

Minutes
Southwest Georgia Regional Commission Meeting
McRee Hall, 181 East Broad Street, Camilla, Georgia

October 25, 2012

The Southwest Georgia Regional Commission (RC) held its Council meeting, Thursday, October 25, 2012 at the RC Offices 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, Dr. C.T. Stafford, Ms. Janice Baty, Mr. George Washington, Ms. Gloria Gaines, Mr. Christopher Pike, Mr. Raymond Breaux, Mr. Demetrius Love, Mr. Richard Ward, Mr. Al Hutchins, Mr. Billy Poitevint, Mr. Jim Sellers, Mr. Joe Walden, Mr. Vincent Cutts, Ms. Jenny Crisp, Ms. Glenda Battle, Mr. Carlos Williams, Mr. Luther Clearman, Mr. Ben Hayward, Ms. Brenda Peterson, Mr. Lucius Holloway, Mr. Howard Floyd, and ~~Mr. Alfred Bryan~~.

Those Council members calling to report conflicts were Mr. John Gaines, Mr. Stephen Kaplan, Mr. Ed Duffy, Mr. W.D. Palmer, III, Mr. David Sullivan and Mr. Courtney Brinson, and Mr. Alfred Bryan.

Council members absent were Ms. Bennie Watts, Mr. Jimmy Haywood, Mr. Charles Barineau, Ms. Brenda Broome, Ms. Elaine Mays, Mr. Max Beverly, Mr. Matt Medders, Ms. Karen Rackley, Mr. David Maschke, Ms. Elizabeth Millsaps, Mr. Mills Herndon and Mr. David Herndon.

Staff members present were Executive Director Robert McDaniel, Deputy Director Suzanne Angell, Executive Assistant Anna Singletary, Workforce 44 Director Charles Williams, Senior Planner Barbara Reddick, Planner Kerrie Davis and Economic Developer Robert McDonald.

Chairman Jack Powell called the meeting to order at approximately 7:00 p.m. **After a brief review of the Agenda and September Minutes, Mr. Henry Crumley moved the approval of the Agenda and Minutes as presented, seconded by Mr. Johnny Hardin. The motion was unanimously approved.**

Chairman Powell called on Charles Williams for the workforce development report. Mr. Williams reported that the Chief Elected Officials Organization (CEOO) met earlier that afternoon to consider a new fiscal agent and gave a brief summary of the CEOO's role in the regional workforce program. Mr. Williams stated that even with transition challenges, services were still being offered in an efficient manner to the participants in the workforce program. He noted that approximately 1,600 persons are served each year in various programs, with eighteen providers contributing. He also reported that a training summit was schedule for November 28th & 29th for the Workforce Investment Board and CEOO groups.

Mr. McDaniel then reported that there were 29 members present representing fourteen counties with Colquitt, Decatur, Early, Grady and Terrell County having %100 representations, and a quorum was present. He then introduced the Council guests.

Chairman Powell called on Robert McDonald for the economic development report. Mr. McDonald reported that he had submitted the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) to the government and was awaiting comments and recommendations. He further reported that all the Revolving Loan Funds were current, except one, and that a new loan in the amount \$60,000 was given to a business in Meigs, Georgia, for a bed and breakfast. Mr. McDonald noted that the Certified Literate Community Program (CLCP) was focusing on the GED harvest project, a project that encourages GED participants to take and finish all courses of the GED. He noted he would be meeting with the City of Sumner to work on an Economic Development Administration (EDA) grant and that he would also continue his work on opportunity zones throughout the communities in the region.

Chairman Powell called on Barbara Reddick to report on the planning activities. Ms. Reddick called attention to the handout that summarized the activities for the month. She noted that communities had been given surveys to complete on the performances of the services offered by the Regional Commission. Ms. Reddick reported that a Smart Growth training grant application had been submitted and that staff was working on several Community Home Investment Program (CHIP) grants due in December. She further reported that marketing for Community Development Block Grants would begin in November and that the biennial Homeless Count would be conducted in January 2013. Ms. Reddick stated that staff was working with the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) on a grant to conduct a statewide "call in" day in that various agencies will participate in answering questions from the general public in matters relating to housing. Ms. Kerrie Davis noted that the Youth Summit was scheduled for April 21, 2013, at Albany Technical College.


Chairman Powell called on Suzanne Angell for the finance and management report. Ms. Angell reported that the Governor's Office of Workforce Development (GOWD) had been in house monitoring the workforce development program. She then presented and reviewed the September 2012 financial report, highlighting individual fund balances. Ms. Angell introduced Elliott Robertson and noted that he was an intern, working on the transportation matters for which former transportation planner Gerald Goosby was responsible. Councilmember Gloria Gaines then requested an organizational chart to better review all the staff changes that had occurred over the year. Ms. Angell further reported that the audit process has begun and that she would be working on the quarterly budget amendments as well.

Chairman Powell called on Robert McDaniel for the executive report. Mr. McDaniel reported that Gerald Goosby had resigned to pursue other interests in the transportation field, but that all transportation matters would be handled by Suzanne and lead planner Steve O'Neil with the assistance of Elliott Robertson. He noted that a city/county manager meeting would be held in November 2nd with USDA, UGA's ITOS and other speakers presenting. Mr. McDaniel further noted that the By-laws Committee had copies of the bylaws to review and would be meeting to make any amendment recommendations to the Council and that Ethics Committee, as referred to in the By-Laws, would be appointed when the other appointments were made in February. He stated that the Nominating Committee would be appointed at the November meeting and that member appointment letters to all the communities would also be mailed in November. Mr. McDaniel then briefed the Council on the status of the Aquifer Storage Recovery (ASR) project and presented a map of the site location on the Elmodel Wildlife Management Area in Baker County. Lastly, he reminded the Council of the Georgia Association of Regional Commissions (GARC) Annual Conference November 7th-9th.

Chairman Powell noted that the next Council Meeting would be hosted by Thomas County and the City of Thomasville at the Thomasville Garden Center. With there being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.



Jack Powell, Chairman



Robert McDaniel, Secretary