Council and Staff Laude Southwest Georgia Regional Commission Members with 100% Attendance for 2017

A large group was honored for maintaining 100% attendance during the year in the December Council meeting.

Glenda Battle is the Lee County Additional Representative from Lee County. She has served on the council a couple of times and has been on since September 1989. She is currently the Chairman.

John Spann is the Baker County City Representative and councilman for the City of Newton. Mr. Spann has been on the Council since December 2008.

Freddy Grimsley is the Dougherty County Non-Public Representative. He joined the Regional Commission Council in 2017.

Raymond Breaux is the Dougherty County Additional Representative. Mr. Breaux has been on the Council since January 2008.

Ed Wade is the Terrell County City Representative and the Mayor of the City of Parrott. Mayor Wade has been on the Council since January 2015.

Donnie Baggett is the Thomas County Non-Public Representative. He joined the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission Council January 2013.

Dwight Hickman is the Lee County City Representative and a councilman for the City of Smithville. Mr. Hickman has been on the SWGA Regional Commission Council since February 2014.

Randy Hill is the Worth County City Representative and a councilman for the City of Sylvester. Mr. Hill has been on the Council since March 2012.
March

13 **Southwest Georgia Housing Taskforce in Dawson, Georgia. Topic: Healthy Housing** For more information contact Kimberly Brooks at 229-522-3552 x 1615 or kbrooks@swgrc.org.

29 **Southwest Georgia Regional Commission Council Meeting.** 181 E. Broad Street, Camilla, Georgia at the Joe B. Adams Conference Center. Council dinner at 6:30pm. Business meeting at 7:00pm. For more information call Heather White at 229-522-3552 or email hwhite@swgrc.org.

April

26 **Southwest Georgia Regional Commission Council Meeting.** 181 E. Broad Street, Camilla, Georgia at the Joe B. Adams Conference Center. Council dinner at 6:30pm. Business meeting at 7:00pm. For more information call Heather White at 229-522-3552 or email hwhite@swgrc.org.

May

8 **Southwest Georgia Housing Taskforce in Albany, Georgia. 18th Annual Housing Conference.** For more information contact Kimberly Brooks at 229-522-3552 x 1615 or kbrooks@swgrc.org.

31 **Southwest Georgia Regional Commission Council Meeting.** 181 E. Broad Street, Camilla, Georgia at the Joe B. Adams Conference Center. Council dinner at 6:30pm. Business meeting at 7:00pm. For more information call Heather White at 229-522-3552 or email hwhite@swgrc.org.

June

12 **Southwest Georgia Housing Taskforce in Camilla, Georgia. Planning Session.** For more information contact Kimberly Brooks at 229-522-3552 x 1615 or kbrooks@swgrc.org.

28 **Southwest Georgia Regional Commission Council Meeting.** 181 E. Broad Street, Camilla, Georgia at the Joe B. Adams Conference Center. Council dinner at 6:30pm. Business meeting at 7:00pm. For more information call Heather White at 229-522-3552 or email hwhite@swgrc.org.

---

**Fun fact**

Did you know that over 6597 people have downloaded our Digital Directory? Visit [http://www.swgrc.org/digital-directory/](http://www.swgrc.org/digital-directory/) to see why people like it.

We have also had 4744 downloads of our newsletters! Visit [http://www.swgrc.org/newsletter/](http://www.swgrc.org/newsletter/) to see what a good resource our publication is!

---

**Community Participation**

Southwest Georgia Regional Commission participated in the 3rd Annual Scarecrow display in Camilla, Georgia. The theme this year was Family First.
Community HOME Investment Program (CHIP)

Currently, the Regional Commission is administering CHIP grants to assist low income homeowner with housing repairs in the following communities: Arlington, Cairo/Grady County, Colquitt, Donalsonville, Dougherty County, Sylvester, Meigs, Moultrie and Cordele. The CHIP grants projects that were completed on December 31, 2017 were in the cities of Camilla and Sylvester and a total of seven (7) homes repaired in Camilla and seven (7) homes repaired in Sylvester.

On December 1, 2017 the Southwest GA Regional Commission submitted five (5) CHIP applications for the following communities: Colquitt, Cordele, Dawson, Donalsonville and Pavo. The Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) is scheduled to announce the Fiscal Year 2018 CHIP Grant awards on March 5, 2018.
Universal Design Institute (UDI) – Home Accessibility Fund (HAF) Grant Program — The UDI have distributed special grant funds to a few local non-profit organizations for home accessibility improvements in the Florida, Georgia, North Carolina and Texas area. The Regional Partners Network (RPN) a non-profit agency that falls under the SW Georgia Regional Commission is administering the UDI grant to assist physically disabled individuals with home access improvements in homes of low income individual who have a family member with a disability. RPN has received $50,000 in UDI funds and a total of six (6) projects have been complete in 2017. Currently, UDI funds in the amount of $50,000 for fiscal year 2018 have been allocated and eight (8) homeowners have been identified. The eligible activities for the UDI funds include installing ramps, stairs, remodeling bathrooms, replacing front doors, widening doorways and changing floor covering to improve rolling of wheelchairs, safety and efficiency of walking with an assistive device.

Brenda Wade
Grant Administrator
229-522-3552 x1606
bwade@swgrc.org
City of Albany’s Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Public Service Grant - Currently, the SW Georgia Regional Commission is administering CDBG Public Service grants to five (5) non-profit agencies in the City of Albany. Each year, the City uses a competitive application process to make a portion of its CDBG funds available to non-profit groups in the form of public service grants. Eligible public service activities include, but are not limited to, programs concerned with housing, employment, crime prevention, child care, health care, drug abuse prevention, education, mental health, welfare, or recreation. This year, the City of Albany is partnering with the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission (RC) to administer these funds. The RC will administer and manage the CDBG Public Service Grant Program in collaboration with the City for fiscal year July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2018.

The total estimated amount of funding available for Fiscal Year 2017-2018 Public Service Grants is $100,000 (based on availability of funding from HUD). The maximum grant amount that was awarded to a nonprofit is $25,000.

Listed below is information about the agencies that were awarded CDBG funding and program summaries:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agency Information</th>
<th>Award Amount</th>
<th>Program Summary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Open Arms</td>
<td>$25,000</td>
<td>Open Arms will utilize CDBG funds for various operating costs and to provide services to 30 at risk youth ages birth to 22 years to provide housing and other basic needs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rosalynn Figgins, Exec. Director</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>420 Pine Avenue</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Albany, GA 31701</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strive2Thrive</td>
<td>$25,000</td>
<td>Strive2Thrive will utilize CDBG funds for general operations and to assist 75 new families residing in Albany Housing Authority’s HUD Choice Neighborhoods in overcoming poverty through self-sufficiency programs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alvita Swain, Executive Director</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>225 West Broad Avenue</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Albany, GA 31701</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community In Schools of Albany-Dougherty, Inc.</td>
<td>$25,000</td>
<td>Community In Schools will utilize CDBG funding to fund a part-time coordinator to serve 60 students at risk for dropping out and assist them through graduating and becoming self-sufficient.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virginia Monroe, Exec. Director</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>900 Lippitt Drive</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Albany, GA 31701</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alzheimer’s Outreach Center of South Georgia, Inc.</td>
<td>$15,000</td>
<td>Alzheimer’s Outreach Center will utilize CDBG funding to provide adult day care services, including meals to (20) low and moderate income adults who suffer from Alzheimer’s disease or dementia.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virginia Griffin, Executive Director</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>314 North Jefferson Street</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Albany, Georgia 31701</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Albany Technical Foundation</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
<td>Albany Technical Foundation will utilize CDBG funding to provide (90) students with transportation and child care vouchers to improve attendance and reduce barriers to obtaining an education.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lorraine Alexander, Special Assistant to the President</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1704 South Slappey Boulevard</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Albany, Georgia 31701</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Meet the New SWGRC Council Members

Matt Fuller has been appointed to the Dougherty County City appointment formerly held by Bobby Coleman.

He is a native of Albany, Georgia. Owns a Cabinet and millwork business. Currently on the Albany City Commission as the Ward 2 representative.

Charles Jones has been appointed as the Miller County Non-Public position formerly held by Randy Hill. He represents District 3 for the City of Sylvester as a City Councilman. He is a local business owner for Bloomer’s Flower Shop and Jenny’s Dress Shop located downtown. Jones serves on the Downtown Development Authority. He is a native of Worth County. He served in the U.S. Air Force and returned to Sylvester to work for the Water, Gas and Light Department where he retired with 57 years of service.

City of Arlington Councilwoman Deidre Evans-Severson has been appointed to the vacant Calhoun County City position on the Regional Commission Council.

Jayme Smith has been appointed to the vacant Miller County Non-Public position.

She was born in Seminole county but grew up in Birmingham, Alabama. She attended the University of Alabama and studied Environmental Studies and History. She has worked for the Colquitt-Miller County Arts Council. She worked for the Sierra Club in Virginia as the Assistant Director of Legislation and Development. She began working for the Flint River Keeper in March 2010 as the Director of Development and Outreach.
Chairman Allen Worsley has been appointed to the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission council as the Miller County appointment. He currently serves as the Miller County Commission Chairman.

Preston Jimmerson was appointed to the additional council position for Colquitt County formerly held by Dollie Crumley. He was a member of the 2015 High Potential Leaders Group. He was on the 2017 Moultrie-Colquitt County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. As the Colquitt County Farm Bureau Young Farmer Committee Chairman he was awarded the 9th District Outstanding Young Farmer Committee Award.

Early County Commission Chairman June Merritt has appointed Jeffery Haynes to her Southwest Georgia Regional Commission council position. Jeffery Haynes is serving as a commissioner in Early County. He was previously honored by being named top 40 under 40 by Rural Leader Magazine.

SWGRC Executive Director Robert McDaniel receives a 10 year service award from Deputy Director Suzanne Angell at the February Council Meeting.
News at the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission

SWGRC Deputy Director Suzanne Angell featured in Engineering GA Magazine

Deputy Director Suzanne was named as one of the 100 Influential Women to Know by the Engineering Georgia Magazine.

The magazine cited her 22 years of leadership not only as the Deputy Director but also as the Chief Financial Officer.

Her many responsibilities aside from accounting for the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission include managing budgets for state-funded projects as well as maintaining the budget for the Regional Commission.

Year after year there is praise for her from the SWGRC council for maintaining financial reports in a timely, accurate, and professional manner.

She manages the transit program which is one of the largest in the State. She also works closely with auditors during our annual audits.

The article the women featured were said to be of ‘character, integrity and purpose who are influencing the design, growth, and success of communities, businesses and projects.’

Engineering Georgia is the official magazine of Georgia’s engineering industry and is published by ACED Georgia, ASCE, ASHE, GEF, GSPE, ITE, ITS, SAME, SEAOG, SMPS, and WTS.


Intern hired!
Shelby Rhymes comes to the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission via the Worksource Southwest intern and now we are pleased to announce she is staff!

Speakers at our Council Meetings

At our October meeting, Deborah Bell-Dison, USDA Area Director of Rural Development spoke about loan & Grant Programs for cities and counties.

At our January meeting, Stephen Collier, City of Albany Assistant City Manager of the Utilities Administration spoke about the growth of the City of Albany. He also spoke about how they are using extra power they are generating to lure businesses to town and they have recently contracted with the Marine Base to sell them excess power and supply maintenance.

At our February meeting, Gary Nelson, President of Healthcare Georgia Foundation, Inc. and Dr. Charles Stafford spoke to the council about factors that affect poor healthcare in Georgia. They spoke of Healthcare Georgia Foundation’s initiatives and funding being placed into communities in need of healthcare programs and education.

Power points and materials brought by the speakers and contact information for the speakers can be found on our website: http://www.swgrc.org/
The Georgia Municipal Clerks & Finance Officers Association District 10 meeting was held Wednesday, September 27, 2017 at the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission in Camilla, Georgia.

Guests included President Wynetta Bolder of GMA/FOA, Director Pam Helton of GMA Consulting Services, GIS Director Heidi Penny of the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission, and Executive Assistant Heather White of the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission.

The meeting was called to order at 11:30am and lunch was served. Heather White gave the invocation.

Director Mary King introduced Heidi Penny. Ms. Penny gave a presentation on the 2020 Census beginning with Luca. She said that someone in each city and county needs to be appointed as a liaison. The Southwest Georgia Regional Commission can be that liaison to receive data. She also discussed other steps that need to be completed before the next deadlines.

Director Mary King introduced GMA/FOA President Wynetta Bolder. Ms. Bolder reported that the last GMA/FOA mandatory training was cancelled due to hurricane Irma and this meeting will be rescheduled. Classes can be taken at the conference at Jekyll Island in February. It is encouraged that although there are no prerequisites and the classes do not need to be taken in order that the mandatory classes should be taken first. The 2019 IMC Conference will be in February and will be located in Georgia. Also, there are scholarships for those who may need help attending and can go on the IMC website for more information. She encouraged everyone to attend and stated that it is a very enjoyable conference. She said that the National Conference would be held in Birmingham.

GMA/Foa President Wynetta. Bolder discussed her promotion of LES is more, meaning, Leadership, Education, and Service. She wants to send a message to the clerks that they are someone special who makes a difference in their city. Another poignant message she was sending was that ‘Good leaders never stop learning.’ She encouraged the clerks to call or email her any time.

GMA’s Director of Consulting Services Pam Helton discussed the preparations leading up to the election and answered questions from the clerks.
2018 Southwest Georgia Regional Commission Council Appointees

**Baker County**
- Chris Moore
- John Spann
- Eddie Hopkins

**Calhoun County**
- Charlie Williams
- Deidre Evans-Severson
- Bennie Watts Jones

**Colquitt County**
- Paul Nagy
- Ferrell Ruis
- Kevin Branch
- Preston Jimmerson

**Decatur County**
- Dennis Brinson
- Kregg Close
- Revonn Miller
- Billy Poppell

**Dougherty County**
- Anthony Jones
- Matt Fuller
- Freddie Grimsley
- Raymond Breaux
- Matt Reed
- Jeffery Haynes
- Al Hutchins
- Freddie Speight
- Keith Moye
- Jim Sellers
- Joe Walden
- Dennis Roland
- Dwight Hickman
- Chad Griffin
- Glenda Battle

**Miller County**
- Allen Worsley
- Carlos Williams
- Jayme Smith
- Ben Hayward
- Danny Palmer
- Nathaniel Keaton
- Brenda Peterson
- Mitchell Blanks
- Tracie Beard
- Ernest Johnson
- Ed Wade
- Jack Powell

**Thomas County**
- Ken Hickey
- Terry Scott
- Donnie Baggett
- Elaine Mays

**Worth County**
- Fred Dent
- Charles Jones
- Karen Rackley

**Governor’s Appointment**
- Courtney Brinson

**Lt. Governor’s Appointment**
- Norma Gilpatrick

**Vacant**

**Speaker of the House Appointment**
- Vacant

---

**Chamber of Commerce Listings**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Telephone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Albany</td>
<td>229-434-8700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cairo-Grady</td>
<td>229-377-3663</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calhoun County</td>
<td>229-835-2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lee</td>
<td>229-759-2422</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colquitt-Miller</td>
<td>229-758-2400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donalsonville-Seminole</td>
<td>229-524-2588</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moultrie-Colquitt</td>
<td>229-985-2131</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pelham</td>
<td>229-294-4924</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomasville-Thomas</td>
<td>229-226-9600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sylvester-Worth</td>
<td>229-7718</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Terrell</td>
<td>229-995-2011</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words

Pre-Hazard Mitigation

A picture is worth a thousand words. It is that time of year where you should make certain you have a plan in place to document any disasters that may occur in your city or county. Photographs can hold a very valuable weight when you are preparing a Pre-Hazard Mitigation Plan or applying for grants. The grantor is reviewing all the application requests they get in for fund requests and it is very competitive. Telling them that you have low lying neighborhoods that take on water when there are heavy storms and then showing photographs can be the deciding factor in getting funded.

Make certain you have at least one reliable camera and more than one designated staff member trained to use that camera. Always make sure that you and your staff stay safe when taking photos to document dangerous conditions.

For more questions on Pre-Hazard Mitigation Plans call Steve O’Neil at 229-522-3552 x 1616 or soneil@swgrc.org. For more questions on grants available such as Community Development Block Grants (CDBGs) contact Barbara Reddick (breddick@swgrc.org) or Kimberly Brooks (kbrooks@swgrc.org) at 229-522-3552.

What is a Pre-Hazard Mitigation Plan?

The Planning Department works with communities on Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plans that allow communities to conduct hazard mitigation planning and implementation of mitigation projects prior to a disaster event. These plans make communities safer for local residents while also reducing the reliance on funding when actual disasters occur.
Robert McDaniel
Executive Director
229-522-3552 x1609
rmcdaniel@swgrc.org

Suzanne Angell
Deputy Director
229-522-3552 x1603
sangell@swgrc.org

Heidi Penny
GIS Manager
229-522-3552 x1621
hpenny@swgrc.org

Jeffery Hamilton
GIS Assistant
229-522-3552 x1622
jhamilton@swgrc.org

Heather White
Executive Assistant
229-522-3552 x1602
hwhite@swgrc.org

Brenda Wade
Grant Administrator
229-522-3552 x1606
bwade@swgrc.org

Laura Davis
Accounting Technician
229-522-3552 x1611
ldavis@swgrc.org

Michelle Richardson
Transportation
229-522-3552 x1612
mrichardson@swgrc.org

Barbara Reddick
Planning Director
229-522-3552 x1618
bredrick@swgrc.org

Stephen O'Neil
Senior Planner
229-522-3552 x1616
soneil@swgrc.org

Kimberly Brooks
Planner
229-522-3552 x1615
kbrooks@swgrc.org

Shelby Rhymes
Administrative Clerk
229-522-3552 x1614
srhymes@swgrc.org

Helen Williams
Receptionist
229-522-3552 x1600
hwilliams@swgrc.org

Your Southwest Georgia Regional Commission Staff