

Minutes  
Southwest Georgia Regional Commission  
Regional Council Meeting  
January 31, 2013

The Southwest Georgia Regional Commission (RC) held its Council meeting Thursday, January 31, 2013, at the RC's Joe B. Adams Conference Center, 181 East Broad Street, Camilla, Georgia. Chairman Jack Powell chaired the meeting, with the following council members present: Ms. Connie Hobbs, Mr. John Spann, Mr. Eddie Hopkins, Mr. Charlie Williams, Mr. Johnny Hardin, Mr. Russell Smith, Mr. George Washington, Ms. Gloria Gaines, Mr. Christopher Pike, Mr. Stephen Kaplan, Mr. Raymond Breaux, Ms. June Merritt, Mr. Al Hutchins, Mr. Marshall Hooks, Ms. LaFaye Copeland, Mr. Jim Sellers, Mr. Joe Walden, Mr. Rick Muggridge, Mr. Vincent Cutts, Ms. Jenny Crisp, Ms. Glenda Battle, Mr. Kreg Freeman, Mr. Carlos Williams, Mr. Luther Clearman, Mr. W.D. Palmer, III, Mr. Benjamin Brooks, Ms. Brenda Peterson, Mr. Charles Barineau, Ms. Brenda Broome, Mr. Lucius Holloway, Mr. Christopher Wright, Ms. Elaine Mays, Mr. Donnie Baggett, Mr. Alfred Bryan, Mr. Mike Cosby, Mr. Randy Hill, and Ms. Karen Rackley.

Those Council members calling to report conflicts were Mr. Henry Crumley and Ms. Janice Baty.

Council members absent were Ms. Bennie Jones, Mr. Ferrell Ruis, Mr. Demitrius Love, Mr. Ben Hayward, Mr. Max Beverly, Mr. David Maschke, Mr. Courtney Brinson, 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, HR Clerk Leigh Twitty, Senior Planner Barbara Reddick, and Economic Developer Robert McDonald. Guests attending the meeting were Mrs. Sandra Cosby, Mr. John Peterson, Mr. Nick Valenti, and Ms. Jasmine Proctor.

**Chairman Jack Powell called the meeting to order at approximately 6:40 p.m. and presented an amendment to the Agenda. Ms. Elaine Mays moved to amend the Agenda to reflect an executive session, seconded by Ms. Brenda Broome. The motion was unanimously approved.** He then called on Mr. Robert McDaniel for the Attendance Report. Mr. McDaniel reported that there were 37 members present representing fourteen counties and a quorum was present. He noted that Baker, Early, Grady, Lee, Miller, Seminole, Terrell and Worth Counties had 100% representation and then introduced the Council guests and the new Council members. **After a brief review of the Amended Agenda, November Minutes and the November and December Financial Statements, Mr. Luther Clearman moved the approval of the consent agenda as presented, seconded by Mr. Randy Hill. The motion was unanimously approved.**

Chairman Powell then called on Mr. Robert McDonald for the economic development report. Mr. McDonald summarized the RC's Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) program and then reported on the activities of the Certified Literate Community Program (CLDP) program. He noted that the CLCP focused on adult education awareness and presented the Council with a report of the GED process. Mr. McDonald further reported that he was working on an Economic Development Administration (EDA) grant for the City of Sumner and that he was continuing his work on the opportunity zones in the City of Albany and the City of Cairo.

Chairman Powell then called on Ms. Barbara Reddick for the planning activities report. Ms. Reddick presented the Council with the update of the Annual Regional Work Program report to review, noting that the Council would need to approve the transmitting of the said report to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) at next month's meeting. She summarized DCA's planning contract and presented the planning activities report. Ms. Reddick highlighted key events that included the Youth Summit to be held in February and the Annual Housing Conference to be held in April. She reported that the region's homeless count was underway and would be completed in early February as well.

Chairman Powell called on Ms. Angell for the Deputy Director's and finance report. Ms. Angell called attention to the travel reimbursement forms for the non-public members. She then noted that she and staff have been working on budget amendments, audit adjustments, W2s and 1099s, and was also finalizing the transition of the RC no longer acting as the Workforce Investment Board's (WIB) grant administrator and fiscal agent. She further noted that she was also working on the Georgia Department of Human Services (DHS) and Georgia Department of Transportation (DOT) transit program applications.

Chairman Powell called on Mr. Robert McDaniel for the Executive Director's report. Mr. McDaniel updated the Council on the Aquifer Storage Recovery Project (ASR) in that the request for qualifications was published regionally and statewide. He reported that one submittal was received that met all the requirements: ASR Systems, Inc. **After further discussion regarding the submittal and project, Mr. Johnny Hardin moved the acceptance of the ASR Systems, Inc. to be the Design Professional for the ASR project and to move forward in contract negotiations with said company, seconded by Mr. Randy Hill. The motion was unanimously approved.** Mr. McDaniel thanked the City of Thomasville and Thomas County for hosting the November's meeting. He noted that he had attended DCA's Community Development Block Grant workshop and that the applications were due in April. He further noted that he had also attended the Georgia Municipal Association's Mayors Day. Lastly, he reported that the Annual Report was available for review.

Chairman Powell called on Ms. Jenny Crisp for the nominating committee report. Ms. Crisp reported that the committee had met to discuss the nomination of the 2013 officers and presented the Council with the slate of nominations, to-wit: Jack Powell, Chairman; Danny Palmer, Vice Chairman; Ben Hayward, Treasurer; Gloria Gaines, Executive Committee Member; Brenda Peterson, Executive Committee Member; Luther Clearman, Executive Committee Member; & Glenda Battle, Executive Committee Member. She noted that they had also considered Mr. Lucius Holloway and Mr. Ferrell Ruis as alternates if the named members were unable to serve. **After further discussion and with no nominations from the floor, Mr. Steve Kaplan moved the elections of the officers presented, seconded by Ms. Elaine Mays. The motion was unanimously approved.**

Chairman Powell called on Mr. Vincent Cutts for the by-laws committee report. Mr. Cutts reported that the committee had met to continue the review and revisions of the RC Bylaws and that said bylaws would be available to the Council at the February meeting.


Chairman Powell called on Mr. Nick Valenti, auditor for the RC from the offices of Valenti, Rackley and Associates, to present the Audit ended June 30, 2012. Mr. Valenti noted that the audit was conducted in the acceptable auditing standards and that it accurately reflected the financial standing of the RC. He further noted that there were no findings to report. Mr. Valenti then reviewed the audit in detail, summarizing the RC's poor financial condition. He noted the condition was due to the financial blow in the Non-Emergency Transportation (NET) fund when the program was discontinued. He did state that management was doing everything in their power to navigate the loss and praised the job that Suzanne Angell and Robert McDaniel had done thus far. Mr. Valenti further stated that there was a good line of communication with the RC's Audit Committee and that there were good internal controls. He then reviewed the recovery process as outlined in the audit that included staff reductions, cuts in expenditures, and the possible un-designation of reserves to relieve the general fund. Mr. McDaniel then explained the litigation process underway with the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) to recoup funds from the NET program.


Chairman Powell called on Ms. Glenda Battle for the transportation committee report. Ms. Battle noted that the committee had met to discuss the DHS transit program and the reserve of funds in the transit account due to ARRA funds providing the annual vehicle match. She explained in detail all the transit programs and vehicle match, and noted that the Council needed consider two items: submitting a letter of intent to DHS in that the RC wants to continue administering its transit program and then transferring the surplus of funds in the amount of \$249,000 to the general fund to alleviate the deficit. **After further discussion, Ms. Glenda Battle moved, at the recommendation of the committee, to approve the letter of intent to contract with DHS for FY14 transportation program and to approve the transfer of funds as stated in order to aid the RC financial recovery, seconded by Mr. John Spann. The motion was approved with Mr. Charlie Williams abstaining.**

As the result of the transfer of funds, Mr. McDaniel noted that the audit earlier presented would be amended to reflect the general fund balance to include said funds. **Ms. Brenda Broome moved to accept the Audit for year ended June 30, 2012, seconded by Mr. Lucius Holloway. After further discussion, the motion was approved with Mr. Charlie Williams, Ms. Gloria Gaines, and Mr. Alfred Bryan abstaining.**

Mr. Jack Powell gave the executive committee report. He reported that the committee had met to review FY13 budget amendments and the RC financial recovery plan. He then noted that a personnel matter needed to be discussed. **Ms. Elaine Mays moved to close the meeting for executive session to discuss the employment of public employees, seconded by Ms. Jenny Crisp. The motion was approved with Mr. Christopher Pike and Ms. Gloria Gaines opposing.** Discussion was held regarding personnel and in accordance to O.C.G.A. Section 50-14-4, Affidavit stating as such is attached hereto. **Mr. Alfred Bryan then so moved to open the meeting, seconded by Mr. Luther Clearman. The motion was approved.** Mr. McDaniel then presented the Council with the FY13 Budget Amendments. **Mr. Luther Clearman moved at the recommendation of the Executive Committee to adopt the FY13 Budget as amended, seconded by Ms. Jenny Crisp. The motion was approved with Mr. Charlie Williams and Ms. Glenda Battle opposing.** Mr. McDaniel then reported that the Executive Committee had requested a thorough review of the RC benefits. **At the recommendation of the committee, Ms. Gloria Gaines moved that management, for cost saving purposes, review all benefits offered to RC employees, seconded by Ms. Jenny Crisp. The motion was unanimously approved.**

With no further business the meeting was adjourned.

  
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Jack Powell, Chairman

  
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Robert McDaniel, Secretary

AFFIDAVIT

STATE OF GEORGIA  
COUNTY OF MITCHELL

Personally appeared before me the undersigned officer duly authorized by law to administer oaths, came Jack Powell, Chairman of the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission, after being duly sworn and deposes and states on oath as follows:

My name is Jack Powell, and I am Chairman of the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission. I am over the age of eighteen years and mentally competent to give the facts herein, which are based upon my own personal knowledge.

I understand that this affidavit is being filed with the official minutes of a meeting held by the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission on the 31<sup>st</sup> day of January, 2013 (the "Meeting") in accordance with O.C.G.A. 50-14-4(b).

I hereby certify that the closed portion of the Meeting was devoted to matters within the exceptions provided by law as indicated below (choose one or more of the following):

Staff meeting held for investigative purposes under duties or responsibilities imposed by law;

Meeting where the future acquisition of real estate was discussed. The authority understands that any such meeting remains subject to the requirements of the Georgia Open Meetings Act O.C.G.A. 50-14-1 et. seq. The "Act" for the giving of the notice of such a meeting to the public and preparing the minutes of such a meeting; provided however, the disclosure of such portions of the minutes would identify real estate had been completed, terminated, or abandoned or court proceedings with respect thereto initiated;

X Meeting where there is discussion of or deliberation upon the appointment, employment, compensation, hiring, disciplinary action or dismissal, or periodic evaluation or rating of a public officer or employee. The authority understands that portion of the meeting which involves the authority receiving evidence or hearing argument on charges filed to determine disciplinary action or dismissal of a public officer or employee must be open to the public in accordance with the Act. The authority also understands that a vote on any matter covered by this paragraph shall be taken in public and minutes of the meeting as provided in the act shall be made available. The authority further understands that any meeting held to discuss or take actions on the filling of a vacancy in the membership of the authority itself shall at all times be open to the public as provided in the Act;

Meeting in order to consult and meet with legal counsel pertaining to pending or potential litigation, settlement, claims, administrative proceedings, or other judicial actions brought or to be brought by or against the authority or any officer or employee or in which the authority or any officer or employee may be directly involved. The authority understands a meeting may not be closed for advice or consultation on whether to close a meeting; and/or

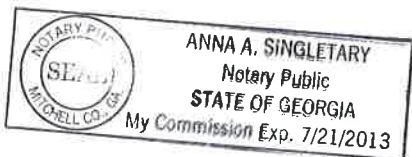
Meeting on tax matter which are otherwise made confidential by state law.

As sworn to this 31<sup>st</sup> day of January, 2013.

Jack H. Powell  
Jack Powell, Chairman

Sworn to and subscribed before me,  
This 31 day of Jan, 2013.

Anna A. Singletary  
NOTARY PUBLIC  
My commission expires: 7/21/13



Signatures of members present at meeting and Members' votes regarding entering into executive session, and the matters discussed therein (by signing below, each member is in agreement with and subscribes to the certification herewith).

	Yea/Nay/Abstain		Yea/Nay/Abstain
1. <i>Gwendolyn Bette</i>	<i>Yea</i>	22.	/
2. <i>Sam Hardin</i>	<i>Yea</i>	23.	/
3. <i>James Crisp</i>	<i>YEA</i>	24.	/
4. <i>Danny Palmer</i>	<i>yes</i>	25.	/
5. <i>Jim Sellers</i>	<i>Yes</i>	26.	/
6. <i>CHARLES E. BARINEAU</i>	<i>yes</i>	27.	/
7. <i>Gene Merritt</i>	<i>yes</i>	28.	/
8. <i>Annie Hubbs</i>	<i>yes</i>	29.	/
9. <i>George Watkins</i>	<i>yes</i>	30.	/
10.	/	31.	/
11.	/	32.	/
12.	/	33.	/
13.	/	34.	/
14.	/	35.	/
15.	/	36.	/
16.	/	37.	/
17.	/	38.	/
18.	/	39.	/
19.	/	40.	/
20.	/	41.	/
21.	/	42.	/

Signatures of members present at meeting and Members' votes regarding entering into executive session, and the matters discussed therein (by signing below, each member is in agreement with and subscribes to the certification herewith).

	Yea/Nay/Abstain		Yea/Nay/Abstain
1. <i>Sharon Brown</i>	/ <i>yea</i>	22.	/
2. <i>Benjamin Brooks</i>	/ <i>YEA</i>	23.	/
3. <i>Al Bryan</i>	/ <i>yea</i>	24.	/
4. <i>Branda Perkins</i>	/ <i>Yes</i>	25.	/
5. <i>Russell Smith</i>	/ <i>yes</i>	26.	/
6. <i>Lados Williams</i>	/ <i>yes</i>	27.	/
7. <i>Joseph Willey</i>	/ <i>yes</i>	28.	/
8. <i>LaFaye Copeland</i>	/ <i>yes</i>	29.	/
9. <i>MIKE COSBY</i>	/ <i>YES</i>	30.	/
10. <i>John Coleman</i>	/ <i>yes</i>	31.	/
11. <i>Marshall 2. Hobb</i>	/ <i>yes</i>	32.	/
12. <i>Jelaine May</i>	/ <i>yes</i>	33.	/
13. <i>Donnie Baysett</i>	/ <i>yes</i>	34.	/
14. <i>Randy Hill</i>	/ <i>yes</i>	35.	/
15.	/	36.	/
16.	/	37.	/
17.	/	38.	/
18.	/	39.	/
19.	/	40.	/
20.	/	41.	/
21.	/	42.	/

Signatures of members present at meeting and Members' votes regarding entering into executive session, and the matters discussed therein (by signing below, each member is in agreement with and subscribes to the certification herewith).

	Yea/Nay/Abstain		Yea/Nay/Abstain
1. <i>Gloria Haines</i>	NO	22.	/
2. <i>Chris Pike</i>	<del>NO</del>	23.	/
3. <i>Karen M Rack</i>	yes	24.	/
4. <i>Kreg Freeman</i>	yes	25.	/
5. <i>CR Mungro</i>	Yea	26.	/
6. <i>as Dutapiga</i>	yes	27.	/
7. <i>Raymond Brea</i>	yes	28.	/
8. <i>Charlie Bellair</i>	yes	29.	/
9. <i>John Sprano</i>	YES	30.	/
10. <i>Lucius Halbury</i>		31.	/
11. <i>Chuck Don</i>	yes	32.	/
12. <i>Steve Gole</i>	yes.	33.	/
13.		34.	/
14.		35.	/
15.		36.	/
16.		37.	/
17.		38.	/
18.		39.	/
19.		40.	/
20.		41.	/
21.		42.	/