



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
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

**RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING
Marion County Commission Office
Synopsis
January 25, 2016**

Members Attending/Representing

(Representing 16 Counties)

A.J. Rivers, Crisp County
Bruce Hill, City of Oglethorpe
Carlton Wilson, City of Ellaville
Carvel Lewis, Georgetown-Quitman County
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 Morton, Cusseta-Chattahoochee County
James R. "Bump" Welch, Marion County
Jeanie Barteel, City of Cordele
Jerry "Pops" Barnes, Muscogee County
Jimmy Bradley, Randolph 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
Nelson Brown, City of Americus
Patricia Goodman, Randolph County
Ralph Brown, City of Buena Vista
Randy Howard, Sumter County
Richard McCorkle, Marion 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
Cecil "Butch" McMickle, Marion County
Freeman Montgomery, Talbot County
Greg Barineau, Schley County
Jason Hoch, Schley County
Jim Lawrence, Cusseta-Chattahoochee County
Pam Jordan, Talbot County
Rebecca Chambers, City of Hamilton
Steve Whatley, City of Cuthbert
Sam Farrow, Jr., Crisp County

Others Present

David Worley, Evangelista Worley, LLC
Kimberly Reid, Lawson Reid Law Group
Lisa Medellin, HealthCare Georgia Foundation, Inc.
Andrea Winston, New Horizons Behavioral Health
Susan Gallagher, New Horizons Behavioral Health
Paul Farr, South Georgia Technical College

Kenny Calhoun, Director, Dooly Co. Emergency Management Svs.
Jason Lawson, Director, Middle Flint Regional E-911
Walter Rosso, Cusseta-Chattahoochee County Commissioner
Edwina Turner, Stewart County Family Connections
Krystal Heath, Sumter County Family Connections
Elaine Gillispie, Representative for Senator Bishop

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
Janice West, WIOA Director
Tammy Collins, Finance Officer
Becky Holmes, Office Manager

Welcome and Recognition of Visitors

Clinton Perry, Chair, brought the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. Mr. Perry welcomed the council and visitors. He asked new council members and visitors to introduce themselves. Jerry “Pops” Barnes, Muscogee County, then led the council in prayer and Harry Lange, Harris County, led the council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Review and Approval of Minutes*

Council reviewed the minutes of the November 16, 2016 council meeting. There being no changes to the minutes, Terrell Hudson, Dooly County, made a motion to approve the minutes as presented; Harry Lange, Harris County, seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

E-911 Litigation

David Worley, Evangelista Worley, LLC gave an update on progress being made in the E-911 litigation suit to determine collection and distribution of funds.

Kimberly Reid, Lawson Reid Law Group, also thanked Patti Cullen and the staff of the RVRC for assisting the counties in their efforts in compiling all the information needed for the suit to be filed.

Rural Healthcare Initiatives

Lisa Medellin, HealthCare Georgia Foundation, Inc., presented information about how the Healthcare Georgia Foundation is funded. She said that their mission is “to advance the health of all Georgians and to expand access to affordable, quality healthcare for underserved individuals and communities”. She explained the funding opportunities under the Two Georgia’s Initiative.

Disclosure of Employee’s Business Transactions with Local Governments for Calendar Year 2016

Patti Cullen, Executive Director, explained that each year RVRC employees are required by law to complete a Disclosure of Employee’s Transactions with Local Governments form. She explained that all employees of the River Valley Regional Commission have been informed of the disclosure requirements and that there were no disclosures made from employees. A vote by the Council was not required.

Appointment of Nominating Committee for Officers

Clinton Perry, Chair, appointed Nominating Committee members to nominate council members to fill the unexpired terms of the Vice Chair and Secretary. He appointed Harry Lange, Harris County; Terrell Hudson, Dooly County; and Carol Rutland, Speaker of the House Appointee. A vote by the Council was not required. He asked that they bring back their nominations to the February Council meeting.

Policies and Procedures Manual Proposed Changes

Emily Chambers, Finance Officer, explained that the RVRC had joined HR Express sponsored by the Georgia Municipal Association. Staff has participated in several webinars given by Elarbee Thompson Law Firm that gave suggestions and advice on items needed in Policies and Procedures Manuals. She said changes to the RVRC Policies and Procedures Manual were needed in order to remain current with the different laws. Emily said the Executive Committee had reviewed the changes in detail. She presented the changes to the council. (The manual with changes marked were also emailed/mailed to council members the previous week.) Chair Perry then asked for a motion to approve the changes to the River Valley Regional Commission’s Policies and Procedures Manual. James Morton, Cusseta-Chattahoochee County, made the motion to approve; Knox Blackmar, City of Talbotton, seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Staff Reports

Emily Chambers, Finance Officer; Katie Howard, Area Agency on Aging Director; Rick Morris, Planning Director; Janice West, WIOA Director, and Jim Livingston, Community and Economic Development Director presented staff reports for their departments.

Other Business

Patti Cullen, Executive Director, thanked everyone for attending the meeting and said it was the largest number of councilmembers present at a council meeting. She also explained that the February meeting would be “councilmember training”. She invited everyone to attend and get information about their role as a councilmember and the resources the RVRC has to assist communities.

Adjourn

Chair Clinton Perry asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Terrell Hudson, Dooly County, made a motion to adjourn, Jerry “Pops” Barnes, Muscogee County, seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned.

February 22, 2017

Date

Clinton Perry, Jr., Chair

Richard Morris, Vice-Chair