

MINUTES
LOCAL GOVERNMENT RECORDS COMMISSION
January 28, 2009

The Local Government Records Commission met at 1:30 p.m., on Wednesday, January 28, 2009, in the Regions Board Room at the Department of Archives and History. Members present were Ed Bridges, Chairman, representing the Department of Archives and History; Matt Bledsoe, representing the Attorney General; Reagan Grimsley, representing Auburn University; Ed Bishop, Chairman of the Baldwin County Commission; Ronnie Osborn, DeKalb County Probate Judge; Linda Barrontine, representing the Examiners of Public Accounts; Fran Hamilton, Madison County Tax Assessor; Mike Dean, Chairman of the Mobile County Commission; Ed Packard, representing the Secretary of State; and John Giggie, representing the University of Alabama. Also present was Jennylyn Sumrall, Assistant to the Mobile County Commissioner.

Government Records staff present included Tracey Berezansky, Tom Turley, Frank Brown, Richard Wang, and Corlis Floyd.

Ed Bridges called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m., confirmed the presence of a quorum, noted that the meeting had been properly announced as required by the Alabama Open Meetings Law, and welcomed those present. He introduced DeKalb County Probate Judge Ronnie Osborn as a newly appointed representative to the commission.

A motion to accept the agenda was made by Ed Bishop and seconded by Matt Bledsoe. The motion was unanimously approved.

A motion to approve the minutes of the November 5, 2008, meeting was made by Fran Hamilton and seconded by Ed Packard. The minutes were approved as submitted.

Old Business

- Report on Legal Issues Affecting Revised Disposition for Involuntary Commitment Records (Probate RDA)

Mr. Bledsoe addressed legal areas of concern involved in changing the retention of Involuntary Commitment Records from permanent to a shorter, specified number of years as requested by the Montgomery County Probate Office at a previous commission meeting. Dr. Giggie and Judge Osborn expressed their opinions regarding the historic and scientific research value of the records and recommended that they continue to be held permanently. After further discussion, the commission determined to uphold the current permanent retention of Involuntary Commitment Records.

- Update on Status of RDA Implementation/Revision by County Board of Registrars

Since 2004, the County Boards of Registrars have been under order of the Secretary of State not

to destroy obsolete county voter registration records, pending the installation of the state's new voter registration system. The system was installed in time to be implemented during the November elections. Although the ban on voter registration records destruction remains in effect, Ed Packard reported that the Secretary of State's Office is ready to proceed with revising the current (2003) edition of the boards of registrars' RDA. He will recruit a committee of registrars to review a preliminary RDA revision when one is completed. We hope to have a final draft ready for the July commission meeting.

- Update on Commission Issues Proposed for Legislative Action

Tracey Berezansky reported that staff are continuing to work on defining proposed changes to laws affecting the two records commissions and other public records issues. The latter may be more complex than originally thought, due to the impact of electronic records. After consultation with the Legislative Reference Service, we hope to have draft legislation ready to present to the commissions at their summer meetings.

New Business

- Report on RDA Implementation by Local Health Care Authorities

Tom Turley advised the commission that 27 of Alabama's 35 local health care authorities submitted annual reports for 2008, as mandated by their RDA. Records destructions by these authorities totaled 10,725.7 cubic feet.

- Nominations for Local Government Records Commission Annual Awards

Dr. Turley reported that the commission received four nomination for its first annual awards for excellence in archival preservation and/or records management. Agencies or historical entities nominated were: the Baldwin County Department of Archives and History, the Marshall County Preservation Society, the Probate Court of Mobile County, and the Talladega County Probate Office. After reviewing the applications, staff prepared a memorandum (copy attached) recommending that the 2008 awards be presented to the Marshall County Preservation Society and the Probate Court of Mobile County.

A motion to accept the staff's recommendation was made by Mr. Bledsoe, seconded by Yolanda Caldwell, and unanimously approved by the commission.

Tracey Berezansky informed the commission that governor's certificates will be presented to Marshall and Mobile Counties at its April meeting. In addition, a letter from Dr. Bridges will be sent to the award recipients and press releases will be mailed to their local newspapers.

Records Disposition Authorities

- Regional Planning Commissions (major revision - copy attached)

A motion to approve the revised RDA for Regional Planning Commissions was made by Mr. Bledsoe, seconded by Linda Barrontine, and unanimously approved by the commission.

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Local Government Records Commission is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, April 29, 2009, at 1:30 p.m. For planning purposes, the July meeting of the commission is scheduled for Wednesday, July 22, 2009.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:18 p.m.

Corlis Floyd, Secretary
Local Government Records Commission

Edwin C. Bridges, Chairman
Local Government Records Commission