



September 17, 2026

12:00 pm

Trumps Catering (Athens)

Minutes

Members Present:

Marty Clark
Kirklyn Dixon
Dodd Ferrelle
Pat Graham
Doug Haynie
Bruce Henry
Joe Hicks
Todd Higdon
Jon Howell
Jesse Johnson
Janet Jones
Deborah Krause
Dee Lindsey
Bill Palmer
Jay Paul
Fred Perriman
Shane Short
Brad Tucker

Members Absent:

Phil Brock
Michael Coile
John Daniell
David Eady
Daniel Graves
Serra Hall
John Howard
David Hunt
Tommy Jennings
Terry Lawler
Demond Mason
Blake McCormack
Carol Myers
Amy Stone
DeAshley Thurman
William Tremier

Guests Present:

Sallie Painter, Mike Collins' Office
Wendy Bond, Winterville
Stephen Goad, North High Shoals
Grace Martin, Bogart
Ben McDaniel, DAWC
Asher Dozier, UGA
Carol Williams, WDB

NEGRC Staff:

Mark Beatty
Michele Kelley
Eva Kennedy
Amy Jones
Phillip Jones
Annette Miller
Sophia Primer
Kevin Rion (Contractor)
Vickie Scotland

Call to Order

Chairman Shane Short called the meeting to order.

Approval of June 18, 2026 Meeting Minutes

Short noted there was no quorum at the August meeting so action was still required on the June Meeting Minutes. The Minutes were distributed to members prior to the meeting.

Action: Brad Tucker made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Fred Perriman. The motion passed unanimously.

Reports of Local Interest

Todd Higdon shared his report from Madison County, noting the County recently finished their budget and significant developments are underway, including additional homes within the Rose development (at \$500K/acre) and a 900-acre industrial park on Hwy-98 by the Jackson County border. Higdon commented on the importance of supporting your staff.

Action: No action needed.

Audit & Finance Committee Report

Chairman Perriman presented the July Financial Report.

Action: Due to lack of a quorum at the August meeting, the Audit & Finance Committee moved to approve both the June and July 2026 financial statements, seconded by Tucker. The motion carried unanimously.

Programming & Government Services Committee Report

Brad Tucker provided the PGS Committee report.

Action: The PGS Committee moved to approve one project closeout, seconded by Doug Haynie. The motion carried unanimously.

Tucker presented the Resolution authorizing the NEGRC to apply for Georgia Department of Transportation Program 5304 Transit Planning funds.

Action: The PGS Committee moved to approve the authorizing resolution, seconded by Higdon. The motion carried unanimously.

Executive Director's Report

Eva Kennedy highlighted the workforce development ARCADE mobile unit parked out front for members to explore.

The City of Winterville invites everyone to attend their upcoming Arts + Health Lab, held in partnership with the Woodruff Institute on October 8th.

CDBG Awards were recently announced for the cities of Greensboro and Oxford.

The NEGRC is updating its Personnel Policy Handbook to reflect recent rule changes at the federal level regarding Conflict of Interest.

Mark Beatty will present information on the region's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy at the October meeting.

Action: No action needed.

Presentation: Data Centers and Community Decision-Making

Asher Dozier with UGA's Carl Vinson Institute provided a presentation discussing community decision-making and key considerations regarding data centers.

Other Business

The next meeting will be held on October 15th at 12:00 pm with Committee meetings at 11:30 am.

Adjournment

With no other business, Chairman Short adjourned the meeting at 1:12 pm.

Eva Kennedy, Executive Director
Northeast Georgia Regional Commission

Date Approved

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