**RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING**
**Buena Vista, GA**
**October 22, 2025**
**10:30 A.M.**
**Meeting Minutes**

**Council Members (Counties Represented: 14)**

Linda Barfield, Macon County
Kevin Brown, City of Buena Vista
Eugene Cason, Dooly County
Ken Chapman, Talbot County
Jack Clark, Schley County
Charles Coffey, Chattahoochee County
Melvin Crimes, Webster County
J. R. Dowdy III, Crisp County, Vice-Chair
Doug Ethridge, Harris County
Rob Grant, Harris County
Jayson Griffin, Macon County
Tameka Harris, Taylor County, Secretary
Darrell Holbrook, Webster County
Randy Howard, Sumter County
Terrell Hudson, Dooly County
Bobby Jenkins, Cuthbert
Albert King, Vienna
David Kinsey, Georgetown-Quitman County
Tony Lamar, Talbotton
Carvel Lewis, Georgetown-Quitman County, Chair
Dennis Thomas, Lumpkin

**Members Not Attending**

Timothy Biddle, Chattahoochee County
Jimmy Daniels, Oglethorpe
James Davenport, Clay County
Joshua Deriso, Cordele
Shane Grier, Marion County
Skip Henderson, Columbus
Lee Kinnamon, Americus
Rob Marion, Chattahoochee County
Jeffrey McCarter, Randolph County
Xavier McCaskey, Columbus
Richard McCorkle, Marion County
Maggie McGruther, Sumter County
Tom Queen, Taylor County
Jim Reid, Sumter County
Kenneth Sumpter, Ft. Gaines
Shane Tondee, Ellaville
Toyia Tucker, Columbus
Patrick Whearley, Hamilton
Barry Whitley, Butler
Joe Lee Williams, Stewart County

**Others Present**

Anthony Couch, Talbot Co.
Carolyn Parker, Talbot Co. Chamber
Charles Auer, Ft. Benning
Chirsty Bozeman, GA DEcD
Connie Harris, Marion Co.
Mark Lewis, TCSG Rep.
Mike Dempsey, Ft. Benning
Micky Dunnavant, Crisp County Manager
Paul Tanner, GDOT
Rebecca White, DCA
Scott Carver, Sumter County Manager

**RVRC Staff**

Jim Livingston, Executive Director
Katie Howard, Director of Area Agency on Aging
Tracie Hadaway, Director of Planning and Govt. Services
Addis Bugg, Administration
Allison Slocum, Assist. Director of Planning and Govt. Services
Blaine Hoskins, Regional Planner
Destinee Williams, Regional Planner
Mariyana Kostov, GIS Specialist
Janice West, Director of WIOA
SheKella Prince, Financial Assist. / Human Resources Mang.

**Welcome and Recognition of Visitors**

Carvel Lewis, Georgetown-Quitman County, brought the meeting to order, welcomed visitors. Tameka Harris, Taylor County, led the council in prayer and Dick Dowdy, Crisp County, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER MINUTES***

The council reviewed the September 24, 2025 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, in addition Tunnel 2 Tower presentation and data hub link. There being no additions or changes, Carvel Lewis, Georgetown-Quitman County, asked for a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was made by Darrell Holbrook, Webster County, and seconded by Rob Grant, Harris County. The motion passed with no opposition.

**Work Source Georgia Overview**

Mark Lewis, Business Service Recruiter Office Workforce Development at the Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG), shared information about the resources and programs available through Work Source Georgia. Mark discussed how their offices partners with employees, community stakeholders, and local agencies to strengthen the workforce by identifying talent needs, supporting recruitment efforts, and connecting qualified job seekers with employment opportunities. Mark also highlighted Key services such as job fairs, resume and interview workshops, veteran support and individualized employer assistance. Additionally, he mentioned programs about Federal Bonding which provide insurance protection for employers hiring individuals with barriers and the Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC), offering incentives for business that employ qualified candidates from target groups.

**Update on REVAMP Program**

Maryiana Kostov, RVRC GIS Specialist, introduced Paul Tanner, GDOT, who spoke about the Roadway Element Validation and Mapping Program (REVAMP Program). Paul explained that REVAMP originally part of Map-21 initiative Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st century that was rebranded in 2022, in REVAMP is designed to strengthen roadway data collection and reporting across the state. The program represents a collaborative partnership among GDOT, the Georgia Association of Regional Commissions (GARC), and the ITOS program at the University of Georgia. Paul shared phase 6 of REVAMP which will begin in January 2026, focusing on updating GDOT's road geometry over two-to-three-year period. Paul also discussed how counties and cities will play a key role by completing Local Road Activity (LRA) forms, which ensure local roads are accurately added to the state's roadway dataset. Additionally, he touched on how REVAMP connects with other GDOT programs, including the Local Maintenance and Improvement Grant (LMIG) and the Transportation Investment Act (TIA), both of which use roadway mileage and population formulas to guide transportation funding across Georgia.

**RVRC Data Hub**

Jim Livingston, RVRC Executive Director, explained the RVRC Data Hub link, which provides a detailed overview of key community metrics. The website highlights where the population stands, median age, educational attainment figures, the median household income, employment and unemployment data break downs. Jim provided context about the regions socioeconomic status, workforce composition, and demographic trends.

**STAFF REPORTS**

**Tammy Collins, Financial Officer**, reported that the finance team is continuing to work on the audit for FY2025. The August 2025 financial report was presented. The operating fund had a decrease in fund balance of $ 77,685 for the month of August. Cash on hand was $ 754,517. The fringe rate for Aug 2025 was 51.85% and the indirect rate was 44.43%. The enterprise funds had an increase in net position of $ 2,583. We have $1.49 million available for lending.

**Tracie Hadaway, Director of Planning and Government Services**, introduced the new staff report format. Along with the usual information, there are some new features to help council members find information more easily. These include an overall Table of Contents, and tables showing important timeframes and updates for Community Comprehensive Plans, Service Delivery Strategies, and Hazard Mitigation Plans.

**Katie Howard, AAA Director**, shared the latest information on the impact of the Federal Shutdown on aging programs. The Administration on Community Living requires that clients be notified 30 days in advance of any interruption or cessation of services. The state was able to obtain a waiver to shorten that to 2 weeks allowing more flexibility. Letters were sent to the providers on October 16 to distribute to clients. On October 18, the Division of Aging Services was informed that there was an additional 5 days of funding at the state level. Because of this, letters could be sent out on October 24. The RVRC/AAA is working on a strategy to use state funding to continue paying providers for services through November. A meeting will be held on October 27 with providers to discuss this and other options for funding. Local governments may receive questions about the letters once they go out to clients.

**Janice West, WIOA Director**, reported that a total of 56 individuals were served for the enrollment period from July 1, 2024, through October 15,2025. Unemployment Rate for Georgia for August 2025 was 3.6%. The regional Unemployment Rate was 4.8%. WIOA Service Providers are continuing to do outreach and recruitment services in the area. Intake for Individual Training Account (ITA) services will begin in December for the Spring semester 2026 enrollment for colleges.

**ADJOURN***

As there was no further business. A motion was made by Darrell Holbrock, Webster County, and seconded by Albert King, City of Vienna to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed with no opposition.

October 22, 2025.

Carvel Lewis, Chairman

Tameka Harris, Secretary