

## Executive Director's Monthly Report – July 2022

- **Community Project Funding Request (CPF)** – The CPF for upgraded Interoperable P25 Communications systems for our Counties' and Cities' public safety and first responders is still pending approval by Congress. We hope to hear something in the Fall. We have been told that if approved, the funding will funnel through USDA Rural Development and has been reduced to approximately \$4 million. There also will be a local match requirement. Dougherty and Lee Counties will not be eligible for the funding as they do not fit the criteria under the Rural Development program. The equipment would replace the antiquated VHF communication systems that most of our counties and cities 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 original 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.***
- **Project Management Software** – Implementation is on-going with our new project management software. A copy of our local government survey is included in your packet...these surveys will be sent out to our local governments when a project is complete. This will be a very useful tool to gauge how well we are performing and how we can improve.
- **New updated logo and website** – SWGRC logo is complete and SWGRT (transit) logo is enclosed. Work on website continues. We hope to complete the new website by early Fall. I have also enclosed a pic of a transit vehicle with the new logo. We are hopeful that GDOT will allow us to use our logo with their Let's Ride logo on our vehicles....would be something to similar in the pic.
- **Brownfield Assessment Grant** – Brownfield Assessments are beginning. Communities will be contacted in order to have property owners to allow consent to access property. I will be facilitating a City/County Managers Meeting in August and this project will be presented at the meeting. Barbara and I are preparing to go to the Brownfield Conference in Oklahoma in August. Initial paperwork has been completed and I have signed the contract between the SWGRC and the Brownfield consultant (PPM).
- **RLF CARES Program** – We disbursed ten microloans totaling \$385,000, or 77% of the \$500,000 fund. We are currently preparing closing reports on this grant. 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** – The FY23 Work Program & Activities is still being prepared at this time. There will be a draft available at the meeting.
- **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. We received close to 60 survey results for the Regional Transit Development Plan. We also received a draft of the Pre-Existing Conditions Report. We will release this report when we get the final copy.
- **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 period for turning in the annual performance review forms has ended. The results will be reviewed with the Executive Committee and will be presented at the meeting. You should find the survey results and comments in your Council packet. Overall, we had very good results. The evaluations and/or comments have provided me with some good feedback, which has prompted me to put the project evaluations and training logs in place. I believe these tools will better provide the Council with better information needed to fill out the annual evaluations. Samples of both of these tools are in your packet.
- **Legislative Reception** – We will begin working on the Legislative Reception to be held October 27, in Camilla, at The Depot. We will be sending “save the date” cards to our legislators and other guests in early August.
- **City/County Managers Meetings** – I am planning a City/County Managers meeting for late August. I will be sending out invitations to our City/County Managers the last week in July, pending confirmation from our proposed guest speaker.
- **GARC Annual Conference** – The GARC Annual Conference is scheduled for Nov 2-4 at the King & Prince Hotel on St. Simons Island. Please contact Heather if you would like for us to reserve a room for you.

**Meetings/Trainings Attended:**

- 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
- July 18 – Meeting with former Representative Kevin Tanner regarding transportation
- July 20 – Meeting with PPM Consultants (Brownfields)

**Upcoming Meetings/Trainings to note:**

- August 3 – Regional Transit Development Plan Coordination Meeting
- August 4 – GARC Full Council Meeting – Macon
- Aug 15 – 19 – EPA Brownfields Conference, Oklahoma City
- August 23 – Regional Transportation Coordinating Committee Meeting, Camilla
- August 24 – Tentative City/County Managers Meeting, Camilla
- Sept 7 – Rural Partners Network Regional Forum, Fitzgerald
- Sept 20 – DCA Fall Round Table Discussion
- 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**