

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 24, 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

Ms. Charlene Glover, Mayor, City of Greenville

Guests in Attendance

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. Peggi Tingle, Administrative Services Director  
Ms. Amanda Turner, Deputy Administrative Services Director  
Ms. Jan Perez, Secretary, Administrative Services  
Ms. Jeannie Brantley, Planning Director

Mr. Brandon Lounsbury, Economic Development Specialist  
Ms. Stephanie Glenn, Workforce Development Director  
Ms. Stephanie Matthews, Deputy Workforce Development Director

#### APPROVAL OF MAY 27, 2021 MINUTES (action item)

Committee Chair Brown advised the members that the minutes from the May 27, 2021 meeting needed to be approved. Mr. Doug Hollberg made the motion to approve the May 27, 2021 meeting minutes; it was seconded by Mr. Greg Wright. 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. Wright. Committee Chair Brown asked if there was any discussion; hearing none, he called for the vote, and the motion carried unanimously. Mr. Hollberg requested that the meeting's only action item be moved to the beginning of the agenda in case committee members needed to leave the meeting early due to other commitments.

#### ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION FOR REGIONAL PLAN IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM ANNUAL REPORT (action item)

Ms. Jeannie Brantley presented this portion of the agenda. She advised the committee that the Minimum Standards for Regional Planning requires that the Regional Work Program be updated on an annual basis. DCA calls the annual update the Annual Implementation Report. This report includes the Regional Work Program and the Report of Accomplishments, as well as the Local Government Performance Standards Update; this information was presented to the committee for their review in March. The Planning Staff transmitted the Annual Implementation Report for fiscal year 2021 to DCA for its review and approval on March 31, 2021; TRRC received DCA's notification of approval on May 19, 2021. The Planning Staff's recommendation is that the Council officially adopt the FY'21 Three Rivers Regional Plan Implementation Program Annual Report. **FORMAL ACTION: Committee Chair Brown asked for a motion concerning the Adoption of Resolution for Regional Plan Implementation Program Annual Report. Mr. Boone made the motion to adopt the FY '21 Three Rivers Regional Plan Implementation Program Annual Report; it was seconded by Mr. Hollberg. Committee Chair Brown asked if there was any discussion; hearing none, he called for the vote, and the motion passed unanimously.**

#### TRRC BROADBAND TASK FORCE UPDATE

##### 2021 Georgia Broadband Availability Map

Ms. Brantley presented this portion of the agenda. She advised that an updated Broadband Availability Map was released on June 15, 2021. To see the map online, please use the following link: <https://broadband.georgia.gov/2021-georgia-broadband-availability-map> .

##### DCA Georgia Broadband Program – Funding

DCA has advised that funding for broadband has been delayed, as they (DCA) are working to align its funding requirements with those of the American Rescue Plan Act. Information on funding and application training assistance will be announced at a later date.

## Comprehensive Plan Updates for Inclusion of Broadband Elements

On June 15, 2021, the Planning Staff participated in a DCA roundtable discussion where the update of comprehensive plans for broadband elements and comprehensive plan amendments were discussed. It was noted that as a plan amendment, where the community is building in a completely new element that DCA has never before reviewed, it will be a major amendment that will require a regional/state review and DCA approval prior to the local adoption. All steps for a major amendment should be followed. Ms. Brantley encouraged the committee members to contact the Planning Staff if their communities had questions on amendments to their comprehensive plans.

## TRRC Broadband Task Force Year One Report of Findings

The staff is currently working on the report of findings for the committee, and it should be ready for review by August 2021.

Ms. Brantley reported that the Southern Rivers Energy (SRE) and Central GA EMC Connect Project is continuing to advance. SRE reported that a fiber hut was established at the Tobesofkee Substation on Highway 41. The fiber hut houses all of the equipment that lights the fiber. It was noted that the project will be constructed in two (2) phases and should take 3 years according to estimates. Ms. Brantley also reported that the “make ready for construction” will begin at the end of this month, and the first fiber-to-the-home customers connections are planned for the fall. Ms. Brantley included a construction plan map in her report for the committee to review.

## STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

Ms. Brantley reminded the committee that the staff was focusing on several items in the Strategic Plan Update. She briefed the members on 1a, *Invest in Employee Growth and Training* and advised that Ms. Stephanie Matthews, Deputy Workforce Development Director, recently graduated from the Carl Vinson Institute of Government’s Certified Public Manager Program.

Ms. Brantley also advised that work continues on 4a, *Establish a Broadband Task Force*, which is organizing and educating individuals on opportunities for our region. The last item of the Strategic Plan is 2c, *Produce an Electronic Media Plan*; work continues on the website update of material and information and that the Media Committee is entering the final stage of the process to merge and update TRRC social media sites.

## OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Wright thanked Ms. Brantley and Mr. Paul Jarrell for their assistance in pulling information for an economic impact analysis project that the Coweta County Development Authority needed.

Committee Chair Brown encouraged the committee to think about how funds from the American Rescue Plan Act could be used in our region and to brainstorm their ideas with one another.

### DATE AND LOCATION OF NEXT MEETING

Committee Chair Brown advised that the Planning and Projects Committee will meet on Thursday, August 26, 2021 at 11:00 a.m.; more details will follow. Mr. Kirk Fjelstul advised that the future meetings will be in person.

### ADJOURNMENT

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

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Curtis Brown, Jr., Chairman  
Planning and Projects Committee