

GEORGIA MOUNTAINS REGIONAL COMMISSION
COUNCIL MEETING
Woodland Camp
Cleveland, Georgia
September 28, 2017

MINUTES

The GMRC Council held its regular meeting on Thursday, September 28, 2017, 6:00 p.m. at the new Chapel at the Woodlands Camp in Cleveland, Georgia. The meeting was hosted by White County and City of Cleveland.

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

Chairman Dean Scarborough called the meeting to order and thanked the Council and guests for their attendance. White County Commission Chairman Travis Turner welcomed everyone to White County and the Woodlands Camp. He recognized County Commissioners Terry Goodger and Edwin Nix, County Manager Mike Melton, County Clerk Shanda Murphy, HR Coordinator Krystal Talley, and new Community and Economic Development Director John Sell. Mayor Shan Ash, City of Cleveland recognized City Council Member Annie Sutton, City Administrator Tom O'Bryant, and GMRC Council Member Bill Black.

Scott Simpson, Groups Director with Woodland Camp reported that when the GMRC Council met here in 2015, they were just beginning construction on the new Chapel where the meeting is being held tonight. The Camp had been experiencing a problem of having too many kids wanting to attend the camp and having to turn them away. The Camp has purchased the property located across the lake and will be building another camp which will enable them to reach a total of 4,000 kids.

Chairman Scarborough thanked White County, City of Cleveland, and Woodlands Camp for hosting tonight's meeting and Glenda's Restaurant for the wonderful meal.

INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL GUESTS

Vice-Chairman James Grogan recognized other special guests Kathy Papa, Department of Community Affairs; Cheryl Smith, Georgia Department of Economic Development; Andrew Seaver, Senator Perdue's Office; Al Hermann, Small Business Development Center; and Dan Regenstein, Director of External Affairs with Department of Revenue.

INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/DINNER

Will Wade gave our devotion, invocation, and followed with the Pledge of Allegiance.

PROGRAM

Ms. Lynne Riley, Commissioner of Georgia Department of Revenue presented a very informative program to the Council about how this department handles all the different aspects of our state taxes. The Department of Revenue has 11 offices in the State of Georgia. This department has 11,000 employees that handles matters with our 10 Million taxpayers in Georgia. She informed the cities and counties of a new law that states by January 31st of each year all employers must file employees W2 information which will allow the State and Federal agencies to match the employee's wages to the amount filed on all tax returns. Also, within the next 24 months a new website will be installed that will allow all State taxes to be paid on-line.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES AND ATTENDANCE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Chairman Scarborough asked for any comments regarding the minutes and attendance report for the August 31, 2017 meeting. Ken Schubring made a motion to accept the minutes and attendance report as presented and was seconded by Doug Wayne. Motion carried. (Attendance report attached)

REPORTS

Chairman's Report

Chairman Scarborough stated he hoped that everyone had survived the effects of the hurricane and hopefully did not sustain too much damage.

For several months, the Council meetings have been conducting our meetings using PowerPoint and emailing out all the information instead of printing the Council packets. Chairman Scarborough asked the Council how they liked this format? Should we continue as paperless or revert back to printing the information? The Council stated that they like the paperless format best.

Executive Director's Report

Prior to the Council meeting, Executive Director Heather Feldman received word from the State that through the WIOA Disaster National Dislocated Worker Grant, WorkSource Georgia Mountains would receive \$37,000 initially to help the communities in our region. The money can be used for clean-up activities, temporary workers that can be hired, and for equipment such as chippers. This money is available on a first come, first serve basis, so communities that are interested need to work on a potential budget and get it to John Phillips as soon as possible.

Congratulations to Hall County on the ribbon cutting of the Hall County Correctional Institute's Welding Program facility. Lanier Technical College, Hall County, and WorkSource Georgia Mountains partnered together to make this facility possible. The facility will provide inmates a skillset that will help get them back into the workforce and not back into prison.

GMRC staff recently held their annual staff retreat. It was a great day of team building, and cross training, and visioning on where we want to go. Thank you to Chairman Scarborough and Mayor Ralph Owens for attending and City of Lavonia for hosting this event.

John Phillips, Andrea Newsom, Heather Feldman and two of WorkSource's supervisors attended the Southeastern Employment and Training Association (SETA) Conference in Louisville, Kentucky. Out of 450 attendees, Georgia led the way in attendance. This conference mainly focused on the new WIOA Law which included procurement, allowable costs, sector strategies, and the One-Stop Centers.

The next City/County Managers meeting will be held in Sky Valley on October 12th at 10:00am. This is a good time for attendees to discuss things that are affecting their city or county.

WorkSource moved into a new building on June 1, 2017. On October 10th from 4:00-7:00pm, an Open House is scheduled with a ribbon cutting at 5:00 pm. The Open House will showcase the One-Stop Center and all the partners will have representatives available during this time.

The Georgia Association of Regional Commissions (GARC) Annual Conference is scheduled for November 8-10th at the King and Prince Resort on St. Simons Island. This is a great time to network with other regional commissions and council members. If interested, please contact Peggy Lovell to secure a room.

In gearing up for the GMRC Annual Meeting, the Council needs to choose the Council Member of the Year which will be awarded at this event. The ballots and a list of eligible Council members will be emailed to the Council on Monday. Please choose five eligible Council members and return your ballot to Peggy.

OLD BUSINESS

CEDS Document

The Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies (CEDS) has to be updated annually and every five years must be rewritten. Daniel Martin, Economic Development Director stated that this year the plan needed to be written. Last month, the CEDS document was sent to the Council for their review. GMRC only received positive feedback and there have been no changes made to the document. Bill Chafin made a motion to approve the CEDS document as written. David Austin seconded the motion and motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

FY17 Budget Amendments

Mr. Bill Chafin, Finance Committee Chairman informed the Council that the FY17 Budget needed to be amended. The amendments for WorkSource funds are due to the ability to transfer funds for WorkSource from one area to another. Also, three new budget items needed to be added due to the Aerial Photography project carrying over into FY17 and two Planning projects were overspent and had to be covered with match money. The Finance and Executive Committee both recommended these adjustments be made. J.B. Jones made a motion to approve these Budget Amendments. Doug Wayne seconded the motion and motion carried.

Mr. Chafin stated that there are already some amendments that needed to be made to the FY18 Budget and in order to avoid having to amend the Budget at the end of the year; the Finance Committee will be bringing these to the Council next month. Will Wade suggest that maybe these amendments could be done on quarterly basis.

GMRC Annual Meeting

Angela Whidby, Annual Meeting Committee Chair reported that plans are being secured for the December 1st event. We will have something new for entertainment this year. Tickets for this year are \$42 per person and November 13th is the deadline to purchase tickets. Hillside Orchard will donate 400 jars of some type of jam or jelly for each person. Cities and counties were encouraged to bring door prizes. Sponsorship remains at \$250 which included two tickets. The Dillard House Conference Center is working on more speakers to help correct the should problem.

DOOR PRIZES

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next month's Council meeting will be sponsored by Lumpkin County and City of Dahlonega at the US Ranger Camp Merrill.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 pm.



Dean Scarborough, Chairman



George Wangemann, Secretary

**GMRC COUNCIL
ATTENDANCE SHEET
2017-2018**

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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
BANKS	Danny Maxwell	P	P	A									
	Jerry Payne	P	P	A									
	Leslie George	P	P	P									
DAWSON	Billy Thurmond	A	P	A									
	James Grogan	P	P	P									
	David Headley	P	A	P									
FORSYTH	Pete Amos	P	P	P									
	Chuck Welch	P	P	P									
	Robert Long	P	P	P									
FRANKLIN	Thomas Bridges	P	P	P									
	Ralph Owens	P	P	P									
	Gerald Voyles	P	P	A									
HABERSHAM	Natalie Crawford	A	P	A									
	Audrey Turner	P	P	P (R)									
	Ken Schubring	P	P	P									
HALL	Richard Higgins	P (R)	P (R)	P (R)									
	George Wangemann***	P	P	P									
	Deborah Mack	P	P	A									
HART	Ricky Carter	P	P	P									
	Tray Hicks	P	A	A									
	Bill Chafin	P	P	P									
LUMPKIN	Chris Dockery	P	P	P (R)									
	Sam Norton*	P	P	A									
	J.B. Jones	P	A	P									

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

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

* Chairman
** Vice Chairman
*** Secretary