

TO: COUNCIL, THREE RIVERS REGIONAL COMMISSION

FROM: MS. FAYE PERDUE, SECRETARY, THREE RIVERS REGIONAL COUNCIL

SUBJECT: MINUTES OF MEETING HELD APRIL 28, 2016

The Regional Council of the Three Rivers Regional Commission held its meeting at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 28, 2016 at the Sharpsburg Town Hall in Sharpsburg, Georgia.

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

Chairman Peter Banks advised the members that a quorum was reached, called the meeting to order and thanked the members for attending. He then asked Mr. Clayton Hicks to give the invocation; afterwards Chairman Banks led the members in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. The chairman then introduced the newest council members, Mr. Bobby Blalock and Ms. Charlene Glover and thanked them for attending.

Regional Council Members in Attendance

Ms. Kay Pippin, Mayor, City of Jackson
Ms. Clair Jones, Non-Public Member, Butts County
Mr. Clayton Hicks, Council Member, City of Newnan
Mr. Steve Stripling, Non-Public Member, Coweta County
Mr. Lee Boone, Chairman, Heard County
Mr. Denney Rogers, Mayor, City of Ephesus
Ms. Kathy Knowles, Non-Public Member, Heard County
Mr. Peter Banks, Mayor, City of Barnesville
Ms. Charlene Glover, Mayor, City of Greenville
Ms. Faye Perdue, Non-Public Member, Meriwether County
Mr. Bobby Blalock, Mayor, City of Zebulon
Mr. Fred Roney, Non-Public Member, Pike County
Mr. Douglas Hollberg, Council Member, City of Griffin
Mr. Charles Jones, Non-Public Member, Spalding County
Mr. Bobby Frazier, Non-Public Member, Troup County
Mr. Steve Hudson, Commissioner, Upson County
Mr. J. D. Stallings, Mayor, City of Thomaston
Mr. Ed Bledsoe, Governor's Appointee
Dr. Maggie Shook, Governor's Appointee

Regional Council Members Absent

Mr. Keith Douglas, Chairman, Butts County
Ms. Donna Armstrong-Lackey, Non-Public Member, Carroll County
Ms. Shirley Marchman, Council Member, City of Villa Rica
Mr. Tim Lassetter, Chairman, Coweta County
Mr. Bennie Horton, Commissioner, Lamar County
Mr. Irvin Trice, Non-Public Member, Lamar County
Ms. Beth Hadley, Chairperson, Meriwether County
Mr. Briar Johnson, Chairman, Pike County
Mr. Raymond Ray, Commissioner, Spalding County
Mr. Richard English, Jr., Commissioner, Troup County
Mr. Jim Thornton, Mayor, City of LaGrange
Ms. Laurie Holmes, Non-Public Member, Upson County
Mr. John Edwards, Governor's Appointee
Mr. John Rainwater, Lt. Governor's Appointee

Guests Present

Ms. Runnette Bledsoe, Guest of Mr. Ed Bledsoe
Mr. Colin Martin, Congressman Westmoreland's office
Mr. Dick Ford, Mayor of Moreland
Mr. Doug Westberry, City Manager of the City of Manchester

Staff Present

Mr. Lanier Boatwright, Executive Director
Ms. Peggi Tingle, Administrative Services Director
Ms. Joy Shirley, AAA Director
Ms. Jeannie Brantley, Planning Director
Mr. Robert Hiatt, Governmental Services Division Director
Ms. Amanda Turner, Senior Accounting Technician
Mr. Paul Jarrell, Planner
Ms. Jan Perez, Secretary

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Chairman Banks introduced Ms. Bledsoe, Mr. Martin, and Mr. Ford and Mr. Westberry and thanked them for attending the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held February 25, 2016 were presented for approval. A motion was made by Mr. Hicks to approve the minutes as presented; the motion was seconded by Mr. Bobby Frazier and carried unanimously.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Banks stated that the agenda needed to be amended to include a bank resolution for United Bank; the resolution is needed to add new signatories on the bank accounts. The council as a whole approved for the amendment of the agenda.

GEORGIA ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COMMISSIONS (GARC) UPDATE

Chairman Banks announced that Mr. James "Jim" Dove's father passed away earlier today and Mr. Dove was unable to attend today's meeting. Mr. Dove will plan his visit for a future meeting date.

AGING PROGRAM UPDATE

Caregivers' Conference

Ms. Joy Shirley presented this portion of the agenda. Ms. Shirley mentioned that a Caregivers' Conference was held on March 10, 2016 at the Coweta County fairgrounds; this conference was attended by two hundred (200) individuals. She noted that several businesses donated items for the conference and that Ms. Emily Rogers was in charge of the event.

Senior Picnic

Ms. Shirley mentioned that the senior picnic at Plant Yates is scheduled for May 25, 2016; this event is for the ten (10) county areas, which include the fifteen (15) senior centers located within TRRC's jurisdiction. The seniors will be treated to games, entertainment and food and Ms. Shirley encouraged the council to attend this event. Chairman Banks asked Ms. Shirley to send a reminder email to the council concerning the picnic.

Dementia Caregivers Event

Ms. Shirley also advised the council that an event is being planned for August 30, 2016 in Upson County. This event will be geared to the caregivers of dementia patients. A nationally known keynote speaker has been contacted and is expected to address the possible nine hundred (900) attendees; the event will be held at the Upson-Lee Fine Arts Center. Ms. Shirley will forward additional information to the council members.

BANK RESOLUTIONS

Chairman Banks advised the members that a new signatory needed to be added to the bank accounts and that he would like for the members to approve the action at this time. The chairman read a list of the individuals that are signatories on the accounts; the individuals are as follows:

Lanier Boatwright	Peter L. Banks	Clayton Hicks
Denney Rogers	John Rainwater	Doug Hollberg

Chairman Banks asked for a motion that those individuals be approved as signatories; Mr. Ed Bledsoe made the motion that the individuals be approved as signatories. The motion was seconded by Mr. Fred Roney and carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF RESOLUTIONS

5304 Program-Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT)

Ms. Jeannie Brantley presented this portion of the agenda. It was noted that on a yearly basis, the TRRC staff receives information from GDOT concerning a planning grant for the 5304 (Rural Planning Transit) Program. Ms. Brantley asked for the council's concurrence regarding the approval of the 5304 Program resolution in order to apply for funding. Dr. Maggie Shook made the motion that the 5304 Program resolution be approved; it was seconded by Mr. Hicks and carried unanimously.

Transmittal of the Regional Work Program- Department of Community Affairs (DCA)

Ms. Brantley advised the members that each year the TRRC staff must do an annual update to the Regional Work Program for the Regional Plan. The resolution gives the staff the permission to transmit the plan to the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) for their review. She advised the members that once DCA has reviewed and approved the plan, the council will have to approve another resolution to formally adopt it. Mr. Bobby Blalock made the motion that the council approve the resolution to transmit the Regional Work Program Update; it was seconded by Mr. Roney and carried unanimously.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan

Mr. Paul Jarrell advised the members that the TRRC staff was in the process of updating the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan. He stated that a series of meetings would be held and he encouraged the members to contact him if they would like to become involved by submitting input for this plan. He also mentioned that GDOT recently adopted the "Complete Streets" program and they want TRRC to host a seminar for our local governments and stakeholders in order for everyone to become familiar with this program. Mr. Jarrell gave a brief description of "Complete Streets" which is a program to upgrade roadways to include more bicycle and pedestrian modes of transportation on the road networks. A tentative date of June 21st (with Coweta County Fairgrounds as the meeting location) was mentioned for a representative to come and speak with local governments to provide more information about the "Complete Streets" program. Mr. Jarrell will forward information about this meeting once the details have been confirmed. Mr. Lanier Boatwright added that GDOT will contract with TRRC (and other regional commissions) to perform the "Complete Streets" program. Ms. Charlene Glover asked if the state would be responsible if the affected road was a state road that needed to be upgraded. Mr. Jarrell advised her that the state should (with regard to their policies) and that they were supposed to, but that there was no guarantee that the state would accept the financial responsibility.

Ms. Kay Pippin added that the City of Jackson has discovered that that they own 210 acres of land that connects with Dauset Trails. The city is working with Dauset Trails to possibly develop trails that would begin in the city and extend to the Dauset Trails facility; this could amount to more than fifty (50) miles of trails.

THREE RIVERS WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT DISCUSSION

Mr. Robert Hiett presented this portion of the agenda. The Workforce Board met earlier today and approved several action and information items. He began by asking the council for their consideration of the action items, with the first being the renewal of the Troup Trained/Manufacturing certificate program offered by West Georgia Technical. The first class is expected to have up to 25 participants, with the cost approximately \$5,500 per participant. The second (2nd) action item concerns the new crane operator training program that is offered from West Georgia Technical. This program is expected to have up to 10 participants with an approximate cost of \$8,500 per person over a two (2) year period. The third (3rd) action item is to approve an agreement with the Carl Vinson Institute for Workforce planning assistance. The state sent Mr. Hiett guidelines for the local plan earlier this month; Mr. Hiett did an expedited Request For Proposals (RFP) procedure with the Carl Vinson Institute submitting the lowest bid. Workforce's local plan is due to the state by August 31st and the work is scheduled to begin next month (May). It was noted that \$25,000 (of the \$48,000 total) was a grant received from the state to assist with paying for the local plan and that the remainder would be taken from existing funds. At this point, Chairman Banks asked for a motion to approve the action items. Ms. Pippin made the motion to approve the action items; it was seconded by Mr. Hicks and carried unanimously.

Mr. Hiett advised the members that the new Workforce Board was seated earlier today. The new board was reduced from thirty-one (31) to nineteen (19) members and the board is in compliance with the structure required under the new law. TRRC and Southern Crescent Technical College are developing a new training certificate program for the transportation construction industry. New funding requirements will determine the restructuring of several youth contracts in order to serve Out of School Youth beginning in 2017. These changes may also affect technical school contracts since they could be reduced due to financial aid covering most of the tuition for the Workforce participants.

TRANSPORTATION UPDATE

Mr. Hiett presented this portion of the agenda. He stated that the contract renewals are being reviewed before being forwarded to the local governments. Mr. Hiett also provided the council with maps concerning RouteMatch trips throughout the five (5) counties (Butts, Lamar, Pike, Spalding and Upson) for the 2014-2015 time frame; these maps reflect where trips originated and their destination. He also advised that Meriwether County's transportation service began several months ago. A council member asked about the restriction concerning the buses not being able to travel outside Meriwether County. Mr. Hiett explained that this was a service parameter implemented by the county since there are only two (2) buses in service and that Meriwether County is a big area; if one (1) bus was taken outside the county, service to others would be impacted. There is a need to keep the buses inside the county until the delivery of the third (3rd)

bus; this subject will be discussed further with officials once the additional bus is ready to be delivered. It could take fifteen (15) months for the new vehicle is delivered.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Logistics Facts Sheets

Mr. Boatwright presented this portion of the agenda. He began by advising the members that he and Mr. Hiatt recently attended the Georgia Logistics Summit in Atlanta. Each council member received a hand out that contained information concerning warehousing and distribution in the state. This material also included how the products were received and distributed whether by ocean, rail or road and the statistics for each form of transportation.

Cloud Computing

The members were provided with additional information on the cloud computing issue; the material contained cost comparisons and the service summaries of several companies. The staff has analyzed the material and their recommendation is to contract with VC3 since this company has provided the lowest bid. Chairman Banks asked if there was a motion to accept the lowest bid. Mr. Steve Stripling made the motion to accept the lowest bid; it was seconded by Dr. Shook and carried unanimously.

State Auditors

The state auditors will be in the offices beginning on May 9th, for one (1) week. Mr. Boatwright advised the members that the auditors will possibly be talking with them and their governments.

Health Insurance

TRRC is facing a significant increase in health insurance premiums effective July 1st. Ms. Pippin mentioned that the City of Jackson is facing the same situation, but by working with a consultant, the City has implemented several changes and has saved \$200,000. Per Mr. Hollberg, the City of Griffin also faced the same significant increase; they have also implemented some cost saving changes.

Newnan Behavioral Hospital

TRRC is working with the Newnan Behavioral Hospital to gather community support for this facility. Ms. Shirley mentioned two (2) upcoming informational meetings on May 10th and 12th in an effort to gather additional support. It was noted that one (1) behavioral hospital would serve all ten (10) counties.

Administrative Professionals Week

Mr. Boatwright advised the members that it was Administrative Professionals Week and he thanked Ms. Jan Perez for the job that she does. The council gave a round of applause for her as well.

OTHER BUSINESS

I-75 South Truck Lanes and the Export-Import Highway

Mr. Charles Jones mentioned an Atlanta Journal Constitution article concerning truck lanes that are being built on Interstate 75 between Macon and McDonough. He asked about the status of the Export-Import Highway since the truck lanes are being built. Mr. Boatwright mentioned that during a question and answer session at the recent Logistics Summit, an audience member asked the GDOT commissioner about the Export-Import Highway; Mr. Boatwright stated that the GDOT commissioner was caught off guard by the question, but did give good answers as well as his support for the project. (It was noted that the logistics summit chairman is the person that asked the question concerning the Export-Import Highway.) Mr. Hiatt advised that the truck lanes were included in the I-75 South Corridor Study that was completed over 1 ½ years ago. All of the counties along I-75 South, between Atlanta and Macon, were listed as participants. Mr. Hiatt mentioned continued advocacy for the Export-Import Highway; this project has additional study information readily available and the project is still “on the radar.” It was noted that Sun Trust Bank has expressed its desire to help fund the study for the Export-Import Highway project.

Joint Development Authority

Ms. Pippin announced that Butts County and Spalding County have formed a joint development authority since a new industry (Dollar General’s logistics operation) is coming into the area. This venture will bring 530 jobs to our area. Ms. Pippin noted “that we are very excited” about this venture. Ms. Pippin also invited everyone to Jackson’s upcoming Fine Arts Festival on May 7, 2016.

Behavioral Hospital

Mr. Bobby Blalock asked if the McIntosh Trail Disability (Community Service Board) have any interest in joining with the behavioral hospital. Mr. Boatwright explained that they provided counseling, but could not assist with providing bed space in a hospital setting. The Tanner Hospital has two (2) beds, but more assistance is needed in our region. Our region does have substance abuse programs available to individuals that need it, but we do not have any assistance in a behavioral hospital setting.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Ms. Faye Perdue thanked Mr. Boatwright, Mr. Hiatt and Ms. Shirley for attending the recent Meriwether County Chamber annual meeting. She mentioned that “it was probably our most

attended annual meeting in a long time.” She noted that the Allqua Company, a Meriwether County based company, provided the bottled water for today’s council meeting. Ms. Perdue also invited everyone to the upcoming Cotton Pickin’ Fair on May 7th and 8th.

Mr. Steve Hudson mentioned that Georgia Outdoors has been in the area and filming in and around Sprewell Bluff. The episode should be broadcast in the upcoming months.

Ms. Charlene Glover mentioned that the City of Greenville was recently selected by the state to observe “Earth Day.” The City of Greenville will have a new water/sewage plant by 2018.

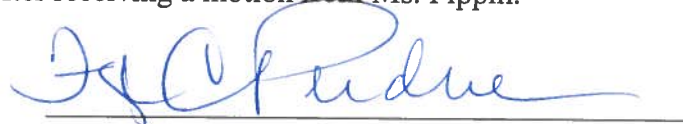
Chairman Banks shared that the City of Barnesville has reinstated their barbecue and blues festival. It was last weekend and well attended with several competitors in the barbecue event. The Barnesville Buggy Days event is scheduled for the third (3rd) weekend in September.

DATE AND LOCATION OF NEXT MEETING

Chairman Banks announced that the next meeting would be June 23, 2016. Mr. Boatwright asked about moving the meeting date to June 30, 2016; it was noted that the GMA Annual Convention would begin on June 24th. This prompted a discussion about the dates and an alternative date of June 16, 2016, was proposed. Mr. Hicks made the motion that the meeting date be June 16, 2016; it was seconded by Mr. Roney and carried unanimously. The meeting is scheduled for June 16, 2016 at 2:00 p.m. and will be held at the Sharpsburg Town Hall.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Banks adjourned the meeting after receiving a motion from Ms. Pippin.



Faye Perdue, Secretary