

**NORTHEAST GEORGIA REGIONAL COMMISSION  
COUNCIL MEETING  
ATHENS HOLIDAY INN  
JUNE 21, 2018  
NOON**

**MINUTES**

**Members Present:**

Blechinger, Linda  
Denson, Nancy  
Ferrelle, Dodd  
Houston, Lamar  
Lyon, Tommy  
Palmer, Bill  
Smith, Jeffery  
Crow, Tom  
Workman, Stone  
Scarborough, John  
Ainslie, Andy  
Bentley, David  
Banes, Marcello  
Roseberry, Jerry  
Turner, Frank  
Daniell, John  
Harden, Amrey  
Berry, Rick  
Boggs, Ronnie  
Little, Kevin  
Dally, Hal  
Chambers, Joyce  
Fordyce, Cary  
Ledford, Howard

**Members Absent:**

Graham, Pat  
Jennings, Tommy  
Guest, Larry  
Brock, Phil  
Rhodes, Lee  
Haynie, Doug  
Shaw, Jim  
Pennamon, Carl  
Dyer, Dave  
Blackmon, Jody  
Padilla, Bob  
Perriman, Fred  
Pittard, Billy  
O'Rourke, Tate  
Roberts, Roy

**Staff Present:**

Jim Dove, Executive Director  
Mott Beck, Executive Assistant  
Burke Walker, Planning & Government Services Director  
Carol Cofer, Workforce Development Director  
Alicia Page, Comptroller

**Associate Members Present:**

Seymour, Joel  
Adams, Louise

**Guests Present:**

T.K. Adams  
Beth Eavenson  
Andy Pippin  
Andrew Seaver  
Ben Stout  
Drew Ferguson

**CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF MAY MEETING MINUTES**

Chairman Jerry Roseberry called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m. He welcomed members, guests, and staff and asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the May minutes. **Such a motion was made by Mr. Frank Turner and seconded by Mayor Linda Blechinger. The motion carried unanimously.**

## **ITEMS OF LOCAL INTEREST**

**Jackson County:** Commission Chairman Tom Crow reported that the Annual Strategic Planning Retreat facilitated by Executive Director Dove and Executive Assistant Mott Beck was very productive. Industrial growth in Jackson County continues to increase, and the County has 11.5 million sq. ft. of spec buildings space that are either under construction, complete and available, or planned. New companies that have located in the County, or in the process of locating, are Amazon, FedEx Ground, Uline, and First American Resources. Amazon will invest approximately \$40 million and has hired 1,000 employees; FedEx investment will total \$87 million and employ 398; Uline investment is approximately \$20 million and employment is not known at this time; and First American Resources is investing approximately \$24 million and hiring 200 employees.

**Jasper County:** The City of Monticello has completed the purchase of 705 acres just outside the City Limits on Highway 11, which includes a 58 acre reservoir permitted to provide 2.8 MGD. The total cost of the property was just over \$3 million, and it has now been annexed into the City. The budget has been completed, and the millage rate was decreased by approximately ½ mil. Cost of electricity provided by the City has not increased in the last three years.

**Morgan County:** Citizens recently passed the 2019 SPLOST referendum. One of the main items to be addressed in this SPLOST is the bond payments for the Public Safety Complex, which will be paid off in 2022. The City of Madison is planning for a state-of-the-art senior living community that will offer an array of health and wellness services to its residents. This project proposes approximately 250 housing units and an 80 bed memory care facility to be built on 74 acres between Bethany Road and 441. The Board of Commissioners held a spring retreat on June 14<sup>th</sup>, and items discussed included the Fire Department, T-SPLOST, Properties and Facilities, Public Works/Sanitation, Recreation, and Animal Control. The County has finalized the budget including a tax rollback and 3% COLA raises.

**Newton County:** There has been a lot of activity in regards to possibly locating a business in the County. Five existing companies are in the process of expanding. Facebook construction has begun, with over 400 construction workers on site and 13 jobs in the beginning. A new program, Mind Play, will make a trail run beginning in the fall. The County is planning to purchase land in the Oxford area for a new fire department. The budget process is ongoing, and the annual fireworks show is planned for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Audit & Finance:** The Committee met prior to the Council meeting, and members reviewed the financial statements for the ten-month period ending April

30, 2018. Revenues exceeded expenditures by \$185,528.57. Financial activity for the ten-month period should be at approximately 17% of the remaining FY2018 Budget projections overall. **A motion to accept the financial report as presented was made by Mr. Amrey Harden and seconded by Commissioner Tommy Lyon. The motion carried unanimously.**

**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. **CITY OF BOWMAN** - Assistance in developing an update to their Comprehensive Plan. The fee for this assistance is \$1,500.
2. **CITY OF GREENSBORO** - Assistance in developing a Rural Zone application through the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA). The fee for this assistance is \$1,500.

Based upon recommendation of the Executive Director, **a motion to accept the technical assistance requests for the month for inclusion in the FY18 Program of Work, effective June 21, 2018, was made by Mayor Rick Berry and seconded by Mr. David Bentley. The motion passed unanimously.**

**Personnel:** Committee Chairman Kevin Little advised that the Committee met in April to conduct the annual evaluation of the Executive Director. He expressed appreciation for Mr. Dove's outstanding leadership. He said, "It is indeed an honor to have him as Executive Director of our Regional Commission, and he is the reason we have such a superb reputation throughout the state and nation!" **A motion was made by Chairman Little and seconded by Mr. Bentley to accept the evaluation stating that Executive Director Dove "EXCEEDED EXPECTATIONS." The motion carried unanimously.**

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Dove attended the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) Board of Directors meeting on June 2<sup>nd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> in La Jolla, California. The organization embarked on a strategic planning process to guide efforts through 2030. The initial stage of the process involved review of emerging global issues and how they impact constituencies served by regional development organizations. Board members participated in breakout sessions to discuss various future scenarios and contributed input on NADO's outlook and direction. Results from the planning session are being compiled, and the process will move forward with involvement from NADO's national membership. He has served on the NADO Board of Directors for over a decade.

Mr. Dove has been asked to attend a pre-planning meeting with the House Rural Development Committee Co-chairs Terry England and Jay Powell on Tuesday, June 26<sup>th</sup> in Forsyth. This meeting is being held in advance of the meeting in Elberton on August 14<sup>th</sup> and 15.

Council Member Lamar Houston and Mr. Dove will be traveling to Macon on August 2<sup>nd</sup> for the Georgia Association of Regional Commissions quarterly meeting. This will be a facilitated meeting to develop a Plan of Action for the next few years.

The new Auditors, Rushton from Gainesville, will be at the Regional Commission in July to conduct the FY18 Audit. They have been gathering information and setting meetings with various staff. It is anticipated that the Audit will be presented to the Council in September.

As reported in Commissioner Crow's report, Ms. Beck and Mr. Dove facilitated the Annual Strategic Planning Retreat for the Jackson County Board of Commissioners on Wednesday, June 20<sup>th</sup>. The BOC discussed the past year's accomplishments, financial matters, public development, pay and benefits, and economic development efforts, among others.

### **RECOMMENDATION ON THE REVISED FY18 AND PROPOSED FY19 BUDGETS**

At this time, Mr. Harden presented the Revised FY18 and Proposed FY19 Budgets. There was an overall increase from the originally adopted FY18 budget of 6.98% as shown below:

- Community Based Services: Increase of \$266,567 (\$10,500 used for Community Gardens, \$23,940 put in Coordinated Transportation and remaining \$232,127 was given to all Senior Centers to take people off the Home Delivered Meals waiting list)
- Nutrition Services Incentive Program (NSIP): Increase in federal funding in the amount of \$23,386 and increase in state funding in the amount of \$52,282 for meals.
- Money Follows the Person (MFP): Increase in Transition Coordination in the amount of \$52,255.
- Money Follows the Person Maximum Indirect Costs: Increase of \$5,225
- GeorgiaCares CMS-SHIP: Increase of \$7,000.
- Several minor increases and decreased of less than \$5,000 per funding source.

The above amounts resulted in an overall increase in revenues for the revised FY18 budget of \$827,063 from the originally adopted FY18 budget. Other revisions included the purchase of three training trailers for WIOA in the amount of approximately \$650,000, new computers for PGS staff, and an additional payment to GMEBS of up to \$100,000 to go toward the NEGRC pension liability.

The Proposed FY19 Budget is being presented as a balanced budget and therefore the revenues equal the expenditures. The overall Revenues and Expenditures for the proposed FY19 budget are projected to be approximately \$13,407,845. There is an overall decrease of about 3.22% from the Revised FY2018 Budget due to a reduction in funding in our Aging Division and Member Dues. This budget includes the purchase of a new website for the Regional Commission with a budget of \$55,000 for development, design, and launch. The amount necessary to match the different grants

that the Regional Commission receives is projected to be \$366,248. Considering the amount of federal and state dollars to be received, the leveraging effect of local funds is significant. For every \$1 dollar paid in dues the region will receive \$21.01 in federal and state funding. To comply with the Department of Audit recommendations, dues are calculated using the most recent region population figures. This results in a decrease of \$17,720 in dues for the fiscal year 2019.

The Audit & Finance Committee reviewed both budgets, and it is their recommendation to adopt both the Revised FY18 Budget and the Proposed FY19 Budget as presented. **A motion to accept the recommendation of the Committee, and adopt both the Revised FY18 and the Proposed FY19 Budgets was made by Mr. Harden and seconded by Mr. Bill Palmer. The motion carried unanimously.**

### **RECOMMENDATION ON THE FY19 PROGRAM OF WORK**

At this time, Mr. Dove presented the FY2019 Program of Work. As in past years, NEGRC has an ambitious Program of Work and has included all items required by State and Federal grantor agencies. The Regional Commission will be continuing a number of ongoing efforts and will continue to present new technical assistance requests to the Council each month for approval and inclusion in the Annual Program of Work. He asked PGS director Burke Walker to come forward and give a few highlights of his division's projects, followed by Workforce Development Director Carol Cofer with highlights of that division. In the PGS Division, highlights include scheduling and conducting Plan implementation meetings with elected leadership and key staff for six NEGRC counties and their municipalities, assisting local governments in providing accurate address and boundary data for the Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA), assisting individual counties with Map-21 and updating transportation data in coordination with GDOT, and continuing updates to comprehensive plans. In the Workforce Development Division, staff will continue to provide staff support to elected officials and Workforce Development Board in the full implementation of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act in the region, provide staff support to the Workforce Development board during member recruitment, appointment and orientation process, utilize computer mobile learning labs to provide access to services throughout the region, and provide staff support to the implementation of the purchase and operation of Occupational Skills Training Trailers for welding and industrial mechanics for full implementation and utilization. This is only a few highlights of the numerous services provided to our local governments throughout the year. **A motion to adopt the FY2018 Program of Work was made by Mayor Blechinger and seconded by Commissioner Lyon. The motion carried unanimously.**

### **REVIEW OF PERFORMANCE STANDARDS**

As customary each year in June, the Council conducts the annual NEGRC evaluation based on Performance Standards adopted in September 2009. Mr. Dove read the standards, and a **motion stating that the Regional Commission has met**

**the Performance Standards was made by Commissioner Lyon and seconded by Commissioner Little. The motion carried unanimously.**

**OTHER BUSINESS**

The Council will not meet in July. The next meeting will be held on August 16<sup>th</sup>.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Martha J. Beck  
Executive Assistant