

GEORGIA MOUNTAINS REGIONAL COMMISSION
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Civic Center
Gainesville, Georgia
January 26, 2012

MINUTES

The GMRC Executive Committee met on Thursday, January 26, 2012, 5:30 p.m. at the Civic Center in Gainesville, Georgia.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Stovall called the meeting to order and thanked everyone for attending. The following members were present:

Executive Committee Present

David Stovall, Chairman
Sam Norton, Vice Chairman
L.J. Harrison, Secretary
Mike Berg
Bill Chafin
Rex Farmer
Leslie George
J.B. Jones
Paul Kreager
Dean Scarborough
Kevin Tallant

GMRC Staff Present

W. Danny Lewis, Executive Director
Peggy Lovell, Executive Assistant
Becky Sievers, Finance Director

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Chairman Stovall asked for consideration of the minutes of the November 17, 2011 Executive Committee Meeting. Motion for approval of the minutes was made by Rex Farmer, seconded by Bill Chafin, and motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS

Chairman's Report

Chairman Stovall stated that he and Mr. Lewis would be attending GARC Policy Officials Meeting on Tuesday, January 31st. He also informed the Council that last year the Council was involved in the Governor's Competitiveness Initiative meetings that were held around our region. The Initiative Report has been published and will be posted on the GMRC website for everyone to review.

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Danny Lewis reported that the GMRC is fully staff once again due to promotions of several people within the office and also hiring some new employees. Ms. Heather Feldman promoted to Economic Development Director. Ms. Nancy Smallwood and Mr. Patrick Larson were hired to fill the two Economic Development Representative positions. Ms. Smallwood comes to the RC from Children's Healthcare of Atlanta and she also previously worked for Forsyth County. Mr. Larson was previously employed as the City of Thomaston's Assistant City Manager. Ms. Meisa Pace was promoted from the front desk to Grants Administrator for the Economic Development Department. This completes the Economic Development staff. Mr. John Phillips was promoted to WIA Director over the Workforce Development staff. Ms. Ginger Little was hired as the WIA Intake Specialist. Ms. Andrea Disharoon has been employed as Human Resources Specialist and was previously employed by Dawson County. Ms. Marissa Smith was hired to fill the position at the front desk as Receptionist/Administrative Secretary. Ms. Smith previously worked with the RC part-time about two years ago. We have also moved the two WIA financial staff into our building. Ms. Little and Angie Butts, both WIA staff, have been doing two training sessions per week for the unemployed in our J.B. Jones Training Room.

Ms. Connie Smith is the new DOL Regional Coordinator for Region 2, which will serve our region. She will also serve on the WIA Board. She commutes from Cartersville each day.

Mr. Lewis stated that the cities and counties have come through once again for sponsorships of our monthly council meetings. As of today, we only have three meetings open for sponsorship.

OLD BUSINESS

Annual Meeting Report

Leslie George stated that this year's Annual Meeting was a great meeting and we had the largest attendance of any we have previously had. The Committee has a meeting scheduled for January 31st to discuss comments and to begin working on next year's event. Survey forms have been sent out and are hoping to have them back to review. Leslie thanked the RC and the Committee for their work.

NEW BUSINESS

GMEBS Life & Health Program Trust Agreement

The Regional Commission received a letter from GMA regarding the Life and Health insurance pool. GMA has requested through IRS a letter confirming their tax exempt status on the pool and has asked each company in the fund to sign a trust agreement. This does not change anything regarding our insurance policy, nor does it lock the RC into keeping insurance with GMA. Sam Norton made a motion to that the Chairman sign the trust agreement. Motion was seconded by Kevin Tallant and motion carried.

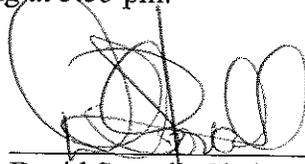
Mr. Lewis informed the Committee that the RC has previously been notified that they would have a 10-12% increase on their insurance for this year, but after GMA found out that the RC staff has doubled in size they agreed to keep the previous year's rate. The Executive Committee expressed their concern that insurance for the RC is too high and that it needs to be taken out for bid.

Coosa North Georgia Watershed

GMRC Council Member Mike Berg served on the Water Council and he discussed the history of this group. The Water Council previously developed a Water Plan but felt that one thing was missing, who would run the water plan in that area. Mr. Berg suggested that the RCs should do this task. He proposed to the Executive Committee that the GMRC to provide a letter of support to the Coosa-North Georgia Watershed Planning Council whereby the GMRC and the Northwest Georgia RC would be assigned, and accept partial responsibility for, the administration and implementation of the Watershed Management Plan (WMP) for that district. The WMP is the result of representatives from 18 counties charged with this special effort by EPD, and at their recommendation the two existing RCs represented the best bodies to carry the WMP forward. If both RCs agreed, the Watershed Planning Council would send letters to EPD officially recommending their involvement and suggesting that EPD allocate funding to support the work of the RCs. Mr. Berg offered more information about the WMP and his involvement in the meetings to develop the document. The Executive Committee feels that the RCs should do this work because it is a regional matter. The Executive Committee made a recommendation the Council to send a letter of support.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was recessed to the Council Meeting at 5:55 pm.



David Stovall, Chairman



L.J. Harrison, Secretary