

GEORGIA MOUNTAINS REGIONAL COMMISSION  
COUNCIL MEETING

Funopolis Family Fun Center  
Banks County  
February 27, 2014

MINUTES

The GMRC Council held its regular meeting on Thursday, February 27, 2014, 6:00 p.m. at the Funopolis Family Fun Center in Commerce, Georgia. The meeting was hosted by Banks County and City of Homer.

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

Chairman Sam Norton called the meeting to order and thanked everyone for their attendance. Banks County Commissioner Danny Maxwell welcomed everyone to Banks County and to Banks Crossing. Mr. Maxwell thanked Mary Greenwood, Funopolis' host for setting up our meeting place and preparing the food for tonight's meal. He also thanked Data Survival and Document Destruction for sponsoring tonight's meal. Door prizes were provided by Radio Shack, Jaemor Farms, Jada Ritchie, Honeysuckle Gifts, Tanger Outlets, Tangle Hair Salon, and several local restaurants. He recognized County Commissioner David Duckett; Becky Carlan, Tax Commissioner; Betty Thomas, Probate Judge; Bobby Eubanks, Coroner; Brad Day, Economic Developer; Randy Feller, Finance Officer; Arlene Ivey, Personnel Officer; Erin Decker, Assistant County Clerk; and Jenni Gailey, County Clerk. Special thanks to Ms. Gailey for working with Funopolis on setting up this meeting.

Mayor Doug Cheek, City of Homer thanked Banks County for allowing them to co-host this meeting. He introduced City Council Members, Jerry Payne and Sandra Garrison, and City Clerk, Carol Ayers.

INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL GUESTS

Vice-Chairman Dean Scarborough recognized special guests Kathy Papa, Department of Community Affairs; and Ben Ayers, Congressman Kingston's Office.

INVOCATION/ PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/DINNER

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

PROGRAM

Ms. Deborah Mack introduced our speaker, Mr. Avery Niles. He is the Commissioner of the Department of Juvenile Justice Office in Atlanta. Mr. Niles presented a very informative talk about how the Juvenile System works with children and teens to help better themselves by

getting an education while in Regional Youth Detention Center (RYDC) facilities. His motto is to help people and his goal is to educate and graduate more youth in the system. In the Juvenile System it cost \$98,000 per year for each youth that is in the system and last year there were 30,000 youth entered into the system. The GMRC Workforce Development is presenting working with the RYDC in Gainesville to education these youth while incarcerated. The RC have contracted with Lanier Tech for an instructor to teach at this facility. John Phillips gave an example of one youth that the program has been working with. In preparing to take his GED, he scored 10.5 three months ago. After being in this program, he now scored 12.5 and is now ready to take his GED test. This is just an example of how the program has worked in one youth's life to help him be better prepared when he is released and is back in the community.

### CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Chairman Norton asked for any comments regarding the minutes of the November 21, 2013 meeting. Will Wade made a motion to accept the minutes as written and was seconded by Bill Myers. Motion carried unanimously.

### REPORTS

#### Chairman's Report

Chairman Norton informed the Council that the Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) Committee met tonight and approved two loans, one for \$150,000 and another for \$50,000. This Committee is achieving their goal of getting this money out into our region, with each loan that they approve.

#### Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Danny Lewis reported that in January, Commissioner Chris Carr with Department of Economic Development visited some of the businesses in Georgia. He started in south Georgia and flew to some of the cities and completed his tour by spending two nights and three days in our region. Our Economic Development staff provided ground travel for him to Habersham, White, and Franklin Counties in our area visiting several businesses. We were very excited to have him touring our region.

#### Financial Report

Becky Sievers, Director of Finance, presented the December and January Financial Reports. The Cash Position as of December 31, 2013 showed a bank balance of \$399,199, receivables of \$206,776 and payables of \$323,757, with an uncommitted cash balance of \$282,218. The Revenue Expenditure Report for the period of July 1, 2013 – December 31, 2013 indicated the Actual Revenue Income of \$1,908,645, Expenditures of \$2,112,521, with 50 percent of the budget being expended for the fiscal year. Will Wade made a motion to accept the report and was seconded by Doug Wayne. Motion carried unanimously.

The January Financial Report showed the Cash Position as of January 31, 2014 showed a bank balance of \$432,100, receivables of \$219,364 and payables of \$313,334, with an uncommitted cash balance of \$338,130. The Revenue Expenditure Report for the period of July 1, 2013 – January 31, 2014 indicated the Actual Revenue Income of \$2,324,664, Expenditures of

\$2,448,480, with 58 percent of the budget being expended for the fiscal year. Doug Wayne made a motion to accept the report and was seconded by Will Wade. Motion carried unanimously.

### 2015 Aerial Photography Project

Faith Bryan, Director of Information Services, informed the Council that request for proposals have been sent out for the 2015 Aerial Photography and LiDAR project for the 26 counties in the North Georgia area. For those counties outside of our region, the neighboring Regional Commission has agreed for GMRC to conduct business in their regions. The participating counties are looking for 6” pixel resolution photography in the non-forested areas and 1” pixel resolution photography in the forested areas. For six of the counties LiDAR will be re-flown in order to capture the area with the most change, specifically those with major transportation corridors and heavy development. The fly over will be flown during January, February, and March of 2015. Proposals are due to from the vendors on April 7<sup>th</sup>. Areas that are interested in being a part of the fly over were told to contact Faith Bryan.

### OLD BUSINESS

#### Organization of Ethics

Several months ago, Chairman Sam Norton had discussed with the Council the idea of the Regional Commission becoming an “Organization of Ethics” as sponsored by Georgia Municipal Association. Kevin Tallant, GMRC Attorney, explained the process that the RC needs to go through of adopting a resolution identifying the five ethic principals and an amendment to the RC Bylaws to establish these ethic principals within the Bylaws framework. The creation of a Board of Ethics to hear ethics complaints, provide for potential penalties of ethics violations, and an appeal procedure. Bylaw amendments have to be put before the Council at least ten days before the amendment can be adopted. The Council will be voting on this at the March Council Meeting. The Council was asked to review this document. GMA’s guidelines require the signature of every Council Member that votes in favor of this document. If you are not able to attend the next meeting, please contact the RC office to obtain your proxy vote.

### NEW BUSINESS

#### FY15 DHS Transit Contract

Adam Hazell, Director of Planning, stated that the RC has been assisting Department of Human Services (DHS) with the rural transit services throughout the region. Our role in the process is contractor with DHS and to subcontract with the local governments who are the transit providers. The RC processes the invoices. We have been approached by DHS to see if the RC wants to do these services for the next FY year. If so, the RC would need to provide DHS with a letter of intent. Then we would bring the actual contract back to the Council in May or June after everything is finalized.

A motion was made by Doug Wayne to proceed with the letter of intent to DHS. Motion was seconded by Dean Scarborough and motion passed unanimously.

## Regional Plan Update

Last fall, the RC submitted the Updated Regional Agenda to DCA and they sent it back to us. We made a few cosmetic changes, resubmitted it, and it was approved at the end of the year. The Council now needs to adopt this document. There have been no changes to the approved document.

Jim Conley made a motion to adopt the Updates Regional Agenda. Motion was seconded by Will Wade and motion passed unanimously.

### Data Sharing Agreement with Department of Labor

John Phillips informed the Council that the Workforce Development left DOL about two years ago and is currently operating under the Governor's Office of Workforce Development. When this transpired, some items DOL singularly handled did not transfer over and the Governor's Office cannot offer to Workforce Development. One of these is a computer program that WD uses to qualify people into the program and follow them through the program by using their Social Security numbers. The RC needs to sign a one year contract with DOL to utilize this program.

Motion was made by Mike Berg to sign this contract with DOL for the use of this computer program. Motion was seconded by Dean Scarborough and motion carried unanimously.

### ANNOUCEMENTS

The March meeting will be held in Hall County with the location to be sent out at a later date. Rabun County has agreed to host the June Council Meeting.

### DOOR PRIZES

City of Homer and Banks County provided a number of door prizes that were given away to the lucky winners. The Banks County CVB prepared gift bags for everyone in attendance.

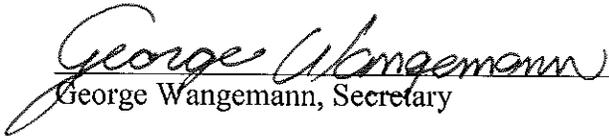
### ADJOURNMENT

The Council Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.



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Sam Norton, Chairman



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George Wangemann, Secretary

**GMRC COUNCIL  
ATTENDANCE SHEET  
2013-2014**

COUNTY	COUNCIL MEMBER	7/25/13	8/29/13	9/26/13	10/10/13	11/21/13	12/16/13*	1/30/14	2/27/14	3/27/14	4/24/14	5/29/14	6/26/14	
RABUN	Greg Jones	(N) R	A	P (R)	P (R)	A	P		P					
	Debbie Chisholm	P	P	A	A	P	P		P					
	Douglas Wayne	P	P	P	P	P	P		P					
	Dean Scarborough**	P	P	P	A	A	P		P					
STEPHENS	Jeanette Jamieson								(N) A					
	L.J. Harrison	P	P	P	A	P	P		P					
	Bill Kendall	P	P (R)	P	P (R)	P	P		A					
	Andrea Gibby	A	P	P	A	P	A		A					
TOWNS	David Stovall	P	P	P	P	P	A		A					
	Lamar Paris	P	A	P	A	P	P		A					
	Jim Conley	P	P	P	A	P	P		P					
	Mitch Griggs	P	P	A	P	P	P		A					
WHITE	Travis Turner	P	A	P (R)	A	P (R)	A		P (R)					
	Annie Sutton	P	P	P	P	A	P		A					
	Bill Black	P	P	A	P (R)	A	P		A					
	Rex Farmer	P	P	P	P	A	P		P					
GOV APPT.	Paul Kreager	P	P	P	A	P	P		A					
	Will Wade	A	P	P	A	P	A		P					
	Larry Miller					P (N)	P		P					
	Peter Hill	P	A	P	P	P	A		P					
SPEAKER APPT.								Cancelled due to Inclement Weather						

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

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

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BANKS	Danny Maxwell	P	A	P	A	A	P	Cancelled due to Inlement Weather	P					
	Jerry Payne	P	P	P	A	P	P		P					
	Leslie George	P	P	P	P	P	P		P((R)					
	Mike Berg	P	A	P	A	A	P		P					
	James Grogan	P	A	A	P(R)	P	P		P					
FORSYTH	Charlie Auvermann	A	P	P	P	P	A							
	Brian Tam	P	P(R)	P	P	P(R)	P(R)							
	Ralph Perry	P	A	P	P	A	P							
	Randall Toussaint	(N)P	P	A	A	P	A							
	David Strickland	P	P	P	P	P	P							
FRANKLIN	Ralph Owens	P	P(R)	P	A	P	P							
	Gerald Voyles	P	P	P	A	P	P							
	Sonny James	P	P	P	A	A	P							
	Audrey Turner	P	P	P	A	P	P							
	Ken Schubring			(N)A	P	P	P							
HALL	Dielt Mecum	P(R)	A	P	P	A	P(R)							
	George Wangemann***	P	P	P	A	A	A							
	Deborah Mack	P	P	P	P	P	P							
	Bill Myers	P	P	P	A	P	P							
	Tray Hicks	P	P	A	A	P	A							
LUMPKIN	Bill Chafin	P	A	P	P	P	A							
	Chris Dockery	P	P(R)	P	A	P	P							
	Sam Norton*	P	P	P	A	P	P							
	J.B. Jones	P	A	P	P	A	P							

December is not an official business meeting - Attendance is not counted