



Atlanta Regional Commission



# Governance Committee Summary

**April 14, 2021**

## **Treasurer's Report**

ARC Executive Director Doug Hooker presented the March Treasurer's report. The estimated fund balance as of March 31, 2021 was \$5,730,314

- [Treasurer's report presentation](#)

## **Proposed Open Records Policy and Appointment of Open Records Officer**

ARC Legal Counsel Brittany Zwald presented a first read of an agency open records policy that includes appointment of a first-ever open records officer, who is responsible for handling open records requests for ARC. The policy will create a simplified document for ARC staff and the public to understand open records requirements.

- [Open Records Policy Presentation](#)

## **Regional Snapshot: Workforce**

Mike Carnathan, Senior Manager of ARC's Research and Analytics Group, presented the March Regional Snapshot, which focuses on trends in workforce development. Key findings include:

- The occupations that have an over-representation of workers-of-color tend to have the lowest wages.

- Lowest-wage workers have fared the worst in the pandemic economy, with employment rates declining some 23 percent since January 2020 for workers making less than \$27K annually.
- Growth in middle-wage occupations has stagnated; while many common low-wage occupations are paying less today, in real terms, than they did five years ago.
- Occupations in high demand clusters have held up well compared to the job market overall.
- [Regional Snapshot: Workforce](#)

### **State Legislature Approves Forsyth County's Request to Move to ARC**

John Bayalis, ARC's Manager of Intergovernmental Affairs, provided an update on HR 130, which was approved by the state Legislature and enables Forsyth County to move to ARC from the Georgia Mountain Regional Commission. Pending the governor's signature, Forsyth would formally join ARC on July 1. The ARC board would increase by two members: The chair of the Forsyth County Commission, and the Mayor of Cumming, the only municipality in the county. ARC will also have to redraw citizen member districts later in the year, following the release of the 2020 U.S. Census numbers.

### **Water Update: A Win in the Supreme Court, and What's Next**

Katherine Zitsch, Managing Director of ARC's Natural Resources Group, provided an overview of the Supreme Court's unanimous ruling in favor of Georgia in the Fla. v. Ga. water case. She noted that the ruling said Florida did not prove that Georgia's water consumption played more than a trivial role in the collapse of the oyster population in Apalachicola Bay. She also gave updates on the two cases still pending, in which various entities are suing the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for how they manage multi-state water systems in Georgia, Alabama, and Florida.