

**SOUTHERN GEORGIA REGIONAL COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE/AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING
JANUARY 23, 2020
SGRC WAYCROSS OFFICE • 1725 S. GA PARKWAY, WEST • WAYCROSS, GA
10:00 A.M.**

Members in Attendance:

Joyce Evans
Neal Bennett
Buddy Duke
Lee Gowen
Matt Seale
Carlos Nelson
Steve Taylor
Grady Thompson

Staff Present:

Lisa Cribb
Kelly Schultz
Chris Strom

Guests:

Vince Settle

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR DECEMBER 12, 2019 MEETING:

Chair Joyce Evans called the meeting to order and then reminded those present that the minutes of the December 12, 2019 Executive Committee meeting were previously emailed to members (copy attached and made a part of these minutes). Grady Thompson made a motion to approve the minutes. Matt Seale seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATION OF THE 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 member 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 a staff member that has been with the RC for 25 years, with only a couple of years from being eligible for retirement. Ms. Cribb explained that this one-time early retirement incentive will be a temporary amendment to the RC retirement plan and opens a 45-day window where this staff member will be able to apply for retirement. Grady Thompson made a motion to recommend presentation of the one-time early retirement incentive to the SGRC council for approval. Matt Seale seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATION 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 member 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 plan documents to accommodate these changes. GMA then had to apply for a favorable determination letter from the IRS. Ms. Cribb then stated that GMA has received their favorable determination from the IRS and is now asking that the RC approve and adopt the restated documents, so that the tax deferral for the plan can continue. She explained that there are no changes in the

retirement plans, just an incorporation of the new Federal tax law changes. Grady Thompson made a motion to recommend presentation of the restated defined benefit retirement plan and restated general addendum for approval to the SGRC full council. Matt Seale seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

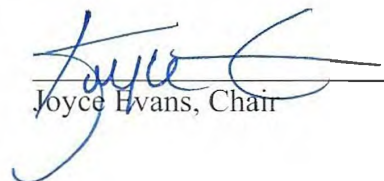
RURAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL RECOMMENDATIONS: SGRC Executive Director Lisa Cribb referred those present to a copy of the rural development council recommendation included in their member packets (copy attached and made a copy of these minutes). Ms. Cribb explained the State House of Representatives has a study committee called the Rural Development Council to discuss issues and opportunities for rural Georgia. The committee is currently being co-chaired by Representative Sam Watson and the vice chair is Representative John Corbett, both represent parts of the SGRC region. 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 further 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 with the other regional commissions at the monthly GARC meeting and bring back ideas to help reduce the size of councils. Ms. Cribb shared that the state mandates the county, municipal and state appointed members on the regional commissions. She shared that the study committee is concerned there may not be equal representation due to large councils in some areas; reducing the council size, they think, could ensure more participation. These recommendations are just that, recommendations at this time, but Ms. Cribb wanted the council to be aware that changes may be ahead, and to get some feedback. Discussion ensued on how to possibly reduce the size of the full council and be consistent with executive committees.

REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATION OF RC MUTUAL SUPPORT RESOLUTION: SGRC Executive Director Lisa Cribb referred members to a copy of the Regional Commission mutual support resolution included in their packets (copy attached and made a part of these minutes). Ms. Cribb explained that with the 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. By recommending the approval of this resolution to the full council, this resolution will be the formal agreement for what is currently common practice. Lee Gowen made a motion to recommend presentation of the RC mutual support resolution to the SGRC council for approval. Matt Seale seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

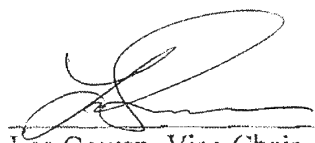
OTHER BUSINESS: Executive Committee member Lee Gowen made a motion to enter executive session to discuss possible litigation. Matt Seale seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Chair Evans asked the executive committee, SGRC Executive Director Lisa Cribb, Assistant Executive Director Chris Strom, and Attorney Vince Settle to stay for the executive session. All other attendees were asked to leave the room for the executive session. The executive session began at 10:35am and ended at 10:53am.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.



Joyce Evans, Chair



Lee Gowen, Vice-Chair