**RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL COUNCIL LEGISLATIVE LUNCHEON**
**South Georgia Technical College, Americus, GA**
**May 22, 2024**
**10:30 A.M.**
**Meeting Minutes**

**Council Members (Counties Represented: 13)**

Bobby Jenkins, Cuthbert
Carvel Lewis, Georgetown-Quitman County, RVRC Chair
Charles Coffey, Chattahoochee County
Danny Blackmon, Georgetown-Quitman County
Darrell Holbrook, Webster County
Eugene Cason, Dooly County
J.R. Dowdy, Crisp County, Vice-Chair
James Davenport, Clay County
Jayson Griffin, Macon County
Jimmy Daniels, Oglethorpe
Kenneth Sumpter, Fort Gaines
Larry Sparks, Talbot County
Leah Clark, Schley County
Lee Kinnamon, Americus
Maggie McGruther, Sumter County
Skip Henderson, Columbus
Tameka Harris, Taylor County, RVRC Secretary
Terrell Hudson, Dooly County
Tony Lamar, Talbotton
Toyia Tucker, Columbus

**Members Not Attending**

Albert King, Vienna
Barbara Cullefer, Lumpkin
Barry Whitley, Butler
Bill McClellan, Schley County
Carl Oliver, Macon County
Darrell Holbrook, Webster County
Doug Ethridge, Harris County
Jeff McCarter, Randolph County
Jim Reid, Sumter County
Joe Lee Williams, Stewart County
Joshua Deriso, Cordele
Kevin Brown, Buena Vista
Melvin Crimes, Webster County
Patrick Whearley, Hamilton
Randy Howard, Sumter County
Richard McCorkle, Marion County
Rob Grant, Harris County
Shane Grier, Marion County
Timothy Biddle, Chattahoochee County
Tom Queen, Taylor County
Xavier McCaskey, Columbus

**Others Present**

County and City Representatives
River Valley RC Staff
Jody Redding, Governor Kemp's Office
Senator Freddie Powell-Sims, District 12
Senator Ed Harbison, District 15
Representative Debbie Buckner, GA House District 137
Representative Vance Smith, GA House District 138
Representative Termaine 'Teddy' Reese, GA House District 140
Representative Mike Cheokas, GA House District 151
Representative Gerald Greene, GA House District 154
Christopher Drake, Congressman Bishop's Office
Somer Stafford, Office of Congressman Bishop
Christopher Kelley, Congressman Bishop's Office
Allyson Drinnon, Congressman Bishop's Office
Alyse Wolf, Senator Ossoff's Office
Eboni Morris-Key, Senator Ossoff's Office

**WELCOME AND RECOGNITION OF VISITORS**

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

**STAFF RECOGNITION**

Jim Livingston, RVRC Executive Director, recognized employees of the River Valley Regional Commission for Years of Service. LaTanya Albright, Case Manager, and Annie Poles, ADRC Counselor, both celebrated 5 years of service. Rick Morris, Senior Planner, celebrated 20 years of service. Chairman Lewis recognized Jim Livingston for 10 years of service.

**FEDERAL UPDATES**

Chairman Lewis introduced field representatives from state and federally elected officials who updated the council and sent greetings from the elected officials. Chairman Lewis then asked the state elected officials for updates from the most recently completed legislation session.

**STATE UPDATES**

**Jody Redding**, **Field Representative of Governor Kemp**, provided an update from the Office of the Governor.

A panel discussion was led by Chairman Lewis that included **State Senators Freddie Powell-Sims, Senate District 12**, and **Ed Harbison, Senate District 15**. They were joined by **State House Representatives Debbie Buckner, House District 137, Vance Smith, House District 138, Termaine (Teddy) Reese, House District 140, Mike Cheokas, House District 151, and Gerald Greene, House District 154.**

Both panels provided discussion between legislators and attendees about updates in the state of Georgia and the River Valley Region.

**ADJOURN**

There being no further business, Chairman Lewis gave the blessing. Lunch was then served.

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June 26, 2024 Carvel Lewis, Chairman

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Tameka Harris, Secretary