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RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING
Marion County Commission Office
100 East Burkhalter Avenue, Buena Vista, Georgia
Summary
January 24, 2018

Members Attending/Representing

(Representing 15 Counties)
A.J. Rivers, Crisp County
Carlton Wilson, City of Ellaville
Cecil “Butch” McMickle, Marion County
Chip Jones, Stewart County
Dr. Carole Rutland, Muscogee County
Dr. Edward Lee, Cusseta-Chattahoochee County
Doug Etheridge, Harris County
Evelyn Turner Pugh, Muscogee County
Harry Lange, Harris County
James Morton, Cusseta-Chattahoochee County
James R. “Bump” Welch, Marion County
Jayson Griffin, Macon 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
Patricia Goodman, Randolph County
Randy Howard, Sumter County
Tameka Harris, Taylor County
Terrell Hudson, Dooly County, ACCG
Tom Queen, Taylor County
Walt Rosso, Cusseta-Chattahoochee County

Staff Present

Patti Cullen, Executive Director
Sarah Walls, Assistant Executive Director
Allison Slocum, Senior Planner
Emily Chambers, Finance Officer
Gerald Mixon, Planning Director
Janice West, WIOA Director
Jim Livingston, Community & Economic Dev. Dir.
Joel Hanif, Regional Planner
Katie Howard, Area Agency on Aging Director
Tammy Collins, Finance Officer
Becky Holmes, Office Manager

Members Not Present

Barry Whitley, City of Butler
Bruce Hill, City of Oglethorpe
Carvel Lewis, Georgetown-Quitman County
Clinton Perry, Jr. Taylor County, RVRC Chair
Danny Blackmon, Georgetown-Quitman County
Fred Gordon, Muscogee County
Freeman Montgomery, Talbot County
Greg Barineau, Schley County
Hobby Stripling, City of Vienna
Jason Hoch, Schley County
Jeanie Bartee, City of Cordele
Jerry “Pops” Barnes, Muscogee County
Nelson Brown, City of Americus
Pam Jordan, Talbot County
Ralph Brown, City of Buena Vista
Rebecca Chambers, City of Hamilton
Richard McCorkle, Marion County
Sam Farrow, Jr., Crisp County
Steve Whatley, City of Cuthbert
Tony Kennedy, Webster County
Wally Summers, Sumter County

Others Present

Ed Horner, SCORE Counselor
Matt Berry, Cattlemen’s Association
Kathy Burns, Senator Perdue’s Representative
Elaine Gillispie, Congressman Bishop’s Representative
Laura Gower, Senator Johnny Isakson’s Representative
Sarah Lee Crumbs, Georgetown-Quitman Co. Family Connections Coordinator
Susan Gallagher, New Horizons Behavioral Health
Edwina Turner, Stewart Co. Family Connections Coordinator
Trey Wilkerson, City of Columbus Planning Department
Lindsey Glisson, Deputy Clerk of Council, Muscogee County
Mac Moye, Stewart County Manager
Joseph B. Williams, Stewart County
David Kinsey, Georgetown-Quitman County
Candy Head, GA Department of Labor
Janet Joiner, City of Vienna
Debbie Stone, City of Lumpkin

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[Quitman](#) | [Randolph](#) | [Schley](#) | [Stewart](#) | [Sumter](#) | [Talbot](#) | [Taylor](#) | [Webster](#)

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Welcome and Recognition of Visitors

Randy Howard, Vice Chair, brought the meeting to order. He welcomed everyone and recognized visitors. He then asked Harry Lange, Harris County, to lead the council in prayer and Chip Jones, Stewart County, to lead the council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Review and Approval of Minutes*

Council reviewed the minutes of the November 29, 2017 council meeting that was mailed or emailed to council members the previous week, for their review.

There being no additions or changes, Randy Howard, Vice Chair, requested a motion to approve the November 29, 2017 council minutes. Walt Rosso, Cusseta-Chattahoochee County, made a motion to approve the minutes as presented; Knox Blackmar, City of Talbotton, seconded the motion. The motion passed with no opposition.

SCORE-A Resources for You and Businesses in Your Community

Ed Horner, SCORE Counselor, gave a PowerPoint presentation, explaining that SCORE is a network of retired business men and women that are volunteering to help entrepreneurs start small businesses and help existing businesses achieve success. He explained that it is a free service and welcomed anyone with questions or needs to contact him. He left business cards with his contact information.

Agricultural Initiatives in the Region

Matt Berry, Cattlemen's Association-SOWGA, spoke to the council about Agricultural Initiatives in the Region. He said the Georgia Cattlemen's Association uses a three legged approach to meet the needs of cattlemen: Education, Social and Legislative. He said Sumter County is opening a Sale Barn within the next couple of weeks. This will allow cattlemen to sell livestock more frequently and they will be able to sell any number of cattle at a time. The Sale Barn will help the community not only with the sale of cattle but will bring more revenue into the county thru the sale of food, gas, groceries, hotels, etc. as cattlemen travel to the facility.

Disclosure of Employee's Business Transactions with Local Governments for Calendar Year 2017 (per O.C.G.A. 50-8-63)*

Patti Cullen, Executive Director, explained that every year the RVRC is required, by Law, 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 no business transactions between RVRC employees and local governments. Evelyn Turner-Pugh, Muscogee County, made a motion to approve the request to notify DCA of this information; Harry Lange, Harris County, seconded the motion. The motion passed with no opposition.

Approval of HIPPA Policy

Katie Howard, Area Agency on Aging Director, presented the AAA HIPPA Policy and requested council's approval. She explained that it was necessary to have a HIPPA policy in place due to the sensitive information (social security numbers, Medicaid numbers, etc.) used in the Aging

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Department. Patti Cullen, Executive Director, mentioned that a HIPPA policy would also be adopted at a later date for the remaining RVRC employees.

Randy Howard, Vice Chair, requested a motion to approve the AAA HIPPA Policy. Harry Lange, Harris County, made a motion to approve the policy; Terrell Hudson, Dooly County, seconded the motion. The motion passed with no opposition.

New Horizons Behavioral Health-Stakeholders Satisfaction Surveys

Susan Gallagher, New Horizons Behavioral Health, gave out a Community Needs Assessment Survey. She requested that everyone complete the survey to enable New Horizons to know what the greatest needs of each community are. She collected the surveys at the close of the meeting.

Budget Amendment

Emily Chambers, Finance Officer, presented Budget Amendment 1 which includes the corrected contract amounts for all known Federal and State contracts. The overall result of the budget amendment is a total projected increase in fund balances of \$25,786. She said this amount is a decrease of about \$13,000 from the original budget, largely due to a twenty percent increase in health insurance costs that went into effect January 1, 2018. The General Fund's projected change in fund balance decreased by \$18,154, and the Proprietary Funds' projected change in net position increased by \$4,798. Emily Chambers said the Executive Committee had met prior to the Council meeting to review the amendment and they recommended approval of Budget Amendment 1.

Randy Howard, Vice Chair, requested a motion to accept Budget Amendment 1. Patricia Goodman, Randolph County, made a motion to accept Budget Amendment 1; Melvin Crimes, Webster County, seconded the motion. The motion passed with no opposition.

Regional Plan Exercise

Allison Slocum, Senior Planner, introduced Trey Wilkerson, City of Columbus Planning Department, who was attending the council meeting. With the help of Trey Wilkerson, voting members on the council members were asked to vote on 9 questions, via an Audience Response System, concerning what they feel the needs are in the region. Allison explained the information will be used to continue to compile information for the RVRC Regional Plan.

ADJOURN

Patti Cullen, Executive Director, welcomed new council member Walter Rosso from Cusseta-Chattahoochee County to the council.

There being no further business to come before the council, Randy Howard, Vice Chair, requested a motion to adjourn. Terrell Hudson, Dooly County, made a motion to adjourn; Tom Queen, Taylor County, seconded the motion. The meeting then adjourned.