

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

August 30, 2012

The Southwest Georgia Regional Commission (RC) held its Council meeting, Thursday, August 30, 2012 at the Depot in Camilla, Georgia. Chairman Jack Powell chaired the meeting, with the following council members present: Mr. John Gaines, Mr. John Spann, Mr. Eddie Hopkins, Mr. Charlie Williams, Mr. Johnny Hardin, Mr. Ferrell Ruis, Dr. C.T. Stafford, Ms. Gloria Gaines, Mr. Christopher Pike, Mr. Stephen Kaplan, Mr. Raymond Breaux, Mr. Demetrius Love, Mr. Richard Ward, Mr. Al Hutchins, Mr. Jim Sellers, Mr. Joe Walden, 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, Ms. Elaine Mays, Mr. Howard Floyd, Mr. Alfred Bryan, Mr. Randy Hill and Ms. Karen Rackley.

Those Council members calling to report conflicts were Mr. Henry Crumley, Ms. Janice Baty, Mr. Vincent Cutts, Mr. Jimmy Haywood, Mr. Charles Barineau, Mr. Courtney Brinson and Mr. David Herndon.

Council members absent were Ms. Bennie Watts, Mr. Ross Dekle, Ms. Debbie McIntyre, Mr. George Washington, Mr. Billy Poitevint, Mr. Ed Duffy, Mr. Max Beverly, Mr. Matt Medders, Mr. David Maschke, Ms. Elizabeth Millsaps and Mr. Mills Herndon.

Staff members present were Executive Director Robert McDaniel, Deputy Director Suzanne Angell, Executive Assistant Anna Singletary, Workforce 44 Director Charles Williams, Transportation Planner Gerald Goosby, Senior Planner Barbara Reddick, and Economic Developer Robert McDonald. Guests attending the meeting were Mrs. Robbie Floyd, Mr. John Peterson, Mr. Mitchell Blanks, Ms. Annie Ruth Calloway, Ms. Emma Holloway, Mr. Patrick Holloway, Mrs. Harriet Walden.

Chairman Jack Powell called the meeting to order at approximately 7:10 p.m. and called on Mr. Robert McDaniel for the Attendance Report. Mr. McDaniel reported that there were 30 members present representing fourteen counties and a quorum was present. He then introduced the Council guests and the RC Intern, Latasha McCoy. **After a brief review of the Agenda, July Financial Statements and Minutes, Ms. Elaine Mays moved the approval of the consent agenda as presented, seconded by Mr. Lucius Holloway. The motion was unanimously approved.**

Chairman Powell reported that the Audit Committee had met for its quarterly meeting whereby the committee reviewed the financial statements and tested transactions and then called on Ms. Angell to report. Ms. Angell stated that the committee met with the auditor, Nick Valenti with Valenti, Rackley and Associates, with Mr. Valenti summarizing the audit process. She reported that staff were beginning the field work and gathering supporting documents to assist the auditors in conducting the audit and that said audit was due to the state by December 31st.

Mr. McDaniel reported that the Personnel Committee had met to review the RC's personnel policies and that the committee would bring a recommendation to the Council once revisions were complete.

Council Member Brenda Broome reported that the Economic Development Committee met with Mr. McDonald to work on the region's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). She noted that the committee would continue to meet and once the strategy was complete, would then present it to the Regional Council.

Chairman Powell called on Mr. Gerald Goosby for the Transportation Planner's report. Mr. Goosby reported that TSPLOST had not passed in the region and could be reviewed again in two years. He noted he was working on the Local Government Risk Management Field report of safety recommendations and the ongoing Georgia Department of

Transportation (GDOT) bike and pedestrian plan update, along with Rural Transportation plan. He further noted that five communities' American Disabilities Act (ACT) transition plans were underway. Mr. Goosby reported that a grant for GDOT's 5311 transportation providers was awarded in the amount of \$400,000 from the Federal Highway Administration for vehicle software and that this award would be used in conjunction with stimulus funds to fully equip the vehicles accordingly. He stated that transportation providers would be attending a required alcohol & substance abuse training in Macon. Mr. Goosby reported that the City of Meigs' Scenic Byway project would be postponed until further notice. He then encouraged members to visit Destiny Transportation in their new offices in Moultrie at the city's new multimodal facility and that the community wants to utilize the transportation services to get patrons to and from business locations in the area. Mr. McDaniel explained the administration percentages of grant awards.

Chairman Powell called on Mr. Charles Williams for the workforce investment program, Workforce 44, Director's report. Mr. Williams reported that the Chief Elected Officials Organization (CEOO) met prior to the Council meeting. He further reported that the move to 75 W. Broad Street was complete and encouraged members to visit. He then summarized the measures that are reported to the State and Federal government and stated that services are being provided to those in most need. Mr. Williams then recognized the members of the Council that were also members of the Workforce Investment Board. He noted that the legislative luncheon at the Job Corp was a success and explained that the Southwest Georgia workforce program was a part of a much larger job mapping system that works together to match job seekers with employment.

Chairman Powell called on Senior Planner Barbara Reddick to report on planning activities. Ms. Reddick noted that Intern Latasha McCoy would be with the RC until the end of December. She noted that Ms. McCoy would be surveying local governments regarding the performance of RC services. Ms. Reddick reported that the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) FY13 contract was waiting to be approved and that the funds from the FY12 contract had been received. She further noted that some projects delivered by the RC had been suggested as best practice examples for the department that included the Regional Plan design and format, the Regional Plan Photo Contest, the Plan Implementation meeting format and the Youth Summit. Ms. Reddick reported that staff was working on Short Term Work Programs for several communities and then presented the Council with DCA's proposed revisions to the planning rules. She further reported that a credit counselor class would be offered by the Regional Commission and that the biennial homeless count would be conducted in January 2013. Lastly, Ms. Reddick noted that the RC was working with communities in applying for the Community Home Investment Program grants.

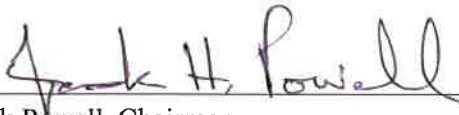
Chairman Powell called on Mr. Robert McDonald for the Economic Developer's report. Mr. McDonald reported that the RC continued to have three revolving loans. He stated that one of the loans was in default and that a judgment had been issued. Mr. McDonald reported that he would be meeting with the current Certified Literate Community Program (CLCP) chair, Ms. Debbie McIntyre, to discuss the needs of the program. He further stated that he has completed the opportunity zones for the City of Camilla and the second for the City of Albany and continues to work on the third zone for the City of Albany, and that there are other communities interested in creating opportunity zones as well. Mr. McDonald closed by summarizing the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), a plan that develops the economic development goals of the region.

Chairman Powell called on Mr. Robert McDaniel for the Executive Director's report. Mr. McDaniel presented the Council with two resolutions, one being the Open Records Officer Resolution and the other being the Executive Session Resolution. He explained that a records officer was being named for the RC and that the minutes of an executive session would be approved and recorded as required by the Georgia Code. **Ms. Brenda Broome moved to adopt the said resolutions, seconded by Ms. Glenda Battle. The motion was unanimously approved.** Mr. McDaniel noted that the bylaws committee was being reconstituted to review and amend the bylaws as necessary. He then presented the Council


with an award update on the Aquifer Storage Recovery project. He stated that the project had been awarded at a lesser amount than requested and that the scope of the project was being fitted to the allotted amount of approximately \$5 million. He further stated that once the scope was in place, the environmental committee would review the project and report to the Council. Mr. McDaniel then summarized an aerial photography project that would include multiple counties and agencies working together to acquire different types and qualities of aerial photos. He then reported that Representative Sanford Bishop was awarded the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) Congressional Partnership Awards for Support of Regional Community and Economic Development Policies and that the award would be presented to Honorable Bishop at the September Council Meeting. Finally, Mr. McDaniel gave an update on the move to McRee Hall.

Council Member Elaine Mays announced that Thomas County would host the November 29th Regional Council Meeting.

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



Jack Powell, Chairman



Robert McDaniel, Secretary

RESOLUTION

**RESOLUTION OF THE SOUTHWEST GEORGIA REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE
PURPOSE OF NAMING AN OPEN RECORDS OFFICER, AN ALTERNATE OPEN
RECORDS OFFICER AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

Whereas, the provisions of the Georgia Open Records Act, the "Act" (O.C.G.A. Section 50-18-70, et. seq.), were amended by action of the Georgia General Assembly during this 2012 session; and

Whereas, the Act allows for the appointment of an Open Records Officer to whom all written requests for records must be made; and

Whereas, the Act also provides that an agency may require all requests made under the Act to be made in writing; and

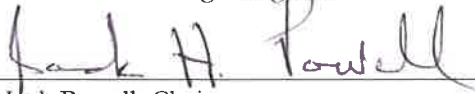
Whereas, the Act further provides for notice of such change; and

Now, therefore, pursuant to the provisions of the Act, the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission (RC) does hereby resolve as follows:

1. Robert McDaniel, Executive Director is designated as the Open Records Officer and Suzanne Angell, Deputy Director is designated as the Alternate Open Records Officer to act in the Open Records Officer's absence, both to act for the RC and all of its related and subsidiary entities as defined in the Act, herein the "RC";
2. The term "RC and all of its related and subsidiary entities" includes all departments therein;
3. All written requests for records made under the Act directed to the RC shall be made to the Open Records Officer, or in his or her absence, to the alternate;
4. The Open Records Officer is directed to cause all RC websites to prominently display this designation and requirement;
5. The Open Records Officer is directed to notify the Camilla Enterprise as the RC legal organ and any other media regularly covering RC matters of the content of this resolution;
6. The Open Records Officer is directed to notify all RC employees and volunteers that any requests made under the Act shall be directed to the Open Records Officer or his or her alternate; and
7. This action shall be effective immediately upon the notifications to the media and the changes to the websites having been made.

Resolved this 30th day of August, 2012, by action of the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission.

Attest:  _____

By:  _____
Jack Powell, Chairman

(Seal)

RESOLUTION

**RESOLUTION OF THE SOUTHWEST GEORGIA REGIONAL COMMISSION REGARDING
REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE SESSIONS**

Whereas, O.C.G.A. 50-14-1 Section (e)(2)(C) states that:

- (1) minutes of executive sessions shall be recorded but shall not be open to the public; and
- (2) such minutes shall specify each issue discussed in executive session and that if matters subject to the attorney-client privilege are discussed, then the fact that an attorney-client discussion occurred and its subject matter shall be identified, but the substance of the discussion need not be recorded and shall not be identified in the minutes; and
- (3) such minutes shall be kept and preserved for in-camera inspection by an appropriate court should a dispute arise as to the propriety of any executive session; and

Whereas, minutes may be made and records kept by the Executive Director or his designee to take such minutes so long as the minutes accurately reflect the record of the meeting.


Now, therefore, Be It Resolved that the Council of the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission hereby designate the Chairman or the Chairman's designee, which may include the Executive Director, or his designee, to record minutes of executive session of the Council, and of the Executive Committee thereof, of the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission.

Be It Further Resolved that, prior to the conclusion of the executive session, all members of the Council and/or Executive Committee of the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission attending the executive session shall review the minutes recorded.

Be It Further Resolved that, following the conclusion of the executive session, and upon approval of such minutes by a majority of members, the minutes of the executive session recorded and approved in accord with the terms hereof and as noted on the minutes shall be transmitted to the Executive Director, or his designee, of the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission to be placed in proper form and kept in a confidential file and preserved for in camera inspection in accordance with O.C.G.A. Section 50-14-1 (e)(2)(C).

This 30th day of August, 2012, by action of the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission.

ATTEST: 

By: 
Jack Powell, Chairman

(Seal)