**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**WWDA Board of Directors**

**June 4, 2025**

**11:00 A.M.**

**2855 Forest Drive**

**Waycross, Ga 31503**

**Board Members Present: Board Members Absent:**

James Willis Candice Moody-Rice

Dan Good Stephen Burse

Rusty Hall

Brian Jackson

Daniel Morris

**Board Members Present via Teleconference: Staff Members Present:**

Michael Angelo-James Jason Rubenbauer

 Chase McDonald

* **Call to Order**

Chairman James Willis called the June 4th, 2025, meeting to order at 9:07 A.M.

* **Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance**

Rusty Hall provided the invocation and led the board in the pledge of allegiance.

* **Approval of Agenda**

Dan Good motioned to approve the agenda as presented. Daniel Morris seconded the motion. All present members voted aye and the motion passed unanimously.

* **Approval of Minutes**
	+ Regular Meeting May 7, 2025

Daniel Morris motioned to approve the May 7th meeting minutes. Rusty Hall seconded the motion. All present members voted aye and the motion passed unanimously.

* **Approval of Financial Reports**
	+ April 30, 2025

Jason Rubenbauer presented the April 30th financial reports, highlighting that expenses are down year-over-year. Following discussion pertaining to SPLOST projections, Dan Good motioned to approve the financial report as presented. Brian Jackson seconded the motion. All present members voted aye and the motion passed unanimously.

* **Community Reports**
	+ Waycross-Ware County Chamber of Commerce

Jason Rubenbauer updated the board on the strengthening relationship with the Chamber and its new president, announcing that we are closely collaborating on a few projects.

* + Downtown Waycross Development Authority
	+ Waycross Convention & Visitors Bureau
	+ Coastal Pines Technical College
	+ South Ga. State College

Taylor Hereford provided an update on SGSC’s newly founded Rodeo club, speaking on their success in attracting students from around the region.

* + Ware County Board of Education
* **Old Business**
	+ Update on Land Clearing Project

Jason Rubenbauer announces to the board that we have received the signed award letter and all required paperwork for Innovative Land Solutions to begin the land clearing process for Gus Karle Parkway, which is scheduled to commence June 16th.

* **New Business**
	+ Presentation, discussion, and request for action pertaining to the application to establish a Revolving Loan Fund through the Department of Community Affairs to assist with business development and expansion projects.

Jason Rubenbauer presented a DCA funding mechanism, the Revolving Loan Fund, that would allow the Authority to assist in the funding of development projects for existing businesses. The program allocates a total of $1,000,000.00 to the entirety of the county, with an allowance of $100,000.00 per loan. Daniel Morris motioned to pursue involvement in the program. Dan Good seconded the motion. All present members voted aye and the motion passed unanimously.

* + Presentation, discussion, and request for action pertaining to the application to the Rural Site Development Initiative grant program.

Jason Rubenbauer presented information on the Rural Site Development Initiative that would provide funding for rural sites, assuming they have the prerequisite GRAD certifications associated with the guidelines for the initiative. Mr. Rubenbauer notes that this funding would assist in the clearing and development of Authority owned land that already has GRAD certifications, that the Authority is actively interested in leasing or selling. Following discussion on application deadlines and associated costs with applying, Daniel Morris motioned to approve the application. Rusty Hall seconded the motion. All present members voted aye and the motion passed unanimously.

* + Presentation, discussion, and request for action pertaining to the application to be considered for approval of the State Economic and Infrastructure Development (SEID) Grant Program

Jason Rubenbauer presented the State Economic and Infrastructure Development (SEID) grant program, suggesting that the Authority apply to be considered for funding that the Authority could utilize to assist in the development of Gus Karle Parkway. Rusty Hall motioned to apply for the SEID funding. Brian Jackson seconded the motion. All present members voted aye and the motion passed unanimously.

* **Attorney’s Items**
	+ Hillary Stringfellow—Gilbert, Harrell, Sumerford & Martin, P.C.

Attorney Hillary Stringfellow updated the board on a call she had with GATX, pertaining to an ongoing acquisition the Authority is working on.

* **President’s Report—Jason Rubenbauer**

Jason Rubenbauer presented the highlights of his previous months’ work and announced a local legislative representative luncheon that both the WWDA’s board and the DWDA’s board is invited to on June 25th.

* **Chairman’s Report—James Willis**

There was no report made available by Chaiman James Willis.

* **Executive Session**
* For discussion of land/lease and acquisition matters pursuant to O.C.G.A. 50-14-3(b)(1)(B)

With no more business to discuss in regular session, Daniel Morris motioned to enter executive session at 9:44 A.M. Rusty Hall seconded the motion. All present members voted aye and the motion passed unanimously.

Following discussion in executive session, Daniel Morris motioned to enter regular session once again at 10:54 A.M. Rusty Hall seconded the motion. All present members voted aye and the motion passed unanimously.

* **Adjournment**

With no more business to discuss, Daniel Morris motioned to adjourn. Rusty Hall seconded the motion. All present members voted aye and the motion passed unanimously, the June 4th meeting concluded at 10:56 A.M.