RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL COMMISSION

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RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING River Valley Regional Commission, Columbus Office
September 23, 2020
10:30 A.M.
Minutes

Members Attending in Columbus Office

Randy Howard, Sumter, RVRC Chairman
Jerry "Pops" Barnes, Muscogee, RVRC Vice Chairman
Melvin Crimes, Webster
Tameka Harris, Taylor
Joe Lee Williams, Stewart
Knox Blackmar, Talbotton

Members Attending via Teleconference

Carvel Lewis, Quitman
James Davenport, Clay
Doug Etheridge, Harris
Jayson Griffin, Macon
Jimmy Bradley, Randolph
Kevin Brown, Buena Vista
Mickey George, Macon
Harry Lange, Harris
Pam Jordan, Talbot
Richard McCorkle, Marion
Terrell Hudson, Dooly
Tony Kennedy, Webster
Kenneth Sumpter, Ft. Gaines

Members Not Attending

A.J. Rivers, Crisp
Barry Whitley, Butler
Bruce Hill, Oglethorpe, RVRC Secretary
Chip Jones, Stewart
Clay Jones, Sumter
Damon Hoyte, Chattahoochee
Danny Blackmon, Quitman
Dr. Edward Lee, Chattahoochee
Eddie Daniels, Vienna
Freeman Montgomery, Talbot
Greg Barineau, Schley
Greg Dominy, Ellaville
James Morton, Chattahoochee
James R. "Bump" Welch, Marion
Jeanie Bartee, Cordele
Jimmy Babb, Lumpkin
Julie Brown, Hamilton
Maggie McGruther, Sumter
Matt Gunnels, Marion
Nelson Brown, Americus
Sam Farrow, Jr., Crisp
Skip Henderson, Muscogee
Steve Whatley, Cuthbert
Tom Queen, Taylor

Others Attending via Video Call

Clara Hall, Phoebe Health
Bill Twomey, ACCG
Mac Moye, Stewart County

Staff Members

Jim Livingston, Executive Director
Sarah Wall, Assist. Executive Dir.
Katie Howard, AAA Director
Emily Chambers, Finance Officer
Tammy Collins, Finance Officer
Gerald Mixon, Planning Director
John Morgan, Bike/Ped Planner
Mariyana Kostov, GIS Specialist
Janice West, WIOA Director
Tenisha Tookes, WIOA Specialist
Becky Holmes, Office Manager

WELCOME AND RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Randy Howard, Chairman, brought the River Valley Regional Commission Council 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 messaging Jim Livingston, Executive Director, on his telephone.

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

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES*

Council reviewed the minutes of the August 26, 2020 council meeting which were either mailed or emailed to council members the previous week for their review and included in the council packet available at the meeting. Jim Livingston, Executive Director, said that Tony Kennedy was in attendance at the August council meeting but was not listed as attending and requested that he be added to the minutes.

Randy Howard, Chairman, requested a motion to approve the August 26, 2020 council minutes with the addition of Tony Kennedy attending the August council meeting.

Knox Blackmar, Talbotton, made a motion to approve the August 26, 2020 council minutes with the addition of Tony Kennedy attending the August council meeting; Melvin Crimes seconded the motion. The motion passed with no opposition.

APPROVAL OF RVRC BY-LAW ADJUSTMENTS*

Randy Howard, Chairman, explained proposed changes to the RVRC By-Laws. The proposed changes were emailed to council members and included in the council packet available at the meeting.

Randy Howard, Chairman, request approval of RVRC By-Laws adjustments, as discussed.

Jerry "Pops" Barnes, Vice Chairman, made the motion to approve the RVRC By-Laws adjustments; Knox Blackmar, Talbotton, seconded the motion. The motion passed with no opposition.

APPROVAL OF APPROVAL OF RVRC POLICIES AND PROCEDURES ADJUSTMENTS*

Randy Howard, Chairman, presented proposed changes to RVRC Policies and Procedures. The proposed changes were emailed to council members and included in the council packet available at the meeting.

Randy Howard, Chairman, requested approval of RVRC Policies and Procedures adjustments, as discussed.

Melvin Crimes, Webster, made a motion to approve the RVRC Policies and Procedures adjustments; Joe Lee Williams, Stewart, seconded the motion. The motion passed with no opposition.

Randy Howard, Chairman, introduced Bill Twomey, ACCG. Mr. Towmey gave a presentation explaining the local government the Covid-19 CARES Act funding being distributed by the State of Georgia. Funding is distributed on a per-capita basis to communities for reimbursement of expenses due to the pandemic. Full participation is required to obtain the funding.

UPDATE OF AGING SERVICES DURING THE PANDEMIC

Katie Howard, AAA Director, gave a PowerPoint presentation updating the council on new and expanded services for seniors in the region. Area Agency on Aging is now offering. An additional 9,985 meals were served in FY20 and 109,859 meals will be served in FY21. Clients that were being served meals in the senior centers are now receiving

them in their home. New services being offered are home modifications, telephone reassurance, and material aid. AAA staff is also addressing social isolation and are increasing Outreach through a new AAA website and Facebook.

REGIONAL PLAN ANNUAL REPORT

Rick Morris, Planning Director, presented the River Valley Regional Commission's Regional Plan Annual Report and gave highlights of accomplishments. The draft Annual Report for FY 2020 was emailed and included in the council packet available at the meeting. He explained that a notice of public hearing is scheduled on Monday, September 28, 2020 and has been sent to all local governments and newspapers.

Staff Reports

Emily Chambers, Finance Director; presented the staff report for the finance department. She reported that as of July 31, 2020 the RVRC has a $51,000 increase in fund balance in the General Fund and a $284 decrease in net position in the Loan Funds. Our cash position is excellent, and with the new CARES ACT and CDBG funds that we have been awarded, we are in a good position for the next 2-3 years. The on-site audit went well, and there was no mention of problems or findings, so we are now working on completing the FY20 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report and updating the FY21 Budget.

Katie Howard, AAA Director; presented the staff report for her department. She said with the additional COVID10 funding the Area Agency on Aging department is able to better address several services. During FY20 there is an additional $9,985 for senior meals and $109,859 during FY21. One hundred thousand dollars is available for needed ramps for better and easier access to senior's homes. Staff are also addressing senior isolation due to social distancing.

Sarah Walls, Assistant Executive Director; presented the staff report for Economic Development Department. She explained that the CEDS document was in the process of being amended to include a "Disaster Section". Once completed, it will be submitted to the CEDS Committee for review and approval.

Staff is in the process of completing the Grant Administration Plan and other documents required to be submitted to DCA for the EDA COVID-19 Supplemental Planning Grant. Two new staff members will be hired to assist implementing portions of the CDS.

All documents have been submitted for the EDA COVID-19 Revolving Loan Fund Grant. These funds will be available for two years or until the funds are depleted.

Rick Morris, Planning Director; presented the staff report for the planning department. He explained the Talbot County and Chattahoochee County comprehensive plan due dates have been extended to February 28, 2021. Talbot County residents can review the document and leave comments at http://scoberson.wixsite.com/talbotcompplan and Chattahoochee's plan at http://scoberson.wixsite.com/chattcompplan. He report that there are no DRI's under review at this time. Staff was recognized by Georgia Adopt a Stream for their work and dedication with the Watershed Award. Rick reported that most bicycle activities have been canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic but several meeting have been held virtually. DHS transit has remained available to some clients, such as senior centers, but some have temporarily closed. Seven 2020 CDBG applications, written by RVRC staff, were fund for Clay County, Cordele, Cuthbert, DeSoto, Fort Gaines, Montezuma and Shellman in the total amount of $4,518,543.

Janice West, WIOA Director; presented the staff report for her department. Janice said the period of July 1 through September 11, 2020 funded training activities was 129 people being served. The WIOA Local Plan for Middle Flint WIA has been completed and submitted for review and approval.

ADJOURN

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

Melvin Crimes, Webster, made the above requested motion. Harry Lange, Harris, seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.

October 23, 2020
Date

Randy Howard, Chairman

Bruce Hill, Secretary