

Rhonda Hawk

From: John Ward <john.ward@co.walton.ga.us> on behalf of John Ward
Sent: Monday, June 15, 2026 3:14 PM
To: Rhonda Hawk; David Thompson
Subject: Fwd: NEGRC CEDS Update - Invitation to Participate

Rhonda - Please plan to place this on the agenda for July.
I'd like to be considered and suggest that we also nominate someone in Shane's office.
Thanks
John

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Mark Beatty <MBeatty@negrc.org>
Date: Mon, Jun 15, 2026 at 2:29 PM
Subject: NEGRC CEDS Update - Invitation to Participate
To: David Thompson <davidg.thompson@co.walton.ga.us>
Cc: John Ward <john.ward@co.walton.ga.us>

Dear Chairman Thompson,

The Northeast Georgia Regional Commission (NEGRC) serves as the designated Economic Development District (EDD) through the Economic Development Administration (EDA) for its twelve-county region. In this capacity, the NEGRC is responsible for regularly updating and maintaining a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). The Northeast Georgia CEDS is due to be updated by December 31, 2026. The current CEDS can be found here: [NEGRC CEDS 2022-2026](#).

The NEGRC's Planning & Government Services (PGS) Division will coordinate the CEDS update process. The CEDS development will involve participation of a CEDS Committee with two representatives from each county. The two appointees typically include an Economic Development professional and one other appointee (e.g., planner, elected official, private-sector representative). **I am writing to formally request your appointment of two county representatives to serve on the 2026 CEDS Committee.**

The appointed individuals will be asked to serve on a CEDS Committee from July - December 2026. If desired, the appointees may continue serving as the County's CEDS Committee representative throughout the five-year implementation period. We anticipate no more than three (3) meetings during the update schedule. Meetings will be facilitated by PGS Division staff and Committee tasks will include the analysis of regional Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT), identification of regional economic development objectives, and development of a regional action plan.

Please email the appointees' names, email address, and phone numbers to me directly at mbeatty@negrc.org or by phone at (706) 530-2748 by Tuesday, July 7, 2026. PGS Division staff will schedule a kick-off CEDS Committee and introductory session in upcoming months and will send announcements to your appointed members.

I appreciate your attention in this request and look forward to working with your representatives on the 2026 CEDS update. If you have any questions regarding this request, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Mark Beatty | Director