

GEORGIA MOUNTAINS REGIONAL COMMISSION  
COUNCIL MEETING

Ruby Fulbright Aquatic Center  
Clarkesville, GA  
January 31, 2013

MINUTES

The GMRC Council held its regular meeting on Thursday, January 31, 2013, 6:00 p.m. at the Ruby Fulbright Aquatic Center in Clarkesville, Georgia. The meeting was hosted by Habersham County.

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME/DINNER

Chairman David Stovall called the meeting to order and thanked everyone for their attendance. He also expressed his appreciation to Habersham County for hosting the meeting.

Chairman Stovall recognized Habersham County Commissioner Sonny James for local introductions. Mr. James thanked everyone for attending and welcomed them to Habersham County. He encouraged everyone to tour the Aquatic Center and come back and utilize it. He introduced Habersham County Commission Chairman Chad Henderson, Commissioner Natalie Crawford, and County Manager Janeann Allison. Mr. James expressed a special thanks to Habersham County Clerk Crystal Ward for making all the arrangements and setting up this meeting.

Chairman Stovall introduced five new GMRC Council Members. Recognized were Sonny James, Habersham County Commissioner; Chris Dockery, Lumpkin County Commission Chairman; Dick Mecum, Hall County Commission Chairman; David Strickland, Franklin County Commissioner; and Brian Tam, Forsyth County Commissioner.

INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL GUESTS

Vice Chairman Sam Norton challenged all new Council Members to be appreciative of being appointed to serve on the RC Council with other people that think regionally and care about our Regional Commission. Mr. Norton recognized other special guests, Kathy Papa, DCA; Don Fraser, Northeast Georgian Newspaper; and Lyn Allen, Franklin County Industrial Building Authority.

INVOCATION/ PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/DINNER

L.J. Harrison, GMRC Chaplain, gave our devotion, invocation, and followed with the pledge of allegiance.

## PROGRAM

Executive Director Danny Lewis introduced Ms. Tricia Pridemore who is the Executive Director for the Governor's Office of Workforce Development. He thanked Ms. Pridemore and the Governor's Office for allowing our Regional Commission to be able to acquire the two new mobile training units for Workforce Development. If it were not for them, we would not have these two units and also the Governor's Office has agreed to buy the software needed for the computers in the units.

Ms. Pridemore, along with Katie Campbell, Communications Director for the Governor's Workforce Development Office presented a PowerPoint presentation explaining how the State WD Office works with the 159 counties in Georgia, how money is allocated, and the different programs that are offered. Ms. Pridemore answered questions from the audience.

## CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Chairman Stovall asked for any comments regarding the minutes of the November 15, 2012 meeting. Doug Wayne made a motion to accept the minutes as written and was seconded by Sonny James. Motion carried unanimously.

## REPORTS

### Chairman's Report

Chairman Stovall announced that the Council of Chief Elected Officials met earlier and elected officers for the upcoming year. They are Mike Berg, Chairman; Lamar Paris, Vice Chairman; and Travis Turner, Secretary. Chairman Stovall congratulated these on their new positions.

### Executive Director's Report

Danny Lewis recognized the Economic Development Directors from the Georgia Mountains region that were present. Heather Feldman and the ED Directors met on January 22<sup>nd</sup> to discuss economic development projects that are going on in our area. This meeting was hosted by Rope Roberts and Georgia Power Company.

The GMRC staff are going out into our 13 counties and 51 cities in our region meeting with city and county officials to find out what your needs are and how we can help with them. We have completed about 80% of our visits.

Mr. Lewis and some staff attended the Okefenokee Occasion in Atlanta along with about 12 legislators from our region. This event is sponsored by the Southern Regional Commission. Letters had been sent out from our RC inviting all legislators representing our area to attend.

Donny Thomas, Deputy Director with USDA, met with Mr. Lewis and Heather Feldman on Monday about a statewide push for the USDA Rural Development Programs. The State of Georgia has \$47 million to loan out with 3% interest up to over 40 years. This money can be

used for infrastructure and public community facilities such as fire stations, community centers, senior centers, city hall, etc. Most grants that are applied for require a certain number of jobs to be created to be able to apply. These loans do not require the jobs, so the funds can help with existing services that are needed.

### Financial Report

The Financial Report was given by GMRC Director of Finance, Becky Sievers. The Cash Position as of December 31, 2012 showed a bank balance of \$486,556, receivables of \$111,139 and payables of \$323,581, with an uncommitted cash balance of \$274,114. The Revenue Expenditure Report for the period of July 1, 2012 – December 31, 2012 indicated Revenue Income of \$566,092, Expenditures of \$626,074, with 50 percent of the budget being expended for the fiscal year. Jim Conley made a motion to accept the report and was seconded by Doug Wayne. Motion carried.

### OLD BUSINESS

#### Recap of Annual Meeting

Leslie George recognized Bill Black, Angela Whidby, Doug Wayne, Audrey Turner, Jim Conley, and Debbie Chisholm who served on the Annual Meeting Committee and thanked them for their help in planning this event. She also thanked the GMRC staff for their hard work and the Council for the sponsors that they had secured. Leslie stated that survey forms had been sent out and asked that they be returned. The Committee will use the suggestions and comments to move forward with next year's event. This year there were 348 attendees. She asked that everyone go ahead and mark their calendar for December 6<sup>th</sup> for next year's Annual Meeting.

### NEW BUSINESS

#### Appointment of Nominating Committee

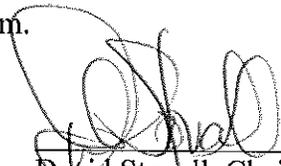
In 2009, when the Regional Commission reorganized due to HB 1216, the Bylaws were rewritten to include terms for the Council Officers. The term is for two years for all three officers and the current officers' term will end on June 30<sup>th</sup>. The Chairman is to appoint a Nominating Committee to search for candidates to fill these positions and report to the Council by the April Council Meeting. The Committee consist of Rex Farmer, Committee Chairman; Lamar Paris, Vice-Chairman; J.B. Jones, Gerald Voyles, and Leslie George. Chairman Stovall stated that he was humbled and flattered to be allowed to serve as the Council Chairman. Mr. Farmer reported that he would contact the Committee Members to set up a meeting.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Stovall announced the February Council Meeting will be held in Hartwell at the New City Hall. Sponsors are needed for the April, June, and July meetings.

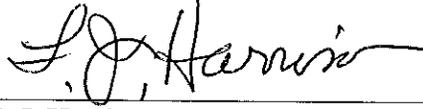
ADJOURNMENT

The Council Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.



---

David Stovall, Chairman



---

L.J. Harrison, Secretary

**GMRC COUNCIL  
ATTENDANCE SHEET  
2012-2013**

Page 1

COUNTY	COUNCIL MEMBER	7/26/12	8/30/12	9/27/12	10/25/12	11/15/12	12/7/12	1/31/13	2/28/13	3/28/13	4/25/13	5/30/13	6/27/13
BANKS	Danny Maxwell	(N)A	A	P	A	P	P	A					
	Jerry Payne	P	P	P	P	P	P	A					
	Leslie George	A	P	A	P	P	P	P					
	Mike Berg	A	P	A	P	A	P	P					
DAWSON	James Grogan		(N)P	A	A	P	P	P					
	Charlie Auvermann	P	P	P	P	P	P	P					
	Brian Tam							(N)P					
FORSYTH	Ralph Perry	P	P	P	P	A	P	P					
	Vacant												
	David Strickland							(N)P					
FRANKLIN	Ralph Owens	P(R)	P	P	A	P	P	P					
	Gerald Voyles	P	P	P	P	A	P	P					
	Sonny James		(N)P	P	A	P	P	P					
	Audrey Turner	P	A	P	A	P	P	P					
HALL	Vacant												
	Dick Mecum							(N)P					
	George Wangemann	P	P	A	P	P	P	P					
	Deborah Mack	A	P	P	P	A	P	P					
HART	Bill Myers	P	A	P	A	P	P	P					
	Tray Hicks	P	P	P	P	A	P	A					
	Bill Chafin	P	P	P	P	P	P	P					
LUMPKIN	Chris Dockery							(N)P					
	Sam Norton**	P	P	P	P	A	P	P					
	J.B. Jones	A	P	P	P	P	P	A					

**GMRC COUNCIL  
ATTENDANCE SHEET  
2012-2013**

COUNTY	COUNCIL MEMBER	7/26/12	8/30/12	9/27/12	10/25/12	11/15/12	12/7/12	1/31/13	2/28/13	3/28/13	4/25/13	5/30/13	6/27/13
RABUN	Stan Darnell	P	P	P	P	P	P	P					
	Debbie Clisholm	P (R)	P (R)	P	P	P	P	A					
	Douglas Wayne	P	P	P	P	P	P	P					
STEPHENS	Dean Scarborough	P	P	P	P	P	P	P					
	Ron Seib	P	P (R)	P	A	P	P	A					
	L.J. Harrison	P	P	P	P	P	P	P					
TOWNS	Bill Kendall	P	A	P (R)	A	P (R)	P	P (R)					
	Andrea Gibby	P (R)	A	P	P	A	A	A					
	David Stovall*	P	P	P	P	P	P	P					
UNION	Lamar Paris	P	P	A	P	A	P	P					
	Jim Conley	P	P	A	P	P	P	P					
	Mitch Griggs	A	P	A	P	A	P	A					
WHITE	Travis Turner	P	(R) P	A	A	P	P	P					
	Annie Sutton	A	P	P	P	P	P	P					
	Bill Black	P	P	P	P	P	P	P					
GOV APPT.	Rex Farmer	P	P	P	P	P	P	P					
	Paul Kreager	P	P	P	P	P	P	P					
	Will Wade	A	P	P	P	P	A	P					
SPEAKER APPT.	Vacant												
	Peter Hill	P	A	P	P	P	P	P					

P = PRESENT    A = ABSENT    R = REPRESENTED    V = VACANCY    E = EXCUSED    N = NEW MEMBER

\* Chairman  
\*\* Vice Chairman  
\*\*\* Secretary