

MINUTES

Southwest Georgia Regional Commission

Regional Council Meeting

Camilla, Georgia

July 25, 2013

The Southwest Georgia Regional Commission (RC) held its Council meeting Thursday, July 25, 2013, 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, Ms. Bennie Jones, Mr. Ferrell Ruis, Ms. Dolly Crumley, Mr. Henry Crumley, Jr., Ms. Revonn Miller, Ms. Gloria Gaines, Mr. Christopher Pike, Mr. Raymond Breaux, Mr. Demetrius Love, Ms. June Merritt, Mr. Al Hutchins, Mr. Marshall Hooks, Ms. LaFaye Copeland, Mr. Joe Walden, Mr. Vincent Cutts, Ms. Glenda Battle, Mr. Luther Clearman, Mr. Ben Hayward, Mr. Danny Palmer, Mr. Charles Barineau, Ms. Brenda Broome, Mr. Lucius Holloway, Ms. Elaine Mays, Mr. Donnie Baggett, and Mr. Randy Hill.

Council members calling to report conflicts were Mr. Johnny Hardin, Ms. Janice Baty, Mr. Jim Sellars, Mr. Rick Muggridge, Ms. Jenny Crisp, Mr. Carlos Williams, Ms. Brenda Peterson, Mr. Alfred Bryan and Mr. Courtney Brinson.

Council members absent were Ms. Connie Hobbs, Mr. Russell Smith, Mr. Stephan Kaplan, Mr. Kreg Freeman, Mr. Benjamin Brooks, Mr. Christopher Wright, Mr. Max Beverly, Mr. Mike Crosby, 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, Grants Administrator Brenda Wade, Senior Planner Barbara Reddick, Planner Kerrie Davis, and Administrative Assistant Heather White. Guests attending the meeting were Mr. Carlos Tobar and Mr. Tony Thompson.

Chairman Jack Powell called the meeting to order at approximately 7:00 p.m. Mr. McDaniel gave the attendance report stating that there were 30 members present representing 14 counties and a quorum was present. He noted that Calhoun and Early Counties had 100% representation and then introduced the guests of the Council. After a brief review of the Agenda, June Minutes and Financial Statements, Ms. Elaine Mays moved the approval of the consent agenda as presented, seconded by Henry Crumley. The motion was unanimously approved.


Chairman Jack Powell reported that the Executive Committee met to discuss the Performance Evaluation rating of the Regional Commission (RC) and the Executive Director. He explained that copies of the evaluation rating report are available if anyone would like a copy. After a brief review of the evaluation rating report, Mr. Danny Palmer made a motion to eliminate Mr. McDaniel's Interim

(2) more days to help out on some project deadlines and she is working with colleges and university to secure an intern for the Fall Semester.

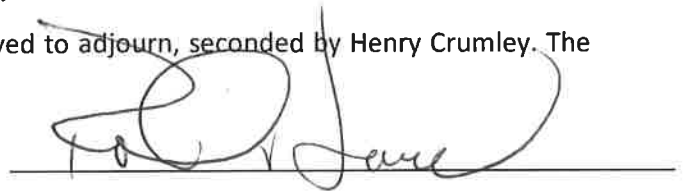
Chairman Powell called on Mr. Robert McDaniel for the Executive Director's report. Mr. McDaniel reported the annual CHIP/CDBG workshop will be held in Savannah on September 4th-6th and CDBG awards will be announced soon. Mr. McDaniel also reported that the DCA meeting scheduled for August 13th is for Mayors, City/County Managers, City Council Members/County Commissioners, Chambers of Commerce Members and Development Authorities will help communities to figure out ways to find funds for projects and attending the workshop will be beneficial. After some discussion, Mr. McDaniel reported that the RC has signed a \$55,000 contract with the Middle Georgia RC to prepare a broadband study for the 14-county Region. He further explained that each Regional Commission in the state of Georgia will receive this contract to prepare a plan to determine where broadband is located, what are the levels of services offered and which rural areas provide no service. Mr. McDaniel added that Georgia Technology Association (GTA) will accumulate data to try and understand how the data interacts to improve the broadband coverage areas. Mr. McDaniel also reported that he will have available at the next meeting the broadband map to show the broadband coverage areas for the state of Georgia. He added the broadband is a smaller contract with a big impact for this region.

During some other discussion, Mr. McDaniel updated the Council on some of the projects for the GIS Department stating that the regional flyover for Grady County, City of Cairo, Lee County and Dougherty is scheduled to take place during January and February. The data will be collected by early April and finished by June 30, 2014. Mr. McDaniel later added that RC Staff will continue to work on projects in Boston for an Enterprise and Opportunity Zone, working on a Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) for a personal care home in Doerun and also working to resubmit a EDA project for the Kingdom Group in Moultrie that will help create 150-200 jobs for a call center. After some discussion, Mr. McDaniel reported that RC staff members have reached out to school boards for grant writing services and marketing packages will soon be mailed to area school systems. Lastly, Mr. McDaniel stated that another prospective project is the City of Cordele would like SWGa RC to assist their community with a CHIP project because the River Valley RC elects not to write CHIP applications. Typically RC's do not work outside of their region and River Valley RC has given us approval to move forward. Mr. McDaniel added that he is continuing to working with Grady County on the Tired Creek Reservoirs Project to find additional EDA funds for the project. In closing Mr. McDaniel thanked the staff for all the hard work. The staff is now 11 employees and everyone is performing multiple jobs.

With there being no further business, Elaine Mays moved to adjourn, seconded by Henry Crumley. The meeting was adjourned.



Jack Powell, Chairman



Robert McDaniel, Secretary