

**SOUTHERN GEORGIA REGIONAL COMMISSION
COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES
SGRC OFFICE • VALDOSTA, GA
JUNE 22, 2023
11:00 a.m.**

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

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Chair Evans asked James Everett to give the invocation, and then he led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

<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"/> Taylor, Larry	<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"/> Brown, Travis	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Maefield, Barbara	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Morgan, Don
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Smart, Lisa	Vacant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deshazior, 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"/> O'Steen, Ted
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gowen, Lee	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Blicht, 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-McKenna, 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
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Barnes, James	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Payton, Anthony	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Paul, Steven
<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
 Horton, James
 Hylton, Loretta
 Schultz, Kelly
 Strom, Chris
 Strom, Rachel
 Vining, Kim

Guests Present

Campbell, Carolyn
 Fulford, Kristin
 Golphin, Lisa
 Hancock, Hayden
 Huff, Dyamond
 Lane, Kelly
 Ponsell, Gary
 Rivers, Adrian
 White, Charles

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MAY 25, 2023 MEETING MINUTES: Chair Evans reminded those present that a copy of the May 25, 2023 minutes had been emailed to members (copy attached and made a part of these minutes). Robert Griner made a motion to approve the minutes. Barbara King seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

REVIEW AND ACCEPTANCE OF MAY 2023 REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE REPORT: Chair Evans reminded those present that a copy of the May 2023 Revenue and Expenditure Report was emailed to council members and included in their council packets (copy attached and made a part of these minutes). Neal Bennett made a motion to accept the May financial report. Barbara Maefield seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

GEORGIA LEAD SERVICE LINE INVENTORY AND REPLACEMENT PROGRAM AND REQUIREMENTS: SGRC Assistant Executive Director Chris Strom introduced Lisa Golphin. Ms. Golphin is the Water Resources Project Manager Lead for the Georgia Environmental Finance Authority (GEFA). She shared a brief overview of GEFA's funding programs. She explained that all public and private water systems must conduct and submit a lead service line inventory under the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR). The deadline to submit the lead service line inventory is October 16, 2024. Ms. Golphin shared that GEFA has funding opportunities available to help communities meet these new compliance needs. She provided details about the different funding programs offered through GEFA, which include grant and loan options, each with different requirements. Ms. Golphin explained the funding requirements for eligible projects. She also mentioned that communities can find information on GEFA's website at <https://gefa.georgia.gov/call-for-projects>.

Additionally, Ms. Golphin shared that GEFA received an annual allocation from EPA for lead service line inventory and replacement projects for this year, in the amount of \$66.8 million, with \$18.7 million awarded to 204 communities in Georgia. Out of this funding, \$2.5 million

was designated for 28 communities in the SGRC region. She concluded her presentation by answering questions from those present.

GIS ANNEXATION ASSISTANCE REQUEST DEMONSTRATION: Chair Evans called upon SGRC GIS Director Rachel Strom to review the GIS Annexation assistance available to local communities. Ms. Strom stated that Georgia House Bill 1385 requires all local governments that annex or de-annex property after July 1, 2022 to submit a digital GIS file of the parcels to the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) and the Office of Legislative and Congressional Reapportionment. She explained that communities that do not have GIS capabilities can request assistance from their regional commission. Ms. Strom shared that communities could request assistance by calling the SGRC GIS department at 229-333-5277 or online at <https://georgia-annexation-reporting-garc.hub.arcgis.com/>.

REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION FOR SOUTHERN GEORGIA RC FY2024 WORK PROGRAM: SGRC Executive Director Lisa Cribb referred council members to their packet materials detailing the proposed FY2024 Work Program and the resolution for adoption (copies attached and made part of these minutes). She reminded council members that a copy of the FY2024 Work Program was shared at the April 2023 council meeting. Ms. Cribb explained that no changes had been proposed or made since the first presentations in April. She stated this month that it is appropriate to ask the council to adopt this work program. Ms. Cribb shared that the Executive Committee reviewed the draft work program at their meeting earlier that day and asked if there were any questions. With no questions, Chair Evans called for a motion to adopt the SGRC FY2024 Work Program. Barbara Mayfield made a motion to adopt the RC FY2024 Work Program, and Neal Bennett seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF SOUTHERN GEORGIA RC FY2024 BUDGET: SGRC Executive Director Lisa Cribb referred council members to the handout in their packets summarizing the proposed FY2024 Budget (copy attached and made a part of these minutes). Ms. Cribb reminded the council that she had presented a preliminary budget at the May council meeting. She explained that the document before them compared the amended FY2023 budget to the proposed FY2024 budget. Due to limited time, Ms. Cribb highlighted a few notable points from the comparison. One such point was the conclusion of the EDA Cares Grant in December 2022, resulting in its absence from the proposed FY2024 budget. Additionally, she addressed the increased funding for DOT 5303 and 5304 in FY2024. Ms. Cribb also emphasized that Regional Public Transit under DOT 5311 had secured funding for FY2024.

The proposed FY2024 Budget demonstrates an excess in revenues over expenditures, totaling \$87,194. Ms. Cribb noted that RC Finance Director Kelly Schultz conducted a thorough budget review with the Executive Committee prior to the council meeting. The Executive Committee, in turn, recommended presenting this budget for approval to the full council. She asked for questions from the council. There being no questions, Chair Evans called for a motion. Neal Bennett made a motion to adopt the Southern Georgia RC FY2024 Budget. Don Morgan seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

INITIATION OF THE ANNUAL PERFORMANCE EVALUATION: SGRC Executive Director Lisa Cribb explained to council members that a copy of a performance evaluation is included in their meeting packets (copy attached and made part of these minutes). As required by law, regional commissions must initiate annual performance evaluations of the commission and its Executive Director to be completed by their councils. Ms. Cribb explained that the performance evaluation would be emailed to all council members for ease of responding. Members who prefer a hardcopy document should notify staff. She encouraged members to complete and return the evaluation and thanked them for participating.

REPORT FROM EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REGARDING APPOINTMENT OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: Chair Evans reported that during the Executive Committee meeting held earlier that day, SGRC Executive Director Lisa Cribb provided a recommendation. Ms. Cribb suggested that the committee consider SGRC Deputy Executive Director of Government Services Kimberly Hobbs for the position of Executive Director upon her retirement in December. Chair Evans conveyed that the Executive Committee had endorsed this recommendation and approved proposing to the full council that Kimberly Hobbs be appointed Executive Director when Lisa Cribb retires in December 2023. Chair Evans then invited Ms. Hobbs to stand and offer a brief introduction. Following a brief discussion, Chair Evans called for a motion. Travis Brown made a motion to approve Kimberly Hobbs' appointment as Executive Director upon Ms. Cribb's retirement in December 2023. Barbara Maefield seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES/UPDATES:

Grants: SGRC Deputy Executive Director Kimberly Hobbs referred those present to a copy of the project status list included in their member packets (copy attached and made a part of these minutes). Ms. Hobbs stated that the project status list shows funded projects and projects that have been applied for in our region, grouped by county. Ms. Hobbs advised those present to contact SGRC Community and Economic Development staff regarding projects listed in their packet 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 and the deadlines for submission (copy attached and made a part of these minutes). She encouraged council members to review the schedule for upcoming deadlines for their communities and contact SGRC Planning staff with any questions.

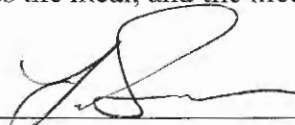
Division Reports: SGRC Executive Director Lisa Cribb referred those present to the division reports in their packets (copy attached and made a part of these minutes). Ms. Cribb asked those present to review the reports to see what the RC is doing in the region each month.

QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- 1.) Recognition of Guests:** Chair Evans recognized Kristin Fulford, Deputy State Director for Senator Raphael Warnock's office, Adrian Rivers from Senator Raphael Warnock's office, Charles White from Congressman Austin Scott's office and Kelly Lane, DCA Region 11 representative, and thanked them for attending the SGRC council meeting.

- 2.) **Recognition of Representation:** Chair Evans recognized Berrien, Brantley, Irwin, Lannier and Lowndes counties for having 100% representation at the council meeting.
- 3.) **ACCG Update:** James Everett stated that the Core Leadership Institute would be held July 20th – 21st in Blairsville, GA.
- 4.) **GMA Update:** Barbara Maefield reminded the council that the GMA Annual Convention would be held in Savannah from June 23rd – 27th.
- 5.) **Recognition:** SGRC Executive Director Lisa Cribb awarded an appreciation plaque to outgoing Chair Joyce Evans, recognizing her exceptional service and dedication as the Chair of the SGRC Council from January 2017 to June 2023.

ADJOURN: As there was no further business to conduct, Chair Evans asked Willie Hardee to bless the meal, and the meeting adjourned.



Lee Gowen, Chair

Keith Stone, Secretary