



Date: April 16, 2026

Time: 12:00 p.m.

Location: Trumps Catering

Minutes

Members Present:

John Daniell
Dodd Ferrelle
Serra Hall
Doug Haynie
Bruce Henry
Todd Higdon
John Howard
Janet Jones
Deborah Krause
Blake McCormack
Carol Myers
Bill Palmer
Jay Paul
Fred Perriman
Tony Rogers
Shane Short
Brad Tucker

Members Absent:

Phil Brock
Marty Clark
Michael Coile
David Eady
Kelly Girtz
Pat Graham
Daniel Graves
Joe Hicks
David Hunt
Tommie Jennings
Jesse Johnson
Terry Lawler
Dee Lindsay
Demond Mason
Wendell McNeal
Amy Stone
David Thompson
DeAshley Thurman
William Trimier

Guests Present:

Beth Eavenson, DCA
Stephen Goad, North High Shoals
Grace Martin, Bogart
Ben McDaniel, DAWC
Carol Williams

Staff Present:

Amber Bailey
Mark Beatty
Amy Jones
Michele Kelley
Eva Kennedy
Annette Miller
Sophia Primer

Call to Order

Chairperson Shane Short called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m.

Chairperson Short informed the attendees that the March 19, 2026 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. Fred Perriman and seconded by Mr. Blake McCormack. The motion passed unanimously.



Items of Local Interest

Chairperson Short announced that no county reports would be given.

Audit & Finance Committee – Fred Perriman

The Audit & Finance Committee met earlier today and reviewed two items that required Council action. The Committee reviewed the February 2026 financial statements for the 8th month of the fiscal year that reported revenues in excess of expenditures by \$371,472.36. There is currently 49% of the budget remaining this fiscal year.

Mr. Fred Perriman made motions to recommend Council approval of the February 2026 financial statement as presented and was seconded by Ms. Serra Hall.

The Committee also reviewed FY27 salary increases for the 35 current NEGRC staff members. All employees met or exceeded the established performance standards. Based on this, a two-step increase on the Performance Pay Matrix (PPM) is recommended for each staff member.

Mr. Fred Perriman made motions to approve the proposed two-step increase on the Performance Pay Matrix (PPM) for the 35 eligible staff members and was seconded by Ms. Serra Hall. The motion passed unanimously.

Programming and Government Services – John Howard

The PGS Committee met earlier today and reviewed four project requests and one project closeout

The four (4) requests include:

- Two requests for ARC grant applications from the cities of Hoschton and Elberton. There are no fees for this assistance.
- One request for retreat facilitation for the City of Social Circle.
- One request for comprehensive plan assistance from Morgan County.

There was one (1) project closeout for retreat facilitation for the City of Social Circle.

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. Bill Palmer. 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 no items that required Council action.



Updates

Executive Director Kennedy shared that renovation was progressing on the NEGRC building. The demolition was complete and the new sewer line had been installed. She thanked the Building Committee for their time and assistance.

She stated that NEGRC CFO, Sophia Primer, was working on the FY 2027 budget and the draft budget would be presented at the May meeting.

GARC

Executive Director Kennedy stated that the GARC Economic Development Conference would be held May 3-5 at Lake Lanier. Several NEGRC staff and Policy Member, Bill Palmer planned to attend.

DCA Rural Zone Application

Executive Director Kennedy stated the application period was open and this was the last year to apply. She invited Beth Eavenson of DCA to provide more information.

Legislative Session

Executive Director Kennedy gave updates on several items and shared a handout from GMA regarding Senate Bill 33.

Area Agency on Aging

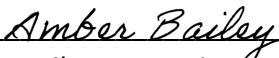
Executive Director Kennedy wished AAA Director, Michele Kelley, a happy birthday and gave an overview of the purpose of the AAA and the services they provide.

Other Business

There was no further business.

Adjournment

With no further business before the Council, Chairman Short adjourned the meeting at 1:01 p.m.



Amber Bailey, Executive Assistant
Northeast Georgia Regional Commission

06/18/26

Date Approved