



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.