

MINUTES

Southwest Georgia Regional Commission

Regional Council Meeting

Camilla, Georgia

April 25, 2019

The Southwest Georgia Regional Commission (RC) held its Council meeting Thursday, April 25, 2019, at the Southwest Regional Commission building in Camilla, Georgia. Chairman Elaine Mays chaired the meeting. The following council members were present: Chris Moore, John Spann, Eddie Hopkins, Deidre Evans-Severson, Benny Flowers, Kregg Close, Revonn Miller, Billy Poppell, Jon Howard, Freddy Grimsley, Raymond Breaux, Al Hutchins, Freddie Speight, Jim Sellers, Joe Walden, John Wheaton, Dwight Hickman, Glenda Battle, Danny Palmer, Nathaniel Keaton, Mitchell Blanks, Tracie Beard, Jack Powell, Joe Gaines, and Norma Gilpatrick.

Council members calling to report conflicts were Charlie Williams, Paul Nagy, Virginia Hart, Steve Brock, Anthony Jones, Matthew Reed, Jeffery Haynes, June Knight, Chad Griffin, Ben Hayward, Brenda Peterson, Ed Wade, Donnie Baggett, Terry Scott, Al Bryan, and Karen Rackley.

Council members absent were Ferrell Ruis, Preston Jimmerson, Nicole Nixon, Carlos Williams, Jayme Smith, Ernest Johnson, and Christopher Wheeler.

Governor appointee Courtney Brinson resigned due to retirement from his position at AT&T.

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

Guests present were Herven Severson, Toney Thompson, Queenie Grimes, Harriett Walden, and Katherine Speight.

Chairman Elaine Mays called the meeting to order at approximately 7:00 p.m. Mr. McDaniel gave the attendance report stating that there were 26 members present representing 12 counties and a quorum was present. He noted that Baker County had 100% representation and then introduced the guests of the Council.

Elaine Mays asked for a motion that the March 2019 meeting minutes to be approved. Jack Powell motioned the minutes be accepted and Dwight Hickman seconded the motion; all agreed.

Elaine Mays asked Planning Director Barbara Reddick to give the April 2019 Planning Report. Four Community Housing Improvement Program grants were awarded, a total of \$1.2 million dollars from the applications submitted by the SWGRC Planning Department on behalf of Camilla, Arlington, Donalsonville, and the Sylvester Housing Authority. A USDA Rural Business Development Grant application has been completed for the Seminole Donalsonville Development Authority for a new roof for their R.D. Rambeau Gymnasium. Four CDBG Applications have been submitted for the City of Thomasville, the City of Damascus, Terrell County, and the City of Bronwood. A Pre-Hazard Mitigation Plan is under review for Terrell County. Grady County's Pre-Hazard Mitigation Plan has been finally adopted, and Miller County and Baker Counties are in progress. Colquitt County's Solid Waste Plan has been adopted. The Solid Waste Plans for Bainbridge and Calhoun County are in progress. One of two Complete Streets Safety Training has been completed. Miller County and Mitchell County sidewalk inventories have been completed. The Housing Task Force facilitated a Grant Writing Workshop. Classes are being held for the Georgia Academy in August. Gina Webb should be contacted about registration. May 14, 2019 is the 19th Annual Housing Conference at the Southwest Georgia Technical College in Thomasville, Georgia. The themes will be health, jobs, and housing. The Service Delivery Strategy for Colquitt County and its cities have been approved by the Department of Community Affairs. Worth County, Thomas County, and Lee County and their cities Service Delivery Strategies are all under review at the Department of Community Affairs. Terrell County and its cities Community Work Program are due October 31, 2019 and are currently in progress. Regional Success Stories needed for Regional Priorities were due March 31st and they have been submitted.

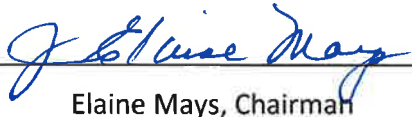
Audit Committee Chairman Danny Palmer deferred to Deputy Director Suzanne Angell to give the Audit Committee report. She stated that the independent auditors suggested many years back that an Audit Committee meeting be held at least quarterly so that there is oversight. The Audit Committee looked at financial statements and pulled transactions and looked at bank statements. Everything was in order and signed off on. There were Georgia Department of Audits and Accounts (DOAA) auditors in our office a couple of weeks ago. They do program audits for the Georgia Department of Community Affairs and for the Georgia Department of Human Services for the transportation program. We have not heard the results of their visit; we are still waiting. The audit seemed to go very well. There was no exit interview, but he said he would be following up in the next couple of weeks. He said everything looked good. The end of the fiscal year is coming up. Next month the FY20 budget will be provided for your review and the amended FY19 budget will be available.

Deputy Director Suzanne Angell presented the Financial Reports for the period ending March 31, 2019 with the Council. The General Fund had a net surplus of \$24,218.91 bringing the ending fund balance to \$510,221.80. The Revolving Loan Fund had a net surplus of \$3,108.16 bringing the ending fund balance to \$296,228.20. The Regional Transportation Fund had a net surplus of \$35,265.00 bringing the ending fund balance to \$221,009.10. The Regional Partner's Network had a net deficit of \$98.95. The ending fund balance of the Regional Partner's Network was \$7,385.64. The Pension Trust Fund had a net deficit of \$99,762.54 due to a few lump sum payouts to retirees. There was a gain on investments in the Pension Trust Fund of \$17,157.01. Jack Powell made a motion to accept the March 2019 financial report and Danny Palmer seconded the motion; all agreed.

Elaine Mays asked the Executive Director to give his report. Mr. McDaniel mentioned that with all the storms that the region has been getting now is the time to take photos of drainage problems while they are occurring because when the time comes to apply for grants, there may be no rain and the opportunity will pass.

The next meeting will be held May 30, 2019 at the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission building.

With no other business, Elaine Mays adjourned the meeting at approximately 7:27 p.m.



Elaine Mays, Chairman



Suzanne Angell, Deputy Director