

MINUTES

Southwest Georgia Regional Commission

Regional Council Meeting

Camilla, Georgia

May 25, 2017

The Southwest Georgia Regional Commission (RC) held its Council meeting Thursday, May 25, 2017, 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, Charlie Williams, Chuck Cowart, Ferrell Ruis, Dollie Crumley, Henry Crumley, Revonn Miller, Anthony Jones, Bobby Coleman, Freddy Grimsley, Raymond Breaux, June Merritt, Al Hutchins, Freddie Speight, Keith Moye, Jim Sellers, Dwight Hickman, Chad Griffin, Ben Hayward, Danny Palmer, Nathaniel Keaton, Brenda Peterson, Mitchell Blanks, Tracie Beard, Ed Wade, Terry Scott, Donnie Baggett, Fred Dent, Randy Hill, Karen Rackley, and Courtney Brinson.

Council members calling to report conflicts were Eddie Hopkins, Billy Poppell, Joe Walden, Jerry Bush, Carlos Williams, Jack Powell, Elaine Mays, David Mosely and Norma Gilpatrick.

Council members absent were Benny Watts Jones, Paul Nagy, Dennis Brinson, Erica Savage Wilson, Dennis Roland, Ernest Johnson, and Ken Hickey.

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

Guests present were Kathy Wade, Berneta Haynes with Georgia Watch, Cassandra Grimsley, Interim President of Bainbridge College Dr. Stuart Rayfield, Georgia Department of Community Affairs Representative Gina Webb, Fariby Moye, Sammie Battle, John Peterson, Toney Thompson and WIOA Director Ms. Melody Pierce.

Chairman Glenda Battle called the meeting to order at approximately 7:05 p.m. Mr. McDaniel gave the attendance report stating that there were 33 members present representing 13 counties and a quorum was present. He noted that Worth County, Early County, Mitchell County and Seminole County had 100% representation and then introduced the guests of the Council. Glenda Battle asked that April minutes be approved. Henry Crumley motioned the minutes be accepted and Freddy Grimsley seconded the motion; all agreed.

Georgia Department of Community Affairs representative Gina Webb was called on to address the council. Ms. Webb briefed the council on the fall offerings of the Georgia Academy for Economic Development.

Robert McDaniel introduced guest speaker, Interim President of Bainbridge College Dr. Stuart Rayfield. Dr. Rayfield spoke about the merger of Bainbridge College and Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College. She discussed what changes are envisioned and what benefits there will be to both colleges with this merger.

Chairman of the Audit Committee, Ben Hayward, deferred the Audit Committee report to Deputy Director Suzanne Angell. Ms. Angell reported to the council that the committee reviewed the financial results through April 30, 2017. They also reviewed bank reconciliations, ensuring they balanced to the general ledger and they reviewed sample transactions to ensure validity. All was found to be in good order. She reported that she expects the auditors to begin the annual audit for FY17 in August.

Chairman Glenda Battle gave the Executive Committee report to the council. She mentioned that the Annual SWGRC Evaluation of the SWGRC and the Executive Director was included in everyone's monthly council packets and will be due by the June 2017 council meeting. She explained the importance of the evaluation. Ms. Battle then invited Suzanne Angell to present the amended FY17 Budget and the Proposed FY18 Budget. Everyone received an amended FY17 budget. After Ms. Angell went over the adjustments she asked for a motion to accept the amended FY17 budget. Donnie Baggett made a motion to accept the amended FY17 budget as presented.

Dwight Hickman seconded the motion; all agreed. Ms. Angell then presented the council with the proposed FY18 budget. She mentioned that the FY18 budget will be tabled for 30 days and will be voted on at the June 2017 meeting.

The Planning Report was given by Planning Director Barbara Reddick. She mentioned that they are finishing several contracts. The Regional Agenda has been submitted as well as some comprehensive plans. Other comprehensive plans will be submitted in October. She referred the council to her planning report and stated if anyone has any questions to feel free to contact her.

Glenda Battle asked Deputy Director Suzanne Angell to give the April financial report. Ms. Angell reported that the General Fund had a year to date excess of revenues over expenditures of \$42,348.41. The General Fund balance was \$336,435.30. The Revolving Loan Fund had a year to date excess of revenues over expenditures of \$2,035.12 which brings the fund balance to \$294,048.94. Ms. Angell stated that the year to date excess of revenues over expenditures of the Regional Transit Program is \$9,749.78 and the fund balance is \$157,823.06. Anthony Jones made a motion to accept the April 2017 financial report and Randy Hill seconded the motion. All agreed.

Robert McDaniel introduced the final guest speaker of the night, Georgia Watch's Director of Equity and Access Berneta Haynes. Ms. Haynes discussed an upcoming Energy Equity Forum October 7 that will be open to the public to attend. The purpose of the forum is to bring citizens to together with utility readers and policy makers and discuss how to lower energy bills and how to sign up for programs the utility providers offer.

Mr. McDaniel mentioned that the next Council meeting would be held at the Regional Commission meeting room June 29th.

Chairman Glenda Battle reminded the council to return their annual evaluations and then she asked for a motion to adjourn. Donnie Baggett made the motion to adjourn. Henry Crumley seconded the motion; all agreed.



Glenda Battle, Chairman



Robert McDaniel, Secretary