

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, April 22, 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  
Ms. Donna Armstrong-Lackey, Non-Public Member, Carroll County  
Mr. Greg Wright, Non-Public Member, Coweta County  
Mr. Lee Boone, Chair, Heard County  
Ms. Gwen Flowers-Taylor, Commissioner, Spalding County  
Mr. Doug Hollberg, Mayor, City of Griffin  
Mr. Curtis Brown, Jr., Non-Public Member, Troup County  
Mr. Norman Allen, Chair, Upson 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

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. Laura Hines, Administrative Assistant, AAA  
Ms. Morgan Weaver, Nursing Home Transitions Coordinator, AAA  
Ms. Stephanie Glenn, Director, Workforce Development  
Ms. Alena Andrews, Resource Specialist, Workforce Development

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

Committee Chair Brown advised the members that the minutes from the February 25, 2021 and March 25, 2021 meetings needed to be approved. Ms. Kay Pippin made the motion to approve both sets (February 25, 2021 and March 25, 2021) of the 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. Ms. Pippin made the motion to approve the agenda; it was seconded by Ms. Gwen Flowers-Taylor. 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 Georgia Broadband Deployment Initiative recently provided a workshop; he also noted funding that has been allocated to broadband, which includes \$4.6 million for Georgia from the USDA CARES Act – 2021 ReConnect; GBDI DCA – One Georgia for \$30 million and almost \$83 million from CDBG CV (CARES Act) which will be dispersed in several rounds. Mr. Jarrell provided some highlights of DCA – GDBI Workshop which included the link to future workshop series (<https://broadband.georgia.gov/webinars>). He gave information on the joint broadband expansion project between SyncGlobal and Carroll EMC that will serve the counties of Carroll, Heard and Troup. There is also a broadband expansion project between Central Georgia EMC, Southern Rivers Energy and Conexon; this project will serve eighteen (18) counties with six (6) of those counties in TRRC's jurisdiction.

Mr. Jarrell talked about the GA Smart Communities Challenge 2021 Proposals. This is a program administered by Georgia Tech that enables smart development 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

Ms. Jeannie Brantley presented this portion of the agenda. She advised that she contacted DCA's Deputy Commissioner Rusty Haygood to ask about Census information and he did not have any new information to share. The Census Bureau has launched a new online mapping tool that displays historic apportionment and population statistics for the period of 1910 to 2010; the link for the mapping tool is as follows:

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

Ms. Brantley also noted that the data for 2020 will be released as it becomes available. Ms. Corinne Thornton, DCA's Office Director of Regional Community Services, advised that the Census information will not affect elections this year.

## TRRC ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY IMPACT SURVEY

Ms. Brantley and Mr. Brandon Lounsbury, TRRC's Economic Development Specialist, presented this portion of the agenda. TRRC received CARES funding from the Economic Development Administration in mid-2020. This funding will be used to assess the impact that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on governments in TRRC's region as well as to assess what type of assistance is needed to help with the recovery efforts. Mr. Lounsbury will lead this project; he will also conduct a survey to gather needed information. The survey has been sent to each member government and the responses are due on Friday, April 30, 2021.

## ELECTRONIC MEDIA UPDATE

Ms. Morgan Weaver and Ms. Alena Andrews presented this portion of the agenda. The Media Implementation Plan is a part of TRRC's 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 Media Team consist of staff (Ms. Andrews, Ms. Hope Blakely, Ms. Brantley, Ms. Laura Hines and Ms. Weaver) and was created to assist with the efforts of merging all departmental Facebook pages, updating the website, adding new content, etc. Ms. Weaver and Ms. Andrews are the managers for the Media Team. The Media Team's hard work has produced an increase in followers for TRRC's social media platforms.

## 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, May 27, 2021 at 11:00 a.m.; more details will follow.

## ADJOURNMENT

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

---

Curtis Brown, Jr., Chairman  
Planning and Projects Committee