

MINUTES

Middle Georgia Regional Commission
Annual Meeting
Thursday, October 8, 2015, 6:00 p.m.
Claystone Park, Lake Tobesofkee, Macon, GA

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Francis Adams, Jones County
Dick Bazemore, Monroe County
Hill Bentley, Monroe County
Michael Bilderback, Monroe County
Charles Brack, Wilkinson County
Nicky Cabero, Pulaski County
Paul Chapman, Crawford County
Marty Dominy, Wilkinson County
Frank Duke, Jones County
Mark Dupree, Wilkinson County
Shannon Hart, Twiggs County
Preston Hawkins, Jones County
Clifford Holmes, Houston County
Jonathan Jackson, Wilkinson County
James Khoury, Peach County
Bill Millians, Baldwin County
Joyce Mitchum, Twiggs County
Richard Mullins, Baldwin County
Edd Norris, Monroe County
Chuck O'Neal, Bibb County
Matt Poyner, Baldwin County
John Reid, Putnam County
James Richardson, Peach County
Jimmy Roberts, Jones County
Terry Schwindler, Putnam County
Denese Shinholster, Baldwin County
Lee Slade, Pulaski County
Becky Smith, Crawford County
Jimmy Smith, Twiggs County
Melvin Walker, Peach County
Charles Westberry, Crawford County
Barbara Williams, Peach County

GUESTS PRESENT:

Alice Adams	John Barron	Judy Bentley
Fred Ammons	Kevin Barkley	Daniel Bergoffen
Frank Austin	Janne Bazemore	Shelly Berryhill
Brooks Bailey	Sam Beall	Charles Bishop
Othilla Bailey	Taffy Beall	Eva Bilderback
Kevin Barkley	Jesse Bearden	Beverly Blake

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Mantrell Blount	Tyler Eady	Rick Jones
Jackie Boling	Chris Edwards	Paul Jossey
Chuck Boling	Larry Evans	Marie Keith-Winters
Jean Brack	Annie Ruth Evans	Cheryl Khoury
April Bragg	Dorothy Evans	Marty Koplin
Brenda Broach	Patti Faircloth	Stacy Ladson
Marilee Brooks	Jimmy Faircloth	Dawn Lancaster
Rob Brooks	Henry Fickling	Catherine Lawrence
Gregory Brown	Cindy Flesher	Trudy Lawrence
Kevin Brown	Jay Flesher	Latrenda Leaks
Terannie Brumbelow	Andy Flowers	Ann Lear
Robert Burnham	Dan Forrester	Gary Lee
Marsha Buzzell	Jim Frentheway	Jeff Lempke
Wayne Buzzell	Sarah Fry-Mitchell	Russell Lipford
Melissa Camp	Trey Gavin	Dolores Lipford
Joy Carr	Denise Goodman	Brent Lowe
Michael Carr	Jeff Goodman	Katherine McLeod
Anita Cauthen	Andy Graves	Terry Mathews
Chris Chalmers	Alex Habersham	Garner Mercer
Lori Chalmers	Myrtle Habersham	Walt Miller
Doug Chance	Ezell Hall	Lynn Miller
Valorie Chance	Jesse Hall	Mildred Lindsey
Brenda Chapman	Janice Hall	Chrissy Miner
Thad Childs	John Hall	Darren Mitchum
Brian Cole	Rhonda Hamrick	Dustin Mitchum
Larry Collins	Bill Hamrick	Tonya Mole
Charlotte Collins	Shirley Harley	Ophelia Mullins
Tiffany Collins	Samuel Hart, Sr.	Harry Murray, Jr.
Donald Coneway	Shannon Harvey	Larry Najera
Jonathan Corso	Stacy Harwell-Dye	Ken Neil
Carla Cox	Jonathan Harwell-Dye	Bennett Norris
Lindsay Conley	June Hawkins	Fran Norris
Charles Cook	Donavan Head	Janelle Norris
Jacob Cox	Pamela Helton	Carol O'Neal
Alyson Cozart	Jimmy Hinson	Nadia Osman
Cheryl Crumbley	Dennis Holder	Phillip Paradise
Emily Davis	Debbie Horton	Frank Patterson
Alexandria DellaVecchia	Dollie Horton	Diane Pearson
Terri Dennison	Marc Humphrey	Nancy Peed
Freddie Densley	Elton Hunter	James Pettis
Bonnie Duke	David Huntzinger	Melissa Piatak
Kristal Dunn	Deryl Israel	Cloyce Pittman
Mike Dyer	Jeanne Israel	Daniel Pope
Terry Eady	Dominque Johnson	Lisa Rackley
Melba Eady	Charles Jones	Sandi Ragsdale

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Giles Ragsdale
Janie Reid
Marvin Reid
Harriett Reid
Sarah Richardson
Frances Roberts
Theresa Robinson
Ronnie Sanders
Linda Sanders
Michelle Sands
Steve Schwartz
Sarah Sessions
Scott Seigel
Roy Shepard
Thelma Shepard
Judy Sherling
Aundrea Simmons
Michael Sinclair
Bob Singley
Carol Singley
Nancy Young

Beulah Smith
Ernie Smith
Gene Smith
Green Smith
Jack Smith
Melissa Smith
Robert Smith
Terry Smith
James Solomon
Bill Stenbridge
Andy Stroud
Robin Surgent
Claire Swaim
Jim Taylor
Clay Teague
Joe Thomas
Amy Thomas
Todd Tolbert
Pat Topping
Barbara Towles
Tim Young

David Tufts
Charlotte Tufts
Ben Vaughn
Chris Vaughn
Virginia Villatoro
Dale Walker
Jay Walker, III
Jeraldine Walker
Elaine Westberry
Doretha Whipple
Harold Whipple
Nikki Whipple
Nancy White
Jeff White
Annie Williams
Brent Williams
John Williams
Laverne Williams
Peter Williams
George Wynn

CALL TO ORDER

Council Chairman Charlie Westberry called the 2015 Annual Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

OPENING CEREMONIES

a. Welcome

Chairman Westberry welcomed everyone to the 2015 Annual Meeting of the Middle Georgia Regional Commission at Lake Tobesofkee. He noted that 2015 marked the 50th Anniversary of the Middle Georgia Regional Commission and briefly explained the origin. In the summer of 1965, the counties of Bibb, Crawford, Houston, Jones, Monroe, Peach and Twiggs passed concurrent resolutions to form the Middle Georgia Area Planning Commission. Over the years, the names and logos changed and programs and services were expanded— never losing sight of the core mission – to plan for the total development of human, economic, and natural resources of Middle Georgia.

b. Introduction of Special Guests

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Charlie Westberry recognized special guests that were in attendance: Colonel Dawn Lancaster of the 78th Air Base Wing of Robins Air Force Base, Phillip Paradise and the EDA Atlanta Regional Staff, Terri Denison, State Director of the Small Business Administration, State Senator David Lucas, State Representative Nikki Randall, State Representative Shaw Blackmon, George Lee from Lt. Governor Casey Cagle's Office, Pam Helton, Georgia Municipal Association, Dave Wills and Brent Williams with ACCG, Drew Ross, representing Senator Johnny Isakson; Michelle Sands, representing Congressman Sanford Bishop; and representatives from both the Georgia Department of Community Affairs and the Department of Labor.

Chairman Westberry mentioned that in 2015, the Middle Georgia Regional Leadership Champions Program was launched. Thirty-eight citizens completed the inaugural Regional Leadership Development program offered through the Regional Commission and funded by the Department of Defense Office of Economic Adjustment. Many of the newly commissioned regional leaders were in attendance and were distinguished by the blue ribbon on their name tags.

He extended a very special thank-you to Macon-Bibb County Mayor Robert Reichert, Lake Tobesofkee & Macon-Bibb Facilities Management and Recreation staff for making the facility available and preparing them for our use.

The entertainment was provided by Mid-Life Chryslers and the meal was prepared by Kudzu Catering, owned and operated by Lee and Kelly Clack.

c. Recognition of Sponsors

Chairman Westberry gave a special thanks to the sponsors for their generous contributions and support. He stated that without each of them, the event would not have been possible.

Gold sponsor representatives from AT&T, Central Georgia Joint Development Authority, Community Health Works, Georgia Small Business Lender, McNair, McLemore, Middlebrooks, Morris Bank and Southern Equipment were invited to the podium to briefly tell about their organization.

Russell Lipford of the presenting sponsor, Clifton, Lipford Hardison and Parker, gave a few remarks. He congratulated the Regional Commission on their 50-year anniversary and was pleased to be able to attend the meeting.

Terry Smith with AT&T thanked the Regional Commission for the opportunity to be part of this celebration and reported on the constantly changing world of technology. They are working to provide services to healthcare, education, public safety and consumers.

Chuck O'Neal with the Central Georgia Joint Development Authority was glad to be working with the Regional Commission on a variety of projects and is proud to be a sponsor each year.

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Fred Ammons with Community Health Works stated that they are proud to support the work of the Regional Commission. Mr. Ammons reported on new programs that will be offered to the citizens that are uninsured and they will be able to reach out to the residents more effectively.

Chris Edwards with McNair, McLemore and Middlebrooks recognized the Regional Commission on its anniversary and the hard work of the past year. He stated that he believes that the Middle Georgia is among the finest of all of the Regional Commissions in the state.

Mark Humphrey with Southern Equipment reported that they are proud to be a sponsor and appreciate the hard work of the Regional Commission. Southern Equipment performs demolition work and cleans up properties purchased by the Central Georgia Joint Development Authority. Mr. Humphrey recognized the importance of the Robins Air Force Base and the Regional Commission.

Chairman Westberry thanked all of the sponsors and mentioned that they will be featured on the Regional Commissions website. He also recognized the Regional Commission staff for their commitment to excellence and service to Middle Georgia.

BUSINESS MEETING

a. Approval of September 10, 2015 Council Meeting Minutes

Chairman Westberry noted that the Agenda was posted at the Registration Table. There were no corrections to the minutes of the September 10, 2015 Council meeting and they were unanimously approved on a motion by Dick Bazemore and second by James Khoury.

b. Local Assistance Requests

There were several requests from member governments for assistance, which staff reviewed and recommended for Council approval. The Chairman called for a motion approving these local assistance requests. The local assistance requests were unanimously approved on a motion by Mark Dupree and seconded by Lee Slade.

c. Resolution of Certification that the Economic Development Administration (EDA) Revolving Loan Fund is being operated according to policies and procedures

Chairman Westberry asked for approval of a Resolution No. RC-14-19 certifying that the EDA Revolving Loan Fund is being operated according to adopted policies and procedures. The resolution for the EDA Loan Fund was unanimously approved on a motion by Jonathan Jackson and seconded by Joyce Mitchum.

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GOOD OF THE ORDER

a. Chairman's Remarks

Chairman Westberry said that 2015 has proven to be among the most productive years providing services to Middle Georgia cities and counties. He encouraged everyone to read the Annual Report, which provides a more extensive overview of the Commission's activities for the year. Annual reports were in the gift bags and also at the registration table.

Chairman Westberry stated that the Regional Commission has successfully met all of its contractual obligations. The FY 2015 Audit is already in the draft stage and will be presented at the November Council meeting. The staff expects no findings or material weaknesses to be reported.

Looking ahead, it appears governments at all levels will continue to have major challenges as they struggle with transportation needs, water resources, clean air, education, and fiscal constraints. Ultimately, many of these will require regional solutions, but he is confident that with good leadership, cooperation, and commitment we can be successful. He thanked everyone for continued support and leadership of the Middle Georgia Regional Commission.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. RC Council appointments for Non-Public and Associate members are due at the November 12 Council Meeting.
- b. GARC Annual Meeting is scheduled for November 4 – 6, St. Simons Island, GA.

50th ANNIVERSARY CEREMONY

Chairman Westberry reported that since 1965, 35 distinguished middle Georgian's have served in the highest leadership capacity of the organization – Chair of Council. He asked the past Chairs of the Regional Commission who were in attendance to join him at the 50th Anniversary celebration cake. They are:

Bill Hamrick
Jay Walker
David Carter
Jimmy Roberts
James Vaughn
Paul Jossey
Dennis Holder
John Reid

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INVOCATION

Chairman Westberry called on Sam Hart, Chairman, Macon Water Authority to give the invocation.

Loving God, Bless all of us gathered here today as we come together in friendship and in fellowship. We thank you for fifty years of service from the Middle Georgia Regional Commission. This Commission has helped our communities; both individually and collectively, to move forward to meet the needs of a challenging 21st Century.

Lord continues to place in our hearts the desire to make a difference in our communities and region, our state, and our country. Help us to continue moving forward toward our goals with determination, compassion, and humor.

Lord, please bless this food we are about to share, those who prepare it, those who serve it, and those who have worked to make this evening the special occasion that it is. Amen!

Following the invocation and the brief ceremony, dinner was served.

ADJOURNMENT

The business portion of the 2015 Annual Meeting was adjourned at 6:40 for food, fun, and fellowship.