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RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING
River Valley Regional Commission, Columbus Office
June 24, 2020
10:30 A.M.
Minutes Summary

Members Attending in Columbus Office (Representing 14 Counties)

Randy Howard, Sumter, RVRC
Chairman

Jerry "Pops" Barnes, Muscogee, RVRC
Vice Chairman
Chip Jones, Stewart
Knox Blackmar, Talbotton

Melvin Crimes, Webster
Tameka Harris, Taylor

Members Attending via Video Call

A.J. Rivers, Crisp County
Bruce Hill, Oglethorpe, RVRC
Secretary
Danny Blackmon, Quitman
Doug Etheridge, Harris

Harry Lange, Harris
Jayson Griffin, Macon
Jimmy Bradley, Randolph
Joe Lee Williams, Stewart
Kevin Brown, Buena Vista
Maggie McGruther, Sumter

Mickey George, Macon
Pam Jordan, Talbot
Richard McCorkle, Marion
Terrell Hudson, Dooly
Wally Summers, Sumter

Members Not Attending

Barry Whitley, Butler
Carvel Lewis, Quitman
Clay Jones, Sumter
Damon Hoyte, Chattahoochee
Dr. Carole Rutland, Muscogee
Dr. Edward Lee, Chattahoochee
Eddie Daniels, Vienna

Freeman Montgomery, Talbot
Greg Barineau, Schley
Greg Domy, Ellaville
James Morton, Chattahoochee
James R. "Bump" Welch, Marion
James Davenport, Clay
Jeanie Bartee, Cordele
Jimmy Babb, Lumpkin

Julie Brown, Hamilton
Matt Gunnels, Marion
Nelson Brown, Americus
Sam Farrow, Jr., Crisp
Skip Henderson, Muscogee
Steve Whatley, Cuthbert
Tom Queen, Taylor
Tony Kennedy, Webster

Others Attending via Video Call

Kathy Burns, Rep. for Sen. Perdue
Mac Moye, Stewart County
Paul Farr, South GA. Tech

Bill Twomey, Americus
Casey Beane, Dept. of Comm. Affairs
Clara Hall, AAA Advisory Committee
Janet Joiner, Vienna

Janice Jarvis, Sumter County
Laura Gower, Rep. for Sen. Loeffler
Kenneth Cutts, Rep. for Cong. Bishop

Staff Members

Jim Livingston, Executive Director
Emily Chambers, Finance Officer

Sarah Wall, Assist. Executive Dir.
Tammy Collins, Finance Officer
Tenisha Tookes, WIOA Specialist

Gerald Mixon, Planning Director

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[Quitman](#) | [Randolph](#) | [Schley](#) | [Stewart](#) | [Sumter](#) | [Talbot](#) | [Taylor](#) | [Webster](#)

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WELCOME AND RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Randy Howard, RVRC Chairman, brought the meeting of the River Valley Regional Council to order at 10:30 a.m. He thanked everyone for joining the meeting either in person or by teleconference. Jim Livingston, Executive Director, explained that those joining by teleconference could ask questions by e-chat or messaging him on his telephone.

Jerry “Pops” Barnes, RVRC Vice-Chair, then gave the invocation and Randy Howard, Chairman, led the council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES*

Council reviewed the minutes of the February 26, 2020 council meeting which were either mailed or emailed to council members the previous week for their review. The minutes were included in the council packet for review.

There being no changes or additions Randy Howard, RVRC Chairman, requested a motion to approve the February 26, 2020 council minutes.

Harry Lange, Harris County, made the above requested motion; Joe Lee Williams, Stewart County, seconded the motion. The motion passed with no opposition.

REVIEW OF THE ONLINE VOTE BY COUNCIL MEMBERS TO GIVE THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE THE AUTHORITY TO MAKE DECISIONS FOR THE COUNCIL DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC*

Below is the vote that was taken through an online survey; 31 members responded “Yes”, 3 voted “Yes” verbally, and 10 members did not vote.

RESPONSES DATE

1 Clay Jones 4/19/2020 11:52 PM
2 Carole Rutland 4/19/2020 11:12 AM
3 Edward Lee 4/18/2020 10:58 AM
4 Sam Farrow 4/18/2020 7:47 AM
5 Tom Queen 4/17/2020 3:04 PM
6 Jimmy Bradley 4/17/2020 2:59 PM
7 Jeanie Bartee 4/17/2020 2:44 PM
8 Chip Jones 4/17/2020 1:50 PM
9 Barry Whitley 4/17/2020 1:36 PM
10 Terrell Hudson 4/17/2020 1:32 PM
11 Matt Gunnels 4/17/2020 12:50 PM
12 Kevin T. Brown 4/17/2020 12:24 PM
13 Wally Summers 4/17/2020 12:14 PM
14 James R, Welch 4/17/2020 12:13 PM
15 Maggie McGruther 4/17/2020 12:04 PM
16 A.J. Rivers 4/17/2020 11:53 AM
17 James Davenport 4/17/2020 11:25 AM

18 Tony Kennedy 4/16/2020 4:11 PM
19 Tameka Harris 4/16/2020 3:51 PM
20 Randy Howard 4/16/2020 3:22 PM
21 Pam Jordan 4/16/2020 2:57 PM
22 Bruce Hill 4/16/2020 2:09 PM
23 Skip Henderson 4/16/2020 12:29 PM
24 Harry Lange 4/16/2020 12:00 PM Made the Motion
25 Knox Blackmar 4/16/2020 11:53 AM
26 Mickey George 4/16/2020 11:50 AM
27 Doug Etheridge 4/16/2020 11:49 AM
28 Carvel Lewis 4/16/2020 11:44 AM
29 Pops Barnes 4/16/2020 11:40 AM
30 Greg Dominy 4/16/2020 11:37 AM
31 Jayson Griffin 4/16/2020 11:36 AM
32 Freeman Montgomery, 4/17/2020, Verbal Yes
33 Danny Blackman, 4/17/2020, Verbal Yes
34 Richard McCorkle, 4/17/2020, Verbal Yes

NO VOTE CAST

35 James Morton
36 Damon Hoyte
37 Eddie Daniels
38 Greg Barineau
39 James Babb
40 Joe Lee Williams

41 Melvin Crimes
42 Nelson Brown
43 Steve Whatley
44 Julie Brown

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Randy Howard, RVRC Chairman, requested a motion to approve authorizing the Executive Committee to approve any contracts, resolutions or other business that would need full council approval until it was determined to be safe to hold an RVRC council meeting again.

Harry Lange, Harris County, made the above requested motion. Know Blackmar, Talbotton, seconded the motion. The motion passed with no opposition.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF DECISIONS MADE BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR THE COUNCIL DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC*

Randy Howard, RVRC Chairman, stated that the decisions that were made by the Executive Committee were included in the council packet. Jim Livingston, Executive Director, then read the decisions that were made by the Executive Committee from March 25, 2020 through May 27, 2020. He stated that no other actions were taken by the Executive Committee during that period. The decisions are listed below.

March 25, 2020

- *Approved Pandemic Plan amendment to the Emergency Preparedness Plan
- *Approved Telework Policy amendment to the Emergency Preparedness Plan
- *Approve existing contract extension for Audit Services

May 6, 2020

- *Recognize Grace Grant for 42 years of service upon her retirement

May 27, 2020

- *Approved Budget Amendment #2
- *Approved EDA Partnership Planning Grant application
- *Approved EDA Revolving Loan Fund application
- *Approved AAA CARES Act Contract

Randy Howard, RVRC Chairman, then requested approval of Executive Committee decisions that were made during the period of March 25, 2020 through May 27, 2020.

Harry Lange, Harris County, made the above requested motion. Knox Blackmar, Talbotton, seconded the motion. The motion passed with no opposition.

REVIEW/APPROVAL OF THE EDA/RLF COVID-19 PLAN*

Randy Howard, RVRC Chairman, requested a motion to approve the EDA/RLF COVID-19 Plan.

Joe Lee Williams, Stewart County, made the above requested motion. Knox Blackmar, Talbotton, seconded the motion. The motion passed with no opposition.

Budget Proposal*

Emily Chamber, Finance Director, presented the FY 21 Budget Proposal which was emailed to council members and included in the council packet available at the meeting. She explained anticipated budget cuts and new applications that were submitted. Emily said, after much hard work in the finance department, the budget is balanced for the upcoming year.

Randy Howard, RVRC Chairman, requested a motion to approve the FY21 Proposed Budget as presented.

Chattahoochee | Clay | Crisp | Dooly | Harris | Macon | Marion | Muscogee
Quitman | Randolph | Schley | Stewart | Sumter | Talbot | Taylor | Webster

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Harry Lange, Harris County, made the above requested motion. Tameka Harris, Taylor County, seconded the motion. The motion passed with no opposition.

Staff Reports

Jim Livingston, Executive Director, announced that he would present the staff report for each department. He explained not having staff department heads present would be in the best interest of social distancing by having as few as people possible in the enclosed Conference Room. Jim gave an overview of ongoing and new projects that staff has been working on.

ADJOURN

Randy Howard, RVRC Chairman, requested a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Melvin Crimes, Webster County, made the above request motion. Tameka Harris, Taylor County, seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.