

**SOUTHERN GEORGIA REGIONAL COMMISSION
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES**

**Via Conference Call
AUGUST 27, 2020
11:00 a.m.**

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

PROTOCOL FOR VIRTUAL MEETING: Chair Evans called upon SGRC Executive Director Lisa Cribb to review the procedures to be used during the conference call. Ms. Cribb explained to all that called in to make sure they: mute their phone when not speaking; state their name when making a motion or second; and unmute their phone to make motions/seconds, to participate in discussions, and to vote.

ROLL CALL: Chair Evans asked SGRC Assistant Executive Director Chris Strom to call the roll. Mr. Strom stated that he would call each Executive Committee members' name. He asked that council members respond with "here or present" so a quorum could be determined. After calling the roll, he asked that any guests and staff present to state their name. Results are shown below:

Members in Attendance:

Bennett, Neal
Duke, Buddy
Evans, Joyce
Gowen, Lee
King, Barbara
Seale, Matt
Stone, Keith
Taylor, Steve

Staff Present:

Backe, Elizabeth
Cribb, Lisa
Dorsey, Rex
Hobbs, Kimberly
Strom, Chris
Strom, Rachel
Vining, Kim

Guests:

Bobbitt, Nancy
Fender, Dennis
Maefield, Barbara
Miller-Cody, Vivian
Westbury, Diane
Wirth, Tom

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR JUNE 25, 2020 MEETING MINUTES:

Chair Evans called the meeting to order and then reminded those present that the minutes of the June 25, 2020 Executive Committee meeting were emailed to members for their review (copy attached and made a part of these minutes). Barbara King made a motion to accept the minutes, and Matt Seale seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

REVIEW AND ACCEPTANCE OF JUNE AND JULY 2020 REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE REPORTS:

Chair Evans reminded those present that a copy of the June and July 2020 Revenue and Expenditure Reports had been emailed to members (copy attached and made a part of these minutes). Steve Taylor made a motion to accept the June and July financial reports. Barbara King seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

LENDING PROGRAM ACTIVITIES: Chair Evans called on SGRC Lending Program Director Rex Dorsey to address the council. Mr. Dorsey referred the executive committee to the Loan Program 2020 Annual Report in their packets (copy attached and made a part of these minutes). He stated that for the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2020, the loan program closed or approved eight traditional loans totaling \$14,679,316; an additional three loans were approved, but not closed totaling \$4,142,600. Through the CARES Act, the Lending Department has participated in funding 170 Paycheck Protection Program Loans totaling \$9,487,867. The total volume for FY2020 was \$28,309,783. There were 1,301 jobs created or retained. Mr. Dorsey also reviewed specifics such as the type & location of the businesses assisted, type of loans, and participating banks. Mr. Dorsey then concluded his report by reviewing the lending activities of the Southern Georgia loan program since its inception.

REAPPOINTMENT OF LOAN PROGRAM BOARD MEMBERS: Mr. Dorsey referred those present to a listing of the current Loan Board of Directors included in their member packets (copy attached and made a part of these minutes). He then reviewed the Board composition requirements. Mr. Dorsey stated that the loan board recommended the reappointment of the current board members. Keith Stone made a motion to accept the recommendation, and Steve Taylor seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES IN THE REGION: Chair Evans introduced SGRC Community and Economic Development Director Kimberly Hobbs to give an update on community and economic development activities in the region. Ms. Hobbs referred those present to the August project status list handout in their packets (copy attached and made part of these minutes). She stated that the August project status list includes the status of 43 current projects the C&ED has in progress. Of the 43 projects, 22 are grant projects which represent \$23Mil in grant monies and a total project amount of \$227Mil in our region.

For the FY2020, Ms. Hobbs shared, the SGRC had thirteen projects funded. Nine were community development projects with a grant total of \$4.2Mil and a total project cost of \$5.7Mil, which benefited 1,531 people. Four of the thirteen projects were economic development projects with a grant total of \$4.5Mil, which leveraged \$130Mil in private investment and created 312 jobs for the SGRC region.

Ms. Hobbs continued with the upcoming deadlines for community and economic development grant applications:

- CDBG Mitigation Infrastructure Grant application is due by 01/12/2021 (eligible counties/municipalities are Berrien, Charlton, Coffee, Cook and Turner Counties);
- Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant pre-application is due by 10/31/2020;
- GA Outdoor Stewardship Program pre-application is due by 10/16/2020.

The Community and Economic Development department is currently working on 2021 CDBG applications. Ms. Hobbs shared that the C&ED department also received some EDA CARES Act funding in the amount of \$400,000. This CARES Act funding is a two year grant period that will allow C&E and planning staff to respond to and recover from the Coronavirus pandemic's impact on our region. C&E and planning staff will work with the regions' county and municipality leaders to identify needs and locate funding under this two year grant period. Ms.

Hobbs encouraged all community leaders to contact the C&E department with any questions about any of the grant programs, applications, or deadlines.

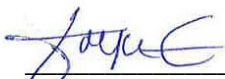
INITIAL PLANNING COMMUNICATION FOR FY2020 AUDIT: Chair Evans called upon SGRC Executive Director Lisa Cribb to present the planning communication for the FY2020 Audit to the committee. Ms. Cribb directed the executive committee to a letter in their meeting packets (copy attached and made part of these minutes). Ms. Cribb explained the letter from Valenti, Rackley & Associates auditing firm is provided each year at the beginning of the audit process for the executive committee. This initial communication letter outlines the beginning and anticipated ending dates and the process and standards that will be used for the audit. Ms. Cribb stated that no action is needed for this initial communication agenda item; it is provided to the executive committee as a preliminary step in the annual audit process.

REVIEW AND ACCEPTANCE OF THE ANNUAL PERFORMANCE EVALUATION: SGRC Assistant Executive Director Chris Strom shared the results of the performance evaluation with the council. He reminded council members that the evaluation was emailed and that all council members were asked to participate. Mr. Strom directed the council to a copy of the results from the performance evaluation located in their packets (copy attached and made part of these minutes). The results were separated to show two sets of responses; the council members' responses, and the city/county managers' responses. Mr. Strom stated that 29 council members and eight city/county managers had completed the survey. Overall a positive response was given for the Regional Commission and the Executive Director. Mr. Strom asked if there were any questions. There being no other discussion, Barbara King made a motion to accept the results of the performance evaluation, seconded by Matt Seale Motion carried unanimously. Chair Joyce Evans asked that all council members participate in the evaluation process in the future.


Mr. Strom also reminded council members that the Census deadline of September 30 is approaching quickly. He encouraged committee members to stress to their communities the importance of census participation.

OTHER BUSINESS – CANCELLATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS: SGRC Executive Director Lisa Cribb announced that the Area Official Appreciation Dinner that is usually held in October at Dinnermans' Farm in Adel has been cancelled this year. Also, the GARC Annual Training Conference that is held the first week of November has been cancelled this year. Ms. Cribb expressed that planning is underway in anticipation of the events taking place next year. Ms. Cribb also reminded members that SGRC division reports and the latest newsletter will be sent out to all members following the teleconference.

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



Joyce Evans, Chair



Matt Seale, Secretary