

GEORGIA MOUNTAINS REGIONAL COMMISSION
COUNCIL MEETING

The Community House
Cornelia, GA
April 26, 2012

MINUTES

The GMRC Council held its regular meeting on Thursday, April 26, 2012, 6:00 p.m. at The Community House in Cornelia, Georgia. The meeting was hosted by City of Cornelia and Habersham County.

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME/DINNER

Chairman David Stovall called the meeting to order and thanked everyone for attending this very important meeting. He explained that DOT wanted to hold one public meeting in each RC region on the Transportation Investment Act, so GMRC decided to combine our regional meeting with our Council Meeting. It is the RC's responsibility to educate the people in our region on this issue.

Chairman Stovall expressed his appreciation to the City of Cornelia and Habersham County for hosting the meeting and to the Habersham County Firemen for cooking the meal. The Chairman recognized Cornelia City Manager Dee Anderson and Habersham County Manager Janeann Allison for the welcome and local introductions. They welcomed everyone to the City of Cornelia and Habersham County and invited everyone to come back to visit their area.

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; Kathy Papa, DCA; and Billy Chism, White County News. He also recognized DOT staff which will be introduced later in the program.

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 the DOT staff, Todd Long, Deputy Commissioner; Toby Carr, Director of Planning; Russell McMurry, Division of Engineering Director; Bayne Smith, District Engineer; and Teri Pope, Communications Officer.

Todd Long and Russell McMurry spoke in depth on the Transportation Investment Act, our region's Transportation Roundtable responsibilities and how they decided on the list of projects for our area. They also spoke on the discretionary payout/uses, dialogue of delivering transportation referendum projects, the role of the Regional Commissions in the future with transportation, and the STIP development. Mr. Long explained how each city and county would be affected by the TIA. They then answered questions from the audience and clarified incorrect information that had been previously perceived. Mr. Long asked everyone to encourage citizens to vote on July 31st.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Chairman Stovall asked for any comments regarding the minutes of the March 29, 2012 meeting. Will Wade made a motion to accept the minutes as written and was seconded by Angela Whidby. Motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

No Old Business

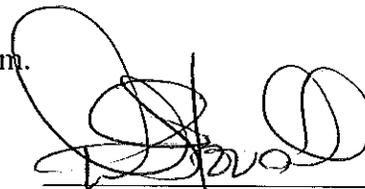
NEW BUSINESS

Legislative Appreciation Dinner

Mike Berg, Dawson County Commission Chairman reminded everyone of the GMRC Legislative Appreciation Dinner that would be held on May 31st at 6:00 p.m. at the Dawsonville City Hall. This meeting will be hosted by Dawson County, City of Dawsonville, and Dawson County Board of Education. He encouraged everyone to make a personal invitation to their representative and senator for their respective area. Formal invitations have already been sent but Council Members need to make that personal contact.

ADJOURNMENT

The Council Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.



David Stovall, Chairman



L.J. Harrison, Secretary