

GEORGIA MOUNTAINS REGIONAL COMMISSION
LEGISLATIVE APPRECIATION DINNER

Dawson County Middle School
Dawsonville, Georgia
May 29, 2014

MINUTES

The GMRC Council held its Annual Legislative Appreciation Dinner on Thursday, May 29, 2014, at 6:00 p.m. at the Dawson County Middle School in Dawsonville, Georgia. This meeting was sponsored by Dawson County, City of Dawsonville, 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 are a few items of business on the agenda 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, James Swafford, and Julie Hughes Nix. Mayor James Grogan, City of Dawsonville, recognized City Councilmen Chris Gaines and Jason Power; and Seanie Zappendorph, Secretary of DDAA. Will Wade, Vice Chair of the Dawson County Board of Education, recognized Roger Slaton, Board Chair and Cecil Bennett, who has served on the Board of Education for 25 years.

INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL GUESTS

Vice-Chairman Dean Scarborough recognized special guests Kathy Papa, Department of Community Affairs; Cheryl Smith, Georgia Department of Economic Development; and Melissa Maytone, 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 24th meeting. Jim Conley made a motion to accept the minutes as written and was seconded by James Grogan. Motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

FY15 GMRC Budget

The 2015 GMRC Proposed Budget was previously emailed to the Council for their 30-day review period. 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 WD, is down 16% due to sequestered grant funds, which will end on June 30, 2015. The fringe rate has increased from 37 to 44% due to the uncertainty of the insurance premiums increase due to the new Health Care Plan. At this time, we do not know what the rates will be. There is an increase in Dues in the amount of \$11,000 due to the 2012 Reapportionment Censes Figures from DCA. The proposed Budget includes a 3% salary increase for all 33 full time employees and one part-time employee.

Chairman Norton asked for any questions regarding the Budget. There being none, a motion was made by Lamar Paris to approve the FY15 Budget and was seconded by Bill Myers. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

RLF Update

The Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) had \$7,889 sequestered by the Economic Development Administration (EDA) due to a loan for \$50,000 that did not close. Due to loans that have previously been made, EDA earlier released \$393,904 in sequestered funds and is now available to be loaned. Chairman Norton encouraged Council members to spread the word that the RC has this money available to help businesses in our region.

Accounting Software

The present GMRC accounting software was purchased in 1990 and is in need of new software. Previously RFPs were sent out and the RC received bids from BS&A Software, Tyler Technologies, and Blackbaud, Inc. After reviewing the bids, the Finance Committee and staff recommend Tyler Technologies. A spreadsheet was distributed to Council Members with pros and cons of all three bid packages. Tyler Technologies is not the lowest, but the Finance Committee feels it is the best package. They are based in Texas, but has a technician in Gwinnett. It is a web based software and will do training in person. Tyler Technologies presently has 1,900 government clients. The Finance Department would like to have this software in place by July 1.

Ralph Perry made a motion to purchase the new accounting software from Tyler Technologies. Motion was seconded by Dean Scarborough and carried unanimously.

PROGRAM

Dean Scarborough, 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. Scarborough introduced the following legislators who were in attendance and allowed each of them time to make comments:

Representative Emory Dunahoo – District 30
Representative Carl Rogers - District 29
Representative Lee Hawkins - District 27
Representative Geoff Duncan – District 26
Representative Kevin Tanner - District 9
Senator Butch Miller – District 49
Senator Jack Murphy - District 27
Representative Lee Hawkins - District 27
Darren Kendall – Aide from Congressman Doug Collins’ Office
Barton Lowrey – Aide from Senator Johnny Isakson’s Office

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 Rabun County and will be held at The Waterfall Club in Clayton, Georgia.

Chairman Norton commended the GMRC Executive Director and staff for their work and leadership at state and regional meetings. He is proud of how well we are represented.

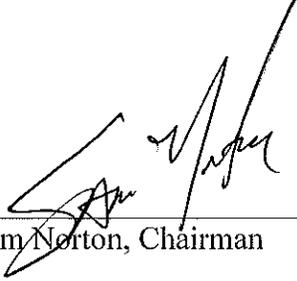
Executive Director Danny Lewis announced that the GMRC will be receiving the “Organization of Ethics” certificate at the GMA Conference in Savannah on June 23rd. Chairman Norton has invited any local official or Council Member that will be present at this meeting to join them on stage for the presentation.

DOOR PRIZES

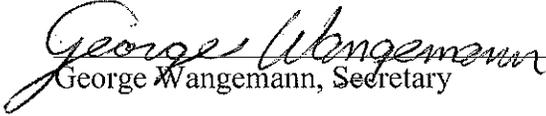
Door prizes were provided by Dawson County and City of Dawsonville and were awarded to the lucky winners.

ADJOURNMENT

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



Sam Norton, Chairman



George Wangemann, Secretary