

GEORGIA MOUNTAINS REGIONAL COMMISSION
COUNCIL MEETING
Rabun County Civic Center
Clayton, Georgia
July 27, 2017

MINUTES

The GMRC Council held its regular meeting on Thursday, July 27, 2017, 6:00 p.m. at the Rabun County Civic Center in Clayton, Georgia. The meeting was hosted by Rabun County Commission.

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

Chairman Dean Scarborough called the meeting to order and thanked the Council and guests for their attendance. Rabun County Commission Chairman Greg James welcomed everyone to Rabun County and thanked the RC for what they have done for the County. He also thanked Doug and Linda Wayne for their loyalty in representing Rabun County at the GMRC Council meetings each month. He recognized Rabun County Commissioner Bob Fink and County Manager Darrin Giles; and officials from the six cities located in Rabun County. Mr. James thanked Mr. Giles and staff for making the arrangements for this meeting and Sunday Diner for catering.

Chairman Scarborough thanked Rabun County for hosting tonight's meeting.

INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL GUESTS

Secretary George Wangemann recognized special guests Kathy Papa, Department of Community Affairs; Cheryl Smith, Georgia Department of Economic Development; Joel Katz and Dave McDonald, Congressman Collins' Office; and Andrew Seaver, Senator Perdue's Office.

INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/DINNER

Deborah Mack gave our devotion, invocation, and followed with the Pledge of Allegiance.

PROGRAM

Mr. Joe Yeager, Region I Parks Manager for the Department of Natural Resources gave a presentation on the state parks in Georgia. Mr. Yeager has been with DNR for 20 years and nine of those years, he has been Parks Manager for northeast Georgia.

There are 48 state parks and 18 historic sites in Georgia that DNR oversees. DNR's main focus is to protect, engage, and enhance the natural and cultural resources of the State. There are eight state parks and three historical sites in the GMRC region. Vogel State Park located in Union County is the No. 1 Park in Georgia. The three historical sites are Dahlonega Gold Museum, Travelers Rest, and the Hardman Farm. DNR will be spending \$550,000 this fall renovating all the displays in the Dahlonega Gold Museum. Moccasin Creek Park is the smallest park in the

state and Tallulah Gorge has the highest number of visitors and both are located in Rabun County.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES AND ATTENDANCE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Chairman Scarborough asked for any comments regarding the minutes and attendance report for the June 29, 2017 meeting. Jim Conley made a motion to accept the minutes and attendance report as presented and was seconded by Chris Dockery. Motion carried. (Attendance report attached)

REPORTS

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Heather Feldman has followed the President's Budget and previously met with Andrew Seaver and Joel Katz regarding the Budget. The latest update that we have on the Budget is that the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies approved their fiscal year (FY) 2018 spending bill. The bill provides \$176 million for the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA), a reduction of \$100 million (or 36%) below the FY2017 level. They have allocated \$140 million for Economic Development Assistance programs and \$36 million is designated for salaries and expenses. The President's initial Blueprint Budget called for elimination of EDA, but it looks like there will only be cuts in the budget.

The House Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies approved its fiscal year (FY) 2018 spending bill. This bill provides \$130 million for the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) which would be about \$22 million decrease from the FY2017 level.

The GMRC had previously submitted project applications to the National Association of Development Organization (NADO). Ms. Feldman proudly announced that the RC had been awarded three NADO-Innovation Awards for these projects. These projects are the Sautee Nacoochee Center – Campus Plan submitted by the Planning Department, the Lake Lanier Olympic Venue – Renovation Project, and the Nifco KTW – Building Construction Project which were both submitted by the Economic Development Department. Congratulations to Daniel Martin, Patrick Larson, Adam Hazell, Caleb Davidson, and Joe Rothwell for their hard work on these projects.

The Georgia Association of Regional Commission (GARC) also submitted an application collectively for all the RCs for the MAP 21 project and received a NADO award. Faith Bryan worked with the other GIS Directors on this project.

The RC has begun the initial process of our annual financial audit with Rushton & Company. Staff has been extra busy working with the auditing staff in preparing and pulling documents. Thanks to Andrea Newsom and the accounting staff for their extra efforts during this process. The RC will have auditors in the office for three weeks during August.

The WorkSource Career Coaches have been extremely busy over the last few months – averaging about 243 people being seen for services in a month. This year's total for persons being seen by the Career Coaches is 1,461. The Career Coaches are helping make a difference in our region.

At the Council Training in February, Ms. Feldman mentioned to the Council about doing a Strategic Plan for the RC. The Department Heads and Ms. Feldman have had a series of meetings to begin to prepare our goals, objectives, and action plans for the first ever GMRC Strategic Plan. The results from the surveys that were sent out to the cities and counties have been taken into consideration. There has been great dialogue and discussions on how we can work better for our communities. The completion of the Strategic Plan is scheduled by next year.

The RC has started the process of securing our 2018 Council Meeting locations. If your city or county is interested in hosting one of these meetings, please let Ms. Feldman or Peggy Lovell know.

WorkSource for the past year has been under a lot of deadlines with the State and one of these items was to establish a One-Stop Center and get it up and running. Ms. Feldman stated she was very proud of the achievements that WorkSource had made and stated that they were one of very few that had their One-Stop Center up and running by the deadline. John Phillips introduced Benjie and Marsha Hopkins with Hopkins and Associates who is the new One-Stop Operator. Mr. Hopkins welcomed everyone to stop by the WorkSource Office and see the new One-Stop Center in operation.

Financial Report

Andrea Newsom, Director of Finance presented the quarterly Financial Report. This report was previously emailed to the Council for review. The Revenue Expenditure Report for the period of July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017 indicated the Actual Revenue Income of \$6,310.696, Expenditures of \$5,991,241, with 100 percent of the budget being expended for the fiscal year. The Accounting staff has been working very hard getting everything ready for all the auditors that will be coming in during August. Doug Wayne made a motion to accept the report and was seconded by Ken Schubring. Motion carried unanimously.

Planning Department Update

Adam Hazell, Planning Director introduced Joe Rothwell and Caleb Davidson which make up the Planning Department. Joe Rothwell gave an update of some of the projects that the Planning Department had done. This Department strives to visit our region and see what they can do to make it better and preserve what we have. One of the important items that the Planning Department does for the cities and counties is their Comprehensive Plan. This plan addresses wise management of resources, smart investments and utilities, strategies for managing land use, and supplying economic development. A current Comp Plan is part of the contract between Department of Community Affairs and the RC. This Plan keeps the Qualified Local Government (QLG) status up to date which is required when applying for grants. Since 2014, the Planning Department has prepared 12 Comp Plans. They also provide redevelopment planning, local department assessments (such as fire, park and recreation, etc.), project plan and design, bike peds, and historic preservation. The Planning Department is always available to the cities and counties to assist in any planning endeavors they may have.

OLD BUSINESS

No Old Business

NEW BUSINESS

2017-18 GMRC Private Sector Representatives

At the June Council meeting, the Council voted on the appointments for the Private Sector positions on the GMRC Council. At that time, there were two appointments which had not been confirmed. Dawson County has appointed David Headley as their representative and David Stovall was reappointed for Towns County. Chris Dockery made a motion to approve these two Private Sector Representative on the GMRC Council. Motion was seconded by Travis Turner and motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Scarborough welcomed David Headley (Dawson County) and Pete Amos (Forsyth County) as the two new GMRC Council Members. Mr. Amos replaces Todd Levent on the Council.

DOOR PRIZES

Rabun County provided door prizes which were awarded to the lucky winners.

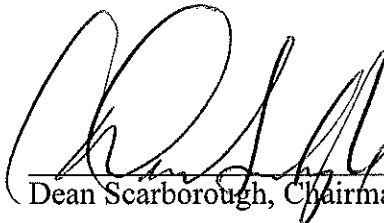
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next month's Council meeting will be sponsored by City of Gainesville at the Civic Center.

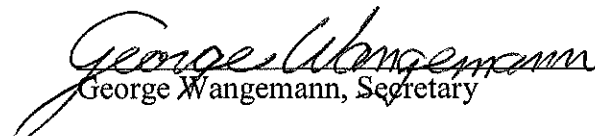
Chairman Scarborough stated they are working on filling the 2018 calendar with hosts for the GMRC Council meetings. He encouraged the cities and counties to contact the GMRC office to sign up for a meeting. With the Council meeting in various locations, it gives the Council a change to see other communities in our region.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.



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

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

* Chairman
** Vice Chairman
*** Secretary