



www.rivervalleyrc.org

Columbus Office

710 Front Avenue, Suite A
P. O. Box 1908
Columbus, GA 31902
Phone (706) 256-2910
Fax (706) 256-2908
TDY (706)256-2944

Americus Office

228 West Lamar Street
Americus, GA 31709
Phone (706) 256-2910
Fax (229) 931-2745
Fax (229) 931-2917

Toll Free (877) 819-6348

RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING

**Marion County Commission Office
100 East Burkhalter Avenue
Buena Vista, Georgia
September 26, 2018**

SUMMARY

Members

Attending/Representing

(Representing 16 Counties)

- A. J. Rivers, Crisp County
- Barry Waters, City of Ft. Gaines
- Barry Whitley, City of Butler
- Bruce Hill, City of Oglethorpe
- Carlton Wilson, City of Ellaville
- Danny Blackmon, Georgetown-Quitman
- Doug Etheridge, Harris County
- Fred Gordon, Muscogee County
- Harry Lange, Harris County
- Jayson Griffin, Macon County
- Jeanie Barteel, City of Cordele
- Jerry “Pops” Barnes, Muscogee Co.,
RVRC Secretary
- Joe Lee Williams, Stewart County
- Knox Blackmar, City of Talbotton
- Lee Hubbard, Clay County
- Melvin Crimes, Webster County
- Mickey George, Macon County
- Pam Jordan, Talbot County
- Patricia Goodman, Randolph County
- Ralph Brown, City of Buena Vista
- Randy Howard, Sumter County,
RVRC Vice Chair
- Richard McCorkle, Marion County
- Tameka Harris, Taylor County

- Terrell Hudson, Dooly County
- Tom Queen, Taylor County
- Tony Kennedy, Webster County
- Walt Rosso, Cusseta-Chattahoochee

Members Not Present

- Carvel Lewis, Georgetown-Quitman
- Cecil “Butch” McMickle, Marion Co.
- Clinton Perry, Jr. Taylor County,
RVRC Chair
- Chip Jones, Stewart County
- Dr. Carole Rutland, Muscogee County
- Dr. Edward Lee, Cusseta-
Chattahoochee
- Evelyn Turner Pugh, Muscogee Co.
- Freeman Montgomery, Talbot County
- Greg Barineau, Schley County
- Hobby Stripling, City of Vienna
- James R. “Bump” Welch, Marion Co
- James Morton, Cusseta-Chattahoochee
- Jimmy Babb, City of Lumpkin
- Jimmy Bradley, Randolph County
- Maggie McGruther, Sumter County
- Nelson Brown, City of Americus
- Rebecca Chambers, City of Hamilton
- Sam Farrow, Jr., Crisp County
- Steve Whatley, City of Cuthbert
- Wally Summers, Sumter County

Others Present

- Debbie Stone, City of Lumpkin
- Sara Lee Crumbs, Family Connections,
Georgetown-Quitman Co.
- Laura Gower, Representative for
Senator Isakson
- Amy Varnum, Georgia Dept. of Labor
- Paul Higginbotham, Talbot County
- Janet Joiner, City of Vienna
- Paul Farr, South GA Tech.
- Anna Hurt, GA Dept. of
Economic Development Rep.
- Casey Beane, GA Dept. of Community
Affairs

Staff Present

- Patti Cullen, Executive Director
- Sarah Walls, Assistant Executive Dir.
- Katie Howard, AAA Director
- Emily Chambers, Finance Officer
- Jim Livingston, Community &
Economic Development Director
- Gerald Mixon, Planning Director
- Allison Slocum, Senior Planner
- Janice West, WIOA Director
- Becky Holmes, Office Manager

Chattahoochee | Clay | Crisp | Dooly | Harris | Macon | Marion | Muscogee
Quitman | Randolph | Schley | Stewart | Sumter | Talbot | Taylor | Webster

Equal Opportunity Employer

Welcome and Recognition of Visitors

Randy Howard, Vice Chair, brought the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. He then asked Jerry “Pops” Barnes, Secretary, to lead the council in prayer and Terrell Hudson, Dooly County, led the council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Review and Approval of Minutes*

Council reviewed the minutes of the August 22, 2018 council meeting that was either mailed or emailed to council members the previous week for their review.

There being no additions or changes, Vice Chair Howard, requested a motion to approve the August 22, 2018 council minutes. Walt Rosso, Unified Government of Cusseta-Chattahoochee County, made a motion to approve the minutes as presented; Harry Lange, Harris County, seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Re-Tap: Georgia’s Renewable Energy Technical Assistance Program

Daniel Geller, PhD., from the College of Engineering at the University of Georgia, gave a presentation explaining the solar power program. He said grants and incentives are available to local governments that will help with the cost of implementing solar facilities. The University of Georgia, College of Engineering, will help local governments complete the application and guide them thru installation. They are available to come and talk to different community groups and have developed a model zoning ordinance.

Approval of the 2018-2038 Regional Plan*

Allison Slocum, Senior Planner, explained that the Georgia Department of Community Affairs had approved the 2018-2038 Regional Plan. An electronic version was uploaded to the RVRC website (www.rivervalleyrc.org). Vice Chair Howard requested a motion to approve the Regional Plan. Walt Rosso, Unified Government of Cusseta-Chattahoochee County, made a motion to approve the 2018-2038 Regional Plan; Tom Queen, Private Industry Appointee Taylor County, seconded the motion. There being no opposition, the motion passed unanimously.

Staff reports were given by Emily Chambers, Finance Officer; Janice West, WIOA Director; Jim Livingston, Community and Economic Development Director; Gerald Mixon, Planning Director; and Katie Howard, Area Agency on Aging Director.

Patti Cullen, Executive Director, announced that previous Executive Director, Ron Starnes, had passed away in Ocean Springs Mississippi in July. Also, former RVRC council DCA representative Jo Childers’ mother had passed away over the weekend.

There being no further business Randy Howard, Vice Chair, asked for a motion to adjourn; Melvin Crimes, Webster County m.