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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](#)

### **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 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> -10<sup>th</sup> 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.

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Date

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Clinton Perry, Jr., Chair

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Jerry “Pops” Barnes, Secretary