

GEORGIA MOUNTAINS REGIONAL COMMISSION  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Railroad Depot/Welcome Center  
Lavonia, GA  
April 25, 2013

MINUTES

The GMRC Executive Committee met on Thursday, April 25, 2013, 5:30 p.m. at the City Hall in Lavonia, Georgia. The meeting was hosted by City of Lavonia and Franklin County.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman David 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  
Bill Chafin  
Rex Farmer  
Leslie George  
Dean Scarborough

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 March 31, 2013 Executive Committee Meeting. Motion for approval of the minutes was made by Rex Farmer, seconded by Sam Norton, and motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS

Executive Director's Comments

Executive Director Danny Lewis thanked everyone that took the time to fill out the ASAP food survey. This is a company in SC that we are working with. There are four regions in Georgia that are a part of ARC (Georgia Mountains, Northeast, Northwest, and Three Rivers area). Our region was responsible for 65% of the surveys that came in. Rabun County was responsible for 28% of our region.

Workforce Development Board just finished a good meeting and things are going well. Just for information, Mr. Lewis informed the Executive Committee that there is one private sector member of the WD Board that wants to appeal before the CLEO's to challenge the decision that

the WD Board made concerning being paid for travel expenses. The RC Council has several private sector people on it that have never asked for travel expenses.

Mike Berg, Dawson County Commission Chairman, will be sworn in as President of ACCG on Monday at their Annual Conference in Savannah. Lamar Paris served as President three years ago. It is great to have two to serve as President of this organization from our region. Mr. Berg will be very busy during the next year.

Workforce Development has just been awarded a contract by the State with the Regional Youth Detention Center in Gainesville. John Phillips came up with this idea and met with some of the judges in Hall County to get it started. The State is excited about this contract. The goal is to go into the RYDC and help them receive their GED.

Tricia Pridemore has resigned from her position with Governor's Workforce Development Office as of April 15<sup>th</sup>. Blake Ashbee will be replacing her in this position. He will be speaking to the GARC Economic Development Group in a couple of weeks.

City/County Managers will be meeting on May 16<sup>th</sup> at the City Hall in Helen. All city and county managers are invited to attend. The GMRC Department Heads will speak to the group about what the RC is doing for our cities and county and then the City/County Managers discuss projects that are going on in their areas. This is a great time to brainstorm and discuss things that are happening.

During the time that Mr. Lewis was President of DDAA, he was allowed to choose where the Summer and Winter Meetings would be held. The Summer Meeting was held at Brasstown Valley Resort and the Winter Meeting was held in Tennessee. While they were at Brasstown, Mr. Lewis invited about 10 people to visit some of the projects in our area such as the Byron Herbert Reece project, Union County Cannery, and also the Farmers Market. Some that went on this tour, wanted people from their region to visit and see the facilities. On May 16 and 17<sup>th</sup>, ARC Executive Director Thomas Hunter and the folks from Union County, TN will be visiting our region to tour new Cannery and Farmers Market built in our Union County. Lamar Paris will be hosting this group for dinner on the 16<sup>th</sup>. Also on May 10<sup>th</sup>, the ARC Federal Co-Chair Earl Gohl and Guy Land will be in the NEGRC, GMRC, and NWGRC regions on a Food Tour. They will visit Jaemor Farms and the Mountain Fresh Creamery in Clermont during their two day visit. We want them to learn about the local food in our region. James Thompson helped set up these meetings.

## OLD BUSINESS

Chairman Stovall stated that Ralph Perry had contacted him due to the fact that he has missed three consecutive meetings due to health issues. The Bylaws were changed to state that the Executive Committee could excuse someone for missing three consecutive meetings due to extenuating circumstances. Chairman Stovall stated that he feels that the Executive Committee should excuse him from this absence.

Rex Farmer stated that he had spoken with Dick Mecum about him missing three consecutive meetings. Mr. Mecum stated that with the County Commission meeting being the same night as the Council Meetings it almost impossible to make it. It was questioned as to why he couldn't send a representative in his absence. Chairman Stovall said if it was agreeable with the

Committee, he would write Mr. Mecum a letter and explain to him that he could send a representative in his place.

Leslie George made a motion that to excuse Mr. Perry and Mr. Mecum and that the Chairman would send a letter to both. Sam Norton seconded the motion and carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

FY14 GMRC Budget Review

Bill Chafin, Chairman of the Finance Committee stated that he hoped everyone had received the Budget earlier by email. He stated that this year it is one budget, which included the WD budget. The budget includes a 3% increase for all employees and has incorporated the 5% cut in revenue that is anticipated from funds being cut. Mr. Chafin thanked Becky Sievers for her outstanding job that she has done on this budget. Leslie George asked about the reserve funds that we were working to build up to satisfy the lower building issue from years ago. Ms. Sievers stated that this was included in our payables that we automatically have to cover. She also reported on the difference accounts and the amounts that were in each account. The Committee discussed the idea of since WD can not buy vehicles with their budget, why couldn't the RC buy a vehicle and lease is out to WD. There have been times when WD have called to rent a vehicle and they would not have any available to rent. The Committee agreed to look into this idea.

GMA has already stated that there will be a 60% increase in our insurance premiums this coming year.

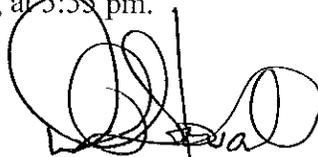
Mr. Chafin asked the Executive Committee to review this FY14 Budget for the next 30 days. It will be voted on at May Council Meeting.

RLF Update

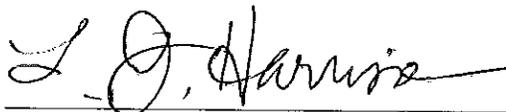
Sam Norton, RLF Committee Chairman was happy to report that the RLF Committee has met previously and has approved three loans. He stated that these are not huge loans, but they are life changing loans. We have saved jobs and possibly created some new jobs with these loans.

ADJOURNMENT

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



David Stovall, Chairman



L.J. Harrison, Secretary