

GEORGIA MOUNTAINS REGIONAL COMMISSION  
COUNCIL MEETING

Truett McConnell College  
Cleveland, GA  
March 29, 2012

MINUTES

The GMRC Council held its regular meeting on Thursday, March 29, 2012, 6:00 p.m. at Truett McConnell College in Cleveland, Georgia. The meeting was hosted by White County Board of Commissioners.

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 the White County for hosting the meeting and to Truett McConnell College for preparing the meal.

Chairman Stovall recognized White County Commission Chairman Travis Turner for local introductions. Mr. Turner thanked everyone for attending and thanked County Clerk Shanda Murphy for all her hard work on setting up this meeting. He also recognized Annie Sutton, Bradley Greene, Rush Mauney, Ed Young, and Bill Black representing the City of Cleveland and Jerry Elkins and Judy Holloway representing the City of Helen. He also introduced Billy Chism with the White County Telegraph and thanked him for attending. Commission Chairman Turner then introduced Dr. Emir Caner, President of Truett McConnell College. Dr. Caner gave a brief summary of the College's history and details of the expansion that will be taking place in the new future.

INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL GUESTS

Vice-Chairman Sam Norton recognized other special guests Darren Kendall, Aide to Senator Chambliss' Office; Tate O'Rourke, Aide to Sen. Isakson's Office; Connie Smith, DOL; Cheryl Smith, DEcD; and Kathy Papa, DCA. He also introduced two new Council Members, Mayor Andrea Gibby, City of Young Harris will be the City Appointee for Towns County, and Andrew Turnage from Blairsville who was appointed to be the Lt. Governor's Appointment.

INVOCATION/ PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/DINNER

L.J. Harrison, GMRC Chaplain, gave our devotion, invocation, and followed with the pledge of allegiance. He also asked everyone to observe a moment of silence in memory of Joe Lane Cox, Mayor of Dawsonville and former Chairman and member of the GMRC Council for many years.

## PROGRAMS

Mr. Matt Kulinski is the Project Manager for the Department of Agriculture's new Georgia Grown Program. This program educates people on crops of food products that are locally grown and sold in our local supermarkets and our farmers market. He spoke on the economic impact this will have for our growers and producers in our region.

Mr. Jason O'Rourke is with the Georgia Transportation Alliance. He spoke on the Connect Georgia campaign which is a state-wide campaign affiliated with the Georgia Chamber of Commerce created to be an advocate to both public and private sector groups on the importance of the July 31st Transportation Vote in our region.

## CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Chairman Stovall asked for any comments regarding the minutes of the February 23, 2012 meeting. Mike Berg made a motion to accept the minutes as written and was seconded by Leslie George. Motion carried unanimously.

## REPORTS

### Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Danny Lewis referred to his report in the Council Packet. He stated that he and the Economic Development Staff (Heather Feldman, Nancy Smallwood, and Patrick Larson) attended the ARC Annual Conference in Washington, DC on March 18-20.

Also, Mr. Lewis recognized the Economic Development Staff for their hard work on six CDBG grant applications which they will be delivering to DCA on April 2<sup>nd</sup>.

### Financial Report

The Financial Report was given by GMRC Director of Finance, Becky Sievers. The Cash Position as of February 29, 2012 showed a bank balance of \$377,329, receivables of \$65,739 and payables of \$284,490, with an uncommitted cash balance of \$158,578. The Income-Expense Report for the period of July 1, 2011 – February 29, 2012 indicated income of \$659,039, expenses of \$668,570, accounts receivable of \$9,531, with 49 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

### Vehicle Bids

Bid packets were previously sent out to new vehicle dealerships in our area for the purchase of one 2012 vehicle which would be added to the GMRC fleet. Bids were opened on March 21, 2012 and bids were received from five different vendors on eleven different vehicles. The lowest

bid received was on a 2013 Ford Explorer. Due to the fact that all other bids were on 2012 vehicles, the dealer was asked to bid on a 2012. Upon receipt of this bid, the 2013 vehicle bid was still the cheapest. Due to it being a 2013 model, it will take approximately 6-8 weeks for delivery. Chairman Stovall clarified that even with all the bids on 2012 vehicles, the bid on the 2013 was still the lowest. The Executive Committee previously recommended that the Council accept the bid of \$21,935.00 from Jacky Jones Ford in Cleveland for a 2013 Ford Explorer. Calvin Byrd made a motion to accept this bid, seconded by J.B. Jones and motion carried unanimously.

## NEW BUSINESS

### Transfer of Vehicle of Workforce Development

The Regional Commission recently had one of the 2004 Crown Vics in the fleet repainted by Lanier Technical College. The RC would like to transfer this vehicle over to the WIA program on April 1<sup>st</sup> due to the fact that they do not have any company vehicles for their program. WIA would be responsible for all repairs and upkeep of this vehicle. This comes as a recommendation from the Executive Committee. A motion was made by Doug Wayne to transfer this 2004 Crown Vic to the WIA program. Motion was seconded by Bill Black and motion carried.

### Resolution for Regional Transit Governance Participation

Adam Hazell discussed a resolution regarding a recent transportation study done for the State Legislature. Adam informed the Council that this study had been done at the request of the governor's office to review management of transit services within metro Atlanta. One issue was that during the study all indications suggested the focus area was the 10-county ARC territory, but that upon release of the draft there were recommendations concerning outlying counties, including Forsyth County within the GMRC. Working with these other counties and their Regional Commissions, it was advised that the RCs and the local governments needed to indicate their dissatisfaction with these recommendations since they had no representation during the study and feel the precedent established again concentrates control of an issue within central Atlanta. Hall and Forsyth Counties have their own transit program. The resolution was offered as a way of showing the State that the recommendations, as regarding the non-ARC counties, should not be applied, and that any effort going forward should address transit in a broader sense and not be viewed as wholly and Atlanta-centric concern. The Executive Committee recommended the adoption of the Resolution. Mike Berg made a motion to adopt and submit the Resolution. Motion was seconded by Angela Whidby and passed unanimously.

### Approval of WIA Comprehensive Plan

John Phillips, Workforce Development Director reported that when GMRC took over the Workforce Development, a new WIA Comprehensive Plan had to be developed and approved. This Plan covers all the aspects as to how the program fits into the region. The WIA Board has already approved the Plan and the Executive Committee reaffirmed this action. Charlie

Auvermann made a motion to reaffirm approval of this Plan and was seconded by Leslie George. Vote was unanimous.

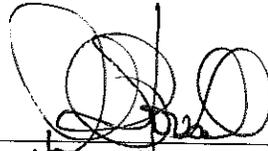
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Stovall announced that the April 26<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting will be sponsored by City of Cornelia and the program will be presented by DOT Staff on the TIA projects. He encouraged everyone to invite their city and county officials to attend.

Habersham County Chairman Lee Mulkey commended Danny Lewis on being elected the new President for Development District Association of Appalachia (DDAA).

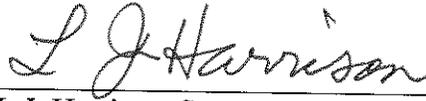
ADJOURNMENT

The Council Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.



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David Stovall, Chairman



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L.J. Harrison, Secretary