

GEORGIA MOUNTAINS REGIONAL COMMISSION
LEGISLATIVE APPRECIATION DINNER

Dawson County Middle School
Dawsonville, Georgia
May 28, 2015

MINUTES

The GMRC Council held its Annual Legislative Appreciation Dinner on Thursday, May 28, 2015, at 6:00 p.m. at the Dawson County Middle School in Dawsonville, Georgia. This meeting was sponsored by Dawson County and Dawson County Board of Education.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Sam Norton called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to this event. He thanked everyone for their attendance. He noted that there were a few items of business on the Agenda that needed to be taken care of before we recognize our legislators.

WELCOME AND LOCAL INTRODUCTIONS

Mike Berg, Dawson County Commission Chairman, welcomed everyone and thanked them for visiting Dawson County and thanked our Legislators for attending. Mr. Berg recognized Dawson County Commissioners Jimmy Hamby, Sharon Fausett, James Swafford, and Julie Hughes Nix; County Manager Cindy Campbell; and Peter Hill and Will Wade, GMRC Council Members. On behalf of the Board of Education, Will Wade, Chairman of the Dawson County Board of Education welcomed everyone to the Dawson County Middle School. Mr. Wade also serves as Vice-Chairman of the State School Board.

INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL GUESTS

Vice-Chairman Dean Scarborough recognized special guests Kathy Papa, Department of Community Affairs; Cheryl Smith, Georgia Department of Economic Development; Todd Edwards, Association of County Commissioners of Georgia; and Michele Hester, Dawson County News and Advertiser.

INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/DINNER

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

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Chairman Norton asked for any comments regarding the minutes of the April 30th meeting. Doug Wayne made a motion to accept the minutes as written and was seconded by Sonny James. Motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Election of New Officers for GMRC Council

At the March Council Meeting, Chairman Norton reactivated the Nominating Committee to search for a slate of officers for the upcoming year. Rex Farmer, Chairman of the Nominating Committee reported that the Committee had met and the following nominations were presented to the Council for their consideration: Dean Scarborough (Stephens County), Chairman; James Grogan (City of Dawsonville), Vice Chairman; and George Wangemann (City of Gainesville), Secretary. A motion was made by Tray Hicks to ratify these nominations and was seconded by Sonny James. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Norton stated that these nominations come as a recommendation from the Nominating Committee. Bill Chafin made a motion to open the floor for any other nominations and was seconded by Ricky Carter. Motion carried unanimously. There being no other nominations, a motion was made by L.J. Harrison close the nominations from the floor and was seconded by Leslie George. Motion carried. The Chairman asked for discussion on the nominations, there were none.

Chairman Norton stated that this slate of officers would be voted on separately.

A motion was made by Tray Hicks to elect Dean Scarborough as Chairman. Motion was seconded by Jim Conley and motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Leslie George to elect James Grogan as Vice Chairman. Motion was seconded by Bill Chafin and motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Jim Conley to elect George Wangemann as Secretary. Motion was seconded by Leslie George and motion carried unanimously.

New officers will take office in July and will serve a two year term. The Chairman congratulated our newly elected officers.

NEW BUSINESS

Reach of Song Quilt

In 1988, the RC (then known as the RDC) received several grants from ARC, EDA, DCA, DITT, and others to do a Tourism Feasibility Study for a live drama that would depict the Appalachian life style in our region. Peggy Lovell, Executive Assistant gave a summary of this program. This drama was written about the life and poetry of Byron Herbert Reece who was born and raised in Union County. For six years, the drama was performed at the North Georgia Fair's Anderson Music Hall located in Towns County with the majority of actors being local residents and using props from the area farms. One of the props was a quilt made by the senior centers in the GMRC region with each square reflecting Reece's poetry. The Reach of Song was named by the Georgia General Assembly as the State of Georgia Official Historic Drama. Beginning in 2006, ARC also provided grant funds to preserve the old home place and farm where Mr. Reece was born and raised.

After the drama closed, the Reach of Song Quilt had been stored at the RC office. The quilt and other items were presented to Lamar Paris, Union County Commissioner for the Byron Herbert Reece Society by Chairman Norton and Ms. Lovell. These items will be placed on display in the museum/gift shop at the Byron Herbert Reece Farm.

PROGRAM

Lamar Paris, Chairman of the 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 and discuss items that were addressed in this year's session:

Representative Carl Rogers - District 29
Senator Steve Gooch - District 51
Senator Frank Ginn - District 47
Tate O'Rourke - Aide from Senator Johnny Isakson's Office
Stami Williams - Aide for Senator David Perdue
Todd Edwards - ACCG

Chairman Norton 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

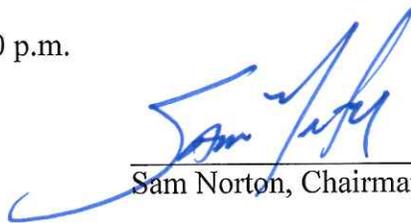
The June Council meeting will be hosted by Hall County and Commissioner Mark Butler with DOL will be our speaker.

DOOR PRIZES

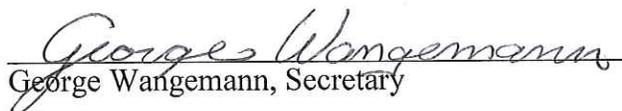
Door prizes were provided by Dawson County and were awarded to the lucky winners.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.



Sam Norton, Chairman



George Wangemann, Secretary

**RMNYELLOWGMRC COUNCIL
ATTENDANCE SHEET
2014-2015**

COUNTY	COUNCIL MEMBER	7/31/14	8/28/14	9/25/14	10/30/14	11/20/14	12/5/14*	1/29/15	2/26/15	3/26/15	4/30/15	5/28/15	6/25/15	
BANKS	Danny Maxwell	A	A	E	P	P (R)	P	P	Meeting Cancelled due to Inclement Weather	P (R)	A	P (R)		
	Jerry Payne	P	A	P	P	P	P	P		P	P	A	P	
	Leslie George	P	P	P	P (R)	P	P	P		P	P	A	P	
DAWSON	Mike Berg	P	P	P	P	A	A	P			P (R)	P	P	
	James Grogan	P	P (R)	P	P	P	P	P			P	P	P	
	Charlie Anvermann	P (R)	P	P	P	P	A	P			P	P	A	
FORSYTH	Brian Tam	P	P	P (R)	P	A	A	P (R)			P (R)	P	P (R)	
	Ralph Perry	P	P	A	P	P (R)	P (R)	A			A	P	A	
	Randall Toussaint	A	P (R)	P	A	A	P	P			A	P	A	
FRANKLIN	David Strickland	P	P	P	P	P	P	P			P (R)	P	P	
	Ralph Owens	P (R)	P	P	P (R)	P (R)	P	P			P	P	P	
	Gerald Voyles	P	P	P	P	P	P	A			P	P	A	
HABERSHAM	Sonny James	A	P	P	P	A	P	P			P	P	P	
	Audrey Turner	P	A	P	P (R)	P	P	P			P	A	P	
	Ken Schubring	P	P	A	P	A	P	P		P	P	P		
HALL	Dick Mecum	P (R)	P (R)	P (R)	P (R)	P (R)	P	P (R)		P (R)	P (R)	P (R)		
	George Wangemann***	P	P	P	A	P	P	P		P	P	P		
	Deborah Mack	P	P	P	P	P	P	P		A	P	P		
HART	Ricky Carter							P (N)			A	P		
	Tray Hicks	P	A	A	P	P	P	A		P	P	P		
	Bill Chafin	P	P	P	P	P	A	P		P	P	P		
LUMPKIN	Chris Dockery	P	A	A	P	P	P	P		A	P	P		
	Sam Norton*	P	A	P	P	P	P	P		P	P	P		
	J.B. Jones	P	P	A	P	A	P	P		P	A	A		

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

**GMRC COUNCIL
ATTENDANCE SHEET
2014-2015**

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RABUN	Greg James	P (R)	P (R)	P (R)	P (R)	P (R)	P	P		P (R)	P (R)	A	
	Debbie Chisholm	P	A	P (R)	P (R)	P (R)	A	A		P	A	P	
	Douglas Wayne	P	P	P	P	P	P	P		P	P	P	
STEPHENS	Dean Scarborough**	P	P	P	P	P	P	P		P	P	P	
	David Austin							P (N)					
TOWNS	L.J. Harrison	P	P	P	P	P	P	P		P	A	P	
	Bill Kendall	P	P (R)	P	P (R)	A	A	P (R)		A	P (R)	P (R)	
	Joan Crothers	P	A	P	A	P	A	P		A	A	P	
	David Stovall	A	P	P	A	A	A	P		P	P (R)	P (R)	
UNION	Lamar Paris	P	A	P	A	A	P	P		P	P	P	
	Jim Conley	P	P	A	P	P	P	P		P	P	P	
	Mitch Griggs	P	P	P	A	A	P	P		P	P	P	
WHITE	Travis Turner	P	A	P	P (R)	A	P	P (R)		P (R)	P	P (R)	
	Annie Sutton	P	P	P	P	A	P	A		P	A	P	
	Bill Black	P	P	P	A	P	P	P		A	P	A	
GOV APPT.	Rex Farmer	P	P	P	P	P	P	P		A	P	P	
	Vacant												
LT. GOV. APPT.	Will Wade	A	P	P	P	P	A	A		P	A	P	
	Vacant												
SPEAKER APPT.	Peter Hill	P	A	P	P	A	P	A		P	P	P	

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

* Chairman
** Vice Chairman
*** Secretary