

MINUTES

Middle Georgia Regional Commission
Council Meeting
Thursday, August 13, 2015, 6:00 p.m.
175 Emery Highway, Suite C, Macon, Georgia

MEMBERS PRESENT:

BALDWIN COUNTY

John Westmoreland
Richard Mullins, Jr.
William Millians

CRAWFORD COUNTY

Charlie Westberry
Paul Chapman
Becky Smith
Robert Ray

HOUSTON COUNTY

John Harley

JONES COUNTY

Jimmy Roberts
Francis Adams
Frank Duke

MACON-BIBB COUNTY

None present

MONROE COUNTY

Michael Bilderback
Melvin Lawrence
Dick Bazemore

PEACH COUNTY

Melvin Walker
James Khoury
James Richardson

PULASKI COUNTY

Butch Hall
Henry Cravey
Lee Slade

PUTNAM COUNTY

Billy Webster
John Reid

TWIGGS COUNTY

Ken Fowler
Shannon Hart
Johnny Branan
Joyce Mitchum

WILKINSON COUNTY

Jonathan Jackson
Mark Dupree
Marty Dominy

MIDDLE GEORGIA

None present

GUESTS PRESENT:

Robert Dickey – Georgia State Representative, District 140
Bubber Epps – Georgia State Representative, District 144
Buddy Harden - Georgia State Representative, District 148
John F. Kennedy – Georgia State Senator, District 18
Stephen J. Hersey – Chairman, Putnam County Commissioner
Cloyce Pittman – Former Council Member and Former Mayor of Allentown
Steve Lynn – Chief of Police, City of Perry
Frank Austin – Chairman, Austin-Smith Center for Development
Alyson Cozart – Manager, Employer Outreach at Coliseum Health System
Janie Reid – Putnam County Commissioner

STAFF PRESENT:

Ralph Nix – Executive Director
Laura Mathis – Deputy Director
Brent Lanford – Deputy Director
Matt Garvin - Finance Officer
Sam Perren - Government Services Specialist
Crystal Gaillard - Government Services Specialist
Greg Boike – Government Services Specialist
Cam Yearty - Government Services Specialist
Nicole Gaither - Aging Services Coordinator -Wellness
Kevin Brown – Attorney
Kim Stanton – Executive Secretary

CALL TO ORDER

Council Chairman Charlie Westberry called the August 13, 2015 meeting to order at 6:15 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Executive Secretary Kim Stanton called the roll and indicated that a quorum was present with 21 voting and eight non-voting members present.

OPENING CEREMONIES

a. Invocation

Crawford County Council Member Paul Chapman gave the invocation.

b. Welcome

Chairman Westberry welcomed everyone to the August 13, 2015 Council meeting.

c. Introduction of Guests and Staff

Chairman Westberry acknowledged the following guests at the Regional Commission Council Meeting:

Representative Robert Dickey
Representative Bubber Epps
Representative Buddy Harden
Senator John F. Kennedy
Commissioner Stephen J. Hersey
Commissioner Janie Reid
Police Chief, City of Perry Steve Lynn
Cloyce Pittman
Frank Austin
Alyson Cozart

Brent Lanford introduced a new staff member, Robert O'Neil, IT Specialist to the Regional Commission.

d. Middle Georgia Regional Leadership Champions

Greg Boike reported on the Regional Leadership Champions Program. A program that is a partnership between the Regional Commission and the Fanning Institute, with funding support from OEA. Mr. Boike introduced four of the 38 members who completed the program. Police Chief Steve Lynn, Commissioner Janie Reid, Frank Austin and Alyson Cozart. Also in attendance that completed the program were Donovan Head and Mayor Barbara Williams.

Commissioner Janie Reid thanked the Regional Commission for their support and was thankful for being part of the Regional Leadership Champions Program.

Alyson Cozart mentioned that being part of the Regional Leadership Champions Program was a great opportunity to learn more about the region and gain leadership skills.

Frank Austin reported that the Regional Leadership Champions Program was a great opportunity and being a community developer, he feels the program has transformed him into thinking outside the boundaries which can impact the region as a whole.

Police Chief Steve Lynn mentioned that being a law enforcement officer he was interested in the program to focus on a regional approach to working collaboratively with other counties and the unique resources that can bring. Chief Lynn thanked the Regional Commission for the opportunity to be part of the program.

STANDARD ORDER OF BUSINESS

a. Approval of Minutes of June 11, 2015 Council Meeting

There were no corrections to the minutes of the June 11, 2015 Council meeting and they were unanimously approved on a motion by John Harley and second by Shannon Hart.

b. Old Business

i. Transportation Funding Act of 2015 Status

Laura Mathis gave a status report on the Transportation Funding Act of 2015, a legislation that was passed to allow regions to reconsider the regional transportation sales tax on the passage of a resolution by the majority of the counties in the region. Ms. Mathis noted that per the Council's request, a sample resolution was provided to the cities and counties in the region. The counties of Baldwin, Crawford, Jones, Macon-Bibb, Pulaski and Wilkinson as of August 13, 2015, have passed a resolution in support of initiating the regional transportation sales tax process. Putnam County has passed a resolution in opposition to the initiation of the regional transportation sales tax process. Houston County is going through a consultation process and will make a decision the first week of September. Ms. Mathis noted that the Regional Commission is not aware of any action that will be taken by Monroe, Twiggs and Peach counties. Ms. Mathis noted that the majority of the counties in the region have initiated the process. Ms. Mathis stated that in 2010 in recognition that the Roundtable did not have the capacity to carry out all of the administrative responsibilities, the Regional Council authorized staff to provide administrative support to help manage the process of the Transportation Investment Act of 2010.

After discussion, Lee Slade made a motion that the Regional Commission assist in providing administrative support to the region for completion of the process outlined in the Transportation Investment Act of 2010. The motion was seconded by Joyce Mitchum and unanimously approved.

c. New Business

i. Appointments to Middle Georgia Regional Commission Council for Monroe County

Chairman Westberry reported that the following appointments to the Middle Georgia Regional Council had been received since the June meeting:

MONROE COUNTY

Mike Bilderback – County Member

John Howard – Municipal Member

Richard Bazemore – Non-Public Member

Edd Norris –Associate Member

Melvin Lawrence – Associate Member

The Council Member Appointments were unanimously approved on a motion by Joyce Mitchum and seconded by Shannon Hart.

ii. Appointments to the Georgia Small Business Lender, Inc.

Laura Mathis presented the following nominations for membership to the Georgia Small Business Lender, Inc.

Baldwin County	Owen Pittman
Houston County	Amy O’Cain and Christy Drexler
Jasper County	David Dyer and Gene Trammell
Jones County	Kevin Mathis and Thad Childs
Monroe County	Reginald Harris
Peach County	Richard H. Smallwood
Pulaski County	Lee Slade
Putnam County	Steve Culberson
Twiggs County	William Humphries
Wilkinson County	Amy Orr

Joyce Mitchum made a motion to approve the nominations to the Georgia Small Business Lender. The motion was seconded by Shannon Hart and unanimously approved.

iii. Local Assistance Requests

MGRC staff member Cam Yearty presented the following local assistance requests that have been received since the June Council meeting:

Community: **Baldwin County**
Project Title: EIP Grant
Project Description: Assistance in applying for OneGeorgia for Project Sparta in Baldwin County.

Community: **City of Centerville**
Project Title: Request for Proposal
Project Description: Assistance with developing an RFP to plan and execute the development of a large city park and a future live, work, and play area in the City of Centerville.

Community: **Crawford County**
Project Title: Incentive Package

Project Description: Preparation of an incentive package to attract a business looking to potentially locate to Crawford County.

Community: **Crawford County**

Project Title: Training Assistance

Project Description: Assistance with the training of QuickBooks for the Development Authority.

Community: **Houston County**

Project Title: Grant Proposal

Project Description: Assistance with a grant proposal for the Middle Georgia Community Action Agency to purchase passenger vans for the Senior Services Program

Community: **City of Jeffersonville**

Project Title: Personnel Policies

Project Description: Assistance in updating the city's Personnel Policies.

Community: **Jones County**

Project Title: Grant Assistance

Project Description: Assistance in finding grant opportunities and completing the applications for the development of a park for children with disabilities.

Community: **Monroe County**

Project Title: Grant Assistance

Project Description: Assistance in finding grants for the remodeling of the Monroe County Library.

Community: **City of Roberta**

Project Title: Grant Assistance

Project Description: Assistance in finding grants for the repair of the decking around the downtown Depot building.

Mr. Yearty also reported on several projects which were previously approved and have been completed. These projects included:

- The completion of the update Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan. More on this plan can be found at www.middlegabikeped.org.
- Two contracts have been signed for website development with Macon-Bibb Land Bank and Macon-Bibb EOC.

The local assistance requests were unanimously approved on a motion by Joyce Mitchum and seconded by John Reid.

iv. Resolution to approve Area Agency on Aging Sustainability Plan

Nicole Gaither reported that the older population and the demand for services is increasing in Middle Georgia. Ms. Gaither stated that the plan would provide supplemental revenue to fund and reinvest into programs that would increase the service delivery.

WHEREAS, the Middle Georgia Regional Commission (MGRC) has served since 1977 as the Area Agency on Aging (AAA), a federally-designated service organization and region authorized by the Older Americans Act; and

WHEREAS, the MGRC has provided program planning and development, technical assistance, coordination, administration, and fiscal accountability for program services available to older adults and people with disabilities within Middle Georgia; and

WHEREAS, these services are provided through subcontracts administered by the MGRC AAA and have direct impact on a large and increasing portion of the Middle Georgia population; and

WHEREAS, federal and state revenues funding these services are not increasing at a proportional rate sufficient to meet rising demand for services among a steadily growing population of older adults and people with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, the staff of the MGRC has developed a 2015 AAA Sustainability Business Plan to reduce this service delivery challenge through the introduction of a private-pay program model; and

WHEREAS, the 2015 AAA Sustainability Business Plan calls for the implementation of two private-pay models via a pilot program for the following five counties: Crawford, Houston, Jones, Macon-Bibb, and Monroe counties; and

WHEREAS, the success of the initial pilot program over time is anticipated to expand implementation of the private-pay programs throughout the 11-county service region; and

WHEREAS, the 2015 AAA Sustainability Business Plan has been supported by the Georgia Division of Aging Services (DAS); and

WHEREAS, the Aging Services Committee has vetted the 2015 AAA Sustainability Business Plan and offers its full recommendation for adoption to the MGRC Council.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Middle Georgia Regional Commission, by adoption of this resolution, does hereby adopt the 2015 AAA Sustainability

Business Plan, thereby authorizing the MGRC to implement a private-pay pilot program to the benefit and service of the Middle Georgia region.

The Resolution Accepting the Sustainability Plan was unanimously approved on a motion by Joyce Mitchum and seconded by John Harley.

- v. Resolution to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Middle Georgia Regional Commission

Ralph Nix reported that the Middle Georgia Regional Commission has been serving its local governments, the state and its agencies for 50 years and that this a great milestone for recognition.

The Resolution commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Middle Georgia Regional Commission was unanimously approved on a motion by John Reid and seconded by Lee Slade.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

- a. Building Update

Ralph Nix gave an update on the renovation and expansion into the space next to the Regional Commission. Construction is substantially complete and staff has moved into the newly renovated space.

- b. Workforce Update

Laura Mathis reported that the Georgia Department of Economic Development had approached the Middle Georgia Region in collaboration with the state to apply for a federal grant that would focus on long-term unemployed workers. Ms. Mathis stated that of 27 awards that were given out nationwide, the MGRC was the only one in Georgia to receive almost \$2 million. This is a partnership between the MGRC, Middle Georgia Consortium, Georgia Department of Labor and Georgia Department of Economic Development.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. Next meeting: Thursday, September 10, 2015
- b. Annual meeting: Thursday, October 8, 2015

ADJOURN

There being no further business, the August Council meeting was adjourned until September 10, 2015.