

TO: PLANNING AND PROJECTS COMMITTEE

FROM: MR. BRIAR JOHNSON, 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 11:15 a.m. on Thursday, September 27, 2018 at the Turin Town Hall in Turin, Georgia.

WELCOME, CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Jim Thornton presided over the meeting in lieu of Committee Chair Briar Johnson; Committee Chair Johnson had a scheduling conflict and could not attend. Chairman Thornton welcomed the attendees and called the meeting to order. Mr. Lee Boone gave the invocation; and afterwards, Chairman Thornton led the committee members in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Planning and Projects Committee Members in Attendance

Ms. Kay Pippin, Mayor, City of Jackson
Mr. Greg Wright, Non-Public Member, Coweta County
Mr. Lee Boone, Chairman, Heard County
Mr. Bennie Horton, Commissioner, Lamar County
Mr. Alfred "Buster" McCoy, Chairman, Meriwether County
Mr. Douglas Hollberg, Mayor, City of Griffin
Mr. Jim Thornton, Mayor, City of LaGrange
Mr. Curtis Brown, Jr., Non-Public Member, Troup County

Regional Plan Stakeholders (Executive Team) Members in Attendance

Ms. Janet Hyde, Planner, Carroll County
Ms. Kathy Oxford, Executive Director, Barnesville-Lamar County Industrial Development Authority
Mr. David Rast, County Planner, Coweta County (attending for Mr. Tavoires Edwards, Transportation Planner, Coweta County)
Ms. Jennifer Rogers, Project Coordinator, Thomaston-Upson Community Heart and Soul
Ms. Corinne Thornton, Regional Director, Georgia Department of Community Affairs

Staff Present

Mr. Kirk Fjelstul, Executive Director
Ms. Jeannie Brantley, Planning Director
Ms. Kim Dutton, Planner
Ms. Cymone Haiju, Planner
Mr. Paul Jarrell, Planner
Ms. Jan Perez, Secretary

APPROVAL OF AUGUST 23, 2018 MINUTES (action item)

Mr. Douglas Hollberg made the motion to approve the August 23, 2018 meeting minutes; it was seconded by Mr. Bennie Horton and carried unanimously by the other committee members.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA (action item)

Ms. Kay Pippin made the motion to approve the agenda as presented; it was seconded by Mr. Alfred “Buster” McCoy and carried unanimously by the other committee members.

ADOPTION RESOLUTION FOR THE TRRC ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM (REGIONAL PLAN UPDATE- action item)

Ms. Jeannie Brantley presented this portion of the agenda. She advised the committee that in June the Three Rivers Regional Commission (TRRC) planning staff prepared an update to the Regional Plan; this report was submitted to the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) for their review and approval. Ms. Brantley recently received the approval; the next step is to adopt (via resolution) the TRRC Annual Implementation Program Report and return the documentation to DCA. **FORMAL ACTION: Mr. Hollberg made the motion to approve the resolution; it was seconded by Ms. Pippin.** Chairman Thornton asked for clarification regarding the resolution. Is the resolution a committee recommendation to the council or is it only being approved by the committee? Mr. Kirk Fjelstul advised Chairman Thornton that the resolution is a recommendation from the committee to the council. Chairman Thornton reiterated that at the October TRRC Council meeting, Committee Chair Johnson would move the recommendation of the resolution’s adoption to the full council. He (Chairman Thornton) then asked if there was any discussion regarding this item; hearing none, he asked for the vote on the resolution. **FORMAL ACTION: The committee passed the resolution unanimously.**

KICK-OFF MEETING (PUBLIC HEARING) FOR THE TRRC REGIONAL PLAN

Mr. Fjelstul suggested that before the Public Hearing began, everyone introduce themselves due to the number of new faces (members of the Executive Team) attending today’s meeting. After all introductions were completed, Mr. Fjelstul thanked everyone for attending and Ms. Brantley began the kick-off meeting (public hearing). She turned the meeting over to Ms. Cymone Haiju, TRRC Planner; Ms. Haiju began with a slide show presentation and advised everyone that there would be a strategic approach to the Regional Plan Update. Per Mr. Fjelstul’s direction, the Regional Plan will be combined with aspects of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS); the result should give the plan more utility and it will be more focused. According to Ms. Haiju, workforce development elements along with those of economic development will be taken out in order for the plan to “have more bite.” Mr. Fjelstul commented that the Regional Plan will help to establish priorities for the region and that it is a guide or

playbook for the area to use. Regionalism was mentioned since labor pools are more mobile and people cross various county lines to go to work; our area also has tremendous nature and film based tourist attractions that can be used for marketing purposes for this region. The staff reminded the attendees that if their areas are trying to obtain a grant, then the project might need to be included in the Regional Plan. As a side note, the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) does require that grant projects be listed in individual comprehensive plans and it is a plus if these same grant projects are listed in regional plans. If listed in various plans, it reflects that the community's focus is on planning and they are intent on completing these projects.

The Regional Plan's process includes several public listening sessions and surveys to be completed by the attendees at these sessions. The members received a list of the meeting dates for their use. The members were asked to "spread the word" about the meetings and to encourage the public to attend.

The staff will record short interviews with members that are interested in participating in this activity. Ms. Haiju advised the members that the video clips will be posted on Facebook as advertisements promoting Three Rivers RC, tourist attractions found in the region etc.

Mr. Curtis Brown, Jr., encouraged placing video clips, flyers, and other sources of information on social media in order to increase interest about the Regional Plan.

Chairman Thornton opened up the public hearing and asked if anyone had any comments, questions or suggestions. Ms. Kathy Oxford, Lamar County's stakeholder representative, advised that Lamar County, Barnesville and Aldora are currently engaged in their comprehensive plans and listening sessions are scheduled to continue next week. Her concern is whether the public will attend another listening session for the regional plan. She wondered if input obtained during the listening sessions in the Lamar County area could be forwarded to the Planning staff to be used for the Regional Plan sessions. She also questioned at what point the local governments would see the draft of the Regional Plan. Her concern is if the local governments will have time to review the document. Ms. Brantley answered that the TRRC Planning staff will communicate with the local governments and have another process for the governments to come in and offer their feedback on the plan. The TRRC Planning staff does consult with the planners of the local governments to develop the regional role side; the local plans will be taken into consideration with the Regional Plan Update. Ms. Oxford was still concerned about the attendance for the Regional Plan listening sessions since the local governments are promoting their upcoming sessions. Ms. Kay Pippin reminded everyone of film industry based tourism; people are interested in seeing the areas where their favorite shows or movies have been filmed. There is a need to capitalize on these types of attractions. She also reminded the members that there are numerous trails that are either already established or being established in the region. The idea is to link the trails together, have several hundred miles of trails and promote this to the nature based tourists. Ms. Pippin also suggested promoting water resources that are plentiful in our area; businesses may take note of this angle and consider the possibility of relocating. She suggested gathering "talking points" and putting the "talking points" on radio, social media, etc., as a way to reach a greater number of individuals. Ms. Pippin stressed not to be disappointed or discouraged if there is a low attendance rate at the meetings. It was noted that the "Executive Team" meetings are a must to attend; the meeting dates are as follows:

November 15, 2018
March 28, 2019

January 24, 2019
April 18, 2019

February 28, 2019

Mr. Curtis Brown advised to use social media and “tag” individuals in neighboring counties to generate “buzz” about the meetings.

Chairman Thornton asked for additional comments; hearing none, he closed the public hearing.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was nothing mentioned under this portion of the agenda.

DATE AND LOCATION OF NEXT MEETING

The Planning and Projects Committee will meet on October 25, 2018; the meeting time is set for 11:15 a.m. and the location is the Turin Town Hall in Turin.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Thornton adjourned the meeting after receiving a motion to adjourn from Mr. Hollberg.

Briar Johnson, Chairman
Planning and Projects Committee