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RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING
Marion County Commission Office
100 East Burkhalter Avenue, Buena Vista, Georgia
Minutes Summary
September 27, 2017

Members Attending/Representing

(Representing 16 Counties)
A.J. Rivers, Crisp County
Barry Whitley, City of Butler
Bruce Hill, City of Oglethorpe
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
Jason Hoch, Schley County
Jayson Griffin, Macon County
Jeanie Barte, City of Cordele
Jerry "Pops" Barnes, Muscogee County
Jim Lawrence, Cusseta-Chattahoochee County
Joe Lee Williams, Stewart County
Knox Blackmar, City of Talbotton
Lee Hubbard, Clay County
Maggie McGruther, Sumter County
Melvin Crimes, Webster County
Nelson Brown, City of Americus
Patricia Goodman, Randolph County
Randy Howard, Sumter County
Richard McCorkle, Marion County
Shirley Ann Christian, City of Fort Gaines
Tameka Harris, Taylor County
Terrell Hudson, Dooly County, ACCG
Tom Queen, Taylor County
Tony Kennedy, Webster County
Wally Summers, Sumter County

Members Not Present

Carlton Wilson, City of Ellaville
Carvel Lewis, Georgetown-Quitman County
Cecil "Butch" McMickle, Marion County
Chip Jones, Stewart County

Clinton Perry, Jr. Taylor County, RVRC Chair
Freeman Montgomery, Talbot County
Greg Barineau, Schley County
James Morton, Cusseta-Chattahoochee County
James R. "Bump" Welch, Marion County
Jimmy Bradley, Randolph County
Mickey George, Macon County
Pam Jordan, Talbot County
Ralph Brown, City of Buena Vista
Rebecca Chambers, City of Hamilton
Sam Farrow, Jr., Crisp County
Steve Whatley, City of Cuthbert
Tommy McKenzie, Macon County

Others Present

Morgan Law, GA Chamber of Commerce
Laura Gower, Representative for Senator Johnny Isakson
Kathy Burns, Senator Perdue's Representative
Elaine Gillispie, Congressman Bishop's Representative
Sarah Lee Crumbs, Georgetown-Quitman County Family
Connections Coordinator
Edwina Turner, Stewart County Family Connections
Candy Head, GA Department of Labor, Region 8
Casey Beane, DCA Representative, Region 8
Jason Lawson, Middle Flint E-911 Authority, Director
Vicki Wainwright, City of Butler
Janet Joiner, City of Vienna
Ronnie Crozier, County Administrator, Clay County
Ricky Hood, City of Hamilton
John Brent, Harris County
Ms. Karen Blackmon, Georgetown-Quitman

Staff Present

Patti Cullen, Executive Director
Sarah Walls, Assistant Executive Director
Emily Chambers, Finance Officer
Kia Barrow, ADRC Program Manager
Jim Livingston, Community & Economic Development Dir.
Janice West, WIOA Director
Ansley Fitzner, Planner
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

Randy Howard, Vice Chair, brought the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. in the absence of Clinton Perry, Jr., Chair. He welcomed everyone and requested Jerry “Pops” Barnes, Secretary, lead the council in prayer. Bruce Hill, Mayor of Oglethorpe (Macon County), led the council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Review and Approval of Minutes*

Council reviewed the minutes of the August 28, 2017 council meeting which were mailed or emailed to council members the previous week for their review.

Harry Lange, Harris County, made a motion to approve the minutes as presented; Terrell Hudson, Dooly County, seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Review and Approval of FTA Section 5304 Project Application*

Patti Cullen, Executive Director, requested approval of a resolution authorizing the filing of an FTA Section 5304 Project Application with the Georgia Department of Transportation. She noted that it is standard funding each year.

Patricia Goodman, Randolph County, made a motion to approve the resolution authorizing the filing of the 5304 project application; Harry Lange, Harris County, seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Georgia 2030 – Regional Outlook

Patti Cullen, Executive Director, introduced Morgan Law, CEcD, who is the Vice President of Strategic Initiatives at the Georgia Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Law gave a PowerPoint presentation explaining many of the challenges Georgia faces in rural areas such as better education to meet industry needs, child poverty level and drug abuse. He said the top job fields in the future will be health care, construction, computers and math, and community and social services. Mr. Law said a Rural Prosperity Summit will be held November 29th and 30th in Tifton, Georgia and invited everyone to attend.

Review and Approval of Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy*

Jim Livingston, Community and Economic Development Director, gave a presentation of the proposed Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) document to be submitted to the Economic Development Administration (EDA). He explained the document can be viewed at <https://garc.maps.arcgis.com/apps/Cascade/index.html?appid=1a4494ae6594e9a96696056911f363b>.

Jim then requested approval of the council to submit the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) document. Harry Lange, Harris County, made a motion to approve submittal of the CEDS document; Melvin Crimes, Webster County, second the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Staff Reports

Patti announced that nine communities in the River Valley Regional Commission (RVRC) area received Community Development Block Grant funding this year. Five of these projects were written by RVRC staff for the communities of Cordele, Pine Mountain, Montezuma, Reynolds and Talbotton. She congratulated each of the communities on successful applications.

Emily Chambers, Finance Director; Janice West, WIOA Director; and Kia Barrow, ADRC Program Manager (Aging Department) presented staff reports for their departments.

Patti reminded everyone that the Georgia Association of Regional Commission’s (GARC) Conference will be held November 8th -10th at St. Simons Island. She urged all that could attend to start making plans. She also announced that a Martin Luther King, Jr. committee meeting would be held immediately following the council meeting. Several members announced events happening in their cities.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the council, Harry Lange, Harris County, made a motion to adjourn; Dr. Fred Gordon, seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.

Date

Clinton Perry, Jr., Chair

Jerry “Pops” Barnes, Secretary