2017-2018 House Rural Development Council
May 22-23, 2017 Agenda
Tifton, Georgia

Understanding the Impact of Rural Georgia on ALL of Georgia
and Broadband Challenges

Monday

12:30-12:45  Welcome – Co-chairs Powell and England
12:45-1:00  Council Charge – Speaker David Ralston
1:00-1:45  Local Welcome – Julie Smith, Mayor of Tifton; Pete Pyrzenski, Tifton City Manager; Local Chamber of Commerce; Grady Thompson, Tift County Comm. Chairman; Mark DeMott, Colquitt County Commissioner; Jimmy Kitchens, Coffee County Commissioner; and Steve Taylor, Ben Hill County Comm. Chairman
1:45-2:45  Georgia Statistics and Trends – Sharon Kane, Center for Agribusiness & Economic Development; Matt Hauer, Carl Vinson Institute of Gov’t.
2:45-3:00  Break
3:00-3:45  Trouble in God’s Country – Charlie Hayslett
3:45-4:30  Perspective from Below the Gnat Line – Dr. David Bridges, President ABAC
4:30-5:00  Questions for Presenters and Council Discussion

Cont.

cc:  Speaker David Ralston
     Bill Reilly, Clerk of the House
     House Budget and Research
     House Media Services
     Majority Caucus
     Minority Caucus
     Rural Development Council Partners
**Tuesday**

8:00-8:45  Current Look at Broadband in Rural Georgia – Eric McRae, Carl Vinson Institute of Gov’t

8:45-10:00  Challenges and Hurdles for Broadband Delivery – Stephen Loftin, Cable Association; Windstream, Bettye Willis, VP Gov’t Affairs; and Kevin Curtain, AT&T

10:00-10:15  Break

10:15-11:00  Rural Broadband Initiatives in Other States – Blake Doss, House Budget and Research

11:00-11:45  Council Discussion and Moving Forward

11:45  Adjourn – Safe Travels Back Home