

GEORGIA MOUNTAINS REGIONAL COMMISSION  
LEGISLATIVE APPRECIATION DINNER

Dawson County Junior High School  
Dawsonville, Georgia  
May 31, 2018

MINUTES

The GMRC Council held its Annual Legislative Appreciation Dinner on Thursday, May 31, 2018, 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 the RC for all the work they have done for Dawson County. He also recognized Dawson County Commissioners Sharon Fausett, Jimmy Hamby, and Julie Hughes Nix; and County Manager David Headley. Dawsonville City Councilman Jason Powers was also in attendance. 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.

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 Sam Norton recognized special guests Kathy Papa, Department of Community Affairs; Cheryl Smith, Georgia Department of Economic Development; Charlotte Davis, Georgia Municipal Association; Todd Edwards, Association of County Commissioners of Georgia; and Brian Kemp, Secretary of State.

INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/DINNER

Deborah Mack gave the devotion, invocation, the pledge of allegiance, followed by dinner.

## CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES AND ATTENDANCE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Chairman Scarborough asked for any comments regarding the minutes and attendance report for the April 26, 2018 meeting. Bill Thurmond made a motion to accept the minutes and attendance report as presented and was seconded by Chris Dockery. Motion carried.

## OLD BUSINESS

### FY19 GMRC Budget

The 2019 GMRC Proposed Budget was previously emailed to the Council for their review prior to the meeting. 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 is \$6,991,880. Bill Chafin, Finance and Audit Committee Chairman called for any questions. There being none, Mr. Chafin submitted a motion to adopt the 2019 GMRC Fiscal Year Budget as presented. David Austin seconded and motion carried.

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

## NEW BUSINESS

### New Council Member

Chairman Scarborough introduced and welcomed Mr. Jason Evans as the new GMRC Council Member. Mr. Evans is a Cumming City Councilman and will be serving as the City's representative on the Council.

### State Travel Policy

Ms. Heather Feldman, GMRC Executive Director, has been working on the GMRC Travel Policy to incorporate the State Policy into it, but eliminating some items that do not pertain to GMRC (such as international travel). This new document is compiled in conjunction with the other RCs to have some uniformity across the state. The new GMRC Policy will be emailed to the Council for review and to get comments from the Council before the June meeting. Jim Conley made a motion to place this document on the table for review until the June Council meeting. Ricky Carter seconded and motion carried.

### RLF Plan Recertification

In June 2016, the Council adopted the Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) Plan which basically sets the lending loan policies that the RC goes by and the performance metrics therein. As part of the requirements by EDA, we must do an annual recertification to adopt this plan. A Resolution regarding this was emailed to the Council earlier in the month. Bill Chafin made a recommendation for the approval of this Resolution. Motion was seconded by Ken Schubring and motion carried.

## PROGRAM

Lamar Paris, Chairman of the GMRC Legislative Committee, stated that we are honored to have each of the legislators to attend. This year, we are trying something a little new and hope that everyone enjoys it. During dinner, the audience was asked to fill our cards with questions for the Legislators to answer on current issues or bills that were brought before them during session this year. Mr. Paris introduced the following:

Andrew Seaver – Aide from Senator David Perdue’s Office presented a video from Senator Perdue since he was unable to attend.  
Brad Williamson – Aide from Senator Johnny Isakson’s Office  
(was present but had to leave)  
Bill Kokaly and Joel Katz – Aides from Congressman Doug Collins’ Office  
Senator Steve Gooch – District 51  
Senator Frank Ginn – District 47  
Representative Alan Powell – District 32  
Representative Emory Dunahoo - District 30  
Representative Lee Hawkins – District 27  
Representative Kevin Tanner - District 9

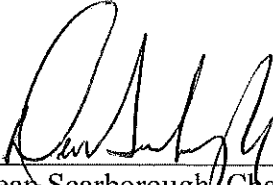
Chairman Scarborough asked the panel member to state what committees they serve on and also to speak on one important bill or issue that they worked on this year. Chairman Scarborough addressed questions on a number of issues which the audience had submitted and allowed the legislators to answer. In conclusion, Chairman Scarborough thanked each of the legislators and aides for taking time out of their busy schedule to attend this meeting. He stated that the RC appreciates all the work they do year round and especially what they do for the RC. A gift was presented to each legislator as a token of our appreciation.

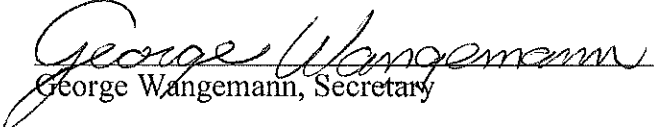
## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next month’s meeting will be hosted by Towns County.

## ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

  
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Dean Scarborough, Chairman

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
George Wangemann, Secretary

**GMRC COUNCIL  
ATTENDANCE SHEET  
2017-2018**

COUNTY	COUNCIL MEMBER	7/27/17	8/31/17	9/28/17	10/26/17	11/16/17	12/1/17	1/25/18	2/22/18	3/29/18	4/26/18	5/31/18	6/28/18
BANKS	Danny Maxwell	P	P	A	P (R)	P (R)	P	A	P (R)	A	P (R)	P	
	Jerry Payne	P	P	A	P	P	P	P	P	A	P	P	
	Leslie George	P	P	P	P (R)	P	P (R)	P (R)	P	P (R)	P (R)	A	
DAWSON	Billy Thurmond	A	P	A	A	P	A	A	P	A	A	P	
	Mike Eason							(N)P	A	A	P	P (R)	
FORSYTH	David Headley	P	A	P	P	P	A	A	P	P	A	P	
	Pete Amos	P	P	P	P	A	P	A	P	P	P	P	
	Jason Evans											(N)P	
FRANKLIN	Robert Long	P	P	P	P	P	A	P	P	P	P	A	
	Thomas Bridges	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	A	P	A	P	
	Ralph Owens	P	P	P	A	A	P	P	P	P	P	A	
HABERSHAM	Gerald Voyles	P	P	A	P (R)	P	P	P	P	P	P	A	
	Natalie Crawford	A	P	A	P	A	A	P	A	P	P	A	
	Audrey Turner	P	P	P (R)	P	P (R)	P	P	P	P	P	P (R)	
HALL	Ken Schubring	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	
	Richard Higgins	P (R)	P (R)	P (R)	P (R)	P (R)	P	P (R)	P (R)	A	P (R)	P (R)	
	George Wangemann***	P	P	P	A	P	P	P	P	A	P	P	
HART	Deborah Mack	P	P	A	P	A	P	P	P	P	P	P	
	Ricky Carter	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	A	P	
	Tray Hicks	P	A	A	P (R)	A	P	A	P	P	P	A	
LUMPKIN	Bill Chafin	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	
	Chris Dockery	P	P	P (R)	P	A	P	A	A	P	A	P	
	Sam Norton*	P	P	A	P	P	P	P	A	P	P	P	
	J.B. Jones	P	A	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	A	A	

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

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

\* Chairman  
\*\* Vice Chairman  
\*\*\* Secretary