

Minutes
Local Elected Officials Consortium (Consortium)
Meeting via teleconference
WorkSource Southwest Georgia Conference Room, 75 West Broad Street, Camilla,
Georgia

June 3, 2020

The Consortium held its scheduled meeting, Wednesday, June 3, 2020 via Teleconference.

Chair June Merritt called the meeting to order at approximately 12:03 p.m.

Ms. Melody Pierce, Executive Director, WorkSource Southwest Georgia called roll. It was reported that there were 11 officials present, to include 1 designation; and that **a quorum is declared.**

The following Consortium members were present on call:

- Chair June Merritt, Early County
- Commissioner Connie Hobbs, Baker County
- Commissioner Conner Collins, Calhoun County
- Commissioner Denver Braswell, Colquitt County
- Commissioner Christopher Cohilas, Dougherty County
- Commissioner Benjamin Hayward, Mitchell County
- Mayor, Annette Morman, City of Baconton
- Commissioner Shelia Williams, Seminole County
- Commissioner Pete Stephens, Decatur County
- Commissioner Billy Mathis, Lee County
- Commissioner Phillip Drew Designated by Commissioner Keith Moye, Grady County

The following Consortium members were absent from call:

- Commissioner Wilbur T Gamble III, Terrell County
- Proxy Cody Hamilton Designated by Commissioner Kreg Freeman, Miller County
- Commissioner Phillip V. Brown, Thomas County
- Commissioner Fred Dent, Worth County
- Mayor, Edward Reynolds, City of Bainbridge

Staff members present on call were:

- Ms. Melody Pierce, Executive Director
- Ms. Amanda Godwin, Operations Manager
- Ms. Rebecca O'Neil, Programs Manager

- Mr. Jerry Chapman, Regional Planner

Due to a quorum being declared Chair Merritt proceeded with the order of business.

- a. Chair Merritt called for an approval of previous meeting minutes dated September 5, 2019. **Commissioner Pete Stephens made a motion to approve said meeting minutes, seconded by Commissioner Christopher Cohilas. After no further discussion, the motion was unanimously approved.**
- b. Chair Merritt discussed the election of Chief Local Elected Official (CLEO) stating "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 Pete Stephens made a motion to keep present officers as they are, due to circumstances attributed to COVID-19 emergency and to re-visit once circumstances have changed. Commissioner Christopher Cohilas seconded the motion. During discussion, Chair Merritt stated that an election needs to be held no later than January 2021, due to her leaving office at the end of her present term as Commissioner. The officers will remain as Commissioner June Merritt as Chair per the Consortium By-Laws and Commissioner Connie Hobbs as Vice Chair Consortium By-Laws. After no further discussion, the motion was unanimously approved.**
- c. Chair Merritt explained the Local Plan Revision 2020-2023 as sent out to the Consortium and asked for approval. **Mayor Annette Morman made the motion to approve the Revision. Commissioner Pete Stephens seconded the motion. After no further discussion, the motion was unanimously approved.**
- d. Chair Merritt explained the SWGA Workforce Development Board (WDB) By-Laws Revision as sent out to the Consortium and asked for approval. **Commissioner Shelia Williams made the motion to approve the Revision. Commissioner Connie Hobbs seconded the motion. After no further discussion, the motion was unanimously approved.**
- e. After discussion, Chair Merritt called for an approval of the WDB FY 2021 Proposed Operating Budget. **Commissioner Pete Stephens made a motion to approve said WDB FY 2021 Operating Budget, seconded by Commissioner Conner Collins. After no further discussion, the motion was unanimously approved.**
- f. Chair Merritt called on Director Pierce for a brief overview and update of WorkSource Southwest Georgia and the Southwest Georgia Workforce Development Board. Director Pierce began by giving the Consortium a brief update on the actions taken at the last WDB meeting of June 2, 2020,

including Election of new Officers. The new Chair of the WDB is Gabriel Lord and the Vice Chair is LaTonja Dotson Greene. Allan York will remain as Secretary. New WDB appointments are Ernest Cloud Jr. from Grady County and Rob Collins from Dougherty County. Director Pierce gave an overview of response to COVID-19 including additional funding from a National Dislocated Worker Grant and the Adult/DW Career Services update. Director Pierce reviewed the State TCSG-Office of Workforce Development results of Annual Monitoring of SWGA in March 2020, in which there were no findings basically stating a clean bill of health.

The next Meeting will be in November (exact date TBD) @ 12: 00p.m at the WorkSource Southwest Georgia Office in Camilla, GA

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned. Motion by Commissioner Pete Stephens, seconded by Commissioner Denver Braswell.

Respectfully submitted:

Ms. June Merritt, Chair