

**SOUTHERN GEORGIA REGIONAL COMMISSION
COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES
SGRC OFFICE • WAYCROSS, GA
April 28, 2022
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 everyone to please stand and bow their heads for a moment of silence. She then 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"/> Foskey, Richard	<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"/> 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"/> 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"/> 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"/> Dovers, AJ
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gowen, Lee	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Blitch, Brooks	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Paulk, Tony
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> O'Quinn, Dana	<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"/> Purvis, Dwight	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Walker, Bobby	<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"/> Fitton, John	<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>
<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

Backe, Elizabeth
 Cribb, Lisa
 Hull, Corey
 Hobbs, Kimberly
 Lovett, Roberta
 Martin, Amy
 Rodgers, Kimberly
 Strom, Chris
 Vining, Kim
 Wilcher, Lance

Guests Present

Franks, Kenneth
 Golden, Tim
 Gore, James
 Moseley, Brent
 Slaughter, Bill
 Stone, Robbie
 Wallace, Brandon
 Wilkinson, Eric

INSTALLATION OF NEW COUNCIL MEMBER: Chair Evans welcomed Steven Paul, the new Private Sector representative for Pierce County, and introduced him to the council. She then led Mr. Paul in reciting the oath of office as an incoming SGRC council member.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MARCH 24, 2022 MEETING MINUTES: Chair Evans reminded those present that a copy of the March 24, 2022 minutes had been emailed to members (copy attached and made a part of these minutes). Barbara King made a motion to approve the March 24, 2022 meeting minutes. Buddy Duke seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

REVIEW AND ACCEPTANCE OF MARCH 2022 REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE REPORT: Chair Evans reminded those present that a copy of the March 2022 Revenue and Expenditure Report had been emailed to council members (copy attached and made a part of these minutes). Vivian Miller-Cody made a motion to accept the March financial report. Barbara Maefield seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

GEORGIA DOT UPDATE ON THE SOUTHERN GEORGIA TIA: Chair Evans called on SGRC Transportation and Environmental Director Corey Hull to introduce the speaker. Mr. Hull briefly explained the Transportation Investment Act (TIA) in the SGRC region and introduced Kenneth Franks, GDOT TIA State Administrator, to the council. Mr. Franks said that the Transportation Investment Act of 2010 (TIA) created 12 special districts coinciding with Regional Commission boundaries. The TIA allows regions throughout Georgia to implement a one percent sales tax over a ten-year period to fund transportation improvements.

Mr. Franks shared a PowerPoint presentation that detailed the regional TIA process (copy attached and made a part of these minutes). He explained how the process flows from initiation through the election of TIA sales tax for a region. In May 2018, voters in the Southern Georgia

region approved a ten-year one percent TIA sales tax to fund regional and local transportation improvements. Mr. Franks stated that GDOT is responsible for managing the budget, schedule, execution, and delivery of all approved projects. He shared that TIA revenue raised in a region stays within that region and that individual counties may not opt out of the sales tax. Mr. Franks shared that the Southern Georgia region's approved budget was \$408M for 151 total projects. As of March 11, 2022, the total expenditure to date for the region was approximately \$65.8M. There had been 62 projects completed, and there were 21 projects under construction at the time of the meeting. He shared that the original revenue forecast for TIA collections through February 2022 for the Southern Georgia region was approximately \$168.4M. The revenue collected through February 2022 was roughly \$207.2M, putting collections 23% ahead of forecast. Mr. Franks concluded his presentation by answering several questions from the audience. He then thanked the council for allowing him to give an update on TIA.

REVIEW OF DRAFT SOUTHERN GEORGIA RC FY2023 WORK PROGRAM BY DIVISION: Chair Evans called on SGRC Executive Director Lisa Cribb to introduce the FY2023 Work Program. Ms. Cribb stated that Georgia State law requires the SGRC to compile a work program for planned activities in the upcoming fiscal year. In June, the council will have the opportunity to vote on the resolution to adopt the Work Program. She then referred those present to the draft Work Program document in their packets (copy attached and made part of these minutes). She explained that each RC department would give detailed overviews of their programs and planned activities over the next three meetings for the upcoming fiscal year. Thus, allowing the council time to review the draft work program, make suggestions, or ask questions before adopting it. Ms. Cribb explained that the scheduled presentation for Workforce Development would be moved to the May 26th council meeting due to the time to keep the meeting from running late. She then introduced SGRC Lending Director Lance Wilcher to the council. Mr. Wilcher shared the Small Business Lending department's Work Program highlights and activities for the upcoming fiscal year.

REVIEW AND CONSIDERATION OF CURRENT YEAR BUDGET AMENDMENT: SGRC Executive Director Lisa Cribb referred those present to the pages in their packets that detailed the proposed budget amendment (copy attached and made part of these minutes). Ms. Cribb reminded the council that the SGRC prepares a budget ahead of the fiscal year, but changes occur throughout the year. She stated that examples of this might be a grant award for a different amount than anticipated and the timing of contracts. Other factors influencing the budget amendment include staff changes and turnover. She explained that an annual budget amendment reconciles the expected revenues and expenses from the start of the fiscal year with the reality of what happened throughout the year.

Ms. Cribb pointed out that the budget amendment showed an increase for the line item titled DOT 5311 DHS Transportation Regional Public Transit of \$1M. The Regional Public Transit began in July 2021 and was funded by CARES Act funding. The CARES Act allowed carryover retainage, unknown when the budget was approved. The \$1M increase will be carried over to the next fiscal year to meet the match requirements for operating and capital projects. She also noted there was an increase in other income of \$225,000. The increase was the one-time gain on the sale of the McKey Street property, which occurred after the budget had been approved. Ms. Cribb then shared with the council that the Executive Committee reviewed the budget amend-

ment in detail during their meeting and recommended approval of the budget amendment. Barbara Mae field made a motion to adopt the current year's budget amendment. Vivian Miller-Cody seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, with no other discussion.

REVIEW AND CONSIDERATION OF DUES SCHEDULE FOR FY2023: Chair Evans called on SGRC Executive Director Lisa Cribb to explain the Dues Schedule for FY2023. Ms. Cribb directed those present to a copy of the dues schedule for FY2023 located in their packets (copy attached and made a part of these minutes). She explained that the Department of Community Affairs requires RCs to use the latest population figures from the Census Bureau for the computation of dues, and this schedule reflects those latest figures. She explained that per-capita dues would remain at \$1.25 for FY2023. The population for the region increased by 2,311 from the previous year based on the 2021 estimated population numbers. Lee Gowen made a motion to approve the Dues Schedule for FY2023. Barbara King seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES/UPDATES:

Grants: SGRC Executive Director Lisa Cribb 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. Cribb stated that the project status list shows funded projects and projects that have been applied for in our region, grouped by county. Ms. Cribb 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 Executive Director Lisa Cribb 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.

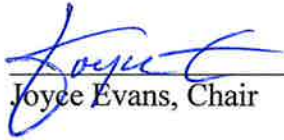
Division Reports: SGRC Executive Director Lisa Cribb referred those present to the division reports in their packets (copy attached and made a part of these minutes). Ms. Cribb asked those present to review the reports to see what the RC is doing in the region each month.

QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- 1.) **Recognition of Guests:** Chair Evans recognized Tim Golden, GDOT Transportation Board District 8 representative and thanked him for attending the SGRC council meeting.
- 2.) **Recognition of Representation:** Chair Evans recognized Lowndes and Pierce counties for having 100% representation at the council meeting.
- 3.) **ACCG Update:** Chair Evans stated that the 2022 ACCG Annual Conference would be held April 28th – May 1st in Savannah, GA.

4.) GMA Update: Barbara Maefield announced that the Spring GMA Board of Directors meeting would be held on May 12, 2022 in LaGrange, GA.

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



Joyce Evans, Chair



Lee Gowen, Vice-Chair