

GEORGIA MOUNTAINS REGIONAL COMMISSION  
COUNCIL MEETING  
Woodlands Camp  
Cleveland, GA  
September 24, 2015

MINUTES

The GMRC Council held its regular meeting on Thursday, September 24, 2015, 6:00 p.m. at The Woodlands Camp in Cleveland, Georgia. The meeting was hosted by White County and City of Cleveland.

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

Vice-Chairman Grogan called the meeting to order and thanked everyone for their attendance. Travis Turner, White County Commission Chairman welcomed everyone to White County. Mr. Turner recognized White County Commissioners Terry Goodger and Lynn Holcomb, County Manager Mike Melton, and County Clerk Shanda Murphy. City of Cleveland was represented by Mayor Don Stanley and Council Members Annie Sutton, Ed Young, Rush Mauney, and Bradley Greene. Mr. Turner also recognized and thanked Senator Steve Gooch for taking time out of his busy schedule to attend.

Mr. John Estes with The Woodlands Camp welcomed everyone to their facility. He gave a brief history of the camp.

INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL GUESTS

Vice-Chairman James Grogan again recognized Senator Steve Gooch; Frank Riley, Chestatee Chattahoochee RC&D; Andrew Seavers, Senator Perdue's Office; Tate O'Rouke, Senator Isakson's Office; Joel Katz, Congressman Collins' Office; Cheryl Smith, Georgia Department of Economic Development; and Jane O'Gorman, University of North Georgia.

INVOCATION/ PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/DINNER

L.J. Harrison, GMRC Chaplain, gave our devotion, invocation, and followed with the pledge of allegiance. Travis Turner thanked Glenda and Mark Taylor with Glenda's Restaurant in Cleveland for providing the delicious meal.

PROGRAM

Bill Black introduced Ms. Rusty Stanley as the speaker for the program presentation.

Ms. Stanley presented a very interesting and informative program on "Human Trafficking". When we think of human trafficking, we think of large cities and not in our area. Ms. Stanley presented some alarming statistics of how this is happening in our region and how we can get involved to prevent it.

## CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Vice-Chairman Grogan asked for any comments regarding the minutes of the August 27, 2015 meeting. L. J. Harrison made a motion to accept the minutes and attendance sheets as presented and was seconded by Sonny James. Motion carried unanimously. Attendance sheets attached.

## REPORTS

### Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Danny Lewis thanked White County and City of Cleveland for sponsoring this month's meeting. He stated that with different cities and counties sponsoring our Council meetings, we get to visit and see so many different and beautiful places in our region that we never knew existed. Several people had commented that they never knew this camp facility was located in White County.

Mr. Lewis reported that the GMRC staff met on September 17<sup>th</sup> with the new city/county managers in the GMRC area. Those in attendance were Bill Schmid, City of Dahlonega; Charles Cawthon, City of Lavonia; and Darrin Giles, Rabun County. The staff explained the services that the RC offers to the cities and counties in the Georgia Mountains Region. Mr. Lewis encouraged everyone to use the RC services.

John Phillips, Director of Workforce Development; Andrea Gibby, Workforce Development Board Chair; and staff members from Workforce Development recently attended the National Workforce Development meeting in Savannah. Mr. Phillips was also asked to speak at a Workforce Development meeting at Brasstown Valley Resort.

### Financial Report

Becky Sievers, Director of Finance, presented the Financial Report for August. The Cash Position as of August 31, 2015 showed a bank balance of \$1,107,170, receivables of \$646,987 and payables of \$646,589, with an uncommitted cash balance of \$1,107,568. Leslie George made a motion to accept the report and was seconded by Doug Wayne. Motion carried unanimously.

## OLD BUSINESS

### Annual Meeting Report

Leslie George, Annual Meeting Committee Chair, reported that the Committee had decided on a "Blue Christmas" theme and entertainment has been secured for the December 4<sup>th</sup> event. Annual Meeting invitations are scheduled go out on Friday. Each Council Member were encouraged to secure at least one sponsor for this event due to the fact that the \$40 ticket price does not cover all the cost of the event. The money that is generated goes into the Friends of Georgia Mountains account and any money that is left after expenses are paid, provide the Council with items that can't be purchased with government funds. A sample sponsorship letter has been sent to all Council Members.

## CEDS Document

The Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies (CEDs)/Regional Plan document was placed on the table at the August meeting for the Council to review. Since DCA has not grasped the concept of the merger of these two documents, the Regional Plan will be presented again for approval at a later date. Charlie Auvermann made a motion to approve the CEDs Document as presented. Sonny James seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

## NEW BUSINESS

### GARC Annual Conference

The Georgia Association of Regional Commissions' Annual Conference will be held on November 4-6, 2015 for participants who would like to attend. Everyone was encouraged to attend. Great speakers and topics are scheduled for the conference.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

The October Council meeting is being sponsored by Lumpkin County and City of Dahlonega at Camp Glisson.

## DOOR PRIZES

White County and City of Cleveland provided a number of door prizes which were awarded to the lucky winners.

## ADJOURNMENT

The Council Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Dean Scarborough, Chairman

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

**GMRC COUNCIL  
ATTENDANCE SHEET  
2015-2016**

COUNTY	COUNCIL MEMBER	7/30/15	8/27/15	9/24/15	10/29/15	11/19/15	12/4/15	1/28/16	2/25/16	3/31/16	4/28/16	5/26/16	6/30/16
RABUN	Greg James	A	P (R)	A									
	Debbie Chisholm	A	P	A									
	Douglas Wayne	P	P	P									
STEPHENS	Dean Scarborough*	P	P	A									
	David Austin	A	P	P									
	L.J. Harrison	P	P	P									
TOWNS	Bill Kendall	A	P (R)	P (R)									
	Joan Crothers	A	P	P									
	David Stovall	P	P	A									
UNION	Lamar Paris	P	P	A									
	Jim Conley	P	P	P									
	Mitch Griggs	A	P	P									
WHITE	Travis Turner	P (R)	A	P									
	Annie Sutton	A	P	P									
	Bill Black	P	P	P									
GOV APPT.	Rex Farmer	A	P	P									
		V	V										
	Will Wade	P	A	P									
SPEAKER APPT.		V	V										
	Peter Hill	P	A	A									

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

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

GMRC COUNCIL  
ATTENDANCE SHEET  
2015-2016

COUNTY	COUNCIL MEMBER	7/30/15	8/27/15	9/24/15	10/29/15	11/19/15	12/4/15	1/28/16	2/25/16	3/31/16	4/28/16	5/26/16	6/30/16
BANKS	Danny Maxwell	P (R)	P	P (R)									
	Jerry Payne	P	P (R)	P									
	Leslie George	P	P	P									
	Mike Berg	P	A	P									
DAWSON	James Grogan**	P	P	P									
	Charlie Auvermann	A	P	P									
	Brian Tam	A	A	P									
FORSYTH	Welch, Chuck			P (N)									
		V	V	V									
	David Strickland	P	P	P									
FRANKLIN	Ralph Owens	A	P	P									
	Gerald Voyles	A	P	P									
	Sonny James	A	A	P									
HABERSHAM	Audrey Turner	A	P	P									
	Ken Schubring	P	P	A									
	Dick Mecum	P (R)	P (R)	P (R)									
HALL	George Wangemann***	P	A	P									
	Deborah Mack	P	P	A									
	Ricky Carter	P	P	A									
HART	Tray Hicks	A	P	A									
	Bill Chafin	P	P	A									
	Chris Dockery	A	P	A									
LUMPKIN	Sam Norton	A	P	A									
	J.B. Jones	A	P	P									