GEORGIA MOUNTAINS REGIONAL COMMISSION
COUNCIL MEETING

Lake Burton Club
Clayton, GA
June 28, 2012

MINUTES

The GMRC Council held its regular meeting on Thursday, June 28, 2012, 6:00 p.m. at Lake Burton Club in Clayton, Georgia. The meeting was hosted by Rabun County and City of Clayton.

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME/DINNER

Chairman David Stovall called the meeting to order and thanked everyone for their attendance. He also expressed his appreciation to the Rabun County and City of Clayton for hosting this meeting in such a beautiful location and facility.

Chairman Stovall recognized Rabun County Commission Chairman Stan Darnell for local introductions. Mr. Darnell thanked everyone for attending and recognized Rabun County Commissioners Katheryn Granberg, Will Nichols, and Jimmy Loudermilk; County Manager Jimmy Bleckley, and County Attorney Allyn Stockton. City of Clayton Council Member Ms. Debbie Chisholm stated that no one from the City of Clayton had arrived. They had previously attended a City of Clayton Budget Meeting and were on their way to this meeting.

INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL GUESTS

Chairman Stovall recognized other special guests Matt Waldroup, Aide to Congressman Paul Broun's Office; Tate O'Rouke, Aide to Sen. Isakson's Office; Connie Smith, DOL; Bubba Samuels, Franklin County; and Rep. Carl and Linda Rogers.

INVOCATION/ PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/DINNER

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

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Chairman Stovall asked for any comments regarding the minutes of the May 31, 2012 meeting. Doug Wayne made a motion to accept the minutes as written and was seconded by Lee Mulkey. Motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Danny Lewis referred to his report in the Council Packet. He stated the Planning Department are fully staffed at that time. Adam Hazell, Planning Director, introduced Ms. Sarah McQuade who had filled the position of Regional Planner. The GMRC Staff are pleased to have her as one of our employees.

Mr. Lewis congratulated Franklin County on the completion of the new Ty Cobb Medical Center. This is a state-of-the- art facility and an asset to that area. He invited everyone to stop by and see this magnificent facility.

DCA Commissioner Mike Beatty has been working with all the Regional Commissions to fund teleconferencing equipment for each RC office. This equipment would allow our staff and others to participate in live video conference programs with others throughout the state and nation. Our equipment and facility are available to our cities and counties if they need to participate in a video conference and do not have this capability. Our equipment was ordered this week and should be in and installed in approximately 10 days. He commended Commissioner Beatty for making this available to the RCs.

A couple of months ago, the Council agreed to purchase a new vehicle to be added to the fleet. Mr. Lewis announced that the vehicle is in and now in the fleet.

Mr. Lewis congratulated City of Bowersville on receiving a OneGeorgia grant for a new water system project.

During the past few months, GMRC was represented at the GMA and ACCG Annual Conferences. Mr. Lewis manned the GARC booth at the ACCG Conference and Peggy Lovell did the same at the GMA Conference.

We are proud to be hosting the DDAA/ARC National Board of Directors Meeting in our region. The group will be meeting at Brasstown Valley Resort on July 29-31, 2012. On the last night of the meeting, the group will be traveling to the Union County Community Center for an Appalachian grown meal. Everything for this meal will be locally grown and steaks will come from a local farm. Mr. Lewis thanked Lamar Paris and Sam Norton for helping with the event. We want to be able to showcase things from our region.

Rep. Carl Rogers was asked to address the audience since he was unable to attend last month's legislative Appreciation Dinner. He encouraged everyone to vote on July 31st and reminded people that the TSPOST will be on the ballot. He stated that if this vote does not pass, there is no Plan B. He stated, "If we want to put people in our region back to work, we should vote for this item". He also stated that this is a challenging time for our cities and counties. Mr. Lewis thanked Rep. Rogers for his comments and said Rep. Rogers' door is always open to us.

Financial Report

The Financial Report was given by GMRC Director of Finance, Becky Sievers. The Cash Position as of May 31, 2012 showed a bank balance of $354,480, receivables of $45,160 and payables of $278,317, with an uncommitted cash balance of $121,323. The Income-Expense Report for the period of July 1, 2011 – May 31, 2012 indicated income of $957,083, expenses of $969,819, accounts receivable of $12,737, with 71 percent of the budget being expended for the fiscal year. Jim Conley made a motion to accept the report and was seconded by Will Wade. Motion carried.

Workforce Development Report

John Phillips, Workforce Development Director, recognized the Workforce Development Board Members and thanked them for their service. He gave a report on the progress that the department had made. They have hired four new employees and have held WD Overview programs in all 13 counties. There are over 700 people enrolled in the program at this time. Mr. Phillips explained the program and how it worked. He asked for the cities and counties to assist them in getting into the area schools to make the students aware of how they can assist them.

OLD BUSINESS

Legislative Appreciation Dinner Review

Mr. Lewis thanked Dawson County and the City of Dawsonville for hosting the Legislative Appreciation Dinner held last month. This was a huge success with approximately 125 in attendance. The Legislators were allowed to address the audience on issues from this year's session. Present were four Aides from the Congressional Offices, one State Senator, and five State Representatives from our area. GMA and ACCG also had representatives present. GMRC thanked each one for their support.

Consideration of 2013 GMRC Budget

Mr. Bill Chafin, Chairman of the Finance/Audit Committee, stated that the 2013 GMRC Budget was previously emailed to the Council for their review. This budget has an increase of $38,270 which includes a 3% cost-of-living increase. This has been on the table for 30 days and the Executive Committee made a motion to approve the 2013 Budget. There being no questions, the vote was taken and passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Increase Purchase Authorization

Mr. Lewis informed the Council that the current authorization level for checks is $10,000. This was implemented when the GMRC budget was $1.5 million. The budget has increased to $4 million with the addition of Workforce Development. Checks that are cut for the operation of

the WIA often exceed the current authorization amount. Most of these checks are to contract providers for program participants that provide education services. The Executive Committee recommended that the authorization limit be increased for the Executive Director from $10,000 to $25,000 and be made retroactive to October 1, 2011 when GMRC assumed control of Workforce Development. Chairman Stovall asked if there were any questions.

Will Wade inquired as to why the increase needed to be made retroactive back to October 1, 2011. Mr. Lewis answered that this was for an audit prospective.

Lee Mulkey made a motion to change the authorization limit for the Executive Director from $10,000 to $25,000 and be retroactive back to October 1, 2011. Doug Wayne seconded the motion. Motion passed with one opposing vote by Will Wade.

2012 Annual Meeting

Ms. Leslie George, Annual Meeting Committee Chairman, reminded everyone that the Annual Meeting will be held on December 7th at the Dillard House Conference Center. With the tremendous crowd that we had last year, notices will be sent out the first part of October and the deadline for making reservations is November 19th, so go ahead an mark this on your calendar and make plans to get your reservations in early. Our entertainment has already been secured thanks to Andrea Disharoon. Our theme will be "Country Christmas" again this year.

Appointments of Private Sector Representatives

Chairman Stovall reminded the Council that the private sector representatives on our Council were elected for a one year term or until replaced. These terms are expiring June 30th. Chairman Stovall read a list of the Private Sector Representatives from the 13 counties. The Executive Committee recommended that these representatives be reappointed for the upcoming year. Angela Whidby made a motion to accept these appointments to serve from July 1, 2012-June 30, 2013. Will Wade seconded the motion and passed unanimously.

WD Mobile Units

Chairman Stovall announced that Workforce Development had previously agreed to take bids on two mobile units to be used for training. The total of these two units is $604,510, which would be paid for with WD funds. The larger unit will have 12 training stations and the smaller has 8 training stations. One unit would be stationed in the northern part of our region and the other in the southern part. DOL closed one center in Union County and these unites would allow WD to be able to go to sites in the counties for training purposes or when there is a plant closing. We are working on an agreement to possibly park the units in Union and Dawson Counties on county school property. The Executive Committee recommends to the Council the purchase of these to units which would be paid for with ED funds. Vote was taken and passed unanimously.

PROGRAM

GMRC Attorney, Kevin Tallant of Miles, Patterson, Hansford, and Tallant, LLC presented a program on the "Revisions of Georgia's Open Meetings and Open Records Laws". There are numerous changes in the law and Mr. Tallant explained how these could affect our city and county governments and agencies.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Stovall announced that the July 26th Council Meeting would be on the banks of the river at the Hiawassee River Trout Lodge about 6 miles south of Hiawassee. This meeting will be sponsored by Towns County. Georgia Mountain Fair will be in full swing that week and they have graciously invited us to attend the Fair and the Blue Grass music program after our meeting. They will provide the Council with tickets and parking passes. The program for July's meeting will be Frank Norton will present his mid-year Native Intelligence Update. This meeting will be at 5:30 p.m. to allow everyone time to attend the Fair afterwards.

ADJOURNMENT

The Council Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.

David Stovall, Chairman

L.J. Harrison, Secretary