

**MINUTES OF THE  
COASTAL REGIONAL COMMISSION COUNCIL  
October 8, 2014  
Richmond Hill City Center, Richmond Hill, GA  
10:00 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:** Jim Thomas, Jimmy Burnsed, Jason Coley, Harold Fowler, Allen Brown, Donald Lovette, Tom Ratcliffe, Robert Long, Shaw McVeigh, Jimmy Starline, Craig Root, William Miller, Julie Martin, David Boland, Margaret Evans, Herb Jones, Priscilla D. Thomas, Chris Blaine, and Pat Bazemore.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Matthew Barrow, Reggie Loper, Walter Gibson, Chap Bennett, Charles Wilson, Sean Register, Clyde Taylor, Ken Lee, Linda Barker, John Morrissey, Edna Jackson, Jan Moore, Dan Coty, Kelly Spratt, Hugh Hodge, J.C. Warren, and Gwendolyn Davis.

**EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT:** Clarence Knight, Camden County; Dorothy Glisson, Screven County.

**GUESTS:** Major Fontaine and Dina McKain, Fort Stewart; Sandra Rayson, Woodbine; Nathaniel Thomas; Clay Mobley, GA Conservancy; Mayor Mary Warnell and Sharroll Fauslau, Pembroke; Chris Stovall; Jennifer Hillburn, Altamaha Riverkeeper; Emily Markesteyn, Ogeechee Riverkeeper; Anna Hall, The Darien News; and Kathryn Murph, Senator Saxby Chambliss.

**STAFF PRESENT:** Allen Burns, Executive Director; Lena Geiger, Finance Director; Dionne Lovett, Aging Services Director; Tori Windsor, Case Management Supervisor; Lauren Robesky, Economic Development Director, William Compton & Meizi Wolven, Grant Specialists; Don Masisak, Transportation Director; David Dantzler, Mobility Manager; Beatrice Soler, Senior Planner; Eric Landon, Senior Planner II; and Colletta Harper, Administrative Services Director.

**EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION:** Executive Director Allen Burns presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Lena Geiger, Finance Director for her 10 years of service to the CRC.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Chairman Jim Thomas requested approval of the minutes from the September 10<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Motion:** Mayor Margaret Evans  
**Second:** Chris Blaine  
**Vote:** Unanimous

## **PRESENTATIONS**

**Regional Wastewater** - (*See Attachment 1, attached herein and made a part of these minutes.*) Ms. Katie Sheehan, Staff for the UGA River Basin Center, provided a PowerPoint overview of the Coastal Wastewater Planning Project funded by the Georgia Sea Grant Program. The project's purpose is to establish a framework for regional wastewater planning; educate and engage local and agency officials about types of wastewater infrastructure; develop and assess wastewater planning alternatives; address emerging issues/management alternatives; develop policy recommendations; develop clear guidance for decision makers; highlight the most important issues; and facilitate the implementation of best practices. An Advisory Committee is being formed to work with the UGA River Basin Center. In conjunction with the CRC Practicum, the first meeting of the Committee is on November 18<sup>th</sup> in Richmond Hill. Elected officials have been invited to serve on the committee; however, if they have a staff member, they may appoint them to serve on the Committee on their behalf. There was a brief discussion of who else (or what groups) would be important to have serve on the

committee. Ms. Sheehan encouraged anyone interested in serving on the Committee to see her after the meeting. It was noted that wastewater management could also be a return on investment in the form of fertilizer and methane. Executive Director Burns commented that this will be used as best practices that could be incorporated into the Comprehensive Plan Update.

**McIntosh County Unified Economic Development Plan (UEDP)** – *(See Attachment 2, attached herein and made a part of these minutes.)* Ms. Lauren Robesky, Economic Development Director, provided a PowerPoint overview of the development of the UEDP. A UEDP brings economic development stake holders together to develop a comprehensive plan that will provide a unified front for prospective businesses; set forth implementable tasks for developing a workforce; spur investments; and encourage the creation of sustainable jobs. The CRC assisted McIntosh County in receiving a grant to help with the funding of this project. The project has taken approximately 10 months to complete and has also received a NADO Innovation Award for bringing everyone together to work on this project. Vice Chairman Jason Coley stated he was excited to see McIntosh County take on this project and encouraged others to do so, if they do not already have a UEDP. Ms. Robesky stated that McIntosh County also already had some plans in place that they were able to work from instead of starting at ground zero. If anyone is interested in pursuing a UEDP, please see Lauren after the meeting.

**Discussion of Membership Dues** – Chairman Jim Thomas stated that it was the original intent to increase membership dues; however, due to the poor economy it has not been done. Executive Director Burns stated that the CRC has done everything possible to cut costs and that with the current budget we will make do; however, we need to look at increasing dues for the 2016 budget. With the recent funding cuts in Aging and Transportation services, rising insurance costs, the state cutting our funding by requiring us now to have a 20% match on federal funds instead of 10%, we need additional dollars to continue operation without being in a deficit. In concert with the Annual GARC Conference, the CRC is hosting a golf tournament to benefit our Home Delivered Meal Program. We are also marketing our services in hopes of securing contracts with our local governments. There was a good discussion among members and it was decided that the Budget & Finance Committee would meet and bring suggestions back to the Council. Any changes will be gradual and the Executive Director will meet individually with each city and county to discuss.

**Fort Stewart Support Program** – Chairman Jim Thomas reported that on September 16 & 17 he and a local regional delegation traveled to D.C. to discuss with legislators: (1) the possible loss of 16,000 soldiers (could remain status quo or gain 16,000 soldiers as recommended by the Army's Supplemental Programmatic Environmental Assessment (SPEA)) at Fort Stewart (2) the rescission of sequestration; and (3) the possible changing of Winn Army Hospital to a Clinic. Under sequestration, the army would go down to 420,000 soldiers which is a lower number than the army has had since WWI. Congress indicates it is important for local officials to go to Washington to lobby for their military installations. The Senate is pretty sure they can rescind sequestration or keep it from affecting the military; however, Congress is divided.

We also went to the Pentagon to discuss these issues. Pentagon officials indicate that unless sequestration comes in, they will keep Winn Army Hospital as is. A Public Listening Session will be held on November 17<sup>th</sup> at Hinesville City Hall in the Performing Arts Center. This is the only listening session in our area and a Pentagon representative will be in attendance to receive comments. Please come and voice your support for all of our military bases in our region. Pembroke Mayor Mary Warnell and Richmond Hill Mayor Harold Fowler reiterated the comments made by Chairman Thomas and encouraged members to write letters and visit with the legislators to voice support for our military.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

**Update on GARC** – The GARC Annual Conference will be held November 5-7 at the King and Prince.

**Update on LSEGA** – Mr. David Boland reported they have received applications and hope to have the 2015 Class roster by the end of the month. If anyone is interested, please let him know; he could probably get your application in at the last minute.

**DRI Reports:** None.

**Project Status Reports** - *(See Attachments 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 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 8, attached herein and made a part of these minutes.)*

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

- The last page of the Aging Services Department Update shows our waiting lists. As mentioned earlier, the CRC is hosting a golf tournament in conjunction with the GARC Conference to benefit the Home Delivered Meal Program. There will be about 350 individuals on St. Simons for this conference and some of them will be playing in the tournament.
- GEMA conducted its first telephone drill on an evacuation for our region's vulnerable population and it seems to have worked well. We have a signed agreement with them (for the second year) for the use of our transit vehicle for evacuation services during an emergency.
- The CRC took the lead, on behalf of the GARC, and applied for and received a \$100,000 grant to fund the position of a Geographic Information Officer responsible for coordinating GIS systems statewide. The first meeting has been held and the plan is that after two years the state will take over this position/project.
- The GARC is still working on a travel and vehicle use policy in response to the Dept. of Audits report. Should be completed by November or January at the latest.
- Monday is Columbus Day and the CRC will be closed.
- The McGladrey Classic will be in a couple of weeks and I will be taking time off to volunteer. Phones are not allowed on the course, so I will only be able to check and return messages late in the evening.
- The Auditors will be presenting our Audit at the November meeting; everything seems to still be going smoothly.

**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, November 12, 2014, at the Richmond Hill City Center at 10:00 a.m.**