

GEORGIA MOUNTAINS REGIONAL COMMISSION  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Union County Farmers Market/Cannery  
Blairsville, GA  
June 27, 2013

MINUTES

The GMRC Executive Committee met on Thursday, June 27, 2013, 5:00 p.m. at the Union County Farmers Market/Cannery in Blairsville, Georgia. The meeting was hosted by Union County and City of Blairsville.

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  
L.J. Harrison, Secretary  
Kevin Tallant, Attorney  
Bill Chafin  
Rex Farmer  
J.B. Jones  
Paul Kreager  
Leslie George

GMRC Staff Present

W. Danny Lewis, Executive Director  
Peggy Lovell, Executive Assistant  
John Phillips, Workforce Development Director  
Adam Hazell, Planning Director

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Chairman Stovall asked for consideration of the minutes of the May 30, 2013 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 Comments

Executive Director Danny Lewis stated that he was proud to announce the GMRC has had three people from our region that are still serving on our Council to serve as President of ACCG. J.B. Jones, Lamar Paris served previously and Mike Berg is the current President. No other region has had three to serve in this capacity.

Mr. Lewis thanked Chairman Stovall, Vice Chairman Norton, and Secretary L.J. Harrison for their dedication and service during their terms in office.

Lamar Paris previously received the Appalachian Hero Award which was given by Commissioner Mike Beatty. This award could have been given to anyone in the ARC region. We were very proud that Mr. Paris was chosen for this award.

DCA Commissioner Mike Beatty has stepped down to be the President and CEO of Great Promise Partnership. Ms. Gretchen Corbin who previously was Deputy Commissioner of Georgia Department of Economic Development has been named as his replacement. He will stay on for a 30 day transition period. Commissioner Beatty has always been a friend to the Regional Commissions. J.B. Jones stated that Commissioner Beatty was the best DCA Commissioner that we had ever had.

Mr. Lewis complimented Sam Norton and the RLF Committee for their hard work on making several new loans. The RC had a call from someone outside our area inquiring about a loan, but we can not loan out of our region. Mr. Lewis and Becky Seivers made a site visit last week to one of our new loans.

## OLD BUSINESS

### Annual Update to Regional Agenda

Planning Director Adam Hazell presented the Annual Update of the Regional Agenda at the May Council Meeting and asked for comments. He has been receiving comments and needs to add more capital facilities. This is the first year that the RC is merging the Regional Plan with the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), so in the future we would only have to do one annual update process. Mr. Hazell stated that after discussion with DCA, he would need to add some discussion on the area requiring special attention section. The Work Program and Goals and Strategies will remain the same. Motion was made by Bill Chafin to recommend approval of the Annual Update of the Regional Agenda to be submitted to DCA for their review. Motion was seconded by Leslie George. Motion carried unanimously.

### Transit Update

Mr. Hazell reported that the RC has been in contact with Department of Human Services numerous times trying to iron out all the questions regarding the transit contract with DHS. The contract would be between the GMRC and transit service providers within the region, as part of our proposed contract with the DHS. The extent of our involvement would be for us to act as the contracting party and then process invoices on behalf of those agreements. The service providers would assume all liability for the performance of the actual service and DHS ultimately would be responsible for the general program. Dawson, Hall and Hart already have their own system in place and Stephens has decided to opt out. T&T Transportation won a bid put out by the State earlier this year to be the provider for the enhanced services for the rest of the counties. The increased Federal funds means there would

be more transit options available at the local level. The contract has been sent to our legal counsel for review regarding the liability for GMRC. Obviously, the RC is concerned about liability. The RC is supposed to collect data, process per DHS records, submit it to DHS, then they cut the RC a check, the RC takes our part of the top based on a per trip rate, then we pay the four contracted providers. The decision that needs to be made is whether or not GMRC wants to enter into this agreement with DHS. The RC received the contract on the 16<sup>th</sup> and DHS wants it to be effective on the 30<sup>th</sup>. We are the only region that is not providing this service. Mr. Hazell answered questions regarding the program. Motion was made by Leslie George to give the Executive Director and Council Chairman the authority to sign the contract at the point that it is suitable by legal counsel. Motion was seconded by Bill Chafin and passed unanimously.

## NEW BUSINESS

### WD Contracts with RYDC and Rapid Response

Workforce Development Director John Phillips informed the Council that the Governor's Office had offered for our Workforce Development to handle the Rapid Response Program. Rapid Response is where any company with 50 or more employees in our area shuts down, WD would go in with the Mobile Training Units and provide services to the employees that are losing their jobs. They would assist them in applying for jobs, preparing or updating their resumes, and instruct them how to sign up for unemployment. WD has already assisted on three different occasions a company that is closing in Hall County. The Governor's Office has submitted the RC with a contract for up to \$150,000 to operate the program. This program would go into effect on July 1. This was previously presented to the WD Board. A motion was made by L.J. Harrison to enter into a contract with the Governor's Office to provide Rapid Response in our area. Motion was seconded by Sam Norton and carried unanimously.

Mr. Phillips also informed the Executive Committee that all thirteen counties in our region send all their youth detention to the RYDC in Gainesville. Most of these youth do not have a high school diploma. It was presented to the WD Board and the Executive Committee for consideration of entering into a contract for Lanier Tech to provide an instructor at the Detention Center who would submit half their time to teaching male youth and the other half to female youth to help get their GED while incarcerated. If a participant is moved to another facility or paroled, they will follow-up on them and this would be part of their probation. We feel this would help prevent these youth from reentering into the system. Motion was made by Rex Farmer and was seconded by Leslie George to enter into this agreement. Motion carried unanimously.

### Appointment of GMRC Private Sector Appointments

Chairman Stovall referenced a list of the Council Private Sector Appointments for the upcoming year. These appointments are for a one year term. All appointments have confirmed that they would serve. There is one new appointment on the list, Randall Toussaint for Forsyth County. Motion was made by Rex Farmer to pass this list on to the Council for approval. Motion was seconded by J.B. Jones and carried unanimously.

CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairman Stovall stated that there was a real estate item that the Executive Committee needed to discuss. Leslie George made a motion to go into Closed Executive Session allowed by OCGA 50-14-4 for the purpose of discussing this item. Motion was seconded by Sam Norton and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Bill Chafin and was seconded by J.B. Jones to end the Closed Executive Session and that the Executive Committee Meeting reconvene and at that time the Chairman execute an affidavit stating the subject matter of the closed portion of the Executive Committee meeting was with the exception by OCGA 50-14-4(b). Motion passed.

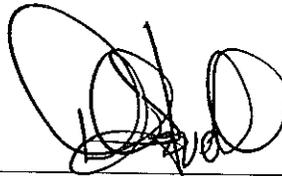
Bill Chafin made a motion to recommend to the Council that the GMRC terminate the lease with the current landlord for the office on Hilton Drive and enter into a new lease with the City of Gainesville for the office on Ridge Road. Motion was seconded by L.J. Harrison and passed unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Stovall stated that it has been an extreme pleasure to serve as the GMRC Council Chairman for the past six years. He looks forward to continuing to serve on the Council as the Private Sector Representative for Towns County.

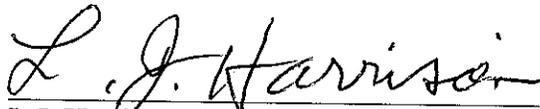
ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was recessed to the Council Meeting at 5:50 pm.



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David Stovall, Chairman



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L.J. Harrison, Secretary

# AFFIDAVIT

Personally appeared before me the undersigned attesting officer, duly authorized to administer oath, David Stovell, who, after being duly sworn, deposes and on oath states the following:

5) I was the presiding officer of an Executive Committee meeting of the Georgia Mountains Regional Commission held on the 27<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2013.

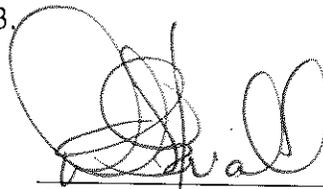
6) That it is my understanding that O.C.G.A. §50-14-4(b) provides as follows:

When any meeting of an agency is closed to the public pursuant to subsection (a) of this Code section, the chairperson or other person presiding over such meeting shall execute and file with the official minutes of the meeting a notarized affidavit stating under oath that the subject matter of the meeting or the closed portion thereof was devoted to matters within the exceptions provided by law and identifying the specific relevant exception.

7) The subject matter of the closed meeting held on the 27<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2013, which was closed for the purpose(s) of:  
 Personnel  Real Estate  Litigation as allowed by O.C.G.A., Title 50, Chapter 14, was devoted to matters within those exceptions and as provided by law.

8) This affidavit is being executed for the purpose of complying with the mandate of O.C.G.A. §50-17-4(b) that such an affidavit be executed.

This 27<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2013.

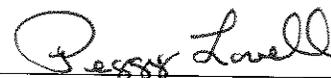


Chair, GMRC Council

Sworn to and subscribed before me

this 27<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2013

PEGGY LOVELL  
NOTARY PUBLIC, HALL COUNTY, GEORGIA  
MY COMMISSION EXPIRES JANUARY 19, 2015

  
Notary Public