

**SOUTHERN GEORGIA REGIONAL COMMISSION
COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES
SPORTS COMPLEX AND CIVIC CENTER, PEARSON, GEORGIA
AUGUST 22, 2019
11:00 a.m.**

WELCOME MEMBERS AND GUESTS: Chair Joyce Evans called the meeting to order and welcomed members and guests.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Chair Evans called upon James Maxwell who gave the invocation and 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"/> Futch, Lace	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hutto, Andy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Taylor, Steve
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Johnson, Robert	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Murphy, Peggy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Puckett, Jim
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> McKinnon, Janice	<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"/> Gaskins, Ronnie	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Harris, Skipper	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Maxwell, James
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Richbourg, Michael	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Maefield, Barbara	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dennard, Nancy
<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"/> Metts, Roger	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kitchens, Jimmy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gowen, Lee	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kennedy, Tom	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moore, Bob
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"/> Parrish, Lindsey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Corbett, Stanley	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Whitley, Joey
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Duke, Buddy		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Seale, Matt
<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"/> Grissom, Kevin
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fitton, John	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Payton, Anthony	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brannen, Andy
<u>Tift County</u>	<u>Turner County</u>	<u>Ware County</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Thompson, Grady	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Denham, Nick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nelson, Carlos
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Smith, Julie	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lumpkin, Sandra	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Knox, John
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Marlowe, Brian	Vacant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> King, Barbara
<u>Governor's Office</u>	<u>Lt. Governor's Office</u>	<u>Speaker's Office</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lovein, Norman "Bo"	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Stone, Keith	Vacant
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Daughtrey, Guy		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jones, Johnathon		

Staff Present

Adams, Larry
Backe, Elizabeth
Courson, Scott
Cribb, Lisa
Dillard, JD
Dorsey, Rex
Hobbs, Kimberly
Hull, Corey
Lovett, Roberta
Martin, Amy
Ray, Lindsey
Strom, Chris
Turner, Charlotte
Vining, Kim

Guests Present

Bennett, Latrice
Ginty, Neil
James, Jaclyn
Lane, Kelly
Ligon, Neil
Moseley, Brent
West, Diane
Williams, Bettye

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF JUNE 27, 2019 MEETING MINUTES: Chair Evans reminded those present that a copy of the June 27, 2019 minutes had been emailed to council members (copy attached and made a part of these minutes). Barbara King made a motion to approve the minutes. Barbara Maefield seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

REVIEW AND ACCEPTANCE OF JUNE 2019 REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE REPORT: Chair Evans reminded those present that a copy of the June 2019 Revenue and Expenditure Report 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 June financial report. Michael Richbourg seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

UPDATE ON SOUTHERN GEORGIA REGION TIA COLLECTIONS AND PROJECTS: SGRC Transportation Director Corey Hull referred council members to a handout in their packets titled TIA – Transportation Investment Act (copy attached and made a part of these minutes) as he introduced Brent Moseley, TIA Regional Coordinator with GDOT. Mr. Moseley shared that the TIA is most commonly known as the Regional TSPLOST program. In 2012, voters in three Georgia regions – River Valley, Central Savannah River Area and the Heart of Georgia Altamaha – approved a ten year, one percent sales tax to fund regional and local transportation improvements. The TIA tax collections for these three regions will continue until 2022. The Southern Georgia Region voted to participate in the TIA program in 2018. The TIA tax collections will continue for the Southern Georgia Region until 2028.

Mr. Moseley continued with more details about the TIA program. He stated that all revenue raised in a region stays within that region; TIA funds are not subject to Congressional District Balancing; Regional roundtables establish project criteria, and ultimately select projects to form a final investment list; and Regions that pass TIA receive a LMIG match reduction to 10% from 30%. The GDOT, along with local and state agencies, manages the budget, schedule, execution and delivery of projects on the approved investment lists. Mr. Moseley shared that the Southern Georgia Region has had nine projects let to date at a total cost of \$15MIL; seven of which are already under construction. Mr. Moseley also shared that there are a total of 1,022 TIA projects valued at \$1.58BIL on the approved investment list over the four regions in the TIA. He then encourage all those present to visit the TIA website at, www.ga-tia.com to view projects on the

Approved Investment List, and to contact him with any questions about TIA collection or projects.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF REGIONAL TRANSIT PLAN AND IMPLEMENTATION FOR SOUTHERN GEORGIA RC:

Chair Evans called upon SGRC Transportation Director Corey Hull to speak to the council. Mr. Hull reminded the council that at the council meeting in June 2019, he presented a draft of the Regional Transit Plan for review and comments. After giving the council a couple of months to review the plan, he is presenting a resolution (copy attached are made a part of these minutes), and stated that this is the next step in implementing a Regional Transit Plan. This resolution, if approved, will be two-fold in that the council will first adopt the transit plan as presented, and second the council will authorize the staff of the regional commission to prepare an application for a rural transit program. The rural transit program application will be subsequent to additional authorizing resolutions from each individual county and an additional authorizing resolution from the SGRC council. If the resolution presented today is approved, then SGRC staff will begin preparing the application, and will begin working with each individual county government to pass a resolution to opt in or out of a regional transit system. Then, Mr. Hull would present to the council an official resolution authorizing the SGRC to submit the application to the GDOT. He then asked if there were any questions. He was asked what happens if a county opts out. Mr. Hull replied that the county can choose to continue to operate their existing rural transit system; if the county does not have a rural transit system, they will not have to start one. He then explained that GDOT will be hosting a meeting in Forsyth August 27-28th that will give updated guidance and clarification on how transit systems should operate in the state of Georgia. With no other discussion, Grady Thompson made a motion to approve the Regional Transit Plan and Implementation for Southern Georgia Regional Commission. Peggy Murphy 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 those present to the Loan Program 2019 Annual Report in their council packets (copy attached and made a part of these minutes). He stated that for the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2019, the loan program closed or approved twelve loans with a total project cost of \$16,521,375 of which \$5,997,730 was SGRC's portion resulting in 160 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 has made a recommendation to appoint three nominees to replace outgoing members, and to re-appoint the existing nine board members for FY2020. The three nominees were: Garrett Copeland from The Citizens Bank of Valdosta; Stan Crance from Valdosta-Lowndes Co. Dev. Authority; and Will Harvey from Waycross Bank and Trust. Peggy Murphy made a motion to appoint the three new member nominees and to re-appoint the existing nine members to the SGRC Loan Board for FY2020. Buddy Duke seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION TO ADOPT ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM REPORT FOR THE REGIONAL PLAN:

Chair Evans called on SGRC Planning Director Elizabeth Backe to speak to the council. Ms. Backe thanked Chair Evans, and referred those present to a copy of a resolution in their packet to adopt the 2019 Annual Implementation Program Report for the Southern Georgia Regional Commission Regional Plan (copy attached and made a part of these minutes). Ms. Backe reminded the council that the Regional Plan was adopted in December 2018. She then stated that a copy of the regional plan is on the SGRC website (www.sgrc.us). Ms. Backe then explained that with the adoption of the regional plan, DCA now requires the SGRC to submit this annual report. With no questions or other discussion, Barbara King made a motion to adopt the Annual Implementation Program Report for the Regional Plan. Barbara Maefield seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

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 twenty-eight council members and eight city/county managers had completed the survey. Overall a positive response was given for the Regional Commission and for the Executive Director. Mr. Strom asked if there were any questions. There being no other discussion, Steve Taylor made a motion to accept the results of the performance evaluation, seconded by Peggy Murphy. Motion carried unanimously. Chair Joyce Evans asked that all council members participate in the evaluation process in the future.

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES/UPDATES:

Grants: SGRC C&ED 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 projects that have been funded and projects that have been applied for in our region, grouped by county. She also stated that everyone was anxiously awaiting the announcement of the 2019 Community Development Block Grant awards from DCA and is hopeful our region would once again be awarded significant grant funds for improvements in our region. Ms. Hobbs then explained that now is the time to start planning for 2020 grant applications. The due date for 2020 applications is April 1, 2020. She informed the council that DCA has implemented new requirements for 2020 grant applications. She encouraged all members to reach out to any of the SGRC Community and Economic Development staff to learn about the new application and submittal requirements or to discuss any potential project that 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 shared that the comprehensive plan update for Berrien county is almost complete; and the comprehensive plan updates for Charlton, Cook, and Echols counties have begun. Ms. Backe shared that the DCA Community Planning Institute will be held November 14-15, 2019 in Thomasville, GA. She asked anyone interested in the planning institute or anyone with questions about any of the upcoming due dates to contact her or any of the SGRC planning staff.

Transportation: SGRC Regional Planner Amy Martin referred those present to the Georgia Transportation Infrastructure Bank handout in their packets (copy attached and made a part of these minutes). Ms. Martin explained that the GTIB is a funding program to fund transportation projects. GTIB offers grants and low-interest loans administered by the State Road and Tollway Authority (SRTA). She shared that applications for 2019 will be accepted from August 15, 2019 through October 15, 2019. Awards will be announced in February 2020. Ms. Martin explained that the projects to be funded must be motor-fuel-tax eligible. She then asked that anyone interested in applying for GTIB loans or grants to contact herself or any of the SGRC transportation staff.

LUCA: SGRC Assistant Executive Director Chris Strom addressed the council about the status of the Local Update of Census Addresses Operation (LUCA) for the region. Mr. Strom shared that the regional commission submitted the addresses to the Census Bureau in January 2019. The Census Bureau has returned their comments for the regional commission. He then stated that the SGRC GIS department staff will start reaching out to each of the counties to go over the results and comments over the next couple of weeks.

QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- 1.) **Recognition of Guests and Representation:** Chair Evans recognized guest Kelly Lane from DCA. Chair Evans announced that Brooks County, Cook County, and Ware County had 100% representation at the council meeting and thanked them for their attendance.
- 2.) **ACCG Update:** Chair Evans called upon James Everett to give an update on ACCG activities. Mr. Everett shared that the upcoming Legislative Leadership Institute will be held October 2-4, 2019 at the Classic Center in Athens-Clarke County.
- 3.) **GMA Update:** Chair Evans called on Peggy Murphy to give an update on GMA activities. Ms. Murphy encouraged members to attend the GMA Small Cities Conference in Pine Mountain on August 29, 2019.
- 4.) **DCA Update:** Chair Evans asked Kelly Lane if she had any DCA updates. Ms. Lane shared that the DCA Fall Conference, award ceremony, and recipient workshop will be October 15-17, 2019 at the Great Wolf Lodge in LaGrange.
- 5.) **Service Award:** Chair Evans presented Charlotte Turner with a service award for 25 years of employment with SGRC. Ms. Evans commended Ms. Turner for her service.
- 6.) **Local Area Officials Appreciation Evening:** SGRC Executive Director Lisa Cribb directed those present to a flyer in their packets for the Annual Local Officials Appreciation Evening. The event will be held Wednesday, October 23, 2019 at Dinnerman's Farm in Adel-Cook County. This year there will be time set aside for the legislators in attendance to speak. The legislative panel will begin at 5:30 followed by a fried seafood dinner with all the trimmings.
- 7.) **GARC Annual Training Conference:** SGRC Executive Director Lisa Cribb told those present that the 2019 GARC Annual Training Conference will be held November 6-8, 2019 at the King and Prince Resort on St. Simons Island (flyer included in council

packets.) She told the council that, as usual, the RC would cover the registration fee for any council member and the registration fee plus lodging for any RC Executive Committee member. Ms. Cribb asked anyone interested in attending to please contact RC staff member Kim Vining.

- 8.) **Okefenokee Occasion:** SGRC Executive Director Lisa Cribb told the council that preparations are underway for the 2020 Okefenokee Occasion to be held January 15, 2020 at the Georgia Freight Depot in Atlanta (flyer included in council packets.) She told those present this event is a great time to meet and mingle with legislators and numerous state agency staff.

OTHER BUSINESS: SGRC Assistant Executive Director Chris Strom asked to address the council. Mr. Strom shared that over the past year, he and Executive Director Lisa Cribb had received several suggestions from council members and city/county managers about possibly changing the council meeting location. He stated that in an effort to find the best solution for all parties, he wanted to offer an option for the council think about, with no action required now. He suggested the possibility of having the council meetings for December 2019, January 2020, and February 2020 at the SGRC's office in Waycross, then March, April, and May 2020 council meetings at the Sports Complex and Civic Center in Pearson, and then the council meetings for June, August, and September 2020 at the SGRC's new office in Valdosta. Mr. Strom asked the council to think about his suggestion, and to contact himself or SGRC Executive Director Lisa Cribb with any comments, suggestions, likes, and dislikes about moving the council meeting location.

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



Joyce Evans, Chair



Peggy Murphy, Secretary