

**SOUTHERN GEORGIA REGIONAL COMMISSION
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES
SGRC OFFICE • VALDOSTA, GA
JUNE 22, 2023
10:00 a.m.**

Members in Attendance:

Bennett, Neal
Evans, Joyce
Duke, Buddy
Dunn, Jason
Fender, Jason
King, Barbara
Maefield, Barbara
Stone, Keith

Staff Present:

Cribb, Lisa
Schultz, Kelly
Strom, Chris

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME: Chair Joyce Evans called the meeting to order and welcomed Executive Committee members, staff and guests.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR MAY 25, 2023 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING: Chair Evans reminded those present that the minutes of the May 25, 2023 Executive Committee meeting were emailed to members for their review (copy attached and made a part of these minutes). Barbara Maefield made a motion to accept the minutes, and Keith Stone seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATION OF SOUTHERN GEORGIA RC FY2024 BUDGET: Chair Joyce Evans called upon SGRC Finance Director Kelly Schultz to present the Southern Georgia RC FY2024 Proposed Budget to the committee. Ms. Schultz referred those present to the proposed FY2024 budget document in their member packets (copy attached and made part of these minutes). She explained that this document compares the FY2023 approved budget and the proposed budget for FY2024. She began with an overview of the changes in revenue in the proposed FY2024 budget. One change she noted was a decrease of \$77,416 between FY23 and FY24 in the EDA Planning Grants. The decrease is due to more staff time being used to prepare the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy since it was time for its five-year update. EDA CARES Act funding reduction reflects a one-time grant ending in Fall 2023. Ms. Shultz stated that some of the increases under the Federal & State Funds category are due to the GA DOT already giving notice of the grants allocated to the SGRC. There's an increase in the DOT 5304 project of \$76,304, part of which will go to contractor expenses as required by DOT. Another increase is shown for the DOT MPO, in which most money is passed to providers to conduct a special transportation study grant. Also, part of the DOT MPO increase is for a one-time grant, The Persistent Poverty Grant, of \$180,000 to develop a regional transit plan for multi-county county transit. Ms. Shultz pointed out a large increase for the DOT 5311 DHIS Transportation Regional Public Transit in the form of a multi-year transit trust fund. Workforce Development will also see an increase in Federal and State funds of \$536,741 to

provide participant support expenses and additional contract expenditures for on-the-job training. There is a slight decrease in Aging funding from ARPA and CARE Funding, and the grant is going away. Ms. Schultz stated that other significant changes in revenue are reflected in the pass-through to service providers. There was an increase in DHS-Aging pass-through to service providers of \$246,415 and an increase in DOT/DHS – Regional Public Transit of \$1,037,000, an estimate based on a rate increase per trip from \$28 to \$35 per trip. Ms. Shultz stated that according to the proposed FY204 budget comparison, there is a \$2.1 million increase in revenues.

Ms. Schultz continued with an overview of the changes in expenditures. She stated that one expenditure increase is reflected by a \$139,967 increase in salaries under personnel costs. There is a decrease in health insurance by \$92,750 due to the SGRC shopping around and going with a new health insurance provider. The increase in advertising under operating costs is mainly for regional transit to get the word out to the communities. Ms. Schultz stated that the overall FY2024 proposed budget reflects excess revenues over expenditures of \$87,194. She then answered questions from Executive Committee members. Chair Evans asked for a motion. Barbara Maefield made a motion to recommend the presentation of the proposed FY2024 Budget to the SGRC Council for approval. Barbara King seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

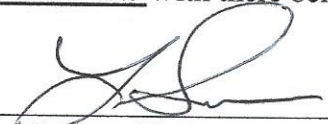
REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATION OF SOUTHERN GEORGIA RC FY2024 WORK PROGRAM:

Chair Evans called upon SGRC Executive Director Lisa Cribb to review the FY2024 Work Program. Ms. Cribb reminded the committee that they had received the draft of the work program to review at the March meeting. She then directed members to the finalized work program and a highlights page from each department in their meeting packets (copies attached and made part of these minutes), noting that no changes had been suggested or made to the document. Buddy Duke made a motion to recommend the presentation of the Southern Georgia RC FY2024 Work Program to the SGRC Council for approval. Keith Stone seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION REGARDING APPOINTMENT OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: Chair Evans called upon SGRC Executive Director Lisa Cribb to discuss appointing an Executive Director. Ms. Cribb reminded the Executive Committee that she would retire at the end of December. She stated that she firmly believes in promoting from within and that Kimberly Hobbs would be a very good candidate to replace her. She reminded the committee that appointing an Executive Director is a Council decision, and she would help in any way with the transition regardless of who they choose. Ms. Cribb stated that Kimberly Hobbs has worked with the Regional Commission for 25 years. She transitioned from public relations to the Community and Economic Development Program, where she has done an excellent job. Kimberly is well known at other regional commissions and the state level with GMA, DCA and other agencies. One committee member asked if Kimberly was interested in transitioning to the executive director position. Ms. Cribb said yes and then shared a copy of Ms. Hobbs's resume with all the members. The committee members discussed Ms. Hobbs' qualifications and how she aligns with other aspects and requirements for the Executive Director position. After light discussion, Chair Evans said that if all committee members reached a consensus by a show of hands, then the Executive Committee would recommend it to the full council. All Executive Committee

members in attendance raised their hands in consensus to recommend that the full council consider appointing Kimberly Hobbs as the Executive Director upon Ms. Cribb's retirement in December.

ADJOURN: With there being no other business, the meeting was adjourned.



Lee Gowen, Chair

Keith Stone, Secretary