



Date: February 20, 2025

Time: 12:00 p.m.

Location: Trumps Catering

Minutes

Members Present:

Ronnie Boggs
Marty Clark
John Daniell
Dodd Ferrelle
Pat Graham
Doug Haynie
Bruce Henry
Joe Hicks
Todd Higdon
John Howard
Tommie Jennings
Terry Lawler
Blake McCormack
Wendell McNeal
Carol Myers
Bill Palmer
Jay Paul
Fred Perriman
Billy Pittard
Shane Short
Brad Tucker

Members Absent:

Marcello Banes
Phil Brock
Michael Coile
David Eady
Kelly Girtz
Daniel Graves
Serra Hall
David Hunt
Jesse Johnson
Janet Jones
Deborah Krause
Dee Lindsey
Tony Rogers
David Thompson
DeAshley Thurman
William Trimier
Lee Vaughn

Guests Present:

Wendy Bond, Winterville
Beth Eavenson, DCA
Luke Hetland, Lt. Governor's Office
Allen Hulme, Elbert County
Ben McDaniel, DAWC
Jesus Rubio, Senator Warnock's Office
Cheryl Venable, Statham
Andrea Wiggins, Senator Warnock's Office
Brent Williams, ACCG
Srikanth Yamala, Barrow County

Staff Present:

Amber Bailey
Mark Beatty
Carol Cofer
Eva Kennedy
Toshia Lewis
Sophia Primer

Call to Order

Chairperson John Daniell called the meeting to order at 12:35 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 January 16, 2025 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. Bill Palmer and seconded by Mayor Dodd Ferrelle 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 Oconee, Oglethorpe and Walton Counties. He invited the county representatives to provide their reports.

Oconee County – John Daniell

- The county has several construction projects underway including new roundabouts at Snow's Mill Rd. and Rocky Branch Rd and at Snow's Mill Rd and Lane Creek. Construction will begin this Summer at the Oconee Connector and Virgil Langford and Jimmy Daniel Rd.
- The Wendell and Betty Dawson Park design phase is complete, and engineering will begin soon. Heritage Park will add equestrian facilities, mountain bike and walking trails. Oconee Veteran's Park will be adding tennis courts, and that project will go to the bidding phase soon.

Oglethorpe County- Jay Paul

- Robert Johnson, a former Chairman of Oglethorpe County passed away recently.
- The county and its municipalities have opted in on House Bill 581.
- Construction has been completed on the new kindergarten through fifth grade school and the transition to the new school was completed after Christmas.
- Sam Moore, the Chairman of Wilkes County, provided drone footage of sludge dumping in the area.

Walton County- Shane Short

- The new \$160 million jail will open in phases with the sheriff's office and administration moving in first.
- Construction on the \$102 million Walnut Grove Park is underway.
- The Hard Labor Creek Board accepted a bid for a \$120 million water treatment facility. This is a partnership between Walton and Oconee County and will produce about 12 million gallons of water a day for Walton County. Walton County currently purchases water from Newton County so in the future they'll have their own water source.
- Ben McDaniel, of the Development Authority of Walton County, assisted in closing out the project Sailfish data center, a \$17 billion project.
- The Monroe Car Show will be held on March 15, 2025.
- A new Thai restaurant has opened in downtown Monroe.

Committee Reports

Audit & Finance – Mayor Fred Perriman



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

The Committee reviewed the December 2024 financial statements for the 6th month of the fiscal year that reported revenues in excess of expenditures by \$444,953.79.

Mayor Perriman made a motion to accept the December 2024 financial report. The motion passed unanimously.

The Committee also reviewed the Architectural Professional Services Proposal for renovation of the NEGRC offices. The Regional Commission requested Council approval to use up to \$150,000 of the General Fund reserve for Goodwin Mills Cawood, LLC to provide basic architectural/engineering services and construction administration services for the process. GMC was selected through the competitive bid process. Prior to execution of the official proposal, it will be reviewed and approved by the Executive Committee and legal counsel.

Mayor Perriman made a motion to approve the NEGRC to use up to \$150,000 of its General Fund Reserve for GMC, LLC services, as presented. The motion 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 two (2) project requests and one (1) project closeout that required Council action today.

The project requests included the following:

- The City of Elberton requested assistance with a Rural Zone application. That assistance is planned to be provided in partnership with Electric Cities of Georgia. There is no fee for this assistance as that work is supported through the Commission's ARC contract.
- The City of Woodville requested assistance with a basic Comprehensive Plan Update. There is no fee for this assistance as costs are covered through the Commission's DCA planning contract.

The project closeout included the following:

- The grant administration assistance for Madison County's OneGeorgia funding that supported improvements to the Madison County Agricultural Center.

Based on recommendations by the Executive Director followed by the Committee's review, Mayor Ferrelle made motions to approve these project requests 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 had no items requiring Council action. The Committee discussed Phase 5 of the Georgia Department of Transportation's data collection initiative, REVAMP. The PGS Division will be performing the



work through 2025 in coordination with all other Regional Commissions, GDOT, and UGA. All transportation data collected is freely available to local governments at no cost, upon request.

Personnel Committee Report – Mayor Doug Haynie

Mayor Haynie said the Personnel Committee met earlier today and approved updates to the NEGRC's Remote Work Policy as recommended by the NEGRC Chairman and Executive Director. No action was required by the Council.

Executive Committee Report – John Daniell

Chairperson Daniell stated that the Executive Committee had reviewed updates to the NEGRC Council bylaws including the following:

- Removal of all references to "Associate Members"
- Decrease quorum size
- Clarify private-sector and state appointed member terms
- Change Executive Committee composition
- Update Personnel Committee responsibilities
- Update Local Government Services Committee (now Planning and Government Services Committee)

Mr. Brad Tucker made a motion to approve these Bylaws Amendments and was seconded by Chairman Todd Higdon. The motion passed unanimously.

Executive Director's Report – Eva Kennedy

Executive Director Eva Kennedy greeted the Council and thanked everyone for their attendance. She had one item to present that required Council action.

NEGRC History and the Area Agency on Aging (AAA)

Executive Director Kennedy discussed the results of the survey that many of the Council members participated in. She provided background information on how Regional Commissions were created and the changes they've undergone since their establishment. She also shared information on services the Area Agency on Aging provides and entities they partner with because the Council was considering a AAA resolution from the Department of Human Services.

Area Plan's Activities for FY2026

Executive Director Kennedy stated that the annual adoption of the Georgia Department of Human Services resolutions would authorize the continuation of the Aging Services and COVID-19 Response Services to the twelve counties in the Northeast Georgia region for the next fiscal year, which goes from July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026. This resolution would also authorize an update to the Area Plan's Activities for FY2026. Mayor Fred Perriman made a motion to approve these resolutions and was seconded by Mayor Dodd Ferrelle. The motion passed unanimously.



Legislative Updates

Executive Director Eva Kennedy stated that there were several House and Senate Bills that could affect those in our region. She discussed them and gave the Council brief descriptions.

There were no questions or comments, so Executive Director Kennedy concluded her report.

Other Business

Chairman Daniell reminded the Council that the next meeting would be held on March 20, 2025. He also stated that due to the Juneteenth holiday the June Council meeting will be held a week earlier, on June 12, 2025.

Adjournment

With no further business before the Council, Chairperson Daniell adjourned the meeting at 1:20 p.m.

Amber Bailey
Amber Bailey, Executive Assistant
Northeast Georgia Regional Commission

03/20/2025
Date Approved