Community Involvement Plan

River Valley Regional Commission Coalition
Brownfields Assessment Grant
EPA Cooperative Agreement No. 00D94519-0
August 9, 2022
Terracon Project No. HP217183

Prepared for:
River Valley Regional Commission
Columbus, GA

Prepared by:
Terracon Consultants, Inc.
Columbus, GA
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1 Community Involvement Plan Overview

This Community Involvement Plan (CIP) has been developed for the River Valley Regional Commission Coalition (RVRC) and outlines how the RVRC intends to engage with the community within the Target Area. The plan will identify the surrounding areas and how the RVRC will continue to encourage communication between all parties throughout the duration of the project. This plan will be implemented through methods including:

- Identify community stakeholders, including but not limited to local residents, local businesses, local churches, property owners, Coalition members and elected officials, local schools and other interested parties to encourage involvement.
- Assist in the development of informative flyers and other public materials to educate and inform the local community of the activities to be performed under the grant.
- Discuss the needs, concerns, and aspirations of neighbors and stakeholders with active interests in the project through community informational sessions and by utilizing electronic outreach methods such as the RVRC website and social media platforms.
- Establish a clear understanding throughout the community of the project outcome(s).
- Provide the community the opportunity to engage in this project and provide feedback to further develop and refine community engagement activities that create value for the community while encouraging that all voices within the community are heard.

2 Brownfield Project and Area Description

2.1 Project Description

The mission of the River Valley Regional Coalition Brownfield Program is to develop a self-sustaining model program for the identification, assessment, remediation, and redevelopment of brownfield sites. The RVRC seeks to raise awareness regarding economic incentives for the redevelopment of brownfield sites within the target area (Crisp, Dooly, Macon, and Sumter Counties). Through this project, the RVRC intends to bring citizens, environmental regulatory agencies, consultants, developers, landowners, and lenders together around a common goal of redevelopment. The RVRC will use the FY 2019 Brownfield Assessment Grant to work towards this mission over the life of the project.

The objectives/tasks of the Cooperative Agreement period are to conduct inclusive community outreach activities, improve and build upon an existing brownfields site inventory, conduct Phase I and Phase II Environmental Site Assessments on priority sites, and conduct reuse and remediation within the target area, as identified in the proposal. This grant will further the efforts of the RVRC towards redeveloping brownfields and improving communities. The RVRC intends to accomplish the following over the three-year time period of this award:
Community Involvement Plan
River Valley Regional Commission Coalition
Brownfields Assessment Grant
August 9, 2022 ▪ EPA Cooperative Agreement BF-00D94519-0

Program Objectives:

1. Educate the local community about the impact of Brownfields and the utilization of the properties in fostering redevelopment as part of a larger community reinvestment strategy.
2. Conduct site assessments based on environmental, health, social impact, and economic criterion.
3. Develop reuse plans for the affected sites to facilitate new employment opportunities, amenities, and infrastructure.

Program Activities:

1. Develop RVRC Brownfields Program Generic QAPP.
2. Create an Inventory of Brownfields Sites for planning and redevelopment purposes.
3. Create a Community Involvement Plan and conduct community engagement activities.
4. Perform site inventory and site prioritization activities for up to twelve (12) Phase I ESAs.
5. Complete up to fifteen (15) Site-Specific QAPPs coupled with a Health and Safety Plan.
6. Perform up to fifteen (15) Phase II environmental site assessments.
7. Perform Additional Soil and Groundwater Assessments (as needed).
8. Charrettes and visioning sessions to develop reuse plans and engage community members.
9. Maintain grant reporting requirements and coordination with EPD.
10. Develop up to six (6) Analysis Brownfields Cleanup Alternatives (ABCA) Reports with recommendations from the environmental assessments.

2.2 Project Area

The RVRC identified priority sites in the target area including the Ideal School and Allied Department Store. The Coalition will utilize EPA Assessment Grant funding to complete a more thorough inventory of Brownfields properties. The Coalition will use the inventory to prioritize sites identified based on redevelopment goals and potential. The Coalition will utilize this inventory to engage potential developers and incorporate site development potential into site prioritization and selection.

The RVRC has started engaging property owners of potential Brownfields sites, providing them with information on the “Brownfields Process” and the benefits of brownfields redevelopment.

2.3 Community Involvement Plan Objectives

Through this Community Involvement Plan, the community will be provided opportunities for participation and engagement in the project through an effective and efficient two-way communication system. Members of the community will gain knowledge of the Brownfields assessment and
redevelopment process; as well as opportunities to participate in the decision-making process. This Plan will ensure that the communication process is ongoing and evolving, and information is available as the project moves forward. The RVRC will maintain an open line of communication with the community so that they remain informed.

3 Community Involvement Activities

The RVRC understands that community engagement is crucial for a successful Brownfields Program. The RVRC plans to build on the community engagement efforts already in effect to generate increased community involvement and participation. The RVRC plans to utilize the following 3 step approach to community engagement:

1. **Plan** – This Community Involvement Plan will lay the foundation for community engagement efforts and establish a schedule for community engagement activities. **Meetings** with the project team will provide project updates.

2. **Get Involved** – An initial community-wide kick-off meeting will notify the community of project commencement, present an anticipated project schedule, and solicit public comment and input. **Community meetings and presentations** will serve to keep the community updated on project progress and provide a platform for public comment and input. **Charrettes and visioning sessions** will be utilized in the development of cleanup, reuse, and redevelopment plans. The RVRC will collaborate with local community groups to provide educational opportunities and promote interest in redevelopment projects throughout the Coalition’s target area.

3. **Spread the Word** – The RVRC understands that utilizing one form of media alone will severely limit outreach efforts. The RVRC will utilize various forms of media to communicate with the community throughout the life of their Brownfields Program and beyond, including:
   
   a. Development of a **project brochure** which will be distributed by the RVRC to community organizations, residents, and business owners;

   b. Development and maintenance of a **project webpage** to provide project news, updates, educational materials, and other information;

   c. Regular **press releases** to local newspapers to keep the community up to date on project milestones and upcoming project events;

   d. Utilization of **social media** to provide real-time project updates, project photos, news, and provide easily accessible opportunities for public comment and input; and,

   e. **Word-of-mouth**...By properly educating the community, this time-tested method of communicating will serve as the cornerstone of public outreach activities, allowing community members to take ownership of their Brownfields Program and express their pride in its accomplishments.
Communicating Progress - The RVRC will provide regular updates and project news to the community and stakeholders by utilizing the 3-step approach described above. By utilizing a wide range of communication methods, the 3-step approach will effectively communicate the progress of grant activities to all community members. Frequent communication with the community will keep the community engaged and invested in their Brownfields Program and will ensure the program’s success.

3.1 Point of Contact

Mr. Jim Livingston will serve as the RVRC Project Director and will be responsible for the oversight and completion of administrative and financial requirements of the Brownfield Program. Mr. Livingston’s role is to provide direct access between the RVRC and the community and to provide any necessary updates to this CIP during the course of the project. Ms. Laura Schneider will serve as the Brownfield Project Manager and will be responsible for the day-to-day activities and the timely and successful expenditure of funds for the Brownfield Program. She will also serve as the Emergency Contact should any issues arise during the course of the project.

Information will be distributed to the community on the RVRC’s Brownfield webpage located on the RVRC’s website: www.rivervalleyrc.org. Additional information will be circulated through mailed brochures and handouts presented at public meetings. Ms. Schneider’s contact information is as follows:

Ms. Laura Schneider  
Environmental Planner  
River Valley Regional Commission  
710 Front Avenue, Suite A  
Columbus, Georgia 31901  
lschneider@rivervalleyrc.org  
(706) 256-2910

Additional points of contact for community stakeholders, media, and federal, state, and local representatives are presented in Appendix A.

3.2 Distribution of Information

Information will be provided on a dedicated RVRC Brownfields webpage that will have a link from the RVRC’s website, www.rivervalleyrc.org. The site will include information regarding this project. Important dates and information will also be provided on the website including any pre-scheduled meetings. Announcements of additional or unscheduled meetings will be distributed to the community at least 2 weeks (10 business days) before the meeting.

Presentations and agendas from all public meetings will be archived on the Brownfields Program webpage and will be made available upon written request to the RVRC’s Brownfield Project Manager.

Project information will be released in appropriate newspapers and press releases. The RVRC regularly communicates with community members via its website and email distribution lists to establish and maintain interest in ongoing projects. In addition to web-based information, written correspondence and
community meetings, the local media outlets are alternative sources of information for the community regarding the project. Contact information for the media is provided in Appendix A.

Inclusiveness is a goal; while English is the dominant language spoken in the target area, the RVRC will take measures to accommodate persons with Limited English Proficiency either through oral or written translation services and/or by providing translated project updates, as needed.

3.3 Public Meetings and Town Hall Forums
The RVRC has and continues to actively seek and encourage citizen input throughout the Brownfields process. It will continue these efforts throughout the grant implementation process, including preparing outreach/promotional materials to be distributed via email, community and stakeholder meetings, professional association meeting(s), newspapers, social media blasts, and postings on the webpage and other social multi-media resources. It is invaluable to keep the community informed about the Brownfields initiative. Local officials and Project Partners involved in the initial grant process will be included and kept informed of community meetings and project status. Meetings are always open and accessible to the public.

The use of public meetings is vital to the exchange of information between the Coalition and community stakeholders. To provide ample opportunity for full participation of stakeholders, most meetings will be held during previously scheduled meetings for each community to encourage meeting attendance and distribution of information. The following is a list of potential facilities that are heavily utilized by the community and are accessible to people of all abilities. See attached Appendix B for a list of facilities.

It is important to note that due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the RVRC is prepared to implement alternative meeting methods if in-person meetings are deemed unacceptable.

See attached documentation of previously completed community engagement activities included as Attachment 1.

3.4 Digital Engagement
Keeping the public and community informed about the Coalition’s Brownfields Program is an essential economic development strategy. The Coalition team members will work with Terracon and their consultants to develop and implement a digital engagement process to reach community members and stakeholders. Digital engagement is increasingly important during the current COVID-19 pandemic.

Digital engagement provides an alternative to and will complement traditional in-person meetings. The digital engagement process will increase awareness, encourage participation in virtual meetings, and provide an opportunity for comments and questions. Digital engagement also increases participation among residents who prefer to receive their information via social media communications. Digital engagement will provide timely information for the Coalition’s residents and will give the community a voice before, during, and after community meetings and events.

The Coalition Brownfields Digital Engagement process will include several social media and digital platforms including the Coalition’s Brownfields webpage, social media (Facebook) virtual meetings such
as Zoom or Teams, and email. One of the benefits of digital engagement is the metrics and reports available. The metrics and reports provide real time information and help guide the team to adjust the outreach program as needed. Traditional public meetings will be available to the public, and the digital engagement process will complement the traditional meeting process.

### 3.5 Community Support

The Coalition will continue its partnership with the community stakeholders, as well as state and federal agencies. The grant project values the support of local partnerships that are detailed in Appendix A under Contacts. Community Contacts are outlined as well as federal, state, local, environmental, municipal, state agencies and media. The Coalition is open to and encouraging new partners to join the initiative.

### 3.6 Information Repository

Keeping the public and community informed about the Coalition’s Brownfields Program and its benefits to local stakeholders is an essential economic development strategy. The RVRC will maintain a dedicated Brownfields webpage on their website to provide general information and meeting notices in support of the program. The RVRC will make project related information available to local residents through this webpage. Information that needs Commission action will be advertised per regulations and be readily available for the public, elected officials, agencies, partners, and media for easy access and review.

A physical copy will also be made available at the RVRC Columbus office with the assistance of:

Ms. Laura Schneider  
Environmental Planner  
River Valley Regional Commission  
710 Front Avenue, Suite A  
Columbus, Georgia 31901  
lschneider@rivervalleyrc.org  
(706) 256-2910
3.5.1 Table 1 - Community Involvement Activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Representatives/Attendees</th>
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<tr>
<td>Fall 2022</td>
<td>Project Update Meeting</td>
<td>Community Members, Stakeholders, Coalition Members, Brownfields Project Team</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring 2023</td>
<td>Development Professional Brownfields Workshop Training 1</td>
<td>Realtors’ Associations, Development Professionals, City/County Personnel, City/County Officials, Stakeholders, Brownfields Project Team</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall 2023</td>
<td>Development Professionals Brownfield Workshop Training 2</td>
<td>Realtors’ Associations, Development Professionals, City/County Personnel, City/County Officials, Stakeholders, Brownfields Project Team</td>
</tr>
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</table>

4 Project Location

4.1 Brownfield Project Area Description

The RVRC Coalition EPA Brownfields Assessment Grant focus area includes the counties of Crisp, Dooly, Macon, and Sumter. The project will identify and prioritize various potential sites within the designated area. A map showing the target areas is included in Appendix E. With the assistance of appropriate community members, Terracon will develop a brownfield site inventory.

4.2 Site Selection

The Coalition will utilize EPA Assessment Grant funding to complete a more thorough inventory of Brownfields properties in the target area. The Brownfields Advisory Board will use the inventory to prioritize sites identified based on redevelopment goals and potential. The Advisory Board will utilize this inventory to engage potential developers and incorporate site development potential into site prioritization and selection.

The Coalition has started engaging property owners of potential Brownfields sites, providing them with information on the “Brownfields Process” and the benefits of brownfields redevelopment. The former Ideal School and Allied Department Store were identified as high priority sites by the Coalition.
4.3 Site Documentation

Documents related to this project are available for public review at the location listed above under Section 3.6 Information Repository and at the designated webpage located at: www.rivervalleyrc.org. The following items are currently available or will be made available upon completion:

- Community Involvement Plan (CIP).
- Generic Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP).
- Informational handout available during public meetings.
- Any additional required documentation if applicable.
# Appendix A – Contact Information

## A.1 Environmental Consultant Contacts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Company</th>
<th>Email</th>
<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jason A. Cooper, P.E.</td>
<td>Assessment Manager</td>
<td>Terracon Consultants, Inc.</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Jason.Cooper@terracon.com">Jason.Cooper@terracon.com</a></td>
<td>706.569.0008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amanda M. Herrit, M.S.</td>
<td>Contract Manager</td>
<td>Terracon Consultants, Inc.</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Amanda.Herrit@terracon.com">Amanda.Herrit@terracon.com</a></td>
<td>423.315.1449</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belinda Richard</td>
<td>National Brownfields Program Manager</td>
<td>Terracon Consultants, Inc.</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Belinda.Richard@terracon.com">Belinda.Richard@terracon.com</a></td>
<td>813.321.0345</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## A.2 Federal Elected Officials

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>US Senator Jon Ossoff</td>
<td>455 Russell Senate Office Building</td>
<td>202.224.3521</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## A.3 State Elected Officials

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>District 2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Representative Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.</td>
<td>18 Ninth Street, Suite 201</td>
<td>706.320.9477</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District 8</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Representative Austin Scott</td>
<td>120 Byrd Way, Suite 100</td>
<td>478.971.1776</td>
</tr>
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</table>
## A.4 County Elected Officials

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crisp County Commissioners</th>
<th>Dooly County Commissioners</th>
<th>Macon County Commissioners</th>
<th>Sumter County Commissioners</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Contact:</strong> 229.276.2672 <a href="mailto:info@crispcounty.com">info@crispcounty.com</a></td>
<td><strong>Contact:</strong> 229.268.4228</td>
<td><strong>Contact:</strong> 478.472.7021</td>
<td><strong>Contact:</strong> 229.928.4500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commissioner Mark Crenshaw</td>
<td>District 1 Commissioner Tony Lester 478.244.9154</td>
<td>District 1 Chairman Carl Oliver 229.291.0571 <a href="mailto:carloliver59@gmail.com">carloliver59@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>District 1 Commissioner Clay Jones <a href="mailto:cjones@sumtercountyga.us">cjones@sumtercountyga.us</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chairman James R. Dowdy</td>
<td>District 2 Commissioner David Mixon 229.443.0025 <a href="mailto:dmixon88@gmail.com">dmixon88@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>District 2 Commissioner Ben Haugabook 478.472.8283 <a href="mailto:benhaugabook@yahoo.com">benhaugabook@yahoo.com</a></td>
<td>District 2 Chairman Mark Waddell <a href="mailto:mwaddell@sumtercountyga.us">mwaddell@sumtercountyga.us</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commissioner Sam N. Farrow</td>
<td>District 3 Commissioner Eugene Cason 229.938.4795 eugene@<a href="mailto:cason@doolecountyga.com">cason@doolecountyga.com</a></td>
<td>District 3 Commissioner A. Richmond Felton 478.967.2434 <a href="mailto:red_white_31507@yahoo.com">red_white_31507@yahoo.com</a></td>
<td>District 3 Commissioner Jim Reid <a href="mailto:jreid@sumtercountyga.us">jreid@sumtercountyga.us</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vice Chairman Larry D. Felton</td>
<td>District 4 Commissioner Tim Robinson 229.322.9918 <a href="mailto:ccpctimr1967@yahoo.com">ccpctimr1967@yahoo.com</a></td>
<td>District 4 Commissioner Mickey George 478.472.2050 <a href="mailto:mdgeo@windstream.net">mdgeo@windstream.net</a></td>
<td>District 4 Commissioner Scott Roberson <a href="mailto:sroberson@sumtercountyga.us">sroberson@sumtercountyga.us</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commissioner Author James Nance</td>
<td>District 5 Commissioner David Barron</td>
<td>District 5 Vice-Chairman Bob Melvin 478.472.8491 <a href="mailto:melvin4002002@yahoo.com">melvin4002002@yahoo.com</a></td>
<td>District 5 Commissioner Jessie Smith <a href="mailto:jsmith@sumtercountyga.us">jsmith@sumtercountyga.us</a></td>
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### A.5 City Elected Officials

#### Crisp County

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City of Cordele</th>
<th>City of Arabi</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>City Manager Angela Henderson Redding 229.273.3102</td>
<td>Mayor R. Craig Huckaby 229.273.5096 <a href="mailto:cityofarabi@gmail.com">cityofarabi@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ward 1 Commissioner Vesta Beal Shephard <a href="mailto:vestashephard@cityofcordele.com">vestashephard@cityofcordele.com</a></td>
<td>Councilmember Larry Pate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ward 2 Commissioner Royce Reeves <a href="mailto:royereeves@cityofcordele.com">royereeves@cityofcordele.com</a></td>
<td>Councilmember Lee Clark</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ward 3 Commissioner Isaac H. Owens <a href="mailto:isaacowens@cityofcordele.com">isaacowens@cityofcordele.com</a></td>
<td>Councilmember Robert Southwell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ward 4 Commissioner Wesley Rainey <a href="mailto:wesleyrainey@cityofcordele.com">wesleyrainey@cityofcordele.com</a></td>
<td>Councilmember Donald Spears</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At Large Commissioner Joshua A. Deriso <a href="mailto:joshuaderiso@cityofcordele.com">joshuaderiso@cityofcordele.com</a></td>
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#### Dooly County

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>City of Unadilla</th>
<th>City of Vienna</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mayor Myron Mixon 478.627.3022</td>
<td>Mayor Eddie Daniels 229.268.4744</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Councilmember Meredith Lester</td>
<td>Mayor Protem Randall Almond</td>
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<tr>
<td>Councilmember Chester Thomas</td>
<td>Councilmember Walter Brown</td>
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<tr>
<td>Councilmember Dexter Whittaker</td>
<td>Councilmember John T. Mathis, Jr.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Councilmember Tyrone Adkinson</td>
<td>Councilmember Albert King</td>
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<td>Councilmember Justin Bridges</td>
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<td>Councilmember Lurry Brown</td>
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<tr>
<td>Macon County</td>
<td>City of Ideal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mayor Samuel Jenkins</td>
<td>Mayor Al Lane</td>
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<tr>
<td>478.949.2720</td>
<td><a href="mailto:allane@cityofmarshallville.org">allane@cityofmarshallville.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>478.967.2535</td>
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<tr>
<td>Councilmember Jimmy Ogburn</td>
<td>Mayor Proteum David E. Bryant</td>
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<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:davidbryant@cityofmarshallville.org">davidbryant@cityofmarshallville.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Councilmember Melissa Joiner</td>
<td>Councilmember Timothy Gerard</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:timothygerard@cityofmarshallville.org">timothygerard@cityofmarshallville.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Councilmember Kay Hardage</td>
<td>Councilmember Ronny Buckner</td>
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<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:ronnybuckner@cityofmarshallville.org">ronnybuckner@cityofmarshallville.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Councilmember Gwendolyn Nelson</td>
<td>Councilmember Betty Rackley</td>
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<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:bettyrackley@cityofmarshallville.org">bettyrackley@cityofmarshallville.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Councilmember Nathaniel Rodgers</td>
<td>Councilmember Marilyn Brown</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:marilynbrown@cityofmarshallville.org">marilynbrown@cityofmarshallville.org</a></td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sumter County</th>
<th>City of Americus</th>
<th>City of Leslie</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mayor Lee Kinnamon</td>
<td>Mayor Matthew Daniel</td>
<td>Mayor LE &quot;Boze&quot; Godwin</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:lkinnamon@americsuga.gov">lkinnamon@americsuga.gov</a></td>
<td>229.874.1259</td>
<td>222.824.5445</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District 1</td>
<td>Councilmember Juanita Wilson</td>
<td>Councilmember Jane Buitler</td>
<td>Councilmember Eugene Edge</td>
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<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:jwilson@americsuga.gov">jwilson@americsuga.gov</a></td>
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<td>District 2</td>
<td>Councilmember Nelson Brown</td>
<td>Councilmember Billy Deriso</td>
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<tr>
<td>District 3</td>
<td>Councilmember Nicole Smith</td>
<td>Councilmember Nancy Jimenez</td>
<td>Councilmember AB Jackson</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:nsmith@americsuga.gov">nsmith@americsuga.gov</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>District 4</td>
<td>Councilmember Charles Christmas</td>
<td>Councilmember Clint Ledger</td>
<td>Councilmember Wade Medlock</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:cchristmas@americsuga.gov">cchristmas@americsuga.gov</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>District 5</td>
<td>Councilmember Kelvin Pless</td>
<td>Councilmember Andrea D. Oates</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:kpless@americsuga.gov">kpless@americsuga.gov</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>District 6</td>
<td>Daryl R. Dowdell</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:ddowdell@americsuga.gov">ddowdell@americsuga.gov</a></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Reliable ■ Resourceful ■ Responsive
A.6 EPA

Region 4 Officials
EPA Project Officer
Olga Oliver Perry
404.562.8534
Perry.Olga@epa.gov

A.7 State Environmental Agency Officials

GAEPD Brownfields Program
Shannon Ridley
Brownfields Program Manager
470.604.9456
Shannon.Ridley@dnr.ga.gov

A.8 Media

Local Newspapers

Americus Times Recorder
(Sumter County, Americus, Andersonville, DeSoto, Leslie, Plains)
Brittany Schofield: public.notices@americustimesrecorder.com
Phone: 229-389-2171
Nichole Buchanan: nichole.buchanan@americustimesrecorder.com
Phone: 229-924-2751

Cordele Dispatch
(Crisp County, Arabi, Cordele)
Display – Valorie Bundrick: valorie.bundrick@cordeledispatch.com
Phone: 229-273-2277
Legal – public.notices@cordeledispatch.com
Phone: 229-273-2277

The Citizen Georgian (Peach Publishing)
(Macon County, Ideal, Marshallville, Montezuma, Oglethorpe)
Emily Griffin: thecitizengeorgian@gmail.com
Phone: 478-472-0189

The News-Observer (Peach Publishing)
(Dooly County, Byromville, Dooling, Lilly, Pinehurst, Unadilla, Vienna)
Andera Banker: thenewsobservereditor@gmail.com
Phone: 478-825-2432
Local Television Stations

Columbus, GA – WTVM, Channel 9
Macon, GA – WMAZ, Channel 13; WGXA, Channel 16 and 24; and WMGT, Channel 41
Appendix B – Information Repository and Meeting Locations

B.1 Information Repository

Keeping the public and community informed about the Coalition’s Brownfields Program and its benefits to local stakeholders is an essential economic development strategy. The RVRC will maintain a dedicated Brownfields webpage on their website to provide general information and meeting notices in support of the program. The Coalition will make project related information available to local residents through the Brownfields webpage. Information that needs Commission action will be advertised per RVRC regulations and be readily available for the public, elected officials, agencies, partners, and media for easy access and review.

A physical copy will also be made available at the RVRC Columbus office with the assistance of:

Ms. Laura Schneider
Environmental Planner
River Valley Regional Commission
710 Front Avenue, Suite A
Columbus, Georgia 31901
lschneider@rivervalleyrc.org
(706) 256-2910

B.2 Meeting Locations

Public meetings will be held at:

Crisp County:
Crisp County Commissioners Office
210 South 7th Street
Cordele, GA 31015

Arabi City Hall
4190 Bedgood Avenue
Arabi, GA 31712

Cordele City Hall
501 North 7th Street
Cordele, GA 31015

Dooly County:
Dooly County Commissioners Office
113 North 3rd Street
Vienna, GA 31092

Byromville Town Hall
448 Mail Street
Byromville, GA 31007
Community Involvement Plan
River Valley Regional Commission
Brownfields Assessment Coalition Grant
August 9, 2022 ▪ EPA Cooperative Agreement BF-00D94519-0

Dooling Town Hall
3071 Main Street
Montezuma, GA 31063

Lilly City Hall
111 Wadley Street
Lilly, GA 31051

Pinehurst City Hall
277 Fullington Avenue
Pinehurst, GA 31070

Unadilla City Hall
563 W Railroad Street
Unadilla, GA 31091

Vienna City Hall
203 West Cotton Street
Vienna, GA 31092

Macon County:
Macon County Commissioners Office
121 South Sumter Street
Oglethorpe, GA 31068

Ideal City Hall
605 Tom Watson Avenue
Ideal, GA 31041

Marshallville City Hall
111 West Main Street
Marshallville, GA 31057

Montezuma City Hall
408 South Dooly Street
Montezuma, GA 31063

Oglethorpe City Hall
115 Chatham Street
Oglethorpe, GA 31068

Sumter County:
Sumter County Commissioners Office
500 West Lamar Street
Americus, GA 31709

Americus City Hall
101 West Lamar Street
Americus, GA 31709
Andersonville City Hall
114 Church Street
Andersonville, GA 31711

DeSoto City Hall
134 Luke Street
DeSoto, GA 31743

Leslie City Hall
108 Commerce Street
Leslie, GA 31764

Plains City Hall
101 West Church Street
Plains, GA 31780
Appendix C – Glossary of Terms

Analysis of Brownfield Cleanup Alternative (ABCA): Remedial plan document that includes analysis of cleanup alternatives: identifies the objectives of the cleanup and provides an analysis of cleanup alternatives based on effectiveness, ability to be implemented and cost; documents if the situation meets the need for a cleanup; provides information pertaining to the site background and health and safety; identifies the proposed action, and explains the rationale for its selection.

Brownfields: Abandoned, idled, or underused industrial, commercial, or residential facilities/sites where expansion or redevelopment is complicated by real or perceived environmental contamination.

Community: An interacting population of various types of individuals in a common location; a neighborhood or specific area where people live.

Community Involvement: The term used by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to identify its process for engaging in dialogue and collaboration with communities. EPA community involvement is founded on the belief that people have a right to know what the Agency is doing in their community and to have a voice in it. The purpose is to give stakeholders the opportunity to become involved in Brownfields activities and help shape the decisions that are made.

Community Involvement Plan: A management and planning tool outlining the specific community involvement activities to be undertaken during the course of a site investigation and cleanup. It is designed to (1) share communication between the affected community and the EPA, and (2) ensure public input in the decision-making process related to the affected communities.

Grant: An award of financial assistance, including cooperative agreements, in the form of money, or property in lieu of money, by the Federal Government to an eligible grantee.

Information Repository: A dedicated Brownfields Website that is convenient for local residents, community members, stakeholders and developers.

Objective: Something that one’s efforts or actions are intended to attain or accomplish; purpose; goal; target.

Public: The community or people in general or a part or section of the community grouped because of a common interest or activity.

Public Meeting: Formal public sessions that are characterized by a presentation to the public followed by a question and answer session.

Site: Location selected for brownfields or environmental activity; a place for potential redevelopment.

Spokesperson: An advocate who represents the policy or purpose of a particular organization/entity.

Stakeholder: Any organization, government entity or individual affected by the project or with a particular interest in the project.

Preservation: To maintain in safety from injury, peril or harm; protect.

Enhancements: To make greater, as in value, beauty, or effectiveness; augment.
### Appendix D – Acronyms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ABCA</td>
<td>Analysis of Brownfields Cleanup Alternatives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CIP</td>
<td>Community Involvement Plan</td>
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<tr>
<td>EPA</td>
<td>Environmental Protection Agency</td>
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<tr>
<td>GAEPD</td>
<td>Georgia Environmental Protection Division</td>
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<tr>
<td>ESA</td>
<td>Environmental Site Assessment</td>
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<tr>
<td>QAPP</td>
<td>Quality Assurance Project Plan</td>
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</table>
Appendix E – Figure 1 Area Map
Attachment 1 – Community Outreach
## RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING
River Valley Regional Commission, Online & In-Person Meeting
February 24, 2021
10:30 A.M.

### Minutes Summary

**Representing 16 Counties**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Members Attending in Office</th>
<th>Jayson Griffin, Macon</th>
<th>Melvin Crimes, Webster</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Randy Howard, Sumter,</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>RVRC Chairman</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bruce Hill, Oglethorpe, RVRC Secretary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chip Jones, Stewart</td>
<td>Joe Lee Williams, Stewart</td>
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<td>Damon Hoyte, Chattahoochee</td>
<td>Julie Brown, Hamilton</td>
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<td>Dr. Edward Lee, Chattahoochee</td>
<td>Knox Blackmar, Talbotton</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Members Attending via Teleconference</th>
<th>Kenneth Sumter, Ft. Gaines</th>
<th>Rebecca White, Randolph</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bryon Hickey, Muscogee</td>
<td>Kevin Brown, Buena Vista</td>
<td>Richard McCorkle, Marion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carvel Lewis, Quitman</td>
<td>Maggie McGruther, Sumter</td>
<td>Sher’Londa Walker, Talbot</td>
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<td>Doug Etheridge, Harris</td>
<td>Matt Gunnels, Marion</td>
<td>Wesley Williams, Randolph</td>
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<td>Eddie Moore, Quitman</td>
<td>Pam Jordan, Talbot</td>
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<td>Greg Dominy, Ellaville</td>
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<tr>
<th>Members Not Attending</th>
<th>Gerald Douglas, Chattahoochee</th>
<th>Skip Henderson, Muscogee</th>
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<tr>
<td>A.J. Rivers, Crisp</td>
<td>James Davenport, Clay</td>
<td>Steve Whatley, Cuthbert</td>
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<tr>
<td>Barry Whitley, Butler</td>
<td>James R. “Bump” Welch, Marion</td>
<td>Rob Grant, Harris</td>
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<td>Danny Blackmon, Quitman</td>
<td>Jeanie Barthe, Cordele</td>
<td>Bill McClellan, Schley</td>
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<td>Darrell Holbrook, Webber</td>
<td>Jimmy Babb, Lumpkin</td>
<td>Mark Waddell, Sumter</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eddie Daniels, Vienna</td>
<td>Nelson Brown, Americus</td>
<td>Sam Farrow, Crisp</td>
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<tr>
<th>Others Attending via Video Call</th>
<th>Janet Joiner, Vienna</th>
<th>Michael Bowens, Vienna</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nick DiLuzio, NewFields</td>
<td>Clara Hall, Phoebe Putney Health System</td>
<td>Janice Jarvis, Sumter</td>
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<td>David McCoy, Clifton Lipford</td>
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<td>Hardison &amp; Parker LLC</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Staff Members</th>
<th>Emily Chambers, Finance Officer</th>
<th>Tenisha Tookes, WIOA</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jim Livingston, Executive Director</td>
<td>John Morgan, Bike-Ped Planner</td>
<td>Camille Bielby, Planner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sarah Walls, Assist. Executive Director</td>
<td>Mariyana Kostov, GIS</td>
<td>Becky Holmes, Office Manager</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Katie Howard, AAA Director</td>
<td>Allison Slocum, Senior Planner</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Rick Morris, Planning Director</td>
<td>Janice West, WIOA Director</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gerald Mixon, Planning Director</td>
<td>Allison Slocum, Senior Planner</td>
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Equal Opportunity Employer
**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 teleconference were able to ask questions by e-chat or by messaging Jim Livingston, Executive Director, on his cell phone.

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 January 27, 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 available at the meeting.

There being no additions or changes, Randy Howard, Chairman, requested a motion to approve the January 27, 2021 council minutes.

Julie Brown, City of Hamilton, made the motion to approve the January 27, 2021 minutes as presented; Chip Jones, Stewart County, seconded the motion. The motion passed with no opposition.

**REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF FY2020 INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT**
David McCoy, CPA, from the auditing firm of Clifton, Lipford, Hardison & Parker, LLC, attended the meeting to review the FY2020 (year ending June 30, 2020) Comprehensive Annual Financial Report compiled by the River Valley Regional Commission finance staff and independently audited by their firm. Mr. McCoy explained that, despite the challenges in working with COVID and new funding sources, the RVRC received an unmodified opinion, which is the highest opinion possible.

It was noted that the audit report is on the RVRC website for further review. For any questions, please contact Emily Chambers, Finance Officer, at 706-256-2910.

Randy Howard, Chairman, then asked for a motion to accept the FY2020 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR).

Knox Blackmar, City of Talbotton, made the motion to approve the FY2020 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report as presented; Jerry “Pops” Barnes, Muscogee County, seconded the motion. The motion passed with no opposition.

**RESOLUTION TO ENTER INTO FY22 CONTRACT WITH DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES (DHS) FOR THE PROVISION OF AGING SERVICES AND ADOPTION OF AGING AREA PLAN**
Katie Howard, AAA Director presented the Area Agency on Aging’s Area Plan, which is required to be updated every five years, and the resolution to enter into the FY22 contract with the Department of Human Services (DHS) for the provision of aging services.

Randy Howard, Chairman, then asked for a motion to approve the resolution to enter into an FY22 contract with the DHS for the provision of aging services and an adoption of the Area Agency on Aging’s Area Plan as presented.

Carvel Lewis, Quitman County, made the motion to approve the resolution to enter into an FY22 contract with the DHS for the provision of aging services and an adoption of the Area Agency on Aging’s Area Plan as presented; Knox Blackmar, Talbotton, seconded the motion. The motion passed with no opposition.
**BROWNFIELD UPDATE**

Nick DiLuzio, NewFields, updated the council on the current status of the Brownfield’s project. Mr. DiLuzio explained there are 3 phases in the review and submitting of documentation of properties. He said it is currently in the process of reviewing and submitting documentation on properties in Crisp, Dooly, Macon and Sumter counties.

**Phase 1.** The purpose of the Phase I is Site Assessment. This is find out the likelihood that environmental contamination is present at a site, which is determined by a thorough site investigation. This assessment includes a visual site assessment, an interview with past and present owners/occupants, a search for any environmental liens, a review of historical documents, and a search of databases regarding contamination at or near the site. Findings in the Phase I report determine whether or not further investigation is warranted.

**Phase 2:** Phase II Site Investigations include a more thorough review of site conditions which may include performing collecting soil samples; installing water monitoring wells and collecting groundwater samples from each well; and analyzing all samples for the presence of contaminants. This allows for a more comprehensive report of what contaminants are present on the property (as well as how much).

**Phase 3:** Phase III Investigation and Remedial Action Plan is typically the final stage of a Brownfields Assessment Program. Phase III investigations may consist of additional collection of samples and continued investigation of any anomalies discovered during the Phase II investigation. A Remedial Action Plan is then determined. This plan consists of a Soils and Material Management Plan for off-site disposal or on-site reuse of impacted soil, suggestions for ongoing groundwater monitoring, a list of permit requirements needed to engage in remedial action, and suggestions for the use of institutional controls such as activity use restrictions.

Mr. DiLuzio said when these possible problems are take care of many developers will be more interested in planning future developments in the area.

**TRANSPORTATION INVESTMENT ACT UPDATE**

Jim Livingston, Executive Director of the RVRC gave the council an update on the latest changes to the TIA Roundtable. The full River Valley Roundtable met in February and discussed two items: selecting a chairman and updating the Roundtable on Columbus’ position regarding the initiative. Carvel Lewis was selected to be the new River Valley TIA Roundtable Chairman. The Executive Committee members for the River Valley TIA Roundtable are: Carvel Lewis, George Neal, Barry Blount, Micky George and Skip Henderson. Mayor Henderson also gave the full Roundtable an update on Columbus’ position on the TSPOST renewal effort. He reported that the Columbus is going to take the same neutral stance it did in the previous effort in 2012.

**STAFF REPORTS**

Sarah Walls, Assistant Executive Director; reported that the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Initiatives Update has been completed, approved by the CEDS committee, the RVRC Council and has now been submitted to Economic Development Administration.

New EDA Regional Planners, Camille Bielby and Savannah Brown, are working hard to familiarize themselves in areas of transportation and the EDA COVID-19 Supplemental Planning Grant. They are also assisting with the upcoming city/county managers meeting.

Emily Chambers, Finance Officer, reported that through December of 2020 the RVRC has had a net increase in fund balance in the operating funds of $38,414. We are slightly below the fifty-percent target of budgeted expenditures for the first half of the year at 47.6% in the General Fund and 46% in the Internal Service Fund. Revenues in the General Fund are at 45% of the budgeted amount. Total Unassigned Fund Balance in the General Fund is $820,548 dollars, $620,000 of which is cash balance. Our loan funds are doing well this year, with a net income of $8,405 at December 31. Net position of these Enterprise Funds as of December 31, 2021 was $1.157 million.
Katie Howard, AAA Director, stated that staff continues to work remotely but there has not been a change in the quality of services provided to seniors and people with disabilities. She reported that the FY22 Area Plan will be completed and delivered to the Division of Aging Service on March 1, 2021. Katie explained that senior centers have remained closed but several have held outside parties to ensure safety and compliance with CDC recommendations.

Rick Morris, Planning Director, reported that the planning depart has continued to work on various local plans and updates to some plans. Staff attended REMI Broadband Expansion and Rural Economic Development webinar on using an economic impact model to project potential benefits of broadband investments. Zoning, GIS, environmental planning, and historic preservation projects continue.

Janice West, WIOA Director, reported that as of February 12, 2021 132 people are being served and that service providers continue to actively conduct WIOA outreach and recruitment efforts. Staff has been busy preparing for the annual state monitoring during March 1-5 which will be done virtually due to COVID-19. November 2020 unemployment rates are 6.2% in the region compared to 3.5% in November 2019, reflecting the increase in unemployment because of the pandemic.

**ADJOURN**
There being no further business to come before the council, Randy Howard, Vice Chairman, requested a motion to adjourn.

Jerry “Pops” Barnes, Muscogee County, made the motion to adjourn the meeting; Tameka Harris, Taylor County, seconded the motion. The meeting was then closed.

March 24, 2021  
Date

__________________________________________
Randy Howard, RVRC Chairman

__________________________________________
Bruce Hill, RVRC Secretary
Brownfields Assessment Grant

Crisp, Dooly, Macon, and Sumter Counties will be conducting assessments of contaminated and/or hazardous brownfield sites through a $200,000 Brownfields Assessment Coalition Grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. This grant was awarded to the River Valley Regional Commission to allow the four counties to conduct assessments of properties within the region. The grant will also be used to develop cleanup plans for assessed sites, which will facilitate future reuse or redevelopment of these properties, and provide opportunities for economic growth and revitalization.

What is a brownfield?

A brownfield site is a property which the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. Examples of potential brownfield sites may include, but are not limited to former gas stations, buildings with asbestos or lead-based paint, former dry cleaners, former bulk petroleum facilities, former wood treatment facilities, former pesticide/herbicide handling areas, and former landfills.

What will the grant enable?

These funds are intended to help thoroughly inventory, characterize and assess the presence of environmental liabilities at eligible brownfield sites, develop site-specific cleanup plans, and conduct community engagement. Input from the local community is an essential part of this process and will help to determine which sites may be best suited for assessment, and identify community needs for potential site reuse or redevelopment. This will ensure that available funds are directed towards properties which are of significance to the local communities and that redevelopment efforts are reflective of the needs of the community.

Where will the funds be administered?

A number of potential sites have already been identified within the four county region. In Macon County, these include the former Ideal School, the former Montezuma Motors building, the former Peerless Packing property in Marshallville, and several former gas stations. The former Ideal School is directly adjacent to a large park and several residential properties, and was identified as a priority candidate for assessment due to the safety risk it poses to the local community, while the former Montezuma Motors building and former gas stations were selected due to their high-traffic and high-visibility locations at entrances to both downtown Montezuma and Oglethorpe.

As a member of the local community, your involvement and input in this process is valued. To recommend a site for assessment, please contact Mr. Gerald Beckum, Executive Director of the Macon County Development Authority, at 478-472-2391.

Civility before, during, and after election day

By Johnathan Hladik, policy director, Center for Rural Affairs

Discussion and debate has always been a part of rural America.

From coffee shops to the local co-op, rural residents aren't afraid to show their loyalty for one candidate or another, share their thoughts on the issues of the day, and voice their distrust of the government. Sometimes opinions can spur disagreement and raise tensions. But, in the end, most of us will agree to disagree, shake hands, and go about our day.

Lately, this seems to have changed. The divisive politics of Washington have made their way to our Main Streets. This "us versus them" mentality has damaged relationships, harmed businesses, and affected our children.

While technological advances have brought the world together in ways our forefathers never imagined, those same changes have also torn us apart. Show ing support for a candidate or issue on social media is often met with personal attacks. This will only accelerate as the Nov. 3 general election draws near.

Rural America is better than this. Here neighbors help neighbors in good times and bad, band together for school and civic events, and have lively discussions about the news of the day that always end with plans to meet again tomorrow. This sense of community is what rural America is all about.

Healthy debates and differing opinions aren't wrong. But it is time to rise above the heated discourse. This is our chance to show the rest of America how to set aside differences and work together toward a strong and vibrant community.
November 10, 2020

Submitted electronically to: jlivingston@rivervalleyrc.org

RE: Georgia Brownfield Association’s Seminar - Thank You

Dear Mr. Livingston:

On behalf of the Georgia Brownfield Association (GBA), I would like to thank you for your participation in the annual GBA Brownfield Seminar. Your insights into the aspects of brownfield redevelopment highlighting your areas of expertise are a hallmark of our amazing organization. Your participation demonstrates a commitment to our organization. We reached new milestones with the conference this year with 200 registrants, and presentations from over 25 industry leaders. Your contribution to the seminar helped us make it a success – we thank you!

We welcome your ideas and look forward to your continued participation in GBA. We hope that you will consider additional ways to participate in GBA using your time, talents, and resources. As always, please check our website for additional information http://georgiabrownfield.org/ or reach out to me, Kelly Andrews Saunders (kelly@hlstrategy.com) or Jennifer Jezyk (jennifer@hlstrategy.com) if we can be of assistance you.

Wishing you all the best and continued success.

Sincerely,

Dustin J. Heizer, President, Georgia Brownfield Association
On behalf of the Georgia Brownfield Association Board of Directors
Brownfields Assessment Grant

Contributed by River Valley Regional Commission

Georgia each day in what is Illinois, Michigan and one or and Susan Case. The vintage

Brownfields Assessment Grant

Crisp, Dooly, Macon, and Sumter Counties will be conducting assessments of contaminated and/or hazardous brownfield sites through a $600,000 Brownfields Assessment Coalition Grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. This grant was awarded to the River Valley Regional Commission to allow the four counties to conduct assessments of properties within the region. The grant will also be used to develop cleanup plans for assessed sites, which will facilitate future reuse or redevelopment of these properties, and provide opportunities for economic growth and revitalization.

What is a brownfield?

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What will the grant enable?

These funds are intended to help thoroughly inventory, characterize and assess the presence of environmental liabilities at eligible brownfield sites, develop site-specific cleanup plans, and conduct community engagement. Input from the local community is an essential part of this process and will help to determine which sites may be best suited for assessment, and identify community needs for potential site reuse or redevelopment. This will ensure that available funds are directed towards properties which are of significance to the local communities and that redevelopment efforts are reflective of the needs of the community.

Where will the funds be administered?

A number of potential sites have already been identified within the four county region. In Dooly County, these include the former state bank building in Pinehurst, the former Smyrna Independent Church and Berry Site in Unadilla, and several industrial parks located in Vienna, Pinehurst, and Unadilla. These industrial sites are important because they provide potential locations for prospects who are considering Dooly County as a location for their business. Assessment of these sites will quantify the risk of environmental liability, making these properties more appealing to future businesses.

As a member of the local community, your involvement and input in this process is valued. To recommend a site for assessment, please contact Scotty Mashburn, Director of the Dooly County Economic Development Council, at 229-268-4554. For more information on the Brownfields Program, contact Laura Schneider at 706-256-2910 or Jim Livingston at 877-819-6348. You may also visit www.rivervalleyce.org. Historic Storefronts, Pinehurst, GA.
**Brownfields Assessment Grant**

Crisp, Dooly, Macon, and Sumter Counties will be conducting assessments of contaminated and/or hazardous brownfield sites through a $600,000 Brownfields Assessment Coalition Grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. This grant was awarded to the River Valley Regional Commission to allow the four counties to conduct assessments of properties within the region. The grant will also be used to develop cleanup plans for assessed sites, which will facilitate future reuse or redevelopment of these properties, and provide opportunities for economic growth and revitalization.

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A brownfield site is a property which the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. Examples of potential brownfield sites may include, but are not limited to former gas stations, buildings with asbestos or lead-based paint, former dry cleaners, former bulk petroleum facilities, former wood treatment facilities, former pesticide/herbicide handling areas and former landfills.

What will the grant enable?

These funds are intended to help thoroughly inventory, characterize and assess the presence of environmental liabilities at eligible brownfield sites, develop site-specific cleanup plans, and conduct community engagement. Input from the local community is an essential part of this process and will help to determine which sites may be best suited for assessment, and identify community needs for potential site reuse or redevelopment. This will ensure that available funds are directed towards properties which are of significance to the local communities and that redevelopment efforts are reflective of the needs of the community.

Where will the funds be administered?

A number of potential sites have already been identified within the four county region. In Macon County, these include the former Ideal School, the former Montezuma Motors building, the former Peerless Packing property in Marshallville, and several former gas stations. The former Ideal School is directly adjacent to a large park and several residential properties, and was identified as a priority candidate for assessment due to the safety risk it poses to the local community, while the former Montezuma Motors building and former gas stations were selected due to their high-traffic and high-visibility locations at entrances to both downtown Montezuma and Oglethorpe.

As a member of the local community, your involvement and input in this process is valued. To recommend a site for assessment, please contact Mr. Gerald Beckum, Executive Director of the Macon County Development Authority, at 478-472-2391.

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**Civility before, during, and after election day**

By Johnathan Hladik, policy director, Center for Rural Affairs

Discussion and debate has always been a part of rural America.

From coffee shops to the local co-op, rural residents aren’t afraid to show their loyalty for one candidate or another, share their thoughts on the issues of the day, and voice their distrust of the government. Sometimes opinions can spur disagreement and raise tensions. But, in the end, most of us will agree to disagree, shake hands, and go about our day.

Lately, this seems to have changed. The divisive politics of Washington have made their way to our Main Streets. This “us versus them” mentality has damaged relationships, harmed businesses, and affected our children.

While technological advances have brought the world together in ways our forefathers never imagined, those same changes have also torn us apart. Showing support for a candidate or issue on social media is often met with personal attacks. This will only accelerate as the Nov. 3 general election draws near.

Rural America is better than this. Here neighbors help neighbors in good times and bad, band together for school and civic events, and have lively discussions about the news of the day that always end with plans to meet again tomorrow. This sense of community is what rural America is all about.

Healthy debates and differing opinions aren’t wrong. But it is time to rise above the heated discourse. This is our chance to show the rest of America how to set aside differences and work together toward a strong and vibrant community.

**COLE**

Continued from page 1A
# 2020 Georgia Brownfield Association Brownfield Seminar Agenda

Tuesday, October 6, 2020 – Wednesday, October 7, 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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| 9:00 – 9:15 AM | **Welcome** Dustin Heizer  
**Acknowledge Sponsors & Housekeeping** Shanna Thompson  
**Keynote Speaker Introduction** Tina Coleman |
| 9:15 - 10:05 AM | **Keynote Speaker: Georgia’s Path Forward Post Pandemic**  
Jennifer Zeller, Strategic Solutions Manager and Ricardo Palacios, Engineering Manager;  
Georgia Power Community & Economic Development |
| 10:05 – 10:55 AM | **Creating Value from Surplus Properties through Brownfields Redevelopment**  
Steven Aufdenkampe, Norfolk Southern and Rebecca Bolden, Mohawk |
| 10:55 – 11:25 AM | **Collaboration Across Georgia’s Hazardous Waste Programs**  
Adam Hanley of EPD’s Brownfield Unit and Mike Smilley of EPD’s VRP Unit |
| 11:25 – 11:35 AM | **Break** |
| 11:35 AM – 12:25 PM | **Community Involvement and Environmental Health: Soil Heavy Metal Contamination in West Atlanta**  
Dr. Eri Saikawa, Emory, Rosario Hernandez, Historic Westside Gardens, and  
Leigh Lattimore and Frank Sanchez, Department of Public Health |
| 12:25 - 12:55 PM | **EPA Updates**  
Mary Walker as Session Leader |
| 12:55 – 1:30 PM | **Incentives for Brownfields Redevelopment: A Success Story with the Florida Brownfields Program**  
David Latham, Geosyntec and Joe Ullo, Stearns Weaver Miller |
<p>| 1:30 – 1:50 PM | <strong>Breakout Session: What can we do to improve brownfield redevelopment in GA?</strong> |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
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| 9:00 – 9:10 AM | **Welcome - Dustin Heizer**  
*Acknowledge Sponsors & Housekeeping - Shanna Thompson* |
| 9:10 – 9:45 AM | **Lessons Learned in Brownfield Redevelopment**  
*Jim Irwin, New City Properties and John Spinrad, Arnall Golden Gregory* |
| 9:45 – 10:20 AM | **Addressing the Challenges of Ongoing Owner Obligations for Type 5 Remediation**  
*Anthony Nievera, Peachtree Environmental and Shannon Ridley, EPD Brownfields Coordinator* |
| 10:20 – 11:10 AM | **PFAS Issues Related to Brownfields Redevelopment**  
*Renea Hall, EPA Region 4 Staff Lead for PFAS Emerging Contaminants and Alabama Drinking Water Program Liaison with John Hollar, Geosyntec and Charlie Denton, Barnes & Thornburg* |
| 11:10 – 11:20 AM | **BREAK - 10 minutes** |
| 11:20 AM – 12:05 PM | **EPD Updates**  
*Sarah Visser, Assistant Branch Chief of EPD’s Land Protection Branch with Jason Metzger, Director of EPD’s Response and Remediation Program, and Shannon Ridley, EPD Brownfields Coordinator* |
| 12:05 – 12:35 PM | **Status and Effective Use of GaEPD’s New Guidance Documents**  
*Steve Ellingson, Vatten Associates* |
| 12:35 – 1:30 PM | **Leveraging Georgia’s Regional Commissions for Brownfield Assessment: A Case Study of a Multi-Party Brownfield Assessment Coalition Project**  
*Nick DiLuzio, Newfields with Jim Livingston and Laura Schneider, River Valley Regional Commission.* |
| 1:30 – 1:50 PM | **Breakout Sessions: Identifying and overcoming obstacles in brownfield remediation?** |

**Thank You for Attending the 2020 GBA Brownfield Seminar!**

*The Brownfield Seminar wouldn’t be possible without the support of our event sponsors:*
About

The Georgia Brownfield Association (GBA) is a non-profit advocacy and education organization formed by leading development, legal, engineering, risk management, economic development, and other professionals with a shared interest in cleaning and redeveloping contaminated properties and revitalizing surrounding areas in the State of Georgia.

Mission

The GBA was formed to ensure our State benefits from the continued clean-up of and reinvestment in environmentally impacted and underutilized properties in Georgia. The association will continue the efforts of many of its members to help create the most supportive legislative and regulatory environment and to educate business, civic, community, and government leadership about the benefits of revitalization.

Legislative Efforts

The GBA is active at the legislature and collaborates with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Georgia Environmental Protection Division to help ensure that regulatory issues do not impede responsible and sustainable redevelopment in Georgia. The GBA also collaborates with like-minded organizations with shared interests in economic development, environmental sustainability, and related social challenges. The GBA desires to educate and inspire business, civic and political decision makers about the opportunities presented by brownfields in our State.

Founding Members

The following founding members were instrumental in the development of the organization: AECOM; AIG; Wood PLC; Arnall Golden Gregory LLP; Brown and Caldwell; Cardno; Georgia Power; MWH; Morris, Manning & Martin, LLP; and Troutman Sanders, LLP.

Corporate Members

GBA’s 2020 Corporate Members include the following organizations:

PLATINUM

Terracon Consultants, Inc.

GOLD

Arnall Golden Gregory LLP; ECS; Georgia Power; Geosyntec; Kemron; Morris, Martin & Manning LLP; Resolute Environmental; Total Vapor Solutions; Troutman Pepper; United Consulting; Wood PLC

SILVER

AECOM; Analytical Environmental Services; Arcadis; Barnes & Thornburg, LLP; Cardno; CERM; Enercon; ERM; Geo Lab Drilling; Geotechnical Environmental Consultants; Golder; HL Strategy; Intertek PSI; Kazmarek, Mowrey Cloud Laseter, LLP; King & Spalding; Mills Environmental Services; NOVA; Pace Analytical; Peachtree Environmental; Ramboll; S&ME; Smith Gambrell & Russell; Tetra Tech; Wenck; and Winter Environmental

Membership Benefits

GBA provides professionals in the redevelopment community an active voice among legislative and industry leaders. In its 10-year history, the association has been pleased to twice collaborate with Georgia Environmental Protection Division to successfully advocate for the passage of legislation (including Georgia House Bill 957, the Georgia Hazard Site Reuse and Redevelopment Act) to refine the laws regulating brownfield redevelopment in Georgia. In addition, the group regularly holds events at which we educate members about timely industry topics and provide unique opportunities for networking with others throughout the industry and state.

Membership levels include Platinum, Gold, Silver, Individual, Government, and Student, with more information at GeorgiaBrownfield.org/Membership.
HISTORIC PRESERVATION

RVRC staff provided assistance to people interested in restoring historic properties and to organizations throughout the region that promote historic preservation. This year, staff accomplished the following:

CONSULTED WITH GDOT ON REPLACING Oglethorpe Bridge in Columbus located at the southernmost boundary of the Columbus National Register Historic District.

PROVIDED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE to the Cordelle Historic Preservation Commission and the Cordelle Zoning Board regarding redeveloping the Gillespie-Selden College campus.

PARTICIPATED ON THE GEORGIA STATE TOURISM TEAM that worked with the Columbus Convention Visitors’ Bureau to expand the Columbus African-American Heritage Trail.

WROTE HISTORIC DEVELOPMENTAL HISTORY of the Andersonville Depot as part of the mitigation efforts for Andersonville Depot Transportation Enhancement.

46 APPLICATIONS REVIEWED Certificates of Appropriateness for the Columbus Board of Historic and Architectural Review.

BROWNFIELDS ASSESSMENT GRANT AWARD

In June, RVRC received its first United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) Brownfields Assessment Grant award.

The US EPA Brownfields program provides grants and technical assistance to communities to assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse contaminated properties. Funding will be used to conduct site-specific environmental assessments in:

CRISP COUNTY
DOOLY COUNTY
MACON COUNTY
SUMTER COUNTY

20+ PRIORITY SITES IDENTIFIED
3YR GRANT DURATION

Throughout the three-year duration of the grant, the coalition (River Valley Regional Commission, Sumter County Development Authority, City of Vienna, Cordelle-Crisp Industrial Development Council, and Macon County Development Authority) will work with local community partners and qualified engineering professionals to conduct community outreach, complete Phase I and Phase II Environmental Assessments, and develop cleanup planning documents. Assessment of these sites will greatly assist communities throughout the four-county region in redevelopment efforts, spurring economic growth and revitalization.

$600k IN FUNDING
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