



www.rivervalleyrc.org

Columbus Office

710 Front Avenue, Suite A
P. O. Box 1908
Columbus, GA 31902
Phone (706) 256-2910
Fax (706) 256-2908
Hearing Impaired (706) 256-2044

Americus Office

228 West Lamar Street
Americus, GA 31709
Phone (706) 256-2910
Fax (229) 931-2745
Fax (229) 931-2917

Toll Free (877) 819-6348

RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING

**Marion County Commission Office
100 East Burkhalter Avenue
Buena Vista, Georgia
March 27, 2019**

MINUTES

Members Attending

(Representing 15 Counties)
A.J. Rivers, Crisp County
Barry Waters, City of Ft. Gaines
Bruce Hill, City of Oglethorpe
Carlton Wilson, City of Ellaville
Carvel Lewis, Georgetown-Quitman
Chip Jones, Stewart County
Damon Hoyte, Cusseta-Chatt. Co.
Dr. Edward Lee, Cusseta-Chattahoochee
Ernest Jenkins, Clay County
Evelyn Turner Pugh, Muscogee County
Harry Lange, Harris County
Hobby Stripling, City of Vienna
James R. "Bump" Welch, Marion Co.
Jayson Griffin, Macon County
Jeanie Bartee, City of Cordele
Joe Lee Williams, Stewart County
Knox Blackmar, City of Talbotton
Maggie McGruther, Sumter County
Matt Gunnels, Marion County
Melvin Crimes, Webster County
Pam Jordan, Talbot County
Randy Howard, Sumter Co., RVRC
Vice- Chair
Tameka Harris, Taylor County
Terrell Hudson, Dooly County
Tom Queen, Taylor County

Members Not Present

Barry Whitley, City of Butler
Clay Jones, Sumter County
Clinton Perry, Jr. Taylor Co., RVRC Chair
Danny Blackmon, Georgetown-Quitman
Doug Etheridge, Harris County
Dr. Carole Rutland, Muscogee County
Fred Gordon, Muscogee County
Freeman Montgomery, Talbot County
Greg Barineau, Schley County
James Morton, Cusseta-Chatt. Co.
Jerry "Pops" Barnes, Muscogee
County, RVRC Secretary
Jimmy Babb, City of Lumpkin
Jimmy Bradley, Randolph County
Nelson Brown, City of Americus
Patricia Goodman, Randolph County
Ralph Brown, City of Buena Vista
Rebecca Chambers, City of Hamilton
Richard McCorkle, Marion County
Sam Farrow, Jr., Crisp County
Steve Whatley, City of Cuthbert
Tony Kennedy, Webster County
Wally Summers, Sumter County

Others Present
Debbie Stone, Stewart County
Edwina Turner, Stewart Co. Family Conn.
Elaine Gillispie, Cong. Bishop's Rep.
Greg Popham, Consulting Real Estate Dev.

David Dyer, Consulting Real Estate Dev.
Ben Hamrick, Consulting Real Estate Dev.
John Watford, South GA Tech., President
Paul Farr, South GA Tech. College
Clara Hammock, Randolph Co. Chamber
Tammie Jones, Cong Bishop's Rep.
Lindsey Glisson, City of Columbus
Monica Horne, Sumter Co, Tax Assessor
Russell Johnson, Sumter Co. Tax Assessor
Steven Milan, Crisp County, Tax Assessor
Sean Sammons, Crisp Co., Tax Assessor
Amanda Panther, Wilkinson Co., Tax
Assessor
Greg Hobbs, Pike/Meriwether Co., Tax
Assessor
Stacy (Lynn) (Francis), Marion Co., Tax
Assessor

Staff Present

Sarah Walls, Asst. Executive Director
Jim Livingston, Comm. & Eco. Dev. Dir.
Katie Howard, AAA Director
Emily Chambers, Finance Officer
Rick Morris, Planning Director
Gerald Mixon, Planning Director
Janice West, WIOA Director
Allison Slocum, Historic Preservation/
Senior Planner
Becky Holmes, Office Manager

Welcome and Recognition of Visitors

Randy Howard, Vice Chairman, brought the meeting to order and welcomed council members as well as visitors.

Vice Chairman Howard asked Bruce Hill, City of Oglethorpe, to lead the council in prayer and Harry Lange, Harris County, to lead the council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Review and Approval of Minutes*

Council reviewed the minutes of the February 27, 2019 council meeting that was either mailed or emailed to council members the previous week for their review.

There being no additions or changes, Vice Chair Howard requested a motion to approve the February 27, 2019 council minutes. Harry Lange, Harris County, made a motion to approve the minutes as presented; Barry Waters, City of Ft. Gaines, seconded the motion. The motion passed with no opposition.

Cell Tower Valuation

Greg Popham, Principle, Consulting Real Estate Development; David Dyer, Partner; and Ben Hamrick, Valuation Sales Team, State Sales Director, presented a PowerPoint presentation to the council.

Mr. Popham explained the importance of having the correct valuation on cell towers in order to correctly calculate the property tax value. He said that cell towers may have as many as 4 or 5 owners that may not be assessed taxes. In order to make a correct valuation the property items related to a cell tower include, but are not limited to land, building, additional structures, equipment, concrete foundation, FAA obstruction light, and ice bridges. This should be assessed with replacement cost.

Gerald announced Greg Popham, David Dyer and Ben Hamrick would be meeting with tax assessors attending the meeting to present more information about evaluating cell towers.

Appointment of Nominating Committee

Vice Chair Randy Howard said it was time to select a nominating committee for the 2020 and 2021 fiscal year. It is the role of the Chairman to select this committee. Chairman Perry, via tele-conference, and the Executive Committee discussed this and agreed that the Nominating Committee should remain the same as the one appointed in 2017. They are as follows: Dr. Carol Rutland, Muscogee County; Harry Lange, Harris County; Terrell Hudson, Dooly County; Melvin Crimes, Webster County; and Wally Summers, Sumter County. The Nominating Committee will report at the May council meeting.

Staff Reports

Katie Howard, Area Agency on Aging Director, stated the General Assembly had met and it was a great success for Aging. RVRC received an extra \$13,000 for Home Delivered Meals that must be spent no later than June 30th. The Aging Department is hoping to spend this money on expanding meals to weekends for seniors currently being served. The Assistive Technology Lab is receiving an additional \$7,500 for equipment that will be split between the Americus and Columbus offices.

Katie reported that from July 1st thru March 15th the ADRC department had screened over 14,000 phone calls for services. She also said that the GeorgiaCares program will no longer be located in the Columbus RVRC office. The Department of Human Services will be providing those services from the Atlanta office.

Katie invited everyone to attend the Wellness Walk event at Peachtree Mall (location has moved to the Columbus Georgia Convention and Trade Center), May 3rd from 8:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. She explained that there will be activities such as karaoke and Tai Chi.

Rick Morris, Planning Director, reported for the Planning Department. He said that ten (10) comprehensive plan updates are due by June, 30, 2019. Staff is currently updating Crisp County, Harris County, Hamilton, Pine Mountain, Shiloh, Waverly Hall, Webster County, Fort Gaines, Bluffton, and Clay County's comprehensive plan. Rick said that the Town of Pine Mountain would be holding their first public hearing Thursday, March 28th, regarding their zoning ordinance.

The GIS department continues to concentrate on comprehensive plan and Community Development Block Grant application maps. The Map 21 project is also ongoing. Rick announced that the Prison to Peanuts bike event would be held May 4th in Americus and Bike to Work Week will be held May 14th thru 17th in Columbus. He encouraged everyone to participate.

Jim Livingston, Community and Economic Development Director, reported that staff were working hard to complete eleven (11) Community Development Block Grant applications for submittal on April 1st. He asked everyone to be thinking of the 2020 applications and to take pictures of problems in their area that could be a potential application. Jim said that staying in compliance is very important as the Department of Community Affairs is requiring it in order for communities to be eligible to submit applications. On the broadband issue, he said that over 500 responses were received on the survey sent to residents of the region.

Janice West, WIOA Director, reported that 206 people were enrolled in WIOA programs during the period of July 1, 2018 - March 15, 2019. She said that staff had submitted the Correction Action Response to the State WIOA office and had been approved. Staff attended job fairs held in Macon and Taylor Counties.

Emily Chambers, Finance Officer, reported that through January, the RVRC had an increase in fund balance in the governmental funds of about \$65,000, resulting in a January 31st General Fund Unassigned Fund Balance of \$749,000 and a total Fund Balance of \$832,500 in all governmental funds. The proprietary funds had an increase in net position of \$14,000 for a total Net Position of \$1.2 million at January 31st. The operating expenses are at 58% of budgeted amounts, meaning we are right on target through January.

Executive Session*

Randy Howard, Vice Chair, said that council would go into Executive Session. Harry Lange, Harris County, made a motion that council go into Executive Session and Carvel Lewis, Georgetown-Quitman County, seconded the motion. Staff and visitors were asked to leave the meeting.

After the Executive Session ended staff and visitors were asked to return to the meeting. Mr. Howard thanked the staff for the work that has been done in all of the counties. He explained that Patti Cullen, Executive Director, had made the decision to retire after 37 ½ years at the Regional Commission. He said that Patti had been a great asset to not only the commission but also the counties and cities in the region.


Vice Chair Howard said that since the announcement the Executive Committee had received two applications for the Executive Director's position and that the council had selected Jim Livingston, Community and Economic Director, to be promoted to Executive Director of the River Valley Regional Commission. He explained that during the Executive Session, council had received a motion and it was seconded, to appoint Jim Livingston as the Executive Director. He explained that there would be a six-month probationary period.

Jim Livingston addressed the council by saying that he was excited to be selected to the Executive Director position and thanked the council. He said he felt the council was giving a vote of confidence not only to him but also to the RVRC staff to carry on the work in the counties and cities in the region.

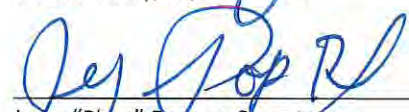
ADJOURN

Vice Chair Randy Howard ask for a motion to adjourn. Harry Lange, Harris County, made a motion to adjourn; Terrell Hudson, Dooley County seconded the motion.

April 24, 2019
Date



Clinton Perry, Jr., Chairman



Jerry "Pops" Barnes, Secretary

Chattahoochee | Clay | Crisp | Dooly | Harris | Macon | Marion | Muscogee
Quitman | Randolph | Schley | Stewart | Sumter | Talbot | Taylor | Webster