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

**Representing 15 Counties**

**Members Attending in Office**

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

**Members Attending via Teleconference**

Bryon Hickey, Muscogee	Kenneth Sumter, Ft. Gaines	Pam Jordan, Talbot
Doug Etheridge, Harris	Kevin Brown, Buena Vista	Rebecca White, Randolph
Eddie Moore, Quitman	Maggie McGruther, Sumter	Wesley Williams, Randolph

**Members Not Attending**

A.J. Rivers, Crisp	Greg Dominy, Ellaville	Nelson Brown, Americus
Barry Whitley, Butler	James Davenport, Clay	Richard McCorkle, Marion
Bill McClellan, Schley	James R. "Bump" Welch, Marion	Rob Grant, Harris
Danny Blackmon, Quitman	Jeanie Bartee, Cordele	Sam Farrow, Crisp
Eddie Daniels, Vienna	Jimmy Babb, Lumpkin	Skip Henderson, Muscogee
Charles Coffee, Chattahoochee	Mark Waddell, Sumter	Steve Whatley, Cuthbert
	Matt Gunnels, Marion	Sher'Londa Walker, Talbot

**Others Attending via Video Call**

Abby Cox, Department of Aging Services	Tom Horn, Columbus Water Works	Mac Moyer, Stewart County
Paul Farr, South GA Tech	Toya Tucker, Columbus City Councilor	Janet Joiner, Vienna

**Staff Members**

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

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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.

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 February 24, 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 that were available at the meeting.

There being no additions or changes, Randy Howard, Chairman, requested a motion to approve the February 24, 2021 council minutes, as presented.

Carvel Lewis, Quitman County, made the motion to approve the February 24, 2021 minutes as presented; Mickey George, Macon County, seconded the motion. The motion passed with no opposition.

**REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF FY2021 Department of Community Affairs Work Program -**

Gerald Mixon, Planning Director, presented the FY2021 Department of Community Affairs Work Program. He explained this plan is updated every 5 years. The Work Program was emailed one week earlier and was included in the council packets that were available at the meeting. Gerald explained no action was needed by the council at this time.

**RESOLUTION TO REQUEST DE-FEDERALIZATION OF EDA REVOLVING LOAN FUND\***

Sarah Walls, Assistant Executive Director reported EDA has stated that the RVRC is eligible to apply to request de-federalization of the EDA Revolving Loan Fund. She explained that quarterly and finance reports would no longer be mandatory and that the federal constraints to the funding would no longer be applicable. The resolution was emailed one week earlier and was included in the council packets that were available at the meeting.

Randy Howard, Chairman, requested a motion to approve the resolution to request de-federalization of the EDA Revolving Loan Fund.

Mickey George, Macon County, made the motion to approve the resolution to request de-federalization of the EDA Revolving Loan Fund as presented, Carvel Lewis, Quitman County, seconded the motion. The motion passed with no opposition.

**GEORGIA’S AGING SERVICES IN COVID TIMES – Abby Cox, Director, Department of Aging Services**

Jim Livingston, Executive Director, introduce Abby Cox, Director, Department of Aging Services. Ms. Cox said she was thankful for such a strong aging network and thanked Katie and staff for their hard work during the pandemic.

Abby Cox is the Director of the Department of Human Services (DHS), Division of Aging Services (DAS). Ms. Cox gave a PowerPoint presentation explaining the department supports the larger goals of DHS by assisting older individuals, at-risk adults, persons with disabilities, their families and caregivers to achieve safe, healthy, independent and self-reliant lives. DAS administers a statewide system of services for older adults, their families and caregivers. The Division of Aging’s vision is living longer, living safely and living well. She explained that some of the services that the Pandemic

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has impacted are in-home services, senior centers, Adult Day Care and caregiver support. DAS is working through COVID, isolation and loneliness, social solutions and Adult Protective Services for all seniors in the state. Ms. Cox asked if anyone would like to contact her for more information to either email her [abby.cox@dhs.ga.gov](mailto:abby.cox@dhs.ga.gov) or call 1-866-552-4464.

#### STAFF REPORTS

Katie Howard, AAA Director, announced that the FY22 Area Plan Update had been submitted to the state for approval. The AAA has partnered with the Public Health Department to schedule vaccine clinics at senior housing complexes and some senior centers throughout the region. The Aging Department will host a Drive-Thru-Health-Fair, May 7, at the Columbus office to celebrate Older Americans Month. More details to come!

Sarah Walls, Assistant Executive Director; reported that the RVRC/ADC Loan Committee approved a loan for KMG, LLC (also known as Griffin and Griffin Towing Company of Columbus) in the amount of \$121,800 utilizing the 2002 IRP Revolving Loan Fund to fund the project creating 8 new jobs. This is a participation loan with Ameris Bank of Buena Vista.

Emily Chambers, Finance Officer, reported spending through January is on track with the budget and the finance office will present the final budget amendment of the year at the April council meeting.

Gerald Mixon, Planning Director, reported typical activities related to comprehensive and pre-disaster mitigation planning continued. Among the less common activities; results from a broadband survey are being analyzed, completion of a street map on aerial imagery book completed for Butler, preparing to undertake a historic resource survey for part of Vienna, a new chair was elected by the TIA executive committee, and a recent staff addition completed the contract renewal process to maintain our DHS transportation services.

Janice West, WIOA Director, said the annual State office monitoring took place March 1-5 is updates to two local policies and form templates. The unemployment rates for December 2020 was 6.4% up from 3.8% one year earlier.

#### ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the council, Randy Howard, Chairman, requested a motion to adjourn the River Valley Regional Commission Council meeting.

Carvel Lewis, Quitman County, made the motion to adjourn the River Valley Regional Commission Council meeting; Damon Hoyte, Chattahoochee County, seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.

April 28, 2021

Date

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Randy Howard, RVRC Chairman

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Bruce Hill, RVRC Secretary

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