



www.rivervalleyrc.org

Columbus Office
710 Front Avenue, Suite A
Columbus, GA 31901
Phone (706) 256-2910
Fax (706) 256-2908
TDY (706)256-2944

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
River Valley Regional Commission, Columbus Office
November 18, 2020
10:30 A.M.
Minutes

Members Attending in Office

Randy Howard, Sumter,
RVRC Chairman
Jerry "Pops" Barnes, Muscogee,
RVRC Vice Chairman

Melvin Crimes, Webster
Tameka Harris, Taylor
Jayson Griffin, Macon
Joe Lee Williams, Stewart

Knox Blackmar, Talbotton
Dr. Edward Lee, Chattahoochee
Julie Brown, Hamilton

Members Attending via Teleconference

Bruce Hill, Oglethorpe, RVRC Secretary
Carvel Lewis, Quitman
Chip Jones, Stewart
Doug Etheridge, Harris
Jimmy Bradley, Randolph
Kevin Brown, Buena Vista

Harry Lange, Harris
Jimmy Babb, Lumpkin
Maggie McGruther, Sumter
Pam Jordan, Talbot
Richard McCorkle, Marion

Skip Henderson, Muscogee
Terrell Hudson, Dooly
Tom Queen, Taylor
Tony Kennedy, Webster
Kenneth Sumpter, Ft. Gaines

Members Not Attending

A.J. Rivers, Crisp
Barry Whitley, Butler
Clay Jones, Sumter
Damon Hoyte, Chattahoochee
Danny Blackmon, Quitman

Eddie Daniels, Vienna
Freeman Montgomery, Talbot
Greg Barineau, Schley
Greg Dominy, Ellaville
James Davenport, Clay
James Morton, Chattahoochee
James R. "Bump" Welch, Marion

Jeanie Bartee, Cordele
Matt Gunnels, Marion
Mickey George, Macon
Nelson Brown, Americus
Sam Farrow, Jr., Crisp
Steve Whatley, Cuthbert

Others Attending via Video Call

Representative Patty Bentley
Matt Seale, Mayor of Ocilla
Laura Gower, Rep. for Sen. Loeffler

Bill Twomey, ACCG
Amy Varnum, DCA Region 8 Rep.
Casey Beane, Dept. of Comm. Affairs

Mac Moyer, Stewart County
Paul Farr, SWG Technical College
Janet Jarvis, Sumter County

Staff Members

Jim Livingston, Executive Director
Sarah Wall, Assist. Executive
Director
Katie Howard, AAA Director
Rick Morris, Planning Director

Gerald Mixon, Planning Director
Emily Chambers, Finance Officer
Janice West, WIOA Director
Allison Slocum, Senior Planner
Camille Bielby, Regional Planner

John Morgan, Community and Bicycle-
Pedestrian Planner
Becky Holmes, Office Manager

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### APPROVAL OF 5304 TRANSIT PLAN APPLICATION\*

Jim Livingston, Executive Director, presented the 5304 Transit Plan application. He explained that it was also prepared by Jarrod McCarthy and was included in the council packet. Jim explained that this is an annual requirement for the 5304 Transit Plan and requested council approval to submit the 5304 Transit Plan application.

Chairman Howard requested a motion for approval to submit the 5304 Transit Plan application.

Terrell Hudson, Dooly County, made the motion to approve submittal of 5304 Transit Plan application; Knox Blackmar, City of Talbotton, seconded the motion. The motion passed with no opposition.

### STAFF REPORTS

Finance Officer Emily Chambers stated through September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020 the RVRC had a decrease in fund balance in the Governmental Funds of \$3,500 and a decrease in Net Position in the Proprietary Funds of about \$9,000. She said revenues are lagging slightly behind but expected it to catch up and surpass expenditures as the year progresses. The balance sheet at September 30 shows cash on hand in the General Fund of \$655,000 and Unassigned Fund Balance in the General Fund of \$778,603. Emily said the Finance Department continues to work on the FY20 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report and expects auditors to present that report at the January Council meeting.

AAA Director Katie Howard referred to the AAA report included in the council packet. She highlighted senior centers which remain closed but are still delivering meals to those who usually attend the center, along with the other home meal deliveries. Activities are also being provided, and referred to the new AAA website's free videos on tai chi and cooking videos. She asked council to also look at and like the Facebook page with information on testing, flu shots, food distribution and Medicaid open enrollment. PCHP is a private pay program with Anthem Health Care and works in partnerships with health care with private pay solutions. The goals are to earn money as a business, provide case management services to people who get out of the hospital so they will not go back in. Katie asked for senior referrals and gave the phone number to submit those names. She announced Medicare counseling is no longer available in the Columbus office but seniors can obtain phone assistance from the Atlanta office.

Planning Director Rick Morris reported:

- 4 comprehensive plans were in progress (3 to be adopted by February 28)
- Schley County's comprehensive plan process is has begun
- 6 pre-disaster mitigation plans are in process with 5 being sent to GEMA and FEMA for review. (He reminded the council the agencies are backed up and expects the reviews to take as much as a year, especially with FEMA.
- Schley County has a pre-disaster mitigation plan in review (It is not due until July, 2021.)

Rick reported the RC has received more funds from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for the continued implementation measures for Putala Creek.

Rick explained that the Mobility Manager is working with the largest employers in the area to assess the transportation needs of their employees and how the RC could assist them.

Executive Director Jim Livingston announced that communities interested in submitting CDBG 2021 applications should touch base with Grant Richardson to make sure the community's name is in the cue. Livingston emphasized the need for photographs of the issues as photographic evidence to support the grant narrative is helpful.

WIOA Director Janice West reported that as of November 4, the program had 121 individuals enrolled in training, up from the previous year. Workers who have been laid off in the area are seeking training and educational opportunities which is expected to continue through June. She encourage council members to reach out to her office or to one of the service providers if they were aware of individuals in need of training. The providers are out in the community doing outreach and recruitment with businesses and individuals in the region that may need services.

Janice said the staff activity report, included in the council packet, lists unemployment data by county through September and unemployment claims are listed through October. She encouraged members to advise businesses that may have closed and affected

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their employees to reach out to the office as dislocated worker funds are available for education and employment opportunities.

Chairman Randy Howard thanked the staff for dedication and concern for the communities. He also reminded everyone that council would not meet again until January 27 and that a number of elected officials had been lost and thanked them for their services. "Pops" Barnes added his appreciation to them for their years of service and dedication to the RVRC.

**ADJOURN**

Randy Howard, Chairman, requested a motion to adjourn the RVRC council meeting.

Melvin Crimes, Webster County, made the motion to adjourn the meeting and Tameka Harris, Taylor County, seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.

January 27, 2021

Date

  
Randy Howard, RVRC Chairman

  
Bruce Hill, RVRC Secretary