



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

**South Georgia Technical College
Pope Center
South Georgia Parkway
Americus, Georgia
May 22, 2019
10:30 A.M.**

Minutes Summary

Members Attending

(Representing 15 Counties)
A.J. Rivers, Crisp County
Bruce Hill, City of Oglethorpe
Carvel Lewis, Georgetown-Quitman County
Chip Jones, Stewart County
Clay Jones, Sumter County
Clinton Perry, Jr. Taylor County, RVRC Chair
Danny Blackmon, Georgetown-Quitman County
Dr. Edward Lee, Cusseta-Chattahoochee County
Ernest Jenkins, Clay County
Evelyn Turner Pugh, Muscogee County
Fred Gordon, Muscogee County
James R. "Bump" Welch, Marion County
Harry Lange, Harris County
Hobby Stripling, City of Vienna
James Morton, Cusseta-Chattahoochee County
Jayson Griffin, Macon County
Jeanie Barte, City of Cordele
Jerry "Pops" Barnes, Muscogee County, RVRC Sec.
Knox Blackmar, City of Talbotton
Matt Gunnels, Marion County
Randy Howard, Sumter Co., RVRC Vice-Chairman
Richard McCorkle, Marion County
Tameka Harris, Taylor County
Terrell Hudson, Dooly County
Tony Kennedy, Webster County
Wally Summers, Sumter County

Members Not Present

Barry Waters, City of Ft. Gaines
Barry Whitley, City of Butler
Carlton Wilson, City of Ellaville
Damon Hoyte, Cusseta-Chatt. Co.
Doug Etheridge, Harris County
Dr. Carole Rutland, Muscogee County
Freeman Montgomery, Talbot County
Greg Barineau, Schley County
Jimmy Babb, City of Lumpkin
Jimmy Bradley, Randolph County
Joe Lee Williams, Stewart County
Maggie McGruther, Sumter County
Melvin Crimes, Webster County
Nelson Brown, City of Americus
Pam Jordan, Talbot County
Patricia Goodman, Randolph County
Ralph Brown, City of Buena Vista
Rebecca Chambers, City of Hamilton
Sam Farrow, Jr., Crisp County
Steve Whatley, City of Cuthbert
Tom Queen, Taylor County

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Others Present

County and City Representatives

Representative Debbie Buckner, Georgia, District 137

Representative Mike Cheokas, Georgia District 138

Representative Ed Rynders, Georgia District 152

Senator Freddie Powell Sims, Georgia, District 12

Senator Ed Harbison, Georgia, District 15

Senator Greg Kirk, Georgia District 13

Field Representative Max Kirby for US Congressman Drew Ferguson, 3rd District of Georgia

Director Kenneth Cutts for US Congressman Sanford Bishop, 2nd District of Georgia

Field Representative Laura Gower for US Senator Johnny Isakson

Field Representative Jody Redding for US Senator Johnny Isakson

Field Representative Kathy Burns for US Senator David Perdue

RVRC Staff

Welcome and Recognition of Visitors

Clinton Perry, Chair, brought the meeting to order. He welcomed council members, distinguished guests and visitors. Jerry “Pops” Barnes, Secretary, gave the invocation and Randy Howard, Vice Chair, led the council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Review and Approval of Minutes*

Council reviewed the minutes of the April 24, 2019 council meeting that was either mailed or emailed to council members the previous week for their review.

There being no additions or changes, Chair Clinton Perry, requested a motion to approve the April 24, 2019 council minutes. Evelyn Turner Pugh, Muscogee County, made a motion to approve the minutes as presented; Harry Lange, Harris County, seconded the motion. The motion passed with no opposition.

Nomination of Officers for FY20-21

Wally Summers, Chair of the Nominating Committee, announced the Nominating Committee had met April 24th and were nominating Randy Howard, Sumter County, as RVRC Chairman, James “Pops” Barnes, Muscogee County, as RVRC Vice Chairman, and Bruce Hill, Mayor of Oglethorpe, as Secretary for fiscal year 2020-2021.

Chair Perry requested a motion to approve the nominations of officers. Carvel Lewis, Georgetown-Quitman County, made a motion to approve the nominations as presented; Tameka Harris, Taylor County, seconded the motion. The motion passed with no opposition. Mr. Perry thanked the council for allowing him to serve on the council and said the new slate of officers were very capable of carrying on the RVRC commission’ business.

Presentation of Years of Service

Randy Howard, Vice Chair, thanked Chair Clinton Perry, Chair, for his service to not only to the River Valley region but also Taylor County and the State of Georgia. He then presented him with a plaque of appreciation for 14 years of service with the Middle Flint Regional Development Center and River Valley Regional Commission. Four of those years he also served as the River Valley Council Chair.

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Mr. Perry thanked the council for the plaque. He also thanked Wally Summers, Vice President of Economic Development at South Georgia Technical College, and the staff for providing the accommodations for the meeting and luncheon.

Staff Recognition

Three staff members were recognized for their years of service with the River Valley Regional commission and presented an award.

Jim Livingston, Executive Director, recognized staff members with five years or more in five year increments. They were Rick Morris, Planning Director, 15 years of service and Emily Chambers, Finance Officer (not present), 10 years of service. Clinton Perry, Chair, presented Jim Livingston, Executive Director, for 5 years of service.

Legislator's Remarks

Clinton Perry, Vice Chair, introduced the following legislators and field representatives who updated the council and guests concerning legislative matters:

Representative Debbie Buckner, Georgia, District 137
Representative Mike Cheokas, Georgia District 138
Representative Ed Rynders, Georgia District 152
Senator Freddie Powell Sims, Georgia, District 12
Senator Ed Harbison, Georgia, District 15
Senator Greg Kirk, Georgia District 13
Senator Randy Robertson, Georgia District 29
Field Representative Max Kirby for US Congressman Drew Ferguson, 3rd District of Georgia
Director Kenneth Cutts for US Congressman Sanford Bishop, 2nd District of Georgia
Field Representative Laura Gower for US Senator Johnny Isakson
Field Representative Jody Redding for US Senator Johnny Isakson
Field Representative Kathy Burns for US Senator David Perdue – Video Presentation

Chair Clinton Perry adjourned the meeting. He then gave the blessing and lunch was served.