

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, May 27, 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 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  
Ms. Kathy Knowles, Non-Public Member, Heard 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. Steve Ledbetter, Mayor, City of Woodbury  
Mr. Clay Davis, Chair, Spalding County  
Ms. Corinne Thornton, Office Director of Regional Community Services, Department of Community Affairs

Staff Present

Mr. Kirk Fjelstul, Executive 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  
Ms. Stephanie Matthews, Deputy Workforce Development Director

#### APPROVAL OF APRIL 22, 2021 MINUTES (action item)

Committee Chair Brown advised the members that the minutes from the April 22, 2021 meeting needed to be approved. Mr. Doug Hollberg made the motion to approve the April 22, 2021 meeting minutes; it was seconded by Mr. Lee Boone. Committee Chair Brown asked if there was any discussion; hearing none, he called for the vote and the motion carried unanimously.

#### APPROVAL OF AGENDA (action item)

Committee Chair Brown advised that a motion was needed to approve the agenda. Mr. Hollberg made the motion to approve the agenda; it was seconded by Mr. Boone. Committee Chair Brown asked if there was any discussion; hearing none, he called for the vote and the motion carried unanimously.

#### TRRC BROADBAND TASK FORCE UPDATE

Mr. Paul Jarrell presented this portion of the agenda. He advised the committee that the DCA GBDI recently provided a regional workshop (<https://broadband.georgia.gov/webinars>) and that GTA provided a technology summit (<https://gta.georgia.gov/about-us/technology-summit-2021/session-descriptions>). Mr. Jarrell revisited the information concerning the DCA GBDI Grant and gave a brief description of the grant. He also presented the broadband funding eligibility map, which reflected the served and underserved areas in our region. Mr. Jarrell spoke of the FCC Emergency Connectivity Fund Program in which the FCC has allocated \$7.17 billion. The program will provide funding for schools and libraries to purchase computer equipment, Wi-Fi hotspots and broadband connections to help students and teachers to access the internet for online learning. This program is a part of the \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan Act. Applicants must apply between July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2022; more information can be found at <https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/FCC-21-58A1.pdf>. Mr. Jarrell also spoke of the FCC Emergency Broadband Benefit, which is a program geared to individuals that have an income that is at or below 135% of the federal poverty guidelines or the person participates in certain assistance programs, such as SNAP, Medicaid or Lifeline; approved to receive benefits under the free and reduced-price school lunch or breakfast program, including through the USDA Community Eligibility Provision in the 2019-2020 or 2020-2021 school year. There are several more criteria that can help a person become eligible for this program and the additional information can be found at <https://www.fcc.gov/broadbandbenefit>.

#### CENSUS UPDATE – APPORTIONMENT ONLINE MAP TOOL

Ms. Jeannie Brantley presented this portion of the agenda. She advised the members that the 2020 Census results have been added to the Online Mapping Tool. There has been an increase in Georgia's population since 2010; Georgia's population is now recorded at 10,711,908. It was noted that there is not a breakdown in 2020 Census information for the cities and counties at this time. There is no new information regarding redistricting, but Ms. Brantley will continue to monitor this situation and will provide updates to the committee. The Online Mapping Tool can be accessed at the following link:

[https://www.census.gov/library/visualizations/interactive/historical-apportionment-data-mapmap.html?utm\\_campaign=20210322msc20s1ccpuprs&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=go\\_vdelivery](https://www.census.gov/library/visualizations/interactive/historical-apportionment-data-mapmap.html?utm_campaign=20210322msc20s1ccpuprs&utm_medium=email&utm_source=go_vdelivery).

## AMENDMENTS TO COMPREHENSIVE PLANS

Ms. Kim Dutton presented this portion of the agenda. She advised that the local governments are responsible for maintaining their plans to accurately reflect current community conditions as well as future goals and priorities. The local governments will determine when a plan amendment is necessary to address changing circumstances. Ms. Dutton provided the necessary steps that a local government must take in order to make any amendments to their comprehensive plans.

At the end of Ms. Dutton's presentation, Ms. Brantley advised the committee that Friday, May 28<sup>th</sup> is Ms. Dutton's last day with TRRC. Ms. Dutton will not be leaving our region as she has accepted employment as a planner with Coweta County. Ms. Brantley thanked Ms. Dutton for her work and wished her the best in her future endeavors.

## OVERVIEW ON THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT

Mr. Brandon Lounsbury presented this portion of the agenda. He advised the committee of details of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) which was enacted on March 11, 2021 as the third stimulus bill during the COVID-19 pandemic. The package included \$1.9 trillion to be available for a variety of state and federal programs as well as local governments. It was noted that \$350 billion in direct funding goes to states, counties and municipalities and it is required that the state pass on the funding to all local governments. Funds must be obligated by December 31, 2024 and completed by December 31, 2026. Mr. Lounsbury also provided information concerning how the funds are distributed, what the funds cover, other specified uses as well as the framework for eligible, non-specified use of funds, etc. He also included a table of expected county allocations for the TRRC area:

COUNTY	ALLOCATION
BUTTS COUNTY	\$4,836,184
CARROLL COUNTY	\$23,307,039
COWETA COUNTY	\$28,846,132
HEARD COUNTY	\$2,315,903
LAMAR COUNTY	\$3,705,484
MERIWETHER COUNTY	\$4,111,442
PIKE COUNTY	\$3,683,146
SPALDING COUNTY	\$12,956,276
TROUP COUNTY	\$13,581,529
UPSON COUNTY	\$5,112,351

Mr. Lounsbury also advised the committee that the COVID-19 Impact Analysis Survey deadline has been extended until Friday, June 11, 2021. He encouraged communities that have not participated to share their insights at the following link: <https://tinyurl.com/TRRC-EDA-CARES-Survey>.

## OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Kirk Fjelstul reported that Ms. Donna Armstrong-Lackey has resigned from the Planning and Projects Committee as well as the TRRC Council due to her new position with Carroll County; Ms. Armstrong-Lackey is now the Executive Director for Carroll County BOC.

Mr. Terry Nolan and Ms. Kay Pippin shared that the Creeks Bike Trail in Jackson will hold a grand opening ceremony at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, June 5, 2021. The trail, designed for hikers and mountain bikers, is 10.7 miles with four (4) creeks located in the vicinity. They invited the committee to attend the ceremony and to enjoy the trail.

#### DATE AND LOCATION OF NEXT MEETING

Committee Chair Brown advised that the Planning and Projects Committee will meet on Thursday, June 24, 2021 at 11:00 a.m.; more details will follow.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Committee Chair Brown adjourned the meeting after receiving a motion from Mr. Hollberg and a second from Mr. Boone.

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Curtis Brown, Jr., Chairman  
Planning and Projects Committee