

Board Meeting Minutes
March 18, 2026
20 Doyle Street, Toccoa, GA

Attending: Brian Akin, Evan Hellenga, Chris Rickman, Cassandra Wilkins, Fredda Wheeler, Christian Hamilton, Janney Sanders, Chad Dorsett, Abby Watson, Kevin McCraney, Brittany Ivey, Tammy Rauch & Sadie Hawkins

Chairman Brian Akin called the meeting to order at 7:31 a.m.

Sanders opened with prayer. Akin led the Pledge of Allegiance and read the confidentiality & conflict of interest statement.

A motion was made to approve the agenda as presented, [Hellenga:Wilkins]. All in favor; none opposed.

A motion was made to approve the February 18 and February 27, 2026 Board Meeting Minutes, [Wilkins:Hellenga]. All in favor; none opposed.

A motion was made to approve the February financials as presented, [Wilkins:Rickman]. All in favor; none opposed.

Board Action Items:

A motion was made authorizing the Chairman to sign a PSA for the sale of parts of lots 3, 4 and/or 5 to Project Seven contingent on ASI providing an official survey of the acreage needed, [Rickman:Wilkins]. All in favor; none opposed.

Program Updates/Reports:

Attraction: Ivey reported that Project MAX has shared that they intend to exercise their right to extend their due diligence another 60 days. Project Next progressing with site work; developer returning soon to discuss plans with Ivey. According to the realtor for Project PI it is slow but still progressing. Project Seven is preparing an official announcement.

Existing: Ivey and Hawkins have had multiple meetings with ASI and will be judging a continuous improvement contest at the 900 facility. Pak-Pro acquired additional property and are exploring road access and adding a third shift.

Product Development: Freeman Creek Lift Station tested successfully by pump company and ready to use.

President's Report:

Existing Industry: Ivey shared that SCDA received required annual PILOT reports. ASI exceeded their goals, and KTX fell short and will pay the claw backs. We reminded existing industries that Freeport Tax reminders are due April 15.

Workforce Development: Efforts are underway to fill Manufacturing Challenge spots. Hawkins led over 30 eighth-grade students on industry tours. January WBL Student of the Month, Oriya Wingster, was recognized. SCDA hosted the annual Discovery Tour with 40 educators. Hawkins finished an existing industry directory and will add it to the website. Ivey will speak to Toccoa Falls College's Urban Community Development class.

Recruit New Industry: SCDA will host a Women in Economic Development Day on April 17. This is in partnership with counterparts in Habersham and Franklin counties. We will visit Toccoa Falls & ASI while in Stephens County.

Input from Others: Hamilton reported the county continues work on its budget. Wheeler invited the group to the new police department open house on Fernside next Friday. Hellenga shared an event honoring Shantelle Grant the 2025 Public Library Employee of the Year and added that the City will meet with engineers regarding the water treatment facility. McCraney reported Andrew Carnes will lead Development Authority training at the JDA on April 27. Rauch noted a 30-day window to apply for additional industry funding for skills training. Rickman emphasized public safety remains a top priority. Wilkins gave an update from the Chamber. She shared their annual trip to the Capitol went well, the Post-Legislative Coffee will be April 16, and Chamber Golf Classic on May 12 at Currahee Club. Wilkins also announced Tessa Reavis as the new Chamber President.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:59 a.m., [Hellenga:Rickman]. All in favor; none opposed.

Submitted By:

Attested By:

Brian Akin, Chairman

Brittany W. Ivey, President/CEO