

GEORGIA MOUNTAINS REGIONAL COMMISSION  
63<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL MEETING and AWARDS DINNER

The Boathouse at Lake Lanier Olympic Park  
3105 Clarks Bridge Rd., Gainesville, Georgia 30506  
December 5, 2025

MINUTES

The GMRC's 63<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting and Awards Dinner was held on Friday, December 5, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. at The Boathouse at Lake Lanier Olympic Park, located at 3105 Clarks Bridge Rd., Gainesville, Georgia 30506. A networking reception was held prior to the meeting beginning at 4:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

GMRC Chairman Courtney Umbehant called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m. and thanked all in attendance for coming. Chairman Umbehant recognized all the counties and municipalities in attendance that make up the Georgia Mountains Region.

INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/DINNER

Ms. Deborah Mack gave a devotion, invocation, and followed with the Pledge of Allegiance. Dinner was catered by Cucina Milano, and bartending services were provided by Luna's Restaurant.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Chairman Umbehant asked for any comments or a motion regarding the minutes and attendance report for the November 13, 2025 Council meeting. Doug Wayne made a motion to approve the minutes, and Deborah Mack seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

RECOGNITION OF ANNUAL MEETING COMMITTEE

Executive Director Feldman recognized the members who served on the Annual Meeting Committee and thanked them for their help in planning the 2025 event. The Annual Meeting Committee members recognized were Committee Chair Vicki Boling Jones, Committee Vice-Chair Ms. Deborah Mack, Sandra Garrison, Tara Simmons, and Lauren Williams. Mrs. Feldman also thanked the GMRC staff for their assistance with 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:** CKH Group; Communications International; Cowboys & Angels; Document Destruction Services, Inc.; Engineering Management, Inc.; Fieldale Farms; Jackson EMC; NV5 Geospatial; Rochester DCCM; and Rushton. **Platinum Level Sponsors:** City of Cleveland; and Croy Engineering. **Gold Level Sponsor:** Carter & Sloope, Inc.; Croft & Associates; Kubota Manufacturing of America; Tallant Howell Attorney at Law;

Terracon Consultants, Inc.; and The Samuels Firm. **Silver Level Sponsors:** City of Lavonia; Cooper & Company General Contractors; Stifel; Turnipseed Engineering; WGI; William V Chafin, Jr.

Mrs. Feldman also recognized Jay Andrews, Brenau University's Director of Broadcasting and Digital Communications and Director of The Voice of Brenau, WBCX 89.1, for providing the background music that was played during the event.

#### 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:

**10-Year Service Award** – Brandon Carlock, GIS Analyst

**35 Year Service Award** – Faith Bryan, Information Services Director

Executive Director Heather Feldman also presented the following awards:

**GMRC Employee of the Year** (chosen by the GMRC Executive Director) – Ebony Tucker, Youth Program Supervisor.

**Appointed Official of the Year** (chosen by GMRC staff) – Vicki Boling Jones, GMRC Council Member - Banks County Private Sector Appointee.

**Elected Official of the Year** (chosen by GMRC staff) – John Walden, City of Dawsonville Mayor, and GMRC Council Member.

**Council Member of the Year** (chosen by GMRC Council by secret ballot) – Ken Schubring, immediate past GMRC Council Chairman - former Habersham County Private Sector Appointee.

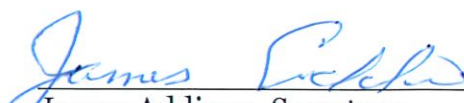
Chairman Courtney Umbehant presented the **Chairman's Award** (chosen by the GMRC Council Chairman) to Faith Brayn, GMRC Information Services Director.

Mr. Umbehant and Mrs. 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 8:42 p.m.

  
Courtney Umbehant, Chairman

  
James Addison, Secretary

**GMRC COUNCIL  
ATTENDANCE SHEET**  
2025-2026

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COUNTY	COUNCIL MEMBER	July 25	Aug 25	Sept 25	Oct 25	Nov 25	Dec 25	Jan 26	Feb 26	March 26	April 26	May 26	June 26
RABUN	Scott Crane	A	P	P	A	P	A						
	Stacy Fountain	P	P	P	P	P	P						
	Douglas Wayne	P	P	P	P	A	P						
STEPHENS	Tara Simmons	P	P	E	P	A	P						
	Ron Matheson**	P	P	E	P	P	P						
	James Addison***	P	P	A	P	P	P						
TOWNS	Cliff Bradshaw	(P)	P	P	A	(R)	P						
	Andrea Gibby	A	A	(R)	A	A	A						
	Michael Courey	N-P	P	P	P	A	P						
UNION	Harold Collins	P	A	P	P	A	P						
	Buddy Moore	P	P	P	P	A	P						
	Kristen Bentley	N-P	(P)	(R)	(R)	P	P						
WHITE	Craig Bryant	P	P	P	P	(P)	P						
	Nan Bowen	P	P	P	P	P	P						
	Lauren Williams	P	P	P	P	P	P						
GOV APPT.	Kim Waters	P	P	P	P	A	P						
	Angela Whidby	(P)	P	P	(P)	(R)	P						
	VACANT	V	V	V	V	V	V						
LT. GOV APPT.	David Lee	P	P	P	P	P	P						
SPEAKER APPT.	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

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BANKS	Chris Ausburn	P	A	A	P	P	P						
	Sandra Garrison	P	P	A	P	P	P						
	Vicki Boling Jones	A	P	P	P	P	P						
DAWSON	Billy Thurmond	A	(P)	(R)	(P)	A	A						
	John Walden	P	P	P	P	P	P						
	Kevin Herritt	P	P	P	P	P	P						
FRANKLIN	Cory Pulliam	P	P	P	(R)	P	P						
	Courtney Umbehant*	P	P	(P)	P	P	P						
	Leslie McFarlin	P	P	P	E	A	P						
HABERSHAM	Jimmy Tench	A	P	A	P	A	P						
	Stephanie Almagno	P	P	A	A	A	A						
	Lawrence Bridges	V	V	V	N-P	A	P						
HALL	David Gibbs	A	E	E	A	E	A						
	Sam Couvillon	P	A	A	A	P	P						
	Deborah Mack	P	P	P	P	P	P						
HART	Jeff Brown	A	A	A	A	A	A						
	Dan Leard	A	A	A	A	A	A						
	Bill Chafin	P	P	P	P	P	P						
LUMPKIN	Chris Dockery	(R)	(R)	A	P	A	A						
	JoAnne Taylor	P	A	P	P	A	A						
	Tony Owens	P	A	P	P	P	P						