

SOUTHERN GEORGIA REGIONAL COMMISSION
HYBRID COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES
SGRC VALDOSTA OFFICE & VIA ZOOM
JUNE 24, 2021
11:00 a.m.

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

PROTOCOL FOR HYBRID MEETING: Chair Evans called upon SGRC Executive Director Lisa Cribb to review the procedures to be used during the hybrid meeting. 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 cellphone 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 council member's name (by county). He asked that council members respond with "here or present" to determine a quorum. After calling the roll, he asked that any guests and staff present state their names. Results are shown below in the table.

<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"/> Robert Johnson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Larry Taylor	<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"/> Folsom, Patrick
Vacant	<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"/> Paulk, Oscar
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gowen, Lee	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hardee, Willie	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moore, Bob
Vacant	Vacant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Smith, Adam
<u>Cook County</u>	<u>Echols County</u>	<u>Irwin County</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rowe, Audie	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Walker, Bobby	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Carver, Scott
<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"/> Brooks, Keith
<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"/> 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"/> Michael-Angelo James
Vacant	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

Backe, Elizabeth
 Courson, Scott
 Cribb, Lisa
 Fowler, Megan
 Horton, James
 Hull, Corey
 Hylton, Loretta
 Schultz, Kelly
 Strom, Chris
 Strom, Rachel
 Vining, Kim

Guests Present

Bennett, Latrice
 Berlin, Bob
 Dyal, Eugene
 McIntyre, Dr. Neal
 Moore, Darrell
 Raines, Carolyn
 Rubenbauer, Jason
 White, Charles

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MAY 27, 2021 MEETING MINUTES: Chair Evans reminded those present that a copy of the May 27, 2021 minutes had been emailed to members (copy attached and made a part of these minutes). Michael-Angelo James made a motion to approve the minutes. Barbara Maefield seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

REVIEW AND ACCEPTANCE OF MAY 2021 REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE REPORT: Chair Evans reminded those present that a copy of the May 2021 Revenue and Expenditure Report was emailed to council members and included in their council packets (copy attached and made a part of these minutes). Barbara King made a motion to accept the May financial report. Michael-Angelo James seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF SOUTHERN GEORGIA RC FY2022 BUDGET: SGRC Executive Director Lisa Cribb referred council members to a handout in their packets summarizing the proposed FY2022 Budget (copy attached and made a part of these minutes). Ms. Cribb reminded the council that at the May council meeting, she had presented a preliminary budget. She explained that the document before them today included more detail about specific line items in the FY2022 budget. She continued with an overview of the changes in revenue in the proposed FY2022 budget. Ms. Cribb stated that an increase in direct federal funds in the amount of \$108,824 is from carryover EDA CARES Act funding not expended in FY2021. She pointed out budgeted increases in DNR contracts for the new Lake Beatrice Project in the amount of \$141,773, the new DOT 5311 Regional Transit Program in the amount of \$263,967, and Workforce Development expected from participants returning to on-campus classes in the amount of \$216,136. The majority of the other increase in revenues has to do with the pass-

through to service providers for: the new DOT Regional Public Transit in the amount of \$2,725,000 and DHS Transportation from the lifting of COVID travel restrictions in the amount of \$835,098; there are corresponding increases in expenditures for these amounts, also. Pass-through to service providers for Aging contracts shows a decrease of \$1,488,243 due to a large infusion of CARES money received in FY2021. The RC does anticipate additional ARPA Funding but had not received allocations at the time the budget was prepared. The other decreases in revenues were in other income in the amount of \$167,550, reflecting the gain from the sale of the Savannah Ave property in FY2021 and in ITS from closing the AS400 contracts in the amount of \$120,954.

Ms. Cribb continued with an overview of the changes in the expenditures. She stated that an increase in salaries in the amount of \$204,762 is due to filling vacant or new positions. Also, she explained that some staff hired partial way through FY2021 are now budgeted for all of FY2022. Another increase in the expenditures, Ms. Cribb stated, was a 5% budgeted increase in health insurance. A five percent increase is an estimate, but the actual cost for health insurance will not be known until January 2022. Another increase Ms. Cribb explained was in operating expenditures which are due to overall back to normal operations after COVID-19 restrictions.

Ms. Cribb shared that the Executive Committee reviewed the budget in detail before the council meeting and recommended submitting this budget to the full council for approval. She asked for questions from the council. With no questions from the council, Chair Evans called for a motion to approve the FY2022 budget. Steve Taylor made a motion to approve the budget, and Janice McKinnon seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION FOR SOUTHERN GEORGIA RC
FY2022 WORK PROGRAM:**

RC Executive Director Lisa Cribb referred council members to their packet material detailing the proposed FY2022 Work Program and the resolution for adoption (copy attached and made part of these minutes). She reminded council members that a copy was emailed earlier in the week. She reminded the council that the presentations were split over three council meetings, March, April, and May, so that each program director could highlight the planned activities for FY2022. She explained that since the first presentations in March, there had been no changes proposed or made. This month, she stated, it is appropriate to ask the council for the adoption of this work program. Ms. Cribb shared that the Executive Committee reviewed the draft work program at their meetings in April and May and then asked if there were any questions. With no questions, Chair Evans called for a motion to adopt the SGRC FY2022 Work Program. Barbara Maefield made a motion to adopt the RC FY2022 Work Program, and Keith Stone seconded the motion. With no other discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

**PRESENTATION OF MUTUAL GAIN NEGOTIATIONS AND THE VALUE OF ME-
DIATION:**

RC Assistant Executive Director Chris Strom introduced Bob Berlin from The New Decision Management Associates (New DMA) along with Carolyn Raines also from The New DMA and Dr. Neal McIntyre from The Center for Dispute Resolution to the council for their Presentation of Mutual Gain Negotiations and The Value of Mediation. Mr. Berlin gave a brief description of the work he and his colleagues do under the name of Leadership Enhancement Specialists of Georgia. Mr. Berlin and Ms. Raines performed a short skit to show how mediation and communication are key to conflict resolution. After the presentation, they took ques-

tions from those present and shared other experiences where mediation can help with negotiations and conflict resolution. The contact information for the presenters' group, Leadership Enhancement Specialists of Georgia, is leadershipenhancementga@gmail.com.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE SGRC DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS ENTERPRISE PLAN FOR ALL TRANSPORTATION PROGRAMS:

Chair Evans called upon RC Transit/Mobility Coordinator Megan Fowler to present the resolution to approve SGRC Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Plan for All Transportation Programs. Ms. Fowler referred those present to the resolution handout in their meeting packet (copy attached and made a part of these minutes). She explained that the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) plan ensures that DBE's have an equal opportunity to receive and participate in all SGRC transportation programs. Ms. Fowler asked the audience if there were any questions. There being none, Steve Taylor made a motion to approve the SGRC Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Plan for all Transportation Programs. Barbara King seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

INITIATION OF THE ANNUAL PERFORMANCE EVALUATION: 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 response. Members who preferred a hardcopy document should notify staff. She encouraged members to complete and return the evaluation and thanked them for their participation.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF SALE OF MCKEY STREET PROPERTY: Assistant Executive Director Chris Strom reminded the council that the SGRC had two properties in Valdosta before building and relocating to the new office on Carlton Adams Drive. The sale of the first property, the Savannah Ave. property, was approved at the January 2021 meeting by the council. He stated that the second property, the McKey Street property, appraised at \$239,000 and was put on the market for \$225,000. The SGRC then received two offers on the same day on the McKey Street property, and both prospective buyers offered the asking price (\$225,000). Since both offers were for the same amount and made on the same day, the real estate agent handling the property sale suggested that the RC ask both buyers to make their best offer and give a cut-off time for the offers. The first offer came in at \$245,000. The second offer came in at \$255,000; unfortunately, the second offer came in after the cut-off time.

Mr. Strom stated that the RC has entered into a due diligence period with the first prospective buyer that offered \$245,000 to gather all the materials to prepare for the sales transaction. He shared that the Executive Committee reviewed the sale of the McKey Street property before the council meeting and recommended presenting it to the full council for approval. He then asked if there were any questions. There being none, he turned the meeting back over to Chair Evans, who asked for a motion. Barbara King made a motion to approve the Sale of the McKey Street property for \$245,000. Barbara Maefield seconded the motion. The 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. She shared that the Community and Economic Development staff submitted eight (8) CDBG applications on June 1, 2021. The awards should be announced in late August or early September 2021. She advised those present to contact RC Community and Economic Development staff regarding projects listed in their packet or any potential projects that they may be interested in for their communities.

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.

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 Ben Hill and Lanier counties' Comprehensive Plan updates have been submitted and that she and her staff are working on the Lowndes county Comp Plan update. She also mentioned that she and her department would start holding orientation meetings to be held prior to the start of the Comprehensive Plan Updates to help cities and counties with the process. She encouraged council members to review the schedule for upcoming deadlines for their communities and to contact SGRC Planning staff with any questions.

QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS: Chair Evans then called upon Willie Hardee to bless the meal.

ADJOURN: As there was no further business to conduct, the meeting adjourned.


Joyce Evans, Chair


Matt Seale, Secretary