



Interim Executive Director's Report



October 1st marked the fifth anniversary of the Chief Local Elected Official's choosing the GMRC to serve as Fiscal Agent for the Workforce Development operations. Since that time, over 8,200 services have been provided to approximately 4,000 customers. WorkSource Georgia Mountains has also grown their services with new programs such as, the On the Job Training, Incumbent Training, and Rapid Response to name a few. Additionally, the purchase of two Career Coaches has provided extended outreach to approximately 5,000 people at 800 events. Congratulations to John Phillips and his entire staff for their excellent work in serving the citizens of the Georgia Mountains Region.



GMRC hosted the quarterly City & County Managers meeting on October 12, 2016. There was great turnout for the meeting – probably the largest crowd yet!! We had great discussions of best practices around the region and topics included broadband, millage rates, recreation and greenspace just to name a few. Thank you to Andrea Newsom for presenting information regarding the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) new overtime rules.

Faith Bryan and Brandon Carlock recently attended the 2016 Georgia Geospatial Conference in Athens. Congratulations to Faith who presented the 2015 GMRC Aerial Photography and LiDAR project. The project was also mentioned during the keynote speaker's presentation. Great job!!

The District 2 Georgia Municipal Association (GMA) Fall Listening Session was hosted by the City of Helen at City Hall on October 20th. It was a great opportunity to network, learn about successful municipal initiatives in the district and receive updates on GMA's legislative priorities, services, and training programs.

Congratulations to Craig and Marissa Smith on the birth of their daughter, Madalyn Jayde, born on October 10th, weighing 8 lb. 10 oz. and 21 inches long. Marissa and Madalyn are both doing great and big brother Corbin is very proud.

Our Finance Committee Chairman Bill Chafin and the Finance Committee have received a *DRAFT* copy of our Financial Audit. This will be sent to full GMRC Council for consideration of approval at the November 17th meeting. Congrats to Becky Sievers, Andrea Newsom, Barbara Moseley, Nona Turk, and Cheryl Smith for all of their hard work in preparing for the audit!!

Congratulations to Becky Sievers who has officially announced her retirement effective January 1, 2017. I want to thank Becky for her 13 years of service to the GMRC and the great job she has done as Finance Director. She will be missed greatly, but we wish her well in her upcoming retirement.

Please make plans to attend our Annual Meeting, which is scheduled for Friday, December 2, 2016 at the Dillard House. Please contact Peggy Lovell for additional information at 770-538-2607 or plovell@gmrc.ga.gov. We hope that you will be able to join us for an evening filled with wonderful food, entertainment, and comradery.

Sincerely,

Heather Feldman

Heather J. Feldman
Interim Executive Director

Planning

Forsyth County has submitted the annual update to their *Capital Improvement Element (CIE)* for regional review.

The Cities of **Oakwood** and **Gainesville** have begun working on their *Comprehensive Plan* updates.

Status of recent/current *Development of Regional Impact (DRI)* reviews:

Dawson County - #2616 Hughes Court (mixed use project) – Complete. County action scheduled for October

City of Cornelia - #2619 Wastewater treatment Plant Expansion – In progress

Dawsonville - #2571 Name TBD (housing project) – On hold

Forsyth County - #2642 Brookwood Quarters (mixed use) – Initial forms on file; Awaiting traffic study

Gainesville - #2638 Oak Hall Companies (mixed use) – Initial form on file; Awaiting traffic study

GMRC staff will begin working with local governments and stakeholders to review route options for *Corridor 15 of the US Bike Route System* that is proposed for our region. This will be a designated on-road corridor that is part of a nationwide network supported by State DOTs and other groups.

Information Services



Faith Bryan and Brandon Carlock attended the 2016 Georgia Geospatial Conference held in Athens. Our keynote speaker was Susan Miller, Georgia's Geospatial Information Officer. During her presentation, she mentioned the 2015 GMRC Aerial Photography/LiDAR Consortium Project as one of the most successful projects that took place in the State of Georgia in 2014-2015. Faith presented the project and background of Regional Commissions on a panel focusing on Aerial Photography and LiDAR.

GMRC will be inviting a speaker to come and present the specifications needed to comply with NextGEN 911. Stay tuned for further details regarding this meeting.

As we prepare for the US Census 2020, it is very important that we make sure the boundaries are correct for all of our cities and counties. These boundaries determine where and how the Census Bureau count the population for your local government. If you need assistance with the US Census Boundary and Annexation Survey (BAS), please do not hesitate to contact GMRC staff. Please visit: <http://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial-census/2020-census/about.html> for further details.

Economic Development

ARC Grant Awarded

The **City of Lavonia** was awarded \$300,000 in Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) grant funding for the city's I-85 Northern Sewer Trunk Line Project.

OneGeorgia Application Submitted

On behalf of **Towns County**, a grant application was submitted to the OneGeorgia Authority for the Georgia Mountains Fairgrounds project.

CEDS Annual Update

GMRC staff completed and submitted to the U.S. Department of Commerce – Economic Development Administration (EDA) the 2016 Annual Update to the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). Thank you to CEDS Chairman and Council Member Charlie Auvermann for his leadership and guidance during this process.

Upcoming Grant Deadlines:

FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG):

November 18, 2016

Recreational Trails Program Grant (RTP):

November 30, 2016

Please contact the Economic Development Staff at 770-538-2626 if you are interested in applying for either one of these programs.

Finance & Human Resources

The Finance Department has submitted the audit to the Finance Committee to review. The audit will be presented to the full Council in November.

The semi-annual Regional Loan Fund (RLF) report was submitted to the Economic Development Administration. There are currently 17 active loans with \$1.3 million loaned out for business development within the GMRC Region.

Human Resources is currently working on updating the GMRC Personnel Policies and Procedures. A draft will be presented to the Council for review soon. In addition, HR is re-writing all of the job descriptions to ensure compliance with the new Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) law that is effective on December 1, 2016. For more information regarding the FLSA law, please visit:

<https://www.dol.gov/whd/overtime/final2016/>

WorkSource Georgia Mountains



We need your votes to defend our title as the scarecrow champions of Gainesville!

This year's theme: We sent this GHOUL to SCHOOL! Let us help you get A-HEAD!

You must Like our photo on the Downtown Gainesville FaceBook page for your vote to count. The link below will take you to the album of this year's entries.

https://www.facebook.com/Historic.Downtown.Gainesville/photos/?tab=album&album_id=1306268326059090

WorkSource Georgia Mountains received a record number of applications for the Fall Semester, a total of 94! Staff worked diligently to get these applications processed. Spring Semester deadline is **November 9th, 2016**, get your application in soon! Contact us at (770)538-2727 for more information about the program.

We had three GED graduates: two from **Union County** and one from **Habersham County**.

Success Story

Before receiving assistance through WIOA, my situation was hard. I was unemployed and attending school to get my GED. My unemployment benefits were cutoff due to the government shutdown. I really wanted a job, but needed something more than a minimum wage job. I heard about WIOA through the Hall County Adult Literacy & Education Center. I signed up on the MTU on site.

In my opinion, the school where I attended was amazing. The guidance and encouragement I received from teachers and advisors was very helpful. The classes I took were very relevant to today's work environment. I am certified in several Microsoft applications which is awesome. I work with Access, Word, Outlook and Excel at my place of employment every day and the knowledge I gained was essential.

The services provided by WIOA were crucial for my education. I would not have been able to continue my education as I did because I was facing eviction, disconnection of public utilities due to lack of a job. With the resources provided by WIOA, my tuition and required books and materials were covered. I was able to support my family while I attended school without having those expenses on top of everything else. The process to apply and enroll in WIOA was straight forward. I liked how there was a plan of action and follow up as well.

At this moment, I am employed full time as a Customer Service Representative at PFG. I enjoy full benefits and a great work environment. I have been stable; living at my current address for a little more than a year. I am saving to buy a new car in the near future as well.

To those who may be thinking about applying, I would say "Do it!" It was a tremendous help for me and I know it will be the same for you. I just could not have attended school without the assistance and it made all the difference for me. The help is there. You just have to apply for it and it will be rewarding for you also. EP

Career Coaches

The Career Coaches were invited to participate in a job fair sponsored by Development Authority and Chamber of Commerce of **Dawson County** and a second job fair sponsored by Goodwill of **Habersham**. Between the two events, fifteen individuals received services provided by the Career Coach.

Twenty-Five High School students from Mountain Education Charter High School in **Stephens** and **Forsyth** Counties received resume training and career guidance on-board the Career Coach.

Resume training session was conducted for participants of the Colwell Probation Center in **Union County**, Salvation Army of **Hall County**, and **Dahlonega** Day Reporting Center in **Lumpkin**.

A total of 16 individuals registered for Georgia Work Ready Virtual OneStop (VOS) services while receiving career assistance on the Career Coaches.

Category of Responses	Month Total	Year Total
Total Job Searches	76	736
Total Job App	14	117
Total Resumes	59	531
Total Interviews	0	4
Total Interest Survey	13	380
Total Training Sessions	0	7
Total Testing	0	3
Total Typing Assessments	1	40
WIOA Info	80	899
Total Unemployment Claims	0	0
Computer Trainings	0	0
Microsoft Office Classes	0	0
Public Relations	5	504

RESPONSES PER COUNTY	
Banks—0	Lumpkin—13
Dawson—10	Rabun—0
Forsyth—71	Stephens—22
Franklin—10	Towns—14
Habersham—9	Union—26
Hall—50	White—18
Hart—3	Other—2

Event and Meeting Schedule

DATE	TIME	EVENT/MEETING	LOCATION/HOST
October 27th	4:00 pm	GMWD Board Meeting	Lumpkin County/City of Dahlonega
	5:00 pm	GMRC RLF Committee	The Smith House
	5:00 pm	Search Committee	
	5:30 pm	GMRC Executive Committee	
	6:00 pm	GMRC Council Meeting	
November 17th	5:00 pm	GMRC Executive Committee	City of Dawsonville
	6:00 pm	GMRC Council Meeting	City Hall
December 2nd	4:45 pm	Reception/Cash Bar	GMRC Annual Dinner
	6:00 pm	Dinner	The Dillard House Conference Center



Order Tickets Now

Georgia Mountains Regional Commission
Annual Meeting
Dillard House Conference Center
December 2, 2016
Reception - 4:45 p.m.
Dinner - 6:00 p.m.
Tickets - \$40.00

Contact Peggy Lovell at 770-538-2607 or plovell@gmrc.ga.gov with any questions.

It is that time again! Our GMRC Annual Meeting is quickly approaching. If you know of someone who would like to sponsor, or if you are in need of tickets, please contact Peggy Lovell at 770-538-2607 or at plovell@gmrc.ga.gov. The deadline to order tickets is November 18th. Remember, a limited number of tickets are available!