

## MINUTES

Southwest Georgia Regional Commission

Regional Council Meeting

Camilla, Georgia

September 25, 2014

The Southwest Georgia Regional Commission (RC) held its Council meeting Thursday, September 25, 2014, at the Southwest Regional Commission in Camilla, Georgia. Treasurer Ben Hayward called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in Chairman, Brenda Peterson's and Vice-Chairman Danny Palmer's absence. The following Council members were present; Mr. John Spann, Mr. Eddie Hopkins, Mr. Charlie Williams, Ms. Betty Murdock, Ms. Bennie Watts Jones, Mr. Henry Crumley, Ms. Dollie Crumley, Mr. Frank Loeffler, Mr. Clinton Johnson, Ms. Revonn Miller, Mr. Raymond Breaux, Ms. June Merritt, Mr. Al Hutchins, Mr. Freddie Speight, Ms. LaFaye Copeland, Mr. Joe Walden, Mr. Dwight Hickman, Ms. Glenda Battle, Mr. Luther Clearman, Mr. Darrell Hampton, Mr. Lucius Holloway, Mr. Jack Powell, Mr. Mike Cosby, Mr. Randy Hill, Ms. Karen Rackley, and Mr. Courtney Brinson.

Council members calling to report conflicts were Ms. Connie Hobbs, Mr. Jim Sellers, Mr. Robert Ramsey, Mr. Danny Palmer, Mr. Benjamin Brooks, Chairman Brenda Peterson, Ms. Virginia Harrison, Ms. Elaine Mays, Mr. Donnie Baggett, Mr. Alfred Bryan, and Mr. David Mosely.

Council members absent Mr. Johnny Hardin, Mr. Ferrell Ruis, Ms. Billie Jo Fletcher, Mr. Demetrius Love, Mr. Rick Muggerridge, Mr. Kreg Freeman, Mr. Carlos Williams, Mr. Christopher Wright, and Mr. Max Beverly.

Staff members present were Executive Director, Mr. Robert McDaniel, Deputy Director, Ms. Suzanne Angell, Administrative Assistant, Heather White, and Senior Planner, Ms. Barbara Reddick.

Guests present were Mrs. Barbara Clearman, Mrs. Jean Brooks (DDA), Mrs. Holloway, Mrs. Speight, Mrs. Al Hutchins, and Ms. Hopkins.

The Executive Director, Mr. Robert McDaniel, gave the attendance report and introduced the guests. He reported 27 members present and 13 counties were represented. Four counties (Worth, Calhoun, Early, and Decatur) had 100% attendance. He introduced the newest Council member, Ms. Betty Murdock of Calhoun County.

Treasurer Ben Hayward asked for a motion to accept the consent agenda for August. Mr. Randy Hill made the motion and Mr. Henry Crumley seconded the motion, all agreed.

Ms. Heather White gave the Environmental and Natural Resources Committee Report. There were seven members in attendance and three staff members in attendance (Planner, Steve O'Neil, GIS Assistant, Jeff Hamilton, and Administrative Assistant, Heather White). Ms. White reported that the subject matter of the meeting covered the complaint against BASF of Attapulgus by Tallahassee and Leon County claiming that BASF has contaminated the waters of Lake Talquin via the Ochlocknee River. The effects of Chicken houses - the myths and truths were another discussion. Finally, the natural gas pipeline that is being placed in ground through Mitchell County and Dougherty County was the final discussion.

Ms. Barbara Reddick gave the Human Services Committee Report. There were three people present in the meeting. The Regional Work Program was discussed. Also discussed were upcoming Planning Department events. The history of the Housing Task Force and upcoming activities of the Housing Task Force were reported on.

Ms. Barbara Reddick presented the Planning Department report. DCA Contracts FY15 are being finalized and the FY14 contracts are being completed. Ms. Reddick asked the Council for a motion to authorize the SWGRC to apply for the Housing Preservation Grant. Darrell Hampton made the first motion and Jack Powell made the second


motion, and all approved. Ms. Reddick discussed the Homeless Count registrations that were needed to apply for the Homeless Count Grant. She mentioned that only the counties that turn in their paperwork would be included in the count. The Leadership Training event is full and has a waiting list. Call In To Connect is approaching quickly.

Deputy Director Suzanne Angell gave the August Financial Report. In August, \$14,600 was added to the reserves of the General Fund. The Revolving Loan Fund closed another loan in August and expects another to close in September. Closing these loans will mean the S.W.G.A. Regional Commission will have no excess cash in the Revolving Loan Fund. The Transportation Fund balance is a little over \$100,000. Ms. Angell explained the resolution to approve ACA required revisions to the Health Insurance plan and asked for a motion to adopt the resolution. Mr. Henry Crumley made the motion and Mr. Luther Clearman seconded the motion. The full Council that was present approved.

Mr. Robert McDaniel gave the Executive Director report. Mr. McDaniel discussed the GARC Conference and mentioned we need to know who is going by the following Thursday so that we can submit registrations. He announced the next council meeting October 30<sup>th</sup> which is our Legislative Reception that starts at 6:00 p.m. with a very brief business meeting at 7:00 p.m. The combined November/ December meeting was discussed and December the 11<sup>th</sup> was decided on, the second Thursday.

In other business, Ms. Karen Rackley announced Georgia Department for Excellence of Education Regional Commission Summit that Worth County was asked to host. The summit will be about Economics in Education it will be December the 2<sup>nd</sup>. It will be from 9a.m.-10:30a.m. at the Board of Education. Ms. Hopkins invited the Council to her father, Eddie Hopkins 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration.

With no further business, Mr. Hayward adjourned the meeting at 7:32 p.m.



Danny Palmer, Vice-Chairman



Robert McDaniel, Secretary