

TO: COUNCIL, THREE RIVERS REGIONAL COMMISSION

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

SUBJECT: MINUTES OF MEETING HELD APRIL 23, 2015

The Regional Council of the Three Rivers Regional Commission held its meeting at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 23, 2015 at the Turin Town Hall in Turin, Georgia.

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

Chairman Hays Arnold called the meeting to order and asked Mr. Peter Banks to give the invocation; afterwards Chairman Arnold led the members in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Regional Council Members in Attendance

Mr. Roger McDaniel, Chairman, Butts County
Ms. Kay Pippin, Mayor, City of Jackson
Ms. Clair Jones, Non-Public Member, Butts County
Ms. Donna Armstrong-Lackey, Non-Public Member, Carroll County
Mr. Steve Stripling, Non-Public Member, Coweta County
Mr. Lee Boone, Chairman, Heard County
Mr. Denney Rogers, Mayor, City of Ephesus
Ms. Kathy Knowles, Non-Public Member, Heard County
Mr. Bennie Horton, Commissioner, Lamar County
Mr. Peter Banks, Mayor, City of Barnesville
Mr. Irvin Trice, Non-Public Member, Lamar County
Mr. Fred Roney, Non-Public Member, Pike County
Mr. Richard English, Jr., Commissioner, Troup County
Mr. Jim Thornton, Mayor, City of LaGrange
Mr. Bobby Frazier, Non-Public Member, Troup County
Mr. Hays Arnold, Mayor, City of Thomaston
Mr. Steve Hudson, Commissioner, Upson County
Ms. Laurie Holmes, Non-Public Member, Upson County
Ms. Maggie Shook, Governor's Appointee
Mr. Ed Bledsoe, Governor's Appointee

Regional Council Members Absent

Ms. Shirley Marchman, Council Member, City of Villa Rica
Mr. Tim Lassetter, Commissioner, Coweta County
Mr. Clayton Hicks, Council Member, City of Newnan
Ms. Beth Hadley, Chairperson, Meriwether County
Mr. James Bray, Mayor, City of Greenville
Ms. Faye Perdue, Non-Public Member, Meriwether County
Mr. Briar Johnson, Chairman, Pike County
Mr. Mike Beres, Mayor, City of Zebulon
Mr. Raymond Ray, Commissioner, Spalding County
Mr. Douglas Hollberg, Council Member, City of Griffin
Mr. Charles Jones, Non-Public Member, Spalding County
Mr. John Edwards, Governor's Appointee
Mr. John Rainwater, Lt. Governor's Appointee

Guests Present

Mr. Whit Long, County Manager, Meriwether County
Ms. Sandy Johnson, Mayor of Woodbury
Mr. Tommy Johnson, Council Member of Woodbury
Mr. Dick Ford, Mayor of Moreland
Mr. Winston Skinner, Newnan Times-Herald

Staff Present

Mr. Lanier Boatwright, Executive Director
Ms. Peggi Tingle, Administrative Services Director
Ms. Amanda Turner, Senior Accounting Tech
Mr. Robert Hiatt, Governmental Services Director
Ms. Jeannie Brantley, Director of Planning
Ms. Joy Shirley, AAA Director
Ms. Hope King, Human Resources Generalist
Ms. Jan Perez, Secretary

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Chairman Arnold introduced Mr. Long, Mayor Johnson, Mr. Johnson, Mayor Ford and Mr. Skinner and thanked them for attending the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held March 5, 2015 were presented for approval. A motion was made by Mr. Steve Stripling to approve the minutes as presented; the motion was seconded by Mr. Irvin Trice and carried unanimously.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Arnold advised the members that a Finance Committee meeting will need to be held prior to the June 25, 2015 TRRC council meeting. The following individuals have been appointed to serve on the Finance Committee:

Clayton Hicks	Faye Perdue
Mike Beres	Denney Rogers
Roger McDaniel	John Edwards
Hays Arnold	Donna Armstrong-Lackey

Chairman Arnold mentioned the death of Mr. Jay Shaw; he described Mr. Shaw as a “good friend” and “champion of the Export-Import Highway” project. Chairman Arnold asked the members to keep the Shaw family in their thoughts and prayers. Mr. Lanier Boatwright advised everyone that Mr. Shaw was also a chairman of the Department of Transportation board as well as a former mayor of the City of Lakeland and a personal friend of more than forty (40) years.

AGING PROGRAM UPDATE

Ms. Joy Shirley presented this portion of the agenda. She stated that the Aging Program received a \$17,000 budget increase in the “Money Follows the Person” (MFP) program; this program employs counselors and attempts to keep clients in their own homes. Ms. Shirley also mentioned that the Senior Community Services Employment Program (SCSEP) is now experiencing a budget decrease (approximately \$13,000) and it will affect senior workers that are currently enrolled in the program. She mentioned that the Aging Program was working with Pike County to issue the “RFP” (Request for Proposal) to manage their senior center program; Pike County is currently under the McIntosh Trail Council on Aging. Pike County could potentially save \$27,000 - \$30,000 by managing their center; this could also mean several more meals for seniors each day at the center. Spalding County is reviewing the numbers to see if it would be advantageous to manage their senior center or to continue to let the McIntosh Trail Council on Aging manage it. Ms. Shirley advised that a new food vendor was being brought in to provide the food for all of the senior centers. She also mentioned that the senior picnic will be held on May 5, 2015 at Plant Yates in Newnan; 750 senior citizens are expected to attend the event. Ms. Shirley invited the council members to attend as well.

Mr. Lee Boone stated that he had a question for Ms. Shirley and that he would like for the minutes to reflect his question and the answer. Mr. Boone said, “I got a call this morning from my office and I think last week they came over...we have a senior working in the court house there in y'all's program. Y'all came over and did a review last week as far as to see how she was doing and whatever and she's doing fine. When she came to work this morning and I was in my office and I left to come here...and I got an emergency text message that said 'call'. I stepped out and called and was told that she got a call this morning and was basically told get your stuff and leave...that you no longer have a job. Now of course that's not our desire, but she was just basically told that there's no more money to pay you.” Ms. Shirley responded, “That is what's happening. All the employees throughout the whole system are going to be cut temporarily...for two (2) months because we got a budget cut from the state. We're still trying

to see if there's any senior employment program throughout the state that is not utilizing their money...if the state would bring that in and allocate it to us." Mr. Boone asked, "Did anybody see this coming?" Ms. Shirley responded, "No, I did not see this coming." Both Ms. Shirley and Mr. Boatwright both responded, "We found out about it the first of this week." Mr. Boone's responded, "That she didn't get a call until this morning. She came into work and got a call and said get your stuff and leave...you know...it's over and you can't even get paid for today. I didn't like the way that was handled." Ms. Shirley stated, "I didn't know that it was handled that way. I was told that Beth is over that program and Keisha's actually the person over that program that Beth supervises...they've been working diligently all week long trying to figure out how they're going to deal with the cut. It's not like they've given it very little thought. You're not the only one experiencing this...and I think that they were supposed to have been telling everybody when they did the reviews or maybe they didn't know when they did the reviews...but I just found out about this beginning of the week. But it will be...it's a temporary cut...I mean, they gave us a cut in funding. July 1, it should go back to being twenty (20) hours a week like it's supposed to be." Mr. Boatwright said, "I'll find out how if that's how she was told and we'll get something to see if that's exactly how she was told and we'll let you know." Mr. Boone responded, "It's just funny to me...it's kind of like the contracts we get with the WIA. There's a certain amount of dollars allocated for a certain amount...to be applied to a certain amount of individuals and I just find it hard that the state would abruptly cut..." Ms. Shirley interjected, "They do do that." Mr. Boone continued, "y'all's money without any prior notification." Both Mr. Boatwright and Ms. Shirley stated, "They do it all the time... every year." Ms. Shirley continued, "We juggle...it's like we never know at the start of the year if that money what we're starting the year will be and I think that I've said in many meetings that we've had here...we start out with the budget, but usually by July...the second week in July...I've been given another budget and we have to go and contract with all of y'all and give you that amount and then we have to go back and backtrack. Most of the time it's more money, but throughout the year...this is the fourth (4) amendment...money's been taken away in other categories, given to us in other categories and that's exactly what happened this time." Mr. Boatwright stated, "This is common practice for the Department of Human Services." Ms. Shirley added, "I'm not happy about it either. In fact, there's not any other RC in Georgia happy about it." Mr. Boone added, "Well, I'm not blaming you..." Ms. Shirley added, "But they do operate that way and I've gotten calls from another area, actually the director of Leisure Services (Dan McGee) for Butts County, and asked 'what's this about?' and I do explain to him that they frequently do those kinds of things and it's not a good practice at all...I agree." Mr. Boatwright added, "It's something that the commissioner should have control of and what bothers me even more is that they have passed legislation to let the Division of Aging Services become its own department...come July 1st and we're frightened to death." Ms. Shirley concurred, "I'm scared to death...I really am. Because they...they like to hold as much money in house as possible. They've even come up with and I think that I have brought this up... a new system...we all get...everyone gets frozen meals for our senior centers and our home delivered coming from one contract in Atlanta, which if that even comes down, I want everyone to fight that because the cities and counties have built these wonderful kitchens and we've got people working in those jobs and...who wants to go and eat a frozen meal? So that's another issue that they're proposing but that hopefully won't come about." Mr. Richard English asked, "Is that going to affect the center that we have in Troup County?" Ms. Shirley responded, "You mean the..." Mr. English said, "We've got a senior citizen center in Hogansville..." Ms. Shirley asked, "Are you talking

about the staff problem or are you talking about the meals?” Mr. English responded, “Both.” Ms. Shirley advised, “Yes...they’re all the same. They’re all funded through the Older Americans Act, so state money is filtered down and then our match. They’re all consistent.” Mr. Boatwright stated, “We have a senior community employment person in our office in Griffin and they were just notified today that they would be cut...you know, they would be cut.” Ms. Shirley said, “And we have one in our office, too, that’s really, really vital because we took over that Northwest program for the *GeorgiaCares* on a temporary basis. This is the time that we need that person the most. We’re going to lose that person as well.” Mr. Boone commented, “Well, my understanding is that ours is being cut back and others have been cut out.” Ms. Shirley responded, “I will check on that...I wasn’t aware. I will check on that in the morning and find out.” Two (2) other council members commented on the Senior Community Services Employment Program (SCSEP) and then Chairman Arnold commented, “We may want to consider having our administrators draft a letter...um...and get out through email to all of us, stating our objections to the way that this was handled by DHS...I’m sorry, DOA, and be able to let them know that we don’t think that this is the way to do business. And um... put it on our letterheads and sign off on it and get it to them. This is a very callous way of doing business and I don’t know of any private business that would do business that exact way. So, if there are any thoughts about that...anybody?” Both Mr. Boone and Chairman Arnold indicated that they would be willing to sign such a letter. Ms. Kay Pippin suggested that the council get all the facts before issuing this letter and having the council to sign it; her suggestion was that Mr. Boatwright get all the details, devise a course of action, and an appropriate response be issued if deemed necessary. Several council members agreed with Ms. Pippin’s suggestion with Chairman Arnold concurring. Mr. Steve Stripling suggested that as the senior workers are being enrolled into the program, that they be made aware of the fact that these are temporary jobs and that budget cuts could affect the hours that they work; he believes that it is necessary for the workers to understand about the budget cuts in order to make plans for their futures. Chairman Arnold stated, “Then I think that Mr. Boatwright can be charged with getting that information, disseminating that information to the board members...um, at that given point in time. And then we can make a decision as to whether we want to follow through with a letter or not.” Mr. Boone stated, “Well, let me say this, the woman that’s working for us is not working out of boredom. She desperately needs the income.” Chairman Arnold asked, “Are there any objections to the suggestion that Mr. Boatwright follow through with getting the information and then disseminating that to the board. If there are no objections to that, then I think we can just depend on Mr. Boatwright to do so. I don’t think that it requires a motion of any sort.”

REGIONAL WORK PLAN UPDATE

Ms. Jeannie Brantley presented this portion of the agenda. She advised the members that they received a copy of the Regional Work Plan via email and that the Regional Work Plan is similar to the Comprehensive Plan for the Three Rivers area. The plan must be completed on an annual basis and forwarded to the Department of Community Affairs (DCA). Ms. Brantley asked the members for their consideration in approving the resolution to forward the Regional Work Plan to DCA for their review and approval. Mr. Fred Roney made the motion that the council approve the resolution; it was seconded by Mr. Trice and carried unanimously.

THREE RIVERS WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT DISCUSSION

Mr. Robert Hielt presented this portion of the agenda. The Workforce Board met prior to the TRRC Council's meeting. A new federal law becomes effective July 1, 2015, and this will require a few changes to that will need to take place. The Workforce must apply for a regional redesignation of the Workforce area. The application has been approved by the local elected officials and will be transmitted to the state tomorrow, April 24th. Mr. Hielt noted that Chairman Arnold was the Chief Local Elected Official (CLEO) and that he has signed the letter that is to be forwarded to the state. He also noted that the letter was critical in order to continue to be eligible for Workforce training funds after July.

Mr. Hielt also must submit documents to recertify the Workforce Board. The board is current except for one (1) individual that must be appointed from the Pike County area; Pike County officials have assured Mr. Hielt that they will have an appointee's name submitted by the May 22nd deadline.

Mr. Hielt advised the council that the Youth Programs are one-half (1/2) of the Workforce budget. As of now, seventy-five percent (75%) of funds must be spent on in-school youths. The new law states that seventy-five percent (75%) of funds must be spent on youths that are not attending any school and are between the ages of 16-24. The new law will reduce the number of in-school youths that are presently being served.

TRANSPORTATION UPDATE

House Bill 170 (HB 170)

Mr. Hielt presented this portion of the agenda. He began by speaking of HB 170 that passed during the recent legislative session. The state is required to identify projects where the most money should be spent. Mr. Hielt advised the members to attend the local meetings to give input on where most of the money should be spent once the meetings schedule and the process have been established by the state.

Transportation SPLOST (T-SPLOST)

Mr. Hielt advised everyone that the regions that did not originally pass the Transportation Investment Act (TIA) will be given another opportunity to do so. If the regions do not act on the T-SPLOST, then in 2017, the counties will have the chance to work on their project lists and to do their own single county transportation sales tax. This prompted discussion of the TIA by several of the council members. Mr. Roger McDaniel wanted to know if a motion could be reinstated to begin the TIA roundtable; this was not put into a motion or voted on. Ms. Pippin suggested that the council invite representatives from regions that passed the TIA and hear their presentations; this suggestion will be put into action. Mr. Boatwright will contact representatives from the areas that originally passed the TIA and ask them to make presentations to the council; after hearing the presentations, the council may decide to host a transportation summit.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recover (TIGER) Grant

Mr. Boatwright presented this portion of the agenda. He advised the members that a planning study was not an eligible activity in this year's TIGER grant and that TRRC would have to wait until sometime in the future or partner with an area that is submitting projects for match; the planning study and the pursuit of the TIGER grant was approved during last month's meeting.

Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) 5304 Statewide Planning Grant Program

Mr. Boatwright explained that TRRC has a GDOT planning grant that accomplishes several goals in the outline. GDOT has recently changed the process and they now require a resolution to be passed in order to continue with the grant program. Mr. Boatwright advised the members that several of the activities listed are currently being handled. GDOT has also divided the planning grant into three (3) categories and Mr. Boatwright advised the members that the grant was based on deliverables and that TRRC would not get paid until the work has been completed. Mr. Jim Thornton made the motion that the council approve the resolution; it was seconded by Mr. English and carried unanimously.

Economic Development Educational Training Program in LaGrange

Mr. Boatwright mentioned that TRRC will participate in an educational training program hosted by Seyfarth Shaw; the event will be held tomorrow in LaGrange.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. McDaniel made the motion to take off the table the subject of sick leave from last month's meeting and to bring it back for a visit; Ms. Maggie Shook seconded the motion and it was carried by a majority vote. Mr. Lee Boone opposed the motion. Chairman Arnold stated that a motion was needed for ten (10) hours of sick leave to be accrued from the time of hiring. Mr. Fred Roney asked if the new employee would have to work thirty (30) days or a month in order to receive the ten (10) hours; the chairman said "correct." Mr. Boone asked for clarification about the proposed sick leave policy; is it from the first (1st) day of employment or after thirty (30) days of employment? This prompted questions from several members that asked for clarification of the policy. Mr. Boatwright advised everyone that the policy of accruing ten (10) hours of sick leave "is from the first month. You have to work so long in a month in order to accrue anything." Mr. Peter Banks made the motion that the sick leave policy be approved; it was seconded by Mr. Roney. Chairman Arnold asked if there were any other discussion and Mr. Boone asked if the motion could be clarified again. Mr. Boone stated the motion is that you are there for thirty (30) days, you accrue ten (10) hours sick leave, correct?" The chairman responded with "that's correct...that's it." Chairman Arnold asked if there was any other discussion and called for a vote on the motion; it passed unanimously. Ms. Peggi Tingle advised the council that an effective date for the motion was needed. Mr. Boatwright and several council members suggested July 1st. Mr. Boone stated, "I make a motion that an amendment to the policy that we (the council) just passed, take effect July 1st"; it was seconded by Mr. Roney.

Mr. English asked if TRRC would hire someone prior to the July 1st date. Mr. Boatwright indicated that it was a possibility, but that the new employee would not begin accruing leave until July 1st. A member asked about the current policy and was advised by Mr. Boatwright that at present new employees do not accrue leave for ninety (90) days. More discussion ensued with Chairman Arnold calling for a vote; the motion was carried unanimously.

Mr. Boatwright also introduced the newest TRRC employee, Ms. Hope King, Human Resources Generalist.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Ms. Kay Pippin invited everyone to Jackson for the Jackson Fine Art Show; this event is scheduled for May 9th.

Ms. Laurie Holmes advised everyone that a concert series would begin on May 2nd in downtown Thomaston. She also mentioned that food vendors would sell items during the concerts.

Mr. Bennie Horton and Mr. Peter Banks mentioned the Battle of the Bones event that is scheduled for May 1st in Barnesville.

Ms. Clair Jones invited the members to Jenkinsburg on June 6th for a concert event. They will also have food vendors and entertainment for children.

Chairman Arnold informed the members that Mr. Mike Beres recently had surgery and asked the members to keep him in their thoughts for a speedy recovery.

DATE AND LOCATION OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on June 25, 2015. The meeting location will be the Turin Town Hall and the meeting time is scheduled for 2:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Arnold adjourned the meeting after receiving a motion from Mr. English.

Faye Perdue, Secretary