

**SOUTHERN GEORGIA REGIONAL COMMISSION
HYBRID COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES
SGRC WAYCROSS OFFICE & VIA ZOOM
MAY 27, 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
 Hobbs, Kimberly
 Hull, Corey
 Lovett, Roberta
 Schultz, Kelly
 Strom, Chris
 Vining, Kim

Guests Present

Bennett, Latrice
 Lane, Kelly
 Redding, Jody
 Rubenbauer, Jason

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF APRIL 22, 2021 MEETING MINUTES: Chair Evans reminded those present that a copy of the April 22, 2021 minutes had been emailed to members (copy attached and made a part of these minutes). Vivian Miller-Cody made a motion to approve the minutes. Barbara King seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

REVIEW AND ACCEPTANCE OF APRIL 2021 REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE REPORT: Chair Evans reminded those present that a copy of the April 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 April financial report. Matt Seale seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

REVIEW OF DRAFT SOUTHERN GEORGIA RC FY2022 WORK PROGRAM BY DIVISION: Chair Evans called upon SGRC Planning Director Elizabeth Backe to begin the Work Program presentations. Ms. Backe referred those present to the PowerPoint slides in their packets (copies attached and made part of these minutes) for reference during the presentations. Georgia State law requires that the SGRC compile a work program for planned activities in the upcoming fiscal year. The council will vote on the resolution to adopt the Work Program in June. Each RC department presented detailed overviews of their programs and planned activities for the upcoming fiscal year during the March, April and May meetings, allowing the council time to review the draft work program, make suggestions, or ask questions before adopting it. During May's meeting, the following program representatives presented PowerPoint presentations highlighting the various activities for their department for the upcoming fiscal year: Elizabeth Backe, Planning Director, and Corey Hull, Transportation and Environment Director.

REVIEW OF DRAFT SOUTHERN GEORGIA RC FY2022 BUDGET: SGRC Executive Director Lisa Cribb referred council members to a page in their packet summarizing the Estimated Budget for FY2022 (copy attached and made part of these minutes). Ms. Cribb explained that the document was an overview of the projected budget at this point. She said that RC Finance Director, Kelly Schultz, had met with program directors to arrive at this large-scale view of the projections for FY2022. These projections, Ms. Cribb explained, include staff salary projections in the different program areas as well as any expected direct charges for the upcoming fiscal year. She also explained that these estimates include any pass-through funds for program areas. Ms. Cribb stated that over the next month, Ms. Schultz and staff would continue working to refine this information to assemble a more specific line-by-line budget for each program area, including related contracts, grants, and projects. She explained that a line item budget would be prepared for presentation and review by the council at June's council meeting. Ms. Cribb concluded her report and encouraged council members to review and become familiar with the summary provided.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF SGRC AUDITOR FOR FY 2021-2025: SGRC Executive Director Lisa Cribb referred those present to a copy of the scores for audit proposals included in their member packets (copy attached and made a part of these minutes). Ms. Cribb explained that an RFP had been issued for audit services for FY 2021-2025 as the current agreement for audit services ended with the FY 2020 audit. She shared that the RC received two proposals. Ms. Cribb stated that a staff committee rated each submission based on criteria from the Georgia Department of Audits and Accounts, and those scores are reflected on the handout. She then noted that a more detailed analysis was presented to the Executive Committee and the Committee recommended contracting with Valenti, Rackley & Associates for audit services for FY 2021-2025. Vivian Miller-Cody made a motion to contract with Valenti, Rackley & Associates. Barbara Mae field seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION TO ADOPT SGRC TRANSIT SYSTEM DRUG AND ALCOHOL POLICY: Chair Evans called on SGRC Transit/Mobility Coordinator Megan Fowler to present the agenda item. Ms. Fowler referred those present to a copy of the resolution to adopt the SGRC Transit System Drug and Alcohol Policy included in their member packets (copy attached and made a part of these minutes). She explained that the drug and alcohol policy is required as part of the RC's recently adopted Regional Public Transit program, which begins on July 1. Ms. Fowler then asked if there were any questions. There being no questions or discussions, Barbara King made a motion to Adopt the SGRC Transit System Drug and Alcohol Policy. Neal Bennett seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION TO ADOPT SGRC 2021 REGIONAL PLAN IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM ANNUAL REPORT: 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 the resolution in their packet to adopt the 2021 Regional Plan Implementation Program Annual Report (copy attached and made a part of these minutes). Ms. Backe reminded the council that the RC held a public hearing for the Annual Report before the March 25, 2021 council meeting and stated that DCA approved the draft submittal on May 5, 2021. She noted that the presented resolution is the one-year update required by DCA. Ronnie Gaskins made a motion to adopt the Annual Implementation Program Report for the Regional Plan. Matt Seale seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

REPORT OF NOMINATION COMMITTEE: Chair Evans called upon Neal Bennett, who presented the results from the Nomination Committee for the Executive Committee Vacancy and Election of Officers. Mr. Bennett stated that the Nomination Committee met on May 25, 2021. He noted that the Committee voted to recommend Barbara Maefield for the Executive Committee vacancy. She will fill the spot left vacant when Grady Thompson chose not to run for re-election. Then, he stated that the Nomination Committee would like to recommend the election of the following officers for FY2022-2024: Chair – Joyce Evans; Vice-Chair – Lee Gowen; and Secretary – Matt Seale. Vivian Miller-Cody made a motion to approve the Nomination Committee's recommendations for the vacancy and the FY2022-2024 slate of officers. Barbara King seconded the motion. With no other discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES/UPDATES:

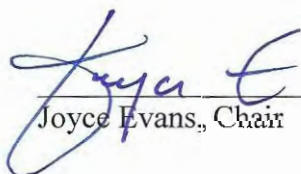
Grants: SGRC Community and Economic Development Director Kimberly Hobbs referred those present to a copy of the project status list included in their member packets (copy attached and made a part of these minutes). Ms. Hobbs stated that the project status list shows funded projects and projects that have been applied for in our region, grouped by county. She shared that several CDBG Mitigation awards were made by DCA recently. These were disaster monies allocated during the hurricane and disastrous tornado experienced by our region several years ago. Of the applications submitted in February, four from the SGRC region were awarded approximately \$7.5 million. Ms. Hobbs reminded those present that CDBG applications are due on June 4, 2021 and that it is an online platform. 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.

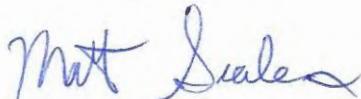
Planning: SGRC Planning Director Elizabeth Backe referred those present to a handout listing the various plans that local governments are required to submit, as well as the deadlines for submission (copy attached and made a part of these minutes). She encouraged council members to review the schedule for upcoming deadlines for their communities and to 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: Chair Evans announced that the June 2021 Council meeting would be held in Valdosta at the SGRC office located at 1937 Carlton Adams Drive on Thursday, June 24, 2021. Vivian Miller-Cody shared that GMA would be having a district meeting on June 2, 2021 at the Valdosta SGRC office. Chair Evans then called upon Matt Seale to bless the meal.

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


Joyce Evans, Chair


Matt Seale, Secretary