

Minutes
Southwest Georgia Regional Commission Meeting
April 26, 2012

The Southwest Georgia Regional Commission (RC) held its Council meeting, Thursday, April 26, 2012, at the Camilla Depot in Camilla, Georgia. Chairman Jack Powell chaired the meeting, with the following council members present: Mr. John Spann, Mr. Eddie Hopkins, Mr. Ferrell Ruis, Mr. Henry Crumley, Jr., Dr. C. T. Stafford, Ms. Janice Baty, Ms. Debbie McIntyre, Mr. George Washington, Ms. Gloria Gaines, Mr. Christopher Pike, Mr. Steve Kaplan, Mr. Raymond Breaux, Mr. Richard Ward, Mr. Al Hutchins, Ms. Christie Haynes, Mr. Billy Poitevint, Mr. Jim Sellers, Mr. Joe Walden, Mr. Jimmy Haywood, Mr. Carlos Williams, Mr. Luther Clearman, Mr. W.D. Palmer, III, Mr. David Sullivan, Ms. Brenda Peterson, Mr. Charles Barineau, Mr. Lucius Holloway, Ms. Elaine Mays, Mr. Alfred Bryan, and Ms. Karen Rackley.

Those Council members calling to report conflicts were Mr. Vincent Cutts, Ms. Jenny Crisp, Ms. Glenda Battle, Mr. Ben Hayward, Mr. Max Beverly, Mr. Courtney Brinson and Mr. David Herndon.

Council members absent were Mr. John Gaines, Mr. Charlie Williams, Ms. Bennie Watts Jones, Mr. Ed Duffy, Ms. Brenda Broome, Mr. Matt Medders, Mr. Randy Hill, Mr. David Maschke, Ms. Elizabeth Millsaps and Mr. Mills Herndon.

Staff members present were Executive Director Dan Bollinger, Sr., Executive Secretary Anna Singletary, Finance Director Suzanne Angell, Workforce Investment Board (WIB) Director Charles Williams, Economic Developer Robert McDonald, Transportation Planner Gerald Goosby, and Transportation Director Robert McDaniel. Guests attending the meeting were Mrs. Dolly Crumley, Mr. John Peterson, Mrs. Robbie Floyd, Ms. Doris Gay and Mr. Demetrius Love.

Chairman Jack Powell called the meeting to order at approximately 7:00 p.m. and called on Mr. Dan Bollinger for the Attendance Report. Mr. Bollinger reported that there were 31 members present representing twelve counties and a quorum was present. He noted that Decatur, Dougherty, Early, Grady, Miller and Terrell Counties had 100% representation and then introduced the Council guests of the Council and new Council Member Debbie McIntyre. **After a brief review of the Agenda, last month's Minutes and Financial Statements, Ms. Elaine Mays moved the approval of the consent agenda as presented, seconded by Mr. Henry Crumley. The motion was unanimously approved.**

Chairman Powell called on Dr. C.T. Stafford for the Human Resources Committee report. Dr. Stafford reported that the committee met prior to the Council meeting and discussed key items of unemployment and workforce development relative to the Regional Agenda. He noted that committee members reviewed the work program under the agenda and the topics of discussion over the past year and subsequently prioritized six items to review for the upcoming year.

Dr. Stafford then called on Ms. Sherry Knighten, Human Resources Manager, to report on personnel matters. Ms. Knighten reported that the Personnel Committee met prior to the Council meeting to discuss two safety incentive policies, the Seatbelt Policy and the Return to Work Policy. She noted that the two policies would allow the RC to continue earning a discount on its worker's comp and general liability insurance policies; and that the committee recommended the Council adopt the said policies. **Ms. Elaine Mays moved to adopt the policies as presented, seconded by Ms. Christie Haynes. The motion was unanimously approved.**

Chairman Powell called on Mr. Robert McDonald for the Economic Developer's report. Mr. McDonald reported that RC had \$150,000 to loan to businesses under the Revolving Loan Fund and that he currently had two potential applicants for the loan program. He further reported that he had submitted an opportunity zone map to DCA on behalf of the City of Albany and continued to work with the City of Camilla in establishing a zone. Mr. McDonald noted that the new Council member, Debbie McIntyre, was also chairperson of the Certified Literate Community Program.

Chairman Powell called on Mr. Charles Williams for the Workforce Development Director's report. Mr. Williams gave an update on the program relative to the national, state and local level. He noted that on a national level, benefits had been

extended. Staff had been working to transition from the Georgia Department of Labor to the Governor's Office, with the state plan application being extended. Mr. Williams noted that local directors had been participating in the transition, giving local input to shape the new workforce system. He further reported that seven DOL career centers were closing, to include the one in Camilla, and that he anticipated increased traffic in the local workforce office. Mr. Williams noted that staff were working the Albany Housing Authority's "Choice Neighborhood Transformation Plan for the McIntosh Neighborhood" on how WIA can provide assistance to the Housing Authority participants that might be determined eligible. He then encouraged members to visit the organization's website, Workforce44.org, and noted that the program was meeting and exceeding program performance goals. Mr. Williams reported that special orientations were being conducted the Mitchell County School System and that a WARN notice had been issued for AFA Foods in Thomasville, Georgia. Lastly, Mr. Williams reported that a Chief Elected Officials meeting would be held soon.

Chairman Powell called on Mr. Robert McDaniel for the Transportation Director's report. Mr. McDaniel deferred his report to Mr. Gerald Goosby. Mr. Goosby updated the Council on the events of the TSPLOST to educate the general public, community leaders and regional stakeholders. He reported that Destiny, a transportation provider, had moved to the City of Moultrie's new intermodal building. Mr. Goosby then presented the Council with policy amendments to the Substance Abuse policy and further explained the said amendments. **Mr. Raymond Breaux moved to adopt the Substance Abuse Policy as amended, seconded by Mr. John Spann. The motion was unanimously approved.** Mr. Goosby then report that as a result of an assessment by the Local Government Risk Management Services (LGRMS), an additional policy was needed for the DOT 5311 program to allow drivers to take the transportation vehicles home. **Mr. John Spann moved to adopt the policy of taking vehicles home as presented, seconded by Mr. Raymond Breaux. The motion was unanimously approved.** Further clarification was given as to public officials promoting the TSPLOST, with Mr. Goosby noting that Ms. Kaitlyn Cooper from Connect GA was the representative for our area assigned to promote the tax.

Ms. Barbara Reddick, RC Planner, presented the Council with information regarding HomeSafe, a 0% loan program available through the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) and encourage members to help spread the word. She noted that the program had \$126 million in funds and projected to help 18,000 families.

Mr. Bollinger gave the planning report on behalf of Mr. Jay Sargent. Mr. Bollinger reported that the RC was working on the Georgia Environmental Finance Authority (GEFA) grant application for the Aquifer Storage Recovery (ASR) program along with Mr. Harold Reheis and Mr. David Pyne, and that the River Valley Regional Commission was in full support as one of the target areas was in their region. Mr. Bollinger further explained the ASR process. **Ms. Christie Haynes then moved to for the RC to submit the grant application to GEFA, seconded by Mr. Henry Crumley. The motion was unanimously approved.** Mr. Bollinger noted that the module would recharge the streams to keep the flow of water at the Jim Woodruff Dam on the Apalachicola River at 5,000 cfs as required by the US Corps of Engineer and any requirement given to the northern end of the state would be the burden of Metro Atlanta.

Chairman Powell called on Ms. Suzanne Angell for the Finance Director's report. Ms. Angell reported that the RC was able to minimize the NET program losses in March, totaling \$20,500, with a total program loss of approximately \$119,00. She noted that the program ended March 31st, but the RC would still pay salaries in April. Ms. Angell further reported that she had spoken with the Attorney about possibly recouping the \$205,000 owed to the RC by the Georgia Department of Community Health. Ms. Angell then stated that she would present a preliminary budget to the Council next month, and that the pension fund had a gain for the quarter ending March 31. She further stated that Audit Committee needed to meet to review the quarterly financials. Mr. Jack Powell noted that two members had been appointed to the Audit Committee, Mr. Ferrell Ruis and Mr. David Sullivan. Lastly, Ms. Angell explained the retirement pension being refunded from the monies being withdrawn to cover the NET program expenses and that the actuary would review the plan in July.

Chairman Powell called on Mr. Dan Bollinger for the Executive Director's report. Mr. Bollinger reported that he had given several informational presentations to communities and civic organizations relative to the TSPLOST and attended events hosted by the Albany Chamber of Commerce to educate the public and stakeholders in the region. He further reported that he had met with staff to discuss his resignation and retirement and other RC transitions taking place. Lastly, he noted that the RC was receiving phone calls from former Medicaid clients regarding transportation and referring them to Logisticare.

Chairman Powell reported that the Executive Committee had met on April 5th and April 17th to discuss the resignation of the current Executive Director, Dan Bollinger, and the recommendation of the new Executive Director. Mr. Powell stated that the committee recommended to the Council to accept Mr. Bollinger's resignation. **Ms. Elaine Mays then moved to accept Mr. Bollinger's resignation and retirement effective June 30th, seconded by Dr. C.T. Stafford. The motion was unanimously approved.** Mr. Powell further reported that the committee had considered three major factors to bring them to a conclusion: the constriction of available funding that limits the number of administrative staff; Mr. Robert McDaniel is qualified to serve as the Executive Director; and that a search for a new director would be lengthy and costly. He noted that after much discussion on the matter, the committee unanimously recommended the Council consider Mr. McDaniel to serve as director for an evaluation period. Mr. Powell then called on Mr. McDaniel for comments. Mr. McDaniel presented the Council with a letter of clarification on his position as to being an acting director to be evaluated rather than an interim director. **Mr. Danny Palmer then moved that Mr. Robert McDaniel be employed as the Regional Commission Executive Director for one year with an evaluation scheduled for March 31, 2013, seconded by Mr. Henry Crumley.** Mr. Bollinger noted that all RC employees were "at-will" employees. **After discussion, Mr. Palmer amended his motion to state "acting" Executive Director, seconded again by Mr. Henry Crumley.** Mr. Bollinger further noted that Mr. McDaniel would assume the position effective July 1st after his retirement and in the interim, Mr. McDaniel would shadow Mr. Bollinger. **The motion was approved with four members opposing, Mr. Richard Ward, Ms. Christie Haynes, Ms. Elaine Mays and Mr. Christopher Pike.**

Discussion was held regarding policies of staff placement and employee management, Ms. Mays moved for McDaniel to continue his employment with the Regional Commission until he assumes the position of the Executive Director, seconded by Mr. Bo Haywood. After further discussion, the motion and second was withdrawn.

The meeting adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

Jack Powell, Chairman

Dan Bollinger, Sr., Secretary