



Peter L. Banks, Chairman  
Robert C. Hiett, Interim Executive Director

Counties Served: Butts, Carroll,  
Coweta, Heard, Lamar, Meriwether,  
Pike, Spalding, Troup, and Upson

TO: COUNCIL, THREE RIVERS REGIONAL COMMISSION

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

SUBJECT: MINUTES OF MEETING HELD AUGUST 24, 2017

The Regional Council of the Three Rivers Regional Commission held its meeting at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 24, 2017 at the Sharpsburg Town Hall in Sharpsburg, Georgia.

WELCOME, CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Peter Banks welcomed the attendees and called the meeting to order. He then asked Mr. Bennie Horton to give the invocation; afterwards Chairman Banks led the members in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Regional Council Members in Attendance

Mr. Ken Rivers, Commissioner, Butts County  
Ms. Kay Pippin, Mayor, City of Jackson  
Ms. Donna Armstrong-Lackey, Non-Public Member, Carroll County  
Mr. Lee Boone, Chairman, Heard County  
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  
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. Fred Roney, Non-Public Member, Pike County  
Mr. Raymond Ray, Commissioner, Spalding County  
Mr. Douglas Hollberg, Council Member, City of Griffin  
Mr. Richard English, Jr., Commissioner, Troup County  
Mr. Jim Thornton, Mayor, City of LaGrange  
Mr. Norman Allen, Chairman, Upson County  
Mr. J. D. Stallings, Mayor, City of Thomaston  
Ms. Sallie Barker, Non-Public Member, Upson County  
Dr. Maggie Shook, Governor's Appointee



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### Regional Council Members Absent

Ms. Clair Jones, Non-Public Member, Butts County  
Mr. Marty Smith, Chairman, Carroll County  
Ms. Shirley Marchman, Council Member, City of Villa Rica  
Mr. Tim Lassetter, Commissioner, Coweta County  
Mr. Dustin Koritko, Council Member, City of Newnan  
Mr. Steve Stripling, Non-Public Member, Coweta County  
Mr. Denney Rogers, Mayor, City of Ephesus  
Mr. Charles Jones, Non-Public Member, Spalding County  
Mr. Curtis Brown, Jr., Non-Public Member, Troup County  
Mr. Ed Bledsoe, Governor's Appointee  
Mr. John Edwards, Governor's Appointee  
Mr. John Rainwater, Lt. Governor's Appointee

### Guests Present

Congressman Drew Ferguson, Congressional District 3  
State Senator Matt Brass, District 28  
Ms. Page Estes, President, LaGrange-Troup County Chamber of Commerce  
Mr. Greg Panzer, Field Representative, Congressman Ferguson's office  
Mr. John Hanson, County Manager, Pike County  
Mr. Doug Westberry, City Manager, City of Manchester  
Mr. Winston Skinner, Newnan newspaper  
Ms. Corinne Thornton, Department of Community Affairs

### Staff Present

Mr. Robert Hiatt, Interim Executive Director  
Ms. Peggi Tingle, Administrative Services Director  
Ms. Amanda Turner, Deputy Administrative Services Director  
Ms. Jeannie Brantley, Planning Director  
Ms. Hope Blakely, HR Generalist  
Ms. Joy Shirley, AAA Director  
Mr. Paul Jarrell, Planner  
Ms. Pavielle Ludlow, Mobility Coordinator  
Ms. Jan Perez, Secretary

#### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairman Banks asked the members to review and approve the agenda. Mr. Doug Hollberg made the motion that the council approve the agenda; it was seconded by Ms. Donna Armstrong-Lackey and carried unanimously. The chairman advised the members that an Executive Session would be added at the end of business in order to discuss personnel and receive a report from the Search Committee.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES – JUNE 22, 2017

Chairman Banks asked the members if there were any changes that needed to be made to the June 22, 2017 meeting minutes. Hearing none, he then asked if for a motion to approve the June 22, 2017 meeting minutes. Mr. Hollberg made the motion to approve the June 22, 2017 meeting minutes; it was seconded by Ms. Armstrong-Lackey and carried unanimously.

#### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The chairman advised the members that there were two (2) new council members. He introduced Mr. Ken Rivers; Mr. Rivers is representing Butts County. Mr. Dustin Koritko, representing the City of Newnan, was not in attendance.

#### REPORT FROM NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Chairman Banks asked Mr. Bobby Blalock to give the Nominating Committee's report. The committee is comprised of Mr. Blalock, Ms. Charlene Glover, Mr. Richard English and Mr. J. D. Stallings. The committee met prior to today's TRRC council meeting and discussed their nomination for vice chairman. The committee nominated Mr. Briar Johnson for the office of Vice Chairman. Mr. Blalock made the motion to nominate Mr. Briar Johnson for the office of Vice Chairman; it was seconded by Mr. English and carried unanimously.

#### PRESENTATIONS/DELEGATIONS

Ms. Page Estes

Chairman Banks introduced Ms. Page Estes and thanked her for attending. Ms. Estes is the President of the LaGrange-Troup County Chamber of Commerce, and she began her presentation by introducing some of the members of her staff. Ms. Estes quickly delved into the High Demand Career Initiative (HDCI) as well as Planning and Technical Assistance. The LaGrange-Troup County Chamber of Commerce is partnering with Three Rivers Worksource and Avalanche Consulting, of Austin, Texas, to identify occupations that are needed by area employers, develop training and to provide a career pathway for citizens to find jobs in these high demand areas. Ms. Estes advised the members that regionalism is the answer and that the areas need a "larger net to keep our young people in our areas."

Ms. Estes advised that it was necessary to establish a manufacturing sector partnership plan which will increase the number of local citizens being prepared for local in-demand careers. The plan will also include ten (10) county meetings with five (5) quarterly sub-regional meetings to be held in Griffin and LaGrange; five (5) steering committee meetings will also be held and a manufacturer survey will be conducted. Ms. Estes also advised the members of several meetings that are tentatively scheduled including a webinar (September 20, 2017); county level meeting for late September or early October as well as an employer survey launch that is scheduled for November.

Congressman Drew Ferguson, District 3

Chairman Banks welcomed Congressman Drew Ferguson and introduced him to the members. Congressman Ferguson advised the members that he has been meeting with individuals throughout the district and that workforce development is the main topic of discussion with employers. The congressman added that 388,000 manufacturing jobs have been added nationally and that manufacturing is beginning to drive the economic recovery. Congressman Ferguson acknowledged the correlation between the alignment of the educational system and employers' abilities to have access to qualified workers. Technical colleges are instrumental in helping to meet the students' needs for the education that they will require in their future chosen fields as well as providing a qualified workforce to employers. He also stated that there are a "lot of different pathways to success...students, teachers, guidance counselors and parents must look at things differently." The congressman stated that the average salary for manufacturing jobs in the U.S. is now \$52,000 per year. He spoke of internships and the need for the business community to adjust their way of thinking with regard to allowing teens under the age of eighteen (18) to participate in these internship programs; he mentioned that the business communities, parents, etc., do not need to think of these programs as child labor, but as an educational opportunity.

The congressman also advised the members that there is aging workforce in advanced manufacturing. The workers for these jobs have been in place for fifteen (15) to twenty plus (20+) years and there is a need to procure younger workers to fill the jobs of the ones that are retiring. He took a moment to also address economic development by saying, "the state has to fight very hard for new companies. The economic engine in metro Atlanta continues to grow. Our question is how do rural areas harness and get those companies to come into their areas? We are looking at the extension of rural broadband of all types. We have to tie this directly to education, both in college and career academies and traditional K-12 education, but most importantly in the technical college system." There is a need to "enhance our local communities in this new digital age." Congressman Ferguson was asked about the Import/Export Highway; "this is an incredible return investment" that will be "good for the state, region, and the third (3<sup>rd</sup>) district of Georgia. We're committed to working on that and the challenge will be with

transportation and infrastructure funding.” He also addressed Mr. Hiatt by stating, “Robert, you’ve done a remarkable job ...I want to thank you for stepping up in the interim and it’s been a pleasure working with you.” Chairman Banks thanked Congressman Ferguson for attending today’s meeting and stated that “I’ve been a member since 2008 and I cannot remember a seated congressman attending one of these meetings...we always have their staff, but not the congressman and it’s an honor to have you.”

At this point, a member advised the chairman and the other members that State Senator Matt Brass (District 28) was in attendance and asked if Senator Brass could address the council. “Some of the staff that you have here...have been great, me being one of them (which drew laughter from the members). I’ll touch on a little bit on what the congressman was saying as far as workforce development and education. We’re positioned as a state far better than most. One of the reasons is the administration. Our current governor has focused on workforce development” as well as “an emphasis on technical college training. We have several programs that are perfect examples of what we are doing to get kids ready to walk into advanced manufacturing.” Senator Brass relayed that Southwire in Carrollton was one of the first in the state to provide a work program that targeted “at-risk” youth and helped them gain work experience in order for them to move on to other jobs. Senator Brass stated that “the hot topics are rural broadband and rural healthcare” and that those “two (2) areas go hand in hand since some rural hospitals are closing and with telemedicine coming into play, it is important that areas have good rural broadband.” He thanked everyone for “what you do” and thanked Mr. Hiatt for his assistance. He stated, “Robert has always been a good resource for me in my past role working for the congressman and in my current role as well.”

Chairman Banks thanked State Senator Brass for his comments and for his attendance at today’s meeting.

#### OLD BUSINESS

Nothing was presented under this portion of the agenda.

#### NEW BUSINESS

##### Administrative

Ms. Peggi Tingle advised the members that a new trustee needs to be named for the Money Purchase Pension Plan and the Deferred Compensation Plan. The staff recommends that Mr. Robert Hiatt be added as the new trustee to both plans. Dr. Maggie Shook made the motion that the resolution naming Mr. Robert Hiatt as the new trustee be approved; it was seconded by Mr. Jim Thornton and carried unanimously.

Ms. Tingle explained that the bank requires a resolution concerning a new signatory that is to be added to TRRC's checking accounts. A new signatory is needed to replace two (2) that are to be deleted from the accounts. Dr. Shook made the motion that the resolution adding Mr. Hiatt as the new signatory; it was seconded by Mr. Thornton and carried unanimously.

#### Planning

Ms. Jeannie Brantley advised the council that the staff was preparing an annual application for the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) concerning the 5304 Program. She gave a summary of the 5304 program and asked the members for their consideration of the resolution concerning the 5304 program. Mr. Hollberg made the motion to approve the resolution for the 5304 program; it was seconded by Ms. Armstrong-Lackey and carried unanimously.

#### Workforce Development

Ms. Stephanie Glenn mentioned that the WorkSource Three Rivers (Workforce Development) is in the process of asking for the council's approval to enter into contracts with West Georgia Technical College (WGTC) and U. S. Beverage. Ms. Glenn explained that the WGTC contract concerned the funding of twenty (20) additional spaces in conjunction with the Carroll County Correctional Facility. This program is designed to provide welding skills to inmates that will allow them to gain employment upon their release. Mr. Thornton made the motion to approve the WGTC contract; it was seconded by Mr. Richard English and carried unanimously.

Ms. Glenn spoke of the contract with U. S. Beverage. It was noted that that this company is requesting a contract extension since the current agreement expires on June 30, 2017; the extension would be valid until December 30, 2017 and the contract's value will not change. Ms. Charlene Glover made the motion to approve the contract; it was seconded by Mr. English and carried unanimously.

#### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Robert Hiatt presented this portion of the agenda. He advised the members that a written report was included in each member's packet; this report outlines activities that Mr. Hiatt is working on for an estimated six (6) month period. He has implemented an official agency newsletter that will be forwarded to the members, various communities, etc., every few months; a copy of the newsletter is included in the member's packets as well. Social media accounts have been established to regularly forward news regarding TRRC and its involvement in the



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communities; announcements of various meetings will be included in these various social media venues to increase awareness of these events.

#### DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR REPORTS

Due to time constraints, the members were advised that a copy of the Department Director Reports were included in their packets. These reports detail activities that the staff members (Aging, Planning, Transportation and Workforce Development) are working on this month.

#### OTHER BUSINESS

Nothing was presented under this portion of the agenda.

#### GOOD OF THE ORDER

Mr. Blalock mentioned that the City of Zebulon will be considered a college town. The Georgia Military College (GMC) will establish an "extension campus" in Zebulon. The Zebulon campus should open in March, 2018.

Mr. Hollberg stated that Rinnai will establish a manufacturing facility in Griffin. The \$69 million investment will employ three hundred (300) people over the span of ten (10) years.

Chairman Banks expressed his gratitude to the guests attending today's meeting and stated that they were always welcome to attend our meetings.

#### DATE AND LOCATION OF NEXT MEETING

Chairman Banks announced that the next meeting would be October 26, 2017. The meeting location is the Sharpsburg Town Hall and the meeting time is scheduled for 2:00 p.m.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

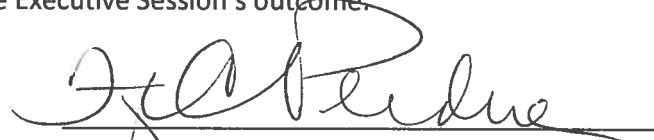
Chairman Banks asked for a motion to go into the Executive Session. Mr. Raymond Ray made the motion that the council go into an Executive Session; it was seconded by Mr. Horton. Before a full vote on the motion could be taken, the chairman was asked to state the reason for the Executive Session. Chairman Banks responded, "to discuss personnel." The chairman then asked for a full vote regarding the motion to go into Executive Session; it was carried unanimously.



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The audience and staff members left the room while the council remained to discuss the matters at hand. After forty-five (45) minutes, the council members announced that the meeting was adjourned with no other mention of the Executive Session's outcome.



Faye Perdue, Secretary