

**SOUTHERN GEORGIA REGIONAL COMMISSION
COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES
SGRC OFFICE • 1725 S. GEORGIA PARKWAY, W. • WAYCROSS, GA 31503
SEPTEMBER 23, 2021
11:00 A.M.**

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

<u>Atkinson County</u>	<u>Bacon County</u>	<u>Ben Hill County</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Futch, Lace	Vacant	<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
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Clayton, John	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Maefield, Barbara	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dennard, Nancy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Smart, Lisa	Vacant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deshazor, 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"/> Paulk, Tony
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> O'Quinn, Dana	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"/> James, Michael-Angelo
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
Strom, Chris
Vining, Kim

Guests Present

Lane, Kelly
Rubenbauer, Jason

INSTALLATION OF NEW COUNCIL MEMBER: Chair Evans invited Dana O'Quinn to come forward and take her oath as a new SGRC council member. Ms. O'Quinn will serve as the Charlton County Private Sector representative and is the Executive Director of the Okefenokee Chamber of Commerce.

REVIEW AND ACCEPTANCE OF JULY AND AUGUST 2021 REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE REPORTS: Chair Evans referred those present to a copy of the July and August 2021 Revenue and Expenditure Reports included in their member packets (copies attached and made a part of these minutes). Vivian Miller-Cody made a motion to accept the July and August 2021 Revenue and Expenditure Reports. Barbara Maefield seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

AARP AGE-FRIENDLY ANNOUNCEMENT: The AARP Age-Friendly Announcement was scheduled to be presented virtually, but this agenda item was cancelled due to a power outage at the SGRC Waycross building.

REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF RESOLUTIONS FOR FY2022 FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION 5303 AND 5304 GRANT APPLICATIONS: Chair Evans called on SGRC Transit Mobility Coordinator Megan Fowler to present the Resolutions for FY2022 Federal Transit Administration 5303 and 5304 Grant Applications. Ms. Fowler referred those present to copies of the 5303 and 5304 grant application resolutions in their council packets (copies attached and made a part of these minutes). She explained that Section 5303 funds are Federally designated for metropolitan planning funding, and Section 5304 funds are for rural planning funding. The regional commission has received these funds in the past to do transit planning for the Valdosta urbanized area and the rural planning area in the other 17 regional counties. She then asked the council if they had any questions about the 5303 or 5304 transportation resolution. There being none, she noted that each resolution would need separate approvals.

Chair Evans then called for action on the FTA Section 5303 Grant Application resolution. Matt Seale made a motion to adopt the FY2022 Federal Transit Administration Section 5303 Grant Application Resolution. Barbara Maefield seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Chair Evans then called for action on the FTA Section 5304 Grant Application resolution. Mona Paulk made a motion to adopt the FY2022 Federal Transit Administration Section 5304 Grant Application Resolution. Barbara Maefield seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION FOR FY2022 FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION 5311 RURAL MASS TRANSPORTATION GRANT APPLICATION:

Chair Evans called on SGRC Transit Mobility Coordinator Megan Fowler to present the FY2022 Federal Transit Administration 5311 Rural Mass Transportation Grant Application Resolution. Ms. Fowler referred those present to a copy of the 5311 resolution in their council packets (copy attached and made a part of these minutes). Ms. Fowler explained that the Federal Transit Administration 5311 Rural Mass Transit resolution is to submit the grant application to fund rural public transit operations. Chair Evans called for action on the FTA Section 5311 Grant Application resolution. Matt Seale made a motion to adopt the FY2022 Federal Transit Administration Section 5311 Grant Application Resolution. Vivian Miller-Cody seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF SOUTHERN GEORGIA ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND RESILIENCY PLAN:

Chair Evans called upon SGRC Community & Economic Development Director Kimberly Hobbs and SGRC Planning Director Elizabeth Backe to present the Southern Georgia Economic Recovery and Resiliency Plan to the council. Ms. Hobbs began describing the need for the Southern Georgia Economic Recovery and Resiliency Plan, as copies of the plan were handed out to those present (copy attached and made part of these minutes). She explained that in August 2020, the SGRC received Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funding from the Economic Development Administration (EDA) to assist the region with pandemic recovery to increase resilience. With this funding, the SGRC has worked directly with its communities to assess the region's needs and devise a strategy to meet those needs through coordination, partnerships, and leveraged resources. The result of these efforts has been the development of the SGRC Economic Recovery and Resiliency Plan. This plan will assess the region's current community and economic needs, devise strategies to address these needs, and identify methods to strengthen economic resilience. Ms. Hobbs and Ms. Backe shared in detail how the plan's development pinpointed four strategic target sectors as the foundation for economic recovery and resiliency in the SGRC region. The four target sectors defined in the plan are Business, Industry & Workforce; Housing; Broadband; and Health & Wellbeing.

Implementing the plan for each target sector will improve the economy and quality of life in the region and prepare it to endure future shocks to the economic base. When approved, the SGRC Economic Recovery and Resiliency Plan will be incorporated into the SGRC Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). After a detailed explanation and discussion of the standards used to develop, implement and measure its performance, Chair Evans asked for a motion to approve the plan. Matt Seale made a motion to approve the Southern Georgia Economic Recovery and Resiliency Plan. Ronnie Gaskins seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES/UPDATES:

Grants: SGRC Community & Economic Director Kimberly Hobbs directed council members to the project status list in their packets (copy attached and made part of these minutes). Ms. Hobbs stated that the list includes the status of current projects the Community & Economic department has in progress. She advised those present to contact SGRC Community & Economic Development staff regarding projects listed on the status list or any potential projects 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 encouraged council members to review the 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: SGRC Executive Director reminded those present that the Annual Area Officials Appreciation Evening will occur on Tuesday, October 26, 2021. The event will be held at Dinnerman's Farm in Adel, GA, and will begin at 5:00 pm.

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



Joyce Evans, Chair



Matt Seale, Secretary