

TO: COUNCIL, THREE RIVERS REGIONAL COMMISSION

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

SUBJECT: MINUTES OF MEETING HELD FEBRUARY 23, 2017

The Regional Council of the Three Rivers Regional Commission held its meeting at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday February 23, 2017 at the Sharpsburg Town Hall in Sharpsburg, Georgia.

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

Chairman Peter Banks advised the members that a quorum was reached, called the meeting to order and thanked the members for attending. He then asked Mr. J. D. Stallings 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. Clair Jones, Non-Public Member, Butts County
Ms. Shirley Marchman, Council Member, City of Villa Rica
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
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
Ms. Charlene Glover, Mayor, City of Greenville
Ms. Faye Perdue, Non-Public Member, Meriwether County
Mr. Bobby Blalock, Mayor, City of Zebulon
Mr. Fred Roney, Non-Public Member, Pike County
Mr. Raymond Ray, Commissioner, Spalding County
Mr. Douglas Hollberg, Council Member, City of Griffin
Mr. Curtis Brown, Jr., Non-Public Member, Troup County
Mr. Norman Allen, Chairman, Upson County
Mr. J. D. Stallings, Mayor, City of Thomaston
Dr. Maggie Shook, Governor's Appointee
Mr. John Rainwater, Lt. Governor's Appointee

Regional Council Members Absent

Mr. Robert Henderson, Sr., Chairman, Butts County
Mr. Tim Lassetter, Chairman, Coweta County
Mr. Irvin Trice, Non-Public Member, Lamar County
Ms. Beth Hadley, Chairperson, Meriwether County
Mr. Briar Johnson, Chairman, Pike County
Mr. Charles Jones, Non-Public Member, Spalding County
Mr. Richard English, Jr., Commissioner, Troup County
Mr. Jim Thornton, Mayor, City of LaGrange
Ms. Sallie Barker, Non-Public Member, Upson County
Mr. Ed Bledsoe, Governor's Appointee
Mr. John Edwards, Governor's Appointee

Guests Present

Ms. Sarah Faye Campbell, Newnan Times Herald
Mr. Harold Simmons, City of Senoia
Mr. Willie Marchman, guest of Ms. Shirley Marchman
Dr. Keith Moffett, Butts County
Mr. Doug Westberry, City of Manchester
Mr. Dick Ford, Town of Moreland
Mr. Greg Panzer, Congressman Ferguson's office
Mr. Brett Smith, Congressman Ferguson's office
Ms. Laura Gower, Senator Isakson's office

Staff Present

Mr. Lanier Boatwright, Executive Director
Ms. Peggi Tingle, Administrative Services Director
Ms. Jeannie Brantley, Planning Director
Mr. Robert Hiatt, Governmental Services Division Director
Ms. Amanda Turner, Senior Accounting Technician
Ms. Hope King, HR Generalist
Ms. Emily Rogers, AAA Program Manager
Ms. Jan Perez, Secretary

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Chairman Banks introduced Mr. Simmons, Mr. Marchman, Dr. Moffett, Mr. Westberry, Mr. Panzer, Mr. Smith, and Ms. Gower and thanked them for attending the meeting.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS

Chairman Banks introduced the newest council members, Mr. Curtis Brown from the Troup County area, and Mr. Norman Allen representing Upson County.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held December 15, 2016 were presented for approval. Dr. Maggie Shook made the motion that the minutes be approved; it was seconded by Mr. Clayton Hicks and carried unanimously.

REPORT FROM NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Chairman Banks advised the members that he had appointed Mr. Douglas Hollberg, Dr. Maggie Shook and Mr. Richard English to the Nominating Committee. He asked Mr. Hollberg to give the committee's report to the members. Mr. Hollberg stated that the Nominating Committee recommended Mr. Clayton Hicks for the office of Vice Chairman.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Chairman Banks asked for a motion concerning Mr. Hicks as the Vice Chairman. Mr. Raymond Ray made the motion that the council accept Mr. Hick's nomination as Vice Chairman; it was seconded by Dr. Shook and carried unanimously.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Banks advised the council that Mr. Lanier Boatwright would retire at the end of the fiscal year, on June 30, 2017. The chairman spoke of the need to search for a new executive director and to begin this search as soon as possible. He mentioned that two (2) organizations are available to assist in personnel searches for regional commissions; one is the University of Georgia (UGA) and the other is SouthEast Regional Directors Institute (SERDI). The chairman stated that he wanted the committee to listen to both organizations' presentations and to make a recommendation to the council on which agency will assist with the search. At this time, he has not received a proposal from UGA, but SERDI has expressed interest in meeting with the council as soon as possible to get their input on what attributes they want the next executive director to have. He appointed the following members to the Search Committee:

Peter Banks	Clayton Hicks
Douglas Hollberg	Bennie Horton
Faye Perdue	Kay Pippin
Maggie Shook	

He mentioned that a Search Committee meeting will be scheduled as soon as possible and the meeting information forwarded to the committee once the details have been confirmed.

AGING PROGRAM UPDATE

Area Agency Plan 2017-2020

Ms. Emily Rogers presented this portion of the agenda. Ms. Rogers advised the members that we are presently in year two (2) of the four (4) year planning cycle and that there are no significant changes to the plan. She reminded everyone that the goals are first set by the Division of Aging Services (DAS) and then forwarded to the various Area Agencies on Aging (AAA). Once the AAAs receive this document, they include their individual plans to achieve their goals. Ms. Rogers then mentioned that software system switch (from *AIMS* to *HARMONY*) should be called “chaos” since the new software has created problems for the staff. The *HARMONY* software has made it impossible for the staff to utilize the reporting feature to gather any data; in order to complete the area plan, the staff members had to manually gather the data from reports.

Budget and Summary of Goals

Ms. Rogers asked the members to view page 40 and that this page reflected the allocations from the state, how they are filtered to our local AAA and then processed to the ten (10) counties. It was noted on page 50, that the staff meets to discuss the goals and the best way to implement the practices to achieve their goals.

Other Updates

Governor Deal’s proposed budget contains a \$4.2 million increase in home and community based services. Some examples of these services include respite for caregivers, home delivered meals, homemaker and personal care services, etc. This information is contained in House Bill 44 (HB44), which recently passed the House and is now in the Senate.

The Money Follows the Person (MFP) program is one geared to individuals currently in nursing homes, but that want to transition back into the community. Funding is available through a Medicaid waiver program to assist these individuals. Ms. Rogers announced that there was an initiative recently through DAS and that Three Rivers Area Agency on Aging (TRAAA) was able to help ten (10) people transition into local communities. TRAAA received an additional \$30,525 that is to be spent in this fiscal year.

A mid-year review was performed via a recent conference call with DAS; there were no criticisms of the Aging Program.

Each year Ms. Rogers and other Aging staff select 5-10 families (throughout the 10 county region) to provide with Christmas presents; the entire TRRC staff helps with purchasing gifts from the families’ “wish” lists. This past Christmas, we were able to provide gifts for nine (9) families. Ms. Rogers reiterated that the staff purchased the families’ gifts and that no federal or state funding was used for any of the purchases.

THREE RIVERS WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT DISCUSSION

Business Contracts

Mr. Robert Hiett presented this portion of the agenda. He presented a handout and advised the council that several Workforce contracts needed their consideration. These contracts include business and general training agreements and the Workforce Board approved these items during their meeting that was held earlier today. Mr. Hiett stated that the contracts include Milliken (for \$67,500); a training program for Powertech that is affiliated with Hyundai (for up to \$370,000) as well as on the job training contracts with businesses in Newnan and LaGrange. There are also two (2) standard contracts that include a modification for training programs with West Georgia Technical College. Mr. Hiett noted that WGTC is “doing a good job performing under their contract” and he then advised the members that the recommendation was to give them a contract extension for \$100,000 to help the facility complete their fiscal year. A welding program geared to repeat offenders (close to a release date from a correctional institution) with obtaining training and skills to enter the workforce upon their release. This program is for ten (10) people for \$92,000 over a period of ten (10) weeks. He also mentioned that the local business plan was approved earlier today and that it would be forwarded to the state. Mr. Hiett asked for the council’s consideration to approve the contracts. Mr. Steve Stripling made the motion to approve the contracts; it was seconded by Mr. Bennie Horton and carried unanimously.

TRANSPORTATION UPDATE

Authorizing Resolutions

Mr. Hiett presented this portion of the agenda. He advised the members that the resolutions simply authorize the regional commission to submit a technical proposal and to renew the contract for the Department of Human Services’ (DHS) transportation for fiscal year 2018. The other resolution concerns the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) 5310 grant that allows the regional commission to submit a grant application for elderly and disabled funding for transportation services. He requested the members’ approval of the resolutions for each of the different contracts. Mr. Lanier Boatwright recommended that both resolutions be amended to reflect, “chairman” in lieu of “executive director” in the sentence” be it further resolved that the executive director be authorized to execute”; it was agreed that the resolutions would reflect the new wording. Mr. Hicks made the motion to approve the resolutions as amended; it was seconded by Ms. Donna Armstrong-Lackey and carried unanimously.

House and Senate Bills

It was noted that House Bill 160 (HB 160) and Senate Bill 6 (SB 6) each passed their own chamber; both pieces of legislation concern the state reviewing transit (including bus and rail) across metro Atlanta and the remainder of the state with regard to governance in funding. Mr. Hiett commented that House Bill 134 (HB 134) was for single county TSPLOST initiatives, but lawmakers were “tweaking” the language in order for local governments to identify when they want to put in on the referendum. Another bill, Senate Bill 54 (SB 54), is one that is the state’s

attempt to review autonomous driving vehicle issues and the effect they would have on the roads. One final bill to watch is Senate Bill 89 (SB 89) which is the Georgia Freight Railroad Program. This legislation would promote leases or other types of rail infrastructure and do some preservation in order to improve industrial access to the state's railways.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Census and LIDAR

Mr. Boatwright presented this portion of the agenda. Governor Deal has included \$2.1 million in the state budget for regional commissions to be involved in the update of the Census count. We will also be dealing with the boundaries of cities, counties, and incorporated areas. LIDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) will also be performed by satellite. Five (5) of our counties have not had this performed yet and they are included in this portion of the funding; the counties are Heard, Lamar, Meriwether, Pike and Upson.

Amnesty Program

The Environmental Protection Division (EPD) of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has established an Amnesty Program that is now available and will pay for removal of abandoned tires. The information was emailed to the council a few weeks ago, but it will be forwarded to everyone again (via email). Ms. Mary Talukder, from EPD, will make a presentation about the program at the April meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

An audience member asked how to receive a copy of the LIDAR for their county. Mr. Boatwright advised everyone that the TRRC staff could obtain the copies for those areas that are interested in receiving them. He noted that the information (except for the five counties that have not had LIDAR) would be outdated, but that it is available.

TRRC Policies Review

Mr. Boatwright advised the council that the policies have been gathered and ready for the Ad Hoc Committee to have their meeting in order to review the information. The tentative date for the meeting is March 16, 2017. The meeting information and the policies will be sent to the committee members very soon.

Resolution

Mr. Lee Boone asked if a motion was needed to approve the Aging Program Resolution (Compliance Documents) from earlier in today's meeting; the answer was yes. Mr. Stripling made the motion that the resolution be approved; it was seconded by Mr. Fred Roney and carried unanimously.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Ms. Faye Perdue mentioned that Serenbe Playhouse would present "Charlotte's Web" on April 1, 2017. The play will be performed outdoors at the Quercus Farm in Gay and the tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children. Ms. Perdue invited the members to a "plein" air (open air) painting event in Meriwether County on April 28th, 29th, and 30th. Artists will paint scenes on location in Meriwether County and on the last day, in Greenville, the art will be available for purchase during a "Wet Canvas" sale.

Mr. Norman Allen invited the council to the grand opening celebration of the Sprewell Bluff River Ridge Campground in Upson County on February 25, 2017. There have been several renovations to the cabins and other improvements made to the park. More information can be found on the Upson County website.

Mr. Bennie Horton advised the members that the Barnesville "BBQ & Blues Festival" will be held on April 21st – 22nd. There are plenty of activities for everyone and Mr. Horton's band, Master Blasters, will perform at a free concert.

Ms. Kay Pippin stated that a state conference park will be built at Indian Springs. The facility will have the capacity to host groups up to 500 people and it will be operated by the state.

Mr. Blalock invited the members to visit the City of Zebulon's park that is located near the city hall. They have made several improvements to the area and are very excited for others to visit the park.

DATE AND LOCATION OF NEXT MEETING

Chairman Banks announced that the next meeting would be April 27, 2017. The meeting location will be the Sharpsburg Town Hall and the meeting time is scheduled for 2:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Banks adjourned the meeting after receiving a motion from Ms. Charlene Glover.



Faye Perdue, Secretary