

Minutes
North Georgia Mountains Authority
2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, S. E.
Suite 1252 East Tower
Atlanta, GA 30334

May 27, 2009

Attending:

Authority Members

Tom Wheeler, Chairman
Jim Walters
Jenny Lynn Bradley
Walter Hudson
Bill Archer

Visitors

Ronny Just, Georgia Power
Ray Lambert, DNR Board Member
Loyce Turner, DNR Board Member
Joe Hatfield, DNR Board Member

Staff Members

Chris Clark
Paul Burkhalter
Todd Holbrook
Becky Kelley
Bill Donohue
Ronnie Phillips
Emily Hitchcock
Steve Friedman
Terry West
Mary Ann Evans
Hellen Harris

The May 27, 2009 meeting of the North Georgia Mountains Authority (NGMA) was called to order by Chairman Tom Wheeler.

Chairman Wheeler called for approval of the Minutes from the April 7, 2009 meeting of the NGMA.

A motion was made by Mrs. Bradley, seconded by Mr. Walters and carried unanimously that the minutes of the April 7, 2009 meeting of the NGMA be approved.

Chairman Wheeler called on Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Commissioner Chris Clark for an update in the process of reviewing NGMA. Commissioner Clark stated that there are two outstanding items that will help in the review process. He further stated that one is the Inspector General's continuing investigation of the former Chief Financial Officer. He added that the second item is a complete audit of the NGMA.

Commissioner Clark stated that he feels confident that the Inspector General and State Auditor will shed light on some questions that NGMA members have had in the past in regard to this issue. He further stated that he has no doubt that Bill Donohue, the new NGMA Executive Director and Secretary-Treasurer, is doing a commendable job in bringing forth a true financial picture of where NGMA is currently and the directions he has given for the future.

Discussion ensued.

Chairman Wheeler called on Bill Donohue to present an update on the NGMA financial position. Mr. Donohue stated that the fund balance on July 1, 2006 was \$5,381,251. He further stated that revenues from Brasstown Valley Resort were \$4,981,411, other NGMA revenues were \$1,816,270, and interest was \$1,049,670, which showed total available funds of \$13,228,602.

Mr. Donohue stated that expenditures totaled \$15,706,821, and that the projected fund balance for June 30, 2009, would be a deficit of (\$2,478,219). He further stated that this information included four fiscal years.

Discussion ensued regarding the contract with Coral Hospitality in managing Lake Blackshear and Brasstown Valley Resort, which expires March 31, 2010.

Mr. Donohue presented the Financial Performance for period ending April 30, 2009 for Lake Blackshear Resort and Golf and Brasstown Valley Resort and Spa. He stated that both facilities are off their budgets by approximately 15 percent for the year. He further stated that expenses had not been managed very well at either property, but both are in the process of addressing the situation under the current leadership.

Discussion ensued.

Mr. Dononue stated that Ronnie Phillips, Region Manager Outsourced Facilities, had provided NGMA members with an update on designs for new signage for Brasstown Valley Resort and Spa, and stated that the Department of Transportation is going to upgrade current signage and add more signs directing people to the facility. He further stated that in lieu of current budget restrictions, any new signage would be put on hold for the moment, or that Mr. Phillips would look into in-house options of obtaining labor for this work.

Chairman Wheeler stated that the next NGMA meeting would be held on Tuesday, June 23, at 10:00 a.m., in the DNR Board Room.

Discussion ensued.

Mr. Donohue stated that Mr. Phillips would hand out the monthly retail sales for Walasi-Yi. He further stated that he feels the operator continues to do a good job at the property, and that the total revenue for NGMA this year for this site is \$39,036.099.

Mr. Donohue updated the NGMA on the Master Plan and encouraged members to complete their annual Financial Disclosure form.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Thomas W. Wheeler, Chairman

ATTEST:

Bill Donohue, Executive Director