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RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING

100 East Burkhalter Avenue
Buena Vista, Georgia

Minutes

February 24, 2016
10:30 a.m.

Members Attending/Representing

(Representing 16 Counties)
Barry Whitley, City of Butler
Bruce Hill, City of Oglethorpe
Carlton Wilson, City of Ellaville
Cecil "Butch" McMickle, Marion County
Chip Jones, Stewart County
Clark Henderson, Crisp County
David Kinsey, Georgetown-Quitman County
Edward Lee, Cusseta-Chatahoochee County
Evelyn Turner-Pugh, Muscogee County
Fred Gordon, Muscogee County
Freeman Montgomery, Talbot County
George Moore, Webster County
Hobby Stripling, Vienna
James R. "Bump" Welch, Marion County
James Morton, Cusseta-Chatahoochee County
Jeanie Bantee, City of Cordale
Jerry "Pops" Barnes, Muscogee County
Jim Lawrence, Cusseta-Chatahoochee County
Jimmy Bradley, Randolph County
Joe Lee Williams, Stewart County
Knox Blackmar, City of Talbotton
Melvin Crimes, Webster County
Mickey George, Macon County
Mike Speight, Crisp County, RVRC Secretary
Nelson Brown, City of Americus
Pam Jordan, Talbot County
Patricia Goodman, Randolph County
Randy Howard, Sumter County
Rebecca Chambers, City of Hamilton
Richard Morris, Georgetown-Quitman County, RVRC Vice-Chair
Steven F. Martin, City of Ft. Gaines
Terrell Hudson, Dooly County
Tom Queen, Taylor County
Tommy McKenzie, Macon County
Wally Summers, Sumter County

Members Not Present

Clinton Perry, Jr., Taylor County, RVRC Chair
Doug Etheridge, Harris County
Dr. Carole Rutland, Muscogee County
Greg Barineau, Schley County
Harry Lange, Harris County
Jason Hoeh, Schley County
Jimmy Babb, City of Lumpkin
Lawrence Young, Stewart County
Lee Hubbard, Clay County
Maggie McGruther, Sumter County
Ralph Brown, City of Buena Vista
Richard McCorkle, Marion County
Steve Whatley, City of Cuthbert

Others Present

Cassie Renfrow, Chatahoochee RiverWarden, Executive Director
A. J. Rivers, City of Cordale
Janet Joiner, City of Vienna
Judy Tucker, Columbus
Ricky Hood, Hamilton Public Works
Kathy Burns, Senator Perdue's Representative
John Brent, Harris County
Vickie Wainwright, City of Butler
Elaine Gillespie, Senator Bishop's Representative
Laura Gower, Senator Johnny Isakson's Representative

Staff Present

Patti Cullen, Executive Director
Sarah Walls, Assistant Executive Director
Katie Howard, Area Agency on Aging Director
Gerald Mixon, Planning Director
Allison Sloccun, Senior Planner/Historic Preservation Officer
Jarrod McCardy, Mobility Manager
Janice West, WIOA Director
Jim Livingston, Community and Economic Development Director
Lance Renfrow, Environmental Planner
Emily Chambers, Finance Officer
Tammy Collins, Finance Officer
Becky Holmes, Office Manager

[Chattahoochee](#) | [Clay](#) | [Crisp](#) | [Dooly](#) | [Harris](#) | [Macon](#) | [Marion](#) | [Muscogee](#)
[Quitman](#) | [Randolph](#) | [Schley](#) | [Stewart](#) | [Sumter](#) | [Talbot](#) | [Taylor](#) | [Webster](#)

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WELCOME AND RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Richard Morris, Vice Chair, brought the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. He welcomed council members and guest to the meeting. Patti Cullen, Executive Director, updated the council about a major accident Clinton Perry, Jr., RVRC Chair, was involved in approximately three weeks earlier. Mike Speight, Secretary, then led the council in prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

REVIEW/APPROVAL OF MINUTES*

Richard Morris requested council approval of the January 27, 2016 council meeting minutes which were mailed or email to each council member the previous week for their review.

Terrell Hudson made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Knox Blackmar seconded the motion. By unanimous consent the motion carried.

“CHATTAHOOCHEE RIVERWARDEN: WATCHING OVER OUR WATER”

Patti Cullen, Executive Director, introduced Cassie Renfrow, Executive Director, Chattahoochee RiverWarden. Ms. Renfrow gave a PowerPoint presentation explaining the issues affecting the health of the basin. She gave a brief overview of the Chattahoochee RiverWarden organization explaining that the organization is working to raise awareness of the importance of a healthy river basin, to foster a sense of environmental stewardship and to encourage citizens to become advocates for clean water. The organization is supported by non-profit membership donations, grants and also relies on citizen participation with over 700 members. Ms. Renfrow explained that over half of the 52 large watersheds in the State of Georgia, which is over 14,000 miles of stream segments, are not meeting standards. Fertilizer and pesticide runoff, medicines being flushed, grease in the sewage system, washing paint brushes and pouring paint into storm drains are just a few of the things that are negatively impacting the streams. Currently the RiverWarden is monitoring 40 sites on 15 tributaries. She said a Shoal Spider Lily Restoration Project began this year to hopefully save the spider lily plants that live in the shoals of the Chattahoochee River and its tributaries. During the implementation of this project, spider lily bulbs will be harvested and planted in various areas of the river and springs. Other events that she urged everyone to participate in was a “Return of the Lilies” seminar being held Tuesday, April 12th at the Columbus Museum and a “Help the Hooch” clean up event that will be held October 1st.

HOG PROJECT UPDATE

Lance Renfrow, Environmental Planner, updated the council on the completion of the Hog Project at Kinchatoonee Creek, located in Dooly County. He explained that it was funded by a 319(h) grant for Pataula Creek. The project was a success with 624 hogs being removed within a ten (10) square mile radius. Thirty thousand linear feet of fencing was installed along the stream, four stream crossing and alternative watering stations were built to help keep animals out of the water. During this project a manual “Georgia Landowner’s Guide to Wild Pig Management” was prepared by the University of Georgia and was supervised by the River Valley RC Environmental Planning Department. Seven hundred (700) copies of the manual were printed. Copies were available for council members to take and distribute in the RVRC region.

RESOLUTION TO ENTER INTO FY17 CONTRACT WITH DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES (DHS) FOR THE PROVISION OF AGING SERVICES/ADOPTION OF AREA PLAN

Katie Howard, Area Agency on Aging Director, presented a resolution to enter into a FY17 contract with Department of Human Services (DHS) to continue to provide aging services in the RVRC 16-county region. Jerry “Pops” Barnes made a motion to approve the resolution to enter into the FY17 contract; Patricia Goodman seconded the motion. By unanimous consent the motion carried.

Katie then reviewed submittal of the Area Plan. Both documents were included in the council packet. Knox Blackmar made a motion to approve the submittal of the Area Plan; Evelyn Turner-Pugh seconded the motion. By unanimous consent the motion carried.

DHS TRANSIT CONTRACT RENEWAL

Jarrod McCarthy, Mobility Manager, requested approval to renew the FY17 Transit contract with the Department of Human Services. This program provides transportation for senior centers, Department of Family and Children Services (DFACS) and the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD) program.

Patricia Goodman made a motion to authorize approval to renew the contract; Evelyn Turner-Pugh seconded the motion. By unanimous consent the motion carried.

REVIEW OF THE REGIONAL WORK PROGRAM

Gerald Mixon, Planning Director, presented a review of the Regional Work Program. He explained that the document is a plan for the 16-county area and that a notification was sent out for comments and the deadline for comments was today. However, he said comments could be still submitted if they are received in the next few days. The RVRC will submit the document to the state for a mandatory review after the council meeting.

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

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BUDGET AMENDMENT NUMBER TWO

Emily Chambers, Finance Officer, presented Budget Amendment 2 to the council. She explained that the budget amendment was discussed at the Executive/Finance Committee meeting that was held immediately before the council meeting. The Executive/Finance Committee recommended approval of the budget amendment. By unanimous consent the motion carried.

STAFF REPORTS

Emily Chambers, Finance Officer, explained that the Second Avenue building had been sold for approximately \$250,000. One hundred, fifty thousand dollars \$150,000 was applied to the bond issuance on the Front Avenue building. She noted that expenditures were on track for the year.

Jim Livingston, Community & Economic Development Director, said that staff was working on sixteen Community Development Block Grant applications while continuing to administer 25 other grants. Jim explained that the Columbus Makest! staff has begun writing a grant applications for funds to make improvements to the building space they are occupying at the RVRC office. He said the Georgia Economic Development Association had identified six businesses in the State of Georgia as being economic development “Rock Stars”. Two of those businesses are located in the RVRC region - D & J Plastics of Georgetown makes plastics and fishing lures and IACT Health of Columbus conducts clinical trials for life, science and health industries.

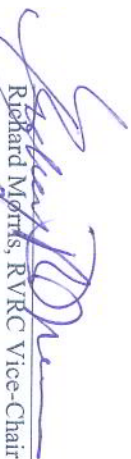
Janice West, WIOA Director, gave the staff report for her department noting that from July 1, 2015 thru February 12, 2016 that 214 people were being served for various WIOA funded training activities. She said the Georgia Department of Labor’s preliminary unemployment rate for December showed a decrease in unemployment in both the eastern and western RVRC counties.

Gerald Mixon, Planning Director, said the Chattahoochee County Comprehensive Plan was approved by the Department of Community Affairs in early February and is scheduled to be adopted by the county at their March 1st county commission meeting. Staff continues to provide zoning assistance to eight (8) communities and staff also attended the Zoning Administrator’s Winter Conference that was held in Athens, Georgia. Historic Preservation staff reviewed five (5) cases for the Columbus’ Board of Historic Architecture Review. Staff also spoke to the Cuthbert City Council about possibly adopting a Historic Preservation Ordinance and the effect it would have on property owners. Gerald explained that a Request for Bids would be sent out soon for the Andersonville Depot rehabilitation project. This project is planned to begin in FY 2016.

ADJOURN

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

March 23, 2016
DATE


Richard Morris, RVRC Vice-Chair


Mike Speight, Secretary