

## Executive Director's Monthly Report – June 2022

- **Community Project Funding Request (CPF)** – SWGRC submitted three appropriations requests (CPF requests) to Congressman Sanford Bishop's office in April. We are excited to announce that one of those requests has been included in the FY23 appropriations bill, as passed by the subcommittee. It still has to pass the full committee and if it does, it will then move to the US House. If passed by the House, the Senate and House will have to reconcile any differences in the bill before a final version is passed by the House and the Senate and then signed by the President. We are hoping this will happen by September, but as we know, it sometimes takes longer. The funding request is for the purchase of upgraded Interoperable P25 Communications systems for our counties and cities' public safety and first responders. This equipment would replace the antiquated VHF communication systems that they currently have in place. This equipment is very important to our public safety and first responders in order to collect, process and transmit important information in a timely manner and will provide enhanced safety for all persons in SW GA. The total funding request was for \$10 million. ***We are very thankful to Congressman Bishop and his team for making this project and the safety of SW GA citizens a priority.*** The two requests that did not make it into the appropriations bill were for housing and tourism projects.
- **Project Management Software** – We have just purchased a new software management software program to help us organize and stay on top of projects better. The software is called Trello and we are still in the implementation phase but it is a very user friendly program. I am also implementing a new procedure to send surveys to local governments after a project is completed for them. I think this will be a great tool for us to assess how our staff is performing and working with our local governments...when a completed project is fresh on their minds. My hope is to have this all going for the new FY23 fiscal period.
- **New updated logo and website** – A new staff member, Sheena Stephens, comes to us with an extensive knowledge of marketing and website design. She has been working on a new, updated logo for SWGRC and SWG Regional Transit. I am planning to show you a preview of these logos at the June Council meeting. She is also working on designing and implementing a new website for SWGRC. Our old website is old, outdated and difficult to navigate. We will announce our new website in the near future.
- **Brownfield Assessment Grant** – Barbara and I are preparing to go to the Brownfield Conference in Oklahoma in August. Initial paperwork has been completed and we are hoping to receive the official award documents soon.
- **RLF CARES Program** – We currently have disbursed ten microloans totaling \$385,000, or 77% of the \$500,000 fund. The loan board reviewed an application this week but did not approve it. We will be preparing closing reports on this grant in July. The loans that were funded will revolve back into the fund as paid and used for re-lending in the future.
- **Annual Work Program and Grant Writing/Administration** – Please review the updated FY22 Work Program & Activities in your packet.
- **GDOT Regional Transit Development Plan Assistance Program** – We are continuing to work with GDOT and AECOM on the Regional Rural Transit Development Plan and have been providing information to them and having regular meetings. Our first Project Advisory Committee (PAC) meeting was held Tuesday, April 26. We sent out an email this past week as a request to visit the public forum website and to take the transit survey. If you have done that, thank you! If you have not, please visit the website at <https://regionaltdp-gdot.hub.arcgis.com/pages/swgrc> and click the button to "enter meeting room". You can also scroll down on that same page and click the button

to “take survey” or you can use this link to go directly to the survey:

<https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/ea47697cfdb649528c7a6fe8146854da>. Also feel free to share this link with anyone that lives in the SW GA area. We did send it out to a lot of contacts in the region but the more it is shared, the more responses we will get. Thanks in advance!

- **FY23 Budget Proposal** - The FY23 Budget proposal, Targeted Fund Balance Policy and Work Program were all reviewed at the last council meeting. I have received a couple of questions and comments since then. These items will need to be voted on at the June meeting. Please make sure you have reviewed these documents before the meeting and if you have any questions or comments before the meeting, please feel free to call or email me. Copies will also be available at the full Council meeting.
- **Building Repairs** – We currently have several building repairs going on. Our roof is still leaking (after several repairs) during heavy rain and we are having some rotting boards replaced on all of our buildings.
- **FY22 Annual Performance Review of the Regional Commission and the Executive Director** – The annual performance review forms were available at the last Council meeting and were emailed out. You can also find the form posted on our website using this link: [Southwest Georgia Regional Commission - SWGRC Council Resources](#). Thank you to those who have turned in their evaluations!! As of today, we have received 18 responses and I have received some good comments and feedback from those. If you have not already filled out a form, please fill one out and return to Heather by July 15 so that we can tally results and prepare a report for the full Council meeting in July. If you have any questions or need Heather to send you another form, please contact her at [hwhite@swgrc.org](mailto:hwhite@swgrc.org) or 229-522-3552. These results are also required to be reported to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs by July 30.
- **Legislative Reception** – In the past we have held an annual legislative reception, normally in October. This is where we invite our legislators over to give us a legislative update and to thank them for their public service. We have normally held this on our regular scheduled Council meeting night and only have a very short meeting and then allow our legislators time to speak. I wanted to ask if this something we would like to do this year and if so, would you rather have it on September 29 or October 27? I already have The Depot reserved for the remaining Council meeting dates for the rest of the calendar year so the location should not be a problem. We will discuss at the Council meeting.
- **City/County Managers Meetings** – My plan is to get City/County Managers meetings going again in FY23. I had started holding these quarterly meetings again soon after I became Executive Director but COVID interrupted them.
- **GARC Annual Conference** – The GARC Annual Conference is scheduled for Nov 2-4 at the King & Prince Hotel on St. Simons Island. Please note the “save the date” in your council packet. SWGRC will pay conference registration fees for any Council member that would like to attend. If you are a “non-public” or “additional” Council member (not a City or County elected official), SWGRC will cover the cost of your lodging. If you are a City or County elected official, we are assuming the City or County will pay for your travel; if this is not the case, please see me!! This is a great conference at a really nice location....I hope you will consider attending! We will pass along conference registration forms as they become available.

**Meetings Attended:**

- June 2 – GARC Executive Director’s Meeting - Macon
- June 6 – One Georgia Webinar
- June 8 – Meeting with Rep. Marvin Lim
- June 15 - Regional Transit Development Plan Coordination Meeting
- June 15 – GDOT Training Webinar – Establishing and Negotiation Rates
- June 21 – RLF Board Meeting

**Upcoming Meetings to note:**

- June 27 – FTA 5310 Virtual Audit
- June 28 – Rural Partners Network Initial (Steering Committee) Meeting
- June 28 – Mitchell Co. TSPLOST Meeting
- July 12 - Regional Transit Development Plan Coordination Meeting
- Nov 2-4 – GARC Annual Conference, St. Simons Island

**If you have any questions, please feel free to email or call me at your convenience! Thank you for your support!!**

**Suzanne**