

Minutes
Southwest Georgia Regional Commission
Regional Council Meeting
February 28, 2013

The Southwest Georgia Regional Commission (RC) held its Council meeting Thursday, February 28, 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, Ms. Bennie Jones, Mr. Johnny Hardin, Mr. Ferrell Ruis, Mr. Henry Crumley, Ms. Janice Baty, Mr. Christopher Pike, Mr. Stephen Kaplan, Mr. Raymond Breaux, Ms. June Merritt, Mr. Al Hutchins, Mr. Marshall Hooks, Ms. LaFaye Copeland, 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. Ben Hayward, 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 and Mr. Randy Hill.

Those Council members calling to report conflicts were Ms. Gloria Gaines, Mr. Jim Sellers, Mr. Charles Barineau, Ms. Brenda Broome and Ms. Karen Rackley.

Council members absent were Ms. Dolly Crumley, Mr. Russell Smith, Mr. Demetrius Love, 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 and Senior Planner Barbara Reddick. Guests attending the meeting were Ms. Queenie Jones, Ms. Doris Gay, Mr. John Peterson, Mr. Patrick Holloway and Mr. Gabriel Lord.

Chairman Jack Powell called the meeting to order at approximately 7:05 p.m. and called on Mr. Robert McDaniel for the Attendance Report. Mr. McDaniel reported that there were 36 members present representing fourteen counties and a quorum was present. He noted that Baker, Calhoun, Early, Lee, Miller, Mitchell and Terrell Counties had 100% representation and then introduced the Council guests. **After a brief review of the consent agenda, Ms. Elaine Mays moved the approval of the consent agenda as presented, seconded by Mr. Randy Hill. 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 mailed to the Council the first week of March for a full review. He further reported that staff had reviewed the Georgia Municipal Association's (GMA) process to become a Certified Organization of Ethics and in doing so discovered that GMA needed to review the RC by-laws ethics article for the RC to be officially recognized. Mr. McDaniel then presented a Resolution that the RC Council subscribe to GMA's ethics principles and submit the by-laws to GMA for certification. **Mr. Cutts moved to approve the Resolution as presented, seconded by Mr. Stephen Kaplan. The motion was unanimously approved.**

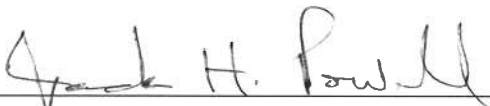
Chairman Powell called on Ms. Barbara Reddick for the planning department report. Ms. Reddick presented the Council with the planning report and grants worksheet and reported that the Annual Youth Summit was a success. She then updated the Council on the Stronger Economies Together (SET) program and encouraged members get involved in the region's economic development plan. Ms. Reddick stated that the Regional Work Program Update, given to the Council at last month's meeting, needed to be transmitted to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) and presented a Resolution to Transmit. After further discussion **Mr. Donnie Baggett moved to submit the Regional Work Program Update to DCA for review, seconded by Mr. Alfred Bryan. The motion was unanimously approved.** Ms. Reddick summarized the grants that had been applied for and that were being pursued, to wit: Stronger Economies Together (SET); Community Development Block Grants (CDBG); Community Home Investment Program (CHIP); Rural Business Enterprise Grant (RBEG) and a Federal Home Loan

Fund. She continued to report in the planning activities, including but not limited to, Pre-Hazard Mitigation Plans, Watershed Management, the Annual Homeless Count, DOT's Rural Transit plans, and the Americans with Disabilities Act Plans. She then invited the Council to attend the 13th Annual Housing Conference to be held on April 9th in Lee County, noting that the Annual Homeless Count had been completed.

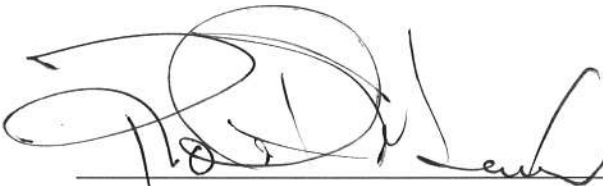
Chairman Powell called on Ms. Suzanne Angell for the Deputy Director's report. Ms. Angell reported on the January's financial statements in that there was small surplus in the general fund, and the RC's financial state was slowly improving. She noted that the Management Discussion and Analysis portion of the Audit would be completed, and the full Audit would be submitted accordingly by June 30th. Ms. Angell reported that a transportation provider meeting was held to discuss the awarded AVL tablets and software for the transit vehicles. Lastly, she reported that she was applying for DOT's 5311 funds, a grant that is applied for each year, to operate the transit program and presented an authorizing resolution to apply for the grant on behalf of communities within the region. **Ms. Glenda Battle moved to adopt the resolution as presented, seconded by Mr. Henry Crumley. The motion was unanimously approved.**

Chairman Powell then called on Mr. Robert McDaniel for Executive Director's report. Mr. McDaniel reported that the reduction in force was complete and staff was down to a core group of 12 persons. He reported the 2013 Directory was available and that the new council member orientation had been rescheduled to the March meeting at 5:00 p.m., encouraging all members to attend. Mr. McDaniel briefed the Council on the RC's issue committees and noted that appointments to those committees were being made by Chairman Powell. He further noted that at the March meeting the amended by-laws would be considered for adoption and the RC personnel policies would be revisited to include a benefits review. **Discussion was held as to the meeting space, with Mr. Lucious Holloway moving to relocate the meeting to the Depot, seconded by Mr. Cutts. After further discussion, the motion failed with 13 votes affirmative and 24 votes in the negative.** Lastly, Mr. McDaniel stated that in efforts to further along the financial recovery, he was willing to work as a contract employee. **After further discussion, Mr. Kaplan moved that Mr. McDaniel transition to a contract employee, seconded by Mr. Holloway. The motion was unanimously approved.**

Chairman Powell called on Counties to report flood damage and then with no further business the meeting was adjourned.



Jack Powell, Chairman



Robert McDaniel, Secretary