



## NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR REGIONAL RESOURCE PLAN

As a reminder, the Planning and Government Services (PGS) Division will be updating the Regional Resource Plan, developed in 2010. As required by the Department of Community Affairs (DCA), this document identifies important natural and cultural resources throughout the twelve-county region and offers guidance for the protection and management of these resources. In addition, the plan is taken into consideration when determining and planning for the impacts of new development.

**The NEGRC is seeking nominations of important regional resources to be considered for incorporation in the updated Regional Resource Plan.** Individuals, interested organizations, local governments, and governmental agencies are eligible to nominate resources, which will then be considered by the Planning and Government Services Committee of the NEGRC Council for inclusion in the plan. In order to nominate a resource, please visit our website at [www.negrc.org/local-services.php](http://www.negrc.org/local-services.php) to access the nomination form. Nominations will be accepted December 1, 2015 through January 31, 2016.

Please contact Planner **Theresa Owen** or Project Specialist **Jordan Shoemaker** with any questions regarding the nomination process at [towen@negrc.org](mailto:towen@negrc.org) or [jshoemaker@negrc.org](mailto:jshoemaker@negrc.org).

## ATHENS-CLARKE COUNTY BOARDS MEET TO DISCUSS LONG-TERM STRATEGY

Athens-Clarke County hosted a meeting last month presenting preliminary information regarding the potential development of a 20-year Community Development Strategy. This strategy would engage a broad range of community stakeholders over a three-year period.

The NEGRC was asked to assist in the facilitation of the meeting at the request of **Blaine Williams**, Assistant Manager for Athens-Clarke County. The session, held at the Classic Center on November 11<sup>th</sup> included representation from seven major stakeholder representatives including Athens-Clarke County Unified Government, Athens Regional Medical Center, Athens Area Chamber of Commerce, Athens Housing Authority, Clarke County School District, St. Mary's Heath Care System and The University of Georgia. **Burke Walker**, NEGRC Director of Planning & Government Services, facilitated the session intended to discuss the process for developing the strategy. The session included two persons from each stakeholder representative whom were welcomed and provided opening remarks by Mayor **Nancy Denson**.

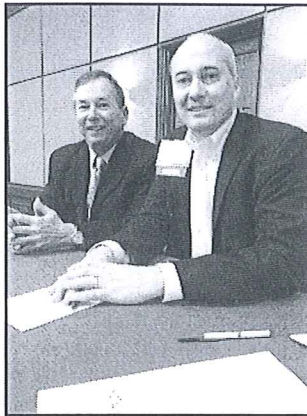
Several key ideas were identified by the group that included the need for strong collaboration that's grounded in a collective effort. The larger intent of the effort was also discussed that relies upon interconnectedness of issues with each respective board's goals. The group tentatively planned to meet again in December to further consider this unique plan and its potential development.

## NEGRC COUNCIL MEMBERS/STAFF ATTEND GARC CONFERENCE

The 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Training Conference of the Georgia Association of Regional Commissions (GARC) was held on November 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> at St. Simons Island. Council members attending included **Lamar Houston**, **Kevin Little**, **Tommy Lyon**, and **Billy Pittard**. Staff members in attendance were Executive Director **Jim Dove**, Executive Assistant **Mott Beck**, Comptroller **Evans Brinson**, Workforce Development Director **Carol Cofer**, Area Agency on Aging Director **Peggy Jenkins**, and Planning & Government Services Director **Burke Walker**. The event began on Wednesday with registration and the GARC Board of Directors' meeting. Speakers on Thursday included DCA Deputy



Commissioner **Christopher Nunn**, Healthcare Georgia Foundation President & CEO **Dr. Gary Nelson**, 8<sup>th</sup> District GDOT Board Member **Tim Golden**, and **Staci Guest**, Chief Tax Officer at the Georgia DOR. Speakers following lunch included **Todd Edwards** of ACCG and **Tom Gehl** of GMA, **Becky Kelley** of DNR, **Scott Maxwell** of Mathews & Maxwell, **Michael Roberts** of GEFA, Deputy Commissioner **Ben Hames** of DECd, **Scott Sherman** of GEMA, and **Dionne Lovett** of Coastal RC and **Gail Thompson** of Heart of Georgia Altamaha RC. The meeting wrapped up Friday morning with a presentation on Leadership Programs by ARC Director **Doug Hooker**. There were approximately 250 attendees at the Conference.



*Executive Director Dove and Christopher Nunn*

## COVINGTON HOUSING HOLDS CELEBRATION

The Covington Housing Authority held its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Luncheon on Thursday, October 29<sup>th</sup> at the Turner Lake Recreation Center. Housing Authority Executive Director **Greg Williams** served as Master of Ceremony and gave an overview of the organization's history. **Shamica Redding** looked into the Authority's future, and the keynote address was given by NEGRC Executive Director **Jim Dove**. NEGRC Council Member **Louise Adams** was the recipient of **Special Recognition** for service on the Authority Board and numerous other organizations. Several elected and appointed officials were in attendance. The Mission Statement of the Covington Housing Authority is as follows: **"The Covington Housing Authority provides affordable housing in a safe, friendly, and well-maintained community. We foster an atmosphere of hope, encouraging our residents to transition to full self-sufficiency, sincerely making a difference in the lives of the people we serve."** Congratulations to the Authority on the past 50 years, and we wish continued success during the next 50.



*L-R: Landis Stephens, Louise Adams, and Dove*

## SESSIONS FACILITATED FOR PORTERDALE AND OXFORD

A facilitated Blue Print Codification Work Session for the Village of Porterdale was recently undertaken by Executive Director **Jim Dove** and Executive Assistant **Mott Beck**. The session was completed over a period of two evenings at the Porterdale City Hall. Attendees included the Mayor and Council, members of the Planning Commission, Historic Preservation Commission, Covington Housing Authority, and staff. The group contemplated issues including community programming, economic development, organization, and design. The group reviewed and discussed existing and proposed projects and programs. They were prioritized and discussed in terms of resources needed. The initial session was held on September 8<sup>th</sup> and a second session was held on November 10<sup>th</sup>.

The Annual Retreat of the City of Oxford Mayor and Council was held on November 13<sup>th</sup>. The Retreat began with a presentation on Master Planning by **Kay Lee**, followed by an Audit report given by **Wayne Tamplin** and **Pat Malcolm**. City Manager **Bob Schwartz** made an informative presentation on Oxford's past and present. Executive Director Dove and Executive Assistant Beck led the Mayor and Council through an exercise focusing on sustainability in the City. Services discussed included water, sewer, public safety, library, hospital, public works, solid waste, cemetery, recreation, transportation, and transit.



*Village of Porterdale*



*City of Oxford*



## SETA FALL 2015 CONFERENCE HELD IN SAVANNAH

The Southeastern Employment and Training Association (SETA) Fall Conference was held September 13<sup>th</sup> -16<sup>th</sup> in Savannah. There were over 560 attendees from throughout the Southeast. SETA is a professional development organization for workforce development staff from the eight southeastern states.

Workforce Development Board members attending the conference included **Amrey Harden, Reg Woods, Brenda Lazarus, Lori Chafin, Winston Heard, and Andrea Daniel**, and those attending from the Workforce Development staff were **Carol Cofer, Rhonda Keeter, Arun Hariani, Kim Meadows and Rima Sullivan**. The Conference offered over 48 different workshops on a variety of topics including board development, finance, case management, youth, and dislocated worker and special population services. Focus of this conference was on the transition to the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) which replaced the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) on July 1, 2015. The U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration's Deputy Assistant Secretary Gerri Fiala was the opening speaker and provided attendees with an overview of the state of workforce development issues as well as a briefing on the transition to WIOA.

For information on WIOA services in Northeast Georgia, please contact the Workforce Development Division at **(706) 369-5703**.

### REMINDER

The Northeast Georgia Regional Commission Council **will not** meet in December. The next meeting will be held on **Thursday, January 21<sup>st</sup>**. Information on the meeting will be forthcoming.

## PLANNING IMPLEMENTATION MEETINGS HELD

The NEGRC, as part of its coordinated-planning efforts in partnership with the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA), meets every other year with each of its 66 local governments and their Chief Elected Officials (CEO) (i.e., Mayors and Chairpersons). These Plan Implementation meetings (PIMs) are scheduled by the NEGRC's Planning & Government Services (PGS) staff to discuss each community's local comprehensive plan. Written notices of the meetings are sent to each CEO that suggest a PIM date and, if necessary, accommodation for an individual meeting. In most cases, the PIMs are multi-jurisdictional with the county and its municipalities participating in a single PIM.

So far this fiscal year, PGS staff has conducted five multi-jurisdictional PIMs to date including Barrow, Morgan, Newton, Oconee, and Walton Counties. This year's PIMs will conclude with the Athens-Clarke County meeting that will be conducted in December 2015.

The meetings also provide a good opportunity for local governments to seek NEGRC assistance on projects identified in

their adopted Short-Term Work Programs. It allows PGS Staff to give a "planning physical" and learn the condition of local plans and how they are functioning within each jurisdiction. Most of the meetings involve multiple PGS staff so expertise in specific areas, like grant funding for specific projects, can be provided.

It is anticipated that during July-December 2016 the following PIMs will be scheduled for these counties: Elbert, Greene, Jackson, Jasper, Madison, and Oglethorpe. Letters announcing possible dates will be sent by the NEGRC well in advance for scheduling purposes. For information concerning PIMs, please contact Mr. Walker at **(706) 369-5650** or e-mail at **bwalker@negrc.org**.

## HOLIDAY OF GIVING

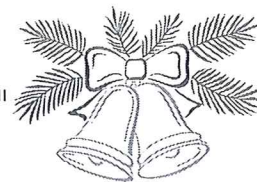
The holiday season is upon us again. As many of us get ready to prepare big meals for our families, we should also reflect on the one in six Americans who won't have a meal this season. During the holidays, hunger grows around the country and right here in our 12-county service area.

As local Senior Centers and other aging programs try to provide services, people are still going hungry. Our hungry neighbors include "America's working poor," hardworking families who struggle daily to put food on the table for their children. Our hungry neighbors also include hurting seniors who often have to choose between paying utilities and buying groceries.

Local Senior Centers are struggling to serve as many people as they can with their Meals on Wheels Programs which gets meals out to people who need them. Local Food Banks are struggling to keep up with the increasing need for food and other assistance. Programs like these need our help.

If you are interested in giving a donation, volunteering, sponsoring a person's meals, or organizing a fundraising campaign, contact the senior center located in your county. Furthermore, if you would like to host a food drive or organize a fundraising campaign, contact the Food Bank of Northeast Georgia at **(706-354-8191)** or the Golden Harvest Food Bank at **(800-776-7690)**.

For additional information on aging services, food assistance programs and other resources, contact **Megan Vogt** with the Northeast Georgia Area Agency on Aging at **(706) 583-2546**.



*The NEGRC Council and Staff  
Wish All of You a  
Safe and Happy Holiday Season!*



305 Research Drive  
Athens, GA 30605

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

PRSR. STD.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
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ATHENS, GA  
PERMIT NO. 502

*Update*

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**REGIONAL MEETINGS**  
**DECEMBER**

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9	1:00 p.m.	Solid Waste Management Authority	E.H. Culpepper Conference Room
15	1:00 p.m.	NEGA Emergency Medical Services	E.H. Culpepper Conference Room
17	3:30 p.m.	Firefly Trails Advocacy Group	E.H. Culpepper Conference Room



*Sincerely & Respectfully,*