

Graham Revitalization Economic Action Team
September 19, 2019

- I. Welcome/Introductions
 - A. Recognition of Host/Sponsor
 - Kenny Graham – The Hub
 - Jason Maples – Balsam West Fiber
 - B. Rick Davis, Executive Director welcomed new attendees and Board of Directors
 - II. Approval of minutes from July 18, 2019 meeting
 - Zel Rogers made a motion to approve
 - Dick Evans seconded
 - III. Reports/Discussion Items
 - A. GREAT Financial Report
 - Pam Shaffer – GREAT Treasurer
 - B. Committee Reports
 - Sophia Paulos, Economic Development Director reported there is a plan mapping out revitalization of main street. She discussed the workforce in Graham County. The urgent care will have a 3-D mammogram machine up and running in a few weeks.
 - Zel Rogers reported Fontana is doing great
 - Santeetlah needs a new water system
 - Mary Griffith reported that the library is doing good
 - Eddie Hollifield with the Boy Scouts reported they have great support. There will be a lake clean up of Fontana Lake on November 2
 - Dick Evans will be involved helping the Blind Vets Association. There will be three vets hiking this area with army ranger guides.
 - Tapoco Lodge will be sponsoring an 8 year old with make a wish and the Lamborghinis visit.
 - Angie Knight and the school will be hosting the fall festival trunk or treat on October 31, 2019.
 - Amy Hollifield reported that the Blue Ridge Music Trail is underway
 - Sarah Thompson, Southwestern Commission provided updates on the various activities
 - Philip Moore reported that USDA has a hurricane program for farmers
 - Peggy Jones with Manna Food Bank reported they have a mobile pantry that is almost ready to roll.
 - Monica Holley reported the unemployment rate is lower than it has been, currently at 6%. Harris Casino hosted a hiring event at the library and plans to come back. There will be a hiring event at Haywood Tech in the construction business.
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- Josh Carpenter, Economic Development gave an update on the NC Partnership
 - Lynn Sprague reported that there will be a Farmers’ breakfast will be held at Lynn’s Place. There will also be a workshop for hemp farmers.
 - Sharon Harvey, small business administration has an office in Candler and they have loans available for growing hemp.
 - Sheila with Voc Rehab reported on funds for internships for students.
 - Andy Gaston with the US Forest Service discussed the upcoming fire season. Students are building bridges. The Cheoah District will be hosting a Forest Leadership Team at Fontana. He also discussed the recent slide in Nantahala Gorge.
 - Christa with the YMCA WNC discussed the local YMCA camp.
 - Kevin Hensley with the Graham Star was introduced.
 - Next GREAT meeting will be held November 14 at Fontana.
 - Beverly Whitehead thanked Duke Energy for assisting with a tree that fell on their farm.
 - Connie Orr announced the American Flag in honor of our vets will be in place by November 11, 2019
- I. Rick Davis introduced Michelle Shiplet, new GREAT Executive Director
 - II. Meeting adjourned