

Council of Chief Elected Officials of Northwest Georgia

Thursday, January 18, 2024, 10:00 a.m.
Rome Civic Center
Rome, Georgia

Attendance

CCEOs Present or Represented, County:

Steve Taylor, Bartow
Blake Elsberry, Chattooga
Alex Case, Dade
Ted Rumley, Dade
Jamie Hensley, Fannin (proxy, Ted Rumley)
Allison Watters, Floyd
Charlie Paris, Gilmer
Bud Owens, Gordon
Ronnie Ridley, Haralson
AJ Scott, Haralson
K. W. Gong, Murray
Greg Hogan, Murray
David Carmichael, Paulding (proxy, Ted Rumley)
Jessica Payton, Polk
Shannon Whitfield, Walker
Ken Gowin, Whitfield (proxy, Ted Rumley)
Jevin Jenson, Whitfield

CCEOs Not Present or Represented, County

Al Pallone, Bartow*
Larry Black, Catoosa
Nick Millwood, Catoosa
Harry Harvey, Chattooga
Rhonda Haight, Fannin
Craig McDaniel, Floyd
Al Hoyle, Gilmer
Jimmy Palmer, Gordon
James Kelly, Paulding
Kirk Raffield, Pickens
Kris Stancil, Pickens
Hal Floyd, Polk
Teddy Harris, Walker**

Guests/Staff:

Boyd Austin
Lesia Lambert
Terri Morgan
Anthony Rucker

*deceased
**vacancy

I. Welcome Ted Rumley

Ted Rumley, Chairman of the Council of Chief Elected Officials called the meeting to order and welcomed those present. It was established that a quorum was present.

II. Consent Agenda Ted Rumley

Mr. Rumley informed those present that **minutes** from the November 15, 2023 Joint Meeting (attached) had been e-mailed and were also attached for review. Steve Taylor made the motion to accept the minutes. Bud Owens seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

III. Fiscal Report Anthony Rucker

Anthony Rucker presented a fiscal report (attached) encompassing the Adult, Dislocated Worker, QUEST, Rapid Response, and Youth programs. Greg Hogan made the motion to approve this report. Allison Watters seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

III. Workforce Development Board Membership Lesia Lambert

Lesia Lambert informed those present that Jason Mock, President & CEO, Greater Dalton Chamber, nominated Laura Wood, Senior Talent Acquisition Program Manager, Mohawk Industries, to fill a Business Services Representative vacancy on the Workforce Development Board. Jevin Jenson made the motion to approve this nomination. Charlie Paris seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

IV. Workforce Development Board Report Lesia Lambert

A. Georgia Northwestern Technical College Request

Ms. Lambert reported that Georgia Northwestern Technical College (GNTC) submitted a request (handout attached) for an increase in the tuition and support service budget line items in the current contract budget. This request is needed to cover the contractor's shortfall in the budget projection, and an underestimation of students' tuition and support costs.

GNTC requested an additional \$48,000 in the tuition line item to cover an additional 19 QUEST slots and the shortfall in the tuition line item for Adult funds. In addition, \$128,000 was requested in the support line item to serve student enrollments. They are contracted to serve 168 new contract enrollments and currently serve 122 of the 168 new enrollments.

Ms. Lambert stated staff recommended approving the request of **\$176,000**, to cover the tuition and support costs, increasing the current budget from **\$1,152,806 to \$1,328,806**. The Workforce Development Board approved this request and recommends CCEO approval. Bud Owens made the motion to approve this request. Greg Hogan seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Rapid Response Report

Ms. Lambert presented a "Worksource Northwest Georgia Rapid Response/Dislocation Report" (attached) regarding the closures of Summit Hill Food (Rome, Georgia) and Unique Fabricating (LaFayette, Georgia). She reported that Worksource Northwest Georgia and partners provided resources and information about occupational skills training and employment opportunities to the impacted workers.

C. Demand Occupations Lesia Lambert

Ms. Lambert informed those present with an updated list of demand occupations for Northwest Georgia (attached). She stated that the Technical College System of Georgia, Office of Workforce Development, assisted with updating the list.

IV. Change in Meeting Location (March 2024) Lesia Lambert

Ms. Lambert reminded those present that the Northwest Georgia Regional Commission Council would be meeting at the Catoosa College and Career Academy in Ringgold, Georgia, on March 21, 2024. She asked that the CCEOs approve this change in location. Alex Case made the motion to approve this change. Allison Watters seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Other

Ms. Lambert informed those present that the Boyd Austin, Executive Director, Northwest Georgia Regional Commission, had received a letter from Bruce Thompson, Commissioner, Georgia Department of Labor (GDOL), informing him of the GDOL's decision to terminate the One-Stop Operator contract. She stated that more information is being sought and that Mr. Austin will write a letter to obtain clarification from Mr. Thompson. Technical assistance from the Technical College System of Georgia advised that procurement for a new One-Stop provider begin in a timely fashion.

Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.