

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, March 25, 2021. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the meeting was held via a Zoom video/conference call. Committee Chair Curtis Brown, Jr., welcomed the members and called the meeting to order. He gave the invocation and led the committee members in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. The committee did not have a quorum and therefore, could not conduct any business. 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. Bennie Horton, Commissioner, Lamar County  
Mr. Doug Hollberg, Mayor, City of Griffin  
Mr. Curtis Brown, Jr., Non-Public Member, Troup County

Additional Three Rivers Council Members in Attendance

Mr. Terry Nolan, Non-Public Member, Butts County  
Ms. Charlene Glover, Mayor, City of Greenville

Guests in Attendance

Mr. Herschel Arant, Senior V.P. of Engineering and Power Supply, Central Georgia EMC  
Ms. Angela Blount, County Clerk, Pike County  
Ms. Anita Buice, Director, Lamar County Planning and Development  
Ms. Erin Cook, Director of Marketing and Member Services, Southern Rivers Energy  
Mr. Gibb Cotton, Chief Technology Officer, City of Griffin IT Department  
Mr. Robert Haney, Director, Upson County IT Department  
Mr. Chad Jacobs, Director, City of Griffin Planning and Development  
Ms. Christy Lawson, Director, Butts County Planning and Development  
Dr. Steve Ledbetter, Mayor, City of Woodbury  
Ms. Deannia Roberson-Ray, Town Clerk, Town of Sharpsburg  
Ms. Corinne Thornton, Office Director of Regional Community Services, Department of Community Affairs  
Ms. Nancy Thrash, Commissioner, Lamar County

## Staff Present

Mr. Kirk Fjelstul, Executive Director  
Ms. Amanda Turner, Deputy Administrative Services Director  
Ms. Hope Blakely, HR Manager/EO Officer  
Ms. Jan Perez, Secretary, Administrative Services  
Ms. Jeannie Brantley, Planning Director  
Ms. Kim Dutton, Planner  
Mr. Paul Jarrell, Planner  
Mr. Brandon Lounsbury, Economic Development Specialist  
Mr. Tommy Kennedy, Director, Transit Program  
Ms. Pavielle Ludlow, Manager, Transit Program  
Ms. Stephanie Glenn, Director, Workforce Development  
Ms. Stephanie Matthews, Deputy Workforce Development Director  
Mr. Gene Herriott, Youth Career Facilitator, Workforce Development

## APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 25, 2021 MINUTES (action item)

Committee Chair Brown advised that no action could be taken since there was not a quorum.

## APPROVAL OF AGENDA (action item)

Committee Chair Brown advised that no action could be taken since there was not a quorum.

## PUBLIC HEARING FOR FY '21 ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

Ms. Jeannie Brantley presented this portion of the agenda. She advised the Public Hearing was now open (approximately 11:10 a.m.) and she gave a brief overview of the Annual Implementation Report. Ms. Brantley advised that the Annual Implementation Report contains three (3) parts: Regional Work Program, Report of Accomplishments (for previous year) and Local Government Performance Standards Update. A number of projects were completed during the year, which include the establishment of a Broadband Task Force as well as assisting governments with their comprehensive plan updates. The COVID-19 pandemic presented limits to some projects; these projects were postponed and moved into the upcoming year. She advised that the Local Government Performance Standards are crafted to assure that local governments meet minimum state requirements and that they are proactive regarding matters related to quality planning and growth. Eight (8) local governments are not meeting the minimum performance standards due to not being compliant with E-Verify (3 governments), not having a clerk certified (1 government) and not posting codes and ordinances on the Municode website (4 governments). On March 31, 2021, the TRRC Planning Staff will transmit the Annual Implementation Report to DCA for their review and approval. Upon DCA's approval, the next step will be the TRRC Council's adoption of the updated report by resolution; the resolution will then be submitted to DCA. Ms. Brantley asked if there were any questions; hearing none, the public hearing was closed at approximately 11:20 a.m.

## TRRC BROADBAND TASK FORCE UPDATE

Presentation by Central Georgia EMC and Southern Rivers Energy

Mr. Paul Jarrell presented this portion of the agenda by introducing Ms. Erin Cook (Director of Marketing and Member Services with Southern Rivers Energy) and Mr. Herschel Arant (Senior Vice President of Engineering and Power Supply with Central Georgia EMC). Both Ms. Cook and Mr. Arant presented a PowerPoint slide presentation that reflected the served areas of the state with maps from the Georgia Broadband Deployment Initiative (GBDI) and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). Ms. Cook and Mr. Arant pointed out the “huge difference” in the maps; the FCC map reflects more “served” areas but the GBDI map reflects the same areas as being “underserved.” Mr. Arant discussed the EMC’s role in the fiber broadband project; EMC will build, own and maintain the fiber network for electric grid operations. In addition, the EMC will lease excess capacity to Conexon Connect for broadband; Conexon Connect will deliver the retail broadband services to homes and businesses. The committee along with Ms. Cook and Mr. Arant participated in an engaging question and answer session concerning the broadband initiative. Mr. Jarrell, Committee Chair Brown and Mr. Kirk Fjelstul thanked Ms. Cook and Mr. Arant for their presentation and for their time at today’s meeting.

## OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Brantley took the opportunity to introduce the newest Planning staff member, Mr. Brandon Lounsbury, to the Planning and Projects Committee members. Mr. Lounsbury is the Economic Development Specialist.

Ms. Charlene Glover asked Committee Chair Brown what restaurant is being built in LaGrange near the mall. Committee Chair Brown advised that it is a Chicken Salad Chick and that the grand opening date is not known as this time.

## DATE AND LOCATION OF NEXT MEETING

Committee Chair Brown advised that the Planning and Projects Committee will meet on Thursday, April 22, 2021 at 11:00 a.m.; more details will follow.

## ADJOURNMENT

Committee Chair Brown adjourned the meeting.

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Curtis Brown, Jr., Chairman  
Planning and Projects Committee