



www.rivervalleyrc.org

**Columbus Office**

710 Front Avenue  
Suite A  
P. O. Box 1908  
Columbus, GA 31902  
Phone (706) 256-2910  
Fax (706) 256-2908

**Americus Office**

228 West Lamar Street  
Americus, GA 31709  
Phone (706) 256-2910  
Fax (229) 931-2745  
Fax (229) 931-2917

Toll Free (877) 819-6348

**RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING**

710 Front Avenue  
Suite A  
Columbus, Georgia  
Minutes Summary  
January 27, 2016  
10:30 a.m.

**Members Attending/Representing**

(Representing **16 Counties**)  
Barry Whitley, City of Butler  
Bruce Hill, City of Oglethorpe  
Chip Jones, Stewart County  
David Kinsey, Georgetown-Quitman County  
Dr. Carole Rutland, Muscogee County  
Doug Etheridge, Harris County  
Edward Lee, Cusseta-Chattahoochee County  
Fred Gordon, Muscogee County  
George Moore, Webster County  
Harry Lange, Harris County  
James Morton, Cusseta-Chattahoochee County  
Jeanie Barteel, City of Cordele  
Jerry "Pops" Barnes, Muscogee County  
Jim Lawrence, Cusseta-Chattahoochee County  
Joe Lee Williams, Stewart County  
Knox Blackmar, City of Talbotton  
Lee Hubbard, Clay County  
Maggie McGruther, Sumter County  
Melvin Crimes, Webster County  
Mickey George, Macon County  
Mike Speight, 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  
Terrell Hudson, Dooly County  
Tom Queen, Taylor County  
Tommy McKenzie, Macon County

**Members Not Present**

Carlton Wilson, City of Ellaville  
Cecil "Butch" McMickle, Marion County  
Clark Henderson, Crisp County

Evelyn Turner-Pugh, Muscogee County  
Freeman Montgomery, Talbot County  
Greg Barineau, Schley County  
Hobby Stripling, Vienna  
James R. "Bump" Welch, Marion County  
Jason Hoch, Schley County  
Jimmy Bradley, Randolph County  
Lawrence Young, Stewart County  
Nelson Brown, City of Americus  
Steven F. Martin, City of Ft. Gaines  
Steve Whatley, City of Cuthbert  
Clinton Perry, Jr., Taylor County, RVRC Chair  
Wally Summers, Sumter County

**Others Present**

A. J. Rivers, City of Cordele  
Candice Head, Georgia Department of Labor  
Dr. Gary Sprayberry, Columbus State University  
Ed Lee, Hearts for Families, Operations Manager  
Frank Braski, ColumbusMakesIT  
Franklin Etheridge, Randolph County, County Manager  
Janet Joiner, City of Vienna  
Judy Tucker, Columbus  
Jo Childers, Department of Community Affairs  
Ricky Hood, Hamilton Public Works  
Walt Turner, Mayor, City of Reynolds

**Staff Present**

Patti Cullen, Executive Director  
Sarah Walls, Assistant Executive Director  
Katie Howard, Area Agency on Aging Director  
Rick Morris, Planning Director  
Allison Slocum, Senior Planner/Historic Preservation Officer  
Janice West, WIOA Director  
Jim Livingston, Community and Economic Development Director  
Emily Chambers, 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 everyone to the meeting. Mike Speight, Secretary, requested prayer for employee Shameika Averett and her family due to the loss of her daughter, mother and step-brother. He then led the council in prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Patti Cullen, Executive Director, announced that A. J. Rivers did not run for re-election as a commissioner for the City of Cordele this year, noting that he would no longer be serving on the council at this time. However, she hoped he would be appointed soon to the council. She presented him with a plaque and thanked him for his 27 years of service to the region. She then introduced Ms. Jeanie Bartee who would be representing the City of Cordele.

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

Richard Morris requested Council approval of the November 18, 2015 council meeting minutes which were mailed or email to each council member the previous week for their review.

Harry Lange made a motion to approve the minutes as presented; Barry Whitley seconded the motion. By unanimous consent the motion carried.

### **DISCLOSURE OF EMPLOYEE'S BUSINESS TRANSACTIONS WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENTS (PER O.C.G.A. 50-8-63)**

Patti Cullen, Executive Director, explained that every year the RVRC is required, by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs, to disclose if any employee has had any business transactions with local governments within the region.

Patti requested permission to notify DCA (Georgia Department of Community Affairs) that there were none. George Moore made a motion to grant the request to notify DCA of this information; Joe Lee Williams seconded the motion. By unanimous consent the motion carried.

### **CHAIRMAN'S CERTIFICATE OF CLOSING OF 1428 SECOND AVENUE**

Ms. Cullen stated that even though Clinton Perry was not here today, the council could vote to approve the Chairman's Certificate allowing Mr. Perry to sign the needed paperwork for closing of 1428 Second Avenue. Terrell Hudson made the motion to approve the Chairman's Certificate; Harry Lange seconded the motion. By unanimous consent the motion carried.

### **VALIC PLAN AMENDMENT RESOLUTION**

Emily Chambers, Finance Officer, explained that the Internal Revenue Service has enacted new regulations for retirement plans. She said this would not have any monetary impacts to the RVRC's retirement fund. The updates from VALIC were included in the council packet for review.

Emily presented a VALIC Plan Amendment and Restatement of Retirement Plan Resolution for approval. Harry Lange made a motion to approve the resolution; Doug Etheridge seconded the motion. By unanimous consent the motion carried.

### **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AAA PROVIDERS FOR 2017-2020**

Katie Howard, Area Agency on Aging Director, explained that Request for Proposals for Service Providers had been reviewed and providers recommended. The list was included in the council packet for review.

Katie requested approval for selected Area Agency on Aging providers for 2017-2020. James Morton made a motion to approve the providers recommended; Jerry "Pops" Barnes seconded the motion. By unanimous consent the motion carried.

Mike Speight informed the council that Jim Livingston, Community and Economic Development Director, had given a presentation to the CEDS (Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy) committee before the council meeting. Mike recognized Katie Howard and thanked her for the many years of hard work she invested in the HWY 27 initiative.

### **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS ESTABLISH FLOW TARGETS FOR THE MIDDLE AND LOWER CHATTAHOOCHEE RIVER BASINS**

Dr. Carole Rutland, Columbus Water Works, Board of Water Commissioners, explained the need for establishing flow targets and the importance of these targets for the Middle and Lower Chattahoochee River Basins in order to keep our water clean.

She requested approval of the resolution requesting that the US Corps of Engineers to establish the flow targets for the Middle and Lower Chattahoochee River Basins. Terrell Hudson made a motion to approve the resolution; George Moore seconded the motion. By unanimous consent the motion carried.

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

**Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Video Clips**

Dr. Gary Sprayberry, Columbus State University, apologized that the video equipment was not compatible to the computer equipment and therefore was unable to show the interviews with area residents dealing with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. He then updated the council on the progress that is being made on interviews with citizens in the region about their experiences during the desegregation years. He thanked Pops Barnes for asking him to help with these projects.

**ColumbusMakesIT**

Mr. Frank Braski, co-founder of ColumbusMakesIT, gave a PowerPoint presentation showing projects and programs for adults and children using the ColumbusMakesIT space. He explained that ColumbusMakesIT provides many programs at this location and also many other locations in Columbus and the surrounding area.

**Other Business**

Patti Cullen, Executive Director, invited everyone to tour the new RVRC offices and the ColumbusMakesIT space also.

**ADJOURN**

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