

NEGRC COUNCIL ELECTS PRIVATE SECTOR REPRESENTATIVES AND CHAIRMAN TURNER APPOINTS COMMITTEES

The Bylaws of the Northeast Georgia Regional Commission provide for Private Sector Representation from each of the twelve counties in the Northeast Georgia region. Nominees are chosen by the leadership of each of those counties and submitted to the Council for approval for a one-year term. Nominations were submitted by each of the twelve counties; and at the August 20th meeting, the following persons were appointed (or reappointed):

Wayne Bartlett	-	Barrow County
Lamar Houston	-	Clarke County
Bill Palmer	-	Elbert County
Valerie Duvall	-	Greene County
Josh Fenn	-	Jackson County
David Dyer	-	Jasper County
Roy Gandy	-	Madison County
David Bentley	-	Morgan County
Frank Turner	-	Newton County
Amrey Harden	-	Oconee County
Jesse Johnson	-	Oglethorpe County
Joyce Chambers	-	Walton County

Also, the Council has five standing Committees; and every two years the new Chair makes revisions. The revised Committees are:

Audit & Finance

Amrey Harden, Chairman
Ed Bullard
Anthony Dove
Lamar Houston
Wayne Bartlett
Roy Roberts
Jody Blackmon
Kevin Little

Planning & Government Services

Tommy Lyon, Chairman
Jerry Roseberry
Andy Ainslie
Linda Blechinger
Gene Trammell
Valerie Duvall
Cary Fordyce
Charles Ivie
Bill Palmer

Personnel

Emily Eisenman, Chair
Roy Gandy
Larry Guest
Jesse Johnson
Roy Plott
Greg Thompson
Louise Adams
Buddy Ouzts

Program of Work

Billy Pittard, Chairman
Ronnie Boggs
Keith Ellis
David Bentley
Josh Fenn
Phil Brock
Harry Knight
Charlie Crawford
Harold Horton

Human Services

Melvin Davis, Chairman
Tom Crow
Pat Graham
Fred Perriman
Nancy Denson
David Dyer
Joyce Chambers
Joel Seymour
Flemmie Pitts

The Chairman is an ex-officio member of each Committee. The Audit & Finance and Program of Work Committees meet every month prior to the Council meeting, and the other three Committees meet throughout the year on an "as needed" basis.

BOGART OPENS NEW FACILITY

The City of Bogart celebrated the opening of its "Historical and Agriculture Center" on August 4th during an evening event. The historic building was originally constructed as a vocational agriculture building with classrooms, a cannery, and meeting space. It was rehabilitated by the City in 2014 for Council chambers, a historical museum, and event space. The project received a 2015 Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation award for "Excellence in Rehabilitation."

The dedication event was attended by elected officials, residents, and members of the larger community. After a ribbon cutting ceremony, presentations were provided by several councilmembers, Representative **Regina Quick** (District 117), and the project Architect, **Hank Houser** of Houser Walker Architecture. After the presentations, attendees toured the museum and its gift shop and enjoyed cake and punch to the music of a live band in the building's event space. The facility is available to rent for special events and gatherings. A newly landscaped garden area is also available. For additional views visit: <http://www.houserwalker.com/#!bogart-town-hall-and-gallery/c1u97>.

The NEGRC assisted the City in the initial concept development for the building and later facilitated procurement of a project Architect. For information on historic building rehabilitation, contact **Burke Walker**, Director of Planning & Government Services, or **Jordan Shoemaker**, Project Specialist at (706) 369-5650.



Mayor Terri Glenn, Councilmembers T.L. & Linda Turman, and Chairman Melvin Davis cut ribbon

Councilmember Turman Presenting



WaterFirst

Committed to Caring for Our Water Resources

WATERFIRST WORKSHOP SCHEDULED BY GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

WHEN: September 9, 2015, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

WHERE: Central Georgia Technical College, 3300 Macon Tech Dr., Macon

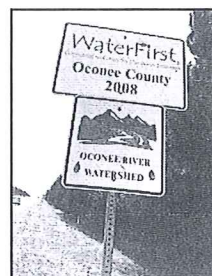
WHO SHOULD

ATTEND: Elected Officials, City/County Managers, Water/Wastewater Staff

This workshop has been designed for communities that are interested in applying for WaterFirst Designation. Communities will learn from those currently designated, how the process works, and benefits they have enjoyed. All elements of the program will be discussed with those that excel in each area. The deadline for registering is September 1st. The registration fee is \$25.00 and includes continental breakfast and lunch. We hope to see all of you there!

A review of the DCA website indicates that several Northeast Georgia communities enjoy the WaterFirst designation. Those communities and their year of designation are as follows:

- 2006 - Town of Braselton
- 2008 - Oconee County
- 2010 - City of Winder
- 2012 - City of Loganville
Newton County and the Cities of Covington, Mansfield, Newborn, Oxford, and Porterdale
- 2013 - City of Auburn
Athens-Clarke County
- 2015 - City of Monroe (Working for designation)



Georgia Department of Community Affairs

Oconee County WaterFirst sign along Hwy. 316

REMINDER

The next meeting of the Northeast Georgia Regional Commission Council will be held on **Thursday, September 17th at Noon at the Athens Holiday Inn**. Information on the meeting will be forthcoming.

NEGRC PROVIDES ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP

The NEGRC will host a **FREE** educational workshop entitled **Sustainable Economic Development: Strategies for more Resilient Communities** on Tuesday, October 20th from 9:30 a.m. – noon.

Workshop attendees will learn how to develop current and future economic development projects, hear about funding opportunities for sustainable projects, and learn about sustainable projects already taking place in the Northeast Georgia region.

Presenters will include:

- **Bob Thomson**, City Manager for the **City of Porterdale**, will speak about the success of sustainable development projects the City has completed along the Yellow River.
- **Michael Roberts**, Program Manager at **GEFA**, will speak on sustainable infrastructure and laying the foundation for a sustainable economic development project

- **Annaka Woodruff**, Program Manager at **ARC**, will speak on funding resources available for sustainable economic development projects

This will be an excellent chance to learn about great resources for your community and network with other communities in the region. The workshop will be held at the NEGRC at 305 Research Dr. in Athens. **RSVP by October 14th to jball@negrc.org or (706) 369-5650.**

CITY OF MADISON RECEIVES FUNDING APPROVAL

In July, the City of Madison received notification of a \$100,912 award from the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) Redevelopment Fund Program (RDF). The City, through the Downtown Development Authority of Madison (DDA), will use these funds to remove slum and blight in the Canaan Historic Neighborhood within the City of Madison. The RDF funds will be used in conjunction with funds allocated by the City of Madison for acquisition and grant administration, as well as an approximately \$22,427 contribution from the DDA and \$46,345 in private investment. These funds will finance the construction of a new commercial building following the demolition of a blighted commercial structure located at the corner of Fifth and Burney Streets. The DDA will lease the new facility for use as a corner pantry store providing basic goods and groceries to the local community. The primary goals of the project are to eliminate blight on an area basis and support the creation of two full-time permanent jobs, both of which will be provided for low- to moderate-income individuals.

The Redevelopment Fund program is extremely useful for projects that require improvements in traditional downtown areas and particularly single or detached commercial buildings that have multiple spaces. Madison is the fifth successfully awarded RDF developed by PGS staff. PGS staff is able to assist local governments with numerous downtown efforts including: development of Urban Redevelopment Plans (URPs), concept development of projects identified in the URP, and application preparation for potential projects. Communities without Downtown Development Authorities or other formally established organizations may also wish to consult PGS staff on their potential formation.

For information about the Redevelopment Fund (RDF) program or to discuss a potential project, contact Mr. Walker at **(706) 369-5650**. Information about PGS, its staff, and current news is available on the NEGRC website at www.negrc.org by clicking on the PGS tab.

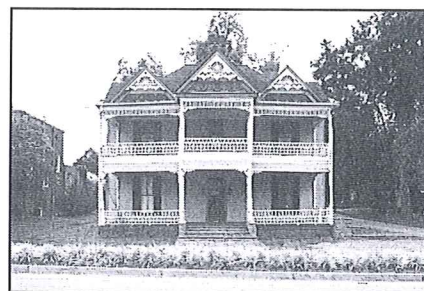
JEFFERSON UPDATES DESIGN GUIDELINES

The NEGRC's Planning & Government Services (PGS) staff recently had the opportunity to assist the City of Jefferson in updating its design guidelines. Design guidelines are used as an educational and planning tool in making appropriate exterior changes to properties located in designated historic districts. They also provide historic preservation commissions with a document on which to base their evaluation of proposed changes to properties within locally designated historic districts.

One of the project's objectives was to create design guidelines that were easily understood through the use of simple text and photographs. The photographs included in the final document, for example, were taken exclusively in Jefferson of existing historic properties. Another unique aspect of the design guidelines is the inclusion of two historic cemeteries, Woodbine and Paradise A.M.E.

The project, overall, was made possible by funding provided by both the City of Jefferson and the NEGRC's planning contract from the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA). Some design guidelines use text and graphics that are unoriginal; creating an unfamiliar document. The approach to the Jefferson project was to customize the content based on community input. PGS staff worked closely with Beth Laughinghouse, Jefferson Main Street Manager, in developing the design guidelines.

For additional information and questions regarding design guidelines and updates, please contact Ms. Shoemaker at jshoemaker@negrc.org or **(706) 369-5650**.



Historic Pendergrass House in Downtown Jefferson

PLAN IMPLEMENTATION MEETINGS SCHEDULED

The Planning & Government Services (PGS) Division staff have initiated work on FY16's Plan Implementation Meetings (PIM) for Athens-Clarke County, Barrow County, Morgan County, Newton County, Oconee County, and Walton County (and the municipalities therein).

The NEGRC must meet with each local government in the region once every two years, and elected leadership and key staff involved in implementing the comprehensive plan must attend. NEGRC recommends holding one meeting per county, with all local governments participating, to facilitate coordination and collaboration opportunities. Content includes discussion on use and implementation of the comprehensive plan, with a focus on how the Regional Commission can assist the local government with specific plan activities; PGS staff also review key components of the regional plan and regional resource plan.

In August 2015, Mr. Walker sent PIM-related letters to all chief elected officials within the counties listed above, and PGS staff will work with communities to schedule the meetings at an appropriate time for the local governments.

Please contact Senior Planner **John Devine**, AICP, at jdevine@negrc.org for more information.

PIM Schedule (Tentative)

Athens-Clarke County	January 2016
Barrow County	August 2015
Morgan County	September 2015
Newton County	October 2015
Oconee County	November 2015
Walton County	November 2015

PIMs for Elbert County, Greene County, Jackson County, Jasper County, Madison County, and Oglethorpe County will take place in FY17

Update

REGIONAL MEETINGS
SEPTEMBER

8	9:30 a.m.	ADRC Advisory Council	E.H. Culpepper Conference Room
9	1:00 p.m.	Solid Waste Management Auth.	E.H. Culpepper Conference Room
17	Noon	NEGRC Council	Athens Holiday Inn
17	3:30 p.m.	Rails to Trails Advocacy Group	E.H. Culpepper Conference Room
18	10:00 a.m.	NEGA Senior Center Directors	E.H. Culpepper Conference Room
22	2:00 p.m.	NEGA EMS Council	E.H. Culpepper Conference Room
23	9:30 a.m.	UOBWA	E.H. Culpepper Conference Room

~

Sincerely & Respectfully,

