RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING
Buena Vista, GA
June 26, 2024
10:30 A.M.
Meeting Minutes

Council Members (Counties Represented: 15)

Albert King, Vienna
Bobby Jenkins, Cuthbert
Carvel Lewis, Georgetown-Quitman County, RVRC Chair
Charles Coffey, Chattahoochee County
Darrell Holbrook, Webster County
Doug Ethridge, Harris County
Eugene Cason, Dooly County
James Davenport, Clay County
Jayson Griffin, Macon County
Jimmy Daniels, Oglethorpe
J.R. Dowdy, Crisp County, Vice-Chair
Kenneth Sumpter, Fort Gaines
Kevin Brown, Buena Vista
Larry Sparks, Talbot County
Leah Clark, Ellaville
Lee Kinnamon, Americus
Melvin Crimes, Webster County
Randy Howard, Sumter County
Rob Grant, Harris County
Tameka Harris, Taylor County, RVRC Secretary
Terrell Hudson, Dooly County
Tom Queen, Taylor County
Tony Lamar, Talbotton
Toyia Tucker, Columbus
Xavier McCaskey, Columbus

Members Not Attending

Barbara Cullefer, Lumpkin
Barry Whitley, Butler
Bill McClellan, Schley County
Carl Oliver, Macon County
Danny Blackmon, Georgetown-Quitman County
Jeff McCarter, Randolph County
Jim Reid, Sumter County
Joe Lee Williams, Stewart County
Joshua Deriso, Cordele
Maggie McGruther, Sumter County
Patrick Whearley, Hamilton
Richard McCorkle, Marion County
Shane Grier, Marion County
Skip Henderson, Columbus
Timothy Biddle, Chattahoochee County

Others Present

Nicole Acree, Taylor Co. Dev. Authority
Allyson Drinnon, Congressman Bishop's Office
Christopher Drake, Congressman Bishop's Office
Mandy White, Randolph Co. Dev. Authority
Natalie Bradley, Flint Energies
Anthony Couch, Talbot County
Tom Horn, Columbus Water Works
Mary Stevens, Talbot County Chamber of Commerce
Christy Bozeman, GA DEcD
Michael Dempsey, Ft. Moore
Charles Gower, Ft. Moore
Rebecca White, DCA

RVRC Staff

Jim Livingston, Executive Director
Tracie Hadaway, Director of Planning and Government Services
Katie Howard, Director of Area Agency on Aging
Allison Slocum, Assistant Director of Planning
Grant Richardson, Assistant Director of Government Services
Rick Morris, Planning

Will Griggs, Planning
Ian Perry, Planning
Mariyana Kostov, Planning
Naomi Masuoka, Planning
Destinee Williams, Planning
Blaine Hoskins, Planning
John Morgan, Planning
Michael Murray, Planning
Laura Schneider, Planning
Camille Bielby, Planning
Kia Barrow, Aging
LaCarole Lloyd, Aging
Robbie Monfort, Aging
Tenisha Tookes, WIOA
Tammy Collins, Finance

WELCOME AND RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Carvel Lewis, RVRC Chairman, brought the meeting to order and welcomed visitors. Tameka Harris, Secretary, led the council in prayer, and Dick Dowdy, Vice-Chair, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF APRIL MINUTES*

The council reviewed the April 24, 2024 meeting minutes which were emailed to members the previous week for their review. The minutes were also included in the council packets that were available at the meeting. There being no additions or changes, Chairman Lewis asked for a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was made by Toyia Tucker, Columbus and seconded by Randy Howard, Sumter County. The motion passed with no opposition.

APPROVAL OF MAY MINUTES*

The council reviewed the May 22, 2024 meeting minutes which were emailed to members the previous week for their review. The minutes were also included in the council packets that were available at the meeting. There being no additions or changes, Chairman Lewis asked for a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was made by Toyia Tucker, Columbus and seconded by Randy Howard, Sumter County. The motion passed with no opposition.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF FY 2025 CALENDAR*

Jim Livingston, Executive Director, presented the River Valley Regional Council Calendar for FY25. Jim said the meetings will continue to be in Buena Vista at 10:30 a.m. on the fourth Wednesday of each month with the exception of July, May, and November. The November and December meeting will be combined and held on December 11th, and May is the Legislative Luncheon. The Legislative Luncheon's proposed date is May 22, 2025, which is the fourth Thursday of the month. Chairman Lewis asked for a motion to approve the FY25 Calendar. The motion was made by Darrell Holbrook, Webster County and seconded by Albert King, Vienna. The motion passed with no opposition.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF FY 2025 BUDGET*

Tammy Collins, Finance Officer, presented the FY25 budget with the Executive Committee's recommendation for approval by the full council. The budget projects a $19,163 increase in fund balance in the General Fund, and more amendments to the budget will be presented in August. Chairman Lewis asked for a motion to approve the FY25 Budget. The motion was made by Albert King, Vienna and seconded by Melvin Crimes, Webster County. The motion passed with no opposition.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF JOB DESCRIPTIONS*

Jim Livingston, Executive Director, presented the job descriptions for RVRC staff that were developed by the University of Georgia as part of their analysis that took place in the past year. There is no substantial difference in the descriptions or the duties of staff. Chairman Lewis asked for a motion to approve the job descriptions. The motion was made by Charles Coffey, Chattahoochee County and seconded by Tony Lamar, Talbotton. The motion passed with no opposition.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF U.S. DOL POLICY ADJUSTMENT TO EMPLOYEE MANUAL*

Jim Livingston, Executive Director, presented a policy addendum to the RVRC employee manual with the Executive Committee's recommendation for approval by the full council. The U.S. Department of Labor updated the Fair Labor Standards Act's overtime pay requirements, effective July 1, 2024. The addendum will follow the new standards, and all

staff members are required to sign off on the new policy. Chairman Lewis asked for a motion to approve the addendum to the employee manual. The motion was made by Randy Howard, Sumter County and seconded by Albert King, Vienna. The motion passed with no opposition.

RVRC 101

RVRC Staff from the Planning, Aging, and WIOA departments presented the council with summaries of their work and areas of expertise in the region so that communities know who to contact when they need assistance and services.

STAFF REPORTS

Tracie Hadaway, Director of Planning and Government Services reported that the public meeting would be held later in the afternoon for the Regional Transit Plan. The Thriving Communities Regional Pilot Program was not funded, and staff will meet on June 27 to discuss improvements to future applications. There is a notice for the Land and Water Conservation Grant application. The funding cycle opens September 1. The Georgia Outdoor Stewardship program pre-application opens August 1. The last deadline for the Safe Streets for All planning grant is August 29. There must be a safety plan developed to apply. The Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program notice of funding will come out in early July.

Katie Howard, AAA Director reported that there is a waiting list for almost every home and community based service. There is little to no waitlist for caregivers or respite. Contact the AAA if you are a caregiver or know a caregiver in need of physical or mental assistance.

Tammy Collins, Finance Officer reported that as of April 30, 2024, there was a net increase in fund balance in the operating funds leaving an unassigned fund balance of $1,119,659 and cash on hand of $627,252. The fringe rate was 50.8%. The indirect rate was 46%. Enterprise funds had an increase in net position of $9,100 and a total net position of $2.1 million with cash on hand of $1.3 million available for lending.

ADJOURN

As there was no further business, Chairman Lewis requested a motion for the meeting to be adjourned. A motion was made by Darrell Holbrook, Webster County and seconded by Albert King, Vienna. The motion passed with no opposition. The meeting was adjourned.

_____ August 28, 2024

_____ Carvel Lewis, Chairman

_____ Tameka Harris, Secretary