

**MINUTES OF THE
COASTAL REGIONAL COMMISSION COUNCIL
April 9, 2014
Richmond Hill City Center, Richmond Hill, GA
10:05 A.M.**

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Jim Thomas called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. Invocation was provided by Clarence Knight, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Clyde Taylor, Sean Register, Ken Lee, Shaw McVeigh, Kelly Spratt, Craig Root, William Miller, Dan Coty, Allen Brown, David Boland, Walter Gibson, Herb Jones, Harold Fowler, Jim Thomas, Chap Bennett, Jimmy Burnsed, Margaret Evans, Priscilla D. Thomas, Donald Lovette, John Morrissey, Reggie Loper, Tom Ratcliffe, Matthew Barrow, Herb Hill, Chris Blaine, Edna Jackson, J.C. Warren, Russell Keen and Jason Coley.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Linda Barker, Jan Moore, Jimmy Starline, Charles Wilson, Robert Long, Julie Martin, Hugh Hodge, and Gwendolyn Davis.

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT: Clarence Knight, Kingsland.

GUESTS: Gary Daniels, Camden County; David Hainley, Glynn County; Judy Draffin, McIntosh County; Dr. Anita Spring, University of Florida; Dr. Fletcher Crowe, Gainesville, FL; Jonathan Lambright, Savannah State University; Daisy S. Pray, Walthourville; Jeff Ricketson, LCPC; Courtney Hester, Savannah Chamber; Kimberly Irby, RH Comm. Theater and Joe Parker, Jr, Freelance Reporter.

STAFF PRESENT: Allen Burns, Executive Director; Don Masisak, Transportation Director; Lauren Robesky, Economic Development Director; Meizi Wolven and Bill Compton, Grant Specialists; Dionne Lovett, Aging Services Director, Lupita McClenning, Planning Director; Hunter Key, GIS Manager; and Colletta Harper, Administrative Services Director.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Chairman Thomas requested approval of the minutes from the March 12th meeting.

Motion: Ken Lee
Second: Walter Gibson
Vote: Unanimous

PRESENTATIONS

The Biggert-Water Flood Insurance Reform Update –Colonel Thomas J. Tickner, Commander, USACE, Savannah District stated he appreciated the opportunity to meet the council, on a non-emergency basis, as the Corps works with FEMA during emergencies to help local communities restore power. The Water Resources Development Act is expected to be rolled out sometime in May and great news is on the horizon with the Savannah Harbor Expansion Project (SHEP).

Mr. Jeff Morris provided a PowerPoint Presentation overview on the National Flood Insurance Program and Flood Risk Management, the Biggert Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012 (BW-12), and the Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act of 2014, which repeals and modifies certain provisions of the BW-12. (*See Attachment 1, attached herein and made a part of these minutes.*) There was a brief Q & A after the presentation. Executive Director Burns stated that the CRC has applied for a FEMA grant that will help to educate the public about flood insurance changes and assistance available to them. Ms. Lupita McClenning stated that the CRC is holding a practicum on the Community Rating System on June 18th and encouraged the

cities and counties to have someone register and attend. Mr. Morris encouraged anyone who has specific questions regarding flood insurance to contact Ms. Janice Mitchell, FEMA insurance Specialist, whose contact information was provided on the last slide. Executive Director Burns stated he would email Mr. Morris' presentation to all council members.

Chairman Thomas suggested getting a committee together to speak with our Washington delegation on the importance of this issue. By show of hands, there was interest in this and those interested in participating on the committee are to let Allen know.

Fort Caroline – Dr. Anita Spring and Dr. Fletcher Crowe from the Dept. of Anthropology at the University of Florida provided a PowerPoint Presentation on Fort Caroline. Because of its historical significance, scholars and archeologists have sought to discover the remains of this fort for 150 years with no success. After a year and a half of studying the evidence (history, anthropology, archeology, linguistics, geophysics techniques and 16th through 18th century maps) Spring and Crowe believe that the Fort lies somewhere in the mouth of the Altamaha River. When this Fort is located it will be a great tourist attraction and economic development engine for the area. During Phase 1, eight sites were investigated and eliminated. A second grant has been received for Phase II which will begin in May or June. The CRC will assist with LiDAR mapping and interns. Dr. Fletcher stated he had copies of a 10-page abstract available if anyone was interested to please see him after the meeting. *(See Attachment 2, attached herein and made a part of these minutes.)*

OTHER BUSINESS

Update on GARC – No Report.

DRI Report: None

Project Status Reports - *(See Attachments 3, 4, 5, and 6 attached herein and made a part of these minutes.)* If anyone has any questions, please see staff after the meeting.

CADDA Report: No questions were raised regarding the CADDA report. *(See Attachment 7, attached herein and made a part of these minutes.)*

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- A GARC Technical Committee meeting was held at our office to discuss GIS data storage statewide.
- Introduced Dr. Jonathan Lambright with Savannah State University and Michael Burns, EPA. The CRC and Savannah State have signed an MOU for use of interns. Already working with Georgia Southern and College of Coastal Georgia. Just learned that we received the 2014 Internship Program of Year from the College of Coastal Georgia.
- Spoke on transportation and other items at the Annual Conference of Black Mayors in Hinesville last week.
- Hosted a meeting at our office for Mike Beatty of Great Promise Partnership; four of our counties attended. The Great Promise Partnership helps at-risk students earn their diplomas while earning a paycheck. They are currently working in Chatham and Bulloch Counties.

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- The State Dept. of Audits is conducting a performance audit at our office this week. We are one of three regional commissions being audited this year and we have already seen where we can make improvements.
- The Area Agency on Aging's annual Volunteer Luncheon is tomorrow at 11:00 a.m. here at the City Center. If you would like to come, please let me know today.
- Long County will be holding a retreat at our office later this month. If anyone would like to use our facility, please let us know - it is your facility too.
- CRC staff will help facilitate Liberty County's retreat on St. Simons later this month.
- Aging Services Advisory Council meeting will be on April 22nd from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at the City Center.
- The GARC will have a booth at the ACCG Conference in Savannah this weekend; I will be at the booth on Sunday.
- Received \$400,000 in DHS funding and may receive up to another \$400,000 in ARRA funds. These funds were recaptured from those who did not spend their ARRA monies. If received, these funds will be used for technology for the buses.
- The Aging Department has received an additional \$50,000 that will have to be spent by the end of this fiscal year.

Chairman's Report

Chairman Thomas stated that he will invite General Murray to attend next month's meeting to brief us on what is going to happen and how it will happen at Fort Stewart. Will also try to have one of our legislators attend and provide an update of the legislative session.

Executive Session - A motion was made to go into Executive Session to discuss pending or threatened litigation, claims, administrative proceedings or settlements (*See Attachment 8, attached herein and made a part of these minutes.*)

Motion: Priscilla D. Thomas
Second: Herb Jones
Vote: Unanimous

After the executive session was held, the Council convened back to its regular meeting; no action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m., with lunch following.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be on **Wednesday, May 14, 2014, at the Richmond Hill City Center at 10:00 a.m.**