

Executive Director's Monthly Report – February 2022

- **RLF CARES Program** – We currently have disbursed nine microloans totaling \$345,000, or 69% of the \$500,000 fund (same as last month).
- **Annual Work Program and Grant Writing/Administration** – Please review the updated FY22 Work Program & Activities in your packet.
- **Staffing** – Our new Grant Administrator/Writer, Rhonda Tucker, started this month. We have hired a Planner and a Planning Assistant. Both are scheduled to begin work within the next few weeks.
- **Weekly Legislative Report** – I am including the most recent weekly legislative report provided to us by the Georgia Association of Regional Commissions (GARC) lobbyists, Mathews & Maxwell. If anyone is interested in a particular piece of legislation, this report will give a short summary and will provide the Bill Number so you can view the entire bill and track at www.legis.ga.gov.
- **HB 1180** – **This bill has been re-introduced in the state legislature regarding Regional Commissions and their Councils.** I have included a copy of the bill in your packet. The most significant effect this legislation will have on our Council, if it passes, is that it would reduce the current number of council members of 53 down to 42. **Under the new legislation, there would be no Council appointments by the Governor, Lt. Governor or Speaker of the House and each County would be limited to three representatives: one County elected official, one City elected official and one non-public member.** The proposed legislation also proposes that each Regional Commission be required to have an Executive Committee of 5-9 members (which we already have – some Regional Commissions do not) and each Regional Commission be required to submit an annual audit report to the GA Dept of Community Affairs (which we already do). The only other thing that I see, and we may need some clarification on, is that, as written, the proposed legislation appears to take away the power of the Council to establish additional Committees as deemed appropriate. It appears to me that we may only be able to have the one Executive Committee.
- **Mental Health Crisis** – This continues to be hot topic in the Federal and State Legislatures. I will continue to report provide information as I receive. You can also find any current bills regarding mental health that have been introduced in the state legislature in the weekly legislative report provided.
- **Indirect Cost Proposal** – the annual indirect cost proposal, for final FY21 and provisional FY23, has been timely submitted to the Department of the Interior, Indirect Cost Division. We are waiting to hear from them to begin the process of our annual indirect cost negotiation.
- **DHS Transportation** – DHS FY23 application was submitted at the end of January.
- **GDOT Regional Transit Development Plan Assistance Program** – We are continuing to work with GDOT and AECOM on the Regional Rural Transit Plan and have been providing information to them and having regular meetings.

- **Staff Satisfaction Surveys** – The idea of performing staff satisfaction surveys was brought up by a Council Member in the January meeting. We have not done these surveys in the past. If this is something the Council would like to move forward on, I will be glad to provide some sample surveys for review prior to the next meeting. I would recommend that the Executive Committee hold a meeting prior to the March full Council meeting to review this proposed survey/procedure and to decide if this is something they would like to recommend to the full Council for approval.
- **Payroll Software** – The Payroll system that we moved to last year has informed us that they will no longer be providing our payroll software platform and recommended us to another payroll company (ADP). ADP seems to be unable to accommodate us on a small business platform (less than 25 employees), so we are getting a proposal from Paycor, one of the companies first recommended to us by our Accounting software company.
- **2022 AARP Community Challenge Grant Opportunity** – we received this grant in 2021 and are calling for projects again for the 2022 grant. **Please see flyer** included in your packet and make sure your local government is aware of this great opportunity! Make sure you take a look at the awesome projects completed in 2021 by Lee County and the Cities of Thomasville, Albany and Sylvester!!
- **Georgia 2050 Rural and Human Services Transportation Coordination Plan** – The Regional Rural and Human Services Transportation Coordination Plan Workshop for the SWGA area is scheduled for **February 23 from 2-3:30**. **We need your input** during this very important meeting concerning transit needs in our region! Please attend AND spread the word about this meeting. There is also a link for a rider survey. This **survey** is not only for current riders of the system but any potential rider of a public transit system in our region...so that is everyone! Please take the survey and add the meeting to your calendar! **A flyer** is included in your packet. These flyers have already been sent to our Cities and Counties but we would greatly appreciate if you could please remind them to participate!!
- **Meetings Attended:**
- January 24 – DCA Regional Round Table
- January 26 – GARC Economic Development Committee Meeting, virtual
- January 27 – DHS Monitoring visit
- Weekly virtual meetings with GA Tech regarding the Build Back Better Grant opportunity
- February 2 – Regional Transit Development Plan meeting with GDOT/AECOM
- February 3 – GARC Quarterly Board Meeting
- February 10 – GDOT Group Transit Asset Management Plan Webinar
- February 11 – Meeting with Paycor (Payroll Demo)
- February 17 – Dougherty County Food Bank CDBG-CV meeting with DCA
- February 18 – Transit meeting with Mitchell Baker Service Center

Upcoming Meetings to note:

- February 21 – GARC Transportation Group Meeting
- February 22 – Moultrie/Colquitt Co Development Authority Legislative Dinner in ATL
- March 2 – Regional Transit Development Plan Meeting with GDOT/AECOM
- March 3 – GARC Executive Director’s Meeting

- March 3 – GDOT Financial Management Oversight Webinar
- March 9 – GDOT TAG (Technical Advisory Group) Meeting (I am GARC's representative on this advisory group)
- March 9 – GDOT ADA Webinar
- April 6 – Regional Transit Development Plan Meeting
- April 18 – GARC Transportation Group Meeting
- May 1-3 GARC Economic Development Conference (Lake Lanier Islands)

There is a LOT going on!! If you have any questions, please feel free to email or call me at your convenience! Thank you for your support!!

Suzanne