

GEORGIA MOUNTAINS REGIONAL COMMISSION
COUNCIL MEETING

North Georgia Technical College – Currahee Campus
Toccoa, GA
September 27, 2012

MINUTES

The GMRC Council held its regular meeting on Thursday, September 27, 2012, 6:00 p.m. at North Georgia Technical College – Currahee Campus in Toccoa, Georgia. The meeting was hosted by Stephens County and City of Toccoa.

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 Stephens County and City of Toccoa for hosting the meeting.

Chairman Stovall recognized Stephens County Commission Chairman Dean Scarborough for local introductions. Mr. Scarborough thanked everyone for attending and welcomed everyone to Stephens County. He introduced County Commissioners, Stanley London and J.B. Hudgins; Phyllis Ayers, County Administrator; Beth Rider, County Clerk; and Senator John Wilkinson. Mayor David Austin introduced representatives from City of Toccoa. He introduced City Commissioners, A.J. Pavliscsak, Gail Fry, and Ron Seib; and Mike Jackson, City Manager.

INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL GUESTS

Vice-Chairman Sam Norton recognized other special guests, Tate O'Rourke, Aide to Sen. Isakson's Office; Kathy Papa, DCA; Connie Smith, Ga. Department of Economic Development; and thanked Senator John Wilkinson for his attendance.

Mr. Norton also thanked the Council for being diligent in their attendance regardless of the distance that they have to travel each month to attend. Chairman Stovall stated that his attendance goal is 70 people and that we have met this goal at all meetings except two. He commended everyone for their attendance.

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 August 30, 2012 meeting. Sam Norton made a motion to accept the minutes as written and was seconded by Doug Wayne. Motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS

Chairman's Report

Chairman Stovall discussed with the Council the time frame for the upcoming Audit review. The RC should receive the proposed Audit within the next week. After the staff has reviewed it, the Audit will then go to the Audit Committee for their review and comments, then to the Executive Committee, and upon their recommendation, it then goes to the Council for their consideration. In previous years, we have had the Audit on the table for a 30 day review period. This year, our October meeting will be on the 25th and the November meeting will be on the 15th due to the Thanksgiving Holidays and this would only be 21 days. The Council has, in previous years, suspended this procedure and voted on it in less than a 30 day period. Chairman Stovall asked for the Council's thoughts on receiving the Audit on October 25th and taking action on November 15th. Doug Wayne made a motion to suspend the 30 day review procedure. Motion was seconded by Bill Chafin and vote was unanimous.

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Danny Lewis reminded the Council that we need sponsors for our 2013 Council Meetings. If you would like to sponsor one of these meetings, please let Peggy Lovell know.

In the Council packet, Mr. Lewis referred to an article which was submitted to Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC). This article was written by Heather Feldman highlighting the GMRC. There are 400 LDDs in the ARC region and the RC was the first LDD to have an article published on them. ARC is planning on spotlighting other areas in their region. Mr. Lewis currently serves as the President of DDAA. He commended Ms. Feldman on the great job she did on the article..

Mr. Lewis attended the kick-off for the new Union County Cannery and Farmers Market. He encouraged everyone that could to visit these two facilities. Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris had a great idea when they built the cannery adjacent to the farmers market. Residents can go to the market, buy their produce, and go straight to the cannery for processing. The RC assisted in acquiring grant funds for these projects

Last October, the RC took over the Workforce Development Program. John Phillips, Workforce Development Director, and staff have done a great job with the program.

In August, an award was presented to Senator Johnny Isakson and at the GARC Annual Conference in St. Simons on November 7-9, 2012, Senator Saxby Chambliss will be presented with one.

Financial Report

The Financial Report was given by GMRC Director of Finance, Becky Sievers. The Cash Position as of August 31, 2012 showed a bank balance of \$492,286, receivables of \$148,350 and payables of \$343,443, with an uncommitted cash balance of \$297,193. The Revenue Expenditure Report for the period of July 1, 2012 – August 31, 2012 indicated Revenue Income of \$202,479, Expenditures of \$228,673, with 17 percent of the budget being expended for the fiscal year. J. B. Jones made a motion to accept the report and was seconded by Dean Scarborough. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

2012 Annual Meeting

Chairman Stovall reminded the Council Members, we need sponsors for the Annual Meeting. A sponsorship of \$250 will include recognition on the slideshow, during the meeting, and two tickets to the event.

Ms. Angela Whidby reminded everyone that the deadline for tickets is November 19th. The first 300 tickets will be sold on a first-come first-served basis. This is the event that you don't want to miss. It will be a fun filled night. Come and have a good time.

Final Consideration of CEDS Report

The CEDS Reports was placed on the table for review at the August Council Meeting. Charlie Auvermann made a motion to remove the CEDS Report from the table for consideration. Motion was seconded by J.B. Jones. With no discussion, motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Stovall asked for any questions or discussion on the CEDS Report. There being none, a motion was made by Bill Chafin to approve the document. Sonny James seconded the motion and passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Voting for GMRC Council Member of the Year

Each year the Council Members vote for the GMRC Council Member of the Year. The voting will be handled a little differently this year. Peggy will email the ballots to the Council Members on Monday and ask that they be returned by October 19th. Each Council Member will vote on five people with the first name receiving five points, second receiving four points, etc. After the deadline the ballots will be tallied to determine the recipient. Council Members that are eligible served from July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012. This award should be awarded to the Council Member who gave the most to the Regional Commission's success during this period of time.

PROGRAM

Chairman Stovall introduced Heather Feldman, Director of Economic Development as moderator for tonight's program. Ms. Feldman introduced Dee Anderson, City Manager for City

of Cornelia and Gary Fesperman, City Manager for City of Lavonia. These gentlemen were panelist for the discussion of projects that they have worked on or completed in our region. They both spoke in detail about projects they had worked on, how they secured funding, how these projects affected their area, and their working relationship with the RC. Both stated that if it had not been for the help of the RC, they would have never received funding for the many projects that they have completed in their city. The floor was opened for a question and answer session.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Connie Smith announced that the Governor's Office of Workforce Development and the Georgia Department of Labor have joined forces to hold a Georgia Jobs for Veterans Career Expo on November 8, 2012 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Georgia World Congress Center. Flyers were distributed.

Chairman Stovall introduced and welcomed Danny Maxwell to tonight's meeting. Mr. Maxwell serves as the new GMRC Council Member for Banks County.

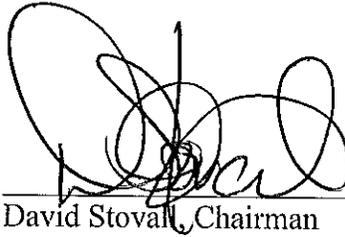
The October 25th Council Meeting will be held at The Montaluce Winery in Dahlonega. This meeting will be sponsored by Lumpkin County and City of Dahlonega. The foliage should be beautiful by then, so bring your camera.

DOOR PRIZES

Door prizes, provided by Stephens County and City of Toccoa, were awarded to lucky recipients of numbers drawn.

ADJOURNMENT

The Council Meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.



David Stovall, Chairman



L.J. Harrison, Secretary

GMRC COUNCIL
ATTENDANCE SHEET
2012-2013

COUNTY	COUNCIL MEMBER	7/26/12	8/30/12	9/27/12	10/25/12	11/15/12	12/7/12	1/5/13	2/28/13	3/28/13	4/25/13	5/30/13	6/27/13
BANKS	Danny Maxwell	(N)A	A	P									
	Jerry Payne	P	P	P									
	Leslie George	A	P	A									
DAWSON	Mike Borg	A	P	A									
	James Grogan		(N)P	A									
FORSYTH	Charlie Auvermann	P	P	P									
	Jim Boff	A	A	A									
	Ralph Perry	P	P	P									
	Vacant												
FRANKLIN	Angela Whidby	P	P	P									
	Ralph Owens	P(R)	P	P									
HABERSHAM	Gerald Voyles	P	P	P									
	Sonny James		(N)P	P									
	Audrey Turner	P	A	P									
HALL	Todd Pealock	P	A	A									
	Vacant												
	George Wangemann	P	P	A									
HART	Deborah Mack	A	P	P									
	Bill Myers	P	A	P									
	Tray Hicks	P	P	P									
LUMPKIN	Bill Chafin	P	P	P									
	Dr. John Raber	P	P	P									
	Sam Norton**	P	P	P									
	J.B. Jones	A	P	P									

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RABUN	Stan Darnell	P	P	P									
	Debbie Chisholm	P (R)	A	P									
	Douglas Wayne	P	P	P									
STEPHENS	Dean Scarborough	P	P	P									
	Ron Scib	P	P (R)	P									
	L.J. Harrison	P	P	P									
TOWNS	Bill Kendall	P	A	P (R)									
	Andrea Gibby	P (R)	A	P									
	David Stoval*	P	P	P									
UNION	Lamar Paris	P	P	A									
	Jim Conley	P	P	A									
	Mitch Griggs	A	P	A									
WHITE	Travis Turner	P	(R)P	A									
	Annie Sutton	A	P	P									
	Bill Black	P	P	P									
GOV APPT.	Rex Farmer	P	P	P									
	Paul Kresager	P	P	P									
	Will Wade	A	P	P									
SPEAKER APPT.	Andrew Turnage	(R)P	(R)P	A									
	Peter Hill	P	A	P									

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

* Chairman
** Vice Chairman
*** Secretary