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RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING

Marion County Commission Office
Minutes Summary
June 22, 2016

Members Attending/Representing

(Representing 15 Counties)

A.J. Rivers, Crisp County
Carlton Wilson, City of Ellaville
Chip Jones, Stewart County
Clinton Perry, Jr., Taylor County, RVRC Chair
David Kinsey, Georgetown-Quitman County
Debbie Stone, Stewart County
Dr. Carole Rutland, Muscogee County
Edward Lee, Cusseta-Chattahoochee County
Evelyn Turner-Pugh, Muscogee County
Freeman Montgomery, Talbot County
James Morton, Cusseta-Chattahoochee County
Jason Hoch, Schley County
Jeanie Bartee, City of Cordele
Jimmy Bradley, Randolph County
Harry Lange, Harris County
Knox Blackmar, City of Talbotton
Maggie McGruther, Sumter County
Melvin Crimes, Webster County
Mickey George, Macon County
Mike Speight, Crisp County, RVRC Secretary
Nelson Brown, City of Americus
Ralph Brown, City of Buena Vista
Randy Howard, Sumter County
Richard McCorkle, Marion County
Richard Morris, Georgetown-Quitman County, RVRC Vice-Chair

Terrell Hudson, Dooly County
Tom Queen, Taylor County
Wally Summers, Sumter County

Members Not Present

Barry Whitley, City of Butler
Bruce Hill, City of Oglethorpe
Cecil "Butch" McMickle, Marion County
Clark Henderson, Crisp County
Doug Etheridge, Harris County
Fred Gordon, Muscogee County
George Moore, Webster County
Greg Barineau, Schley County
Hobby Stripling, City of Vienna
James R. "Bump" Welch, Marion County
Jerry "Pops" Barnes, Muscogee County
Jim Lawrence, Cusseta-Chattahoochee County
Joe Lee Williams, Stewart County
Lawrence Young, Stewart County
Lee Hubbard, Clay County
Pam Jordan, Talbot County
Patricia Goodman, Randolph County
Rebecca Chambers, City of Hamilton
Steven F. Martin, City of Ft. Gaines
Steve Whatley, City of Cuthbert
Tommy McKenzie, Macon County

Staff Present

Patti Cullen, Executive Director
Sarah Walls, Assistant Executive Director
Rick Morris, Planning Director
Gerald Mixon, Planning Director
Emily Chambers, Finance Officer
Tammy Collins, Finance Officer
Jim Livingston, Community & Economic Development
Becky Holmes, Office Manager

Others Present

Roy Barnes, Barnes Law Group, LLC
Timothy Smith, SSBCI, GDCA
Jo Childers, DCA
Edwina Turner, Stewart County
Kenny Calhoun, Dooly County

Judy Tucker, Columbus
Kathy Burns, Rep. for Senator Perdue
Laura Gower, Rep. for Senator Isakson
Krystal Health, Sumter
John Bevis, Barnes Law Group, LLC

[Chattahoochee](#) | [Clay](#) | [Crisp](#) | [Dooly](#) | [Harris](#) | [Macon](#) | [Marion](#) | [Muscogee](#)
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Welcome and Recognition of Visitors

Clinton Perry, Jr., Chair, brought the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. and welcomed everyone. Richard Morris, Vice Chair, 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 May 25, 2016 council meeting. Terrell Hudson, Dooly County, made a motion to approve the minutes as presented; Evelyn Turner-Pugh, Columbus, seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

911 Litigation Update

Former Governor Roy Barnes, Barnes Law Group, LLC, updated the council on the progress being made concerning the 911 Litigation lawsuit and how it impacts local governments in the state.

Small Business Credit Initiative (SSBCI) What it Offers Small Businesses

Timothy Smith, Program Specialist with the Georgia Department of Community Affairs, updated the council about the State Small Business Credit Initiative Act which set aside \$48 million for the State of Georgia to work with small businesses in the state. He explained several programs that are available due to this money being available.

Approval to Submit an Application to USDA for a Rural Community Development Initiative Grant*

Jim Livingston, Community and Economic Development Director, requested approval to submit an application to USDA for a RCDI grant. The application will be for the Front Door Initiative.

Evelyn Turner Pugh, Muscogee County, made a motion to approve the submittal of an application to USDA for a Rural Community Development Initiative Grant; Ralph Brown, Jr., Buena Vista, seconded the motion. By a show of hands the motion passed unanimously.

Adoption of Regional Work Program 2016-2020*

Gerald Mixon, Director, presented a resolution to adopt the annual update of the Regional Work Program, noting it had been approved by the Department of Community Affairs.

Richard Morris, Georgetown-Quitman County, made a motion to adopt the Regional Work Program 2016-2020 as presented; Evelyn Turner Pugh, Muscogee County, seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Evaluation of FY2016 Annual Work Program*

Patti Cullen, Executive Director, presented the evaluation of the FY2016 Annual Work Program, explaining that this work program was for the RVRC Staff. She then requested council approval of the Evaluation of the FY2016 Work Program

Tom Queen, Taylor County, made a motion to approve the Evaluation of the 2016 Annual Work Program as presented; James Morton, Cusseta-Chattahoochee County, seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Review/Approval of FY2017 Annual Work Program*

Patti Cullen, Executive Director, gave an overview of the RVRC Annual Work Program for FY2017. She explained that there may be changes made to the work program during the year as projects and grants are added, changed or removed.

Carol Rutland, Muscogee County, made a motion to approve the FY2017 Annual Work Program as presented; Mike Speight, Crisp County, seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Adopt Changes to the Policies and Procedures Manual*

Patti Cullen, Executive Director, presented the Policies and Procedures Manual reviewing the changes and additions to the council.

Mickey George, Macon County, made a motion to adopt the changes to the Policies and Procedures Manual; Harry Lange, Harris County, seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Evaluation of the RVRC Executive Director*

Clinton Perry, Jr., Chair, presented the evaluation of Patti Cullen, Executive Director of the RVRC. He explained the Executive Committee had evaluated her performance and found that she had done an excellent job leading the commission and the staff.

Mike Speight, Crisp County, made a motion to approve the evaluation; Richard Morris, Georgetown-Quitman County, seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Review/Approval of FY2017 Budget for RVRC*

Emily Chambers, Finance Officer, presented an overview of proposed FY2017 Annual Budget. She said the Executive Committee had met and reviewed the budget before the council meeting and recommended approval.

Harry Lange made a motion to approve the FY2017 budget as presented; Melvin Crimes, Webster County, seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Set Date, Time and Location of RVRC Council Meetings for FY2016*

Patti Cullen, Executive Director, suggest the council keep the same meeting time and location for council meetings, unless there were any objections, for FY17. The council decided to continue to hold council meetings on the 4th Wednesday of each month, at 10:30 a.m. in the Marion County Commission offices, in Buena Vista. No meeting will be held in July or December. The November meeting will be held on the third Wednesday due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

Harry Lange, Harris County, made a motion to approve the date time and location for the RVRC council meeting for FY17 and Melvin Crimes, Webster County, seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Adjourn

Clinton Perry, Jr. then adjourned the meeting.