



October 15, 2026

12:00 pm

Trumps Catering (Athens)

Minutes

Members Present:

Marty Clark
Pat Graham
Serra Hall
Doug Haynie
Bruce Henry
Todd Higdon
Jon Howell
John Howard
Tommy Jennings
Deborah Krause
Dee Lindsey
Blake McCormack
Carol Myers
Bill Palmer
Jay Paul
Fred Perriman
Evelyn Reece
Shane Short
Brad Tucker

Members Absent:

Phil Brock
Michael Coile
Kirklyn Dixon
John Daniell
David Eady
Dodd Ferrelle
Daniel Graves
Joe Hicks
David Hunt
Jesse Johnson
Janet Jones
Terry Lawler
Demond Mason
Amy Stone
DeAshley Thurman
William Tremier

Guests Present:

Beth Eavenson
Stephen Goad, North High Shoals
Ben McDaniel, DAWC
Carol Williams, WDB
Murriel Wiley, JCCOC

NEGRC Staff:

Mark Beatty
Michele Kelley
Amy Jones
Annette Miller
Sophia Primer

Call to Order

Chairman Shane Short called the meeting to order.

Approval of September 17, 2026 Meeting Minutes

The Minutes were distributed to members prior to the meeting.

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

Reports of Local Interest

Blake McCormack shared the report from Morgan County, noting two new fire stations have been approved and the County received a grant for a new cardboard sorting facility. The

County is under a data center moratorium and development of a data center-specific ordinance is underway. McCormack also noted that early voting has begun.

Serra Hall shared the Newton County report highlighting Piedmont Hospital's new \$600M facility coming to a location on I-20 East, with estimated completion in 2029. The new Amazon data center is underway and is expected to be a \$18B investment, including a \$180M contribution to Water & Sewer Authority for water recycling. Hall noted that the project will utilize gray water recycling to mitigate any impacts on the local water system and supply. In addition, the largest Target Supercenter in the US is coming to Covington. Hall also shared that early voting has begun and that FLOST is on the ballot to eliminate residential property taxes for homeowners in the City of Covington.

Action: No action needed.

Audit & Finance Committee Report

Chairman Perriman presented the August Financial Report.

Action: The Audit & Finance Committee moved to approve the August 2026 financial statement, seconded by Hall. The motion carried unanimously.

Programming & Government Services Committee Report

Chairman Howard provided the PGS Committee report.

Action: The PGS Committee moved to approve two project requests, seconded by Tommy Jennings. The motion carried unanimously.

Presentation: Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)

NEGRC Planning & Government Services Director, Mark Beatty, provided a presentation on the regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). The CEDS update for Northeast Georgia is currently underway.

Action: No action needed.

Other Business

The next meeting will be held on November 19th at 12:00 pm with Committee meetings at 11:30 am.

Adjournment

With no other business, Chairman Short adjourned the meeting at 12:53 pm.

Eva Kennedy, Executive Director
Northeast Georgia Regional Commission

Date Approved

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