On March 28, 2019 for about four hours, new SWGRC Council Members Christopher Wheeler, Joe Gaines, Al Bryan, Steve Brock, Virginia Hart and Jon Howard attended the annual new council training at the Regional Commission offices in Camilla, Georgia.

Each new member was given a handbook that covered a general overview of the Regional Commission and their roles as Council members. In addition to the materials, they had the opportunity to meet some staff. Director Robert McDaniel presented a general overview as well as material about the Revolving Loan Fund and the history and function of the Regional Commission. Deputy Director Suzanne Angell, who is also the CFO, explained how the Regional Commission is financed and about the transit operation. Planner Kimberly Brooks discussed the functions of the Planning Department, grants available, various grants and the process of applying for grants. Jeffrey Hamilton, GIS Technician, told the new council members about mapping and GIS technologies available through their department. Executive Assistant Heather White showed the council members how to navigate through the company website and how to access the digital directory and the newsletters. She also guided them through the process of meeting attendance.

**SWGRC 2019 New Council Members**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>County</th>
<th>Position</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Virginia Hart</td>
<td>Colquitt</td>
<td>Non-Public</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jon Howard</td>
<td>Dougherty</td>
<td>City</td>
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<td>June Knight</td>
<td>Grady</td>
<td>County</td>
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<tr>
<td>John Wheaton</td>
<td>Lee</td>
<td>County</td>
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<td>Nicole Nixon</td>
<td>Miller</td>
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<tr>
<td>Al Bryan</td>
<td>Thomas</td>
<td>County</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joe Gaines</td>
<td>Worth</td>
<td>County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christopher Wheeler</td>
<td>Worth</td>
<td>City</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Housing Conference**

**FY19 CHIP Awards**

**Tornadoes**

**SWGRC Speakers**

**Contractors Needed**

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SWGRC Staff 12

Proudly Serving Region 10; Baker County, Newton, Calhoun County, Arlington, Edison, Leary, Morgan, Colquitt County, Berlin, Doerun, Ellenton, Funston, Moultrie, Norman Park, Decatur County, Attapulgus, Bainbridge, Brinson, Climax, Dougherty County, Albany, Early County, Blakely, Damascus, Jakin, Grady County, Cairo, Whigham, Lee County, Leesburg, Smithville, Miller County, Colquitt, Mitchell County, Baconton, Camilla, Pelham, Sale City, Seminole County, Donalsonville, Iron City, Terrell County, Bronwood, Dawson, Parrott, Sasser, Thomas County, Boston, Coolidge, Meigs, Ochlocknee, Thomasville, Worth County, Poulan, Sumner, Sylvester, and Warwick.
MAY

May 14, 2019  19th Annual Housing Conference.  Southern Regional Technical College 15689 US Hwy 19, in Thomasville, Georgia.  For more information contact Kimberly Brooks 229-522-3552 or kbrooks@swgrc.org.

May 14, 2019  10:30 a.m. Colquitt CHIP Grant Public Hearing.  Colquitt City Hall at 154 West Street, Colquitt, Georgia 39837.  Contact Brenda Wade at 229-522-3552 x1606 or bwade@swgrc.org with any questions.

May 15, 2019  10:30 a.m. Cordele CHIP Grant Public Hearing.  Cordele City Hall Courtroom at 501 North 7th Street, Second Flood Cordele, Georgia.  Contact Brenda Wade at 229-522-3552 x1606 or bwade@swgrc.org with any questions.

May 27, 2019  SOUTHWEST GEORGIA REGIONAL COMMISSION offices will be closed in observation of Memorial Day Holiday.

May 30, 2019  SOUTHWEST GEORGIA REGIONAL COMMISSION COUNCIL meeting at the Regional Commission’s Joe B. Adams Conference Center, located at 181 E. Broad Street, Camilla, Georgia. The Council will convene at 7:00 p.m. Dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m. for Council Members and their guests.

June

June 27, 2019  SOUTHWEST GEORGIA REGIONAL COMMISSION COUNCIL meeting at the Regional Commission’s Joe B. Adams Conference Center, located at 181 E. Broad Street, Camilla, Georgia. The Council will convene at 7:00 p.m. Dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m. for Council Members and their guests.

July

July 4 & 5, 2019  SOUTHWEST GEORGIA REGIONAL COMMISSION offices will be closed for Independence Day Holiday

July 25, 2019  SOUTHWEST GEORGIA REGIONAL COMMISSION COUNCIL meeting at the Regional Commission’s Joe B. Adams Conference Center, located at 181 E. Broad Street, Camilla, Georgia. The Council will convene at 7:00 p.m. Dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m. for Council Members and their guests.

Later Dates

October 23, 2019  2019 Youth Summit.  Southwest Georgia RESA building at 570 Martin Luther King Jr. Rd, Camilla, Georgia from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm.  Sponsors and volunteers still needed for this event.  Sponsors, volunteers, or attendees can contact Kimberly Brooks at 229-522-3552.
Staff News

Shanique Daniels comes to the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission (SWGA RC) from via Worksource Southwest Georgia Internships Work Experience Training Program. Shanique is from Moultrie and graduated from Colquitt County High School. In addition, she graduated from Southern Regional Technical College with an Business Technology Diploma. Currently, she is enrolled at Southern Regional Technical College to complete her Associate Degree in Business Technology. She has been working at SWGRC for 6 months as an intern now we are pleased to announce she is a full time employee working in the Grants Administration Department as the Grants Administrative Assistant.

Schedule of Speakers 2018 - 2019
(2nd Tuesday of each month @ 10.00 AM or 6 PM)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Topic &amp; Coordinator</th>
<th>Speaker &amp; Organization</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 14, 2019</td>
<td>Thomasville, Georgia</td>
<td>19th Annual Housing Conference</td>
<td>Sharon Edwards Everyone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 11, 2019</td>
<td>Camilla, Georgia</td>
<td>Planning Session</td>
<td>Everyone</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Congratulations Camilla, Donalsonville, Arlington and Sylvester Housing authority on the award of Community Home Investment program (CHIP) Grants!

Brenda Wade
Grant Administrator
229-522-3552 x1606
bwade@swgrc.org
CITY OF DAWSON CHIP Grant Program

Public Hearing Held to Discuss Repairs to Homes of Eligible low and moderate Homeowners

On March 14, 2019, the City of Dawson held a public hearing to discuss the City of Dawson Community HOME Investment Program (CHIP) grant award in the amount of $300,000 that will provide rehabilitation assistance to at least six (6) to eight (8) owner-occupied housing units. The CHIP program through the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) provides funds to local governments, to rehabilitate housing for low-income homeowners.

The CHIP funds are available exclusively for housing activities and the sole purpose of the program is to expand the supply of decent, safe, sanitary and affordable housing for low income households.

In order to qualify for the program, you must be living in the targeted area of Dawson, must own and reside in the home, must be for low income families, meet income requirements and provide proof of insurance and paid property taxes.

The program is designed to assist owner-occupied homeowners on a first come first serve basis and applicants must meet eligibility requirements. The receipt of CHIP funds is based on eligibility. The completion of the CHIP application forms and participation on the waiting list does not guarantee eligibility.

Mrs. Brenda Wade with the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission (SWGRC) will be administering this grant. The rehabilitation work on at least four (4) eligible homes is scheduled to begin soon in Dawson. If you have any questions about the CHIP grant program, please give Mrs. Wade a call at (229) 522-3552 extension 1606.

19th Annual Housing Conference

Better Jobs! Better Health! Better Housing!

Who should attend?

Government Officials  Non-Profits  Housing Developers
Chambers of Commerce
Economic Developers  Homeowners

Tuesday, May 14, 2019

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

Location: Southern Regional Technical College

15689, Highway 19
Thomasville, Georgia 31792
Building D, Room 107

http://www.swgrcplanning.org/
Fiscal Year 2019 Community HOME Investment Program (CHIP) Awards Announced

On March 6, 2019, the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) awarded $6.7 million in grants through the DCA 2019 Community HOME Investment Program (CHIP) to 21 local communities around the state. The selected communities will contribute approximately $1.5 million in matching funds to these grants. This program helps local governments, nonprofit organizations and public housing authorities provide safe and affordable housing in Georgia communities. Funds may be used to assist eligible families with the rehabilitation of unsafe or substandard homes and to build new single-family homes for resale to low- and moderate-income homebuyers.

“The CHIP program is a great example of how strong partnerships with local governments, nonprofits, and public housing authorities can improve housing outcomes in communities all across the state,” said DCA Commissioner Christopher Nunn. “These funds will help the selected communities preserve existing homes and build new affordable homes in Georgia.”

The Southwest Georgia Regional Commission (RC) was the grant writer and will be administering all four (4) of the CHIP awards a total of $1,224,000 for the cities of Arlington, Camilla, Donalsonville and the Sylvester Housing Authority each local government receiving $306,000 in CHIP grant funds.

For more information about this program, visit website: http://www.dca.ga.gov/safe-affordable-housing/rental-housing-development/home-investment-partnership-program-home-1.
Storms swept through Region 10 multiple times leaving counties such as Dougherty, Grady, and Decatur hit once again. Many counties still in recovery from the devastation of Hurricane Michael. March 3rd left some in the region in pieces with multiple tornadoes in one night.

The resilience of our citizens is undeniable. However, we are human and there are tolls beyond the monetary losses. The psychological battering that is happening is testing the human spirit and testing that resilience.

Fortunately Georgia did not suffer loss of life with the string of tornadoes of March 3, 2019. Our Alabama neighbors were not so lucky. At least 23 deaths were confirmed in Lee County, Alabama. That same tornado crossed into Georgia and before it disappeared it had traveled 70 miles.

As of March 5, 2019 the estimated number of confirmed tornadoes that touched down on March 3, 2019 were 20. This includes confirmation of tornadoes in Decatur County.

GRADY COUNTY...

These historic homes just had roofs put on from the damage inflicted by Hurricane Michael.
April 14, 2019

April 14, 2019. Region 10 was hit with an EF1 tornado yet again only a little more than a five weeks from the tornado outbreak that sent one to Cairo, taking off tarps that were covering damage from Hurricane Michael, and then re-tarped from damage caused by the March 3rd tornadoes. This time Moultrie was hit. Winds topped out at 110 miles per hour and cut a five mile path through the county according to the National Weather Service. No injuries were reported. Buildings, houses, trees, and irrigation systems were damaged.

Moultrie is considered a high risk for tornadoes. The largest one in Moultrie occurred in 2009 and was an F3. Fortunately that one caused no injuries and no deaths.

Often there is some confusion when the weatherman comes on television or the weather ticker tape juts across the bottom of the screen with a Tornado Warning or a Tornado Watch. Here is which is which:

**WARNING**
A TORNADO IS HAPPENING OR ABOUT TO HAPPEN.
TAKE SHELTER IMMEDIATELY!

**WATCH**
A TORNADO IS POSSIBLE.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RATING</th>
<th>WIND SPEED</th>
<th>DAMAGE POSSIBLE (ALL ARE VERY DANGEROUS)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EF0</td>
<td>65-85mph</td>
<td>Minor roof, branches*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EF1</td>
<td>86-110</td>
<td>Broken windows*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EF2</td>
<td>111-135</td>
<td>Roofs off, large trees uprooted or pushed over*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EF3</td>
<td>136-165</td>
<td>Homes damaged*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EF4</td>
<td>166-200</td>
<td>Homes leveled*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EF5</td>
<td>200+</td>
<td>Incredible damage*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Please note that some structures can be totaled at lower windspeed than others. All tornadoes are dangerous. Always seek an inside room with no windows and do not go outside. Flying debris can kill you.

A good way of remembering the difference is the greater number of letters in the word WARNING means the greater danger than WATCH!
Ms. Tonita McKnight and Mr. Johnny Hamilton spoke at the February 2019 meeting to let the SWGRC Council and guests know what the organization Albany Community Together is about. Albany Community Together offers business loans.

Albany Community Together, Inc., or, ACT!, provides financial assistance to small businesses who lack access to traditional sources of capital, i.e. banks. We often work in partnership with banks to meet the credit needs of small business owners. Our programs serve to close the financial gap, to make the business owner “whole” financially. We help the banks meet their customer financial needs by providing “gap funding”.

April 2019

Ms. Cosby educated the Council on The Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and developmental Disabilities. She then discussed an important survey that the state of Georgia is doing to pinpoint the top needs of the regions of Georgia in behavior and developmental disabilities which includes drug addiction.

The Mission of the DBHDD is leading an accountable and effective continuum of care to support Georgians with behavioral health challenges, and intellectual and developmental disabilities in a dynamic health care environment.

The Vision of the DBHDD is easy access to high-quality care that leads to a life of recovery and independence for the clients DBHDD serves.
March 2019

Haydn Blaize is the manager of the Floodplain Unit of The Georgia Department of Natural Resources. Mr. Blaize presented a Powerpoint presentation that was very comprehensive, covering Region 10. He started by explaining what the Floodplain Unit does. They are a technical partner with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and they are responsible for developing flood maps for 159 counties in Georgia. They also provide technical assistance and outreach for those communities. The maps produced are used by lenders to determine who should have flood insurance. They determine special flood areas that are sometimes referred to as the 100-year floodplain. They determine flood zones and flood elevations. This means how high will the water rise during these 100-year flood events. The maps can take as long as 5 years to produce. Before the maps are adopted, they are available to the public and meetings occur. This allows questions and input of the maps. They can also tell you what the chances are that the public’s property will be flooded during flooding events. The community’s responsibilities are to enforce the floodplain’s ordinances and regulate development in special floodplain areas. If they are a member of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), you must have a floodplain ordinance and enforce that ordinance. Close to 35% of the claims filed with the National Flood Insurance Program are not in a special floodplain area. If a community follows this step, residents and businesses in that community can purchase NFIP flood insurance. Mr. Blaize gave the Council the web address to visit the Floodplain Unit website and look up maps for their communities.

March 2019

Director of Marketing for the Georgia Department of Agriculture Jack Spruill was introduced to the Council. He discussed the new proclamation introduced by the Georgia Governor in conjunction with the Commissioner of Transportation that said from this day forward all plants and all greenery and everything at rest areas and everything on state highways and everything that state controls will be Georgia grown vegetation coming from Georgia nurseries. He then addressed the damage and recovery of agriculture from Hurricane Michael. Mr. Spruill said that under the Constitution of the State of Georgia there is a Gratuity Clause which means that the State of Georgia cannot individually dispense money to somebody in the form of a grant, in the form of a hand up. The state government cannot do a relief package such as the federal government can. The day after the hurricane event the state officials were convening to decide what can be done. Various agricultural experts were being consulted. They came up with a short-term assistance. This was to assign $75 million to the Georgia Development Authority so that there could be low-interest loans. This was intended to be a stop-gap. This was intended to keep the agricultural community going until federal disaster money comes. The money has been dispersed by a committee of retired lenders and others and now there is an appeal for federal assistance to come quicker.
Community HOME Investment Program Contractors Needed!

Applications are currently available for Contractors who are interested in work from the Community HOME Investment Program (CHIP). You will need a copy of your State Contractor’s License, a copy of insurance coverage including worker’s comp, a copy of EPD-Lead Safety Renovator Certification, and Employment Eligibility Verification—(E-Verify/SAVE Registration) (you can visit https://e-verify.uscis.gov/enroll/StartPage.aspx?JS=YES

If you have any questions concerning the application form after picking it up please call Mrs. Brenda Wade, Grants Administrator at the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission at 229-522-3552 x 1606.

To find an accredited trainer for the LEAD-SAFE Certification in your local area or get information, go to http://www.epa.gov/getleadsafe or call 1-800-242-LEAD.

For an application on-line and other information about requirements mentioned above visit the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission Website at http://www.swgrc.org/job-training-employment-intern-opportunities/chip-contractors-needed/

CONTACT BRENDA WADE AT 229-522-3552 X1606 OR BWADE@SWGRC.ORG
2019 Southwest Georgia Regional Commission Council

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

**Calhoun County**
Charlie Williams
Deidre Evans-Severson
Benny Flowers

**Colquitt County**
Paul Nagy
Ferrell Ruis
Virginia Hart
Preston Jimmerson

**Decatur County**
Steve Brock
Kregg Close
Revonn Miller
Billy Poppell

**Donaldsonville-Seminole**
Kregg Freeman
Carlos Williams
Jayme Smith

**Early County**
Jeffery Haynes
Al Hutchins
Freddie Speight

**Grady County**
June Knight
Jim Sellers
Joe Walden

**Lee County**
John Wheaton
Dwight Hickman
Chad Griffin
Glenda Battle

**Moultrie-Colquitt**
Brenda Peterson
Mitchell Blanks
Tracie Beard

**Mitchell County**
Ben Hayward
Danny Palmer
Nathaniel Keaton

**Seminole County**
Brenda Peterson
Mitchell Blanks
Tracie Beard

**Terrell County**
Ernest Johnson
Ed Wade
Jack Powell

**Thomas County**
Donnie Baggett
Terry Scott
Al Bryan
Elaine Mays

**Worth County**
Joe Gaines
Christopher Wheeler
Karen Rackley

Governor's Appointment
Vacant

Lt. Governor's Appointment
Vacant

Speaker of the House Appointment
Vacant

Chamber of Commerce Listings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Albany</th>
<th>Cairo-Grady</th>
<th>Donaldsonville-Seminole</th>
<th>Sylvester-Worth</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>229-434-8700</td>
<td>229-377-3663</td>
<td>229-524-2588</td>
<td>229-776-7718</td>
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<td>Bainbridge-Decatur</td>
<td>229-246-4744</td>
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<td>Terrell</td>
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<td>229-246-4744</td>
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<td>229-985-2131</td>
<td>229-995-2011</td>
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<td>Blakely-Early</td>
<td>229-723-3741</td>
<td>Pelham</td>
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<td>229-723-3741</td>
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<td>229-294-4924</td>
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<td>Camilla</td>
<td>Colquitt-Miller</td>
<td>Thomasville-Thomas</td>
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<tr>
<td>229-336-5255</td>
<td>229-758-2400</td>
<td>229-226-9600</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Robert McDaniel
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