

MINUTES

Southwest Georgia Regional Commission

Regional Council Meeting

Camilla, Georgia

July 30, 2020

The Southwest Georgia Regional Commission (RC) held its Council meeting Thursday, July 30, 2020, at the Southwest Regional Commission building in Camilla, Georgia. Due to COVID19 social distancing orders from the Governor, we held a virtual meeting by ZOOM and by phone. Chairman Elaine Mays chaired the meeting and was present. John Spann was present. The following council members were present via ZOOM: Charlie Williams, Ferrell Ruis, Barbara Grogan, Revonn Miller, Anthony Jones, Jon Howard, Raymond Breaux, Casawan Lhuillier-Yheyeis, Charlie Sol, Al Hutchins, Freddie Speight, Phillip Drew, Jim Sellers, Joe Walden, Glenda Battle, Ben Hayward, Danny Palmer, Nathaniel Keaton, Brenda Peterson, Jack Powell, Donnie Baggett, Wanda Warren, Al Bryan, E. Dice Roberts, and Christopher Wheeler.

Council members calling to report conflicts were Deidre Evans-Severson, Benny Flowers, Chad Griffin, Norma Gilpatrick, Rodney Prince, Billy Poppell, and John McPhaul.

Council members absent were Chris Moore, Eddie Hopkins, Paul Nagy, Virginia Hart, Steve Brock, Kregg Close, Freddy Grimsley, John Wheaton, Dwight Hickman, Kregg Freeman, Carlos Williams, Jayme Smith, Mitchell Blanks, Tracie Beard, Ernest Johnson, and Gregg Satterfield.

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

Chairman Mays called the meeting to order at approximately 6:05 p.m.

Executive Director Suzanne Angell gave the attendance report stating that there were 27 members present representing 13 counties and a quorum was present. Early, Grady, Mitchell, and Thomas Counties had 100% representation.

Chairman Elaine Mays asked for a motion that the June 2020 meeting minutes to be approved. Al Hutchins motioned the minutes be accepted and Nathaniel Keaton seconded the motion; all agreed.

Executive Director Suzanne Angell stated that the Transportation Committee was sent information via email this past week regarding renewal of the transportation provider contracts. The information provided demonstrated that all three providers had performed adequately in FY20, based on the annual Transit Onboard Survey results. This would be year three, of a five-year contract, that is renewed annually. The Transportation Committee members voted to recommend renewal of the transit provider contracts to the full Council for the FY21 fiscal period. After more discussion and a short review of the Transit Onboard Survey Results for the providers, Al Hutchins made the motion to accept the Transportation Committee's recommendation to renew the transit provider contracts for FY21. Jon Howard seconded the motion; all agreed.

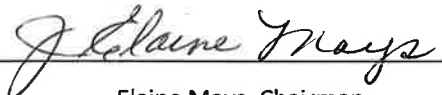
Chairman Mays asked Deputy Director Barbara Reddick to give the planning report. Ms. Reddick asked for approval to adopt the Regional Work Program. Al Hutchins made the motion. Wanda Warren seconded the motion; all agreed. We are awaiting the announcement as to whether the City of Poulan will be awarded an Assistance to Firefighter Grant. The Redevelopment Fund Grant for the City of Colquitt is in progress. Camilla's Immediate Threat and Danger Grant was denied, as their project was deemed ineligible. We are awaiting announcements for Housing Preservation Grants and the Georgia Transportation Infrastructure Bank Grant. The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) results should be announced in late August 2020. The planning department has various Pre-Hazard Mitigation Plans in various stages for Miller County, Baker County, Seminole County, Calhoun County, Mitchell County and Decatur County. Morgan and Newton are awaiting their announcement for their applications for the Hazard Mitigation Grant. Solid Waste Plans are in progress for the City of Bainbridge and Calhoun County. The Brownfields Grant will be resubmitted December 2020 for Leary, Arlington, Bainbridge, and Donalsonville.

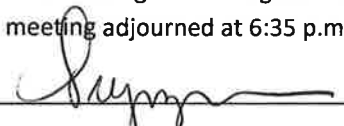
Executive Director Suzanne Angell presented the Financial Reports for the period ending June 30, 2020 for the Council's approval. The General Fund had a deficit of \$34,844.93 bringing the ending fund balance to \$521,184.95.

The Revolving Loan Fund had a net surplus of \$1,182.25 bringing the ending fund balance to \$298,948.00. The Regional Transportation Fund had a net surplus of \$72,631.12 bringing the ending fund balance to \$310,713.05. The Regional Partners Network had small deficit of \$75.56 bringing their fund balance to \$7,280.08. The Defined Benefit Plan had a deficit of \$70,289.46 bringing the balance to \$846,586.50. John Spann made a motion to accept the June 2020 Financial Report and Al Hutchins seconded the motion; all agreed.

Executive Director Suzanne Angell presented her Executive Director's Report. There is now a signed lease for Kebo's to use our parking lot. Signs will be put up and their designated spaces will be stenciled. HB1122 never made it to the Senate floor during this session. This is the bill to reduce the Council size. It may be re-introduced in the next session but that is speculation at this point. Our offices are open, and employees are back working regular hours. We did have one employee test positive for COVID-19. That employee is doing well and is already back at work following the required quarantine period. We are monitoring temperatures, requiring masks (unless they are alone in their office), sanitizing regularly and social distancing. All visitors are required to wear masks and have temperatures checked. If they do not have a mask, they are given one. The regional pilot application for AARP Age Friendly and Livable Communities Program is still in process. We have received our 5311 Transportation Contract with the CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act) Act funding (FY20 and FY21). We also received CARES funding for a new Revolving Loan Fund program, and we will be receiving CARES Act funding for EDA Planning. Mrs. Angell is still assisting Mitchell County with their TSPLOST (Transportation Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax). We held a very informative meeting on June 30 at the Camilla Depot regarding the recent closings and future of the senior programs/centers in Region 10. Counties, cities and non-profits will have the opportunity to respond to a Request for Proposal (RFP) to operate the senior program/center in their area. Until that time, SOWEGA COA (Southwest Georgia Council on Aging) will continue to operate the "Senior Center Without Walls" program. Seniors are still receiving services in Region 10, including meals and activities. We have received 25 evaluations for the Annual Performance Review for the Executive Director and the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission. We need all evaluations back by July 30. The GARC annual Conference in St. Simons has been cancelled this year. Virtual meetings attended were the EDA CARES Act Post Award Management Conference Call and the GARC (Georgia Association of Regional Commissions) Economic Development Committee Meeting. There was an RLF (Revolving Loan Fund) Board meeting and a SOWEGA COA meeting as well.

Chairman Mays stated if there was no other business, the next meeting will be August 27th. John Howard made a motion to adjourn. Charlie Sol seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.


Elaine Mays, Chairman


Suzanne Angell, Executive Director