

TO: PLANNING AND PROJECTS COMMITTEE

FROM: MR. DUSTIN KORITKO, 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 26, 2022. The meeting was held at the Turin Town Hall in Turin, Georgia. Before the meeting began, Mr. Doug Hollberg asked Committee Chair Dustin Koritko to address the staff and other committee members. Mr. Hollberg apologized for a remark that he made during the April committee meeting concerning “dysfunctional staff.” He stated that the remark was “far from the truth” and the dysfunction was not the staff, but other elements. He encouraged the staff to talk with him if they felt the need to do so. Committee Chair Dustin Koritko welcomed the members and called the meeting to order. Mr. Hollberg gave the invocation; afterwards, Committee Chair Koritko 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

Mr. Kevin Hemphill, Non-Public Member, Carroll County
Mr. Dustin Koritko, Council Member, City of Newnan
Mr. Greg Wright, Non-Public Member, Coweta County
Mr. Lee Boone, Chair, Heard County
Ms. Kathy Knowles, Non-Public Member, 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

Additional Three Rivers Council Members in Attendance

Mr. Terry Nolan, Non-Public Member, Butts County

Guests in Attendance

Mr. Curtis Brown, III, guest of Mr. Curtis Brown, Jr.
Ms. Sage Brown, guest of Mr. Curtis Brown, Jr.
Ms. Victoria Koritko, guest of Mr. Dustin Koritko

Staff Present

Mr. Kirk Fjelstul, Executive Director
Ms. Angela Jackson, Administrative Services Director
Ms. Mandy Nicholson, HR Manager
Ms. Jan Perez, Secretary, Administrative Services
Ms. Jeannie Brantley, Planning Director
Mr. Paul Jarrell, Planner
Ms. Stephanie Wagner, Planner
Mr. Brandon Lounsbury, Economic Development Specialist
Mr. Tommy Kennedy, Transit Program Director
Ms. Stephanie Glenn, Workforce Development Director

APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 28, 2022 MINUTES (action item)

Committee Chair Koritko advised the members that the minutes from the April 28, 2022 meeting needed to be approved. Mr. Greg Wright made the motion to approve the April 28, 2022 meeting minutes; it was seconded by Mr. Kevin Hemphill. Committee Chair Koritko 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 Koritko advised that a motion was needed to approve the agenda. Ms. Kathy Knowles made the motion to approve the agenda; it was seconded by Mr. Wright. Committee Chair Koritko 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 members on the status of broadband expansion partnerships between several EMCs and internet service providers.

Central Georgia EMC for May 2022 – 782 fiber miles have been constructed with 5,589 customer passings (service available, all in Monroe County) and 1,445 customers receiving service.

Southern Rivers Energy – 250 miles out of 2,100 miles of fiber construction are complete; 404 members connected in Lamar and Monroe Counties. There are 1,157 pending internet service orders (265 on active circuits to be connected within the next 30 days) and the estimated completed date for the entire project is December 2023.

Carroll EMC and SyncGlobal has three (3) TRRC counties affected (Carroll, Heard and Troup); Phase 1 has a 24 month timeframe; internet speeds are expected to be up to 1G; this partnership has USDA ReConnect funding, and the first homes should come online by May-June.

Mr. Jarrell explained that the Georgia Broadband Deployment Initiative (GBDI)-Department of Community Affairs (DCA) Broadband Funding was administered by OneGeorgia Authority and that all TRRC counties are eligible. The Notices of Funding Availability (NOFA) have been postponed until later this year. Per Mr. Jarrell, extra points are awarded for Broadband Ready Communities

and \$25 million is still available statewide. The eligibility maps will refresh on June 30th. Upson County was recently named a DCA Broadband Ready Community; in addition to Upson County, the City of Woodbury, the City of Hogansville, Carroll County and Meriwether County have all been named Broadband Ready Communities. There is \$25 million available statewide and the eligibility maps will refresh by June 30th. Mr. Jarrell reminded the committee that Ms. Amy Stone (Amy.stone@dca.ga.gov) is the DCA Broadband Consultant and Ms. Gina Webb (gina.webb@dca.ga.gov) is the OneGeorgia Authority Director. He encouraged the committee to contact these individuals if they had any questions concerning the broadband funding opportunities.

TRRC COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (CEDS) FULL UPDATE

Ms. Jeannie Brantley presented this portion of the agenda. She advised that a committee and stakeholder advisory group needed to be established. She asked the committee members to submit names of individuals from their respective areas that could serve on the advisory group. She would like the group to begin meeting in the last part of June with the goal to have the CEDS document ready in September 2022.

STRATEGIC PLAN DISCUSSION

Mr. Kirk Fjelstul presented this portion of the agenda. He provided a brief history and timeline of the Strategic Plan and asked Ms. Brantley to address the committee regarding a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) analysis. Ms. Brantley encouraged the members to share their ideas for the various elements of the SWOT. The group participated in a lengthy discussion concerning the analysis. It was noted that the Strategic Plan will be discussed at future committee meetings.

OTHER BUSINESS

Nothing was presented under this portion of the agenda.

DATE AND LOCATION OF NEXT MEETING

Committee Chair Koritko advised that the Planning and Projects Committee will meet on Thursday, June 23, 2022 at 11:00 a.m.; more details will follow.

ADJOURNMENT

Committee Chair Koritko adjourned the meeting after receiving a motion from Mr. Wright and a second from Mr. Hemphill.

Dustin Koritko, Chairman
Planning and Projects Committee