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RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING

100 East Burkhalter Avenue
Buena Vista, Georgia
Minutes Summary
March 23, 2016
10:30 a.m.

Members Attending/Representing

(Representing 16 Counties)

Bruce Hill, City of Oglethorpe
Carlton Wilson, City of Ellaville
Clark Henderson, Crisp County
David Kinsey, Georgetown-Quitman County
Debbie Stone, Stewart County
Doug Etheridge, Harris County
Dr. Carole Rutland, Muscogee County
Edward Lee, Cusseta-Chattahoochee County
Evelyn Turner-Pugh, Muscogee County
George Moore, Webster County
Harry Lange, Harris County
Jason Hoch, Schley County
Hobby Stripling, Vienna
James R. "Bump" Welch, Marion County
James Morton, Cusseta-Chattahoochee County
Jeanie Barteel, City of Cordele
Jimmy Bradley, Randolph County
Knox Blackmar, City of Talbotton
Maggie McGruther, Sumter County
Melvin Crimes, Webster County
Mickey George, Macon County
Mike Speight, Crisp County, RVRC Secretary
Pam Jordan, Talbot County
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
Tommy McKenzie, Macon County
Wally Summers, Sumter County

Members Not Present

Barry Whitley, City of Butler
Clinton Perry, Jr., Taylor County, RVRC Chair
Chip Jones, Stewart County

Cecil "Butch" McMickle, Marion County
Greg Barineau, Schley County
Fred Gordon, Muscogee County
Freeman Montgomery, Talbot County
Jerry "Pops" Barnes, Muscogee County
Jim Lawrence, Cusseta-Chattahoochee County
Joe Lee Williams, Stewart County
Lawrence Young, Stewart County
Lee Hubbard, Clay County
Nelson Brown, City of Americus
Patricia Goodman, Randolph County
Rebecca Chambers, City of Hamilton
Steven F. Martin, City of Ft. Gaines
Steve Whatley, City of Cuthbert

Others Present

Dr. John Watford, President, South Georgia Technical College
Mr. Ed Lee, Community Involvement Specialist, Hearts for Families
Annie Leggett, Middle Flint Behavioral Health Manager
Jason Tinsley, County Manager, Marion County
A. J. Rivers, City of Cordele
John Brent, Harris County
Elaine Gillespie, Senator Bishop's Representative
Senator Johnny Isakson's Representative
Jo Childers, Department of Community Affairs
Candice Head, Georgia Department of Labor
Edwina Turner, Stewart County Family Connections

Staff Present

Patti Cullen, Executive Director
Sarah Walls, Assistant Executive Director
Rick Morris, Planning Director, Columbus Office
Gerald Mixon, Planning Director, Americus Office
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 and introduced Jason Tinsley who is the new County Manager for Marion County. Mike Speight, Secretary, then led the council in prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

REVIEW/APPROVAL OF MINUTES*

Richard Morris, Vice Chair, requested council approval of the February 24, 2016 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; Evelyn Turner-Pugh seconded the motion. By unanimous consent the motion carried.

SOUTH GEORGIA TECHNICAL COLLEGE INITIATIVES

Wally Summers, Sumter County, introduced Dr. John Watford, South Georgia Technical College's new President Dr. Watford updated the council on the new and ongoing initiatives at the college.

GEORGIA'S ALCOHOL ABUSE PROGRAM FOR THE RVRC REGION

Ed Lee, Community Involvement Specialist for the Hearts of Families organization, gave an informative PowerPoint presentation focusing on the dangers of alcohol abuse, especially in the under age of 21 group, and the negative impact it can have not only on their health but also their future.

Mr. Lee introduced Annie Leggett, Manager for Middle Flint Behavioral Health, who explained the activities that are ongoing in Americus and Cordele to educate our youth about the dangers of alcohol. She explained that one goal of Middle Flint Behavioral Health is to inform not only children and teenagers but also parents of the dangers of drinking and their child's health.

REVIEW (AND APPROVAL) OF THE REGIONAL WORK PROGRAM

Gerald Mixon, Planning Director, said RVRC staff began updating the Regional Work Program two months earlier and had incorporated suggestions into the plan from the RVRC region. He explained that it is a requirement that the work program be submitted to DCA by the end of the month. It was brought to his attention that Keep Columbus Beautiful has a recycling program in Columbus and the City of Americus also recycles. Richard Morris then requested council approval of the transmittal resolution for the Annual Update of the Regional Work Program 2016-2020 with the above mentioned additions. George Moore made a motion to approve the resolution; Harry Lange seconded the motion. Motion passed with 100 percent approval.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING TO FILE A GRANT APPLICATION, UNDER TITLE 49C, SECTION 5304

Gerald Mixon also requested authorization to file a grant application to apply for funding under Title 49C, Section 5304 thru the Georgia Department of Transportation. Funds will be used to prepare a bicycle and pedestrian plan for the City of Americus. Knox Blackmar made a motion to approve authorization to apply; Harry Lange seconded the motion. Motion passed with 100 percent approval.

STAFF REPORTS

Staff reports were presented by Emily Chambers, Finance Officer; Rick Morris, Planning Director; Jim Livingston, Community & Economic Development Director; and Janice West, WIOA Director.

ADJOURN

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