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**RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING
Marion County Commission Office
Minutes Summary
November 16, 2016**

Members Attending/Representing

(Representing 16 Counties)
A.J. Rivers, Crisp County
Barry Whitley, City of Butler
Bruce Hill, City of Oglethorpe
Carlton Wilson, City of Ellaville
Chip Jones, Stewart County
Debbie Stone, Stewart County
Doug Etheridge, Harris County
Dr. Edward Lee, Cusseta-Chattahoochee County
Evelyn Turner Pugh, Muscogee County
Fred Gordon, Muscogee County
George Moore, Webster County
Harry Lange, Harris County
Jeanie Barteel, City of Cordele
Jim Lawrence, Cusseta-Chattahoochee County
Joe Lee Williams, Stewart County
Knox Blackmar, City of Talbotton
Lee Hubbard, Clay County
Melvin Crimes, Webster County
Mickey George, Macon County
Mike Speight, Crisp County, RVRC Secretary
Pam Jordan, Talbot County
Patricia Goodman, Randolph County
Randy Howard, Sumter County
Rebecca Chambers, City of Hamilton

Richard Morris, Georgetown-Quit. Co., RVRC Vice Chair
Richard McCorkle, Marion County
Shirley Ann Christian, City of Fort Gaines
Terrell Hudson, Dooly County
Tom Queen, Taylor County
Tommy McKenzie, Macon County
Wally Summers, Sumter County

Members Not Present

Cecil "Butch" McMickle, Marion County
Clark Henderson, Crisp County
Clinton Perry, Jr., Taylor County, RVRC Chair
David Kinsey, Georgetown-Quitman County
Dr. Carole Rutland, Muscogee County
Freeman Montgomery, Talbot County
Greg Barineau, Schley County
Hobby Stripling, City of Vienna
James Morton, Cusseta-Chattahoochee County
James R. "Bump" Welch, Marion County
Jason Hoch, Schley County
Jerry "Pops" Barnes, Muscogee County
Jimmy Bradley, Randolph County
Maggie McGruther, Sumter County
Nelson Brown, City of Americus
Steve Whatley, City of Cuthbert
Ralph Brown, City of Buena Vista

Staff Present

Patti Cullen, Executive Director
Sarah Walls, Assistant Executive Director
Emily Chambers, Finance Officer
Katie Howard, AAA Director
Rick Morris, Planning Director

Gerald Mixon, Planning Director
Jim Livingston, Community & Economic Director
Janice West, WIOA Director
Tammy Collins, Finance Officer
Becky Holmes, Office Manager

Others Present

Russell Lipford, Clifton, Lipford, Hardison & Parker, LLC
David McCoy, Clifton, Lipford, Hardison & Parker, LLC
Bill Twomey, Sumter County
Candice Head, Dept. of Labor
Doug Goodin, Sumter County Chief Appraiser
Sylvester Dumas
Jason Tinsley, Marion County

Edwina Turner, Stewart County
Judy Tucker, City of Columbus
Jimmy Lockerman, Chief Appraiser, Dooly County
Sarah Cook, Center of Innovation for Agribusiness
Ricky Hood, Hamilton

Welcome and Recognition of Visitors

Richard Morris, Vice-chair, brought the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. and welcomed guest and council. Mr. Morris welcomed new visitors Jimmy Lockerman and guest speaker, Sarah Cook. Mr. Morris then led the council in prayer and Mike Speight, Secretary, led the council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Review and Approval of Minutes*

Council reviewed the minutes of the October 26, 2016 council meeting. There being no changes to the minutes, Harry Lange, Harris County, made a motion to approve the minutes as presented; Jeanie Barte, City of Cordele, seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Review and Approval of FY2016 Independent Audit Report*

Russell Lipford and David McCoy, CPA, of Clifton, Lipford, Hardison and Parker, LLC presented the River Valley Regional Commission's Independent Audit Report for FY2016. Mr. Lipford stated that they had met with the Finance Committee before the council meeting to review and discuss the report in detail. He explained that there were no findings and the opinion was favorable.

It was reported that the Finance Committee had voted to approve the audit report and made a motion to bring it before the Council. Knox Blackmar seconded the motion to accept the FY2016 Independent Audit Report as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Growing Georgia's Agribusiness Industry

Sarah Cook, Project Manager for the Center of Innovation for Agribusiness, gave a presentation about the importance of the agribusiness industry to the region.

Private Industry Appointment*

Patti Cullen, Executive Director, explained that Chair Clinton Perry, Jr. had chosen not to seek re-election on the Taylor County Commission and was therefore no longer eligible to remain on the River Valley Regional Council. She then asked council to appoint Clinton Perry, Jr. as a Private Industry Appointee. Bruce Hill, Mayor City of Oglethorpe, made a motion to approve Mr. Perry as a Private Industry Appointee; Knox Blackmar, City of Talbotton, seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Cullen said that Mike Speight, a Private Industry Appointee, was moving out of the area and will no longer be eligible to serve on the council. She then presented Mr. Speight with a plaque and thanked him for his service on the council and in the region. Patti then said that Mr. George Moore, Commission Chair for Webster County, did not run for re-election and would no longer be eligible to remain on the council. She then presented him with a plaque and thanked him as well for his service on the council and in the region.

Resolution Authorizing Application for Section 5311 Funding*

Jarrold McCarthy, Mobility Manager, requested authorization to submit an application for Section 5311 funding for transit improvements.

Patricia Goodman, Randolph County, made a motion to approved authorization to submit an application for Section 5311 funding; Evelyn Turner-Pugh seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution Authorizing Application for EPA Brownfield Assessment Grant*

Jim Livingston, Community and Economic Development Director, requested authorization to submit a application for an EPA Brownfield Assessment Grant.

Terrell Hudson, Dooly County, made a motion to approve authorization to submit an application for a EPA Brownfield Assessment Grant; Harry Lange, Harris County, seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Staff Reports

Jim Livingston, Community and Economic Development Director; Katie Howard, Area Agency on Aging Director; Gerald Mixon, Planning Director; Janice West, WIOA Director; and Emily Chambers, Finance Officer, presented staff reports for their departments.

Other Business

Patti Cullen thanked everyone that was able to attend the 2016 GARC Annual Conference.

Adjourn

Richard Morris, Vice-Chair asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Harry Lange, Harris County, made a motion to adjourn, Evelyn Pugh, Muscogee County, seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned.