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RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING
River Valley Regional Commission, Online & In-Person Meeting
February 24, 2021
10:30 A.M.
Minutes Summary

Representing 16 Counties

Members Attending in Office

Randy Howard, Sumter, RVRC Chairman	Jayson Griffin, Macon	Melvin Crimes, Webster
Bruce Hill, Oglethorpe, RVRC Secretary	Jerry "Pops" Barnes, Muscogee, RVRC Vice Chairman	Mickey George, Macon
Chip Jones, Stewart	Joe Lee Williams, Stewart	Tameka Harris, Taylor
Damon Hoyte, Chattahoochee	Julie Brown, Hamilton	Terrell Hudson, Dooly
Dr. Edward Lee, Chattahoochee	Knox Blackmar, Talbotton	Tom Queen, Taylor
		Eugene Cason, Dooly

Members Attending via Teleconference

Bryon Hickey, Muscogee	Kenneth Sumter, Ft. Gaines	Rebecca White, Randolph
Carvel Lewis, Quitman	Kevin Brown, Buena Vista	Richard McCorkle, Marion
Doug Etheridge, Harris	Maggie McGruther, Sumter	Sher'Londa Walker, Talbot
Eddie Moore, Quitman	Matt Gunnels, Marion	Wesley Williams, Randolph
Greg Dominy, Ellaville	Pam Jordan, Talbot	

Members Not Attending

A.J. Rivers, Crisp	Gerald Douglas, Chattahoochee	Skip Henderson, Muscogee
Barry Whitley, Butler	James Davenport, Clay	Steve Whatley, Cuthbert
Danny Blackmon, Quitman	James R. "Bump" Welch, Marion	Rob Grant, Harris
Darrell Holbrook, Webster	Jeanie Bartee, Cordele	Bill McClellan, Schley
Eddie Daniels, Vienna	Jimmy Babb, Lumpkin	Mark Waddell, Sumter
	Nelson Brown, Americus	Sam Farrow, Crisp

Others Attending via Video Call

Nick DiLuzio, NewFields	Janet Joiner, Vienna	Michael Bowens, Vienna
David McCoy, Clifton Lipford Hardison & Parker LLC	Clara Hall, Phoebe Putney Health System	Janice Jarvis, Sumter

Staff Members

Jim Livingston, Executive Director	Emily Chambers, Finance Officer	Tenisha Tookes, WIOA
Sarah Walls, Assist. Executive Director	Janice West, WIOA Director	Camille Bielby, Planner
Katie Howard, AAA Director	Allison Slocum, Senior Planner	Becky Holmes, Office Manager
Rick Morris, Planning Director	John Morgan, Bike-Ped Planner	
Gerald Mixon, Planning Director	Mariyana Kostov, GIS	

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, Chairman, brought the River Valley Regional Commission meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. He thanked everyone for joining the meeting either in person or by teleconference. Those joining by tele-conference were able to ask questions by e-chat or by messaging Jim Livingston, Executive Director, on his cell phone.

Jerry "Pops" Barnes, Vice Chairman, then gave the invocation and Bruce Hill, Secretary, led the council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES*

Council reviewed minutes of the January 27, 2021 council meeting which were either mailed or emailed to council members the previous week for their review. The minutes were also included in the council packets available at the meeting.

There being no additions or changes, Randy Howard, Chairman, requested a motion to approve the January 27, 2021 council minutes.

Julie Brown, City of Hamilton, made the motion to approve the January 27, 2021 minutes as presented; Chip Jones, Stewart County, seconded the motion. The motion passed with no opposition.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF FY2020 INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT*

David McCoy, CPA, from the auditing firm of Clifton, Lipford, Hardison & Parker, LLC, attended the meeting to review the FY2020 (year ending June 30, 2020) Comprehensive Annual Financial Report compiled by the River Valley Regional Commission finance staff and independently audited by their firm. Mr. McCoy explained that, despite the challenges in working with COVID and new funding sources, the RVRC received an unmodified opinion, which is the highest opinion possible.

It was noted that the audit report is on the RVRC website for further review. For any questions, please contact Emily Chambers, Finance Officer, at 706-256-2910.

Randy Howard, Chairman, then asked for a motion to accept the FY2020 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR).

Knox Blackmar, City of Talbotton, made the motion to approve the FY2020 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report as presented; Jerry "Pops" Barnes, Muscogee County, seconded the motion. The motion passed with no opposition.

RESOLUTION TO ENTER INTO FY22 CONTRACT WITH DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES (DHS) FOR THE PROVISION OF AGING SERVICES AND ADOPTION OF AGING AREA PLAN*

Katie Howard, AAA Director presented the Area Agency on Aging's Area Plan, which is required to be updated every five years, and the resolution to enter into the FY22 contract with the Department of Human Services (DHS) for the provision of aging services.

Randy Howard, Chairman, then asked for a motion to approve the resolution to enter into an FY22 contract with the DHS for the provision of aging services and an adoption of the Area Agency on Aging's Area Plan as presented.

Carvel Lewis, Quitman County, made the motion to approve the resolution to enter into an FY22 contract with the DHS for the provision of aging services and an adoption of the Area Agency on Aging's Area Plan as presented; Knox Blackmar, Talbotton, seconded the motion. The motion passed with no opposition.

BROWNFIELD UPDATE

Nick DiLuzio, NewFields, updated the council on the current status of the Brownfield's project. Mr. DiLuzio explained there are 3 phases in the review and submitting of documentation of properties. He said it is currently in the process of reviewing and submitting documentation on properties in Crisp, Dooly, Macon and Sumter counties.

Phase 1. The purpose of the Phase I is Site Assessment. This is find out the likelihood that environmental contamination is present at a site, which is determined by a thorough site investigation. This assessment includes a visual site assessment, an interview with past and present owners/occupants, a search for any environmental liens, a review of historical documents, and a search of databases regarding contamination at or near the site. Findings in the Phase I report determine whether or not further investigation is warranted.

Phase 2: Phase II Site Investigations include a more thorough review of site conditions which may include performing collecting soil samples; installing water monitoring wells and collecting groundwater samples from each well; and analyzing all samples for the presence of contaminants. This allows for a more comprehensive report of what contaminants are present on the property (as well as how much).

Phase 3: Phase III Investigation and Remedial Action Plan is typically the final stage of a Brownfields Assessment Program. Phase III investigations may consist of additional collection of samples and continued investigation of any anomalies discovered during the Phase II investigation. A Remedial Action Plan is then determined. This plan consists of a Soils and Material Management Plan for off-site disposal or on-site reuse of impacted soil, suggestions for ongoing groundwater monitoring, a list of permit requirements needed to engage in remedial action, and suggestions for the use of institutional controls such as activity use restrictions.

Mr. DiLuzio said when these possible problems are take care of many developers will be more interested in planning future developments in the area.

TRANSPORTATION INVESTMENT ACT UPDATE

Jim Livingston, Executive Director of the RVRC gave the council an update on the latest changes to the TIA Roundtable. The full River Valley Roundtable met in February and discussed two items: selecting a chairman and updating the Roundtable on Columbus' position regarding the initiative. Carvel Lewis was selected to be the new River Valley TIA Roundtable Chairman. The Executive Committee members for the River Valley TIA Roundtable are: Carvel Lewis, George Neal, Barry Blount, Micky George and Skip Henderson. Mayor Henderson also gave the full Roundtable an update on Columbus' position on the TSPOST renewal effort. He reported that the Columbus is going to take the same neutral stance it did in the previous effort in 2012.

STAFF REPORTS

Sarah Walls, Assistant Executive Director; reported that the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Initiatives Update has been completed, approved by the CEDS committee, the RVRC Council and has now been submitted to Economic Development Administration.

New EDA Regional Planners, Camille Bielby and Savannah Brown, are working hard to familiarize themselves in areas of transportation and the EDA COVID-19 Supplemental Planning Grant. They are also assisting with the upcoming city/county managers meeting.

Emily Chambers, Finance Officer, reported that through December of 2020 the RVRC has had a net increase in fund balance in the operating funds of \$38,414. We are slightly below the fifty-percent target of budgeted expenditures for the first half of the year at 47.6% in the General Fund and 46% in the Internal Service Fund. Revenues in the General Fund are at 45% of the budgeted amount. Total Unassigned Fund Balance in the General Fund is \$820,548 dollars, \$620,000 of which is cash balance. Our loan funds are doing well this year, with a net income of \$8,405 at December 31. Net position of these Enterprise Funds as of December 31, 2021 was \$1.157 million.

[Chattahoochee](#) | [Clay](#) | [Crisp](#) | [Dooly](#) | [Harris](#) | [Macon](#) | [Marion](#) | [Muscogee](#)
[Quitman](#) | [Randolph](#) | [Schley](#) | [Stewart](#) | [Sumter](#) | [Talbot](#) | [Taylor](#) | [Webster](#)

Katie Howard, AAA Director, stated that staff continues to work remotely but there has not been a change in the quality of services provided to seniors and people with disabilities. She reported that the FY22 Area Plan will be completed and delivered to the Division of Aging Service on March 1, 2021. Katie explained that senior centers have remained closed but several have held outside parties to ensure safety and compliance with CDC recommendations.

Rick Morris, Planning Director, reported that the planning depart has continued to work on various local plans and updates to some plans. Staff attended REMI Broadband Expansion and Rural Economic Development webinar on using an economic impact model to project potential benefits of broadband investments. Zoning, GIS, environmental planning, and historic preservation projects continue.

Janice West, WIOA Director, reported that as of February 12, 2021 132 people are being served and that service providers continue to actively conduct WIOA outreach and recruitment efforts. Staff has been busy preparing for the annual state monitoring during March 1-5 which will be done virtually due to COVID-19. November 2020 unemployment rates are 6.2% in the region compared to 3.5% in November 2019, reflecting the increase in unemployment because of the pandemic.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the council, Randy Howard, Vice Chairman, requested a motion to adjourn.

Jerry “Pops” Barnes, Muscogee County, made the motion to adjourn the meeting; Tameka Harris, Taylor County, seconded the motion. The meeting was then closed.

March 24, 2021

Date

Randy Howard, RVRC Chairman

Bruce Hill, RVRC Secretary