

**MEETING MINUTES OF THE
GEORGIA VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION SERVICES BOARD
May 8, 2024
1:00 PM – 2:15 PM
Virtual Meeting via Teams**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT VIRTUALLY:

Tom Wilson, Chair	Suzanne Dooley
Faye Perdue, Vice Chair	Vincent Martin
Sandy Adams, Secretary	Johnathan Taylor
Louise Hill	James Defoor
Jane McCall	
GVRA Executive Director Chris Wells, Non-Member	

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Craig Camuso

Opening, Welcome, and Invocation

GVRS Board Chair Tom Wilson welcomed everyone in attendance, and the meeting was called to order at 1:01 p.m.

Approval of Agenda and Consent Agenda

Chairman Wilson performed a roll call and recommended the agenda be as amended as follows:

- Remove the Annual Report
- Move the Budget Report to Executive Director Wells's section

Chairman Wilson recommended the approval of the amended agenda.

On motion of Secretary Adams, seconded by Mrs. McCall, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the agenda as amended.

Chairman Wilson recommended the approval of the Consent Agenda, consisting of the following:

- Approve Board Meeting Minutes from Previous Session
- Approve Budget Report

On motion of Secretary Adams, seconded by Mrs. McCall, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the agenda as presented.

GVRA Staff Updates/Reports:

Executive Director Report – Executive Director Chris Wells

Agency Spotlights

- Executive Director Wells recognized the following employees:
 - Gwen Lesperance, the District Administrator for District 1 in the Lafayette office, was chosen as the February employee of the month.

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- Erica Shedd, the Administrative Assistant 2 for Program Support, was chosen as the March employee of the month.⁷
- Moses Little, a GVRA Specialty Counselor in Athens, was appointed by Governor Brian P. Kemp to serve as a member of the State Rehabilitation Council (SRC) on April 1st.

Executive Director's Update – Chris Wells, GVRA Executive Director

- Executive Director Wells provided information on the following topics:
 - Federal 2023 Monitoring Report
 - Employee Pulse Survey
 - Employee Appreciation Week
 - Appropriations Act

Public Affairs & Communications Updates – Carla Murphy, Director

- Director Carla Murphy shared the following Public Affairs & Communications Updates:
 - External Website Highlights including:
 - Website is managed in collaboration with GVRA Information Technology (IT) Department.
 - Public Affairs Department is responsible for content (including imagery) and look & feel.
 - Recent redesign follows a Georgia Technology Authority/Digital Services & Solutions refresh of templates used by state agencies.
 - Homepage has been redesigned and additional webpages created to support and promote programs and initiatives.
 - Webpages and documents are currently undergoing a review for updates and to ensure accessibility for audiences.
 - Website traffic has increased significantly since start of fiscal year – with more than 13,500 visits a month in July 2023 to more than 19,600 visits a month as of April 2024.
 - Highlighting Success Stories on the website, social media platforms, and flyers.
 - Outreach Materials Such As:
 - Who We Are Rack Cards
 - Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) Rack Cards
 - Bud McCall Grant Posters, Rack Cards, and Postcards
 - Spanish Outreach Materials
 - Sensory Brochures in Large Print & Braille
 - Online Outreach Materials Request Form
 - A List of Outreach Activities Conducted to Date
 - Internal Newsletters: GVRA On Target Newsletter & Roosevelt Warm Springs Newsletter

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Old Business/New Business

Mrs. Hill took over the gavel for the Annual Election of Board Officers.

Mrs. Hill stated that the Board has an uncontested slate of officers and opened the floor for other nominations. Hearing none, Mrs. Hill made a motion to accept the slate of officers by acclamation. Mrs. McCall seconded the motion, and the board unanimously voted to affirm the following officers.

- Chairman – Tom Wilson
- Vice Chairman – Faye Perdue
- Secretary – Sandy Adams

Chairman Wilson reminded the Board of the remaining meetings for the year:

- August 14, 2024 at Roosevelt Warm Springs Institute
- October 9, 2024 at the Georgia National Fairgrounds in Perry, also GVRA Day at the Fair

Chairman Wilson also reminded everyone that June 30th will be GVRA Day with the Braves

Public Comment & Adjournment

Chairman Wilson opened the floor for public comment. As there was no public comment, he called for a motion to adjourn.

On motion of Mr. Martin, seconded by Mrs. Hill, the board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 2:11 p.m.