



*Georgia House of Representatives*  
*2017-2018 House Rural Development Council*

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**2017-2018 House Rural Development Council**  
**August 15-16 Agenda**  
**Ellijay/Dalton, Georgia**

**Infrastructure and Labor**

**Tuesday, August 15<sup>th</sup> (Ellijay)**

Location: Piedmont Community Center, 824 Industrial Blvd., Ellijay, GA 30540

- 12:30 – 12:40** Welcome – *Co-Chairs Terry England and Jay Powell*  
Introduction of Speaker Ralston
- 12:40 – 1:05** Local Welcome – *County Commission Chairman Charlie Paris; Mayor Al Hoyle; Chamber President Paige Green* (state of local businesses);  
*Tim Mercier, Owner Mercier Orchards* (trends of Agritourism)
- 1:05 – 1:25** Georgia Rural Water Authority – *Jimmy Matthews, Executive Director*
- 1:25 – 1:55** Dept. of Community Affairs – Community Development Block Grant and One Georgia – *Rusty Haygood, Deputy Commissioner*
- 1:55 – 2:15** Georgia Environmental Finance Authority – *Kevin Clark, Executive Director*
- 2:15 – 2:30** Break
- 2:30 – 2:50** Department of Labor – Labor Market Trends and Workforce, GDOL Business Services Unit addressing of workforce needs; Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act on the job training program successes in workforce needs and Challenges – *Lisa Adkisson, Regional Coordinator for Northwest Georgia*
- 2:50 – 3:50** Rural Cities of Success – City of Dublin: *Tara Bradshaw, Executive Director Dublin Downtown Development Authority* and *Joshua Kight Attorney*  
City of Donalsonville: *Mayor Dan Ponder*

cont.

<b>3:50 – 4:30</b>	Ellijay Hospital: Successes in opening the new hospital – <i>Denise Ray, CEO</i>
<b>4:30 – 5:00</b>	Questions for Presenters and Council Discussion
<b>5:00</b>	Adjourn

### **Wednesday, August 16<sup>th</sup> (Dalton)**

Location: Dalton Convention Center; 2211 Dug Gap Battle Rd., Dalton, GA 30720

<b>08:00 – 08:15</b>	Welcome – <i>Co-Chairs Terry England and Jay Powell</i> Introduction of Speaker Ralston
<b>08:15 – 08:30</b>	Local Welcome – <i>Denise Wood, City Councilwoman; Lynn Laughter, Chairwoman Whitfield County Commission; and Rob Bradham, President of the Dalton Chamber of Commerce</i> (state of local businesses)
<b>08:30 – 08:50</b>	Northwest Technical College – <i>Pete McDonald, President of GNTC</i>
<b>08:50 – 9:10</b>	Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG): Quick Start Program– <i>Neil Bitting, Assistant Commissioner External Affairs/Facilities Technical College System of Georgia</i>
<b>09:10 – 09:35</b>	Georgia Association for Career & Technical Education – <i>Matthew Gamble, Executive Director</i>
<b>09:35 – 09:50</b>	Break
<b>09:50 – 11:00</b>	Georgia Manufacturing Association – overview of workforce needs Roy Bowen, President of Ga. Assoc. of Manufacturers; Panel of Experts – experience and lessons learned – <i>Brian Cooksey, Director of Training and Talent Development, Shaw Industries Group;</i> <i>Del Land, CFO, Pacesetter Steel Service;</i> <i>Kathleen Edge, Executive Vice President - Human Resources, Southwire;</i> <i>Steve Hollis, Chairman of the Board, Gap Partners;</i> <i>Tom Bode, Vice President, Pratt &amp; Whitney;</i> <i>David Keller, President, E.G.O. North America;</i> <i>Mark Whitlock, CEO, Coweta College and Career Academy;</i> Remaining challenges panel with <i>Mark Whitlock;</i> Solutions and Best Practices: <i>Roy Bowen;</i> Closing Remarks: <i>Joe Yarborough</i>
<b>11:00 – 11:20</b>	Northwest Ga. Regional Commission: discussing examples of what counties/cities did to promote job growth by doing infrastructure projects – <i>Executive Director, Lloyd Frasier</i>
<b>11:20 – 11:40</b>	Hiring and Retention of workforce: Pilgrim’s Pride Corp., Betty Bishop, HR

cont.

**11:40 – 12:00**      Questions for Presenters and Council Discussion

**12:00**              Adjourn

cc.  
Speaker David Ralston  
Bill Reilly, Clerk of the House  
Tim Bearden, Director of Member & Administrative Services  
House Budget and Research  
House Media Services  
Majority Caucus  
Minority Caucus  
Rural Development Council Partners