RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING
Marion County Commission Office
Minutes
August 24, 2016

Members Attending/Representing
(Representing 16 Counties)
A.J. Rivers, Crisp County
Bruce Hill, City of Oglethorpe
Cecil “Butch” McMickle, Marion County
Chip Jones, Stewart County
Clark Henderson, Crisp County
Clinton Perry, Jr., Taylor County, RVRC Chair
Debbie Stone, Stewart County
Doug Etheridge, Harris County
Dr. Carole Rutland, Muscogee County
Edward Lee, Cusseta-Chattahoochee County
Evelyn Turner-Pugh, Muscogee County
Freeman Montgomery, Talbot County
Fred Gordon, Muscogee County
George Moore, Webster County
Hobby Stripling, City of Vienna
James R. “Bump” Welch, Marion County
Jason Hoch, Schley County
Jeanie Bartee, City of Cordele
Jerry “Pops” Barnes, Muscogee County
Jimmy Bradley, Randolph County
Harry Lange, Harris County
Joe Lee Williams, Stewart County
Knox Blackmar, City of Talbotton
Lee Hubbard, Clay County

Staff Present
Patti Cullen, Executive Director
Sarah Walls, Assistant Executive Director
Katie Howard, AAA Director
Rick Morris, Planning Director
Emily Chambers, Finance Officer

Members Not Present
Barry Whitley, City of Butler
Carlton Wilson, City of Ellaville
David Kinsey, Georgetown-Quinman County
Greg Barineau, Schley County
James Morton, Cusseta-Chattahoochee County
Jim Lawrence, Cusseta-Chattahoochee County
Nelson Brown, City of Americus
Ralph Brown, City of Buena Vista
Randy Howard, Sumter County
Steve Whatley, City of Cuthbert
Wally Summers, Sumter County

Others Present
Craig Dominey, Senior Film Location Specialist/Camera Ready Program Manager
Gordon Rogers, Ex. Director & Flint River Keeper
Kathy Burns, Rep. for Senator Perdue
Linda Adams, City of Ellaville
Elaine Gillispie, Rep. for Congressman Sanford Bishop

Maggie McGruther, Sumter County
Melvin Crimes, Webster County
Mickey George, Macon County
Mike Speight, Crisp County, RVRC Secretary
Pam Jordan, Talbot County
Patricia Goodman, Randolph County
Rebecca Chambers, City of Hamilton
Richard McCorkle, Marion County
Richard Morris, Georgetown-Quinman Co., RVRC V-Chair
Shirley Ann Christian, City of Fort Gaines
Terrell Hudson, Dooly County
Tom Queen, Taylor County
Tommy McKenzie, Macon County

Allison Slocum, Senior Planner/Historic Preservation
Jim Livingston, Community & Economic Development
Janice West, WIOA Director
Becky Holmes, Office Manager

Colin Martin, Rep. for Congressman Lynn Westmoreland
Janet Joiner, City of Vienna
Ricky Hood, City of Hamilton
Sylvia Russell, Marion County
Candice Head, GDOT
Vickie Wainwright, City of Butler,
Welcome and Recognition of Visitors
Clinton Perry, Jr., Chair, brought the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. and welcomed everyone. Richard Morris, Vice Chair, led the council in prayer and Mike Speight, Secretary, led the council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Review and Approval of Minutes*
Council reviewed the minutes of the June 22, 2016 council meeting. Harry Lange, Harris County, made a motion to approve the minutes as presented; Jerry “Pops” Barnes, Columbus, seconded the motion. Chair Perry asked if there were any comments, questions or concerns; there being none the motion passed unanimously.

Camera Ready In The River Valley Region
Craig Dominey, Senior Film Location Specialist/Camera Ready Program Manager, gave a slide show presentation explaining the advantages of the River Valley region being “camera ready”. Mr. Dominey said Georgia is the 3rd largest production center for the film industry in the nation this year. One incentive is the 2008 Georgia Entertainment Industry Investment Act that is a 20% tax credit on qualified production expenditures (an annual minimum of $500,000 be spent to qualify). There is an additional 10% tax credit if the Georgia Promotional Logo is included in the project.

Georgia also has diverse shooting locations and a highly skilled workforce of more than 100,000 people tied directly or indirectly to the film industry. The economic impact this year of 245 feature films, TV movies and series, commercials and videos being produced in Georgia is $2.02 billion spent with an economic impact of $7 billion in the State. Mr. Dominey said, according to the Motion Picture Association of America, this industry is responsible for more than 100,000 jobs and $4 billion in total wages in Georgia. He explained that there is now a Georgia Film Academy and 18 colleges and universities in the State that are now offering certificates and degrees related to the film industry.

Mr. Dominey urged council members to find out who their Camera Ready contact is and submit properties in their counties/cities to them in order to add a photo to the database that the film industry uses to scout locations for film production. The Camera Ready website is Georgia.org/fnde.

Flint Riverkeeper: Citizens Working for Enough Clean Water for Our Families, Farms and Businesses
Gordon Rogers, Executive Director & Flint River Keeper, gave a presentation explaining the importance of working toward making sure there is an ample clean water supply for the citizens of the State and the daily work needs of farms and businesses. He said the Flint River Keeper’s mission is restore and preserve the habitat, water quality, and flow of the Flint River for the benefit of current and future generations and dependent wildlife. There are 220 undammed river miles and the Flint is one of only 40 rivers left in the United States that flow for more than 200 miles unimpeded. Mr. Rogers explained that Water Law is the right to reasonably use the water on your property. He noted that there is not a title to Water Rights but that it belongs with the land. The size of the property does not constitute more water rights. He said that during droughts the surface flow in creeks and rivers has resulted in a loss of 50-70 percent of the water flow. Mr. Rogers reminded everyone it is very important that the water is returned back to the land after use for the next person to use.

Adopt Amendment to the RVRC EDA Revolving Loan Fund Plan*
Sarah Walls, Assistant Executive Director, requested council adopt an amendment to the RVRC EDA Revolving Loan Fund Plan. She explained the plan was revised to comply with Federal guidelines. Copies of the amendment and law pertaining to the Revolving Loan Fund Plan were emailed to each council member and copies were available at the council meeting.
Clark Henderson, Crisp County, made a motion to adopt the amendment to the Revolving Loan Fund Plan, seconded by Harry Lange, Harris County. Chair Perry asked if there were any comments, questions or concerns; there being none the motion passed unanimously.

**Appointment of Private Sector Council Members***
Sarah Walls, Assistant Executive Director, explained that private sector members must be appointed to the council each year. She said all private sector nominees had been contacted to determine their interest in serving as a private sector member on the Council. Sarah said one position is vacant and that someone would be appointed to that position later in the year. Recommendations for private sector representatives were as follows:

- Mike Speight, Crisp County
- Doug Etheridge, Harris County
- James “Bump” Welch, Marion County
- Patricia Goodman, Randolph County
- Chip Jones, Stewart County
- Wally Summers, Sumter County
- Dr. Edward Lee, Cusseta-Chattahoochee County
- Tommy McKenzie, Macon County
- Tom Queen, Taylor County
- Pam Jordan, Talbot County
- Jason Hoch, Schley County
- Fred Gordon, Muscogee County

Jerry “Pops” Barnes made a motion to accept the private sector recommendations; George Moore, Webster County, seconded the motion. Chair Perry asked if there were any comments, questions or concerns; there being none the motion passed unanimously.

**Adopt Resolution Authorizing the Audit and Collection of Unpaid 911 Fees***
Patti Cullen, Executive Director, requested the council to adopt a resolution authorizing the Regional Commission to provide technical assistance to the counties and cities located in the River Valley region which passed a resolution requesting such assistance regarding the audit and collection of unpaid 911 fees. She explained that a sample resolution was sent to each of the 16 RVRC counties in the region. Eleven counties passed a resolution, 1 county voted not to participate, Columbus is pursuing it on their own and 3 counties have not replied.

Terrell Hudson, Dooly County, made a motion to adopt a resolution to move forward with the audit and collection of unpaid 911 fees; Richard Morris, Georgetown-Quitman County; seconded the motion. Chair Perry asked if there were any comments, questions or concerns; there being none the motion passed unanimously.

**Adopt AAA Conflict of Interest Policy***
Katie Howard, Area Agency on Aging Director, requested the council adopt a Conflict of Interest Policy with guidelines set forth by the State for the River Valley Area Agency on Aging department. A copy of the Resolution for the Conflict of Interest Policy and Procedures was emailed to council members and copies were available at the council meeting.

Bruce Hill, City of Oglethorpe, made a motion to approve the Resolution for the Conflict of Interest Policy; Evelyn Turner-Pugh, City of Columbus, seconded the motion. Chair Perry asked if there were any comments, questions or concerns; there being none the motion passed unanimously.

**Staff Reports**
Katie Howard, Area Agency on Aging Director; presented the staff report for the Aging Department. She said that the Aging department is receiving new money which is going to enable the office to increase Home and Community Based Services to clients.

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

Equal Opportunity Employer
Emily Chambers, Finance Officer; explained that the auditors would be in the Columbus office the following week to begin the FY16 audit. She said that new contracts are still being added to the budget and that next month she would present the first budget amendment of the year.

Rick Morris, Planning Director; announced upcoming events. The Centennial Bicycle Ride will be held September 23-24 and the Fair on the Square will be held in Lumpkin on October 15th.

Janice West, WIOA Director, said local and regional WIOA plans are being developed and draft copies of the local and regional plans are due to the State on August 30th. Final plans are due September 30th. Janice said the WIOA contracts for PY2016 are in place and service providers are now enrolling students in various educational and training activities. The State brand has been identified as “WorkSource” plus the name of the local workforce area. Middle Flint WIOA will be known as WorkSource Middle Flint.

Jim Livingston, Community and Economic Development Director, said the announcement of Community Development Block grant awards is expected to be announced within the next couple of weeks. Preliminary work has already begun on FY2017 CDBG applications. He requested communities begin deciding if/what projects they may want to apply for. Jim explained that photos will be needed showing the problems occurring within the proposed application areas. Staff is currently working on 24 projects. He also announced that staff and the Georgia Brownfield Association are working together to create a Brownfield Workshop in Columbus on October 13th.

**Adjourn**
Chair Clinton Perry, Jr. then adjourned the meeting.

September 28, 2016
Date

[Signatures]

Clinton Perry, Jr., Chair

[Signature]
Mike Speight, Secretary