

GEORGIA MOUNTAINS REGIONAL COMMISSION
COUNCIL MEETING
Yonah Mountain Vineyard
September 25, 2014

MINUTES

The GMRC Council held its regular meeting on Thursday, September 25, 2014, 6:00 p.m. at the Yonah Mountain Vineyard in Cleveland, Georgia. The meeting was hosted by White County Board of Commissioners.

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

Chairman Sam Norton called the meeting to order and thanked everyone for their attendance. White County Commissioner Chairman Travis Turner welcomed everyone to White County and the beautiful new facility at Yonah Mountain Vineyard. Mr. Turner recognized from City of Cleveland, City Council Members Russ Mauney, Bradley Greene, and Annie Sutton; and White County Commissioners Terry Goodger, Edwin Nix, and Lynn Holcomb. Mr. Turner also expressed special thanks to County Manager Mike Melton and County Clerk Shanda Murphy for putting this meeting together.

Mr. Turner introduced Eric Miller with Yonah Mountain Vineyard. Mr. Miller welcomed everyone to their 200 acre vineyard which was purchased in 2006. Twenty acres of the property are planted in grapes and the main facility was built in 2013. Until this facility was built, they sold Yonah Mountain Wine in Sautee Nacoochee. A new event facility is being built adjacent to the main facility and will seat 500 people. They are currently booking weddings and events for this facility that is scheduled to open in January 2015. Everyone was invited to attend White County's annual Wine Fest at the Hardman Farms on November 1st-2nd which will showcase the local wineries.

INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL GUESTS

Vice-Chairman Dean Scarborough recognized special guests Kathy Papa, Department of Community Affairs; Cheryl Smith, Georgia Department of Economic Development; and Tate O'Rourke, Aide for Senator Isakson's Office. A special welcome back was given to Kaye Chafin, Bill's wife, after her extended absence.

INVOCATION/ PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/DINNER

L.J. Harrison, GMRC Chaplain, gave our devotion, invocation, and followed with the pledge of allegiance. A delicious meal was catered by Glenda's Restaurant in Cleveland, Georgia.

PROGRAM

Executive Director Danny Lewis introduced our speaker Ms. Saralyn Stafford. Ms. Stafford is the Division Director of External Affairs and Rural Policy for Department of Community Affairs (DCA) and has taken on the job of State Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) Director. Ms. Stafford is a longtime supporter and friend to the Georgia Mountains Regional Commission.

Ms. Lewis stated that the GMRC gets their fair share of ARC money through awarded grants in our region and we do so with the support of Ms. Stafford and he expressed his appreciation.

Ms. Stafford thanked Kathy Papa for her work with DCA and Cheryl Smith, GDEcD, for her work with ARC. The ARC is all about helping communities in Appalachia to get the resources they need to increase their accessibility to revitalize their community. In FY15, there were 27 ARC applications submitted totaling \$5.5M. Among these applications were a good variety of projects, such as water and sewer improvements, infrastructure, construction, road improvements, broadband, etc. GMRC submitted ten ARC applications for our region. Ms. Stafford thanked GMRC Economic Development staff, Heather Feldman, Nancy Smallwood, and Patrick Larson for their work with ARC for this region.

Ms. Stafford also recognized City of Gainesville for being one of the ten communities that have been designated as a "Plan First" Community.

She also stated that the relationship between the Regional Commission and Department of Community Affairs was the strongest it has ever been. This is mostly because of the work and assistance that the GARC Executive Directors have given to the DCA staff. DCA has two new board members from the GMRC region. Gilbert Barrett with City of Demorest and Scott Gibbs with Hall County are now serving on the DCA Board. Ms. Stafford thanked everyone for their partnership with DCA.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Chairman Norton asked for any comments regarding the minutes of the August 28, 2014 meeting. David Stovall made a motion to accept the minutes as written and was seconded by Doug Wayne. Motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS

Chairman's Report

Chairman Norton stated that sponsors for the GMRC Council Meetings are needed for 2015. He thanked the cities and counties that have previously sponsored and encouraged others to sign up to sponsor one of the meetings.

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Danny Lewis reported that it had been a busy month for the RC. On September 19th the staff had a training and photo day at Smithgall Woods in White County. Mike Berg, Lamar Paris, and Sam Norton were asked to participate in the training session. They spoke to the staff and gave their perspective as to what the RC does for our region.

Mr. Lewis recognized Will Wade for being selected as the Vice-President of the Georgia School Board Association. Mr. Wade serves on the RC Council as the Governor's Education Appointment.

Financial Report

Becky Sievers, Director of Finance, presented the Financial Reports for August. The Cash Position as of August 31, 2014 showed a bank balance of \$648,284, receivables of \$139,730 and payables of \$478,681, with an uncommitted cash balance of \$309,333. The Revenue Expenditure Report for the period of July 1, 2014 – August 31, 2014 indicated the Actual Revenue Income of \$489,427, Expenditures of \$699,245, with 16 percent of the budget being expended for the fiscal year. Doug Wayne made a motion to accept the report and was seconded by Bill Chafin. Motion carried unanimously.

AMENDMENT TO THE AGENDA

A motion was made by Dean Scarborough to amend the Agenda to include Consideration of the GARC Travel Policy and was seconded by David Strickland. Motion carried unanimously.

GARC Travel Policy

Chairman Norton stated that a copy of the GARC Travel Policy had been emailed to all Council Members for their review. This document has been mandated by the State Department of Audits and Accounts. If the GMRC has not adopted this Travel Policy by the time they are audited they would be found non-compliant. All other RCs have previously adopted. This document will change some of the ways that GMRC handles travel such as, the RC would go to a per diem reimbursement for meals, a company vehicle would be furnished and assigned to the Executive Director, etc. The State basically wants all the RCs to have the same travel policy.

The Executive Committee recommended that the RC adopt this Travel Policy. After some discussion, a motion was made by Bill Chafin and seconded by Larry Miller to adopt this document. Motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

CEDS Document

Heather Feldman, Director of Economic Development, referred to the 2014 CEDS Document that was placed on the table at the August Council meeting for the Council's review. She also recognized the Council Members that served on the CEDS Committee and thanked them for their input and support on the document. Ms. Feldman noted some of the highlights that are included in the CEDS Document.

David Stovall made a motion to remove the CEDS Document from the table in order for the document to be voted on. Motion was seconded by Doug Wayne and carried unanimously.

Chairman Norton asked for consideration of the CEDS Document. Motion was made by Charlie Auvermann and seconded by Bill Chafin to approve the 2014 CEDS Document. Motion carried unanimously.

Aerial Photography/LiDAR Flyover Project

Faith Jones reported that she and Mr. Lewis met with Quantum Spatial regarding the contract for the Aerial Photography Flyover project. At this time, this project has 18 participants with 10 of

our counties participating and others in four different Regional Commissions. This project has the potential to be a \$1.5M project. The contract will be presented to the Council at the October meeting.

GMRC Annual Meeting

Leslie George encouraged everyone to order their tickets for the Annual Meeting scheduled for December 5th. The reception will begin at 4:45 pm and the dinner will follow at 6:00 p.m. This year's entertainment is going to be The Mayberry Deputy. She referred to the 2014 sponsor list and asked each Council Member to have a sponsor by their name this year.

GARC Annual Conference

The Georgia Association of Regional Commissions' Annual Conference is scheduled to be held on November 5-7 at the King and Prince Resort on St. Simons Island. This is a great time for the RC staff and Council Members to network with other RCs and state officials. GMRC has a block of rooms reserved, but Peggy Lovell needs to know if anyone is planning on attending in order for her to reserve one of these rooms. Please let her know as soon as possible, due to the fact that she will have to release any unused rooms back to the hotel. Registration forms are to be sent to Three Rivers RC.

NEW BUSINESS

NADO Award

Heather Feldman informed the Council that GMRC has received 13 NADO Innovation Awards in the last ten years. This year, GMRC received three of these awards which is the largest number that an RC can win. Project SEARCH, submitted by Workforce Development, won one of these; City of Dahlonega's Historic District Design Guidelines, submitted by the Planning Department, secured the second; and City of Cornelia-Community Revitalization project, submitted by Economic Development, received the third.

Ms. Feldman spoke on the City of Cornelia-Community Revitalization project. The GMRC prepared and submitted three Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) for water improvements in downtown Cornelia. All three applications were approved for a combined total of \$1,409,610 and was the first time a community in Georgia received back-to-back-to-back CDBG awards. More importantly, the City of Cornelia leveraged \$585,731 in matching funds. The projects benefitted a total of 1,227 persons, of which 1,131 or 92% were of low and moderate income persons. The NADO awards program recognizes RCs and partnering organization for improving the economic and community competitiveness of our nation's regions and local communities.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

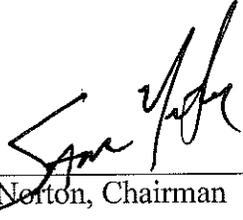
The October meeting will be sponsored by Lumpkin County and the City of Dahlonega and will be held at the Forrest Hills Mountain Resort and Conference Center.

DOOR PRIZES

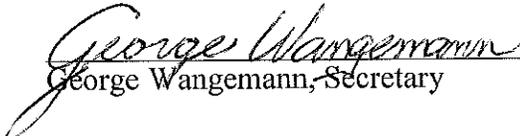
White County provided a number of door prizes that were given away to the lucky winners.

ADJOURNMENT

The Council Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.



Sam Norton, Chairman



George Wangemann, Secretary

**GMRC COUNCIL
ATTENDANCE SHEET
2014-2015**

COUNTY	COUNCIL MEMBER	7/31/14	8/28/14	9/25/14	10/30/14	11/20/14	12/5/14*	1/29/15	2/26/15	3/26/15	4/30/15	5/28/15	6/25/15
BANKS	Danny Maxwell	A	A	E									
	Jerry Payne	P	A	P									
	Leslie George	P	P	P									
	Mike Berg	P	P	P									
	James Grogan	P	P (R)	P									
FORSYTH	Charlie Auvermann	P (R)	P	P									
	Brian Tam	P	P	P (R)									
	Ralph Perry	P	P	A									
	Randall Toussaint	A	P (R)	P									
FRANKLIN	David Strickland	P	P	P									
	Ralph Owens	P (R)	P	P									
	Gerald Voyles	P	P	P									
	Sonny James	A	P	P									
HABERSHAM	Audrey Turner	P	A	P									
	Ken Schubring	P	P	A									
	Dick Mecum	P (R)	P (R)	P (R)									
	George Wangemann***	P	P	P									
HALL	Deborah Mack	P	P	P									
	Bill Myers	A	P	A									
	Tray Hicks	P	A	A									
	Bill Chafin	P	P	P									
LUMPKIN	Chris Dockery	P	A	A									
	Sam Norton*	P	A	P									
	J.B. Jones	P	P	A									

*December is not an official business meeting - Attendance is not counted

**GMRC COUNCIL
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Page 2

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RABUN	Greg James	P (R)	P (R)	P (R)									
	Debbie Chisholm	P	A	P (R)									
	Douglas Wayne	P	P	P									
STEPHENS	Dean Scarborough**	P	P	P									
	Jeanette Jamieson	A	A	P									
	L.J. Harrison	P	P	P									
TOWNS	Bill Kendall	P	P (R)	P									
	Joan Crothers	P	A	P									
	David Stovall	A	P	P									
UNION	Lamar Paris	P	A	P									
	Jim Conley	P	P	A									
	Mitch Griggs	P	P	P									
WHITE	Travis Turner	P	A	P									
	Annie Sutton	P	P	P									
	Bill Black	P	P	P									
GOV APPT.	Rex Farmer	P	P	P									
	Vacant												
	Will Wade	A	P	P									
	Larry Miller	P	P	P									
SPEAKER APPT.	Peter Hill	P	A	P									

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

* Chairman
** Vice Chairman
*** Secretary