

MINUTES

Southwest Georgia Regional Commission

Regional Council Meeting

Camilla, Georgia

April 26, 2018

The Southwest Georgia Regional Commission (RC) held its Council meeting Thursday, April 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, Deidre Evans-Severson, Ferrell Ruis, Revonn Miller, Matt Fuller, Freddy Grimsley, Raymond Breaux, Al Hutchins, Freddie Speight, Jim Sellers, Joe Walden, Dwight Hickman, Chad Griffin, Danny Palmer, Nathaniel Keaton, Mitchell Blanks, Tracie Beard, Ed Wade, Jack Powell, Donnie Baggett, Elaine Mays, and Norma Gilpatrick.

Council members calling to report conflicts were Benny Watts Jones, Anthony Jones, Billy Poppell, Keith Moye, Ben Hayward, Brenda Peterson, Fred Dent, Karen Rackley, and Courtney Brinson.

Council members absent were Charlie Williams, Paul Nagy, Preston Jimmerson, Dennis Brinson, Kregg Close, Matthew Reed, Jeffery Haynes, Dennis Roland, Allen Worsley, Carlos Williams, Jayme Smith, Ernest Johnson, Ken Hickey, Terry Scott, and Charles Jones.

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 Kathy Wade, Toney Thompson, Charlie Sol, Herven Severson, Kathy Speight, Matthew Casey, and WIOA Director Melody Pierce

Chairman Glenda Battle called the meeting to order at approximately 7:03 p.m. Mr. McDaniel gave the attendance report stating that there were 25 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.

Glenda Battle asked for a motion for March 2018 minutes be approved. Dwight Hickman motioned the minutes be accepted and Al Hutchins seconded the motion; all agreed.

Chairman Glenda Battle told the Council that there was a combined Executive, Transportation and Audit Committee meeting. She mentioned that Robert McDaniel and Suzanne Angell updated the committees on the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) audit and that there are two action items. She asked Suzanne Angell to address the Council on the status of the audit. Ms. Angell said that the audit is still ongoing. There was a meeting with the Federal Transportation Association (FTA). There is still a question on the reasonableness of the provider salaries and reasonableness of facility rent. The effort will continue to reduce the amount owed back to GDOT. The audit needs to be completed by June 30, 2018.

Chairman Battle called on Raymond Breaux, the Chairman of the Transportation Committee to explain the two action items that needed to be voted on. The first action item was the Request for Proposal for Transit Services. Mr. Breaux asked for a motion to accept an extension of present contracts for 3 months so that transportation providers would have sufficient time to submit a proposal for transit services. Donnie Baggett made the motion. Raymond Breaux seconded the motion; all agreed. The second action item was explained by Suzanne Angell. She stated that this action item is to adopt the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) Procurement Policy Manual. Ferrell Ruis made the motion to accept the GDOT Procurement Manual. John Spann seconded the motion; all agreed.

Planning Director Barbara Reddick was asked to present her Planning Report to the Council. She stated that the Planning Department is busy working on comprehensive plans, solid waste plans, and urban redevelopment plans.

The homeless count results came out. The last of the 12 Universal Design Grant rehabilitation homes are being completed and will be finalized on the 30th of April. There are several contracts being worked on for zoning, housing, urban development plans and more. The staff have attended trainings. There were two workshops offered by the Regional Partner's Network; grant writing and leadership workshops. The Comprehensive Plans will be completed in October. They are on our website for review. She said the Regional Plan is on the website as well. Director Robert McDaniel asked the council to review and give feedback on the Regional Plan.

Glenda Battle asked Deputy Director Suzanne Angell to give the March 2018 Financial Report. Ms. Angell reported that the General Fund had net surplus of \$82,122.13 and the General Fund balance was \$433,268.94. The year to date Revolving Loan Fund net surplus was \$3,832.95 and the ending fund balance was \$292,586.24. The SOWEGA Economic Development fund balance had a net deficit of \$10,293.36 and the balance remaining is \$3,538.82. Ms. Angell stated that Regional Transit Program has net deficit of \$6,604.78 and the ending fund balance is \$145,718.92. The Pension Trust Fund has a gain on assets of \$58,762.62. Freddy Grimsley made a motion to accept the March 2018 financial report and Jack Powell seconded the motion; all agreed.

Glenda Battle asked Executive Director to give his report. He stated that attendance was low because ACCG was having their annual conference. Mr. McDaniel said that the next meeting will be held May 31st and we will have Southwest Georgia Council on Aging director Debbie Blanton as our guest speaker. The guest speaker for the June SWGRC Council meeting will be Lynn Riley, the Commissioner of the Georgia Revenue office. Mr. McDaniel mentioned that the SWGRC staff is staying very busy.

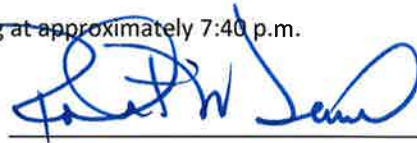
Robert McDaniel asked WIOAA Director Melody Pierce to give an update on the lay-offs at the stores that were closing in our region. She said she was able to get to all 8 counties that were affected and spoke to individuals that were interested in learning what WIOAA and their partners had to offer them. She has set them up with free computer classes. She sought out other grants available to the displaced workers.

The next meeting will be held May 31, 2018 at the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission building.

With no other business, Glenda Battle adjourned the meeting at approximately 7:40 p.m.



Glenda Battle, Chairman



Robert McDaniel, Secretary