

MINUTES

Southwest Georgia Regional Commission

Regional Council Meeting

Camilla, Georgia

April 24, 2014

The Southwest Georgia Regional Commission (RC) held its Council meeting Thursday, April 24, 2014, at the Southwest Regional Commission in Camilla, Georgia. Chairman Brenda Peterson called the meeting to order at 7:01p.m. The following council members were present; Ms. Connie Hobbs, Mr. John Spann, Mr. Eddie Hopkins, Mr. Charlie Williams, Ms. Bennie Watts Jones, Mr. Johnny Hardin, Mr. Ferrell Ruis, Mr. Henry Crumley, Ms. Dollie Crumley, Mr. Raymond Breaux, Mr. Clinton Johnson, Mr. Al Hutchins, Ms. June Merritt, Mr. Freddie Speight, Ms. LaFaye Copeland, Mr. Dwight Hickman, Ms. Glenda Battle, Mr. Luther Clearman, Mr. Carlos Williams, Mr. Ben Hayward, Mr. Danny Palmer, Mr. Lucius Holloway, and Mr. Jack Powell.

Council members calling to report conflicts were Ms. Revonn Miller, Mr. Alfred Bryan, Mr. Jim Sellers, Mr. Rick Muggridge, Mr. Kreg Freeman, Ms. Virginia Harrison, Mr. Christopher Wright, Ms. Elaine Mays, Mr. Donnie Baggett, Mr. Mike Cosby, Mr. Randy Hill, Mr. David Mosely, and Mr. Courtney Brinson.

Council members absent were Mr. Max Beverly, Mr. Frank Loeffler, Ms. Billie Jo Fletcher, Mr. Demetrius Love, Mr. Joe Walden, Mr. Benjamin Brooks, Mr. Charles Barrineau, and Ms. Karen Rackley.

Staff members present were Executive Director, Mr. Robert McDaniel, Deputy Director, Ms. Suzanne Angell, Grants Administrator, Brenda Wade, Senior Planner, Ms. Barbara Reddick, GIS Manager, Ms. Heidi Penny, GIS Assistant, Mr. Jeff Hamilton and Administrative Assistant, Ms. Heather White.

Guests present were Ms. Joyce Clark, Ms. Barbara Clearman, Mr. Charlie Sol, Ms. Kathryn Speight, and Mr. John Peterson.

The Executive Director, Mr. Robert McDaniel, gave the attendance report. He reported 24 members present and 14 counties were represented- 4 counties (Baker, Calhoun, Colquitt, and Early) had 100% attendance. He went on to introduce the guests.

Chairman Brenda Peterson asked for a motion to accept the March consent agenda. Mr. Jack Powell made the motion and Mr. Henry Crumley seconded the motion, all agreed.

Mr. Robert McDaniel explained to the Council that a nomination and then election to place someone in the second position on the Ethics Committee was needed. He announced Chairman Brenda Peterson's appointment of Mr. Al Hutchins. He further explained that Mr. Al Hutchins and the Council's appointment would in turn, get together and appoint a third and final member to the Ethics Committee.

Chairman Brenda Peterson asked for the nomination of a second member to the Ethics Committee from the floor. Mr. Jack Powell made a motion to nominate Luther Clearman and Mr. Henry Crumley seconded the motion to nominate. Mr. Clearman accepted the nomination. Chairman Peterson asked all in favor, and all said aye. None opposed so the motion passed. At that time Al Hutchins and Luther Clearman appointed the third member to the Ethics Committee, Jack Powell. Mr. McDaniel announced the three members of the Ethics Committee are Mr. Al Hutchins, Mr. Luther Clearman, and Mr. Jack Powell.

Ms. Barbara Reddick presented her Planning Report. She invited the Council to attend the REI Conference on May 6th in Tifton. She mentioned the targets of the conference as being farmers, large and small emerging businesses, and those seeking to obtain government contracts. She mentioned we are awaiting the announcement for Community Home Investment Program awards in the next couple of days. Ms. Reddick continued to go over the Planning Report in detail with the Council.

Ms. Suzanne Angell was called to give the Financial Report. She briefed the council on the financial condition of the Regional Commission. She reported that the budget is still on track. She stated that approximately \$98,000 was added to General Fund reserves since July 2013. A little under \$3,000 was added to the Transportation Fund. The DH trips have been a little down. Ms. Angell stated that she is beginning to work on the preliminary budget for the next fiscal year, which will be presented to the Executive Committee in May.

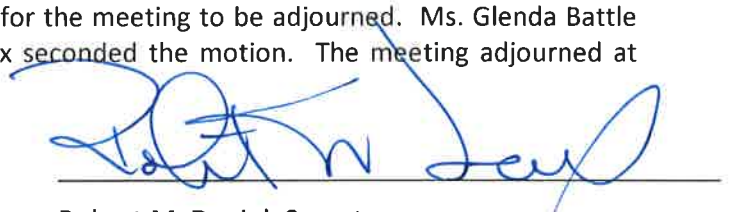
Mr. Jeff Hamilton gave a GIS Department presentation on their new software they have set up on a website so that the public can have free access to basic maps that are created from satellite imagery. This site offers the basic maps to the public at no charge. This website will also allow, for a yearly subscription, a user to store their projects they hire the GIS department to work on that can be accessible through one password, but as many users as they choose to access it. He stated that the user does not need any training or software and mentioned that if anyone has any questions; either Ms. Penny or he can be reached for answers.

Mr. Robert McDaniel was called to give the Executive Director's report. He discussed committee appointments to see if anyone had any objections to the committees on which they were placed. There were no objections mentioned. He announced that an RLF loan has been approved. He also mentioned that there is more available to loan and is looking for the Council to make referrals to him. Mr. McDaniel mentioned there is a Life Flight meeting the week of the 28th of April. He said that Air Methods in Valdosta wants to locate one of their helicopters at the proposed Life Flight location in Camilla and they would supply the nurses needed for that helicopter. He completed his report by discussing the growing number of solar farms in our area.

With no other business, Chairman Peterson called for the meeting to be adjourned. Ms. Glenda Battle made the motion to adjourn and Raymond Breaux seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 7:57 p.m.



Danny Palmer, Vice-Chairman



Robert McDaniel, Secretary