

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION PROGRAM

Introduction

The *Community Participation Program* component of The Emanuel County Joint Comprehensive Plan is an important part of the prescribed planning process required in the “Standards and Procedures for Local Comprehensive Planning” as established by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs. It is required to ensure that the resulting comprehensive plan reflects the full range of community values and desires by involving a diverse spectrum of local stakeholders in the development of the *Community Agenda*. Broad-based participation will likely lead to better understanding, more effective and more committed implementation of the resulting comprehensive plan.

The *Community Participation Program* is intended to supplement, not replace, the two public hearings required by the Local Planning Requirements. The *Community Participation Program* must include three parts: a) the identification of stakeholders; b) the identification of participation techniques; and c) a schedule for completion of the *Community Agenda*.

As noted in the “Introduction,” Emanuel County and its municipalities have gone beyond these requirements, and have included broad community and stakeholder input in the preparation of the *Community Assessment*. The extensive community and stakeholder involvement will continue and expand in the preparation of the *Community Agenda*.

Identification of Stakeholders

Stakeholders are those agencies, entities, and persons that have a stake in the successful outcome and implementation of the Emanuel County Joint Comprehensive Plan. It is important that the entire community is involved and working toward the common strategies for making Emanuel County and its municipalities a better place to live and work.

The identification of stakeholders for the Emanuel County Joint Comprehensive Plan began early on in the plan preparation process. Representatives of the Heart of Georgia Altamaha Regional Development Center met with the Executive Committee representatives of the local governments and discussed the importance of community involvement and broad, diverse representation on the Local Plan Coordination Committee. At this meeting, the “List of Suggested Stakeholders” from DCA’s State Planning Recommendations was provided. The suggested make-up of the Local Plan Coordination Committee as an inclusive list of broad community involvement was discussed at length. This Local Plan Coordination Committee was appointed by the local governments before the community involvement and detailed identification of potential issues and opportunities was initiated. The resulting Local Plan Coordination Committee is detailed below in Table CP-1. The committee make-up, while believed comprehensive and inclusive and while working well, is not completely closed. If the public involvement process identifies another person or entity who or which needs to be included, the local governments will add the needed representative to the existing Local Plan Coordination Committee for additional involvement in the *Community Agenda* preparation.

Table CP-1

Name	Appointed By	Vocation Title	Stakeholder Interest Represented
Andy Riley	Emanuel County	Director-Joint Development Authority	Economic Development
Bill Rogers	Emanuel County	Director- Emanuel County Chamber of Commerce	Economic Development
Kenny Griffin	City Swainsboro	Manager-Georgia Power Co.	Business, Minority
Al Lawson	City Swainsboro	Swainsboro Administrator	City Operations and Services
Hugh Evans	City Swainsboro	Retired	Government
Jack Atkinson	City Garfield	Emanuel County/Swainsboro Library Director	Land Owner, Farm, Education
Joe Lumley	City Adrian	City of Adrian Mayor	City Operations and Services
Marilyn Slater	City Stillmore	City of Stillmore Mayor	City Operations and Services
Jodi Davidson	City Nunez	City of Nunez Clerk	City Operations and Services
Margie Hall	City Nunez	City of Nunez Mayor	City Operations and Services
Robert Michael	Emanuel County	Georgia Health Department Environmentalist	Environmentalism, Economic Development
Sylvia Sconyers	City Twin City	City of Twin City Clerk	City Operations and Services
Gloria Mason	Emanuel County	Retailer, Director Emanuel County Historical Society	Business, Minority, Historic Preservation
Len Daughtry	Emanuel County	Emanuel County Hospital Administrator	Medical
Ann Farrar	Emanuel County	Retired Law Enforcement	Social, Historic Preservation
Ezra Price	Emanuel County	Emanuel County Administrator	County Operations, Economic Development
Daryl Gray	Emanuel County	Emanuel County Chief Tax Assessor	Educator, Religion
James Canady	Emanuel County	Owner Canady Trucking Co.	Farmer, Economic Development
Mark Crosby	Emanuel County	Emanuel County Extension Office Director	Farmer, Educator, 4H Youth
Bobbie Daughtry	City Swainsboro	Emanuel County Culture/Arts Council Director	Educator, Downtown Development
Butch Frye	Emanuel County	Emanuel County School Superintendent	Education, Land Owner, Social, Economic Development
Emory Greenway	Emanuel County	Emanuel County Code Enforcement Specialist	Natural Resources, Farmer, Environmentalist
Dorothy Black	City Swainsboro	Community Observer	Minority, Educator
Joan Dunn	Emanuel County	Director-Keep Emanuel Beautiful	Education, Environmentalist
Charlotte Cahill	City Garfield	Garfield Observer, Retired Nurse Metter Hospital	Minority, Educator
Lynn Rainey	City Garfield	Garfield Observer, Secretary and City Clerk	Minority, Business
Charles Schwabe	City Swainsboro	City of Swainsboro Mayor	Business Owner, Economic Development, Land Owner
Guy Williamson	City Oak Park	Oak Park Observer	Retired Mayor of City of Oak Park
Desse Davis	Emanuel County	Emanuel County Commissioner	Farmer, Educator, Youth Development

**Table CP-1
(continued)**

Name	Appointed By	Vocation Title	Stakeholder Interest Represented
John Black	Emanuel County	East Georgia College-President	Education, Cultural Development, Economic Development
Billy Carmichael	City Swainsboro	Emanuel County/Swainsboro Recreation Director	Education, Youth
Milton Gray	City Swainsboro	President Citizen Bank	Banking, Economic Development
Foster Grimes	City Twin City	Twin City Fire Department	Environmental
Tyler Edenfield	City Swainsboro	Swainsboro High School Student Senior	Education
Asia Andrews	City Swainsboro	Swainsboro High School Student Senior	Education, Minority
Tyson Stephens	Emanuel County	Emanuel County Sheriff	Land Owner, Farm, Public Safety
Loy Cowart	City Twin City	Member Emanuel County Board of Education	Farmer, Educator, Economic Development
Glen Diebert	City Swainsboro	President -Swainsboro Technological College	Education, Social
Ken Warnock	City Swainsboro	Buckley & Associates Architect	Business, Economic Development Downtown
Sonny Stephens	City Swainsboro	Vice President Spivey State Bank	Banking, Economic Development, Farmer, Land Owner
John Wagner	City Swainsboro	WXRS Radio Station Reporter	Public Awareness, Radio
Athena Walden	City Swainsboro	Interested Citizen, Family Dollar Retired Manager	Business
Donald Jenkins	City Swainsboro	Teacher Swainsboro High School	Educator, Minority, Religious, Youth Development
Virgil Rainey	City Garfield	City of Garfield Mayor	Business Owner, Economic Development, Land Owner
Leigh Rainey	City Garfield	Interested Citizen	Education/Minority, Retired Educator
Mack Griffin	City Swainsboro	Queensborough Bank President	Business, Social, Economic Development
Don Flanders	City Swainsboro	Handi House Builders-President	Business Owner, Economic Development, Land Owner
Mary Horton	City Adrian	Interested Citizen	Minority
Johnny Webb	City Adrian	City of Adrian Councilman	Retired Air Force, Veterans Hospital Retired Employee
Judy Powell	Emanuel County	Director Emanuel County Senior Center	Director of Emanuel County Community Action Comm.
Ann Williams	Emanuel County	Assistant Director Emanuel County DFACS	Minority, Family Development, Education

Community Participation Techniques

State planning recommendations for possible community participation techniques were jointly reviewed by the RDC and the involved local governments. Based on RDC staff experience, Dooly County training, and local government confirmation, the primary means of community participation chosen were the Technical Advisory Committee (Executive Committee), the Steering Committee (Local Plan Coordination Committee), and follow-up public validation through various means.

As noted earlier, the Local Plan Coordination Committee was designed to provide a broad-based, diverse, and inclusive involvement from a wide-ranging spectrum of stakeholders. This Local Plan Coordination Committee has already been extensively involved in the delineation of potential issues and opportunities and recommended character areas. They will be even more involved in the preparation of the *Community Agenda* from community visioning, to prioritizing issues/opportunities, to evaluating and selecting alternatives for implementation. Hands-on interactive techniques for involvement of committee members have been and will be employed. These have included a modified TOPS (Treasures/Opportunities) exercise at their first meeting, additional issue/opportunities exercises at subsequent meetings, and drawing character maps of their county at another meeting. Members are also encouraged to be liaisons and seek further input from their represented constituencies.

Public validation of committee results and solicitation of further input will be sought through stakeholder interviews, public hearings, other public meetings, and publication of draft results. Key stakeholders have already been interviewed outside the committee in one-on-one meetings to solicit data, ideas, and opinions on the *Community Assessment*. Follow-up contacts for the *Community Agenda* will also be employed. This allows for even wider input free of immediate peer scrutiny or damper. Only the one required public hearing on completion of the draft *Community Assessment* has been held thus far, but it confirmed and validated the process as no new ideas resulted, and the scope and depth of identification of issues/opportunities was complimented. At least one public meeting on community visioning in addition to the required public hearing on the draft *Community Agenda* is planned. A community survey was made

available at the initial public meeting, and a wider distribution may be attempted. Printed copies of the draft *Community Assessment* were made available through the local governments and Local Plan Coordination Committee members. Internet publication, both locally and on the regional RDC website will likely be utilized. The planned participation techniques are not exclusive, and additional techniques could be employed if the planning process develops and reveals a beneficial need.

The required public hearing on the draft *Community Assessment* and *Community Participation Program* was properly advertised and was held September 7, 2006. A required public notice on the availability of the approved *Community Assessment* and *Community Participation Program* will be published in *The Forest Blade* after DCA approval. Other legal requirements to be met will be an advertised formal public hearing on the draft *Community Agenda* anticipated in late winter, and the public notice on the availability of the adopted plan (including the *Community Agenda*) after the *Community Agenda* is approved by DCA and it is formally adopted by the local governments (Spring, 2007).

Schedule for Completion of the *Community Agenda*

The following timeline depicts The Emanuel County Joint Comprehensive Plan preparation process, including the preparation and adoption of the *Community Agenda* component.

Task	2006												2007				
	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Staff <i>Community Assessment</i> Preparation/ Finalization	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■							
Local Plan Coord. Comm. Meetings on <i>Community Assessment</i>		■	■	■	■	■											
Public Hearing on Comm. Assessment/Comm. Participation Program						■											
Local Government Approval of Comm. Assessment/Comm. Participation Program Submittal							■										
Comm. Assessment/Comm. Part. Program Review										■	■						
Public Notice of Comm. Assessment/Comm. Part. Program											■						
Local Plan Coord. Comm. Meetings on <i>Community Agenda</i>											■	■					
Community Visioning Public Meeting												■					
Public Hearing on <i>Community Agenda</i>												■	■				
Local Government Approval of Comm. Agenda Submittal													■				
Comm. Agenda Review													■	■	■		
Local Government Adoption															■		
Public Notice of Comm. Agenda Availability																■	