

GEORGIA MOUNTAINS REGIONAL COMMISSION  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Truett McConnell College  
Cleveland, Georgia  
March 29, 2012

MINUTES

The GMRC Executive Committee met on Thursday, March 29, 2012, 5:30 p.m. at the Truett McConnell College in Cleveland Georgia. The meeting was sponsored by White County.

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, Director of Finance

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Chairman Stovall asked for consideration of the minutes of the February 23, 2012 Executive Committee Meeting. Motion for approval of the minutes was made by Rex Farmer, seconded by Bill Chafin, and motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Danny Lewis and Heather Feldman attended the quarterly City/County Managers Meeting in Cleveland. The meeting was hosted by City Manager Jerry Elkins and the City of Helen. The purpose of the city and county managers meeting is to discuss things going on in their area and transportation was the main topic at this meeting. Most cities and counties feel that the TIA vote has a 50/50 chance of passing. This Council Meeting has two programs scheduled. One of which is on the TIA issues and the second is on the Georgia

Grown Initiative. We also have Todd Long scheduled to speak at our April Council Meeting. Mr. Long was recently promoted to GDOT Deputy Commissioner. He will be presenting a program to our region explaining and answering questions regarding the Transportation Initiative Act and the projected projects. Mr. Long worked closely with our region during the planning stages of the TIA projects. Mr. Lewis encouraged Council Members to invite their city and county officials to attend the April meeting.

On April 3-4, Mr. Lewis will attend the ARC Conference on "Growing the Appalachian Food Economy" in Asheville, NC. ARC is very involved in educating the public on foods that are grown and sold in the Appalachian Region.

Mr. Lewis informed the Council of the passing of City of Dawsonville Mayor Joe Lane Cox on March 9, 2012. Mr. Lewis stated that Mayor Cox was a long standing GMRDC Board Member and GMRC Council. He also served as Chairman of the Board for a number of years. Mayor Cox was a true supporter of the Regional Commission and our heart goes out to his family.

### OLD BUSINESS

#### Vehicle Bids

It was discussed at the February Council Meeting that bid packets were going to be sent out to new vehicle dealerships in our area for the purchase of one 2012 vehicle to be added to the GMRC fleet. Bids were opened on March 21, 2012 and bids were received from five different vendors on eleven different vehicles. The lowest bid received was on a 2013 Ford Explorer. Due to the fact that all other bids were on 2012 vehicles, the dealer was asked to bid on a 2012. Upon receipt of this bid, the 2013 vehicle bid was still the cheapest. Mr. Lewis recommended that the Executive Committee accept the bid of \$21,935.00 from Jacky Jones Ford in Cleveland for a 2013 Ford Explorer. Due to it being a 2013 model, it will take approximately 6-8 weeks for delivery. Chairman Stovall clarified that even with all the bids on 2012 vehicles, the bid on the 2013 was still the lowest. Mr. Lewis indicated that the RC has been very pleased with the two Ford Explorers that are currently in the fleet. Dean Scarborough made a motion to recommend this purchase bid to the Council. Motion was seconded by Leslie George and motion carried unanimously.

### NEW BUSINESS

#### Transfer of Vehicle to Workforce Development

Mr. Lewis also reported that the RC recently had one of the 2004 Crown Vics in the fleet repainted by Lanier Technical College. The RC would like to transfer this vehicle over to the WIA program due to the fact that they do not have any company vehicles for their program. WIA would be responsible for all repairs and upkeep of this vehicle. A motion was made by Bill Chafin to transfer this 2004 Crown Vic to the WIA program. Motion was seconded by Sam Norton and motion carried.

## Regional Transit Governance Participation Resolution

Chairman Stovall introduced Adam Hazell to discuss a resolution regarding a recent transportation study done for the State Legislature. Adam informed the Council that this study had been done at the request of the governor's office to review management of transit services within metro Atlanta. One issue was that during the study all indications suggested the focus area was the 10-county ARC territory, but that upon release of the draft there were recommendations concerning outlying counties, including Forsyth County within the GMRC. Working with these other counties and their Regional Commissions, it was advised that the RCs and the local governments needed to indicate their dissatisfaction with these recommendations since they had no representation during the study and feel the precedent established again concentrates control of an issue within central Atlanta. The resolution was offered as a way of showing the State that the recommendations, as regarding the non-ARC counties, should not be applied, and that any effort going forward should address transit in a broader sense and not be viewed as wholly and Atlanta-centric concern. Chairman Stovall read the resolution and Mike Berg made a motion to adopt and submit the Resolution. Motion was seconded by Leslie George and passed unanimously.

## Adoption of Updated GMEBS Retirement Plan

Becky Sievers, Director of Finance informed the Executive Committee that the GMEBS Retirement Plan has been updated to reflect the changes in the IRS law. The GMRC has health, life and dental through the GMEBS Plan. This Plan must be restated, adopted, and returned to GMA by March 31<sup>st</sup>. The only change that GMA made to the Plan was they took the voluntary employee contributions provision out due to it not being utilized. Sam Norton made a motion to adopt the updated GMEBS Retirement Plan. Motion was seconded by Rex Farmer and motion carried unanimously.

## Review of WIA Comprehensive Plan

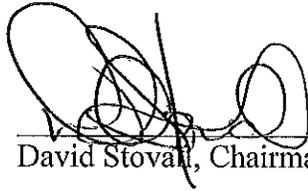
John Phillips, Workforce Development Director reported that when GMRC took over the Workforce Development, a new WIA Comprehensive Plan had to be developed and approved. This Plan covers all the aspects as to how the program fits into the region. The WIA Board has already approved the Plan and would like for the GMRC Council and Executive Committee to reaffirm the approval of the Plan. Mike Berg made a motion to reaffirm the WIA Board's approval of this Plan and was seconded by Bill Chafin. Vote was unanimous.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Lewis stated that Kevin Tallant had asked to come off of the GMRC Council as the Lt. Gov. Appointment, but would remain the Attorney for GMRC and attend the meetings. The Lt. Governor's Office notified the RC that Andrew Turnage from Blairsville would be their appointment on the Council. Mr. Turnage has previously been involved with the RC on served on other committees. Also, City of Young Harris Mayor Andrea Gibby would be the city appointment for Towns County and will be replacing Joan Crothers.

ADJOURNMENT

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Stoval", written over a horizontal line.

David Stoval, Chairman

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L.J. Harrison", written over a horizontal line.

L.J. Harrison, Secretary