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**RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING**

**South Georgia Technical College  
Pope Center  
South Georgia Parkway  
Americus, Georgia  
May 22, 2019  
10:30 A.M.**

**Minutes Summary**

**Members Attending**

(Representing 15 Counties)  
A.J. Rivers, Crisp County  
Bruce Hill, City of Oglethorpe  
Carvel Lewis, Georgetown-Quitman County  
Chip Jones, Stewart County  
Clay Jones, Sumter County  
Clinton Perry, Jr. Taylor County, RVRC Chair  
Danny Blackmon, Georgetown-Quitman County  
Dr. Edward Lee, Cusseta-Chattahoochee County  
Ernest Jenkins, Clay County  
Evelyn Turner Pugh, Muscogee County  
Fred Gordon, Muscogee County  
James R. "Bump" Welch, Marion County  
Harry Lange, Harris County  
Hobby Stripling, City of Vienna  
James Morton, Cusseta-Chattahoochee County  
Jayson Griffin, Macon County  
Jeanie Barte, City of Cordele  
Jerry "Pops" Barnes, Muscogee County, RVRC Sec.  
Knox Blackmar, City of Talbotton  
Matt Gunnels, Marion County  
Randy Howard, Sumter Co., RVRC Vice-Chairman  
Richard McCorkle, Marion County  
Tameka Harris, Taylor County  
Terrell Hudson, Dooly County  
Tony Kennedy, Webster County  
Wally Summers, Sumter County

**Members Not Present**

Barry Waters, City of Ft. Gaines  
Barry Whitley, City of Butler  
Carlton Wilson, City of Ellaville  
Damon Hoyte, Cusseta-Chatt. Co.  
Doug Etheridge, Harris County  
Dr. Carole Rutland, Muscogee County  
Freeman Montgomery, Talbot County  
Greg Barineau, Schley County  
Jimmy Babb, City of Lumpkin  
Jimmy Bradley, Randolph County  
Joe Lee Williams, Stewart County  
Maggie McGruther, Sumter County  
Melvin Crimes, Webster County  
Nelson Brown, City of Americus  
Pam Jordan, Talbot County  
Patricia Goodman, Randolph County  
Ralph Brown, City of Buena Vista  
Rebecca Chambers, City of Hamilton  
Sam Farrow, Jr., Crisp County  
Steve Whatley, City of Cuthbert  
Tom Queen, Taylor County

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### **Others Present**

County and City Representatives

Representative Debbie Buckner, Georgia, District 137

Representative Mike Cheokas, Georgia District 138

Representative Ed Rynders, Georgia District 152

Senator Freddie Powell Sims, Georgia, District 12

Senator Ed Harbison, Georgia, District 15

Senator Greg Kirk, Georgia District 13

Field Representative Max Kirby for US Congressman Drew Ferguson, 3<sup>rd</sup> District of Georgia

Director Kenneth Cutts for US Congressman Sanford Bishop, 2<sup>nd</sup> District of Georgia

Field Representative Laura Gower for US Senator Johnny Isakson

Field Representative Jody Redding for US Senator Johnny Isakson

Field Representative Kathy Burns for US Senator David Perdue

RVRC Staff

### **Welcome and Recognition of Visitors**

Clinton Perry, Chair, brought the meeting to order. He welcomed council members, distinguished guests and visitors. Jerry “Pops” Barnes, Secretary, gave the invocation and Randy Howard, Vice Chair, led the council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Review and Approval of Minutes\***

Council reviewed the minutes of the April 24, 2019 council meeting that was either mailed or emailed to council members the previous week for their review.

There being no additions or changes, Chair Clinton Perry, requested a motion to approve the April 24, 2019 council minutes. Evelyn Turner Pugh, Muscogee County, made a motion to approve the minutes as presented; Harry Lange, Harris County, seconded the motion. The motion passed with no opposition.

### **Nomination of Officers for FY20-21**

Wally Summers, Chair of the Nominating Committee, announced the Nominating Committee had met April 24<sup>th</sup> and were nominating Randy Howard, Sumter County, as RVRC Chairman, James “Pops” Barnes, Muscogee County, as RVRC Vice Chairman, and Bruce Hill, Mayor of Oglethorpe, as Secretary for fiscal year 2020-2021.

Chair Perry requested a motion to approve the nominations of officers. Carvel Lewis, Georgetown-Quitman County, made a motion to approve the nominations as presented; Tameka Harris, Taylor County, seconded the motion. The motion passed with no opposition. Mr. Perry thanked the council for allowing him to serve on the council and said the new slate of officers were very capable of carrying on the RVRC commission’ business.

### **Presentation of Years of Service**

Randy Howard, Vice Chair, thanked Chair Clinton Perry, Chair, for his service to not only to the River Valley region but also Taylor County and the State of Georgia. He then presented him with a plaque of appreciation for 14 years of service with the Middle Flint Regional Development Center and River Valley Regional Commission. Four of those years he also served as the River Valley Council Chair.

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Mr. Perry thanked the council for the plaque. He also thanked Wally Summers, Vice President of Economic Development at South Georgia Technical College, and the staff for providing the accommodations for the meeting and luncheon.

### **Staff Recognition**

Three staff members were recognized for their years of service with the River Valley Regional commission and presented an award.

Jim Livingston, Executive Director, recognized staff members with five years or more in five year increments. They were Rick Morris, Planning Director, 15 years of service and Emily Chambers, Finance Officer (not present), 10 years of service. Clinton Perry, Chair, presented Jim Livingston, Executive Director, for 5 years of service.

### **Legislator's Remarks**

Clinton Perry, Vice Chair, introduced the following legislators and field representatives who updated the council and guests concerning legislative matters:

Representative Debbie Buckner, Georgia, District 137  
Representative Mike Cheokas, Georgia District 138  
Representative Ed Rynders, Georgia District 152  
Senator Freddie Powell Sims, Georgia, District 12  
Senator Ed Harbison, Georgia, District 15  
Senator Greg Kirk, Georgia District 13  
Senator Randy Robertson, Georgia District 29  
Field Representative Max Kirby for US Congressman Drew Ferguson, 3<sup>rd</sup> District of Georgia  
Director Kenneth Cutts for US Congressman Sanford Bishop, 2<sup>nd</sup> District of Georgia  
Field Representative Laura Gower for US Senator Johnny Isakson  
Field Representative Jody Redding for US Senator Johnny Isakson  
Field Representative Kathy Burns for US Senator David Perdue – Video Presentation

Chair Clinton Perry adjourned the meeting. He then gave the blessing and lunch was served.