

## MINUTES

Southwest Georgia Regional Commission

Regional Council Meeting

Camilla, Georgia

September 24, 2020

The Southwest Georgia Regional Commission (RC) held its Council meeting Thursday, September 24, 2020, at the Southwest Regional Commission building in Camilla, Georgia. Due to COVID19 social distancing orders from the Governor, a virtual meeting was held via ZOOM and telephone. Chairman Elaine Mays chaired the meeting and was present. John Spann was also present in person. The following council members were present via ZOOM: Charlie Williams, Benny Flowers, Paul Nagy, Barbara Grogan, Steve Brock, Gregg Close, Revonn Miller, Anthony Jones, Jon Howard, Raymond Breaux, Casawan Lhuillier-Yheyeis, Charlie Sol, Al Hutchins, Freddie Speight, Jim Sellers, Joe Walden, Chad Griffin, Glenda Battle, Ben Hayward, Danny Palmer, Nathaniel Keaton, Brenda Peterson, Mitchell Blanks, Donnie Baggett, Wanda Warren, Al Bryan, and Dice Roberts.

Council members calling to report conflicts were Billy Poppell, Phillip Drew, Norma Gilpatrick, and Rodney Prince.

Council members absent were Chris Moore, Eddie Hopkins, Deidre Evans-Severson, Ferrell Ruis, Virginia Hart, Freddy Grimsley, John Wheaton, Dwight Hickman, Gregg Freeman, Carlos Williams, Jayme Smith, Tracie Beard, Ernest Johnson, Gregg Satterfield, Jack Powell, Christopher Wheeler, and John McPhaul.

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

Chairman Mays called the meeting to order at approximately 6:03 p.m.

Executive Assistant Heather White gave the attendance report stating that there were 29 members present representing 12 counties and a quorum was present. Early, Mitchell, and Thomas Counties had 100% representation.

Chairman Elaine Mays asked for a motion that the August 2020 meeting minutes be approved. Donnie Baggett motioned the minutes be accepted and Al Hutchins seconded the motion; all agreed.

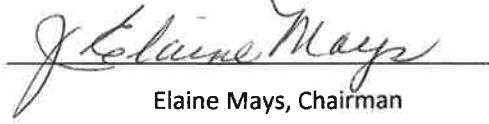
Chairman Mays asked Deputy Director Barbara Reddick to give the planning report. The announcement for Community Development Block Grants (CDBGs) were recently made and the four communities that SWGRC submitted applications for were all awarded; Sasser, Attapulgus, City of Colquitt, and Damascus. Bronwood and Arlington may apply for CDBGs next year. Pre-Hazard Mitigation Plans are being worked on. All the transportation planning projects are about complete. The EDA Planning Grant is in progress. The EDA CARES Revolving Loan Fund Grant pre-award conditions and staffing plan have been completed and submitted. The Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies (CEDS) update is due on December 1<sup>st</sup> and is being worked on. The Annual Housing Conference will be held virtually. There will also be a virtual Grant Writing workshop. The Brownfields Grant is due at the end of October and is being worked on. The CHIP (Community Housing Improvement Program) deadline is January 2021. The Regional Plan may be updated this year.

Finance Director Barbara Wilbon presented the Financial Reports for the period ending August 31, 2020 for the Council's approval. The General Fund had a deficit of \$3,133.27 bringing the ending fund balance to \$517,376.57. The Revolving Loan Fund had a deficit of \$278.61 bringing the ending fund balance to \$298,669.39. The Regional Transportation Fund had a net surplus of \$143,774.90 bringing the ending fund balance to \$462,749.69. The Defined Benefit Plan had a net surplus of \$54,041.86 bringing the balance to \$914,443.83. Donnie Baggett made a motion to accept the August 2020 Financial Report and John Spann seconded the motion; all agreed.

Executive Director Suzanne Angell presented her Executive Director's Report. The annual audit is underway. Mrs. Angell congratulated everyone on the CDBG Awards. She said there were five other awards in our region as well. Finance Director Barbara Wilbon will be leaving after accepting another position closer to home. The Grants Administration Assistant, Shanique Daniels, resigned to pursue another career. A workforce participant, Jennifer Myrick will take Shanique Daniels place and started work this previous Monday. The OJT program for workforce

will provide 75% of her salary for six months. If this trainee works out, we hope to keep her in a full-time position. Shane Kelsey, who worked for the RC several years ago, will be re-joining the Planning Staff soon as a part-time planner. Mrs. Angell congratulated Helen Williams on 10 years of service to the Regional Commission. Mrs. Angell pleaded with everyone to complete their census forms and get the word out to others. A brief discussion was held about future meeting plans, virtual vs. in-person. Options were discussed. The Council was asked to write Director Suzanne Angell about their opinions on that subject.

Chairman Mays stated if there was no other business, the next meeting will be October 29, 2020. Mr. Spann made a motion to adjourn. Al Hutchins seconded the motion to adjourn; all agreed. The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:51 p.m.



Elaine Mays, Chairman



Suzanne Angell, Executive Director