

GEORGIA MOUNTAINS REGIONAL COMMISSION
ANNUAL MEETING and AWARDS DINNER

Dillard House Conference Center
Dillard, Georgia
December 1, 2023

MINUTES

The GMRC Annual Meeting and Awards Dinner was held on Friday, December 1, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. at the Dillard House Conference Center in Dillard, Georgia. A networking reception was held prior to the meeting at 4:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

GMRC Chairman Ken Schubring called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

WELCOME

Mayor Claude Dillard welcomed everybody to the City of Dillard and thanked them for coming.

INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/DINNER

Ms. Deborah Mack gave the devotion, invocation, and followed with the Pledge of Allegiance. Dinner was catered by The Dillard House.

RECOGNITION OF ENTERTAINMENT

Ms. Deborah Mack introduced the evening's entertainment, Harpist Merrie Beth Eubanks, and Violinist Liz Dinwiddie.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Chairman Schubring asked for any comments or a motion regarding the minutes and attendance report for the November 16, 2023 Council meeting. Doug Wayne made a motion to approve the minutes and Vicki Boling Jones seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

RECOGNITION OF ANNUAL MEETING COMMITTEE

Annual Meeting Committee Chairwoman Deborah Mack recognized the members that served on the committee and thanked them for their help in planning this year's event. The Annual Meeting Committee members recognized were Althea Bleckley, Cliff Bradshaw, Doug Wayne, and Vicki Boling Jones. Ms. Mack also thanked the GMRC staff for their assistance in planning the event.

RECOGNITION OF SPONSORS

GMRC Executive Director Heather Feldman recognized all the sponsors that helped to make the Annual Meeting and Awards Dinner possible and thanked them for their

support. The following sponsors were recognized: **Diamond Level Sponsors:** Communications International; Document Destruction Services, Inc.; Engineering Management Inc.; Jackson EMC; Rushton, LLC; and the Town of Alto. **Platinum Level Sponsors:** Norton Agency – Kim Waters and David Stovall. **Gold Level Sponsors:** Atlanta Motorsport Park, LLC; Emergency Billing, LLC; Fieldale Farms, Kinetics by Windstream; NV5 Geospatial, LLC; Towns County; and Workforce Development Strategies. **Silver Level Sponsors:** Carter & Sloope; the City of Lavonia; David R. Strickland; Hart/Franklin Foster Parent Association; Stifel; Tallant Howell Attorney at Law; Town of Homer; WGI; and William Chafin, Jr.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

It was with great gratitude that the GMRC Chairman Ken Schubring, presented the **Chairman's Award** to the family of Jerry Payne in honor of Mr. Payne's dedication and 16 years of service to the GMRC Council.

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

Executive Director Feldman expressed her appreciation to the GMRC employees for their dedication and hard work throughout the year. The following GMRC Employee Service Awards were presented:

Five-Year Service Award -

Juston Kearby
Gina Kessler
Amarylin Neill

Executive Director Feldman also presented the following awards:

GMRC Employee of the Year (chosen by the GMRC Executive Director) – Danielle Avelar, Adult/DW Program Supervisor.

Elected Official of the Year (chosen by GMRC staff) – Bruce Palmer, Habersham County Commissioner and GMRC Council Member.


Appointed Official of the Year (chosen by GMRC staff) – Mitch Griggs, Executive Director, Union County Development Authority and GMRC Council Member.

Council Member of the Year (chosen by GMRC Council by secret ballot) – Deborah Mack, GMRC Council Member, Hall County Private Sector Appointee.

Ms. Feldman congratulated all the award recipients and thanked them for their committed service to the GMRC and their communities.

ADJOURNMENT

The Annual Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.



Ken Schubring, Chairman



Bruce Palmer, Secretary

GMRC COUNCIL
ATTENDANCE SHEET
2023-2024

COUNTY	COUNCIL MEMBER	July 23	Aug 23	Sept 23	Oct 23	Nov 23	Dec 23	Jan 24	Feb 24	March 24	April 24	May 24	June 24
BANKS	Chris Ausburn	P	(R)	A	(R)	P	P						
	Sandra Garrison	(P)	P	A	A	P	P						
	Vicki Boling Jones	P	P	P	P	P	P						
DAWSON	Billy Thurmond	P	A	P	P	P	A						
	Mike Eason	(P)	P	P	A	A	P						
	Kevin Herritt	A	P	P	P	P	P						
FRANKLIN	Robert Franklin	P	A	A	A	A	P						
	Courtney Umbehant**	P	P	P	P	(P)	P						
	Leslie McFarlin	P	P	P	A	P	P						
HABERSHAM	Bruce Palmer***	P	P	P	P	P	P						
	VACANT	P	P	A	A	V	V						
	Ken Schubring*	P	P	P	P	P	P						
HALL	Richard Higgins	A	A	A	A	R	A						
	George Wangemann	P	P	P	P	P	A						
	Deborah Mack	P	P	P	P	A	P						
HART	Jeff Brown	A	P	A	A	P	A						
	Dan Leard	P	P	A	A	P	A						
	Bill Chafin	P	P	P	P	P	P						
LUMPKIN	Chris Dockery	(R)	(R)	A	P	R	R						
	JoAnne Taylor	P	A	A	P	P	A						
	Amy Booker	N	A	P	A	A	P						

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RABUN	Kent Woerner	(R)	A	A	(R)	(R)	A						
	Althea Bleckley	P	P	P	A	A	P						
	Douglas Wayne	P	P	A	P	P	P						
STEPHENS	Tara Simmons	P	A	P	P	A	P						
	David Austin	P	P	(R)	A	A	A						
	James Addison	P	E	P	P	P	P						
TOWNS	Cliff Bradshaw	P	P	P	(P)	(P)	P						
	Liz Ordiales	P	(R)	(R)	A	A	A						
	Denise McKay	R	P	P	P	P	P						
UNION	Lamar Paris	P	P	A	P	A	P						
	Jim Conley	P	P	(P)	P	P	P						
	Mitch Griggs	P	P	P	P	P	P						
WHITE	Travis Turner	(P)	(P)	P	(P)	A	P						
	Nan Bowen	P	P	P	P	P	P						
	Susan Cremerring	A	P	P	P	A	P						
GOV APPT.	VACANT	V	V	V	V	V	V						
	Angela Whidby	P	A	P	P	A	P						
	VACANT	V	V	V	V	V	V						
LT. GOV APPT.	VACANT	V	V	V	V	V	V						
	VACANT	V	V	V	V	V	V						

P = PRESENT A = ABSENT (R) = REPRESENTED (P) PROXY VOTE V = VACANCY E = EXCUSED N = NEW MEMBER X = NO MEETING

* Chairman
** Vice Chairman
*** Secretary