

GEORGIA MOUNTAINS REGIONAL COMMISSION
COUNCIL MEETING

Blue Ridge Mountain EMC Office
Young Harris, GA
November 21, 2013

MINUTES

The GMRC Council held its regular meeting on Thursday, November 30, 2013, 6:00 p.m. at the Blue Ridge Mountain EMC Office in Young Harris, Georgia. The meeting was hosted by City of Young Harris and Blue Ridge Mountain EMC.

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

Chairman Sam Norton called the meeting to order and thanked everyone for their attendance. Mayor Andrea Gibby welcomed everyone to the City of Young Harris. She gave a brief history of the City. Young Harris is proud to be the home of Young Harris College and the new Blue Ridge Mountain EMC Office. Mayor Gibby introduced Shirley Jarrard, City Clerk; Nicollette Wade, Asst. City Clerk; and City Councilmen, John Kelley and Stuart Miller. She also thanked Blue Ridge Mountain EMC for helping sponsor the meeting and Erik Brinke spoke about the EMC and its new facility.

INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL GUESTS

Chairman Norton recognized special guests Danette Smith, Georgia Department of Labor; Kathy Papa, Department of Community Affairs; Cheryl Smith and Tammy Caudell, Georgia Department of Economic Development; and Susan Creasy, Chestatee Chattahoochee RC&D. The Chairman also recognized and welcomed our newest GMRC Council Member Larry Miller. Mr. Miller will serve on the Council as the Lt. Governor's appointment.

INVOCATION/ PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/DINNER

L.J. Harrison, GMRC Chaplain, gave our devotion, invocation, and followed with the pledge of allegiance.

PROGRAM

Ms. Andrea Gibby introduced Mr. Frank Riley, Executive Director of Chestatee Chattahoochee RC&D. Mr. Riley along with Mitch Floyd, Towns County Forestry Service; Mark Davis, US Forestry Service; and Eric Mosley and Tony Harkins with the Georgia Forestry Commission presented a PowerPoint presentation entitled Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network. These agencies work together to help train and educate people in Towns County on fire prevention. Towns County started the Firewise Program, making it the first one in Georgia. Along with that program came the Ready, Set, Go evacuation plan that Riley encourages every family to participate in. Towns County has six Firewise Programs as opposed to one, like every

other county in Georgia. The County is also one of eight fire adaptive counties in the United States. The Firewise Program teaches people how to adapt to living with wildfires and encourages neighbors to work together to take action now to prevent losses.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Chairman Norton asked for any comments regarding the minutes of the October 10, 2013 meeting. Leslie George made a motion to accept the minutes as written and was seconded by Doug Wayne. Motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Danny Lewis reported that Faith Bryan and Adam Hazell had just finished a retreat for Stephens County Animal Control. Mr. Lewis encouraged any city or county that needed a retreat to contact the GMRC Office to schedule a date.

Mr. Lewis also thanked GMRC Council Member David Strickland for inviting him to facilitate a natural gas meeting in Franklin County. This meeting consist of four cities that are in or borders Franklin County that sell natural gas, Atlanta Gas Light, City of Commerce, 60-70 poultry farmers, five county commissioners and mayors, and Lyn Allen, Franklin County Economic Development Director. All the cities in Franklin County have natural gas but the County does not. The poultry famers in this area are interested in growing poultry as cheaply as possible. Presently these poultry houses are heated by propane gas. There are approximately 800 poultry houses located in Franklin County. Mr. Lewis stated if your city or county has a need for a facilitator for a meeting, the RC will be happy to assist.

Financial Report

The Financial Report was presented by Becky Sievers, Director of Finance. The Cash Position as of October 31, 2013 showed a bank balance of \$749,734, receivables of \$144,632 and payables of \$333,655, with an uncommitted cash balance of \$560,711. The Revenue Expenditure Report for the period of July 1, 2013 – October 31, 2014 indicated the Actual Revenue Income of \$1,222,083, Expenditures of \$1,278,133, with 16 percent of the budget being expended for the fiscal year. Will Wade made a motion to accept the report and was seconded by Tray Hicks. Motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Annual Meeting Report

Leslie George, Annual Committee Chairman reminded everyone of the GMRC Annual Meeting scheduled for December 6th at the Dillard House Conference Center. Reception will begin at 4:45 and anticipated being finished by 9:00. Ms. George thanked the Council for securing the sponsors for this year's meeting. People, who have not secured their tickets for this event, were encouraged to contact Peggy Lovell as soon as possible due to the fact that we only have 50 tickets left. Cities and counties were asked to bring a basket to be given away as a door prize.

NEW BUSINESS

By-Laws Amendment & New Procurement Policy

Kevin Tallant, GMRC Attorney, reported that a couple of months ago the Council discussed the fact that the GMRC Bylaws did not allow the Executive Director to sign checks and invoices in excess of a certain amount. Since the GMRC has started the Transit Program, invoices have been exceeding this amount. The Council decided the solution to this situation was to amend the Bylaws to delete this item and a Procurement Policy be written to address signing checks, purchasing, RFPs, etc. On a monthly basis until the new Procurement Policy was written, the Council had to approve for Mr. Lewis to sign these checks and invoices. The Council was previously emailed for review two amendments to the Bylaws and the new Procurement Policy. The other amendment to the Bylaws is to clear up the rules for voting by proxy. These changes come as a recommendation from the Executive Committee. The question was asked as to whether the Auditor would audit the RC following these procurement procedures. Chris Edwards, GMRC Auditor, stated that the RC will be audited on these procedures during the annual audit.

Doug Wayne made a motion to approve the Amendments to the Bylaws and the new Procurement Policy and Procedures. Motion was seconded by Leslie George and vote was unanimous.

Chestatee-Chattahoochee RC&D Council Appointments

Adam Hazell and GMRC Council Member Will Wade currently serve on the Chestatee Chattahoochee RC&D Council representing the RC and have agreed to continue serving for the upcoming year. A motion was made by Bill Chafin to confirm the appointments of Mr. Hazell and Mr. Wade to the Chestatee Chattahoochee RC&D Council. Motion was seconded by Charlie Auvermann and motion carried unanimously.

GMRC FY13 Annual Audit

Bill Chafin, Finance and Audit Committee Chairman, introduced Chris Edwards with Clifton, Lipford, Hardison, and Parker LLC. Mr. Edwards and their auditing firm have performed audits for five Regional Commissions in Georgia. They have performed the GMRC Audit for seven years. The 2013 Audit is a formal document that gives narrative overview and analysis of the Georgia Mountains Regional Commission. Mr. Edwards summarized and explained the Audit and stated there were no deficiencies or material weaknesses. Questions were answered by Mr. Edwards regarding the Audit. He thanked Mr. Lewis, Becky Sievers, and the accounting staff for their assistance during this time.

Will Wade made a motion to accept the 2013 Audit and was seconded by Charlie Auvermann. Motion carried unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

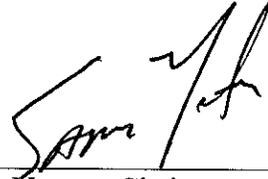
Will Wade thanked the Council and staff for the cards, phone calls, and prayers that his family received during the birth of their baby girl.

DOOR PRIZES

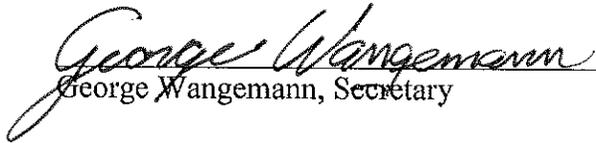
City of Young Harris and Blue Ridge Mountain EMC provided a number of door prizes that were given away to the lucky winners.

ADJOURNMENT

The Council Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.



Sam Norton, Chairman



George Wangemann, Secretary