MINUTES
Southwest Georgia Regional Commission
Regional Council Meeting
Camilla, Georgia
June 30, 2016

The Southwest Georgia Regional Commission (RC) held its Council meeting Thursday, June 30, 2016, at the Southwest Regional Commission in Camilla, Georgia. Chairman Danny Palmer chaired the meeting. The following council members were present: Chris Moore, John Spann, Eddie Hopkins, Charlie Williams, Paul Nagy, Benny Watts-Jones, Ferrell Ruis, Dollie Crumley, Henry Crumley, Billy Poppell, Anthony Jones, Charlie Sol, Allen Baggs, Raymond Breaux, Al Hutchins, Joe Walden, Dwight Hickman, Chad Griffin, Jerry Bush, Glenda Battle, Ben Hayward, Nathaniel Keaton, Brenda Peterson, Elaine Mays, Ed Wade, Jack Powell, Terry Scott, Jeanie Crittenden, and Randy Hill.

Council members calling to report conflicts were Revonn Miller, Tommie Postell, Ray Prince, Jim Sellers, Rick Mugridge, Tracie Beard, Donnie Baggett, Mitchell Blanks and David Mosely.

Council members absent were Freddie Speight, Dennis Brinson, Carlos Williams, Ernest Johnson, Mike Cosby, Karen Rackley, and Courtney Brinson.

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

Guests present were Mr. Henry Everson, Mr. Peterson, Mrs. Hutchins, Mrs. Bush, Ms. Hopkins, and Mrs. Wade.

Chairman Danny Palmer 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 Baker County and Mitchell County, Colquitt County and Calhoun County had 100% representation and then introduced the guests of the Council. Mr. Palmer then asked that May minutes be approved. Henry Crumley motioned the minutes be accepted and Henry Allen Baggs seconded the motion; all agreed.

Danny Palmer gave the Executive Committee Report. He asked Ms. Suzanne Angell to present the recommended action items to the Council. The first item recommended by the Executive Committee was the Target Fund Balance Policy. Ms. Angell explained that, during their performance audit, the Department of Audits had recommended that we have a formal Fund Balance Policy. Ms. Angell then reviewed the proposed policy with the Council and also reviewed the methodology for computing the FY17 minimum unassigned fund balance amount. After some discussion, Mr. Henry Crumley motioned to adopt the Fund Balance Policy and the FY17 minimum unassigned fund balance amount of $304,268.81; Mr. Dwight Hickman seconded the motion; all agreed. The second action item recommended by the Executive Committee was the adoption of the updated Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) Plan. After Ms. Angell reviewed the RLF Plan update, as required by the Economic Development Administration (EDA), Mr. Ferrell Ruis motioned to adopt the updated RLF Plan and Mr. Paul Nagy seconded the motion; all agreed.

Barbara Reddick was asked to give the Community Development Committee report. She deferred to Paul Nagy, the new Chairman of that committee. The committee identified subject matter that they need to look at. Preparing students for the workforce was determined to be an important subject to address. Healthcare access and availability were also important as well as transitioning prisoners into the workforce after serving their sentences. They will also be addressing the timeline for the Community Economic Development Plans (CEDS).

Barbara Reddick presented the Council with the Planning Report. She discussed the Regional Work Program. The Department of Community Affairs approved the Regional Work Program but the Council needs to give its approval for the final version of the Regional Work Program. Jerry Bush made a motion to approve the final version and Elaine Mays seconded the motion; all agreed. Ms. Reddick mentioned two grants that the Planning Department is working on that they need community partners for. One of these grants is Brown Field and the other is the Rural Community Development Initiative. She went over in detail about these grants to the Council.

Chairman Palmer asked Suzanne Angell to present the Council the May Financial Statement. The General Fund has a year to date excess of revenues over expenditures in the amount of $66,637.41. The reserves as of May 31, 2016 were $313,098.14. There was a loss in the General Fund for the month of June in the amount of $4,293.94. The Revolving Loan
Fund has a year to date excess of revenues over expenditures in the amount of $2,667.36. The Revolving Loan Fund reserves at May 31, 2016 were at $292,521.00.

The Transportation Fund has a year to date excess of revenues over expenditures in the amount of $13,077.18. The Transportation reserves at May 31, 2016 were $142,812.92.

The defined benefit plan now has a year to date gain on investments of $9,973.37; there was a total of $930,608.00 invested in the fund at May 31, 2016. The Regional Commission continues to be on track to successfully make our minimum required contribution for the year by June 30, 2016. Danny Palmer asked for a motion to approve the financial statement for May 2016. Terry Scott made the motion to approve the financial statement and Dwight Hickman seconded the motion; all approved.

Suzanne Angell stated that the FY17 budget had been tabled for 30 days and there needed to be a vote taken to accept it. Jack Powell made a motion to except the FY17 budget and Raymond Breaux seconded the motion; all agreed.

The last action item Ms. Angell had was to have the Council to approve the submission of a certificate of indirect costs to the Economic Development Administration for acceptance. Henry Crumley made the motion to submit the certificate of indirect costs. Dwight Hickman seconded the motion; all agreed.

Robert McDaniel introduced Henry Everson, the guest speaker from Georgia Power who was giving a presentation on Georgia Power’s involvement with Solar Energy. He spoke on solar energy not only for communities and industrial applications but for individuals as well. Mr. Everson went over the history of power and gave a brief outlook of solar power and its applications.

After announcing the next meeting being on July 28, 2016 at the Regional Commission, Danny Palmer adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:29 p.m.

Glenda Battle, Vice-Chairman

Robert McDaniel, Secretary