



Pinnacle

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Georgia Mountains Regional Commission

Executive Director's Report



◆ Attention all City and County managers, our Winter GMRC City/County Managers meeting will be on Wednesday February 24th. It will be hosted by the **City of Dawsonville** at 10:00 am at the City Hall. We should be finished by 2:00pm. Our host will be **Dawsonville's** new City Manager David Headley.

◆ **Dawson County** Commission Chair and GMRC Council Member Mike Berg has announced that he does not plan to seek re-election to this position later in 2016. Let's hope that he changes his mind. Having talked with Mike, I know that he and Jane have some big plans together after he gets out of the public position. Mike retired from Georgia Power Company, was a Commissioner in Gwinnett County, and most recently Chairman in **Dawson County**. He also served as President of ACCG recently. Mike is Chairman of our CLEO Board of the GMRC Workforce Development, too. He is indeed a busy man.

◆ Thanks to all of our public officials and employees who have worked tirelessly thru the icy weather recently, and winter is not finished yet. These men and women are to be applauded for their efforts to make sure our roads are safe and our utilities are operating effectively. I appreciate your city and county managers and department heads who insured that all was well in your counties. Thanks to elected officials who get out in the elements and help by keeping us informed of problem areas.

- ◆ Thanks to our Attorney Kevin Tallant for his efforts to keep us legally correct in all we try to accomplish thru this organization. He might be the best Attorney I have ever served with in my 43 years of government. We are discussing some legal training for our Council members right now, so you all will most likely get a chance to learn from him.
- ◆ Ms. Deborah Mack was named Woman of the Year at The Rotary Club of **Gainesville's** 77th Annual Banquet. This award is given to community leaders who have shown extraordinary voluntary community service. Ms. Mack serves on a number of boards including our GMRC Council. Congrats!

UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE	TIME	EVENT/MEETING	LOCATION
February 24	10:00 am	City/County Manager Meeting	Dawsonville City Hall
February 25	5:30 pm 6:00 pm	GMRC Executive Meeting GMRC Council Meeting	Habersham County EMC Building—Clarkesville
March 31	5:00 pm 6:00 pm	GMRC Executive Meeting GMRC Council Meeting	Franklin County/City of Lavonia Lavonia Depot
April 21***	4:00 pm 5:00 pm 6:00 pm	WD Board Meeting GMRC Executive Meeting GMRC Council Meeting	Banks County/City of Homer Funopolis Family Fun Center

PLEASE NOTE DATE CHANGE FOR APRIL COUNCIL MEETING

Economic Development

- ◆ The **City of Cornelia** was awarded \$500,000 in Community Development Block Grant – Employment Incentive Program (CDBG-EIP) grant funding for public water improvements to benefit Fieldale Farms Corporation.
- ◆ The following two communities received pre-approval for Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) grant funding. Full applications are due to ARC by April 15th.

City of Lavonia – I85 Northern Sewer Trunk Line

City of Toccoa – Schaefer Center Improvements

- ◆ On behalf of the **City of Hartwell**, a grant application was submitted to Georgia Historic Preservation office for improvements to the **Hart County Community Theatre**.

Planning Services

- ◆ **Dawson County** has adopted their annual Capital Improvements Element (CIE) update.
- ◆ **White County** has adopted their Solid Waste Management Strategy.
- ◆ The Joint Comprehensive Plan for **White County** and the **Cities of Cleveland** and **Helen** have been approved by the Department of Community Affairs (DCA).
- ◆ Water sampling has begun for the Soque River Watershed Nutrient Assessment in **Habersham County**, a project between the GMRC, the North Georgia Water Partnership, and the Soque River Watershed Association.
- ◆ The GMRC is assisting the Development Authority of **Dawson County** with a conceptual development study for a commercial property along GA 400.

Employee Spotlight



Niki Sievers joined GMRC as the OJT Program Coordinator in May 2012. In the role of On the Job Training Coordinator, she markets the program to businesses and works with applicants to match them with available jobs. Prior to her employment with GMRC she worked for the Tanger Outlets in Commerce where she was the Office Administrator for 15 years. Niki is a Hall County native and graduated from Johnson High. She currently resides in Banks County with her two daughters Shea (18) and Vanna (13). When not at work, Niki is actively involved in sports herself and with her girls. She also enjoys relaxing in the pool when she is not chasing Vanna’s many pets around the yard. Niki loves to travel with her fiancé Keith McPherson.

Information Services

- ◆ GMRC hosted a GPS workshop for the users across the region on February 11th. Jeannine Hightower with Navigation Electronics gave a presentation on the uses of global positioning in the mapping field and the various types of equipment available. We had attendees from **Habersham, Hart, Lumpkin, and White Counties** as well as **Cities of Toccoa and Hartwell**. If you would like additional information regarding GPS and how it could benefit your county or city, please contact Faith Bryan at 770-538-2614.
- ◆ The **City of Homer** has requested the assistance of GMRC staff for mapping the City’s water and sewer system.
- ◆ To date, GMRC staff will be assisting **Hartwell, Dawsonville, Carnesville, Cornelia** and **Mt. Airy** with their US Census Boundary and Annexation Survey (BAS) Mapping.
- ◆ **Towns County** will be contracting with GMRC to perform the 2015 tax parcel updates for the Tax Assessors office.
- ◆ GMRC staff will be assisting the **City of Avalon** with updating and revising the Zoning Map and Ordinance to incorporate future development patterns along Highway 17.

Workforce Development

- ◆ The Career Coaches participated in a job fair hosted by Goodwill. A total of 16 individuals had their resumes reviewed or critiqued in preparation for the job fair.
- ◆ This year has started off quickly and resume training session were held for participants of **Dawson** and **Hall County** Treatment Court, **Stephens County** Probation Office, and the Salvation Army of **Hall County**. Future visits have been scheduled for through the end of the 2016 for each location.

Category of Responses:	Month Total	Year Total
Total Job Searches	74	74
Total Job App	15	15
Total Resumes	55	55
Total Interviews	1	1
Total Interest Survey	7	7
Total Training Sessions	1	1
Total Testing	0	0
Total Typing Assessments	0	0
Total GMRC Info	77	77
Total Unemployment	0	0
Computer Trainings	0	0
Microsoft Office Classes	0	0