other business.

Adjournment

With no further business before the Council, Chairperson Daniell adjourned the meeting at 12:49 p.m.

Amber Bailey
Amber Bailey, Executive Assistant
Northeast Georgia Regional Commission

01/16/25
Date Approved