

Staff Report

Subject: Middle Coastal Unified Development Authority (MCUDA)
Author: Stephanie Johnson, County Clerk
Department: Administration
Meeting Date: October 3, 2023
Item Description: Consideration to approve to continue the county's participation with the Middle Coastal Unified Development Authority

Summary Recommendation:

Effingham County has been a part of the above mentioned authority since its inception. We received a letter from the Board Chair, Michele Johnson requesting confirmation as to our desire to continue participation or offer an exit strategy. The subject matter arose due to lack of a quorum at the meetings. A reply has been requested by October 13, 2023. Staff position is to allow the board to have a discussion and make a decision accordingly.

Executive Summary:

The Middle Coastal Unified Development Authority (MCUDA) is pursuant to the provisions of Official Code of Georgia Annotated (O.C.G.A) § 36-62-1 et.seq. 36-62-5.1. The purpose of the MCUDA, in part, is to promote the economic development of the middle coastal region of Georgia (also designated as Region 8 by the Governor's Development Council) and exercise the powers granted to the authority as outlined by state law.

Background:

The Middle Coastal Unified Development Authority (MCUDA) d/b/a Greater Savannah Regional Alliance is organized as a regional development authority. The voting members consist of two (2) persons from each member county appointed by the Board of Commissioners and must be a resident of the county they present. Currently Doug Morgan and Commissioner Jamie DeLoach are the appointed members serving on this committee (*terms set to expire December 31, 2027.*)

There are also eight (8) regional representatives appointed by the Governor's Development Council. These participants are ex officio members who share in all meetings but are non-voting members.

Regular meetings of the voting members (directors) are held on the third Wednesday of January, April, July and October each year. The annual meeting takes place at the July meeting.

Alternatives for Commission to Consider:

1. To approve to continue participation in the Middle Coastal Unified Development Authority d/b/a Greater Savannah Regional Alliance
2. To discontinue participation in the authority
3. To have further discussion with other stakeholders prior to making a decision.

Recommended Alternative: Staff leaves the decision to the Board's discretion.

Other Alternatives: N/A **Department Review:** Administration

Funding Source: No funding is required related to this request.

Attachments:

1. Letter/Board Roster
2. Bylaws