

MINUTES

Southwest Georgia Regional Commission

Regional Council Meeting

Camilla, Georgia

August 28, 2014

The Southwest Georgia Regional Commission (RC) held its Council meeting Thursday, August 28, 2014, at the Southwest Regional Commission in Camilla, Georgia. Chairman Brenda Peterson called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. The following Council members were present; Ms. Connie Hobbs, Mr. John Spann, Mr. Eddie Hopkins, Mr. Charlie Williams, Mr. Johnny Hardin, Ms. Bennie Watts Jones, Mr. Ferrell Ruis, Mr. Henry Crumley, Ms. Dollie Crumley, Mr. Frank Loeffler, Mr. Clinton Johnson, Ms. Billie Jo Fletcher, Mr. Raymond Breaux, Ms. June Merritt, Mr. Al Hutchins, Mr. Freddie Speight, Ms. LaFaye Copeland, Mr. Jim Sellers, Mr. Joe Walden, Mr. Dwight Hickman, Ms. Glenda Battle, Mr. Robert Ramsey, Luther Clearman, Mr. Danny Palmer, Ms. Virginia Harrison, Mr. Lucius Holloway, Ms. Elaine Mays, Mr. Donnie Baggett, Mr. Alfred Bryan, Mr. Mike Cosby, Mr. Randy Hill, Ms. Karen Rackley, Mr. Jack Powell, and Mr. Courtney Brinson.

Council members calling to report conflicts were Mr. Kreg Freeman, Mr. Ben Hayward, and Mr. Darrell Hampton.

Council members absent were Mr. Max Beverly, Ms. Revonn Miller, Mr. Demetrius Love, Mr. Rick Muggridge, Mr. Carlos Williams, Mr. Benjamin Brooks, Mr. Christopher Wright, Mr. David Mosely.

Staff members present were Executive Director, Mr. Robert McDaniel, Deputy Director, Ms. Suzanne Angell, Grants Administrator, Ms. Brenda Wade, and Senior Planner, Ms. Barbara Reddick.

Guests present were Mrs. Barbara Clearman, Mrs. Holloway, Mrs. Speight, Mr. Bobby Burns, Mr. Charlie Sol, Mr. Tony Thompson, Ms. Battle, Mr. Mike Beatty, and Mr. Patrick Sellers.

The Executive Director, Mr. Robert McDaniel, gave the attendance report and introduced the guests. He reported 35 members present and 14 counties were represented. Six counties (Worth, Colquitt, Baker, Early, Calhoun, and Grady) had 100% attendance.

Chairman Brenda Peterson asked for a motion to accept the consent agenda for July. Mr. Jack Powell made the motion and Mr. Johnny Hardin seconded the motion, all agreed.

Mr. McDaniel introduced Mr. Mike Beatty with the Great Promise Partnership. Mr. Beatty discussed the importance of advocacy of young people. He said there are about 100,000 youth in the state that are stuck and need advocates for various reasons. On the other side there are companies that are looking for great people to work for them. He demonstrated that there are reciprocal benefits from partnering the two together. The goal is for the young people to graduate high school, go to college, and go into the military or to enter the workforce. Of 102 young people that were at risk of dropping out of school over a two year period, 89 of them graduated on time and earned a check. The rest graduated the following year. Not one of them dropped out of high school. This is a non-profit organization.

Ms. Suzanne Angell presented the Audit Committee Report in Audit Chair Ben Hayward's absence. She reported that Mr. Nick Valenti from Valenti, Rackley and Associates attended the Audit Committee meeting to make their initial contact and introductions before the annual audit and to discuss the scope. The June financials were reviewed as well.

Chairwoman Brenda Peterson gave the report from the Executive Committee meeting. During that meeting the results of the Performance Standards Evaluation for the Executive Director and the Regional Commission was discussed. The Committee recommended adopting the budget amendment as well. Ms. Suzanne Angell briefly

went over briefly the amendments to the proposed budget. Revenues were added to the EDA Planning Contract on the budget. DCA Coordinator Work Program contract was slightly different by \$710. The Call to Connect Program Contract will add \$6500. A little over \$30,000 was added to revenues from the original budget. Expenditures increased to reflect the addition of Ms. Helen Williams as a part time receptionist. Also, another part time planning assistant was added to salaries.

Mr. Robert Ramsey presented the Community Development Meeting report for Mr. Johnny Hardin. A collaborative effort among the cities and counties of our region as a whole to bring in industries in was discussed.

Mr. Raymond Breaux reported on the Transportation Committee Meeting. The transportation provider evaluations were reviewed. The Providers passed the evaluations in the 12 areas with a 60 or higher so it was recommended they get extensions on their contracts for another year. Mr. McDaniel made the Council aware that the Transit Reports are available to whoever would like to review them or take them back to their city or county for review.

Ms. Barbara Reddick, Senior Planner gave the Planning Department report. A Stronger Economies Together packet was included in the planning packets. The efforts will be focused this year to get a plan for a food hub in the region. It probably will not be implemented this year. CDBGs were applied for and none were awarded to the Regional Commission. New projects for applications are being sought out for the next application deadline. RPN has Community Leadership Training Workshop coming up. Ms. Reddick asked everyone that is interested to go ahead and register while there are openings. The Call in to Connect event will be October 4th. The FY15 activities for the DCA Contract are beginning. Service delivery strategies for the counties are being reviewed and updated. Local Governments comprehensive plans are being reviewed through implementation meetings. Three locations around the regions will be where the meetings will take place. Webinars for these meetings may be available as well. Each government entity should know where there comprehensive plan is and be able to use them effectively.

Ms. Suzanne Angell presented the July Financial Report. She discussed the General Fund, the Reserve Balance, the Transportation Fund, and Fees for Services. The General fund added a little over \$5,000 to the reserves. RLF closed a loan in July and \$1600 was added to reserves in that fund and two more loans were approved that hopefully will close in September. A little under \$4,000 was added to the Transportation reserve. The annual audit is beginning.

Mr. Robert McDaniel gave his Executive Director report. The quarterly City County Managers meeting had a good turnout. The RLF loans that were closed produced about four or five jobs in Donalsonville and Thomasville total. Two more loans are expected to close in September.

With no further business, Ms. Brenda Peterson adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m.



Danny Palmer, Vice-Chair



Robert McDaniel, Secretary