



Date: August 20, 2026

Time: 12:00 p.m.

Location: Trumps Catering

Notes-No Quorum

Members Present:

Marty Clark
John Daniell
Dodd Ferrelle
Pat Graham
Doug Haynie
Bruce Henry
Todd Higdon
Deborah Krause
Terry Lawler
Dee Lindsey
Blake McCormack
Carol Myers
Jay Paul
Fred Perriman
Brad Tucker

Staff Present:

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

Members Absent:

Phil Brock
Michael Coile
Kirklyn Dixon
David Eady
Kelly Girtz
Daniel Graves
Serra Hall
Joe Hicks
David Hunt
John Howard
Tommie Jennings
Jesse Johnson
Janet Jones
Demond Mason
Bill Palmer
Shane Short
Amy Stone
DeAshley Thuman
William Trimier

Guests Present:

Wendy Bond, Winterville
David Burton, Jackson County
Beth Eavenson, DCA
Stephen Goad, North High Shoals
Luke Hetland, Lt. Governor's Office
Al McCall, Elbert County
Ben Ona, Winterville
Noah Roenitz, GMA
Cheryl Venable, Statham
Murriel Wiley, Jackson
Carol Williams, WDB
Colt Young, Winterville

Call to Order

Vice-Chairman Dodd Ferrelle called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m.

Vice-Chairman Ferrelle informed the attendees that a quorum was not established so all Council business would be addressed at the September meeting.



Items of Local Interest

Vice-Chairman Ferrelle announced that reports would be given by Marty Clark of Jackson County and Bruce Henry of Jasper County.

Jackson County – Marty Clark

- Siemens will open a facility in Jackson County that will provide 1400 jobs. This is a \$185 million investment in the local economy.
- A ribbon cutting was held for the newly renovated footbridge at Hurricane Shoals Park.
- A ribbon cutting was held at the renovated historic Braselton gym.
- New Kings Bridge Park is under construction, which is a \$30 million.
- A New Ems headquarters will open this year and provide training to high school students from the Empower facility.
- The correctional institute expansion which a partnership with Barrow County will be released for bidding soon.
- Several TSLPOST projects are underway.
- Brad Smith was awarded District Attorney of the Year for the state of Georgia.
- A grant was awarded to Iserve Ministries, a local non-profit that provides food and housings to families. The project is called Village of Hope and will help train, equip and encourage families in the community.

Jasper County – Bruce Henry

- A new 36-acre business park is opening.
- TNT Door and Drawer is now open for business.
- Dominos has opened a new store.
- A 34-home site on 81 acres will be constructed.
- Mill and Woods Authentic flooring has opened in the old Polytech building.
- The city of Monticello is annexing 642 acres to add to their current 700 acres.
- Monticello News has a new owner who has brought new life to the paper.
- Bruce Henry announced that Tony Rogers was no longer with the Development Authority of Jasper County and said that he would be missed.

Audit & Finance Committee – Fred Perriman

The Audit & Finance Committee met and reviewed one item that required Council action and would be addressed at the September meeting. The Committee reviewed the June 2026 financial statements for the 12th month of the fiscal year that reported revenues in excess of expenditures by \$303,840.91 pending the audit review in September. recommended funding.

Mr. Fred Perriman stated that these items would be considered at the September meeting.

Programming and Government Services – Carol Myers

The PGS Committee met earlier today and reviewed two project requests.



The one (1) request included:

- Request from the City of Covington to assist with preparation of a Community HOME Investment Program grant application for residential rehabilitation projects. The local fee for this project is \$4,000.

The (2) project closeouts included:

- Administration of A CDBG-RDF grant to rehabilitate the historic Blacksmith Shop for the city of Winterville.
- Assistance with performing a historic resource survey for the City of Monticello.

Based on recommendations by the Executive Director followed by the Committee's review, these items will be recommended for Council approval at the September meeting.

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.

Officers

Executive Director Kennedy welcomed everyone back for the start of the new NEGRC fiscal year and recognized the Council officers: Chairman Shane Short, Vice-Chairman Dodd Ferrelle and Secretary, Bruce Henry. There are five committees that Council members can request to be on if they're interested: PGS, Audit & Finance, Personnel, Awards and the Building.

Building Updates

Executive Director Kennedy shared updates and pictures of the NEGRC building renovations. The estimated completion and move in date is late October.

GIS Services

Executive Director Kennedy stated that the NEGRC would start offering GIS services to further assist local governments. Phillip Jones, NEGRC GIS manager, can provide assistance with a range of needs.

Workforce Career Arcade (Advance Rolling Career Awareness and Development Experience)

This arcade was funded through a Southern Crescent Regional Grant in collaboration with Clarke, Newton and Walton Counties. It houses heavy equipment simulators, virtual welding, a robotic arm, a 3-D printer and an interactive healthcare incubator to bring targeted hands-on experienced to middle schoolers. It will be parked in the lot for guests to visit at the September meeting.

Grants

Executive Director Kennedy state that the kickoff was successful for the seed grant that the Council approved the NEGRC to be the lead applicant for. This is a collaborative effort between



3 regions, 10 counties and a number of different non-profits. The summit provided attendees with a statewide context for water planning and identify priorities and other entities that will be involved. The grant award period is for 2 years and the NEGRC will provide GIS data collection services, strategic planning and help the group formalize the partnership.

Executor Director Kennedy stated that GIFA had grant opportunities available for water infrastructure planning.

The Georgia EPD has funding available for recycling and waster diversion.

The CDBG grant application period is approaching so if interested contact PGS Director, Mark Beatty.

September Council Meeting

Executor Director Kennedy stated that the Arcade would be available before or after the meeting. A representative from CVIOG will be speaking on policy and land use regulations regarding data centers that will assist communities in their decision making. She stated that the CEDS update process will begin later in the year. The NEGRC audit will be conducted in September and be presented to the Council at a later meeting.

GMA- Noah Roenitz

Executive Director Kennedy had no further business and introduced Mr. Noah Roenitz, GMA Manager of State Relations, to give an update on the 2026 legislative session, the special session and what to look for in 2027.

Other Business

There was no other business.

Adjournment

With no further business before the Council, Vice-Chairman Ferrelle adjourned the meeting at 1:17 p.m.