



#### Columbus Office

710 Front Avenue, Suite A  
P. O. Box 1908  
Columbus, GA 31902  
Phone (706) 256-2910  
Fax (706) 256-2908  
TDY (706)256-2944

#### Americus Office

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

[www.rivervalleyrc.org](http://www.rivervalleyrc.org)

## RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING

### Marion County Commission Office

100 East Burkhalter Avenue

Buena Vista, Georgia

Minutes Summary

March 22, 2017

#### Members Attending/Representing

(Representing 16 Counties)

A.J. Rivers, Crisp County  
Bruce Hill, City of Oglethorpe  
Carlton Wilson, City of Ellaville  
Chip Jones, Stewart County  
Clinton Perry, Jr., Taylor County, RVRC Chair  
Danny Blackman, Georgetown-Quitman County  
Debbie Stone, Stewart County  
Doug Etheridge, Harris County  
Dr. Carole Rutland, Muscogee County  
Dr. Edward Lee, Cusseta-Chattahoochee County  
Evelyn Turner Pugh, Muscogee County  
Fred Gordon, Muscogee County  
Harry Lange, Harris County  
Hobby Stripling, City of Vienna  
James R. "Bump" Welch, Marion County  
Jayson Griffin, Ameris Bank  
Jeanie Barte, City of Cordele  
Jerry "Pops" Barnes, Muscogee County  
Jimmy Bradley, Randolph County  
Joe Lee Williams, Stewart County  
Maggie McGruther, Sumter County  
Melvin Crimes, Webster County  
Mickey George, Macon County  
Pam Jordan, Talbot County  
Randy Howard, Sumter County  
Richard McCorkle, Marion County  
Sam Farrow, Jr., Crisp County  
Shirley Ann Christian, City of Fort Gaines  
Tameka Harris, Taylor County  
Terrell Hudson, Dooly County  
Tom Queen, Taylor County  
Tommy McKenzie, Macon County  
Tony Kennedy, Webster County  
Wally Summers, Sumter County

#### Members Not Present

Barry Whitley, City of Butler  
Carvel Lewis, Georgetown-Quitman County  
Cecil "Butch" McMickle, Marion County  
Freeman Montgomery, Talbot County  
Greg Barineau, Schley County  
James Morton, Cusseta-Chattahoochee County  
Jason Hoch, Schley County  
Jim Lawrence, Cusseta-Chattahoochee County  
Knox Blackmar, City of Talbotton  
Lee Hubbard, Clay County  
Nelson Brown, City of Americus  
Patricia Goodman, Randolph County  
Ralph Brown, City of Buena Vista  
Rebecca Chambers, City of Hamilton  
Steve Whatley, City of Cuthbert

#### Others Present

Kathy Burns, Representative for Sen. David Perdue  
Andrea Winston, New Horizons Behavioral Health  
Susan Gallagher, New Horizons Behavioral Health  
Mary Talukder, Environmental Compliance Spec.,  
GEPD  
Edwina Turner, Stewart County Family Connections  
Elaine Gillispie, Representative for Congressman  
Bishop  
Candy Head, GA Dept. of Labor Region 8  
Walter Rosso, Cusseta Chattahoochee County

#### Staff Present

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

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

Equal Opportunity Employer

### **Welcome and Recognition of Visitors**

Clinton Perry, Jr., Chair, brought the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. He welcomed the council and visitors. Jerry “Pops” Barnes, Secretary, lead the council in prayer and Randy Howard, Vice Chair, then led the council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Review and Approval of Minutes\***

Council reviewed the minutes of the February 22, 2017 council meeting. There being no changes to the minutes, Clinton Perry requested a motion to approve the minutes of the February 2017 meeting.

Harry Lange, Harris County, made a motion to approve the minutes as presented; Evelyn Turner-Pugh, Muscogee County, seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Presentation of Appreciation**

Patti Cullen, Executive Director, introduced Kathy Burns, Regional Representative for U.S. Senator David Perdue and thanked her for attending the meeting. Kathy Burns then asked Randy Howard, RVRC Vice Chair and Sumter County Chair, to join her at the podium. Ms. Burns read and then presented Mr. Howard with a Letter of Appreciation from Senator Perdue for his outstanding leadership in December, 2016 during the tragic deaths of two police officers in Americus.

Mr. Howard then accepted the Letter of Appreciation for the police officer’s families and the county. He also thanked Kathy Burns for all the assistance she had given the city during that time and for attending the funerals of both fallen officers.

### **Appointment of Nominating Committee Members\***

Clinton Perry, Chair, said it was time to select a nominating committee for the 2018 and 2019 fiscal years. He asked Ms. Cullen to read the list of nominations and to ask each person to stand. They were as follows: Dr. Carol Rutland, Muscogee County; Harry Lange, Harris County; Terrell Hudson, Dooly County; Melvin Crimes, Webster County; and Wally Summers, Sumter County. Ms. Cullen said each of the officers were eligible to serve another term. The Nominating Committee will report at the May meeting.

### **Scrap Tire Abatement Program**

Patti Cullen introduced Mary Talukder, Environmental Compliance Specialist at the Georgia Environmental Protection Department. Ms. Talukder explained the Scrap Tire Abatement Program and how to apply for the program money.

### **New Horizons Programs Update**

Susan E. Gallagher, New Horizons, gave a presentation explaining New Horizons Behavioral Health and the programs they offer in the communities. New Horizons serves Muscogee, Harris, Talbot, Stewart, Chattahoochee, Randolph Quitman, and Clay counties in the RVRC 16 county region. She said Middle Flint Behavioral Health serve the other eight eastern counties.

### **Appointment of Private Industry Representative\***

Patti Cullen, Executive Director, explained that in January there was some turn-over in the council due to elections, etc. She said that one vacancy remained for a Private Industry appointment. She asked that the Council appoint Jayson Griffin. Bruce Hill, City of Oglethorpe, made a motion to approve Jayson Griffin as a Private Industry Representative; Evelyn Turner Pugh seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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

**Appointment to the Revolving Loan Fund Committee\***

Patti Cullen requested that Jayson Griffin be appointed to the Revolving Loan Fund Committee as a second banker on that committee. Evelyn Turner Pugh made a motion to appoint Jayson Griffin to the Revolving Loan Fund Committee; Mickey George, Macon County, seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Staff Reports**

Emily Chambers, Finance Officer; Rick Morris, Planning Director; Jim Livingston, Community & Economic Development Director; and Katie Howard, AAA Director, gave staff reports for their department.

**Adjourn**

Randy Howard, Vice Chair, requested a motion to adjourn. Harry Lange, Harris County, made a motion to adjourn; Melvin Crimes seconded the motion.