

TO: COUNCIL, THREE RIVERS REGIONAL COMMISSION

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

SUBJECT: MINUTES OF MEETING HELD APRIL 27, 2017

The Regional Council of the Three Rivers Regional Commission held its meeting at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday April 27, 2017 at the Sharpsburg Town Hall in Sharpsburg, Georgia.

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

Chairman Peter Banks advised the members that we did not have a quorum to conduct business, but that we would have presentations and updates from the departments. He then asked Mr. Bobby Blalock to give the invocation; afterwards Chairman Banks led the members in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Regional Council Members in Attendance

Ms. Kay Pippin, Mayor, City of Jackson
Ms. Donna Armstrong-Lackey, Non-Public Member, Carroll County
Mr. Clayton Hicks, Council Member, City of Newnan
Mr. Steve Stripling, Non-Public Member, Coweta County
Mr. Lee Boone, Chairman, Heard County
Ms. Kathy Knowles, Non-Public Member, Heard County
Mr. Peter Banks, Mayor, City of Barnesville
Mr. Irvin Trice, Non-Public Member, Lamar County
Ms. Beth Hadley, Chairperson, Meriwether County
Ms. Charlene Glover, Mayor, City of Greenville
Ms. Faye Perdue, Non-Public Member, Meriwether County
Mr. Briar Johnson, Chairman, Pike County
Mr. Bobby Blalock, Mayor, City of Zebulon
Mr. Curtis Brown, Jr., Non-Public Member, Troup County
Mr. J. D. Stallings, Mayor, City of Thomaston
Dr. Maggie Shook, Governor's Appointee
Mr. Ed Bledsoe, Governor's Appointee

Regional Council Members Absent

Mr. Robert Henderson, Sr., Chairman, Butts County
Ms. Clair Jones, Non-Public Member, Butts County

Ms. Shirley Marchman, Council Member, City of Villa Rica
Mr. Tim Lassetter, Chairman, Coweta County
Mr. Denney Rogers, Mayor, City of Ephesus
Mr. Bennie Horton, Commissioner, Lamar County
Mr. Fred Roney, Non-Public Member, Pike County
Mr. Raymond Ray, Commissioner, Spalding County
Mr. Douglas Hollberg, Council Member, City of Griffin
Mr. Charles Jones, Non-Public Member, Spalding County
Mr. Richard English, Jr., Commissioner, Troup County
Mr. Jim Thornton, Mayor, City of LaGrange
Mr. Norman Allen, Chairman, Upson County
Ms. Sallie Barker, Non-Public Member, Upson County
Mr. John Edwards, Governor's Appointee
Mr. John Rainwater, Lt. Governor's Appointee

Guests Present

Ms. Runette Bledsoe, guest of Mr. Ed Bledsoe
Mr. Greg Panzer, Congressman Ferguson's office
Mr. Ryan Pelfrey, Senator Isakson's office
Ms. Lucy Scott, Senator Perdue's office
Mr. Winston Skinner, Newnan newspaper
Ms. Mary Talukder, Georgia Environmental Protection Division
Mr. Doug Westberry, City of Manchester

Staff Present

Mr. Lanier Boatwright, Executive Director
Ms. Jeannie Brantley, Planning Director
Mr. Robert Hiett, Governmental Services Division Director
Ms. Hope King, HR Generalist
Ms. Emily Rogers, AAA Program Manager
Ms. Jan Perez, Secretary

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Chairman Banks introduced Ms. Bledsoe, Mr. Panzer, Mr. Pelfrey, Ms. Scott, Mr. Skinner, Ms. Talukder, and Mr. Westberry and thanked them for attending the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

Chairman Banks reiterated that since we did not have a quorum, no action could be taken concerning the February 23, 2017 meeting minutes. He asked if there were any adjustments that needed to be made; no one had any suggestions for any additional information or any adjustments.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The chairman advised the members that there were fifteen (15) applicants for the Executive Director's position and that more information should be available after the Search Committee's upcoming meeting on May 3, 2017. Mr. Blalock asked if the council will be kept apprised of the Search Committee's findings and was assured by the chairman that the council would be kept informed via email. The following individuals comprise the Search Committee:

Mr. Peter Banks	Mr. Doug Hollberg
Mr. Bennie Horton	Ms. Faye Perdue
Kay Pippin	Mr. Denney Rogers
Ms. Maggie Shook	

Another member asked if a timeline has been established for the Search Committee; Chairman Banks responded that more information should be available after the upcoming committee meeting and that the committee members would have more direction as to the eligible candidates, the interview process, etc., after that date.

APPOINTMENT OF BUDGET COMMITTEE

Chairman Banks appointed the following individuals to serve on the Budget Committee:

Ms. Donna Armstrong-Lackey	Mr. Ed Bledsoe
Mr. Clayton Hicks	Ms. Faye Perdue
Mr. Denney Rogers	Mr. Peter Banks

AMNESTY PROGRAM

Ms. Mary Talukder of the Georgia Environmental Protection Division presented the members with information about the Amnesty Program, a program that will pay for the removal of abandoned tires. Ms. Talukder advised that the local governments must meet certain requirements for the program and that it is on a "first come, first served" basis. The abandoned tires have to be put back into the system and cannot clog the landfills. She discussed the various reporting forms and advised the members that the turnaround time is forty-five (45) days once the application is received. She stressed that there are several amnesty events around the state and encouraged the members to check with their local governments about the program.

Ms. Beth Hadley noted that Meriwether County collected just under one thousand (1,000) abandoned tires during the past weekend with two hundred (200) collected in one (1) small area.

AGING PROGRAM UPDATE

2017 Legislative Session Results

Ms. Emily Rogers presented this portion of the agenda. Ms. Rogers advised the members of

Georgia Council On Aging (GCOA) 2017 legislative session results, which include \$4.2 million for in-home care and community based services (home maker services, home delivered meals, etc.), which keeps the seniors independent and in their homes longer. Senior meal programs will receive \$750,000 in funding with \$250,000 going to the meal providers. The proposed \$250,000 transportation pilot program did not fare as well. The program would filter funding to each of the twelve (12) Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) and the AAAs would decide on how to utilize the funding in their communities. House Bill 154 (HB 154) was approved; this bill will allow dentists to send their hygienists to performing teeth cleanings in nursing homes without a dentist being on site. The Family Care Act also passed this year; this measure would allow family caregivers that have accrued sick leave to use that leave to care for their spouses, children, grandchildren, grandparents, etc. The Family Care Act only applies to businesses that have twenty-five (25) plus employees and those employees must work thirty (30) or more hours per week. The Abuser Registry made progress regarding formulation. This is an electronic listing of anyone that has performed a crime against the elderly anywhere in the state; it will also assist employers to find anyone that may have pled down to a lesser charge or who might not have been convicted at all.

The Caregiver Conference is an annual event that is hosted by the Aging Program. Ms. Rogers encouraged the members to attend the upcoming conference. Last year, two hundred and thirty (230) individuals participated with forty-two (42) vendors along with various speakers on the program. Per Ms. Rogers, the day “paid for itself” with only a minimal fee having to be spent for conference related items. This year’s conference promises interesting discussion topics, food and door prizes.

THREE RIVERS WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT DISCUSSION

Mr. Robert Hiatt presented this portion of the agenda. There are several contracts that must be voted on by the TRRC council, but no action can be taken today due to a lack of a quorum. It was noted that all services (youth, case management, etc., to name a few) were put out to bid this year as well as an operator to manage and run the Department of Labor (DOL) centers that house Workforce staff and provide Workforce services. The DOL arrangement is due to a change in the law. Mr. Hiatt stated that Workforce is saving over \$800,000 by combining some services and programs. The Workforce Board approved an on-the-job training contract (worth \$193,000) with Tencate during their meeting earlier today. The board also approved the Southern Crescent Technical College (SCTC) program that is worth \$92,000, this program is similar to the West Georgia Technical College (WGTC) contract that was approved at the last meeting. Mr. Hiatt also reported on the Workforce Roles and Responsibilities Agreement; this agreement specifies the roles for the Workforce Board, the chief elected officials and the fiscal agent/grant administrator (TRRC). This contract as well as the others must be approved, signed and returned to their respective parties by June 30, 2017.

Mr. Hiatt provided a chart (Workforce Citizens Served Report) to the council members and explained that there was an increase in services in places where an office (Carroll, Coweta, Spalding, Troup counties as well as a satellite office in Upson County) is located. Mobile units are also utilized in the rural communities, assisting with job fairs and other training that is needed.

TRANSPORTATION UPDATE

Mr. Hiett presented this portion of the agenda. He advised the members that the TRRC staff recently took delivery of three (3) buses. The buses are fourteen (14) passenger vehicles while the wheelchair accessible vehicles are ten (10) passenger vehicles with two (2) areas for wheelchairs. He also explained that a new vendor provided the vehicles and that he looks forward to working with this vendor.

Mr. Hiett also reported that Carroll County is coming online in fiscal year 2018 (FY 18).

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Wireless Broadband

Mr. Lanier Boatwright provided this portion of the agenda. He noted that Senator Johnny Isakson has signed on to promote rural broadband access. We are seeing more issues due to the lack of wireless broadband; economic development needs wireless broadband to grow. We are still working on a plan to get Troup, Meriwether, Heard and Upson counties broadband up and going. The State of Georgia has withdrawn funds that were once used to help create wireless broadband programs. Both Senator Isakson and Congressman Drew Ferguson have expressed their interest into getting our areas into broadband.

Export Import Highway

On April 17, 2017, Congressman Ferguson held a meeting concerning the Export Import Highway. Several representatives from Macon, LaGrange and Coweta County attended the meeting. Congressman Ferguson has indicated that this project is one to be pursued. The congressman and State Senator Matt Brass would like to receive more input from the business community and have invited the various chambers to assist with that aspect of the project.

Miscellaneous

Mr. Boatwright advised the members that the group health insurance renewal information was recently received and that there is a ten percent (10%) reduction in premiums; the dental insurance did have a slight increase. Overall, TRRC will say \$39,000 into next year's budget.

The Griffin TRRC office's (North Hill Street) renovations are now complete. A Spalding County Correctional Institute crew painted the exterior and the building looks very nice. Mr. Boatwright expressed his gratitude to the Spalding County C.I. crew for their hard work.

Mr. Boatwright asked the council to remember that May is Older Americans Month. Several of our local cities and counties have issued proclamations honoring our senior citizens.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Bobby Blalock asked, "why aren't we pushing I-16 from Macon to LaGrange instead of Highway 74?" He was advised that there is not any interstate funding for it. This question prompted a brief discussion about the costs for widening the interstate, utilizing highways 74 and 109 and the areas that are affected by these routes.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Ms. Faye Perdue advised the members that the Meriwether County will host an upcoming Open Arts Meriwether event with eighteen (18) artists participating. The artists will paint scenes in Meriwether County and hold a wet canvas sale on the last day of the event.

Chairman Banks spoke of the recent BBQ and Blues Festival was a success with wonderful barbecue, nice weather, big crowds and good music.

Ms. Kay Pippin announced that the City of Jackson will hold a juried art show on May 13, 2017; it will begin at 9:00 a.m. and will be held a few blocks away from the city square.

Mr. Steve Stripling advised the members that a Coweta County company, Grenzebach Corporation, was named the 2017 Georgia Manufacturer of the Year, in the small business category.

Ms. Donna Armstrong-Lackey invited the members to the Mayfest, which will be held the first Saturday in May; the event will be held in Carrollton and they are expecting three hundred (300) vendors.

Mr. Briar Johnson announced that on June 11, 2017, the remains of First Lt. Robert Oxford, who was killed in World War II, would be escorted from a scheduled service to his final resting place in Concord. The public is encouraged to line the streets from Zebulon to Concord in a show of appreciation to this fallen soldier.

DATE AND LOCATION OF NEXT MEETING

Chairman Banks announced that the next meeting would be June 22, 2017. The meeting location will be the Sharpsburg Town Hall and the meeting time is scheduled for 2:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Banks closed the program.

Faye Perdue, Secretary