

# COLLABORATIVE MEETING MINUTES



**Date:** 2/20/26

**Location:** White County Board of Education

## Attendees: 28

WCFC Staff, Board	WCFC Mentor
White Co. Govt.	White County News
Cornerstones	District 2 Public
Counseling	Health
Cleveland Care Center	GA Family Connection
EmberRise Recovery	9 <sup>th</sup> District
DFCS	Opportunity
Family Resource	Creative Enterprises
Center of NEGA	Family Promise
White Co. Parks & Rec	Cleveland Police
Mountain Education	Dept.
White Co. School	Amerigroup
System	

## Announcements

### WCFC:

- Cooking Class pilot started Feb. 19
- Next Food Distribution is Feb. 25 at 11 a.m.
- Grand Connections kinship group launches March 12
- Back to School Bash scheduled for Aug. 1
- Ethics Training coming in April

### Creative Enterprises:

- Spring Open House March 16
- Vendor Market April 18

## Presenter: Derick Canupp, White County Manager

- Working on FY 2027 Budget Development (6 month process)
- Comprehensive plan update (every 5 years, surveys to help inform county of what resident want it to look like long term)
- New Regional Library: 20,000 sq ft facility. Architecture designs done by July or August.
  - \$3 million grant secured from Board of Regents
  - \$500,000 K CDS Grant (Senator Ossoff's office)
  - \$200,000 K Local fundraising
  - Will start bond process
  - Total estimated cost: \$7.6 million
- New Fire Station No. 9 construction (located on Duncan Bridge Near Mt. Yonah Elementary)
  - RFQs for CM at risk being received April 24
  - Will hire 3 new firefighters, but needs 6 employees to fully staff.
  - Total cost: \$1.7 Million
- 50% of our budget is funded to public safety
- YP Mountain Bike/Hiking trails expansion (10 existing miles)
  - Submitted for GOSP Grant to add 10 more miles--regional destination status. If awarded, grant pays 90%.
  - Total budget \$1.1 million
- Legislation at the Capitol: Lots of conversations about eliminating homestead property takes and state tax income. White County is already considering how to bridge the gap.
- FLOST: Millage Rate Reduction before and after FLOST. He thinks this is a big win.
- 60 to 70% of our FLOST tax revenue comes from visitors outside of White County
- Jessie Owensby, Director of Community and Economic Development, begins March 2 and will be a huge asset to our community.
- Collaborative group interested in public transportation options: Nothing planned for now. But we need to consider the cost of it and where money might come from to fund it. Public transportation initiatives also need commissioner support and a dive into real data to make sure White County needs it.

**Next Meeting:** Alyssa Hurt, WIC Outreach & Marketing Specialist for the Department of Public Health, will present on WIC topics.  
**March 20, 11 a.m.**