



Date: June 18, 2026

Time: 12:00 p.m.

Location: Trumps Catering

Minutes

Members Present:

John Daniell
Dodd Ferrelle
Pat Graham
Daniel Graves
Serra Hall
Doug Haynie
Bruce Henry
Joe Hicks
Janet Jones
Terry Lawler
Blake McCormack
Carol Myers
Jay Paul
Fred Perriman
Shane Short
DeAshley Thurman
Brad Tucker

Members Absent:

Phil Brock
Marty Clark
Michael Coile
David Eady
Kelly Girtz
Todd Higdon
David Hunt
John Howard
Tommie Jennings
Jesse Johnson
Deborah Krause
Dee Lindsey
Demond Mason
Wendell McNeal
Bill Palmer
Tony Rodgers
Amy Stone
David Thompson
William Trimier

Guests Present:

Beth Eavenson, DCA
Stephen Goad, North High Shoals
Allen Hulme, Elbert County

Staff Present:

Amber Bailey
Mark Beatty
Amy Jones
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 April 16, 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. Brad Tucker. The motion passed unanimously.



Items of Local Interest

Chairperson Short announced that today, Clarke County, Elbert and Greene County would report on items of local interest. He invited the county representatives to present their reports.

Clarke County – Carol Myers

- Dexter Fisher was elected as the new Mayor of Athens after a run-off. He will be the first African American mayor of Athens.
- Three new commissioners have been elected.
- A TSPLOST was approved for 2026 with \$239 million. The commission voted to add a FLOST to the November ballot to offset property taxes.
- The new courthouse cost rose from \$77 million to \$225 million and will be located downtown. Funding options are still being explored.
- An affordable housing fund of \$6 million has been established and will provide loans to homebuyers.
- Ordinance changes will be voted on in August to allow smaller homes. Another proposed ordinance will allow second dwellings to be built on a property.
- The \$377 million 2027 budget passed and gave staff a 4% raise and the millage rate did not increase.

Elbert County – Allen Hulme

- There will be a meeting called to vote on the 2027 budget.
- An MOU was agreed upon to bring all school police officers back as part of the sheriff's department. The school system will reimburse the sheriff's office for those expenses.
- The Comprehensive Plan is being updated with the NEGRC.
- A \$3.5 million TSLOST road resurfacing project will begin soon.
- The Commissioners voted in favor of a moratorium on data centers.
- Al McCall was elected as the new County Chairman.
- The City of Elberton received a \$4 million GIFA loan to help fund major utility improvements, including a \$15 million water system upgrade, a \$10 million sewer system upgrade, and \$20 million in water treatment plant work.
- The splash pad is now open and has had large numbers of visitors.

Greene County – Terry Lawler

- Greene County is requesting the University of Georgia Carl Vinson Institute of Government to develop a new classification and compensation plan for full-time and permanent part-time positions covered under the County's personnel plan.
- Greene County is seeking assistance from Lord, Aeck, Sargent in assessing the historic courthouse and addition to determine the condition of the building, understand the character defining features, document the existing uses and provide programming and planning help for the future of the building.
- The Board of Commissioners adopted a zoning ordinance relating to Data Centers.



- The Commissioners agreed to new waste collection fees from Waste Management for residential carts from a 2025 rate of \$18.07 to a 2026 rate of \$18.92 as well as similar increases to commercial rates.
- A Memorandum of Understanding was made and entered into as of July 1, 2026 by the Greene County Board of Commissioners, the City of Greensboro, and the Greene County Board of Education, establishing a UGA Archway Partnership.
- The County will receive \$731,516.78 in Local Road Assistance funds from the Georgia Department of Transportation for Fiscal Year 2026.
- The Commission received an analysis from the county manager on the differences in the FLOST and a LHOST. Funds from a FLOST would significantly reduce county property taxes for all properties, while the LHOST covers 100% of 2025 county homesteaded property tax with funds to spare.
- In county commission races Terry Lawler won the only contested local race for county commission, district one.

Personnel Committee – Doug Haynie

The Personnel Committee met in April to get an update on the NEGRC staff and to conduct the annual performance review of Executive Director Eva Kennedy. In April the Committee reviewed Director Kennedy's report on her progress during FY26 as Executive Director. The Committee, in its evaluation, believed Executive Director Kennedy exceeded expectations for the year. Based on that review, the Committee recommends approval of Executive Director Kennedy's performance for this year.

Mr. Haynie made motions to recommend council approval of Executive Director Kennedy's performance appraisal and was seconded by Ms. Serra Hall. The motion passed unanimously.

Audit & Finance Committee – Fred Perriman

The Audit & Finance Committee had three items that required Council action. Last month the Committee reviewed the March 2026 financial statements for the 9th month of the fiscal year that reported revenues in excess of expenditures by \$259,696.55. This month the committee reviewed the April financial statements covering the 10th month of the fiscal year, which reported revenues exceeding expenditure by \$186,434.72. 38% of the annual budget remains for the rest of the fiscal year.

Mr. Fred Perriman made motions to recommend Council approval of the March 2026 and April 2026 financial statement as presented and was seconded by Mr. Blake McCormack. The motion passed unanimously.

On Thursday, June 11, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. a called meeting was held to discuss and approve a purchase order from ISC Consulting, NEGRC's IT service provider, exceeding the \$10K purchase threshold. The ISC quote for \$28,989.92 will reconfigure and consolidate the internet cabling from the 2 current locations into one centralized location to improve the NEGRC's network infrastructure. The cost of the ISC project will be funded out of the



General Fund's repairs & maintenance budget. The ISC Purchase Order was motioned for approval by Mr. John Daniell and seconded by Mr. Dee Lindsey.

Next, the Committee also reviewed FY26 Revised and FY27 Proposed budgets and their recommended funding. There was an overall decrease in the original adopted FY26 budget of 18% amounting to \$2,929,390.

The Division of Aging has an overall decrease of \$1,045,222 in expenditures including additional general fund match of \$5,165.

The Division of Planning & Government Services has an overall increase in expenditure of \$6,789 including additional match of \$4,006.

The Division of Workforce Development had an overall decrease of \$533,157 in expenditures.

The General Fund budget has been reduced by \$9,171 to fund Aging and PGS's additional matching requirements.

The Budgeted Fund Balance has been reduced by \$1,357,800 and moved to FY27

In reviewing the FY27 Proposed Budget, I call your attention to the following:

The FY27 budget is a balanced budget therefore, the revenues equal the expenditures.

The overall revenues and expenditures are projected to come in at \$13,251,271.

There is an overall decrease of 1.08% from the revised FY26 budget

The amount required to match the NEGRC's programmatic grants is project at \$352,702.

To comply with DCA requirements, the annual dues are calculated using the most recent estimates provided by the U.S. Census Bureau's population estimates program (PEP). This year's population numbers reflect an increase of \$32,778 in dues for fiscal year 2027 from \$709,853 to \$742,631.

Mr. Fred Perriman made motions to approve the FY26 revised budget and the FY27 proposed budget as presented and was seconded by Mr. Terry Lawler. The motion passed unanimously.

Programming and Government Services – Blake McCormack

The PGS Committee met earlier today and reviewed one project request and seven project closeouts.



The one (1) request included:

- Request from Athens-Clarke County to assist the University of Georgia Transit division with a transit development plan.

The seven (7) project closeouts included:

- Provision of the welding training trailer for the Athens-Clarke County Correctional Institution;
- Retreat facilitation for Elbert County.
- Two CDBG grant applications for Jackson County and the City of Oxford.
- Administration of an ARC grant for Madison County.
- Public survey assistance for Greene County.
- A trails master plan for Barrow County.

Based on a recommendation by the Executive Director followed by the Committee's review, Mr. Blake McCormack recommend approving the project request and closeouts for inclusion in the FY26 Program-of-Work and was seconded by Mr. Doug Haynie. The motion passed unanimously.

Council action is required for the adoption of the NEGRC's Regional Plan Annual Implementation Report. This report is required by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs and outlines the progress made during FY2026 on the Regional Plan Work Program. The PGS Committee recommends approving the report, as written, by resolution. Mr. Blake McCormack motioned to approve and was seconded by Mr. Brad Tucker. The motion passed unanimously.

The next item requiring Council action was the NEGRC FY2026 Performance Standards, stating that the NEGRC's work has been satisfactory for the fiscal year, and the FY2026 Program of Work Amendment for inclusion of all program requests for the year. The PGS Committee recommended approval of both items. Mr. Blake McCormack motioned to approve and was seconded by Ms. Serra Hall. The motion passed unanimously.

Lastly, Council action is required for the NEGRC's FY2027 Program of Work. The PGS Committee recommended approval of this item, as written. Mr. Blake McCormack motioned to approve and was seconded by Ms. Carol Myers. 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 that required Council action.

Updates

Executive Director Kennedy shared that renovations were still under budget on the NEGRC building and thanked the Building and Audit and Finance Committees for their assistance.



The NEGRC Division Directors attended a Carl Vinson Institute of Government training course in June.

The NEGRC welcomed Valyncia Trimier as the new AAA Fiscal Specialist in May.

Georgia Department of Human Services

Executive Director Kennedy discussed the resolution authorizing the Executive Director and Board Chairman to execute the DHS Georgia State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) and the Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act (MIPPA). SHIP is a volunteer-based program that provides free and unbiased information to assist beneficiaries and their caregivers on Medicare, Medicaid and other related health insurance. MIPPA funds assistance to low-income Medicare Beneficiaries with identifying and applying for cost-savings programs.

Executive Director Kennedy requested a motion to approve the resolution which would authorize continuation of these two programs in the twelve-county Northeast Georgia region for the next contract period, September 1, 2026 through August 31, 2027. Mr. Blake McCormack made motions to adopt the resolution as presented and was seconded by Ms. Carol Myers. The motion passed unanimously.

Celebrations

Executive Director Kennedy discussed the Senior Picnic held in May by the Area Agency on Aging for Older Americans Month. She also congratulated the two recipients of the 2026 BJ Smith Community Servant Awards. Souli Chavez of Commerce High School plans to study Forensic Science at Piedmont College and Sevariah Johnson of Apalachee High School plans to pursue being an Aesthetician after attending Athens Technical College.

Other Business

There was no further business.

Adjournment

With no further business before the Council, Chairman Short adjourned the meeting at 1:10 p.m.



Eva Kennedy, Executive Director
Northeast Georgia Regional Commission

9.17.2026

Date Approved