

NORTHEAST GEORGIA REGIONAL COMMISSION
COUNCIL MEETING
MAY MEETING / ANNUAL MEETING
ATHENS HOLIDAY INN
MAY 19, 2011
NOON

MINUTES

The May Meeting/Annual Meeting of the Northeast Georgia Regional Commission Council was held on Thursday, May 19, 2011 at noon at the Athens Holiday Inn. Chairperson Stenette Brooks called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m.

Members Present:

Yearwood, Danny
Thompson, Chip
Mercer, Jim
Houston, Lamar
Lyon, Tommy
Bicknell, Hunter
Hill, Charles
Nalls, Billy
Dove, Anthony
Faust, Ron
Ainslie, Andrew
Perriman, Fred
Brooks, Stenette
Morgan, Kathy
Roseberry, Jerry
Turner, Frank
Walter, Joe
Harden, Amrey
Pittard, Billy
Crawford, Charles
Little, Kevin
Thompson, Greg
Knight, Harry
Roberts, Roy
Lewis, Vince

Members Absent:

Graham, Ernie
Denson, Nancy
Guest, Larry
Sanders, Bud
Wright, Glenn
Mayers, Tom
Joiner, Jim
Short, Shane
Newsome, Glenn
Gandy, Roy
Davis, Melvin
Yeany, Russell
Lee, Kay

Associate Members Present:

Horton, Harold
Seymour, Joel
Adams, Louise
Jackson, Julian

Guests Present:

Jamie Dove
Nancy Bobbitt
Bob Thomas
Marsay Simpson
Amy Huckaby
Peter Sherrard
Brent Buice
Stacey Jackson
J.J. Jackson
Charles Jackson

Staff Present:

Jim Dove, Executive Director
Mott Beck, Executive Assistant
Evans Brinson, Comptroller
Nina Kelly, Planner

WELCOME AND APPROVAL OF APRIL MEETING MINUTES

Chairperson Brooks welcomed members, guests, and staff. She asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the April meeting. Such a motion was made by Commissioner Tommy Lyon and seconded by Commissioner Kevin Little. The motion carried unanimously.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Audit & Finance: The Committee met prior to the Council meeting. Members reviewed the financial statements for the ten-month period ending April 30, 2011. A review of account balances indicates that the Regional Commission is in good financial condition. Cash and near cash assets exceed total liabilities, excluding the capital lease debt, by \$705,000. Revenues exceed expenses by \$1,122. Financial activity for the ten month period generally approximates 10/12ths of the annual budget. A motion to approve the financial statement as presented was made by Mr. Frank Turner and seconded by Commissioner Anthony Dove. The motion carried unanimously. The Committee also reviewed the revised FY2011 Budget and the draft Budget for FY2012. Copies of both budgets will be forwarded to the Council for review prior to the June meeting.

Program of Work: The Program of Work Committee met prior to the Council meeting to review the following technical assistance requests for the month:

1. **ELBERT COUNTY** – Hazard Mitigation Plan Development
2. **ATHENS-CLARKE COUNTY** – GIS Map for Greenway
3. **CITIES OF WINDER, SOCIAL CIRCLE, AND MONROE** – GIS Mapping assistance in providing 2010 Census data and other information to assist with redistricting
4. **BARROW COUNTY** – Facilitation with two efforts: (1) a review of the County's Personnel Policy; and (2) a review of the County's Urban Development Code

Based upon recommendation from the Executive Director, a motion to approve the technical assistance requests for the month for inclusion in the FY2011 Program of Work, effective May 19, 2011, was made by Mr. Charlie Crawford and seconded by Mayor Chip Thompson. The motion carried unanimously.

Planning Advisory: The Committee met on May 2nd at NEGRC headquarters. NEGRC staff continues to work with Georgia DCA staff to develop a process that will amend the Regionally Important Resources Plan. This plan may be amended to account for the potential addition of two newly-nominated resources. DCA has reviewed the Regional Assessment and Stakeholder Involvement Program, the first two components of NEGRC's Regional Plan 2035. Two minor comments on the documents were received. Committee members were given a revised calendar of stakeholder participation techniques that will be used to guide development of the Regional Agenda, the third portion of the Plan. The Committee discussed their visions for the region over the course of Plan 2035's

horizon; topics included natural and cultural resources, transportation and infrastructure, economy and tourism, livability and housing, and health and safety.

ANNUAL REPORT OF STAFF ACTIVITIES

Executive Director Dove gave an in depth report on staff activities for Fiscal Year 2011 and highlighted accomplishments of each division. He also advised that staff continues to facilitate administrative efforts relative to the Upper Oconee Basin Water Authority, and he and Executive Assistant Mott Beck continue to facilitate retreats/work sessions for local governments throughout the region. A total of 55 such sessions have been conducted to date. He advised that he and Ms. Beck have also been heavily involved over the past year with the T-SPLOST initiative. He and Ms. Beck reviewed 164 projects to ensure that they met the criteria and were complete. They were forwarded to GDOT Planning Director Todd Long prior to the deadline and are expected to be returned by June 1st. A copy of the Staff Activities Report is on file at Regional Commission headquarters.

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

The next item on the agenda was presentation of awards that are given annually by the Regional Commission. University System of Georgia Chancellor Henry M. (Hank) Huckaby was named recipient of the Robert L. and Betty Williford Distinguished Northeast Georgian Award. Mr. Huckaby was recently named to his current post and has enjoyed a distinguished career in state government. He has taught at the college level and has served in a number of key administrative positions within the University System of Georgia. These include working in the area of admissions early in his career at Georgia State University and Gordon College. Later he served as Director of the Fiscal Research Program at Georgia State, Director of the Carl Vinson Institute of Government at the University of Georgia, and Senior Vice President of Finance and Administration at UGA. He also served in the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget, first as a Senior Policy Coordinator and then as Director from 1991 to 1995. He also served as Interim Chief Financial Officer for Governor Sonny Perdue during Perdue's transition period. On two occasions he headed key state agencies. From 1977 to 1980, he was Commissioner of the Department of Community Affairs, and from 1980 to 1991, he was Executive Director of the Georgia Residential Finance Authority. He recently resigned his seat as a member of the Georgia House of Representatives to accept his current position.

Monroe City Manager Julian Jackson was honored as Local Government Administrator of the Year. Mr. Jackson has served in that position since March 2000 and is responsible for coordinating the day-to-day activities of seven operating departments with over 225 employees. The annual operating and capital budgets he prepares and administers total \$46.4 million. He served multiple terms as Walton County's Municipal Representative to the NEGRDC Board of Directors, and is currently an Associate Member of the NEGRC Council.

For the first time, Bicycle Friendly Northeast Georgia Awards were presented in conjunction with this meeting. Planning and Government Services staff worked with the Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Task Force to develop this program to celebrate the local governments, organizations, and businesses that encourage bicycling and bicycle commuting in the region. The application was available for two weeks in late March/early April, and award levels were determined by the total number of points scored. This year, Oxford College of Emory University was designated at the Gold level, while Georgia Bikes! was designated at the Bronze level.

RC Chairperson Stenette Brooks was honored for her service during the past 30 months. She completed the unexpired term of a former Board Chair before being elected to a full two year term. She joined the former NEGRDC Board in 1998 as Morgan County Private Sector Representative. For many years, she was a very active member of our Program of Work Committee before serving as Secretary and Vice Chair. She received her Undergraduate and Doctor of Veterinary Medicine Degrees from the University of Georgia, and has been in practice for more than three decades.

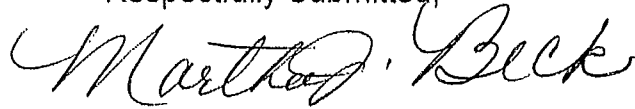
OTHER BUSINESS

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, June 16.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Martha J. Beck
Executive Assistant