SWLA Regional Planning Commission

Louisiana Planning District 5

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
MEETING
Tuesday, May 19, 2026, 1:00pm
2nd Floor, East Conference Room
Henning SEED Center,
4310 Ryan Street, Lake Charles, LA 70605
ZOOM: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9583967845

MINUTES

I. Call to Order — Mr. Jacob Dillehay, Chair

II. Roll Call — Mr. Mike Hollier, Director

Mr. Jacob Dillehay – Responded Present
Mayor Hal McMillin – Responded Present
Ms. Mary Kaye Eason – Responded Present
Mr. Ben Boudreaux – Responded Present

III. Reading and Adoption of Minutes — Ms. Mary Kaye Eason, Secretary

A. Draft Minutes of Meeting held on March 25, 2026
Action requested.

A MOTION to dispense with the reading of the March25, 2026, meeting minutes were made by Mayor Hal McMillin and seconded by Mr. Ben Boudreaux. Hearing no objections, the MOTION carried.

B. Draft Minutes of Meeting held on December 17, 2026
Action requested.

A MOTION to adopt the minutes of the meeting held December 17, 2025, was made by Mayor Hal McMillin and seconded by Ms. Mary Kaye Eason. Hearing no objections, the MOTION carried.

IV. Financial Reports — Mr. Ben Boudreaux, Treasurer

A. February 2026 Financial Report
Action requested.

Mr. Ben Boudreaux reviewed the February financial report, attached.

A MOTION to approve the February 2026 financial reports was made by Ms. Mary Kaye Eason and seconded by Mayor Hal McMillin. Hearing no objections, the MOTION carried.

B. March 2026 Financial Report
Action requested.

Mr. Ben Boudreaux reviewed the March financial report, attached, and asked for clarification on the LUS Public Fiber project.

Ms. Jamie Gaines explained that the remaining balance is for $25,000 of a $75,000 administrative fee associated with the City of Jennings Public Fiber project. She stated that $50,000 had already been collected and that the final payment would be released following final approval from the Economic Development Administration (EDA).

A MOTION to approve the March 2026 financial reports was made by Ms. Mary Kaye Eason and seconded by Mayor Hal McMillin. Hearing no objections, the MOTION carried.

C. Resolution No. 2349 Approving and Authorizing Purchase of a $50,000 Certificate of Deposit For Reserve Funds. — Ms. Jamie Gaines, Assistant Director
Action requested.

Ms. Jamie Gaines requested authorization to transfer $50,000 from savings into an additional certificate of deposit as part of the agency's reserve fund strategy.

A MOTION to approve Resolution No. 2349 was made by Mayor Hal McMillin and seconded by Mr. Ben Boudreaux. Hearing no objections, the MOTION carried.

V. Resolution No. 2345 Introduction of Administrative Memorandum No. 11 including Draft Fiscal Year Budget 2026-2027 Effective July 1, 2026. — Mr. Mike Hollier
Action requested to Introduce Resolution No. 2345.

Prior to discussion of the budget memorandum, Mr. Jacob Dillehay noted that due to the inability to obtain a full board quorum, the Executive Committee had convened and asked staff to identify any agenda items that were not time-sensitive and could potentially be deferred until a future meeting of the full board.

Ms. Jamie Gaines explained that introduction of the budget was time-sensitive and required action to allow sufficient time for full board review prior to adoption by the end of June.

Mr. Mike Hollier presented Administrative Memorandum No. 11 and the proposed Fiscal Year 2026-2027 budget effective July 1, 2026. Mr. Hollier stated that the proposed budget represented the largest budget proposal in the agency's history and would continue building reserve funds toward a minimum target of approximately $250,000. He noted that reserve goals may need to continue increasing due to the potential for government shutdowns, disasters, and pending grant opportunities.

Mr. Hollier stated that the agency now has the staffing and resources necessary to address several regional priorities identified by member governments, including adjudicated properties, housing initiatives, utility infrastructure, transportation infrastructure, and other regional initiatives. He further noted that approximately seven major initiatives are currently being pursued and that several grant applications are pending which could require future budget amendments.

A MOTION to introduce Resolution No. 2345 and the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 budget was made by Mayor Hal McMillin and seconded by Ms. Mary Kaye Eason. Hearing no objections, the MOTION carried.

VI. MGO Connect - Draft Membership Agreement — Mr. Mike Hollier

Discussion on options, direction, and implementation.

A MOTION was made by Mayor Hal McMillin and seconded by Mr. Ben Boudreaux to defer Items VI and VII for thirty days. Hearing no objections, the MOTION carried.

VII. Incorporation of Land Bank of Southwest Louisiana — Ms. Jamie Gaines

Three fundamental purposes: adjudicated properties, transportation right-of-way, and watershed reservoirs.

Status update.

This item was deferred.

VIII. Resolution No. 2346 of the Board of Directors of the SWLA-RPC and Transportation Policy Committee of the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Authorizing the Executive Director, Michael Hollier, to Enter into a Planning Grant Agreement with the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development for Mobility Planning Services 2026-2027. — Ms. Jamie Gaines

Action requested.

Ms. Jamie Gaines explained that Items VIII, IX, and X represented the annual transportation planning grants administered through the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), for which SWLA-RPC serves as fiscal agent.

A MOTION to approve Resolution No. 2346 authorizing the Executive Director to enter into a planning grant agreement with the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development for Mobility Planning Services for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 was made by Ms. Mary Kaye Eason and seconded by Mayor Hal McMillin. Hearing no objections, the MOTION carried.

IX. Resolution No. 2347 of the Board of Directors of the SWLA-RPC and Transportation Policy Committee of the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Authorizing the Executive Director, Michael Hollier, to Enter into a Planning Grant Agreement with the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development for Transit Planning Services 2026-2027. — Ms. Jamie Gaines

Action requested.

A MOTION to approve Resolution No. 2347 authorizing the Executive Director to enter into a planning grant agreement with the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development for Transit Planning Services for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 was made by Mayor Hal McMillin and seconded by Ms. Mary Kaye Eason. Hearing no objections, the MOTION carried.

X. Resolution No. 2348 of the Board of Directors of the SWLA-RPC and Transportation Policy Committee of the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Authorizing the Executive Director, Michael Hollier, to Enter into a Planning Grant Agreement with the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development for MPO Planning Services 2026-2027. — Ms. Jamie Gaines

Action requested.

A MOTION to approve Resolution No. 2348 authorizing the Executive Director to enter into a planning grant agreement with the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development for Transit Planning Services for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 was made by Mayor Hal McMillin and seconded by Ms. Mary Kaye Eason. Hearing no objections, the MOTION carried.

XI. Next Houma Field Trip on Residential Steel Construction to South Central Planning and Development Commission. — Ms. Jamie Gaines

Status update

This item was deferred

XII. Adjudicated Property Pilot Program Status — Mr. Mike Hollier

Information only. No action is requested.

This item was deferred

XIII. SWLA-RPC Housing Initiative Update — Mr. Mike Hollier

For information only. No action is requested.

This item was deferred

XIV. SWLA Regional Mobility Authority — Mr. Mike Hollier

a. Rural Planning Organization (RPO)
b. SWLA Marion "Butch" Fox Rail Research Institute
c. Expediting implementation of transportation projects: DOTD/MPO/RMA/LOCALS
d. MPO Transportation Management Center (TMC)
e. Corridor Designations: Planning and Development
f. Securing Matching Funds: Pool Resource Development

This item was deferred

XV. June Meeting Date and Time — Ms. Jamie Gaines

Ms. Jamie Gaines stressed the importance of holding a June meeting to finalize budget approvals and complete required end-of-year and new fiscal year actions. She initially proposed June 17 as a possible meeting date and stated that a scheduling poll would be distributed to board members to confirm availability.

XVI. Public Comment — Chair

Mayor Hal McMillin board notified the committee of a meeting being hosted by the I-10 Bridge Partners at the Horseshoe Casino regarding anticipated road closures and traffic impacts associated with construction activities. The meeting was scheduled for Friday May 22 at 10:30 a.m. and was expected to also include representatives from DOTD, the Horseshoe Casino, and local government representatives.

Discussion followed regarding anticipated traffic impacts related to the I-10 bridge project and tolling concerns.

Mr. Mike Hollier discussed prior traffic studies associated with the bridge project and noted that recent traffic counts suggest traffic may already be shifting from the I-10 corridor to the I-210 corridor.

Additional discussion ensured on potential toll impacts on local traffic; concerns regarding diverting traffic away from local businesses; potentially "buying down" tolls for local residents; additional funding sources, including gaming revenues and state funding; the importance of regional coordination and advocacy related to toll mitigation; future discussions involving the Regional Mobility Authority; and concerns over maintaining economic activity and transportation efficiency throughout the region

A comparison was also made to the proposed Baton Rouge bridge project and broader considerations regarding public-private partnerships and tolling strategies throughout Louisiana. Board members emphasized the importance of maintaining consistent messaging with state officials regarding toll mitigation for residents.

XVII. Adjournment Chair

A MOTION to ADJOURN was made by Mr. Ben Boudreaux and seconded by Mayor Hal McMillen. Hearing no objections, the MOTION carried.

Jacob Dillehay, Chair

ATTEST: Michael Hollier

Michael Hollier, AICP, Director