

SOUTHERN GEORGIA REGIONAL COMMISSION

COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES

SGRC OFFICE • 1725 S. GEORGIA PARKWAY, WEST • WAYCROSS, GA 31503

JANUARY 26, 2023

11:00 A.M.

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

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| <u>Atkinson County</u> | <u>Bacon County</u> | <u>Ben Hill County</u> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Liles, Parker | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Taylor, Shane | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Taylor, Steve |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Robert Johnson | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Larry Taylor | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Holt, Jason |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Stone, Robbie | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Coley, Lisa | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dunn, Jason |
| | | |
| <u>Berrien County</u> | <u>Brantley County</u> | <u>Brooks County</u> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Griner, Robert | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Harris, Skipper | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Folsom, Patrick |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Clayton, John | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Maefield, Barbara | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Morgan, Don |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Smart, Lisa | Vacant | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deshazor, Zurich |
| | | |
| <u>Charlton County</u> | <u>Clinch County</u> | <u>Coffee County</u> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Everett, James | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moylan, Henry | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 'Steen, Ted |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gowen, Lee | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Blitch, Brooks | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Paulk, Tony |
| Vacant | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hardee, Willie | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Smith, Adam |
| | | |
| <u>Cook County</u> | <u>Echols County</u> | <u>Irwin County</u> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Robinson, Debra | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Corbett, Stanley | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Carver, Scott |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Duke, Buddy | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hudgins, Horace |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bennett, Derry | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Garner, Cheryl | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Paulk, Mona |
| | | |
| <u>Lanier County</u> | <u>Lowndes County</u> | <u>Pierce County</u> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fender, Dennis | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Evans, Joyce | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bennett, Neal |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Darsey, Bill | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Miller-Cody, Vivian | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brooks, Keith |
| Vacant | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Payton, Anthony | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Paul, Stephen |
| | | |
| <u>Tift County</u> | <u>Turner County</u> | <u>Ware County</u> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> McBrayer, Tony | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Whiddon, Dana | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Thrift, Elmer |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Smith, Julie | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lumpkin, Sandra | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> James, Michael-Angelo |
| Vacant | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Giddens, Brandi | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> King, Barbara |

| | | |
|---------------------------------|--|---|
| <u>Governor's Office</u> | <u>Lt. Governor's Office</u> | <u>Speaker's Office</u> |
| Vacant | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Stone, Keith | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Seale, Matt |
| Vacant | | |
| Vacant | | |

Staff Present

Backe, Elizabeth
Courson, Scott
Cribb, Lisa
Hobbs, Kimberly
Martin, Amy
Strom, Chris
Strom, Rachel
Vining, Kim

Guests Present

Culberson, Mae
James, Jaclyn
Shannon McConico
Thomas Wirth

INSTALLATION OF NEW COUNCIL MEMBER: Chair Evans invited the four new members in attendance to come forward and take their oaths as incoming SGRC council members. The four new members installed were: Parker Liles, Atkinson County Chairman; Shane Taylor, Bacon County Chairman; Robert Griner, Berrien County Chairman; and Ted O'Steen, Coffee County Chairman.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 8, 2022 MEETING MINUTES: Chair Evans reminded those present that a copy of the December minutes had been emailed to members and included in their council packets (copy attached and made a part of these minutes). Don Morgan made a motion to approve the December meeting minutes. Barbara King seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

REVIEW AND ACCEPTANCE OF NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 2022 REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE REPORTS: Chair Evans reminded those present that a copy of the November and December 2022 Revenue and Expenditure Reports had been emailed to council members and included in their council packets (copy attached and made a part of these minutes). Barbara Maefield made a motion to accept the November and December financial reports. Vivian Miller-Cody seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF AGING AREA PLAN FY2024 UPDATE SUBMISSION: Chair Evans called SGRC Aging Director Scott Courson to present the Aging Area Plan FY2024 Update to the council. Mr. Courson explained that the Aging Area Plan is a four-year plan for delivering aging services and adheres to all requirements of the Older Americans Act, the State of Georgia and other federal and state programs as appropriate. He shared that the Aging Area Plan Update would be submitted to the Georgia Department of Human Services – Division of Aging Services. He stated that a copy of the letter was included in their council packets (copy attached and made a part of these minutes). The update states that the Aging Area Plan has met all federal and state statutory and regulatory requirements. Mr. Courson asked if there were any questions. There being none, Chair Evans called for a motion. Don Morgan made a motion to approve the Aging Area Plan FY2024 Update Submission. Vivian Miller-Cody seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION TO ADOPT VEHICLE MAINTENANCE POLICY AND PROGRAM: Chair Evans called upon SGRC Deputy Executive Director of Human Services Roberta Lovett to present the Resolution to Adopt Vehicle Maintenance Policy and Program. Ms. Lovett referred those present to a copy of the resolution included in their council packets (copy attached and made a part of these minutes). She explained that the proposed preventative maintenance policy and program would cover the SGRC Transit System's fleet of vans that provides trips for

the Department of Human Services and public trips offered through the Georgia Department of Transportation. The proposed maintenance policy would ensure that the SGRC Transit System complies with the FTA Code of Federal Regulations guidelines. The plan establishes policies and procedures, assigns responsibilities, provides guidance and defines requirements for routine maintenance inspections and services of all transit vehicles included in the SGRC Transit System fleet. Ms. Lovett stated that a copy of the proposed vehicle preventative maintenance policy was included in their council packets for members to review (copy attached and made a part of these minutes). She then asked if there were any questions. There being none, Chair Evans asked for a motion. Barbara King made a motion to adopt the Vehicle Maintenance Policy and Program Resolution. Neal Bennett seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF FUNDING INCREASE FOR DCA PLANNING CONTRACT: Chair Evans called upon SGRC Executive Director Lisa Cribb to present the Resolution in Support of Funding Increase for DCA Planning Contract. Ms. Cribb referred those present to a copy of the resolution in their council packets (copy attached and made a part of these minutes). She explained that each Regional Commission assists its member cities and counties with comprehensive plans. DCA funds Regional Commissions to help their communities, and that funding has decreased over the last 12 years while the actual cost has increased. Ms. Cribb stated that the resolution if approved would be sent to a legislative delegation to request that the funding level be restored to the 2010 amount. She shared that the change would increase funding by \$902,279 to be distributed evenly among the 12 Regional Commissions. Ms. Cribb asked if there were any questions. One member asked if the other Regional Commissions would be making the same request. She explained that each of the 12 Regional Commissions has or will present similar resolutions to their councils for approval so that the Georgia Association of Regional Commissions has the support of their members. Chair Evans asked for a motion. Anthony Payton made a motion to adopt the Resolution in Support of Funding Increase for DCA Planning Contract. Barbara King seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

REPORT OF STAFF DISCLOSURES AS REQUIRED BY STATE LAW: Chair Evans called upon SGRC Executive Director Lisa Cribb to present the Report of Staff Disclosures as Required by State Law. Ms. Cribb referred those present to a copy of O.C.G.A 50-8-63 included in their council packets (copy attached and made a part of these minutes). She explained that this law requires the SGRC to annually report to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) and the council whether any Regional Commission employees transacted business with any local government during the previous calendar year. Ms. Cribb stated that for calendar year 2022, no Southern Georgia Regional Commission employees reported transacting business with any local governments. Barbara Maefield made a motion to accept the Report of Staff Disclosures. Vivian Miller-Cody seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

REVIEW OF COUNCIL ATTENDANCE: SGRC Executive Director Lisa Cribb referred those present to a copy of the council member meeting attendance report included in their member packets (copy attached and made a part of these minutes). Ms. Cribb reminded the council that the SGRC By-Laws state that a notice shall be mailed to any council member who misses three consecutive meetings during the fiscal year. For the private sector appointments, letters will be sent to the appointing officials as well as to the member. She stated that an attendance report is included in their meeting packet at each meeting and encouraged members to attend council meetings regularly.

CONSIDERATION OF JUNETEENTH HOLIDAY: SGRC Executive Director Lisa Cribb explained that Juneteenth became a federal holiday in 2021. Then in 2022, Governor Brian

Kemp signed legislation to make Juneteenth a paid holiday for Georgia state employees. Ms. Cribb stated that the SGRC has ten paid holidays, and employees get an additional holiday after two years of employment. She explained that the request was for the council to consider adding Juneteenth as an SGRC Holiday to commemorate June 19, 1865, Freedom Day. Vivian Miller-Cody made a motion to add Juneteenth as an SGRC Holiday. Barbara Mae field seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

SGRC REGIONWIDE ANNEXATION REPORT AND CENSUS BOUNDARY AND ANNEXATION SURVEY DEADLINES:

Chair Evans called upon SGRC GIS Director Rachel Strom to present the SGRC Annexation Report and Census Boundary and Annexation Survey Deadlines. Ms. Strom stated that at the beginning of the year, all of the SGRC communities should have received an invitation to participate in the U.S. Census Boundary and Annexation Survey. The survey is conducted annually to collect information about selected legally defined geographic areas. The survey allows local governments to review the Census Bureau's legal boundary data to ensure the Census Bureau has the correct boundary, name and status information. Ms. Strom stated that the boundary updates must be legally in effect on or before January 1st to be reported in the current survey year. Georgia Code states that any municipality that annexes property shall file a report identifying any property annexed to the Department of Community Affairs. March 1st is the first Boundary and Annexation Survey deadline. The final Boundary and Annexation Survey deadline is May 31st. She strongly encouraged council members to check with each of their community leaders and inquire about the U.S. Census Boundary and Annexation Survey status. Ms. Strom stated that the SGRC GIS staff were available to assist communities with their Boundary and Annexation Surveys and with submitted their GIS files.

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES/UPDATES:

Grants: SGRC Deputy Executive Director of Government Services Kimberly Hobbs directed council members to the project status list in their packets (copy attached and made part of these minutes). Ms. Hobbs stated that the list includes the status of current projects the Community & Economic Development department has in progress. Ms. Hobbs advised those present to contact SGRC Community & Economic Development staff regarding projects listed on the status list or any potential projects they may be interested in for their communities.

Planning: SGRC Planning Director Elizabeth Backe referred those present to a handout listing the various plans that local governments are required to submit, as well as the deadlines for submission (copy attached and made a part of these minutes). Ms. Backe encouraged council members to review the upcoming deadlines for their communities and contact SGRC Planning staff with any questions.

Division Reports: SGRC Executive Director Lisa Cribb referred those present to the division reports in their packets (copy attached and made a part of these minutes). Ms. Cribb asked those present to review the reports to see what the RC is doing in the region each month.

QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

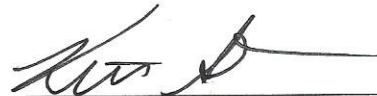
- 1) **Recognition of Guests:** Chair Evans recognized Shannon McConico from Wiregrass Georgia Technical College and thanked her for attending the SGRC council meeting.

- 2) **Recognition of Representation:** Chair Evans recognized Charlton, Echols and Lowndes counties for having 100% at the council meeting.
- 3) **ACCG Update:** James Everett shared that the ACCG CORE Leadership Institute would be held February 9-10, 2023 at the Rainwater Conference Center in Valdosta; the Spring Lifelong Learning Academy would be held March 2-3, 2023 at the UGA Tifton Campus; and the 2023 Legislative Breakfast would be held March 9, 2023 at the Georgia Railroad Depot in Atlanta.
- 4) **GMA Update:** Barbara Mae field shared that the 2023 Newly Elected Officials Institute would be held March 1-3, 2023 in Athens, and GMA's Annual Convention would be held June 23-27, 2023 in Savannah.
- 5) **2023 Lowndes County Bird Supper:** Chair Evans announced that the 2022 Lowndes County Bird Supper would be held on February 1, 2023 at the Georgia Railroad Depot in Atlanta.
- 6) **SGRC 101:** SGRC Executive Director Lisa Cribb shared that SGRC would host an SGRC 101 orientation for the region on Tuesday, February 14, 2023 at the SGRC office in Waycross from 10:00am – 12:00pm. She encouraged any council member or elected official interested in learning about the programs and services the SGRC offers to its local governments to attend the session.
- 7) **Meeting Notice:** Chair Evans announced that the next SGRC Council meeting would be held on Thursday, February 23, 2023 at The Venue in Pearson, GA.

ADJOURN: Chair Evans asked if there were any other questions or announcements. With no further business to conduct, Chair Evans asked James Everett to bless the meal, and the meeting was adjourned.



Joyce Evans, Chair



Keith Stone, Secretary