

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

07/28/2025

The Consortium held its scheduled meeting on Monday, July 28, 2025, at the WorkSource Southwest Georgia Administrative Office in Camilla, Georgia.

Chair Connie Hobbs called the meeting to order at approximately 12:01 p.m.

Executive Director Melody Pierce, WorkSource Southwest Georgia called roll. It was reported that there were 14 officials present, including 3 proxy designations; and that **a quorum is declared.**

The following Consortium members were present:

- Chair Connie Hobbs, Baker County
- Commissioner Mark Nesmith, Thomas County
- Commissioner Hank Clarence Jester, Early County
- Commissioner Pete Stephens, Decatur County
- Commissioner Conner Collins, Calhoun County
- Commissioner Lorenzo Heard, Dougherty County
- Commissioner Shelia Williams, Seminole County
- Mayor, Annette Morman, City of Baconton
- Mayor, Edward Reynolds, City of Bainbridge
- Commissioner Fred Dent, Worth County
- Commissioner LaFaye Copeland Designated by Commissioner Ray Prince, Grady County
- Commissioner Chris Guarnieri Designated by Commissioner Luke Singletary, Lee County
- Commissioner Benjamin Hayward, Mitchell County
- Commissioner Keith Bowen Designated by Commissioner Ladon Calhoun, Miller County

The following Consortium members were absent:

- Commissioner Denver Braswell, Colquitt County
- Commissioner Wilber T. Gamble III, Terrell County

Staff members present:

- Ms. Melody Pierce, Executive Director
- Ms. Amanda Godwin, Operations Manager
- Mr. Jerry Chapman, Regional Planner

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

1. Chair Hobbs called for approval of previous meeting minutes dated June 27, 2024. **Commissioner Conner Collins made a motion to approve said meeting minutes, seconded by Mayor Annette Morman. After no further discussion, the motion was unanimously approved.**
2. Chair Hobbs called for approval of the WDB PY 2025/FY 2026 Proposed Operating Budget. **Commissioner Pete Stephens made a motion to approve said budget, seconded by Commissioner Shelia Williams. After no further discussion, the motion was unanimously approved.**
3. Chair Hobbs called on Director Pierce for a brief overview and update of WorkSource Southwest Georgia and the Workforce Development Board (WDB). Director Pierce began by giving an update on information regarding recent WDB board meetings and membership. She noted that the 2025 Officers were Gabriel Lord- Chairman, Tommy Hill- Vice Chair, and Charlie Sol- Secretary. An overview was provided on the Regional Rapid Response and Business Services Team and shared recent announcement of USDOL national dislocated worker grant award for the region related to the Georgia-Pacific Cedar Springs closure. Director Pierce also gave updates on the Georgia Workforce Leadership Association, One-Stop Centers, WIOA performance and recent monitoring results. Also, meeting information was shared regarding the upcoming State Workforce Development Board meeting to be held in Albany on Thursday, August 21, 2025, at the Pheobe Living Learning Center beginning at 10:00 a.m.

The next Meeting is to be determined.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned. Motion by Commissioner Conner Collins, seconded by Mayor Annette Morman.