



www.rivervalleyrc.org

Columbus Office

710 Front Avenue, Suite A
P. O. Box 1908
Columbus, GA 31902
Phone (706) 256-2910
Fax (706) 256-2908
TDY (706)256-2944

Americus Office

228 West Lamar Street
Americus, GA 31709
Phone (706) 256-2910
Fax (229) 931-2745
Fax (229) 931-2917

Toll Free (877) 819-6348

RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING
Marion County Commission Office
August 28, 2019
10:30 A.M.
Minutes Summary

Members Attending

(Representing 16 Counties)
A.J. Rivers, Crisp County
Barry Waters, City of Ft. Gaines
Bruce Hill, City of Oglethorpe, RVRC Secretary
Carvel Lewis, Georgetown-Quitman County
Chip Jones, Stewart County
Doug Etheridge, Harris County
Dr. Edward Lee, Cusseta-Chattahoochee County
Ernest Jenkins, Clay County
Harry Lange, Harris County
Hobby Stripling, City of Vienna
James R. "Bump" Welch, Marion County

Members Not Present

Barry Whitley, City of Butler
Clay Jones, Sumter County
Carlton Wilson, City of Ellaville
Clinton Perry, Jr. Taylor County
Damon Hoyte, Cusseta-Chattahoochee County
Danny Blackmon, Georgetown-Quitman County
Dr. Carole Rutland, Muscogee County
Evelyn Turner Pugh, Muscogee County
Freeman Montgomery, Talbot County
Greg Barineau, Schley County
James Morton, Cusseta-Chattahoochee County

Others Present

Brittney Hickom, Department of Community Affairs
Deana Perry, Department of Community Affairs
Casey Bean, Dept. of Community Affairs
Chris Kelley, Field Rep. for Congressman Bishop
Debbie Stone, City of Lumpkin
Janet Joiner, Vienna, Community Development Director
Janice Jarvis, Sumter County, Fiscal Administrator

Jayson Griffin, Macon County
Jerry "Pops" Barnes, Muscogee Co., RVRC Vice Chairman
Jimmy Bradley, Randolph County
Joe Lee Williams, Stewart County
Knox Blackmar, City of Talbotton
Matt Gunnels, Marion County
Melvin Crimes, Webster County
Pam Jordan, Talbot County
Randy Howard, Sumter County, RVRC Chairman
Tameka Harris, Taylor County
Terrell Hudson, Dooly County
Wally Summers, Sumter County
Tony Kennedy, Webster County

Jeanie Bartee, City of Cordele
Jimmy Babb, City of Lumpkin
Maggie McGruther, Sumter County
Nelson Brown, City of Americus
Mickey George, Macon County
Ralph Brown, City of Buena Vista
Rebecca Chambers, City of Hamilton
Richard McCorkle, Marion County
Sam Farrow, Jr., Crisp County
Steve Whatley, City of Cuthbert
Tom Queen, Taylor County

Justin Strickland, Marion County
Kathy Burns, Field Rep. for Senator Perdue
Laura Gower, Field Rep. for Senator Johnny Isakson
Laura Lee Berstein, Cusseta-Chatt. County Manager
Lisa Goodwin, Columbus Consolidated Government
Melissa Moody, AAA Advisory Council
Rebecca White, Randolph Co. Chamber of Commerce
Regina McDuffie, Macon Co., County Manager

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Regina McDuffie, Macon County Manager
Roselle Moody, AAA Advisory Council
Steve Sanders, Dooly County, County Administrator

Susan Gallagher, New Horizons Behavioral Health

Staff Members

Jim Livingston, Executive Director
Sarah Walls, Assistant Director
Katie Howard, AAA Director
Rick Morris, Planning Director

Gerald Mixon, Planning Director
Grant Richardson, Community Developer
Allison Slocum, Senior Planner/Historic Preservation
Becky Holmes, Office Manager

WELCOME AND RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Randy Howard, Chairman, brought the regular meeting of the River Valley Regional Council to order at 10:30 a.m. He welcomed council members and visitors. Jerry “Pops” Barnes, Muscogee County, RVRC Vice Chairman, gave the invocation and Bruce Hill, City of Oglethorpe, RVRC Secretary, led the council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES*:

Council reviewed the minutes of the June 26, 2019 council meeting which were either mailed or emailed to council members the previous week for their review. The minutes were also available in the council packet at the meeting.

One change was requested on the minutes under the staff reports, “The Regional Transportation Roundtable will be made up of 1 elected official from each county, the mayor of each city, and 2 elected officials from each consolidated government” should read “The Regional Transportation Roundtable will be made up of 1 elected official from each county, 1 mayor from each county, and 2 elected officials from each consolidated government”.

Randy Howard, Vice Chair, requested a motion to approve the June 26, 2019 council minutes including the amendment of the make-up of the Regional Transportation Roundtable. Barry Waters, City of Ft. Gaines, made a motion to adopt the minutes as presented with the amendment; Melvin Crimes, Webster County, seconded the motion. The motion passed with no opposition.

PRESENTATION: Georgia Broadband Deployment Initiative Program

Deana Perry and Brittney Hickom, Georgia Department of Community Affairs, updated the council by presenting a PowerPoint explaining the Georgia Broadband Deployment Initiative Program.

PRESENTATION: Regional Plan Annual Report Adoption Resolution*

Gerald Mixon, Planning Director, explained and requested approval of the Regional Plan Annual Report adoption resolution. Harry Lange, Harris County, made a motion to adopt the resolution; seconded by Carvel Lewis, Georgetown-Quitman County.

PRESENTATION: Transportation Investment Act (TIA) Roundtable Process

Jim Livingston, Executive Director, explained the creation of the Roundtable. He said there are 4 steps: electing officers, setting guidelines, approve the executive committee nominees and discussing the criteria for the TIA projects. The two items will be discussed at the first meeting of the TIA Roundtable on September 4 at the county commission office in Buena Vista. The second meeting (date and time to be announced) held will be to approve the executive committee and discuss criteria for TIA projects.

STAFF REPORTS:

Jim Livingston, Executive Director (for the WIOA program); Katie Howard, AAA Director, Gerald Mixon, Planning Director, Grant Richardson, Community Development, and Sarah Walls, Assistant Executive Director/Economic Development Director presented staff reports to the council for July-August 2019.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Gerald Mixon, Planning Director, said counties and cities have received a list of addresses that have been rejected by the Census bureau. He explained that each address will need to be checked for accuracy to ensure all people are counted for the census.

Susan Galliger, New Horizons Behavioral Health, announced New Horizons is presenting the Third Annual Children's Mental Health Symposium, September 13, 2019, at Piedmont Columbus Regional Conference Center in Columbus. She encouraged everyone to attend.

Chris Kelley will be the new field representative for Congressman Sanford Bishop due to the retirement of Elaine Gillispie.

Casey Bean, Department of Community Affairs, announced the Georgia Academy for E_____ will be holding a Spring 2020 class. Anyone interested in attending can contact Casey Bean at casey.beane@dca.ga.gov for more information.

Jim Livingston, Executive Director, announce the Georgia Association of Regional Commission's Annual Meeting will be held November 6-8 at the King and Prince Beach and Golf Resort. He encouraged council members to attend if possible.

ADJOURN:

Harry Lange, Harris County, made a motion to adjourn; Carvel Lewis, Georgetown-Quitman County, seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.