

Habersham County Development Authority
Thursday, April 9, 2026 @ 1:00 p.m.
Common Ground Cornelia
643 Irvin St. Cornelia, GA 30531

The Habersham County Development Authority held a regular meeting on Thursday, April 9, 2026, at 1:00 p.m. at Common Ground Cornelia, 643 Irvin St., Cornelia, GA 30531.

Members Present: Jim Butterworth, Sidney Roland, Mike Franklin, Jeff Bruns, Bryan Ferguson, David Lovvorn

Members Not Present: Allen Whitener

Others Present: Tim Sims, Kiani Holden, Patti McLarty, Janney Sanders, Alex Robinson, Media

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Jim Butterworth.

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

The invocation was led by Sidney Roland, and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Jim Butterworth.

Approval of Agenda

A MOTION was made by Mike Franklin, seconded by Bryan Ferguson, and voted 6-0 to approve the agenda as presented.

Approval of Minutes

A MOTION was made by Sidney Roland, seconded by David Lovvorn, and approved 6-0 to approve the minutes of the February 12, 2026 regular meeting.

Old Business

1. Airport Business Park and Phase II Update – Jim stated that the group had received a great update on the Airport Business Park this morning when visiting McTech. Alex Robinson agreed and added to the update. She received a state request for information regarding a potential manufacturing project and responded accordingly with information on Phase II available sites. Alex has received the drone footage of both business parks provided by Georgia EMC, and is working on editing the videos. GEMC also provided drone footage of the Lee Arrendale property.
2. Partnership Habersham Update – Alex has coordinated a joint Women in Economic Development day with Franklin and Stephens Counties for April 23rd. The Habersham County portion will consist of a tour of Global Tech Industries and a reception at the Chamber office. At this time, there are over 20 participants. Hall County is interested in participating in a similar event planned for this fall. Alex is also working with Georgia Power and EMC on a state project manager meeting at the Georgia Experience Center, where Alex plans to share information about the Arrendale property as a potential development site. Workforce Development is going strong. There are 18 active participants in the Habersham Works program. Alex has submitted an application for

Senator Ossoff's Congressional Directed Spending for the growth of Habersham Works. Alex hosted a table at the Ninth Grade Academy Career Fair, which featured 40 businesses. Alex was very impressed with the students' interest. Existing Industry update – Alex has visited with Global Tech Industries, McTech, Westlake Building Products, The Chocolate Midge, Foundation Core and Tube, and Morito Scovill. Partnership Habersham held their annual retreat yesterday where the Executive Committee conducted a SWOT analysis, reviewed feedback gathered during phase one and identified steps to support the 3 strategic pillars. Eleven members participated in the retreat. The February Partnership Habersham meeting kicked off the ESPLOST campaign. Alex has created a page on the website as well as Partnership Habersham's Facebook page and asked the Development Authority to engage with that campaign. Alex also participated in the county's "Meet Your Government" event and attended the county's budget hearings on behalf of Partnership Habersham and the Development Authority.

New Business

None

Public Comment

David Lovvorn asked if there has been any movement on the south end property. Jim referred to what Senator Bo Hatchett said when he stopped by earlier during training, which was now that the legislative session is over, he plans to get with Victor Anderson and get the ball rolling on the property acquisition. Further discussions on this subject will be held in future Executive Sessions.

Other Reports

Patti McLarty informed the group that she is assisting with a county project to restore and display the old courthouse bell. The monument will be located at the current Habersham County Courthouse.

Next Meeting

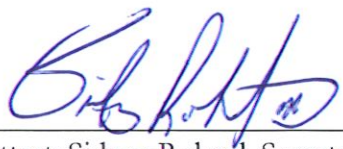
The next regular meeting is Thursday, May 14, 2026, at 3:30 p.m. in the Executive Conference Room of the Habersham County Administration building.

Adjourn

A MOTION was made by Mike Franklin, seconded by Sidney Roland, and voted 6-0 to adjourn the meeting at 1:18 p.m.



Bryan Ferguson, Vice Chair
Jim Butterworth, Chair



Attest: Sidney Roland, Secretary