

## MINUTES

Southwest Georgia Regional Commission

Regional Council Meeting

Camilla, Georgia

August 29, 2019

The Southwest Georgia Regional Commission (RC) held its Council meeting Thursday, August 29, 2019, at the Southwest Regional Commission building in Camilla, Georgia. Chairman Elaine Mays chaired the meeting. The following council members were present: John Spann, Eddie Hopkins, Charlie Williams, Benny Flowers, Paul Nagy, Ferrell Ruis, Virginia Hart, Steve Brock, Anthony Jones, Jon Howard, Raymond Breaux, Al Hutchins, June Knight, Jim Sellers, Dwight Hickman, Carlos Williams, Ben Hayward, Danny Palmer, Nathaniel Keaton, Brenda Peterson, Mitchell Blanks, Ed Wade, Jack Powell, Donnie Baggett, Al Bryan, Joe Gaines, Christopher Wheeler, Norma Gilpatrick, and Rodney Prince.

Council members calling to report conflicts were Chris Moore, Kregg Close, Revonn Miller, Billy Poppell, Jeffery Haynes, Freddy Speight, Joe Walden, John Wheaton, Chad Griffin, Glenda Battle, Nicole Nixon, Tracie Beard, and Terry Scott.

Council members absent were Deidre Evans-Severson, Preston Jimmerson, Freddy Grimsley, Jayme Smith, Ernest Johnson, and Karen Rackley.

Staff members present were Executive Director Suzanne Angell, Deputy Director Barbara Reddick, Executive Assistant Heather White, Finance Director Barbara Wilbon, GIS Manager Heidi Penny, and Planner Kay Olubowale.

Guests present were guest speaker Cicily Florence from the United States Census Bureau, Julian Knight, John Peterson, Jeffery Hopkins, Lindsey Register, Margaret Acree, Florence Voncille, and Kathy Wade.

Chairman Mays called the meeting to order at approximately 7:00 p.m.

Executive Director Suzanne Angell gave the attendance report stating that there were 30 members present representing 14 counties and a quorum was present. She noted that Mitchell County had 100% representation and then introduced the guests of the Council.

Chairman Elaine Mays asked for a motion that the July 2019 meeting minutes to be approved. Dwight Hickman motioned the minutes be accepted and Ferrell Ruis seconded the motion; all agreed except Al Bryan who abstained.

Chairman Mays introduced the guest speaker, Cicily C. Florence, United States Census Bureau. She discussed the timeline of the 2020 census count and ways that it is being marketed to those less inclined to participate.

Chairman Mays asked Bylaws Committee Chairman Jim Sellers to address the Council. He said that the Bylaws Committee met in July and addressed portions of the bylaws that needed updating. The updates were made and presented to the Council at the July meeting and have been tabled for 30 days. No one has contacted Executive Director Suzanne Angell with any questions or concerns in that time period so there was going to be a vote to approve these modifications. Al Bryan made a motion to accept the revisions made to the Bylaws as presented at the last meeting. Raymond Breaux seconded the motion; all agreed.

Chairman Mays stated that prior to the Council meeting there was a Transportation Committee meeting. She said that there was a vote that passed to recommend the approval of the revised Title VI Plan. Executive Director Suzanne Angell spoke to the Council about what the Title VI Plan is. Donnie Baggett made a motion to approve the revised Title VI Plan. June Knight seconded the motion; all agreed.

Chairman Elaine Mays stated that there was also an Executive Committee just before the council meeting. The results of the FY19 Annual Performance Review of the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission and Executive Director was reviewed. A vote was taken to recommend the results to the full Council and the vote passed.

Mrs. Mays asked the Council for a motion to approve the FY19 Annual Performance Review. Dwight Hickman made the motion. Raymond Breaux seconded the motion; all agreed. There was a brief conversation on how to get more council members to participate in the survey each year. Mr. Anthony Jones suggested next year to not have a speaker during one of the meetings and give everyone that opportunity to fill out their surveys and turn them in during the meeting.

Mr. Danny Palmer, Chairman of the Audit Committee, stated that the Audit Committee met with the auditors for the annual audit first contact meeting. Executive Director Suzanne Angell stated that the committee did a review of bank balances and test transactions and everything was in order. She also stated if any SWGRC Council member would like to make contact with the auditors to let her know and she will give them the contact information.

Deputy Director Barbara Reddick introduced new planner, Kay Olubowale. Mr. Olubowale stood up and told the Council about himself. Mrs. Reddick gave the Planning report. She asked the Council for a vote to adopt the Regional Plan Implementation Program Annual Report. John Spann made the motion to adopt the report. Paul Nagy seconded the motion; all agreed. Mrs. Reddick asked for the approval of the selection of a Brownfield's Project consultant. PPM of Birmingham was the consultant that was chosen. Dwight Hickman made a motion to accept PPM of Birmingham as the Brownfield's Project consultant. Mitchell Blanks seconded the motion; all agreed. Next, Deputy Director Barbara Reddick asked for an approval from the council to submit the Brownfields application. Dwight Hickman made the motion to approve submission of the application. June Knight seconded the motion; all agreed.

GIS Manager Heidi Penny gave a GIS department report. She went over the projects they are currently working on. She was also asked to explain what LUCA is.

The Financial Director, Barbara Wilbon, introduced herself to the Council. Ms. Wilbon presented the Financial Reports for the period ending July 31, 2019 for the Council's approval. The General Fund had a net surplus of \$13,668.71 bringing the ending fund balance to \$539,616.50. The Revolving Loan Fund had a net surplus of \$487.13 bringing the ending fund balance to \$298,252.88. The Regional Transportation Fund had a net surplus of \$11,353.33 bringing the ending fund balance to \$248,394.63. The Regional Partners Network's fund balance remained \$7355.64. The Pension Trust fund had a net surplus of \$3,701.87 with an ending balance of \$920,577.83. Billy Poppell made a motion to accept the June 2019 financial report and Danny Palmer seconded the motion; all agreed.

Chairman Mays invited the Executive Director to give her report. Executive Director Angell asked for continued prayers for Council member Joe Walden while he recovers from his accident. She apologized if anyone has been hung up on when calling our offices. Our phones are still not repaired, and it appears that we will be having to purchase new ones. Mrs. Angell briefed the Council on what she has been doing since the last meeting. She has been training Barbara Wilbon on financial statements and other financial duties. The work has begun with the auditors for the FY19 audit. There was a teleconference with the Georgia Department of Audits and Accounts (DOAA) to discuss the "preliminary" report on their review that they did back in March. A draft report is expected within the next couple of weeks. Mrs. Angell stated that she has had many conference calls and emails between herself and the Georgia Department of Transportation on potential changes to the program. She has attended many meetings. She and Chairman Elaine Mays attended the Georgia Association of Regional Commissions full board meeting in Macon on August 1<sup>st</sup>. She and Deputy Director Barbara Reddick attended a city council meeting in Leary to discuss the Brownfields program. The Regional Transportation Coordinating Committee and Transit Provider meeting was held at our offices August 15<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Angell and Mrs. Reddick met with Cicily Florence about how the Regional Commission can assist with the 2020 Complete Count Initiative. The Revolving Loan Fund Board

had a meeting to discuss an application. The application was unfortunately denied. Mrs. Angell attended the first session of the Georgia Academy of Economic Development in Leesburg. She also attended the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) Subrecipient Workshop in Forsyth. Mrs. Angell attended the Technical Advisory Committee meeting for GDOT's Statewide Transit Plan in Forsyth.

Executive Director Angell discussed upcoming meetings. Executive Director Lisa Cribb from the Southern Georgia Regional Commission and Executive Director Suzanne Angell will meet with Representative Sam Watson in Moultrie on September 3<sup>rd</sup>. There will be a Georgia Association of Regional Commissions (GARC) meeting in Macon on September 5<sup>th</sup>. There will be a House Rural Development Council meeting in Moultrie on September 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Angell was invited to eat lunch with Georgia Department of Community Affairs Commissioner Christopher Nunn and Gina Webb on September 11<sup>th</sup>. The Georgia Academy for Economic Development will hold the second class on September 26<sup>th</sup>. The DCA Fall Conference will be held October 15<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> at the Great Wolf Lodge in LaGrange. The GARC Annual Conference will be November 6-8 in St. Simons. The Georgia Transit Association Meeting will be at Jekyll Island December 4-6.

Chairman Mays stated no other business, the next meeting is September the 26<sup>th</sup>. The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:24 p.m.



---

Elaine Mays, Chairman



---

Suzanne Angell, Executive Director