

Minutes
Local Elected Officials Consortium (Consortium)
Meeting
The Camilla Depot Conference Room, 212 East Broad Street, Camilla, Georgia

February 7, 2018

The Consortium held its scheduled meeting, Wednesday, February 7, 2018 at the Camilla Depot in Camilla, Georgia.

Vice Chair Merritt (serving as Interim Chair) called the meeting to order at approximately 12:17 p.m.

Ms. Pascha Spence, Office Manager, WorkSource Southwest Georgia called roll. It was reported that there were 9 officials present and that **a quorum was declared.**

The following Consortium members were present:

- Vice Chair June Merritt, Early County (serving as Interim Chair)
- Commissioner Connie Hobbs, Baker County
- Commissioner Benjamin Hayward, Mitchell County
- Mayor, Annette Morman, City of Baconton
- Commissioner Shelia Williams, Seminole County
- Commissioner Christopher Cohilas, Dougherty County
- Commissioner Dennis Roland, Lee County
- Commissioner Pete Stephens, Decatur County
- Commissioner Wiley Grady, Thomas County

The following Consortium members were absent:

- Commissioner Wilbur T Gamble III, Terrell County
- Commissioner Allen Worsley, Miller County
- Commissioner Terry Clark, Colquitt County
- Commissioner Fred Dent, Worth County
- Commissioner Conner Collins, Calhoun County
- Commissioner Ray Prince, Grady County
- Mayor Edward Reynolds, City of Bainbridge

Staff members present were:

- Mr. Cory Thomas, City Manager
- Ms. Melody Pierce, Executive Director
- Ms. Amanda Godwin, Operations Manager
- Ms. Rebecca O'Neil, Programs Manager
- Mr. Jerry Chapman, Regional Planner
- Darleen Cox, HDCI Subject Matter Expert

- Gerlissa Edmonds, Program Assistant
- Ms. Pascha Spence, Office Manager

Due to quorum being declared Vice Chair Merritt (serving as Interim Chair) proceeded with the order of business. She opened the meeting by having introductions of all present. Later Chair Merritt called on Executive Director Pierce to explain the conflict of interest provision.

- a. Vice Chair Merritt called for an approval of previous meeting minutes dated August 23, 2017. **Commissioner Pete Stephens made a motion to approve said meeting minutes, seconded by Commissioner Benjamin Hayward. After no further discussion, the motion was unanimously approved.**
- b. Vice Chair Merritt called on Executive Director Pierce to discuss the election of Chief Local Elected Official (CLEO) she stated, "Chief Local Elected Official" shall be defined as that individual who is elected by the Local Elected Official Board in those Local Workforce Development Areas which are comprised of more than one county or municipality. In those Local Workforce Development Areas, which are comprised of one county or municipality, "Chief Local Elected Official" shall be the chief elected executive officer of a unit of general local government in that area. **1. Commissioner Connie Hobbs made a motion to elect Commissioner June Merritt as the CLEO-Chair per the Consortium By-Laws, seconded by Commissioner Pete Stephens. After no further discussion, the motion was unanimously approved. 2. Mayor Annette Morman made a motion to elect Commissioner Benjamin Hayward as the Vice Chair, Commissioner Hayward DECLINED. Commissioner Pete Stephens made a motion to elect Commissioner Connie Hobbs as the Vice Chair per the Consortium By-Laws, seconded by Commissioner Cohilas. In addition, Commissioner Pete Stephens moved to close the election, seconded by Commissioner Shelia Williams. After no further discussion, the motion was unanimously approved.**
- c. Executive Director Pierce gave a brief review of Mr. Eddie Pratt, Georgia Pacific to serve as the Labor Union Representative and Ms. Leslie James, Tara Foods to serve as the Dougherty County Representative. She stated they would both be an asset to the WDB. **Commissioner Cohilas made a motion to approve Eddie Pratt and Leslie James to serve on the Workforce Development Board (WDB), seconded by Commissioner Benjamin Hayward. After no further discussion, the motion was unanimously approved.**
- d. Chair Merritt called on Director Melody Pierce to discuss the Consortium/WDB/City of Colquitt Partnership Agreement. Director Pierce stated that in order to be in compliance with the federal mandate the document was drafted to outline the roles and responsibilities of the three entities. The document was reviewed by City of Colquitt legal counsel, internal monitors and the local Workforce Development Board. Director Pierce read through the document highlighting a few of the sections. Vice Chair Hobbs asked if there was additional insurance that would cover the counties in consideration of recent events. City Manager Cory Thomas

responded by stating the City does have a policy that will cover the disallowed cost in question and that there will be no out of pocket cost to any of the counties. Commissioner Christopher Cohilas suggested the Consortium look into additional insurance before approving the said agreement. After discussion Commissioner Pete Stephens moved to table the said item until the next meeting, seconded by Vice Chair Hobbs.

- e. Chair Merritt called on Director Pierce for a brief overview and update of WorkSource Southwest Georgia. Director Pierce began by giving the Consortium a brief update on the last actions taken at the WDB meeting of December 5, 2017. Director Pierce explained the recent State Monitoring that took place December 2017 stating there were a total of eight findings and five observations in which staff has responded to each. It was requested for Staff to provide an update once everything has been submitted to the State to satisfy Monitoring Findings. Director Pierce stated there will be two sessions for Board/Consortium Orientation on February 13 and February 15. She provided an overview of current regional initiatives and partnerships to include the Community Access and Empowerment Workshops, the Community Outreach Library Pilot with Cairo Library, The Albany Works Pilot Initiative and the Albany Technical College and Southern Regional Technical College Collaborative. She also gave an update on the High Demand Career Initiative Grant and the Florida-Georgia Workforce Alliance. Director Pierce stated that the State Workforce Division will be transitioned from the Georgia Department of Economic Development to the Technical College System of Georgia. She added that the State has provided assurances of a seamless transition for local areas.

The next Meeting date and time will be sent out in an email.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted:

Ms. June Merritt, CLEO