

TO: COUNCIL, THREE RIVERS REGIONAL COMMISSION

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

SUBJECT: MINUTES OF MEETING HELD APRIL 22, 2021

The Regional Council of the Three Rivers Regional Commission held its meeting at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 22, 2021. The meeting was held via a Zoom video/conference call due to the current COVID-19 pandemic.

WELCOME, CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Norman Allen welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. Mr. Curtis Brown, Jr., gave the invocation and afterwards, Chairman Allen led everyone in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. The roll call was taken, and the following individuals attended:

Regional Council Members in Attendance

Ms. Kay Pippin, Mayor, City of Jackson  
Mr. Terry Nolan, Non-Public Member, Butts County  
Ms. Michelle Morgan, Chair, Carroll County  
Ms. Donna Armstrong-Lackey, Non-Public Member, Carroll County  
Mr. Greg Wright, Non-Public Member, Coweta County  
Mr. Lee Boone, Chair, Heard County  
Mr. Denney Rogers, Mayor, City of Ephesus  
Mr. Cecil McDaniel, Council Member, City of Barnesville  
Mr. Irvin Trice, Non-Public Member, Lamar County  
Ms. Charlene Glover, Mayor, City of Greenville  
Ms. Faye Perdue, Non-Public Member, Meriwether County  
Mr. Joe Walter, Mayor, City of Zebulon  
Mr. Ric Calhoun, Non-Public Member, Pike County  
Ms. Gwen Flowers-Taylor, Commissioner, Spalding County  
Mr. Doug Hollberg, Mayor, City of Griffin  
Mr. Matthew Middleton, Non-Public Member, Spalding County  
Mr. Jim Thornton, Mayor, City of LaGrange  
Mr. Curtis Brown, Jr., Non-Public Member, Troup County  
Mr. Norman Allen, Chair, Upson County  
Mr. J. D. Stallings, Mayor, City of Thomaston  
Mr. John Rainwater, Lt. Governor's Appointee

### Regional Council Members Absent

Mr. Ken Rivers, Commissioner, Butts County  
Ms. Shirley Marchman, Council Member, City of Villa Rica  
Mr. Bob Blackburn, Chair, Coweta County  
Mr. Dustin Koritko, Council Member, City of Newnan  
Ms. Kathy Knowles, Non-Public Member, Heard County  
Mr. Bennie Horton, Commissioner, Lamar County  
Mr. Bryan Threadgill, Chair, Meriwether County  
Mr. Tim Daniel, Commissioner, Pike County  
Mr. Richard English, Jr., Commissioner, Troup County  
Ms. Hannah Ellington, Non-Public Member, Upson County  
Vacant, Governor's Appointees  
Vacant, Speaker's Appointee

### Guests in Attendance

Ms. Corinne Thornton, Office Director of Regional Community Services, Department of Community Affairs  
Mr. Brandon Rogers, County Manager, Pike County

### Staff Present

Mr. Kirk Fjelstul, Executive Director  
Ms. Amanda Turner, Deputy Administrative Services Director  
Ms. Hope Blakely, HR Manager/EO Officer  
Ms. Kim Bennett, Senior Accounting Specialist, Administrative Services  
Ms. Jan Perez, Secretary, Administrative Services  
Ms. Jeannie Brantley, Planning Director  
Mr. Paul Jarrell, Planner  
Ms. Kim Dutton, Planner  
Ms. Joy Shirley, AAA Director  
Ms. Emily Rogers, Deputy AAA Director  
Mr. Tommy Kennedy, Director, Transit Program  
Ms. Pavielle Ludlow, Manager, Transit Program  
Ms. Stephanie Glenn, Director, Workforce Development

### APPROVAL OF AGENDA (action item)

Chairman Allen advised that the agenda needed to be amended to include *Title V* under the Finance, Audit and Administration Committee reports. **FORMAL ACTION: Ms. Charlene Glover made the motion to approve the agenda as amended; it was seconded by Mr. Terry Nolan. Chairman Allen asked if there was any discussion; hearing none, he called for the vote and the motion passed unanimously.**

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

Chairman Allen asked for a motion to approve the February 25, 2021 meeting minutes. **FORMAL ACTION: Ms. Donna Armstrong-Lackey made the motion to approve the February 25, 2021**

**meeting minutes; it was seconded by Ms. Glover. Chairman Allen asked if there was any discussion; hearing none, he called for the vote and the motion passed unanimously.**

#### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Allen advised the members that he did not have anything to report.

#### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Kirk Fjelstul presented this portion of the agenda. He advised the council that this was a "hybrid" meeting with some staff participating in the meeting while in Turin. We are testing the "hybrid" meeting to work out any glitches in anticipation of future meetings.

Ms. Jeannie Brantley announced that Ms. Kim Dutton has resigned her position (Planner with the Planning Department) with TRRC. Ms. Dutton has been employed with TRRC for fifteen (15) years and will leave at the end of May. Ms. Brantley thanked Ms. Dutton for her service and wished her well in her new position.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS

##### **Finance, Audit and Administration Committee**

April 22, 2021 Meeting:

Mr. John Rainwater presented the Finance, Audit and Administration Committee reports in lieu of Committee Chair Ken Rivers' absence. He advised the council that the Finance, Audit and Administration Committee met earlier and proceeded with the report.

##### Title V

Mr. Rainwater explained that the Title V Program is one where older adults are paid to receive training from a local sponsor. The match is in-kind training or supervision from the sponsor, but due to the pandemic, the local sponsors have had to shut down. The in-kind match was not available, but the state asked that the adults be paid. The state has not committed to pay the match and this leaves TRRC potentially responsible for the in-kind match. If the program were stopped today and the issue not resolved, TRRC's liability is around \$23,000; if the program operates until the end of the fiscal year, then the financial liability increases to \$43,000. The state may help with match, but we cannot get confirmation on that issue. **FORMAL ACTION: Mr. Rainwater advised that the Finance, Audit and Administration Committee made the motion to authorize the Executive Director to suspend the Title V Program at any time, if after working with the state, the issue of match is not getting resolved. Chairman Allen called for the vote and the motion carried unanimously.**

##### Review of Executive Director's March Expenditures (action item)

**FORMAL ACTION: Mr. Rainwater reported that Mr. Fjelstul had expenses that totaled \$529.70 for the month of March. The Finance, Audit and Administration Committee made the motion to approve the Executive Director's March Expenditures in the amount of \$529.70. Chairman Allen called for the vote and the motion carried unanimously.**

Review of February Financial Statements (action items)

**FORMAL ACTION:** Mr. Rainwater advised that the Finance, Audit and Administration Committee made the motion to approve the February Financial Statements. Chairman Allen called for the vote and the motion carried unanimously.

Health Insurance (action item)

Mr. Rainwater advised that a review of available health benefits options were considered and discussed, but additional information is needed. Since open enrollment is mid-May, a decision will need to be made prior to the June council meeting. **FORMAL ACTION:** Mr. Rainwater advised that the Finance, Audit and Administration Committee made the motion to delegate authority to the Finance Committee to authorize annual health benefits. Chairman Allen asked if there was any discussion; hearing none, he called for the vote and the motion carried unanimously.

Letter of Extension for Managed IT Services (action item)

**FORMAL ACTION:** Mr. Rainwater advised that the Finance, Audit and Administration Committee made the motion to authorize the Executive Director to negotiate and execute an extension of the agreements with VC3 services through March 2022. Chairman Allen asked if there was any discussion; hearing none, he called for the vote and the motion carried unanimously.

Authorize County Transit Contract Renewals for FY '22 (action item)

**FORMAL ACTION:** Mr. Rainwater advised that the Finance, Audit and Administration Committee made the motion to authorize the Executive Director to negotiate, update and renew existing transit contracts with counties and partners for FY '22 as follows:

- 5311 Transit County contracts with Butts, Carroll, Lamar, Meriwether, Pike, Spalding, Upson and the City of Griffin.
- DHS contracts with Carroll County Training Center, Heard County and Troup County.
- Agreement with Coweta County to administer the Coweta 5311 Transit Program.

Chairman Allen asked if there was any discussion; hearing none, he called for the vote and the motion carried unanimously.

March 25, 2021 Meeting:

Review of Executive Director's February Expenditures (action item)

**FORMAL ACTION:** Mr. Rainwater advised that Mr. Fjelstul had expenses that totaled \$25.00 for the month of February. The Finance, Audit and Administration Committee made the motion to approve the Executive Director's February 2021 Expenditures in the amount of \$25.00. Chairman Allen asked if there was any discussion; hearing none, he called for the vote and the motion carried unanimously.

### Review of January Monthly Financial Statements (action item)

**FORMAL ACTION:** Mr. Rainwater reported that the Finance, Audit and Administration Committee made the motion to approve the monthly financial statements for January 2021. Chairman Allen asked if there was any discussion; hearing none, he called for the vote and the motion carried unanimously.

### IRS Notice Update

Mr. Rainwater reported that this item was for informational purposes only. The TRRC staff has periodically kept the Finance, Audit and Administration Committee informed of proposed penalties for calendar year 2018 related to payroll submissions to the Social Security Administration. Staff responded to the notice and the IRS has waived the proposed penalties.

### Managed IT Services Procurement

Mr. Rainwater reported that this item was related to the previous Managed IT Services from the April committee meeting; there is no action required on this item. TRRC has all of its IT services and equipment outsourced to VC3. The contract options are at an end and it is time to conduct a new procurement. Staff briefed the committee on the procurement plans as this is a large procurement. He reiterated that the council previously addressed this topic in today's meeting.

### Executive Session to Discuss a Personnel Matter and to Discuss Pending or Threatened Litigation

Mr. Rainwater advised that the Finance, Audit and Administration Committee did move into an Executive Session during the March 25, 2021 committee meeting to discuss a personnel matter and pending or threatened litigation. Mr. Fjelstul added that the Executive Session was to update the committee concerning these matters.

This concluded Mr. Rainwater's report from the Finance, Audit and Administration Committee.

### Planning and Projects Committee

March 25, 2021 Meeting:

Committee Chair Curtis Brown, Jr. advised the council that the Planning and Projects Committee met earlier. There is no action to be taken on the following subjects:

### Public Hearing for FY '21 Annual Implementation Plan

Committee Chair Brown reported that staff conducted a required public hearing for the FY '21 Annual Implementation Plan, which is an update to the Regional Work Program for the Three Rivers Regional Plan. The plan is required by DCA and has been submitted for their review and approval. The council will need to adopt the plan by resolution after receiving DCA's approval.

## TRRC Broadband Task Force

Committee Chair Brown advised that Central Georgia EMC and Southern Rivers Energy held a joint presentation on their broadband expansion project that involves a partnership with Conexon; it was noted that the Governor's office recently announced this project. Both EMCs will build, own and maintain the fiber network for electric grid operations and lease excess capacity to Conexon. Conexon Connect will deliver broadband services to homes and businesses in seven (7) counties in our region and serve approximately 34,000 customers. Services will include 100% fiber infrastructure.

April 22, 2021 Meeting:

## TRRC Broadband Task Force Update

Committee Chair Brown reported that DCA Georgia Broadband Deployment Initiative (GBDI) recently held a workshop. Information was given concerning various funding available for broadband activities including \$4.6 million for Georgia through the ReConnect program provided by the USDA CARES Act; \$30 million provide by DCA's OneGeorgia program; and nearly \$83 million provided by the DCA CARES Act.

SyncGlobal and Carroll EMC have collaborated on a broadband expansion project that will serve the counties of Carroll, Heard and Troup. ReConnect funding will be used for this project and Phase I will involve a 24-month timeframe.

The Central Georgia EMC and Southern Rivers joint project with Conexon will service a total of 80,000 homes and businesses; this project will serve eighteen (18) counties with six (6) counties in the TRRC region.

Committee Chair Brown also reported that the GA Smart Communities Challenge 2021 Proposals is a program administered by Georgia Tech that empowers smart local development within the state by providing communities with technical and financial assistance This year's effort is to increase rural involvement to allow the rural communities to visualize and plan for their futures concerning technology or data driven opportunities. Pre-applications are required and due by May 3, 2021; final applications are due on June 1, 2021 with the winners being announced in July.

## Census Update – Interactive Apportionment Online Map Tool

Committee Chair Brown reported that the Census Bureau has launched a new online mapping tool to display historic apportionment and population results for the period 1910 to 2010. The Census Bureau will release the 2020 data as it becomes available.

## TRRC Economic and Community Impact Survey

Committee Chair Brown advised that TRRC received CARES funding from the Economic Development Administration to assess the impact the COVID-19 pandemic had on governments in the region and to assess what type of aid is needed to assist in the recovery efforts. A new Economic Development Specialist, Mr. Brandon Lounsbury, has been hired to assist in this project. He will contact a survey to help gather information needed. The survey has been sent to each member government and responses are due back on Friday, April 30<sup>th</sup>.

### Electronic Media Update

Committee Chair Brown reported that the staff continues to work on its Media Implementation Plan, which is a part of its Strategic Plan. The plan's goal is to use electronic media to increase awareness of programs, support the brand, provide information, and promote regional collaboration. The six (6) member staff Media Team has been working to include updates for the website as well as merging departmental Facebook pages. It was noted that there has been an increase in "traffic" to the website.

Committee Chair Brown advised that this was the end of his report.

Chairman Allen encouraged the council members to attend the committee meetings since "there are some good and interesting stuff presented during the (committee) meetings."

### OLD BUSINESS

Nothing was presented under this portion of the agenda.

### NEW BUSINESS

Nothing was presented under this portion of the agenda.

### OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Fjelstul thanked everyone for attending today's meetings. He reiterated Chairman Allen's thought concerning the committees and their work as well as thanking the staff for their "great work during today's meetings."

### GOOD OF THE ORDER

Ms. Faye Perdue announced that the Cotton Pickin' Fair will be held in Gay on May 1-2, 2021. This event was not held last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. She invited the members to visit the event.

### DATE AND LOCATION OF NEXT MEETING

Chairman Allen announced that the next meeting would be held at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 24, 2021; additional meeting details will follow.

### ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Allen adjourned the meeting after receiving a motion from Mr. Nolan and a second from Mr. Rainwater.

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Faye Perdue, Secretary