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**RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING**

100 East Burkhalter Avenue

Buena Vista, Georgia

Minutes Summary

August 26, 2015

10:30 a.m.

**Members Attending/Representing**

(Representing 16 Counties)

A. J. Rivers, City of Cordele  
Carlton Wilson, City of Ellaville  
Dr. Carole Rutland, Muscogee County  
Cecil "Butch" McMickle, Marion County  
Chip Jones, Stewart County  
Clinton Perry, Jr., Taylor County, RVRC Chair  
Doug Ethridge, Harris County  
Eddie Daniels, City of Vienna  
Edward Lee, Cusseta-Chattahoochee County  
Evelyn Turner-Pugh, Muscogee County  
Fred Gordon, Muscogee County  
Freeman Montgomery, Talbot County  
George Moore, Webster County  
Harry Lange, Harris County  
James R. "Bump" Welch, Marion County  
Jason Hoch, Schley County  
Jim Lawrence, Cusseta-Chattahoochee County  
Jimmy Bradley, Randolph County  
Joe Lee Williams, Stewart County  
Knox Blackmar, City of Talbotton

Lawrence Young, Stewart County  
Lee Hubbard, Clay County  
Maggie McGruther, Sumter County  
Melvin Crimes, Webster County  
Mickey George, Macon County  
Mike Speight, Crisp County  
Nelson Brown, City of Americus  
Noel Williams, Crisp County  
Pam Jordan, Talbot County  
Patricia Goodman, Randolph County  
Ralph Brown, City of Buena Vista  
Randy Howard, Sumter County  
Rebecca Chambers, City of Hamilton  
Richard Morris, Georgetown-Quitman County  
Richard McCorkle, Marion County  
Steven F. Martin, City of Ft. Gaines  
Tommy McKenzie, Macon County  
Tom Queen, Taylor County  
Wally Summers, Sumter County

**Members Not Present**

Barry Whitley, City of Butler  
Bruce Hill, City of Oglethorpe  
Charles Gibson, City of Lumpkin  
Clark Henderson, Crisp County  
David Kinsey, Georgetown-Quitman County

Greg Barineau, Schley County  
James Morton, Cusseta-Chattahoochee County  
Jerry "Pops" Barnes, Muscogee County  
Steve Whatley, City of Cuthbert  
Terrell Hudson, Dooly County

**Others Present**

Gary Jones, Columbus Chamber of Commerce  
Jim Dove, NEGRC, Executive Director, GARC President  
Jo Childers, DCA

Candice Head, Georgia Department of Labor  
Ricky Hood, Hamilton Public Works  
Janet Joiner, Vienna, Community Development Director

**Staff Present**

Patti Cullen, Executive Director  
Sarah Walls, Assistant Executive Director  
Gerald Mixon, Planning Director  
Katie Howard, Comm. & Economic Director

Jim Livingston, Planner/Special Projects Coordinator  
Janice West, WIA Director  
Emily Chambers, Finance Officer  
Becky Holmes, Office Manager

### **WELCOME AND RECOGNITION OF VISITORS**

Clinton Perry, Jr., Chair, brought the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. and introduced the new officers for the 2016 fiscal year and thanked the council for giving him the opportunity to serve the region. He then welcomed everyone and asked visitors to introduce themselves. Gary Jones, Executive Vice President of Military Affairs for the Columbus Chamber of Commerce and Jim Dove, Northeast Georgia Regional Commission Executive Director and President of the Georgia Association of Regional Commissions (GARC) introduced themselves.

Richard Morris, Vice Chair, led the council in prayer and Mike Speight, Secretary, then led the council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **REVIEW/APPROVAL OF MINUTES\***

Clinton Perry requested council approval of the June 24, 2015 Council meeting minutes. A copy was included in the Council packets. Harry Lange made a motion to approve the council minutes as presented; Melvin Crimes seconded the motion. There being no opposition the motion carried.

### **SEQUESTRATION AND DEFENSE TRANSFORMATION**

Mr. Gary Jones, Executive Vice President of Military Affairs for the Columbus Chamber of Commerce gave a PowerPoint presentation explaining Sequestration and the Department of Defense Transformation and what it means for the region and the United States. A copy of the presentation was included with the Council packets.

### **GEORGIA ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COMMISSIONS (GARC) REPORT**

Mr. Jim Dove, Chair of the Georgia Association of Regional Commissions and Executive Director of Northeast Georgia Regional Commission, gave an update of the goals and activities of the GARC for the State.

### **ADOPT MISSION STATEMENT, VISION STATEMENT AND CORE VALUES TO INCLUDE IN CEDS' PROCESS\***

Katie Howard, Community and Economic Development Director, presented a proposed Mission Statement, Vision Statement and Core Values that were developed by the CEDS' committee for the overall Regional Commission. A copy was included in the Council packets. Harry Lange made a motion to adopt the Mission Statement, Vision State and Core Values as presented; Richard Morris seconded the motion. With there being no opposition the motion carried. Patti Cullen, Executive Director, these values and core values would be for the overall Regional Commission as well as in the CEDS' document.

### **APPOINTMENT OF PRIVATE SECTOR COUNCIL MEMBERS\***

Sarah Walls, Assistant Executive Director, informed the council that all private sector members had been contacted and were requested to serve another year as private sector members on the Council. All members agreed except Allen Fort who has moved out of the region. Jason Hoch has agreed to represent Schley County as a private sector member. Richard Morris made a motion to accept the private sector recommendations; George Moore seconded the motion. With there being no opposition the motion carried.

Sarah also reported on the progress being made on Martin Luther King, Jr. project and that D and J Plastic's loan funds had been dispersed. She said there would be a brief Loan Committee meeting immediately following the Council meeting.

### **CORPORATE RESOLUTIONS, BANK ACCOUNTS\***

Emily Chambers, Finance Officer, presented a resolution that would authorize updating the newly elected officers name's to all RVRC bank accounts. A copy of the resolution was included in the Council packets. Harry Lange made a motion to approve the resolution to update authorized signatures on all RVRC bank accounts; Evelyn Turner-Pugh seconded the motion. With there being no opposition the motion carried.

### **STAFF REPORTS**

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

Emily Chamber, Finance Officer; Gerald Mixon, Planning Director; Janice West, WIOA Director; and Patti Cullen, Executive Director who reported for the Area Agency on Aging and Community and Economic Development Departments) presented staff reports for their departments.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Patti announced that in June Tiffany Ingram, Area Agency on Aging Director, had resigned her position. Katie Howard, Community and Economic Development Director had been selected to fill this position. She noted that Katie had previously served in this position for 10 years. This resulted in Katie's position being vacant. Jim Livingston, presently Planner/Special Projects Coordinator was selected to fill the Community and Economic Development Director position.

The Department of Community Affairs announced Friday, August 21<sup>st</sup> the FY15 Community Development Block Grants that were funded. The River Valley region was awarded funding for nine (9) grants of which the staff wrote eight (8). Chair Perry recognized the RVRC staff for their outstanding job performance.

Patti Cullen, Executive Director, announced that long-time council member, Lawrence Young, had celebrated his 95<sup>th</sup> birthday in August. Mr. Young was congratulated and presented a birthday cake.

**ADJOURN**

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