

MINUTES

Southwest Georgia Regional Commission

Regional Council Meeting

Camilla, Georgia

February 22, 2018

The Southwest Georgia Regional Commission (RC) held its Council meeting Thursday, February 22, 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, Deidre Evans-Severson, Benny Watts Jones, Ferrell Ruis, Preston Jimmerson, Billy Poppell, Gregg Close, Anthony Jones, Matt Fuller, Raymond Breaux, Jeffery Haynes, Al Hutchins, Freddie Speight, Jim Sellers, Joe Walden, Dwight Hickman, Carlos Williams, Jayme Smith, Ben Hayward, Danny Palmer, Nathaniel Keaton, Brenda Peterson, Tracie Beard, Ed Wade, Jack Powell, Ken Hickey, Terry Scott, Donnie Baggett, Elaine Mays, and Charles Jones.

Council members calling to report conflicts were Matthew Reed, Paul Nagy, Revonn Miller, Keith Moye, Chad Griffin, Mitchell Blanks, Fred Dent, Karen Rackley, Courtney Brinson, and Norma Gilpatrick.

Council members absent were Dennis Brinson, Freddy Grimsley, Dennis Roland, Allen Worsley, and Earnest Johnson.

Staff members present were Executive Director Robert McDaniel, Deputy Director Suzanne Angell, Senior Planner Steve O'Neil, Grants Administrator Brenda Wade, Planner Kim Brooks, High School Intern Abby Casey and Executive Assistant Heather White.

Guests present were John Peterson, WIOA Director Melody Pierce, Kathy Wade, Charlie Sol, Paul Fryer (Sanford Bishop's office), Michael Bryant (Sanford Bishop's office), Dr. Gary Nelson (Healthcare Georgia Foundation), Dr. Charles Stafford (Healthcare Foundation), Administrator Scott Kroell (Pelham Parkway Nursing Home), Katherine Speight, Sammie Battle, Queenie Grimes, Toney Thompson, and Herven Severson.

Chairman Glenda Battle called the meeting to order at approximately 7:00 p.m. Mr. McDaniel gave the attendance report stating that there were 34 members present representing 14 counties and a quorum was present. He noted that Mitchell County, Baker County, Calhoun County, Early County, and Thomas County had 100% representation and then introduced the guests of the Council.

Glenda Battle asked for a motion for January 2018 minutes be approved. Donnie Baggett motioned the minutes be accepted and Al Hutchins seconded the motion; all agreed.

Glenda Battle asked Dr. Charles Stafford to introduce the guest speaker. Dr. Stafford introduced the President of Healthcare Georgia Foundation Dr. Gary Nelson.

Dr. Nelson told the Council about the vision, mission, and funding priorities for the Healthcare Georgia Foundation. He spoke of the abundance of counties in the state of Georgia with a rural designation when it came to being served with health services. All but three counties in the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission are considered rural communities. He stated that socioeconomic factors and healthy behaviors affect the health of a community the most followed by clinical care. He said that more and more hospitals are closing their doors due to lack of adequate staffing and other factors. Dr. Nelson mentioned the importance of getting high speed internet to the rural areas, especially to those with no local healthcare so that those populations can access online medical care. The Healthcare Georgia Foundation is granting money to communities to self-manage and place into areas such as health education, hospital supplies, and any other health related costs to making their community healthier. Executive Director Robert McDaniel let the Council know that Dr. Nelson's PowerPoint would be on our website.

Chairman Glenda Battle asked the chairman of the Nominating Committee, Elaine Mays, to address the Council for the final vote on the 2018 Southwest Georgia Regional Commission Council Officers since the nominations had been tabled for the required 30 days. Elaine Mays reminded the Council who the slate of officers were that the Nominating Committee recommended at February's meeting. Ms. Mays asked if there were any nominations from the floor. Being none, Glenda Battle asked for a motion to accept the slate of officers as presented, and a second. Billy Poppell motioned to accept the slate of officers as presented. Al Hutchins seconded the motion; all agreed with no opposition. The Executive Committee for 2018 is; Chairman Glenda Battle, Vice-Chairman John Spann, Treasurer Danny Palmer, Member Ben Hayward, Member Jack Powell and Member Elaine Mays.

Senior Planner Steve O'Neil gave the planning report. He mentioned the planning department has been very busy as usual. The CHIP (Community Home Investment Program) application results for Cordele, Dawson, Donalsonville, Colquitt, and Pavo will be March 5th. Pre-Hazard Mitigation plans have been worked on. Terrell County draft has been submitted. Grady County's draft is about complete. Solid waste management plans for the city of Bainbridge and Colquitt County have been requested. The annual Housing Conference will be May 8th at the Albany Civic Center. Regional Partner's Network Youth Summit update was giving by planner Kimberly Brooks. She said that there are eight schools, possibly nine. The Youth Summit will be held February 8th. There are 75 students expected to attend at the Southwest Georgia RESA building in Camilla, Georgia. The topic is "Building Blocks for the Future". The City of Sylvester has contracted with the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission to assist them to get the Georgia Department of Affairs World Zone designation. Mr. O'Neil updated the Council on Comprehensive Plans and Service Delivery Strategies being worked on. He mentioned the Georgia Department of Community Affairs Regional Success Stories, the annual call for projects are due March 31st. They are looking for some of the best examples of successful Comprehensive Plan implementation from the region.

Glenda Battle announced that Deputy Director Suzanne Angell has been named as One of the 100 Most Influential Women to Know by the "Engineering Georgia" Magazine. She asked Deputy Director Suzanne Angell to give her January 2018 Financial Report. Ms. Angell reported that the General Fund had net surplus of \$47,375.68 and the General Fund balance was \$398,522.49. The year to date Revolving Loan Fund net surplus was \$2,576.66 and the fund balance was \$291,329.95. The SOWEGA Economic Development fund balance was down to \$7,785.01. Ms. Angell stated that Regional Transit Program has net surplus of \$1,027.47 and the ending fund balance is \$153,351.17. The Regional Partners Network has net revenues over expenditures of \$500.00. This brings the fund balance to \$7,514.59. Ms. Angell briefed the Council on the status of the responses for the Georgia Department of Transportation Audit. The response will be due by Monday, February 26. The Pension Trust Fund has a gain on investments of \$91,558.55 through January 31, 2018. Dwight Hickman made a motion to accept the January 2018 financial report and Terry Scott seconded the motion; all agreed.

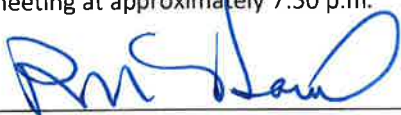
Glenda Battle asked Executive Director to give his report. He announced that Ed Wade has been appointed as the third member on the Ethics Committee to replace former council member Jerry Bush. He said the next meeting is March 29th, 2018 at the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission offices in Camilla.

Glenda Battle asked Congressman Sanford Bishop Aid Michael Bryant to introduce the newest member of the staff, Paul Fryer. Ms. Battle then asked Suzanne Angell to come up to make her presentation. Deputy Director Angell presented Executive Director Robert McDaniel with his 10 year service award.

With no other business, Glenda Battle asked for a motion to adjourn. Terry Scott motioned to adjourn. Dwight Hickman seconded the motion; all agreed. Glenda Battle adjourned the meeting at approximately 7:50 p.m.



Glenda Battle, Chairman



Robert McDaniel, Secretary