



Pinnacle

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Georgia Mountains Regional Commission

Executive Director's Report



- ◆ Thanks to Jerry Elkins, City Manager of **Helen**, for hosting the GMRC City and County Managers earlier this month. Kevin Poe, County Manager of Jackson and active GCCMA District Representative was with us. This meeting was sponsored by Georgia Municipal Association (GMA) and also in attendance were Lamar Norton, Becky Taylor and Pam Helton. Our department heads that did not have conflicts were also in attendance. This was probably one of the best quarterly meetings ever. Thanks to GMA for their sponsorship and attendance/participation.
- ◆ Its D-Day for our largest single contract in the history of the GMRC. Faith Bryan's Aerial Photography project is due to be completed and delivered by the end of October.
- ◆ If your community needs to have its cemetery mapped, contact Faith at fbryan@gmrc.ga.gov or 770-538-2614. Having completed a large number of city cemeteries, we can give you the best price and suggestions of what work other communities have wanted completed in their contracts.
- ◆ Meisa Pace, Patrick Larson, and Nancy Smallwood recently attended the required Department of Community Affairs' Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) workshop in Jekyll Island, GA. This is an annual training event, usually attended by grant recipients.
- ◆ Adam Hazell recently attended the Georgia Planning Association (GPA) training in Savannah.
- ◆ John Phillips and the Workforce Development (WD) managers attended the national Southeastern Employment and Training Association (SETA) Conference also in Savannah. Attending from GMRC were John Phillips, Diana Eddins-Wiggin, Jessica Williams, Ebony Tucker, Wanda Payne and WD Board Chair Andrea Gibby. Changing to Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), has brought major changes and improvements in the WD Department. Prior to this meeting attorney Kevin Tallant, Mike Berg, WD-CLEO; John Phillips, and myself met to discuss our concerns and how this affects the GMRC-WD operations.
- ◆ Our new auditors have completed the in-office review portion of our financial audit. Rushton & Associates are very thorough and professional in their audit. We actually have had two partners, another CPA, and two other staff from the firm working with our Finance Staff for two weeks in our offices.

Employee Spotlight



Barbara Moseley works as a Finance Assistant for the GMRC. She began in 2006 and has worked as administrative secretary and benefits coordinator as well. Barbara and her husband Danny reside in Hoschton and attend Hebron Baptist Church.

Barbara has a son and a daughter, Daniel and Christy. They have blessed her with four grandchildren; Jacob, Alex, Amy, and Zoe. When not at work Barbara is at the neighborhood pool, playing a hand of cards, or enjoying ladies night out at her favorite Mexican restaurant.

Workforce Development

- ♦ Youth Department Staff met with three high schools in the Region to begin preparation for a "Mapping Your Future" event for students. This event is designed to present different avenues when planning for the future. For those students who may not be thinking of the future, this event should ignite some interest to begin planning. The event will touch on post-secondary and employment planning, including resume building, soft skills, and time management workshops.
- ♦ The Youth Department Staff held three Career Planning workshops in **Hall** and **White Counties**.
- ♦ Youth Staff visited two GED centers in **Hall** and **Stephens Counties**.

Planning Services

- ♦ The **City of Hartwell** has submitted their *Comprehensive Plan* update for review.
- ♦ The GMRC has begun working on the *Joint Comprehensive Plan* update for **Towns County, Hiawassee, and Young Harris**.
- ♦ **Rabun County and its Cities** are updating their *Service Delivery Strategy*.
- ♦ GMRC is assisting with the update of the *Coosa-North Georgia Watershed Plan*, which includes the counties of **Dawson, Habersham, Lumpkin, Towns, White, and Union**.
- ♦ The GMRC will assist **Hall County** with a *restoration plan for historic Head's Mill*, near Lula.



Career Coach

- ♦ The Career Coach was invited to a community outreach event at St. Francis of Assisi Church in **Union County**. A total of 17 people were assisted by our team and/or received information about WIOA programs, and a return visit has been scheduled for October.
- ♦ The Career Coach participated in a hiring event for Goodwill's new store in **Cornelia**, which was phenomenal success! Over 40 individuals completed employment applications aboard the Career Coaches.
- ♦ Several Walmart stores in and around **Forsyth County** were hiring during the month of August, and Career Coach staff assisted many individuals with their online employment applications.
- ♦ A resume writing and job application session was held for individuals at The Place of **Forsyth**. The session went very well and a return visit has been scheduled for October.
- ♦ The Career Coach staff wish to thank Sharon Hogan and the *Banks County News* for their wonderful August 19th article about our services. Thanks also to **Banks County** Library Manager Stacey Krumnow for her continued support of our efforts there.

Category of Responses:	Month Total	2015Total
Total Job Searches	76	577
Total Job App	79	413
Total Resumes	57	523
Total Interviews	42	51
Total Interest Survey	4	253
Total Training Sessions	1	30
Total Testing	0	31
Total Typing Assessments	1	12
Total GMRC Info	95	574
TOTAL REPSONSES	355	2464

RESPONSES PER COUNTY

Banks - 15	Lumpkin - 0
Dawson - 3	Rabun - 10
Forsyth - 38	Stephens - 37
Franklin - 7	Towns - 2
Habersham - 78	Union - 38
Hall - 75	White - 15
Hart - 27	Other - 10

Economic Development

ARC Pre-Applications Submitted

COMMUNITY	PROJECT
City of Baldwin	Farmer's Market
Development Authority of Banks County	Martin Bridge Sewer Improvement Project
City of Clarkesville	Historic Highway 441 Sewer Improvements
City of Cornelia	Rails to Trails – Phase 1
Franklin County Industrial Building Authority	Central Franklin Industrial Park Infrastructure
City of Hartwell	Downtown Infrastructure Improvements
City of Lavonia	I-85 Northern Sewer Trunk Line
Lumpkin County	Road Improvements
City of Oakwood	Road Improvements
City of Royston	Sewer Lift Station Improvements
City of Toccoa	Schaefer Center Marquee Project

- ◆ **Forsyth County** United Way was awarded grant funding from the Department of Health and Human Services for \$125,000/5 years through the Drug Free Community Grant Program. Technical assistance was provided in the preparation of the application by Nancy Smallwood.
- ◆ A \$500,000 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) was awarded to the **City of Cornelia** for sewer improvements. Technical assistance was provided by Patrick Larson in the development of the grant application.



DCA Commissioner Knowles presents "big" check to the City of Cornelia for their CDBG Award.

Information Services

- ◆ Susan Miller, Georgia's Geographic Information Officer, will be at the GMRC Office on September 28th at 1:00 pm to discuss her future plans for the State of Georgia's GIS needs and issues. We look forward to introducing her to the GMRC Region and GIS Users. Please make plans to join us and RSVP by September 24th to fbryan@gmrc.ga.gov to reserve your seat.
- ◆ Check out GMRC's new look! Go to www.gmrc.ga.gov and browse our refreshed web site
- ◆ GMRC staff presented the Sunrise Cemetery proposal to the **Maysville** City Council
- ◆ **Towns County** Parcel Project is in full production mode. Splits and merges through 2014 have been completed to date. Kudos to Brandon Carlock, Emanuel Fisteag and David Sargent for working so diligently on this important project.

Finance

- ◆ The Finance team wrapped up the first installation phase of the new software and will be starting Phase II – Special Assessments and Accounts Receivable in October.
- ◆ Additionally, a two year onsite audit with our new audit firm is in process.
- ◆ Human Resources completed a personnel manual revision for the **City of Baldwin**.
- ◆ The RLF Committee approved another loan last month and has two more in the development phase for presentation and vote. Andrea Newsum represented the GMRC as a panel member at the Small Business Seminar hosted by the Greater **Hall County** Chamber at Featherbone Community with information on the RLF program.

SAVE THE DATE

Georgia Mountains Regional Commission
Annual Meeting
Dillard House Conference Center
December 4, 2015
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

GMRC Council Meeting

August 2015



UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE	TIME	EVENT/MEETING	LOCATION
September 24	5:30 pm 6:00 pm	GMRC Executive Committee GMRC Council Meeting	White County/City of Cleveland—Woodlands Camp
September 28	1:00 pm	Susan Miller, GA-GIO Meet & Greet	GMRC Office
October 29	3:30 pm 5:00 pm 6:00 pm	GMRC WD Board Meeting GMRC Executive Committee GMRC Council Meeting	Lumpkin County/City of Dahlonega—Smith House
November 19	5:30 pm 6:00 pm	GMRC Executive Meeting GMRC Council Meeting	Dawsonville City Hall
December 4	4:45 pm 6:00 pm	GMRC Annual Dinner Reception GMRC Annual Dinner	The Dillard House Conference Center