

**MINUTES**

Middle Georgia Regional Commission  
Council Meeting  
Thursday, May 9, 2019, 6:00 pm  
175 Emery Highway, Suite C, Macon, Georgia

MEMBERS PRESENT

BALDWIN COUNTY

Lee Slade  
John Westmoreland  
Derek Williams  
Richard Mullins  
Denese Shinholster

CRAWFORD COUNTY

Charles Westberry

HOUSTON COUNTY

John Harley  
George Slappey  
Clifford Holmes

JONES COUNTY

Frank Duke  
Francis Adams  
Chris Weidner

MACON-BIBB COUNTY

Juawn Jackson

MONROE COUNTY

Richard Bazemore  
Eric Wilson

PEACH COUNTY

Martin Moseley  
James Khoury  
James Richardson

PULASKI COUNTY

Jenna Mashburn  
Henry Cravey  
Sara Myers

PUTNAM COUNTY

Walter Rucker  
Billy Webster

TWIGGS COUNTY

Shannon Hart  
Ken Fowler

WILKINSON COUNTY

Marty Dominy  
Emma Bacon

MIDDLE GEORGIA

Nancy Nash  
Charles Sims

GUESTS PRESENT:

Blake Poole - Field Representative for Governor Brian Kemp  
Slayten Carter - Field Representative for Austin Scott  
Jamie Cook - STEM Outreach and Workforce Coordinator, 21<sup>st</sup> Century Partnership  
Shavonda Hill - Field Representative for Sanford Bishop  
Lesley McNary – Crawford County Development Authority Chairperson  
Tonya Mole- Field Representative for DCA  
Warren Selby - Macon Crimestoppers Chairman  
Cpl. Greg Thomas – Macon Crimestoppers Executive Director

STAFF PRESENT:

Tiffany Andrews – Director of Workforce Development  
Matt Beal - GIS Analyst  
Kevin Brown – Attorney  
Jen Doran – Office Manager  
Matt Garvin – Director of Finance  
Michelle Grembowski – Director of Technology Services  
Julie Hall - Director of Area Agency on Aging  
Benaë Hogan – Lead Case Manager  
Marissa Jackson - Government Services Specialist  
Brent Lanford – Deputy Director  
Laura Mathis – Executive Director  
Kim Stanton – Executive Assistant

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chairman Dick Bazemore called the May 9, 2019, meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

ROLL CALL

Executive Assistant Kim Stanton reviewed the attendance log and indicated that a quorum was present with 19 voting and 10 non-voting members.

OPENING CEREMONIES

- a. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Houston County Council Member Clifford Holmes gave the invocation and the Council followed with the Pledge of Allegiance.

b. Welcome

Vice Chairman Dick Bazemore welcomed everyone to the May 9, 2019, Council meeting.

c. Introduction of New Members/Guests

Vice Chairman Dick Bazemore acknowledged the following guests at the Regional Commission Council Meeting:

Blake Poole - Field Representative for Governor Brian Kemp  
Slayten Carter - Field Representative for Austin Scott  
Jamie Cook - STEM Outreach and Workforce Coordinator, 21<sup>st</sup> Century Partnership  
Shavonda Hill - Field Representative for Sanford Bishop  
Lesley McNary – Crawford County Development Authority Chairperson  
Tonya Mole- Field Representative for DCA  
Warren Selby - Macon Crimestoppers Chairman  
Cpl. Greg Thomas – Macon Crimestoppers Executive Director

Vice Chairman Dick Bazemore reported that since the last meeting there has been some sad news regarding members of the Regional Commission family.

Paul Jossey, former Mayor of Forsyth and Chairman of the Middle Georgia Regional Commission in 2002 and 2003, passed away on April 28. He was a dedicated public servant.

Robert McDaniel, Executive Director of the Southwest Regional Commission, passed away suddenly on May 2.

Lastly, former Regional Commission Executive Director Ralph Nix's sister Grace Nix Dawson, passed away earlier this week in Texas.

Vice Chairman Dick Bazemore asked everyone to please keep the families in their thoughts and prayers.

Laura Mathis introduced Benae Hogan who is the Lead Case Manager in the Aging Department.

Pulaski County Commissioner Jenna Mashburn introduced Sara Myers as a new member of the Regional Commission Council.

GUEST SPEAKER

Vice Chairman Bazemore introduced Warren Selby, Chairman of the Macon Regional Crimestoppers. Middle Georgia Regional Crime Stoppers is a local non-profit organization that partners with media organizations, police departments, and other law enforcement agencies in eight Middle Georgia counties to provide anonymous rewards for tips that lead to criminal arrests. Mr. Selby stated that his job is to promote the program, raise money and pay the rewards. Mr. Selby also reported that since the inception of Macon Crimestoppers in 2009, tips have resulted in 5,669 arrests and the total rewards paid out are more than \$879,000. More information can be found at [www.crimestop.us](http://www.crimestop.us).

Vice Chairman Bazemore thanked Mr. Selby for his informative remarks.

STANDARD ORDER OF BUSINESS

- a. Approval of Minutes of the April 11, 2019, Council meeting

There were no corrections to the minutes of the April 11, 2019, Council meeting. They were unanimously approved on a motion by Clifford Holmes and second by John Harley

- b. Old Business

None

- c. New Business

- i. Local Assistance Requests

Marissa Jackson presented the following local assistance requests that have been received since the April Council meeting:

**Community:** Baldwin County  
**Project Description:** Assistance with submitting an Emergency Management Performance Grant application.

**Community:** Town of Danville  
**Project Description:** Assistance with updating the town's Ordinance and Code.

**Community:** City of Gray  
**Project Description:** Assistance with updating the Jones County/Gray Service Delivery Strategy.

**Community:** Houston County  
**Project Description:** Assistance with updating the Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan.

**Community:** City of Perry  
**Project Description:** Assistance with updating the Downtown Master Plan.

**Community: Putnam County**

Project Description: Assistance with generating a report to evaluate the costs of Putnam County taking over solid waste disposal from a private firm.

Ms. Jackson also reported on several projects which were previously approved and have been completed since the April meeting.

- The Technical College System of Georgia approved the Regional Plan for Workforce Development.
- Sixteen individuals graduated from the Manufacturing Fundamentals E3 Program and 14 have been placed in jobs through the On-the-Job Training Program.
- The summer farmers market program has been renewed by the State for this year and each voucher is worth \$20 in fresh produce. The markets will start in July and will be held in each county.

The local assistance requests were unanimously approved on a motion by John Harley and second by George Slappey.

- ii. Resolution of Certification that the Economic Development Administration Revolving Loan Fund is being operated according to policies and procedures.

Matt Garvin reported that every six months, as part of the reporting to the Economic Development Administration (EDA), the Council must certify that it is operating the Revolving Loan Fund in accordance with the Revolving Loan Fund plan.

**WHEREAS**, the Council of the Middle Georgia Regional Commission met on May 9, 2019, in Macon, Georgia; and

**WHEREAS**, the Council has determined that the Economic Development Administration Revolving Loan Fund, Project No. 04-39-03867, for the six months ending December 31, 2018, is consistent with and supportive of the area's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy. The Revolving Loan Fund is being operated in accordance with the policies and procedures contained in the Revolving Loan Fund Plan, and the loan portfolio meets the standard contained therein.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** and determined that this Council hereby certifies to this determination.

The resolution on the EDA Revolving Loan Fund was unanimously approved on a motion by George Slappey and second by Richard Mullins.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

- a. Quarterly Financial Report for the period ending March 31, 2019

Matt Garvin presented the Quarterly Financial Report for the period ending March 31, 2019. Mr. Garvin reported that the State Revenues are at 46 percent of budgeted revenues, local revenues stand at 75 percent of the budgeted revenues, federal revenues are at 55 percent of the budgeted revenues, and expenditures are at 59 percent of budgeted expenditures.

Mr. Garvin stated that no action is required by the Council.

- b. DRI# 2930

Laura Mathis reported that Monroe County submitted DRI #2930 for Project X, a large distribution facility proposed for Monroe County. MGRC received no comments. No action is required by the Council; this is for informational purposes only.

- c. Executive Director's Report

Laura Mathis presented the Executive Director's report with updates since the April meeting.

*Aging Area Plan*

Ms. Mathis reported that the Division of Aging Services approved the Area Plan which documents goals related to the delivery of aging services with positive feedback.

*DOAA*

Ms. Mathis reported that the Department of Audits and Accounts (DOAA) completed its site visit to conduct validation activities for the performance audit for FY 2018

*2020 Census*

Ms. Mathis reported that the US Census Bureau is encouraging the development of Complete Count Committees in each county. Complete Count Committees are a grassroots effort to encourage participation in the Census. Houston and Putnam Counties have already initiated the Complete Count process. If there is interest, Ms. Mathis stated that the Regional Commission could host the US Census Bureau for training on how to run a Complete Count Committee. Ms. Mathis also reported that the 2018 population estimates have been released at the county level and that the region's population is estimated at 499,240

*Joint Land Use Study (JLUS)*

Ms. Mathis reported that the Regional Commission will be working with community leaders on an update to the Joint Land Use Study. The current JLUS was prepared in 2004 and the action plan included in the study has been implemented. Having a current JLUS is important for the Base Realignment and Closure Process. The plan development process will take 12 to 15 months to complete and will likely begin in the last quarter of 2019.

#### *Budget*

Ms. Mathis stated that work is underway for the final budget amendment for FY 2019 and the development of the FY 2020 budget.

#### *Finance Award*

Ms. Mathis stated that Middle Georgia Regional Commission received the Certificate of Achievement in Financial Reporting from Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) for the 24<sup>th</sup> consecutive year. She stated that GFOA not only evaluates the financial statements but also acknowledges the work of the individuals (Matt Garvin and Crystal Vaughn) in preparing the statements. Ms. Mathis congratulated Mr. Garvin and Ms. Vaughn for their professional work.

#### *Pilot Program*

Ms. Mathis reported on a pilot program between MGRC and the Department of Human Services that was launched in Crawford County where they currently do not have a grocery store. The project provides transportation for seniors to a grocery store and back to the Senior Center and provide a refrigerated truck that would take their groceries back to their home. This project is funded by the Georgia Department of Human Services. If successful, the State may allow the program to expand to other counties.

#### *STEM Program*

Ms. Mathis called upon Jamie Cook, STEM Outreach and Workforce Coordinator, 21<sup>st</sup> Century Partnership to report on the FIRST Tech Challenge. Through this program, teams are challenged to design, build, program, and operate robots to compete in a head-to-head challenge in an alliance format with the goal of sparking an interest in a STEM career. More information can be found at [www.firstinspires.org](http://www.firstinspires.org).

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Senior Day Expo – May 30, 2019, at the Miller Murphy Building at the Georgia National Fairgrounds.
- Budget, Audit & Personnel Committee Meeting will be May 29, 2019, at 2:00 p.m.
- The next MGRC meeting will be June 13, 2019 where we will consider the budget and other items associated with the transition to fiscal year 2020.

#### ADJOURN

MGRC Council Meeting

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There being no further business, the May Council meeting was adjourned.