

GEORGIA MOUNTAINS REGIONAL COMMISSION  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Dawson County Junior High School  
Dawsonville, GA  
May 31, 2018

MINUTES

The GMRC Executive Committee met on Thursday, May 31, 2018, 5:30 p.m. at the Dawson County Junior High School in Dawsonville, Georgia. The meeting was hosted by Dawson County Commission Office and Dawson County Board of Education.

CALL TO ORDER

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

Executive Committee Present

Dean Scarborough, Chairman  
Sam Norton  
Bill Black  
Thomas Bridges  
Bill Chafin  
Jim Conley  
Rex Farmer  
Lamar Paris  
George Wangemann  
Angela Whidby

GMRC Staff Present

Heather Feldman, Executive Director  
Peggy Lovell, Executive Assistant

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Chairman Scarborough asked for consideration of the minutes of the April 26, 2018 Executive Committee Meeting. Motion for approval of the minutes was made by Bill Chafin, seconded by Rex Farmer, and motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Heather Feldman informed the Council that GMRC has been recertified as an Organization of Ethics by Georgia Municipal Association (GMA). The RC will be recognized at the GMA Annual Conference in June. She thanked all the Council members for signing the Ethics Resolution.

WorkSource has been really busy with the transition of Georgia Department of Economic Development (GDEcD) to the Technical College Systems of Georgia (TCSG). Transition goes into effect on July 1, 2018. The RC has not learned a lot about the transition as of yet. The RC has several large contracts with the Technical Colleges and are questioning whether this is a conflict of interest.

With the new House Bill 673 on “Hands Free Driving” going into effect on July 1, 2018, all 35 GMRC staff has signed a memo stating they have read and understand the Hands Free Bill. The RC has purchased cell phone mounts for the fleet vehicles and MTUs which will allow the staff to use their phones for directions and still be hands free. The law states that you cannot be holding your phone or have it touching your body in anyway, such as lying in your lap.

#### Checks that Exceed \$25,000

The Executive Committee was informed there were three checks written during the month of May which exceeded the amount of \$25,000.

GMEBS – Life & Health	\$ 26,486.00
The Atlantic Group -Aerial Photo Project 80% Complete	\$ 139,345.93
Lanier Technical College – Youth Instructors (April)	\$ 72,183.27
Lanier Technical College – Youth Instructors (May)	\$ 33,420.03

#### OLD BUSINESS

No Old Business

#### NEW BUSINESS

##### State Travel Policy

At the April meeting, the State Travel Policy was discussed. Georgia Association of Regional Commissions (GARC) is encouraging all the RCs to adopt the State Travel policy to create uniformity for auditing purposes. Ms. Feldman has worked on consolidating the State Travel Policy and the GMRC Travel Policy. The new GMRC Travel Policy will mirror the State Policy but items that do not apply the GMRC will be taken out, such as international travel policy. It will include the per diem rates for meals and rates for lodging set by the State. The GMRC Policy is actually stricter than the State Policy. The RC will require meals receipts in order to monitor purchasing of items that are prohibited. A mandatory training has been set for July for all GMRC employees that travel. The new GMRC Travel Policy will be emailed out to the Council for their review and comments or approval in June.

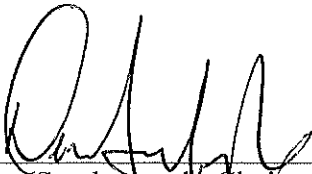
Also, Department of Audit and Accounts (DOAA) has sent out a memo to the RC stating they are going to a follow-up review format on audits. GMRC has corrected all the items which were found in our previous audit. DOAA asked for a copy of the GMRC Travel Policy and we have replied that we are in the process of adopting this policy which will include the State Policy. On future audits, they will be rating on performance measures. The RC is asking for clarification on several the items listed as compliance measures. The memo states that the RC must meet all of the requirements to be in full compliance. The compliance measures were discussed.

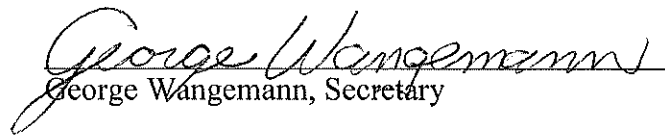
ANNOUNCEMENTS

George Wangemann thanked Ms. Feldman for attending the City of Gainesville's Work Session and letting the City know what services GMRC offers.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 5:50 pm.

  
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Dean Scarborough, Chairman

  
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George Wangemann, Secretary