

## **Intergovernmental Contract**

This agreement is made and entered into this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_, by and between the counties who are now or may hereafter become Members of the Association County Commissioners of Georgia - Interlocal Risk Management Agency (hereafter referred to as ACCG - IRMA) for the purpose of creating one or more group self-insurance funds for the management of liability and property damage risks of the Member counties.

WHEREAS, Chapter 85 of Title 36 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated authorizes Georgia counties to form interlocal risk management agencies; and,

WHEREAS, certain counties which are signatories to this contract desire to form such an interlocal risk management agency pursuant to such statute and the rules and regulations of the Commissioner of Insurance of the State of Georgia.

NOW, THEREFORE, IN CONSIDERATION OF the mutual covenants, promises and obligations contained herein, which were given to and accepted by each county becoming a party to this agreement, the parties agree as follows:

### **PARAGRAPH 1**

#### **Establishment of the Association County Commissioners of Georgia - Interlocal Risk Management Agency**

##### **Section 1.1**

#### **Association County Commissioners of Georgia – Interlocal Risk Management Agency Created.**

A county interlocal risk management agency to function as an unincorporated non-profit instrumentality of its Member counties in the manner expressed herein is created. The purpose of this agreement is to jointly exercise powers common to each participating county:

- to establish and administer a risk management service;
- to prevent or lessen the incidence and severity of casualty and property losses occurring in the operation of county government; and

- to defend and protect, in accordance with this contract and related coverage descriptions, any Member of ACCG - IRMA against liability or loss as stated in such documents. The activities of ACCG - IRMA shall not constitute conduct of an insurance business.

## **Section 1.2 Preliminary Operations**

When two or more counties shall have executed this agreement, the Board of Trustees, as designated in Paragraph 3 of this agreement, shall direct the affairs of ACCG - IRMA. The Executive Director of the Association County Commissioners of Georgia shall be appointed as Manager. The Manager may recommend to the Board of Trustees the appointment of necessary Service Companies, attorneys and agents for operation of ACCG - IRMA. Any county, as defined in Chapter 85 of Title 36 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, shall be eligible to apply for membership in ACCG - IRMA.

## **PARAGRAPH 2**

### **Definitions**

#### **Section 2.1 Definitions**

In the interpretation of this agreement the following definitions shall apply unless the context requires otherwise:

- (1) “Manager” shall mean the person or agency designated to supervise the administration of ACCG - IRMA and to perform such duties and exercise such powers as shall be specifically designated by the Board.
- (2) “ACCG - IRMA” shall mean the Association County Commissioners of Georgia – Interlocal Risk Management Agency.
- (3) “Board” shall mean the Board of Trustees of ACCG - IRMA.
- (4) “Coverage Description or Description” shall mean the written explanation of general liability, motor vehicle liability, property damage and other claims for which Members are jointly self-insured through a Fund or Funds.

- (5) “Group Self-Insurance Fund or Fund” shall have the same meaning as defined in Chapter 85 of Title 36 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, as amended.
- (6) “Member” shall mean a county as defined in Chapter 85 of Title 36 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, as amended, participating in ACCG - IRMA in conformity with this contract.
- (7) “Service Company” shall mean a person or agency designated to perform claim settlement services, to make a determination of risk factors of Members and applicants for membership, to acquire necessary excess insurance and reinsurance proposals, and to perform other functions in the day to day operation of ACCG - IRMA as directed by the Board or Manager.

### **PARAGRAPH 3**

#### **Board of Trustees**

##### **Section 3.1**

##### **Initial Board Qualifications**

The initial Board shall take office when this agreement shall become effective in accordance with Paragraph I hereof. The initial trustees and their terms of office shall be as specified in the bylaws of ACCG - IRMA.

##### **Section 3.2**

##### **Subsequent Board Members**

The Board of ACCG - IRMA shall be those persons selected in accordance with the bylaws of ACCG - IRMA.

##### **Section 3.3**

##### **Meetings**

All meetings of the Board shall be held and conducted in accordance with the bylaws adopted by the Board.

**Section 3.4**  
**Liability of Trustees, Officers, or Agents**

Trustees, Officers, and agents of ACCG - IRMA shall use ordinary care and reasonable diligence in the exercise of their powers and the performance of their duties. They shall not be liable for any mistakes of judgment or other action made, taken or admitted by them in good faith, nor for any action taken or admitted by any agent, employee, or independent contractor selected with reasonable care, nor for loss incurred through investment of funds or failure to invest. No trustee shall be liable for any action taken or admitted by any other trustee. No trustee shall be required to give a bond or other security to guarantee the faithful performance of the duties hereunder except as may be required by the rules and regulations of the Georgia Commissioner of Insurance. ACCG - IRMA shall defend and hold harmless any officer or agent for actions taken by trustees or performed by the officers, agents or employees within the scope of their authority for ACCG - IRMA. ACCG - IRMA may purchase insurance providing such coverage for trustees, officers, agents or employees.

**PARAGRAPH 4**

**Board Powers and Duties**

The Board, in addition to other powers and duties conferred or imposed on it by law, is authorized in the name of ACCG - IRMA to exercise the powers enumerated in Article VII of the bylaws and do all the acts necessary or incidental in performing and accomplishing the purposes set forth in this agreement and in the bylaws of the ACCG - IRMA.

**PARAGRAPH 5**

**Membership**

**Section 5.1**  
**Membership**

The initial membership of ACCG - IRMA shall consist of those counties who have executed this agreement, or its counterpart, by the duly constituted chief executive officer acting upon the resolutions of the governing authorities of the counties and which have paid the prescribed contributions pursuant to the provisions of this agreement. Initial and additional Members may be admitted upon approval of the Manager in accordance with policies established by the

Board, upon their execution of this agreement, or its counterpart, and by payment of prescribed contributions. Every Member agrees to the admission of additional Members in accordance with the provisions of this paragraph.

## **Section 5.2 Member Representatives**

Each Member shall designate a representative to ACCG - IRMA by action of its governing body. The representative shall be responsible to the Member for implementation of all loss control measures and for execution of the duties imposed on the Members by this agreement and the bylaws established hereunder.

## **Section 5.3 Withdrawal**

- (1) Each Member shall continue its membership for a minimum period of two complete ACCG - IRMA fiscal years following its admission to ACCG - IRMA or, in the case of initial Members, from the date of activation of ACCG - IRMA. Effective upon the conclusion of such period, or effective at the end of any subsequent fiscal year, a Member may withdraw on ninety days advance written notice to ACCG - IRMA. A Member withdrawing shall have no right to the reserves on any claims maintained by ACCG - IRMA in the operation of a Group Self-Insurance Fund. ACCG - IRMA shall continue servicing of any covered claim of the Member after the withdrawal of the Member.
- (2) At the conclusion of a Member's second full fiscal year membership, all membership shall be on a year-to-year basis. Effective at the end of any fiscal year, ACCG - IRMA may, on ninety days advance notice to a Member, determine not to renew a Member's membership in ACCG - IRMA or the Member's participation in any Fund.
- (3) Any Member failing to make payments required by Paragraph 6 of this agreement when due shall, upon proper notice, be immediately suspended from membership and the Member's coverage under any Fund and benefits hereunder shall immediately cease. If the Member shall subsequently submit the delinquent payment along with such penalties or interest that may be established by the Board, the Manager may reinstitute each membership in accordance with Board policy.

- (4) Terminated Members shall remain liable for assessments for any fiscal year in which they were Members; provided, however, that Members involuntarily terminated for failure to pay a contribution or assessment when due, or for failure to otherwise discharge its obligations to a Fund or to otherwise discharge its obligations to a Fund or to ACCG - IRMA when due, shall be entitled to a refund of the unearned premium paid by the Member, calculated on a pro-rate basis, within 15 days of the notice of termination (unless delayed by an audit or rate investigation).

#### **Section 5.4 Membership Review and Termination**

A Member may be involuntarily terminated for causes other than non-payment of contributions as provided in the bylaws.

#### **PARAGRAPH 6 Obligations of Members**

##### **Section 6.1 Member Obligation**

Members of the ACCG - IRMA agree to be obligated as follows:

- (1) To participate at all times in at least one Fund which is established by the Board.
- (2) To pay all contributions, assessments or other sums due to such times and in such amounts as shall be established by the Board.
- (3) To select a person to serve as a Member representative.
- (4) To allow the Board, and its agents, reasonable access to all facilities of the Member and all records, including but not limited to financial records, which relate to the purposes of ACCG - IRMA.
- (5) To allow attorneys appointed by ACCG - IRMA to represent the Member in investigation, settlement discussions and all levels of litigation arising out of any claim made against a Member within the scope of loss protection furnished by the Fund or Funds established by ACCG - IRMA.

- (6) To assist and cooperate in the defense and settlement of claims against a Member.
- (7) To furnish full cooperation to ACCG - IRMA's attorneys, claims adjusters, Service companies, and any agent, employee, officer or independent contractor of ACCG - IRMA relating to the purposes of ACCG - IRMA.
- (8) To follow all loss reduction and prevention procedures established by ACCG - IRMA.
- (9) To furnish ACCG - IRMA such budget, operating and underwriting information as may be requested by the Board.
- (10) To report as promptly as possible, and in accordance with any Coverage Descriptions issued, all incidents which could result in ACCG - IRMA or any Fund established by ACCG - IRMA being required to pay a claim or claims for loss or injuries to county property or injuries to persons or property when such loss or injury is within the scope of the protection of a Fund or Funds in which the Member participates.

## **Section 6.2**

### **Optional Defense of Fund Member**

A Member may hire co-defense counsel, at the Member's expense, to assist in the defense of claims; provided however; the attorney selected by ACCG - IRMA to defend the claim shall be lead counsel in all matters.

## **Section 6.3**

### **Contractual Obligation**

This agreement shall constitute a contract among the Members of ACCG - IRMA. The obligations and responsibilities of the Members set forth herein include the obligation to take no action, inconsistent with this agreement as originally written or validly amended, which shall remain a continuing obligation and responsibility of the Member. This agreement may be executed in duplicate originals and the agreement of a count thereto shall be evidenced by a signed copy of a resolution adopted by its governing authority authorizing an appropriate official of the county to execute the agreement on behalf of the county. The contracting parties intend to create a risk management agency for group self-insurance purposes only within the scope of this agreement. ACCG - IRMA's bylaws and related Coverage Descriptions. Nothing contained herein

shall be deemed to create any relationship of surety, indemnification or responsibility between an individual Member for the debts or claims against any other individual Member. In accordance with Sections 36-85-9 and 36-85-15 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, each Member shall be jointly and severally liable for all legal obligations of any Fund and assessments may be required to meet any financial deficiencies of ACCG - IRMA or of any Fund.

## **PARAGRAPH 7**

### **Amendments to Contract**

#### **Section 7.1 Amendments**

This agreement may be amended by consent of the Members. A change or modification to this agreement may be agreed to by a vote of Members under such rules and procedures as the Board shall prescribe. Such vote may be conducted at a meeting of Members or may be conducted by mail. Any change or modification agreed to by a majority of the Members shall become effective immediately or at such future time, as the amendment shall provide. Any Member not exercising its right of withdrawal within thirty days after notice of the change or amendment shall be deemed to have consented to such a change or amendment. Any Member not consenting to such a change or amendment, may, at its option, withdraw and shall be entitled to a refund of any contributions made on account of the current fiscal year in proportion to the time remaining in the fiscal year period.

## **PARAGRAPH 8**

### **Audits and Financial Reports**

#### **Section 8.1 Annual Report**

Each Fund established by ACCG - IRMA shall have an annual audit of its books and accounts performed by a certified public accountant. The Board shall provide to the Members an annual report of the financial affairs of ACCG - IRMA and of each Fund maintained by ACCG - IRMA.



**PARAGRAPH 9**

**Operation of Group Self-insurance Funds**

**Section 9.1  
Loss Protection**

ACCG - IRMA will provide loss protection to each Member participating in a Fund as provided in the Coverage Description for the Fund.

**Section 9.2  
Coverage Descriptions**

The Board may develop and issue self-insurance Coverage Descriptions for Funds as it deems necessary and advisable. The limits of loss protection, scope of loss protection, amount of loss retention and Member contributions into a Fund shall be determined by the Coverage Description for the Fund. The Board may amend the Coverage Description or Descriptions from time to time as it deems advisable. Such amended Coverage Descriptions shall be effective for ACCG - IRMA in subsequent fiscal years.

The foregoing Intergovernmental Contract is entered into on behalf of the County this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_, by the duly authorized officer whose signature appears below.

Chairperson/Sole Commissioner/ Chief  
Executive Officer of

\_\_\_\_\_  
[County / Authority Name]

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
[Signature]

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
[County Clerk / Other]

(Imprint County Seal)

[corrected 1/2/15]