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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

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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.

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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.