



Date: February 19, 2026

Time: 12:00 p.m.

Location: Trumps Catering

Minutes

Members Present:

John Daniell
Dodd Ferrelle
Pat Graham
Daniel Graves
Doug Haynie
Bruce Henry
Todd Higdon
John Howard
Terry Lawler
Blake McCormack
Carol Myers
Bill Palmer
Jay Paul
Tony Rogers
Shane Short
DeAshley Thurman
Brad Tucker

Members Absent:

Phil Brock
Marty Clark
Michael Coile
David Eady
Kelly Girtz
Serra Hall
Joe Hicks
David Hunt
Tommie Jennings
Jesse Johnson
Janet Jones
Deborah Krause
Dee Lindsey
Demond Mason
Wendell McNeal
Fred Perriman
Amy Stone
David Thompson
William Trimier

Guests Present:

Beth Eavenson, DCA
Stephen Goad, North High Shoals
Sallie Painter, Collins-Ga-10
Ben McDaniel, DAWC
Randall Miller, Collins-Ga-10

Staff Present:

Amber Bailey
Mark Beatty
Amy Jones
Michele Kelley
Eva Kennedy
Mamie Mills

Call to Order

Chairperson Shane Short called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m. He asked that everyone rise and join him in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairperson Short informed the attendees that the January 15, 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. Daniel Graves and seconded by Mr. Doug Haynie to approve the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.



Items of Local Interest

Chairperson Short announced that today, Oconee County would report on items of local interest. He invited Chairman John Daniell to provide his report.

Oconee County – John Daniell

- Two Commissioners are up for reelection. Both candidates are currently running unopposed.
- State Rd. 316 and Jimmy Daniel Rd near the Oconee connector is under construction. The work should last approximately 2-3years.
- There are 2 roundabouts under construction on county roads and another will be built at Hwy 53 and Malcom Bridge Rd.

Audit & Finance Committee – Terry Lawler

The Audit & Finance Committee met earlier today and reviewed two (2) items that require Council action. The Committee reviewed the December 2025 financial statements for the 6th month of the fiscal year that reported revenues in excess of expenditures by \$497,049.93. There is currently 61% of the budget remaining this fiscal year.

Mr. Lawler made motions to recommend Council approval of the December 2025 financial statement as presented and was seconded by Mr. Doug Haynie.

The Audit & Finance Committee also reviewed a resolution to establish a Georgia Fund One account and to move \$1.2 million of the approved \$2.2 million building renovations budget to the new account. Mr. Terry Lawler motioned to approve this resolution and was seconded by Mr. Todd Higdon. The motion passed unanimously.

Programming and Government Services – John Howard

The PGS Committee met earlier today, and the following 5 project requests require action:

The five (5) project requests included:

- A request from the cities of Social Circle and Walnut Grove and the town of Jersey for assistance with their comprehensive plan updates. The fee for this assistance is \$6,000, \$6,000, and \$1,500 respectively.
- A request from the City of Bowman for assistance with preparing a grant application through the SRTA GTIB Grant and Loan Program. There is a \$500 fee for this assistance.
- A request from Athens-Clarke County for the provision of the Workforce Division's welding trailer during the month of March. There is no fee for this assistance.

The project closeouts include:

- A closeout for grant writing assistance for the City of Bowman. There was a \$500 fee for this assistance.



- A closeout for grant identification and writing assistance for the Town of Buckhead. There was no fee for this assistance.

Based on recommendations by the Executive Director followed by the Committee's review, Mr. Howard made motions to approve these project requests for inclusion in the FY26 Program-of-Work and was seconded by Mr. Terry Lawler. The motions 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 that required Council action.

NEGRC Closed for Renovations

Executive Director Kennedy reminded Council members that the NEGRC was closed for renovations and staff were working remotely but still available for in-person meetings.

Housing Roundtable

Executive Director Kennedy recapped the Housing Round Table that was held prior to the meeting. She shared a link to the Department of Community Affairs' interactive housing dashboard.

Area Agency on Aging Resolution

Executive Director Kennedy discussed the resolution which acknowledges and approves the authority of an individual at the NEGRC to execute and sign the contract with the Georgia Department of Human Services which would be binding upon the entity. This resolution authorized the continuation of the Aging Services to the twelve counties in the Northeast Georgia region for the next fiscal year (July 1, 2026-June 30, 2027). This resolution also authorized an update to the Area Plan's Activities for Fy2027. A motion to approve the resolution as presented was made by Mr. Terry Lawler and was seconded by Mr. Todd Higdon. The motion passed unanimously.

State Updates

Executive Director Kennedy discussed various updates from the State and mentioned Legislation that may be of interest to the Council members.

Workforce Round Table & March Meeting

Executive Director Kennedy stated that there would be a Workforce Round Table Discussion at 11:00 am on March 19, prior to the Council meeting.

Adjournment

With no further business before the Council, Chairman Short adjourned the meeting at 12:57 p.m.



Amber Bailey

Amber Bailey, Executive Assistant
Northeast Georgia Regional Commission

03/19/26

Date Approved