

GEORGIA MOUNTAINS REGIONAL COMMISSION  
COUNCIL MEETING

Currahee Military Museum  
Toccoa, GA  
August 29, 2013

MINUTES

The GMRC Council held its regular meeting on Thursday, August 29, 2013, 6:00 p.m. at the Currahee Military Museum in Toccoa, Georgia. The meeting was hosted by Stephens County and City of Toccoa.

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

Chairman Sam Norton called the meeting to order and thanked everyone for their attendance. He also expressed his appreciation to Stephens County and City of Toccoa for hosting the meeting.

Dean Scarborough, Stephen County Commissioner welcomed everyone to Stephens County and the City of Toccoa. Mr. Scarborough introduced Stephens County Commission Chairman, Stanley London; and Commissioners Dennis Bell and Debbie Whitlock. Mayor David Austin introduced Toccoa's City Commissioners Andy Pavliscsak, Gail Fry, and Ron Seib. The Mayor encouraged everyone to tour the Railroad Museum before leaving.

INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL GUESTS

Vice-Chairman Scarborough recognized special guests, Representative Dan Gazaway; Senator John Wilkinson; Kathy Papa, Dept. of Community Affairs; Tate O'Rourke, Aide for Sen. Isakson's Office; and Cosby Johnson, Aide to Sen. Chambliss' Office.

INVOCATION/ PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/DINNER

L.J. Harrison, GMRC Chaplain, gave a special devotion, invocation, and followed with the pledge of allegiance. The delicious meal was catered by Just Right Catering.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Chairman Norton asked for any comments regarding the minutes of the July 25, 2013 meeting. Doug Wayne made a motion to accept the minutes as written and was seconded by Rex Farmer. Motion carried unanimously.

PROGRAM

Ms. Allison Segrest, Communications Specialist for the Georgia Forestry Commission presented a program on the GFC's Five Year Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan was created by the 2008 Farm Bill in order to enable Georgia to receive funds under the Cooperative Forestry Assistance

Act. The Assessment provides a science-based foundation that analyzes forest condition and trends in the state and defines priority rural and urban forest landscape areas. The Strategy addresses top priority issues identify by the Assessment and serves as the basis for the five-year plan. GFC works with the cities and counties in developing their five-year plan and help the communities earn Firewise and Tree Cities USA designations. They encourage communities to protect forests, air and water quality using Best Management Practices.

## REPORTS

### Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Danny Lewis announced that Finance Director, Becky Sievers had just finished two back-to-back one-week audits. The Governor's Office of Workforce Development spent the first week in our offices auditing the Workforce Development Program. The following week the Auditing firm of Clifton, Lipford, Hardison, and Parker were in our offices performing the GMRC overall financial audit. Now both firms are back at their offices working on completing the audits. Mr. Lewis commended Becky and her staff for all their hard work.

### Financial Report

The Financial Report was included in the Council packets. The Cash Position as of July 31, 2013 showed a bank balance of \$636,660, receivables of \$160,797 and payables of \$349,865, with an uncommitted cash balance of \$447,592. The Revenue Expenditure Report for the period of July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014 indicated the Actual Revenue Income of \$487,534, Expenditures of \$324,126, with 8 percent of the budget being expended for the fiscal year. With this report being the first for the year, Workforce Development's budget figures have been added to this report. Dean Scarborough made a motion to accept the report and was seconded by David Stovall. Motion carried unanimously.

### Planning Department Update

Planning Director Adam Hazell spoke about the status of several projects from the Planning Department. The work with the Department of Human Services processing invoices for transit programs throughout the region is underway, and the GMRC is working with the Northwest Georgia Regional Commission to finalize terms for implementing the proposed contract with the Environmental Protection Division for work in the Coosa-North Georgia River Basin. Adam also spoke about the newly proposed Lake Lanier Watershed Association, an effort intended to organize the local governments and water utility providers within the upper Chattahoochee Basin. The GMRC would work with the Atlanta Regional Commission in organizing this effort as a means for ensuring local stakeholders had direct input and coordination in response to recent State water quality rulings, the upcoming results for the Army Corps of Engineers Master Plan for the Chattahoochee Basin and to aid in future State plans for new reservoirs and permits in the area in the future.

## OLD BUSINESS

### Council Training

There are two Council Member Trainings scheduled for September 11<sup>th</sup> and September 18<sup>th</sup> at the GMRC Offices for any Council Members that have been appointed to serve on the Council since the last Training that was held in 2009. These sessions will begin at 9:00 and end at 11:30. Council Members only need to attend one, not both. According to the GMRC Bylaws all new Council Members must attend.

## NEW BUSINESS

### Organization of Ethics

Information was emailed to Council Members outlining the criteria necessary to become an Organization of Ethics. GMA offers a program for RCs to participate in. Four other RCs have obtained this status. To earn a "Certified Organization of Ethics" designation, an organization must adopt a resolution containing two elements. (1) Establish five ethics principles for the conduct of our organization's officials and (2) amend the organization's Bylaws to enact clear ethics provisions that meet minimum standards approved by the GMA Board. Chairman Norton stated that he feels this organization is already an Organization of Ethics, but would like to obtain the official designation from GMA. The Executive Committee voted to pursue this and it will be discussed further in depth after our Attorney drafts the amendment to the Bylaws.

### Annual Meeting

Leslie George, Annual Meeting Committee Chair announced that during the year, the Council meets the criteria of required meetings, so this year the RC will be able to have a Christmas Party. It will be held on December 6<sup>th</sup> at the Dillard House Conference Center. Costs have been going up and ticket prices have not changed in seven years. The tickets this year will be \$40.00 which is an increase of \$5.00. This does not cover the cost of all expenses for the event, so Ms. George asked each person to secure at least one sponsor for the event. Each city and county is asked to provide a door prize to be given away. The cut-off for tickets will be November 17<sup>th</sup>.

### New Council Member

Chairman Norton announced that Habersham County has recommended Mr. Ken Schubring to serve on the Council as their Private Sector Representative, but needs to be confirmed by a vote from the Council. Mr. Schubring works with Fieldale Farms in Cornelia. David Stovall made a motion to approved the recommendation of Ken Schubring as Habersham County's Private Sector Representative. Motion was seconded by Sonny James and motion carried unanimously.

### CEDS Review Process

Heather Feldman informed the Council that each RC is required to have a Community Economic Development Strategies (CEDS) document. Last year the RC produced a five-year Plan and this year only an Update is required. Ms. Feldman thanked the CEDS Committee for the input and work on this Plan. This document will be emailed to the Council on Friday for review until the

next Council Meeting. Charlie Auvermann made a motion to place the CEDS Update on the table for review until the next Council Meeting. Motion was seconded by Doug Wayne and motion passed unanimously.

#### NADO Award Announcement

Mr. Lewis attended the National Association of Development Organization (NADO) Conference in San Francisco, California. At the conference, the RC received a National Innovative Award for the Lavonia Railroad Depot Renovation Project. Only 75 awards were given nationally and this is the twelfth one that the Georgia Mountains RC has received. Last year, Lavonia also received this award for the Ty Cobb Medical Center.

#### GARC Annual Conference

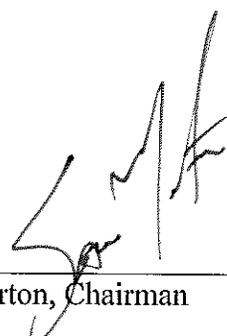
The Georgia Association of Regional Commission's Annual Meeting is scheduled for November 6-8 at the King and Prince Resort on St. Simons Island. Chairman Norton encouraged anyone that could to attend. GMRC is always well represented at the Conference and he hopes that this year will be no exception. The Conference is very informative and has a great line-up of speakers for this year. Anyone needing a room for the conference needs to contact Peggy Lovell in order to secure one of the rooms in the GMRC block.

#### DOOR PRIZES

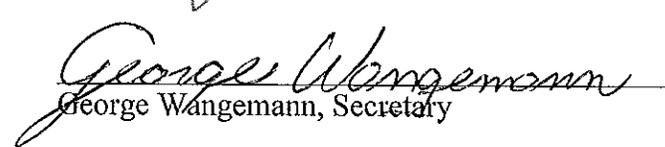
Stephens County, City of Toccoa, and Mable Harrison provided a number of door prizes that were given away to the lucky winners.

#### ADJOURNMENT

The Council Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.



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Sam Norton, Chairman



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George Wangemann, Secretary

**GMRC COUNCIL  
ATTENDANCE SHEET  
2013-2014**

COUNTY	COUNCIL MEMBER	7/25/13	8/29/13	9/26/13	10/10/13	11/21/13	12/6/13	1/30/14	2/27/14	3/27/14	4/27/14	5/29/14	6/26/14
BANKS	Danny Maxwell	P	A										
	Jerry Payne	P	P										
	Leslie George	P	P										
DAWSON	Mike Berg	P	A										
	James Grogan	P	A										
	Charlie Auvermann	A	P										
FORSYTH	Brian Tam	P	P (R)										
	Ralph Perry	P	A										
	Randall Toussaint	(N) P	P										
FRANKLIN	David Strickland	P	P										
	Ralph Owens	P	P (R)										
	Gerald Voyles	P	P										
HABERSHAM	Sonny James	P	P										
	Audrey Turner	P	P										
	Ken Schubring			(N)									
HALL	Dick Mecum	P (R)	A										
	George Wangemann***	P	P										
	Deborah Mack	P	P										
HART	Bill Myers	P	P										
	Tray Hicks	P	P										
	Bill Chafin	P	A										
LUMPKIN	Chris Dockery	P	P (R)										
	Sam Norton*	P	P										
	J.B. Jones	P	A										

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

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

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