

MINUTES

Southwest Georgia Regional Commission

Regional Council Meeting

Camilla, Georgia

July 26, 2018

The Southwest Georgia Regional Commission (RC) held its Council meeting Thursday, July 26, 2018, at the Southwest Regional Commission building in Camilla, Georgia. Chairman Glenda Battle chaired the meeting. The following council members were present: Chris Moore, John Spann, Eddie Hopkins, Charlie Williams, Bennie Watts Jones, Paul Nagy, Ferrell Ruis, Steve Brock, Billy Poppell, Anthony Jones, Raymond Breaux, Al Hutchins, Jim Sellers, Joe Walden, Dwight Hickman, Chad Griffin, Carlos Williams, Ben Hayward, Nathaniel Keaton, Brenda Peterson, Tracie Beard, Ed Wade, Jack Powell, Ken Hickey, Donnie Baggett, Elaine Mays, Charles Jones, Karen Rackley, and Norma Gilpatrick.

Council members calling to report conflicts were Deidre Evans-Severson, Revonn Miller, Jeffery Haynes, Freddie Speight, Danny Palmer, Mitchell Blanks, Terry Scott, and Courtney Brinson.

Council members absent were Preston Jimmerson, Kregg Close, Matt Fuller, Freddy Grimsley, Matthew Reed, Keith Moye, Dennis Roland, Allen Worsley, Jayme Smith, Ernest Johnson, and Fred Dent.

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

Guests present were Strategic Programs Administrator of Georgia State Road and Tollway Authority David Cassell, Randall McBride, Kathy Wade, John Peterson, and Queenie Grimes.

Chairman Glenda Battle called the meeting to order at approximately 7:03 p.m. Mr. McDaniel gave the attendance report stating that there were 30 members present representing 14 counties and a quorum was present. He noted Baker County had 100% representation and then introduced the guests of the Council. Glenda Battle asked that June minutes be approved. Dwight Hickman motioned the minutes be accepted and Donnie Baggett seconded the motion; all agreed.

Guest Speaker David Cassell, the Strategic Programs Administrator of the State Road and Tollway Authority (SRTA) of Georgia addressed the Council. He congratulated the recipients of the grants/ low interest loans for the Southwest Georgia Region. He went over eligibility requirements, time lines, and potential projects that may be of interest. Mr. Cassell discussed matching funds. He stated that there is not a limit to number of times applicants can apply for SRTA grants and loans.

Executive Committee Chairman Glenda Battle presented the council with the report from the combined Executive and Transportation Committee meeting. She mentioned that they went over the Annual Performance Evaluations for FY18. She said there were very few "need improvements" and no "unsatisfactory ratings". She asked for a motion to accept the results. Raymond Breaux made the motion to accept the FY18 SWGRC and Executive Performance Review results. Donnie Baggett seconded the motion; all agreed.

Transportation Committee Chairman Raymond Breaux deferred to Glenda Battle to give the report of the combined meeting in regards to Transportation. Ms. Battle gave an update to the Council. She stated that Destiny had stated that their last day will be Friday, August 27, to provide transportation. She said that MIDS would be transitioning to take over that area. All but one of the transit drivers from Destiny have chosen to be employed by MIDS. The office staff will be hired by MIDS as well. A smooth transition is expected and will be made quickly so service is not interrupted. MIDS will be running the Destiny routes beginning Monday. There has been constant communication and updates between Chairman Battle, Robert McDaniel, and Suzanne Angell.

Chairman Battle asked Planning Director Barbara Reddick to present the council with her staff report for the Planning Department. The Planning Department is working on quarterly reports and end of the year reports. They are working on zoning ordinances for the City of Sylvester. There are no new grants being worked on currently. They are finishing up current contracts. Community Housing Investment Program (CHIP) applications will be due in December. Currently there are over 800 people in the region that are on waiting lists for CHIP funds. There are normally 6 or 7 home owners that are awarded the limited funds.

Glenda Battle asked Deputy Director Suzanne Angell to give the June 30 ending financial report. This is a preliminary report because it is the end of the fiscal year and year-end adjustments will need to be made. Ms. Angell reported that the General Fund had a net surplus for FY18 in the amount of \$135,004.10. The General Fund's ending fund balance was \$486,150.91. The Revolving Loan Fund had net surplus of \$4,372.70 which brings the fund balance to \$293,125.99. The SOWEGA Economic Development Corporation account has a net deficit of \$14,395.18 which brings that fund balance to a deficit of \$563.00. That account will be dissolved and closed out as planned. Ms. Angell stated that the year to date excess of revenues over expenditures for the year of the Regional Transit Program is \$33,640.48 and the ending fund balance is \$185,964.18. The Regional Partner's Network has a net surplus of \$470.00 and the ending fund balance is \$7,484.59. The defined benefit Pension Trust Fund had a year to date gain on investments for the year of \$77,289.77. Elaine Mays made a motion to accept the June 2018 financial report and Paul Nagy seconded the motion. All agreed.

Deputy Director Suzanne Angell explained the new format of the non-pubic council travel forms and reviewed the new travel policy for reimbursement of mileage. She offered assistance to anyone who needed further explanation.

Executive Director Robert McDaniel was asked to give his Executive Director report. He stated that the next meeting will be August 30, 2018. He reassured the council that the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission staff is working diligently to insure a smooth transition from Destiny to MIDS.

With there being no other business, Glenda Battle adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:11 p.m.



Glenda Battle, Chairman



Robert McDaniel, Secretary