

**SOUTHERN GEORGIA REGIONAL COMMISSION
COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES
SGRC • 1725 S. GEORGIA PARKWAY, WEST • WAYCROSS, GA
January 23, 2020
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 to give 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"/> 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"/> Maxwell, James
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scarborough, Taylor	<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"/> Jowers, Johnny W.
<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"/> Lane, Jeff	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Petty, Kenneth	<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"/> Michael-Angelo James
<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

Backe, Elizabeth
Cribb, Lisa
Hobbs, Kimberly
Jacobs, Justin
Schultz, Kelly
Strom, Chris
Strom, Rachel
Vining, Kim

Guests Present

Bennett, Latrice
Dyal, Eugene
Dyke, Jana
Harris, Toby
James, Jaclyn
Ligon, Neil
Miller, Susan
Rubenbauer, Jason
Smith, Ashley
Stafford, Saralyn
Stevenson, Molly
Vickers, Wesley
Westberry, Diane
Wirth, Tom

INSTALLATION OF NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS: Chair Evans invited the newly appointed officials to come forward and take their oath as new SGRC council members. SGRC council members installed were: Larry Taylor, Mayor, City of Alma; Taylor Scarbrough, Mayor, City of Nashville; Johnny Jowers, Chairman, Coffee County Board of Commissioners; Jeff Lane, Chairman, Cook County Board of Commissioners; and Kenneth Petty, Chairman, Echols County Board of Commissioners.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 12, 2019 MEETING MINUTES: Chair Evans reminded those present that a copy of the December 12, 2019 minutes had been emailed to members (copy attached and made a part of these minutes). James Maxwell made a motion to approve the minutes. Barbara King seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

REVIEW AND ACCEPTANCE OF NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 2019 REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE REPORT: Chair Evans reminded those present that a copy of the November and December 2019 Revenue and Expenditure Reports had been 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 November and December financial reports. James Everett seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

NEXTGENERATION 911 (NG911) PRESENTATION: SGRC Assistant Executive Director Chris Strom introduced Susan Miller, Georgia Geospatial Information Officer to the council. Ms. Miller began with a history of the 911 system. Ms. Miller gave a brief history of the 911 system from concept in 1957 to current. There are still areas around the U.S. that do not have access to a 911 system. She said there are 154 total 911 centers in Georgia. NG911 will be an enhancement to current 911 systems. The first evolution of 911 was the Enhanced 911 that was an upgrade for landline calls to route them to a close by call center and to display the callers' phone number and billing address on a screen for the operator to see. The second was Wireless

Enhanced 911 which was an upgrade to begin to deal with cell phones. Cell phone calls to 911 are supposed to be routed to the appropriate cell phone tower to ensure it will be routed to the correct call center. The newest evolution will be NG911. NG911 will provide the ability to share voice and data-rich information that will improve first responders' ability to save lives, ensure responder safety and protect property. Ms. Miller stated that implementing NG911 will take time, preparation, coordination with local governments. Ms. Miller answered questions from the council, and shared data about implementing the NG911 system. She thanked the council for the opportunity to speak.

REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF ONE TIME EARLY RETIREMENT INCENTIVE:

SGRC Executive Director Lisa Cribb referred those present to a copy of the one-time early retirement incentive included in their council packets (copy attached and made a part of these minutes). Ms. Cribb explained that with the discontinuation of the software development programming service from the IT department, there will be two staff members who will be subject to reduction in force. One of the individuals has been with the RC for 25 years, but is a couple of years away from being eligible for retirement. Ms. Cribb explained that this one-time early retirement incentive, if approved will be a temporary amendment to the RC retirement plan and opens up a 45-day window, where this staff member will be able to apply for retirement. Lace Futch made a motion to adopt the amendment. Matt Seale seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF RESTATED DEFINED BENEFIT RETIREMENT PLAN AND RESTATED GENERAL ADDENDUM:

SGRC Executive Director Lisa Cribb referred those present to a copy of the restated defined benefit retirement plan and restated general addendum included in their council packets (copy attached and made a part of these minutes). Ms. Cribb explained that GMA is the holder of the retirement plan documents for the RC and due to some tax law changes, GMA has had to amend all of the plan documents. GMA then had to apply for a favorable determination letter from the IRS. Ms. Cribb then stated that GMA is now asking that the RC approve and adopt the restated documents, so that the tax deferral for the plan can continue. There are no changes in the retirement plans, just an incorporation of the new Federal tax law changes. Robert Moore made a motion to adopt the restated defined benefit retirement plan and restated general addendum. Matt Seale seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION TO CONTRACT FOR AGING SERVICES: SGRC Aging Department Director Scott Courson referred those present to a copy of a resolution to enter into a contract for aging services included in their member packets (copy attached and made a part of these minutes). Mr. Courson explained that this resolution authorizes the SGRC to enter into a written contract with the Georgia Department of Human Services, Division of Aging Services for FY2021 which begins on July 1, 2020. Grady Thompson made a motion to adopt the resolution to enter into a contract for aging services. Matt Seale seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

REPORT OF STAFF DISCLOSURES AS REQUIRED BY STATE LAW: SGRC Executive Director Lisa Cribb referred those present to a copy of O.C.G.A 50-8-63 included in their council packets (copy attached and made a part of these minutes). She explained that this law requires the SGRC to annually report to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA)

and the council whether any Regional Commission employees transacted business with any local government during the previous calendar year. Ms. Cribb stated that for calendar year 2019, no employees of the Southern Georgia Regional Commission reported transacting business with any local governments. James Maxwell made a motion to accept this report of staff disclosures. Robert Moore seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF REGIONAL COMMISSION MUTUAL SUPPORT

RESOLUTION: SGRC Executive Director Lisa Cribb referred those present to a copy of the Regional Commission mutual support resolution included in their member packets (copy attached and made a part of these minutes). Mr. Cribb explained that with twelve regional commissions in the state of Georgia, there is a lot of support, exchange, cooperation and coordination with each other. She stated that this has always been the case, but there has not been a formal agreement in place. This resolution will be the formal agreement for what is currently common practice, if approved, for support and cooperation with other regional commissions; and in turn for acceptance of other regional commissions' requests. Ms. Cribb asked if there were any questions, there being none, Matt Seale made a motion to adopt the Regional Commission mutual support resolution. Lee Gowen seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL RECOMMENDATIONS: SGRC Executive Director Lisa Cribb referred those present to a copy of the rural development council recommendations included in their member packets (copy attached and made a part of these minutes). Ms. Cribb explained the State House of Representatives has a study committee called the Rural Development Council to discuss issues and opportunities for rural Georgia. The committee is currently being co-chaired by Rep. Sam Watson and the vice chair is Rep. John Corbett. At the December 2019 meeting of the committee in Americus, the committee came up with their recommendations. Three of the recommendations dealt with regional commissions. The recommendations were: reduce the size of the council; establish a list of core services; and have performance standards under the oversight of DCA. Ms. Cribb explained that she met with Rep. Watson to discuss the recommendations for regional commissions, as she is the sitting president of the Georgia Association of Regional Commissions (GARC). Rep. Watson was intent on the recommendation to reduce the size of the council. Rep. Watson asked Ms. Cribb to discuss the recommendation bring back ideas to achieve an agreement. Ms. Cribb explained that the day after her meeting with Rep. Watson was the monthly meeting of the GARC executive directors. After the GARC meeting, Ms. Cribb shared that there was a lot of discussion on the recommendations. She then explained the make-up of the council to the members to address the recommendation from the committee. State mandates the county, municipal, and state appointed members. Ms. Cribb then stated that study committee is concerned there may not be equal representation due to large councils, and the ensure participation, regional commissions should eliminate some council appointments. These recommendations are still just recommendations, but she stated that the council should know and give feedback. Ms. Cribb then answered a few questions from council members.

REVIEW OF COUNCIL ATTENDANCE: SGRC Executive Director Lisa Cribb referred those present to a copy of the council member meeting attendance report included in their member packets (copy attached and made a part of these minutes). Ms. Cribb reminded the council that the SGRC By-Laws state that when a council member misses three consecutive meetings during the fiscal year, a notice shall be mailed to the council member. For the private sector appointments, letters were sent to the appointing officials as well as to the member. She stated

some council members should have received notices in January 2020 and hoped this would encourage regular attendance. Ms. Cribb stated that a report of attendance is included in their council packets at each meeting.

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES/UPDATES:

Division Reports: SGRC Executive Director Lisa Cribb referred those present to a copy of the RC division reports included in their member packets (copy attached and made a part of these minutes). Ms. Cribb explained that the division reports will be a part of the member packets each month to give an update on each divisions' activities. She asked those present to review the reports each month to see what the RC is doing in the region each month.

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 projects that have been funded and projects that have been applied for in our region, grouped by county. She reminded those present that the April 1st deadline is very important and approaching quickly. She advised those present to contact SGRC Community and Economic Development staff in regards to projects listed in the 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). Ms. Backe shared that the Comprehensive Plan update for Berrien County is in progress, followed by Charlton, Cook, and Echols Counties. She also shared that a regional model ordinances workshop will be held on February 19th from 1-3 in Valdosta. Ms. Backe encouraged anyone with questions regarding upcoming deadlines for communities to contact SGRC Planning staff.


Okefenokee Occasion Recap: SGRC Community and Economic Development Director Kimberly Hobbs shared with the council that the 30th Annual Okefenokee Occasion held on Wednesday, January 15, 2020 was a great success. She informed those present that Governor Brian Kemp made an appearance as well as many, if not all, of our local legislators along with state department staff. She encouraged those communities that do not participate in Okefenokee Occasion to contact SGRC staff for more information on how to do so. Ms. Hobbs stated that preparations for next year's Occasion would soon be underway and to mark their calendars for next year's event to be held on January 13, 2021.

QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

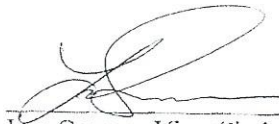
- 1.) **ACCG Update:** James Everett reminded the council that ACCG's Capital Connection Conference will be held February 27-28, 2020 in Atlanta. Mr. Everett stated that the Joint Legislative Breakfast on February 28th will be at 7:30 a.m. at the Freight Depot.
- 2.) **GMA Update:** Matt Seale informed those present that GMA Cities United Summit would be January 24-27th in Atlanta. He also encouraged all the newly elected officials to attend the Newly Elected Officials Institute training that will be in Tifton, February 10-12th.

- 3.) **Recognition of Guests and Representation:** Chair Evans recognized Saralyn Stafford from the Carl Vinson Institute. Chair Evans announced that Ben Hill, Brantley, Brooks, Charlton, and Echols Counties had 100% representation at the council meeting.
- 4.) **Service Awards:** Chair Evans presented staff member Rachel Strom with a plaque for twenty years of dedicated service to the Southern Georgia Regional Commission. Ms. Evans commended Ms. Strom for her service.
- 5.) **Valdosta/Lowndes Bird Supper:** Chair Evans told those present that the annual Valdosta/Lowndes Bird Supper would be held Wednesday, February 12th in Atlanta.

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



Joyce Evans, Chair



Lee Gowen, Vice-Chair