

July 2021

PINNACLE

Georgia Mountains Regional Commission

In This Issue:

From Our Executive Director
Pg. 2

Planning
Pg. 3

Economic Development
Pg. 3

WorkSource
Pg. 4

Information Services
Pg. 4

Spotlight!
Pg. 5

Save the Date:
Calendar of Upcoming Meetings
and Trainings
Pg. 5

Cover Photo:
Lake Lanier
Courtesy of Adam Hazell,
GMRC Planning Director

Executive Director's Report



Heather Feldman
Executive Director

- I would like to welcome our newest GMRC Council Member: Mr. Wayne Randall, Private Sector Representative for Franklin County. Mr. Randall serves as the Agriculture Program Director for North Georgia Technical College. We look forward to working with Mr. Randall and we appreciate his commitment to serving on the GMRC Council.
- Longtime GMRC Council Member Gerald Voyles has retired from the GMRC Council. Gerald holds the distinction of being the longest serving council member for the GMRC with 27 years! We would like to thank Gerald for his service, leadership, and guidance in growing the Regional Commission and we will miss seeing him at our monthly meetings.
- I would like to welcome Ms. Martha Revelo and Ms. Andrea Wiggins with United States Senator Raphael Warnock's office to Region 2! Earlier this month, we had a Zoom meeting to make introductions, share the great work program of the Regional Commission, and learn more about the Senator's priorities. We look forward to working with them as the region continues to grow and prosper. I would also like to welcome Mr. Steven Parker with U.S. Senator Jon Ossoff's office to the region. We look forward to connecting in person in August.
- Congratulations to council member Betsy McGriff (Dawson Co.) for recently graduating the Appalachian Leadership Institute sponsored by the Appalachian Regional Commission. Additionally, Jessie Owensby, City of Cornelia Community Development Director also graduated the Institute. The Appalachian Leadership Institute is limited to 40 Fellows annually, drawn from Appalachia's public, private and non-profit sectors. Each class includes representatives from each of the thirteen states in the ARC footprint to reflect the region's diverse economic development challenges, opportunities, and strategies.
- After 16 months, the GMRC was able to hold our first in-person Council Meeting!!! It was a packed house, and SO good to see everyone again. Thank you to the City of Blairsville and Union County for hosting our meeting. A huge thank you to our program speaker, Mike Beatty of The Beatty Team.
- As everyone is aware, the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act of 2021 is a historic \$1.9 trillion economic stimulus bill. Within the ARP, the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund provides \$350 billion for states, municipalities, counties, tribes, and territories, including \$65.1 billion for cities throughout the U.S. If your community is in need of assistance with project development, grant writing/proposals, please contact the GMRC!
- On August 7, Lake Lanier Olympic Park in Gainesville will host a variety of events and festivities in honor of the 25th anniversary of the 1996 Olympic Games! Celebrations at the historic rowing venue will include a torch relay, a 5k road race, fireworks, and more. Some events require tickets, so please visit www.lakelanierolympicvenue.org for details.
- GMRC received EDA CARES Act Revolving Loan Funding. If you have a business, start-up, or local entrepreneur who needs additional funding, please contact the GMRC as we may be able to help with funding assistance!
- SAVE THE DATE: The Annual Conference of the Georgia Association of Regional Commissions (GARC) is scheduled for November 3-5th in St. Simons. This will be an in-person conference.



Sincerely,

Heather Feldman

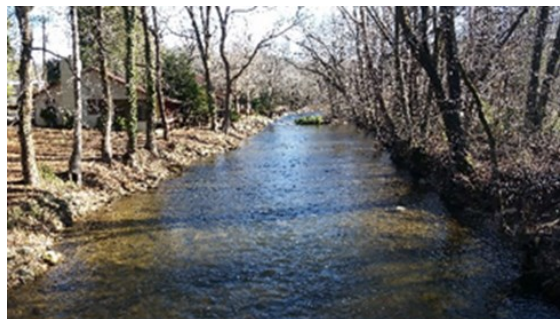
Heather Feldman
Executive Director



Planning

REGIONAL WATER PLAN SEED GRANT FUNDS

From State Fiscal Year 2022 funds appropriated by the Georgia General Assembly for Regional Water Planning, EPD announces the SFY2022 [Regional Water Plan Seed Grant](#) program. The Regional Water Plan Seed Grants are being provided to support and incentivize local governments and other water users as they undertake their [Regional Water Plan](#)* implementation responsibilities. Project proposals must specifically address implementation of management practice(s) or other recommendation(s) from one or more Regional Water Plans, and applications must include a letter of endorsement from the Water Planning Council Chair or designated representative.



Grant awards are limited to **\$75,000** and the project period is limited to thirty (30) months in duration. **Applicants must attend a pre-application meeting with EPD by October 15, 2021 and applications must be e-mailed by October 31, 2021.**



* = *Know your State Water Planning region*

Metro North Ga:	Hall County
Coosa-North Georgia	Dawson, Lumpkin, Union, Towns, White, & Habersham Counties
Savannah-Upper Ogeechee	Rabun, Stephens, Banks, Franklin, & Hart Counties

Economic Development

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The Recreational Trails Program (RTP) will be accepting grant applications soon. The purpose of RTP is to support recreational trails and trail-related facilities for both nonmotorized and motorized recreational trail uses. Eligible applicants include qualified local governments, authorized commissions, and state and federal agencies. The RTP Funding Cycle Dates are as Follows:
 - September 1, 2021 - Pre-application window opens
 - November 1, 2021 - Pre-application window closes
 - February 2022 - Successful Pre-applicants invited to start Second-level Applications
 - March 31, 2022 - Second-level Application period closes

Please contact the ED Department to discuss your project.

- Congratulations to the **Development Authority of Dawson County** on being awarded a U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Business Development grant (USDA-RBDG) in the amount of \$35,000 to assist in funding an Innovation and Entrepreneurship Hub assessment.

DISASTER RECOVERY:

We need your help!

As we all know, the COVID-19 pandemic drastically affected our daily lives and the way we conducted business. In an effort for the Georgia Mountains Region to be better equipped to withstand future disasters or pandemics, we are working to build a stronger resiliency plan to accompany our Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). As we're rolling out this initiative, we would like for you to please help in getting this important survey out to your existing industries and business community. This brief survey will allow us to collect valuable information on how you and your community were impacted by COVID-19.

To take the survey, follow this link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BBGWX6V>

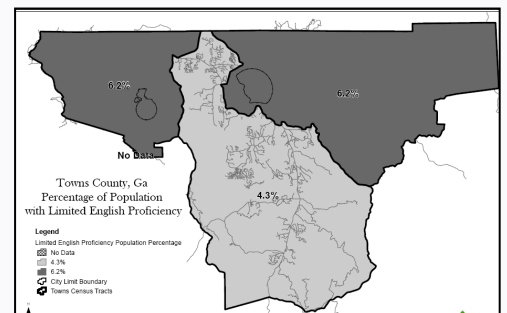
- WorkSource had eight students complete a Welding Bootcamp held at the One-Stop Center this summer with training provided by WorkForce Innovators of America. These students earned an American Welding Society certification and received training in Six Sigma, OSHA 10, blueprint reading, Forklift Operation, and more skills manufacturers want. They also participated in Employability Skills classes, emphasizing real-life skills such as financial literacy, punctuality, and conflict resolution in the workplace. A special thank you to the area employers who came to interview and HIRE these students: **ABB, Cottrell, Kubota, and Wahoo Docks**. *WSGM fully funded this program, and it is free to eligible participants!* If you know an individual who could benefit from this training, contact Catherine Allen at 770.538.2732. Also, if you would be interested in holding a Welding Bootcamp in your city or county, please contact Danielle Avelar at 770.531.4043.



- The Career Coach has hit the road again! WorkSource assisted with a hiring event in Rabun County for Parkdale Mills, and seven individuals were hired to fill fourteen open positions. Parkdale was pleased with this turnout, and we are excited to continue assisting with their hiring effort!
- Youth Division Update:
 - Two (2) participants completed their GED
 - Two (2) completing welding certification with Workforce Innovators of America
 - Conducted a workshop with Goodwill of Dawson County that provided Interview & Resume guidance for youth with disabilities
 - Two (2) graduates from Mountain Education Charter School

Information Systems

- The **City of Maysville** has requested assistance with updating the Official Zoning Map.
- 2021 GMRC Aerial Photography Project participants have completed their online review of imagery.
- **City of Lula** requested assistance with updating the Future Land Use Map.
- GMRC Staff assisted an engineer by providing digital elevation and contour information for a large tract of land in **Towns County**. The LiDAR dataset used was acquired in 2010 by USGS for FEMA DFIRM mapping.
- **Towns County** received assistance in developing a map for their Title VI compliance reporting.





GMRC Staff Spotlight!

Joe Rothwell, Regional Planner/ Preservation Planner

This month we recognize Joe Rothwell, who's finishing his ninth year with the GMRC. "Working in the Planning Department, I'm afforded a unique opportunity to assist each of our communities with identifying ways for them to plan for their future and also protect their past. This allows them to shape a vibrant future and protect their unique sense of place at the same time."

Joe is married to his lovely wife, Traci, and has one son, Oliver. Outside of work Joe likes hiking ("the view from Blood Mountain!") reading, searching for old records. He and Traci also love to run, from 5k's to marathons.

"I grew up in Jacksonville, FL and after exploring all of the city's abandoned buildings and learning about their architectural histories, I decided to do the same at art school. After graduating from SCAD, I traveled the back roads of Georgia working on a number of preservation projects prior to joining the GMRC team."



Joe meeting Jeff Galloway, Olympian and first winner of the Peachtree Road Race.

UPCOMING GMRC COUNCIL MEETINGS AND PROGRAMS



DATE	LOCATION	TIME
Aug. 26, 2021	City of Lavonia and Franklin County <i>John Wilkinson, President, NGTC</i>	5:00 PM — Exec. Committee 6:00 PM — GMRC Council
Sep. 30, 2021	White County	5:00 PM — Exec. Committee 6:00 PM — GMRC Council
Oct. 28, 2021	City of Dahlonega and Lumpkin County	4:00 PM — W. D. Board 5:00 PM — Exec. Committee 6:00 PM — GMRC Council
Nov. 18, 2021	City of Dawsonville <i>GMRC Audit, Rushton and Company</i>	5:00 PM — Exec. Committee 6:00 PM — GMRC Council

Special Save the Date!

We are so excited that we will be able to host the Annual Meeting this year.
Please mark your calendar for Friday, December 3rd at the Dillard House!