MINUTES
Southwest Georgia Regional Commission
Regional Council Meeting
Camilla, Georgia
January 31, 2019

The Southwest Georgia Regional Commission (RC) held its Council meeting Thursday, January 31, 2019, at the Southwest Regional Commission building in Camilla, Georgia. Chairman Glenda Battle chaired the meeting. The following council members were present: John Spann, Eddie Hopkins, Charlie Williams, Deidre Evans-Severson, Benny Flowers, Paul Nagy, Virginia Hart, Preston Jimmerson, Steve Brock, Kregg Close, Revon Miller, Freddy Grimsley, Raymond Breaux, Al Hutchins, Freddie Speight, Joe Walden, Billy Mathis, Dwight Hickman, Carlos Williams, Ben Hayward, Danny Palmer, Nathaniel Keaton, Brenda Peterson, Ed Wade, Jack Powell, Terry Scott, Donnie Baggett, Al Bryan, Elaine Mays, Joe Gaines, Christopher Wheeler, Karen Rackley, and Norma Gilpatrick.

Council members calling to report conflicts Chris Moore, Ferrell Ruis, Anthony Jones, Matthew Reed, June Knight, Jim Sellers, Chad Griffin, Jayme Smith, Mitchell Blanks and Courtney Brinson.

Council members absent were Billy Poppell, Jeffery Haynes, Kregg Freeman, Tracie Beard, and Ernest Johnson.

Staff members present were Executive Director Robert McDaniel, Deputy Director Suzanne Angell, Planning Director Barbara Reddick, and Executive Assistant Heather White.

Guests present were Speaker, Director Kip Davis from the Joseph Jones Ecological Research Center, John Glenn, John Peterson, Katherine Speight, Kathy Wade, Lucious Hayes, and Albert Hawkins.

Chairman Glenda Battle called the meeting to order at approximately 6:59 p.m. Mr. McDaniel gave the attendance report stating that there were 34 members present representing 14 counties and a quorum was present. He noted that Calhoun County, Mitchell County, Thomas County, and Worth County had 100% representation and then introduced the guests of the Council.

Glenda Battle asked for a motion for December minutes to be approved. Terry Scott motioned the minutes be accepted and Donnie Baggett seconded the motion; all agreed except Al Bryan who abstained since he was not present for the meeting in December.

Glenda Battle introduced the guest speaker Director of the Joseph Jones Ecological Research Center, Kip Davis. Mr. Davis spoke of the history and the founder of the Research Center. He told of the colleges world-wide that send interns and gave insight to what the interns experience daily as well as the daily operations of the center. He invited everyone to the March 23rd open house at Ichuway from 10 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Chairman Battle asked the Chairman of the Nominating Committee to address the Council about their committee meeting. Ms. Mays told the Council that the recommendation of the Nominating Committee for the slate of officers of the Executive Committee are as follows; Elaine Mays, Chairman, Brenda Peterson, Vice Chairman, Danny Palmer, Treasurer, Ben Hayward, Member, John Spann, Member, Jack Powell, Member, Glenda Battle, Member. She stated that these recommendations would be tabled until the February meeting and then there would be a vote.

Planning Director Barbara Reddick gave her planning report. Mrs. Reddick said that the Planning Department has been very busy, and they are beginning to interview for the Senior Planner position left open by Steve O’Neil. She said that they were approved for a Housing Preservation Grant (HPG) in the amount of $61,000. The Grant for the City of Funston’s repair of their primary well was resubmitted. Community Development Block Grants for Terrell County, Thomasville and Damascus are being worked on. Five applications for The Community HOME Investment Program (CHIP) were submitted for the cities of Camilla, Arlington, Donalsonville, Sylvester Housing Authority, and Boston. The Terrell County Pre-Hazard Mitigation Plan is currently under review. Miller County and Baker County’s Pre-Hazard Mitigation Plans are in progress. Also being worked on are Solid Waste Plans for Bainbridge, Colquitt
County, and Calhoun County. The regional Bike & Pedestrian corridors were updated. There were two safety focused Complete Streets training completed. Two counties (Grady County was completed) had sidewalk inventories done. Mrs. Reddick stated that all the rest of the projects that the Planning Department has been working on can be seen on the Planning Activity Report.

Glenda Battle asked Deputy Director Suzanne Angell to give her Financial Report. She said she was going to go over just the December 2018 financial statements since the statements were cumulative. Ms. Angell reported that the General Fund had net surplus of $586.91 and the ending General Fund balance was $486,589.80. The year to date Revolving Loan Fund net surplus was $1,596.87 and the fund balance was $294,716.91. Mrs. Angell stated that Regional Transit Program has net surplus of $30,046.47 and the ending fund balance is $215,790.57. The Regional Partners Network has net deficit of $57.23. This brings the fund balance to $7,427.36. The Pension Trust Fund has a loss on investments of $46,703.41. Jack Powell made a motion to accept the November and December 2018 financial report and Danny Palmer seconded the motion; all agreed.

Deputy Director Suzanne Angell asked for a motion to approve the submission of a letter of intent to contract with the Georgia Department of Human Services for FY20 transportation services. Elaine Mayes made the motion to submit the letter of intent. Jack Powell seconded the motion; all agreed.

Glenda Battle asked the Executive Director to give his report. Director Robert McDaniel stated that the next meeting will be February 28, 2019 in Camilla at the Regional Commission offices. He said that a date for new member training would be discussed and the Council would be made aware of the date.

With no other business, Glenda Battle asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Charlie Williams motioned to adjourn. Dwight Hickman seconded the motion; all agreed. Glenda Battle adjourned the meeting at 8:12 p.m.

Glenda Battle, Chairman

Robert McDaniel, Secretary