

TO: PLANNING AND PROJECTS COMMITTEE

FROM: MR. CURTIS BROWN, JR., CHAIRMAN, PLANNING AND
PROJECTS COMMITTEE
THREE RIVERS REGIONAL COMMISSION

SUBJECT: MINUTES OF PLANNING AND PROJECTS COMMITTEE MEETING

The Planning and Projects Committee held a meeting at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, June 25, 2020. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the meeting was held via a Zoom video/conference call. Committee Chair Curtis Brown, Jr., welcomed the members, called the meeting to order, gave the invocation and led the committee members in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. The roll call was taken and the following individuals attended:

Planning and Projects Committee Members in Attendance

Ms. Kay Pippin, Mayor, City of Jackson
Mr. Greg Wright, Non-Public Member, Coweta County
Mr. Lee Boone, Chair, Heard County
Mr. Bennie Horton, Commissioner, Lamar County
Mr. Curtis Brown, Jr., Non-Public Member, Troup County
Mr. Norman Allen, Chair, Upson County

Additional Three Rivers Council Members in Attendance

Ms. Kathy Knowles, Non-Public Member, Heard County
Ms. Charlene Glover, Mayor, City of Greenville

Staff Present

Mr. Kirk Fjelstul, Executive Director
Ms. Hope Blakely, HR Manager
Ms. Jeannie Brantley, Planning Director
Ms. Stephanie Glenn, Director, Workforce Development
Ms. Kim Bennett, Senior Accounting Technician, Administrative Services
Ms. Jan Perez, Secretary, Administrative Services

APPROVAL OF MAY 28, 2020 MINUTES (action item)

Committee Chair Brown asked for a motion to approve the minutes for the May 28, 2020 meeting. Ms. Kay Pippin made the motion to approve the May 28, 2020 meeting minutes; it was seconded by Mr. Greg Wright and carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA (action item)

Committee Chair Brown asked the committee for a motion regarding the agenda's approval. Mr. Wright made the motion to approve the meeting's agenda; it was seconded by Ms. Kathy Knowles and carried unanimously.

BROADBAND TASK FORCE DISCUSSION

Ms. Jeannie Brantley presented this portion of the agenda and advised the members that they are serving as the Broadband Task Force. She then introduced Mayor Steve Ledbetter of Woodbury and Mr. Alan Slaughenhaupt, Director of the City of LaGrange's IT Department. Mayor Ledbetter discussed the City of Woodbury's High Speed Internet Deployment Project. He presented information on how his city began the process to obtain their internet system which was then followed by a brief question and answer session. Mr. Slaughenhaupt spoke of the Broadband Project for the LaGrange/Troup County area and presented several slides. He also had a brief question and answer session. Ms. Brantley and Committee Chair Brown thanked the gentlemen for their presentations.

STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

Ms. Brantley presented this portion of the agenda. The last Strategic Plan Update was presented in early March 2020 before the COVID-19 pandemic. Some projects have been placed on hold since staff members are working to deal with unexpected issues due to the pandemic. Ms. Brantley assured the members that an update will be provided at the August meeting.

CENSUS UPDATE

Ms. Brantley presented this portion of the agenda as well. The Census Day was April 1, 2020, but the COVID-19 pandemic has created a delay in the census process. Ms. Brantley outlined the census taking process along with the projected dates that the process will be completed. As of June 14, 2020, the following counties had the top response rates:

Coweta County with 66.8%
Heard County with 62.4%
Pike County with 63.0%

A few members asked Ms. Brantley to produce a possible press release/announcement about the importance of the Census and how the information will help the local governments and their citizens.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS DISCUSSION

Mr. Kirk Fjelstul presented this portion of the agenda.

Executive Committee Discussion

Mr. Fjelstul advised the members that HB1122 is a piece of legislation that would require each regional commission to have an executive committee. The bill would also limit the number of members to 9 for such a committee as well as eliminate the state appointed members to the council. Mr. Fjelstul distinguished the main difference between the Finance, Audit and Administration Committee (a recommending body that is not able to make decisions on contracts, etc.) and the Executive Committee (a functioning body that can make decisions on contracts, etc.). It is doubtful at this time if the legislation will pass.

Discussion on Committees

Both committees (Planning and Projects and Finance, Audit and Administration) have not been formalized in the by-laws. Discussion centered on recommending the formalization of both committees, asking if others would like to become a member on either committee, etc. Additional discussion will take place at the August committee meetings.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was nothing mentioned under this portion of the agenda.

DATE AND LOCATION OF NEXT MEETING

Committee Chair Brown advised that the Planning and Projects Committee will meet on Thursday, August 27, 2020 at 11:00 a.m.; more details will follow.

ADJOURNMENT

Committee Chair Brown adjourned the meeting.

Curtis Brown, Jr., Chairman
Planning and Projects Committee