

Minutes
Southwest Georgia Regional Commission Meeting
Depot, 212 East Broad Street, Camilla, Georgia

May 31, 2012

The Southwest Georgia Regional Commission (RC) held its Council meeting, Thursday, May 31, 2012 at the Depot in Camilla, Georgia. Chairman Jack Powell chaired the meeting, with the following council members present: Mr. John Spann, Mr. Eddie Hopkins, Mr. Charlie Williams, Mr. Johnny Hardin, Mr. Ferrell Ruis, Mr. Henry Crumley, Jr., Ms. Debbie McIntyre, Mr. Christopher Pike, Mr. Stephen Kaplan, Mr. Raymond Breaux, Mr. Al Hutchins, Ms. Christie Haynes, Mr. Jim Sellers, Mr. Joe Walden, Mr. Ed Duffy, Ms. Jenny Crisp, Ms. Glenda Battle, Mr. Carlos Williams, Mr. Luther Clearman, Mr. Ben Hayward, Mr. W.D. Palmer, III, Mr. David Sullivan, Ms. Brenda Peterson, Ms. Brenda Broome, Mr. Lucius Holloway, Mr. Alfred Bryan, Ms. Karen Rackley, and Mr. David Herndon.

Those Council members calling to report conflicts were Ms. Janice Baty, Mr. Vincent Cutts, Mr. Jimmy Haywood, Mr. Charles Barineau, Ms. Elaine Mays, Mr. Max Beverly, Mr. Howard Floyd and Mr. Courtney Brinson.

Council members absent were Mr. John Gaines, Ms. Bennie Watts Jones, Mr. George Washington, Ms. Gloria Gaines, Mr. Richard Ward, Mr. Billy Poitevint, 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, Executive Director Designate Robert McDaniel, Finance Director Suzanne Angell, Workforce Investment Board (WIB) Director Charles Williams, Economic Developer Robert McDonald, Transportation Planner Gerald Goosby, Planner Barbara Reddick, Planner Kerrie Davis, IT Manager Brad Hurst, GIS Manager Heidi Penny and HR Manager Sherry Knighten. Guests attending the meeting were Mrs. Barbara Clearman, Mrs. Alice Hutchins, Mrs. Emma Holloway, Mr. John Peterson, Mr. Michael Bryant, Mr. Demetrius Love, and Mr. Bob Alexander.

Chairman Jack Powell called the meeting to order at approximately 7:10 p.m. and called on Mr. Dan Bollinger for the Attendance Report. Mr. Bollinger reported that there were 29 members present representing fourteen counties and a quorum was present. He noted that Mitchell and Terrell Counties had 100% representation and then introduced the Council guests. **After a brief review of the Agenda, last month's Minutes and Financial Statements, Ms. Christie Haynes moved the approval of the consent agenda as presented, seconded by Ms. Brenda Broome. The motion was unanimously approved.**

Chairman Powell gave the Executive Committee report stating that the committee had met to discuss the RC's FY12 Budget Amendments and the FY13 Preliminary Budget. Finance Director Suzanne Angell presented the FY12 budget amendments to the Council. After a brief review of the FY12 amendments and at the recommendation of the committee, **Mr. Luther Clearman moved to adopt the FY12 Amended Budget as presented, seconded by Mr. Danny Palmer. The motion was unanimously approved.** Mr. Powell then presented the FY13 Preliminary Budget to the Council for review, noting the said budget would be considered for approval at the June meeting. Ms. Angell noted that she was available for any questions, concerns or comments the Council may have between now and the June meeting.

Chairman Powell called on Mr. Robert McDonald for the Economic Developer's report. Mr. McDonald noted that two Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) applications had been completed and were to be reviewed by the RLF board and that two others were being considered. He further reported that he was fashioning an opportunity zone plan for the City of Cairo, had submitted one for the City of Camilla and was completing a third plan for the City of Albany. Mr. McDonald gave a brief explanation of the CEDS plan, a five-year comprehensive economic development strategy, where funds are supplied to the RC for the region

from the federal government. He further reported that he would be attending the Certified Literate Community Program (CLCP) quarterly meeting in Atlanta and then a strategic planning meeting for the region at Ms. McIntyre's residence.

Chairman Powell called on Mr. Gerald Goosby for the Transportation Planner's report. Mr. Goosby updated the Council on the TSPLOST activities being held throughout the region and in conjunction with ConnectGeorgia to inform the public of the facts before the vote on July 31st. He noted that he, Dan and Robert were available to present information to communities and civic groups. Mr. Goosby reported that RC had contracted with five local governments to compose their Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) transition plans, a requirement of the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) and the Federal Highway Administration. Lastly, Mr. Goosby noted that one of the RC transportation providers, Destiny Transportation, had moved their location to a new intermodal facility in Moultrie, Georgia.

Chairman Powell called on Mr. Charles Williams for the workforce investment program, Workforce 44, Director's report. Mr. Williams presented the Council with unemployment statistics for each county in the region. He reported that the transition of workforce development from the Georgia Department of Labor (GDOL) to the Governor's Offices was still underway. Mr. Williams reminded the Council that GDOL was closing some of its career centers to include the center located in Camilla; and that he was expecting increased traffic in the Camilla Workforce 44 regional office. Mr. Williams reported that Workforce 44 was meeting or exceeding its goals and performance measures and that the Governor's Office would be recertifying all workforce development areas in the State beginning July 1st. He then gave an update of the services being provided in the region that included work experience and on the job training. Mr. Williams further reported that the Chief Elected Official Organization, the governing body for the workforce development act for the region, would be meeting to select members to serve on the Workforce 44 Board. He then encouraged all members to visit the website at www.workforce44.org.

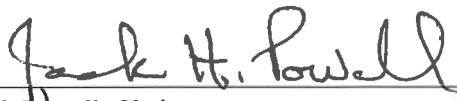
Chairman Powell called on Mr. Bollinger to report on planning activities on behalf of Planning Director Jay Sargent. Mr. Bollinger briefed the Council on the activities and noted that the RC was awarded four Community Home Investment Programs to administer: City of Coolidge, City of Dawson, City of Meigs and City of Sylvester.

Chairman Powell called on Ms. Angell for the Finance Director's report. Ms. Angell noted that the Audit Committee had met for a routine quarterly meeting whereby financial statements were reviewed and transactions tested with no irregularities reported. She noted that the staff accountant had resigned to take a job closer to his residence; noting that the position would not be refilled.

Chairman Powell called on Mr. Robert McDaniel, Executive Director Designate, for comments. Mr. McDaniel presented the Council with marketing tools for the Regional Commission. He then explained the services offered that included Geographic Information Services (GIS), Human Resource services, Information Technology services and planning services; and then further explained services covered by dues and services where fees were charged. Mr. McDaniel reported that the RC's website was being updated as well.

Chairman Powell called on Mr. Dan Bollinger for the Executive Director's report. Mr. Bollinger reported that he was continuing to give informational presentations on the regional TSPLOST. He noted that he had attended his last Georgia Association of Regional Commissions (GARC) Economic Development conference earlier in the month and would be attending his last National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) in June. Mr. Bollinger reported that he had been assisting staff with the transition of directors and that he would not be submitting a contract for consulting services as the budget could not carry the expense. He stated that he would still be available to assist the RC after his departure. He further reported that the move to McRee Hall and the Workforce44 move was underway. Mr. Bollinger stated that there was no news as of yet concerning the Georgia Environment Finance Authority (GEFA) grant for the Aquifer Storage Recovery, but the next step would be an interview with GEFA staff.

Chairman Powell noted that the next Council Meeting would be held at the Depot. With there being no further business, Mr. Stephen Kaplan moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Luther Clearman. The motion was unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.



Jack Powell, Chairman



Dan Bollinger, Sr., Secretary

Robert McDaniel