

GEORGIA MOUNTAINS REGIONAL COMMISSION
LEGISLATIVE APPRECIATION DINNER

Dawson County Junior High School
Dawsonville, Georgia
May 25, 2017

MINUTES

The GMRC Council held its Annual Legislative Appreciation Dinner on Thursday, May 25, 2017, at 6:00 p.m. at the Dawson County Junior High School in Dawsonville, Georgia. This meeting was sponsored by Dawson County Commission and Dawson County Board of Education.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Dean Scarborough called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to this event. He thanked everyone for their attendance.

WELCOME AND LOCAL INTRODUCTIONS

Billy Thurmond, Dawson County Commission Chairman, welcomed everyone and thanked them for visiting Dawson County and thanked our Legislators for attending. Mr. Thurmond thanked Sandra Bottoms for the wonderful meal that was served. He also recognized Dawson County Commissioners Sharon Fausett, Chris Gaines, Jimmy Hamby, and Julie Hughes Nix; and County Manager David Headley. Will Wade welcomed everyone to the Dawson County Junior High School and apologized that the Board of Education Board Members could not attend due to a conflicting event that was being held for the Dawson County graduates.

Chairman Scarborough thanked Dawson County Board of Commissioners and Dawson County Board of Education for hosting our Legislative Appreciation Meeting and Dinner.

INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL GUESTS

Vice-Chairman James Grogan recognized special guests Kathy Papa, Department of Community Affairs; Cheryl Smith, Georgia Department of Economic Development; Paul Chambers, AT&T; and Carol Jackson, North Georgia Technical College.

INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/DINNER

Will Wade gave the devotion, invocation, the pledge of allegiance, followed by dinner.

PROGRAM

Chairman Scarborough stated that several of our Legislators in attendance need to leave after speaking to attend the Dawson County graduation events. Due to this, the business portion of the meeting will be moved until last to allow the Legislators to speak first.

Lamar Paris, Chairman of the GMRC Legislative Committee, thanked everyone for attending and thereby showing our appreciation and support to the legislators that serve our 13 county region. The U.S. Senators and Representatives, Governor, Lt. Governor, Speaker of the House, State Senators and Representatives, and their aides for our area were all invited to attend. Mr. Paris introduced the following legislators who were in attendance and allowed each of them time to make comments:

Andrew Seaver – Aide from Senator David Perdue’s Office presented a video
which Senator Perdue had made since he was unable to attend.
Amy Turner – Aide from Senator Johnny Isakson’s Office
Bill Kokaly – Aide from Congressman Doug Collins’ Office
Senator Steve Gooch – District 51
Senator John Wilkinson – District 50
Representative Kevin Tanner - District 9
Representative Matt Gurtler – District 8

Mr. Paris thanked each of the legislators and aides for taking time out of their busy schedule to attend this meeting. He stated that the RC appreciated them being a friend to the Commission, but also wanted them to know that the RC was their friend. A gift was presented to each legislator as a token of our appreciation.

ACE PRESENTATION

Chairman Scarborough introduced Grace Fricks and Sandy Headley with Access to Capital for Entrepreneurs (ACE). ACE is a non-profit organization that provides local and business development resources to help its borrowers create and grow sustainable businesses which generate jobs. Ms. Fricks and Ms. Headley spoke regarding money that is available to our region through Georgia Economic Development/Community Facility Loans. Informational flyers were distributed.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES AND ATTENDANCE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Chairman Scarborough asked for any comments regarding the minutes and attendance report for the April 27, 2017 meeting. James Grogan made a motion to accept the minutes and attendance report as presented and was seconded by Sam Norton. Motion carried. Motion was also made by Bill Chafin to approve the Attendance Report. Seconded by Jim Conley and motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

FY18 GMRC Budget

The 2018 GMRC Proposed Budget was previously emailed to the Council for their review process. The Budget comes as a recommendation from the Finance Committee and Executive Committee for the Council's consideration. The total Budget for the Regional Commission, including WorkSource is \$6,389,702 with a fringe rate of 42.41%. The Budget is a balanced budget. Several items were handled differently in this Budget. In years past, employee pay increases were done across the board. This year there was \$114,000 in unallocated funds and we are asking that \$52,000 be set aside for pay increases, but this year they will be done on a merit based system. The department heads will be determined by the Executive Director and all other staff will be determined by their department head with a cap of 3%. This would leave \$73,000 of allocated funds for use as match for grants. Mr. Chafin asked if there were any questions regarding the Budget.

Bill Chafin submitted a motion to adopt the 2018 Fiscal Year Budget as presented. Charlie Auvermann seconded and motion carried.

Chairman Scarborough thanked Mr. Chafin, Budget Committee, and Andrea Newsom for the work that had been put into this Budget.

NEW BUSINESS

Personnel Policy and Procedures

The Personnel Policy and Procedures were previously emailed to the Council for their review. The old Policies and Procedures were updated to include our Mission Statement, Conflict of Interest Policy, Social Media Policy, WorkSource Grievance Policy, and Credit Card Policy. Charlie Auvermann made a motion to approve and Jim Conley seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Cleaning Services Contract

Request for Bids were sent out for the weekly cleaning services for both GMRC office buildings. This contract will begin on June 1, 2017 and will be for a three-year period. Eight bids were received and Service Master in Gainesville was the lowest bid with a total of \$603.00 for both buildings. Motion was made by Doug Wayne and seconded by Bill Black to approve this contract. Motion carried.

RLF Committee Report

Chairman Scarborough informed the Council that in reviewing the Bylaws, all RLF loans must be approved by the GMRC Council. Jim Conley, RLF Committee Chairman, reported that the RLF Committee met prior to the Council Meeting to review this potential loan. In September of last year, Bobbers and Beers Steak House applied for a larger loan but at that time they were

denied due to lack of collateral for the amount of money they had applied for. They have resubmitted for a two-year loan for \$20,000 for working capital. Collateral would be first mortgage on a cabin on Lake Hartwell valued at \$64,000. The interest rate on the loan would be 5.75%. The RLF Committee and the Executive Committee met previously and recommended the loan to the Council. J.B. Jones made a motion to approve the loan and was seconded by Angela Whidby. Motion carried.

Election of GMRC Officers

Rex Farmer, Nominating Committee Chairman, reported the Committee met last month and recommended a slate of officers for consideration for the upcoming term. During the month, some changes arose and Chairman Dean Scarborough agreed to be considered as Chairman for another term. The Committee met again and recommends that we keep the same officers for 2017-2019: Dean Scarborough (Stephens County) – Chairman; James Grogan (City of Dawsonville) – Vice-Chairman; and George Wangemann (City of Gainesville) - Secretary.

Chairman Scarborough stated that these nominations come as a recommendation from the Nominating Committee. Sam Norton made a motion to except these nominations and was seconded by Doug Wayne. Chairman Scarborough asked if there were any other nominations from the floor. There being none, the Chairman called for a vote. Motion carried unanimously. New officers will take office in July and will serve a two year term.


ANNOUNCEMENTS

WorkSource will be moving into their new location at 1856 Thompson Bridge Road in Gainesville. Everyone was invited to stop by and see their new facility.

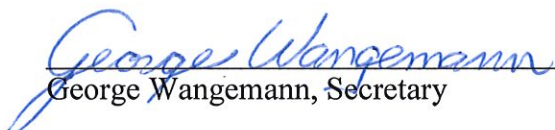
Next month's meeting will be held at the Hall County Government Offices in Gainesville and our speaker will be Lee Beckmann with the Georgia Ports Authority.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.



Dean Scarborough, Chairman



George Wangemann, Secretary

GMRC COUNCIL
ATTENDANCE SHEET
2016-2017

COUNTY	COUNCIL MEMBER	7/28/16	8/25/16	9/29/16	10/27/16	11/17/16	12/2/16	1/26/17	2/23/17	3/30/17	4/27/17	5/25/17	6/29/17
BANKS	Danny Maxwell	P (R)	A	P	P (R)	P	P	A	A	P	P (R)	A	
	Jerry Payne	A	P (R)	P	P	P	P	P (R)	P	P	P	P (R)	
	Leslie George	P	P	P	P	P	P	A	P	P (R)	P	P	
DAWSON	Billy Thurmond							(N) P	P	P	A	P	
	James Grogan	P	A	P	P	P	P	A	P	P	P	P	
	Charlie Auvermann	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	
FORSYTH	Todd Levent							(N) P	P	A	A	A	
	Chuck Welch	A	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	
	Robert Long	P	P	P	A	P	A	P	P	A	P	P	
FRANKLIN	Thomas Bridges							(N) P	P	P	A	P	
	Ralph Owens	P	P (R)	P	P	A	P	A	P	P	P	A	
	Gerald Voyles	P	A	P	A	P	P	A	P	P	P	P	
HABERSHAM	Natalie Crawford							(N) P	A	A	P	A	
	Audrey Turner	P	P	P	P (R)	P (R)	P	P (R)	P	P (R)	P (R)	P	
	Ken Schubring	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P (R)	
HALL	Richard Higgins							(N) P (R)	A	P (R)	A	P	
	George Wangemann***	P	P	P	P	A	A	P	P	A	P	P	
	Deborah Maack	P	P	A	P	A	P	P	P	P	A	P	
HART	Ricky Carter	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	A	P	
	Tray Hicks	P	A	P	A	P	P	A	A	P (R)	A	A	
	Bill Chafin	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	
LUMPKIN	Chris Dockery	P	P (R)	A	P (R)	P (R)	P	P (R)	P	A	A	P	
	Sam Norton*	P	P	P	A	P	P	P	P	A	P	P	
	J.B. Jones	P	P	A	P	P	A	P	P	P	P	P	

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RABUN	Greg James	P (R)	P (R)	A	P (R)	P (R)	P	P (R)	A	P (R)	P (R)	P (R)	
	Debbie Chisholm	P	A	A	P	A	P	P	A	P	A	A	
	Douglas Wayne	P	P	P	P	P	P	A	P	P	P	P	
STEPHENS	Dean Scarborough**	P	A	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	
	David Austin	A	A	P	P	A	P	A	P	P	P	A	
	Connie Tabor				(N) P	A	A	E	P	P	P	A	
TOWNS	Cliff Bradshaw							(N) P	A	P	P (R)	P (R)	
	Andrea Gibby	P	P	A	P	A	A	P	A	A	E	P	
	David Stovall	A	P (R)	P	P	P (R)	P	P (R)	P	P (R)	P (R)	P	
UNION	Lamar Paris	P	A	P	P	A	P	P	P	P	A	P	
	Jim Conley	P	A	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	
	Mitch Griggs	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	A	P	P	P	
WHITE	Travis Turner	P (R)	A	P	P (R)	P (R)	P	P (R)	P	P (R)	A	A	
	Annie Sutton	A	P	P	P	A	P	A	P	P	A	P	
	Bill Black	P	P	A	P	A	P	A	P	P	P	P	
GOV APPT.	Rex Farmer	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	A	P	P	
	Angela Whidby			(N) P	P	P	P	P	A	P	P	P	
	Will Wade	P	P	P	A	P	A	A	E	P	A	P	
LT. GOV. APPT.	Vacant												
SPEAKER APPT.	Vacant												

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

* Chairman
** Vice Chairman
*** Secretary