

MINUTES

Southwest Georgia Regional Commission

Regional Council Meeting

Camilla, Georgia

March 29, 2018

The Southwest Georgia Regional Commission (RC) held its Council meeting Thursday, March 29, 2018, at the Southwest Regional Commission building in Camilla, Georgia. Chairman Glenda Battle chaired the meeting. The following council members were present: John Spann, Eddie Hopkins, Charlie Williams, Deidre Evans-Severson, Benny Watts Jones, Paul Nagy, Ferrell Ruis, Preston Jimmerson, Gregg Close, Billy Poppell, Anthony Jones, Freddy Grimsley, Raymond Breaux, Al Hutchins, Freddie Speight, Jim Sellers, Joe Walden, Dwight Hickman, Jayme Smith, Ben Hayward, Danny Palmer, Nathaniel Keaton, Mitchell Blanks, Ed Wade, Terry Scott, Donnie Baggett, Elaine Mays, Karen Rackley, Courtney Brinson, and Norma Gilpatrick.

Council members calling to report conflicts were Chris Moore, Matthew Reed, Keith Moye, Allen Worsley, Carlos Williams, Brenda Peterson, Tracie Beard, Fred Dent, and Charles Jones.

Council members absent were Dennis Brinson, Revonn Miller, Matt Fuller, Jeffery Haynes, Dennis Roland, Chad Griffin, Ernest Johnson, Jack Powell, and Ken Hickey.

Staff members present were Executive Director Robert McDaniel, Deputy Director Suzanne Angell, Planning Director Barbara Reddick, Planner Kim Brooks, High School Intern Abby Casey and Executive Assistant Heather White.

Guests present were WIOA Director Melody Pierce, Kathy Wade, Katherine Speight, Toni Thompson, and Sandra Molden.

Chairman Glenda Battle called the meeting to order at approximately 7:00 p.m. Mr. McDaniel gave the attendance report stating that there were 31 members present representing 14 counties and a quorum was present. He noted that Mitchell County, Calhoun County, and Colquitt County had 100% representation and then introduced the guests of the Council.

Glenda Battle asked for a motion for February 2018 minutes be approved. Terry Scott motioned the minutes be accepted and Elaine Mays seconded the motion; all agreed.

Glenda Battle introduced the guest speaker WIOA Director Melody Pierce.

Ms. Pierce informed the Council about a need for placement for displaced employees from the mass closing of Winn Dixie, Harveys, and Kmart stores in our region. This requires a "rapid response" which is a response to massive, sudden layoffs. Needs assessments are being done for these employees deciding what the next step will be for them. Some of those options are returning to the workforce, returning to school for a degree, or getting technical training. WIOA will help these individuals with their resumes, counseling, and interviewing tips.

Chairman Glenda Battle asked the Chairman of the Audit Committee, Danny Palmer, to address the Council on the request for an extension for the annual audit review. Mr. Palmer asked Director Robert McDaniel to inform the Council on the contingent liability. A corrective action plan has been submitted but there has been no response from the Georgia Department of Transportation. Approval for an extension in the audit submission until June 30th has been approved by Georgia Department of Audits and Accounts. Approval needs to come from the Council. Ferrell Ruis made the motion to extend the annual audit submission until June 30th. Dwight Hickman seconded the motion; all agreed.

Chairman of the Ethics Committee Jim Sellers was called to address the Council. Chairman Sellers deferred to Suzanne Angell. Deputy Director Angell discussed the certification of an organization of ethics designation of the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission. She mentioned that we need to recertify as a Georgia Certified

Organization of Ethics. She asked for a motion to pass the resolution to recertify as a Georgia Certified Organization of Ethics. Dwight Hickman made the motion. Donnie Baggett seconded the motion; all agreed.

Planning Director Barbara Reddick gave the planning report. She reported that notification had been received for the Community HOME Investment Program (CHIP) Grant awards. She mentioned that Cordele, Dawson, and Colquitt were awarded \$306,000 each. The Planning Department is still awaiting notification for the Recreational Trails Grant for the City of Pelham. That notification is expected in April. The draft of Terrell County's Pre-Hazard Mitigation Plan has been submitted and Grady County's Pre-Hazard Mitigation Plan's draft is in progress. The Planning Department is also working on contracts with Colquitt County and the City of Bainbridge for Solid Waste Plans. The report for the homeless count for Colquitt, Miller and Terrell Counties January 23rd – January 29th has been published. There will be a Housing Conference at the Albany Civic Center on May 8th. The Department of Transportation Complete Streets training program will be scheduled soon. The Universal Design Rehab Grant awards for the first 6 houses have been complete and now the second six are working on being completed. Staff has attended training. She discussed training available to the public that is coming and how to sign up for the trainings.

Glenda Battle asked Deputy Director Suzanne Angell to give the February 2018 Financial Report. Ms. Angell reported that the General Fund had net surplus of \$40,180.30 and the General Fund balance was \$391,327.11. The year to date Revolving Loan Fund net surplus was \$3,212.16 and the fund balance was \$291,965.45. The SOWEGA Economic Development fund balance was down to \$6,085.31. Ms. Angell stated that Regional Transit Program has net deficit of \$1,950.14 and the ending fund balance is \$150,373.56. The Regional Partners Network has net revenues over expenditures of \$470.00. This brings the fund balance to \$7,484.59. The Pension Trust Fund has a gain on investments of \$66,597.14 through February 28, 2018. Donnie Baggett made a motion to accept the February 2018 financial report and Billy Poppell seconded the motion; all agreed.

Glenda Battle asked Executive Director to give his report. Mr. McDaniel mentioned that Department of Commission will be offering board member training in August. It will be held in Moultrie but the date has not been decided yet. The GARC convention will now be held in Savannah, Georgia instead of St. Simon's Island. Mr. McDaniel then addressed the State of Georgia Travel Policy. The Department of Audits and Accounts want the regional commissions to conform to the state travel policies.

The next meeting will be held April 26, 2018 at the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission building.

With no other business, Glenda Battle asked for a motion to adjourn. Paul Nagy motioned to adjourn. Dwight Hickman seconded the motion; all agreed. Glenda Battle adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:00 p.m.



Glenda Battle, Chairman



Robert McDaniel, Secretary