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**RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Marion County Commission Office**  
**100 East Burkhalter Avenue, Buena Vista, Georgia**  
**Minutes Summary**  
**March 28, 2018**

**Members Attending/Representing**

(Representing 15 Counties)  
 Barry Waters, City of Ft. Gaines  
 Bruce Hill, City of Oglethorpe  
 Carlton Wilson, City of Ellaville  
 Carvel Lewis, Georgetown-Quitman Co.  
 Chip Jones, Stewart County  
 Danny Blackmon, Georgetown-Quitman  
 Dr. Carole Rutland, Muscogee County  
 Dr. Edward Lee, Cusseta-Chattahoochee  
 Doug Etheridge, Harris County  
 Evelyn Turner Pugh, Muscogee County  
 Harry Lange, Harris County  
 Hobby Stripling, City of Vienna  
 James R. "Bump" Welch, Marion Co.  
 Jayson Griffin, Macon County  
 Jerry "Pops" Barnes, Muscogee Co.,  
 RVRC Secretary  
 Knox Blackmar, City of Talbotton  
 Lee Hubbard, Clay County  
 Maggie McGruther, Sumter County  
 Melvin Crimes, Webster County  
 Patricia Goodman, Randolph County  
 Randy Howard, Sumter County, RVRC  
 Vice Chair  
 Richard McCorkle, Marion County  
 Tameka Harris, Taylor County

Terrell Hudson, Dooly County, ACCG  
 Tony Kennedy, Webster County  
 Walt Rosso, Cusseta-Chattahoochee Co.  
 Wally Summers, Sumter County

**Staff Present**

Patti Cullen, Executive Director  
 Sarah Walls, Assistant Executive Dir.  
 Emily Chambers, Finance Officer  
 Rick Morris, Planning Director  
 Allison Slocum, Senior Planner  
 Jim Livingston, Comm. & Eco. Dev. Dir.  
 Gerald Mixon, Planning Director  
 Kia Barrow, ADRC Program Director  
 Janice West, WIOA Director  
 Joel Hanif, Community Developer  
 Becky Holmes, Office Manager

**Members Not Present**

A.J. Rivers, Crisp County  
 Barry Whitley, City of Butler  
 Cecil "Butch" McMickle, Marion Co.  
 Clinton Perry, Jr. Taylor County, RVRC  
 Chair  
 Fred Gordon, Muscogee County  
 Freeman Montgomery, Talbot County  
 Greg Barineau, Schley County

James Morton, Cusseta-Chattahoochee  
 Jason Hoch, Schley County  
 Jeanie Barte, City of Cordele  
 Jimmy Babb, City of Lumpkin  
 Jimmy Bradley, Randolph County  
 Joe Lee Williams, Stewart County  
 Mickey George, Macon County  
 Nelson Brown, City of Americus  
 Ralph Brown, City of Buena Vista  
 Pam Jordan, Talbot County  
 Rebecca Chambers, City of Hamilton  
 Sam Farrow, Jr., Crisp County  
 Steve Whatley, City of Cuthbert  
 Tom Queen, Taylor County

**Others Present**

Elaine Gillispie, Congressman Bishop's  
 Representative  
 Sarah Lee Crumbs, Georgetown-  
 Quitman Co. Family  
 Connections Coordinator  
 Lindsey Glisson, Deputy Clerk of  
 Council, Muscogee County  
 Candy Head, Georgia Department of  
 Labor  
 Debbie Stone, City of Lumpkin

### **Welcome and Recognition of Visitors**

Randy Howard, Vice Chair, brought the meeting to order. He welcomed everyone and recognized visitors. He then asked Jerry “Pops” Barnes, Muscogee County, to lead the council in prayer and Melvin Crimes, Webster County, then lead the council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Review and Approval of Minutes\***

Council reviewed the minutes of the February 28, 2018 council meeting that was mailed or emailed to council members the previous week for their review.

There being no additions or changes, Randy Howard, Vice Chair, requested a motion to approve the February 28, 2018 council minutes. Barry Waters, Fort Gaines, made a motion to approve the minutes as presented; Harry Lange, Harris County, seconded the motion. With a show of hands, the motion passed with no opposition.

### **Regional Defense Transformation Update**

Randy Howard, asked Mr. Gary Jones, Executive Vice-President of Military Affairs at the Greater Columbus Chamber of Commerce to come forward and give his presentation. Mr. Jones gave a slide show presentation updating the council on the overall regional impact of Fort Benning on the region.

### **Update of the Regional Plan**

Allison Slocum, Senior Planner, updated the council on the progress being made on the Regional Plan. She said she anticipates in April that the plan will be brought before the council for approval to transmit to the Department of Community Affairs for review and approval.

### **Staff Reports**

Emily Chambers, Finance Officer; Rick Morris, Planning Director; Jim Livingston, Community & Economic Development Director; Kia Barrow, ADRC Program Director; and Janice West, WIOA Director; presented staff reports for their departments.

### **ADJOURN**

There being no further business to come before the council; the meeting was adjourned.

\*Required Council Action