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RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING

Marion County Commission Office

Minutes

September 28, 2016

Members Attending/Representing

(Representing 15 Counties)

A.J. Rivers, Crisp County
Bruce Hill, City of Oglethorpe
Barry Whitley, City of Butler
Carlton Wilson, City of Ellaville
Chip Jones, Stewart County
Debbie Stone, Stewart County
Dr. Carole Rutland, Muscogee County
Dr. Edward Lee, Cusseta-Chattahoochee County
Evelyn Turner Pugh, Muscogee County
Fred Gordon, Muscogee County
George Moore, Webster County
Hobby Stripling, City of Vienna
James R. "Bump" Welch, Marion County
Jeanie Bartee, City of Cordele
Jerry "Pops" Barnes, Muscogee County
Jim Lawrence, Cusseta-Chattahoochee County
Knox Blackmar, City of Talbotton
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
Ralph Brown, City of Buena Vista

Rebecca Chambers, City of Hamilton
Richard McCorkle, Marion County
Shirley Ann Christian, City of Fort Gaines
Terrell Hudson, Dooly County
Tom Queen, Taylor County
Tommy McKenzie, Macon County
Wally Summers, Sumter County

Members Not Present

Cecil "Butch" McMickle, Marion County
Clinton Perry, Jr., Taylor County, RVRC Chair
Clark Henderson, Crisp County
David Kinsey, Georgetown-Quitman County
Doug Etheridge, Harris County
Freeman Montgomery, Talbot County
Greg Barineau, Schley County
Harry Lange, Harris County
James Morton, Cusseta-Chattahoochee County
Jason Hoch, Schley County
Joe Lee Williams, Stewart County
Jimmy Bradley, Randolph County
Lee Hubbard, Clay County
Nelson Brown, City of Americus
Randy Howard, Sumter County
Richard Morris, Georgetown-Quit. Co., RVRC Vice Chair
Steve Whatley, City of Cuthbert

Staff Present

Patti Cullen, Executive Director
Sarah Walls, Assistant Executive Director
Emily Chambers, Finance Officer
Rick Morris, Planning Director
Gerald Mixon, Planning Director

Allison Slocum, Senior Planner/Historic Preservation
Janice West, WIOA Director
Shameika Averett, GACares Coordinator
Becky Holmes, Office Manager

Others Present

Kelvin Mullins, TIA Administrator, GDOT
Kenneth Franks, TIA Regional Coordinator, GDOT
Nancy Quarles, Public Entities of America
Michelle McGowan, South GA Tech College
Colin Martin, Field Rep. for Congressman Lynn Westmoreland
Elaine Gillispie, Field Rep. for Congressman Bishop
Kathy Burns, Field Rep. for Senator David Perdue

Laura Gower, Field Rep. for Johnny Isakson
Janet Joiner, City of Vienna
John Brent, Harris County
Ricky Hood, City of Hamilton
Carl Adams, Montezuma
Daisy Jackson, Ft. Gaines

Welcome and Recognition of Visitors

Michael Speight, Secretary, brought the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. and welcomed everyone. Wally Summers, Sumter County, led the council in prayer and Terrell Hudson, Dooly County, led the council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Review and Approval of Minutes*

Council reviewed the minutes of the August 24, 2016 council meeting. There being no changes to the minutes, George Moore, Webster County, made a motion to approve the minutes as presented; Melvin Crimes, Webster County, seconded the motion. Secretary Speight asked if there were any comments, questions or concerns; there being none the motion passed unanimously.

Transportation Investment Act Update (TIA)

Kelvin Mullins, TIA Administrator for the Georgia Department of Transportation and Kenneth Franks, TIA Regional Coordinator, gave a PowerPoint presentation explaining the ongoing, completed and future TIA projects. Mr. Franks said that the TIA program is now into the third year. He said that the total collections for the River Valley region was \$162,795,601. Of that money \$122,096,701 (75%) went to the list of approved Band 1 projects and \$40,698,900 (25%) was local discretionary funds that are used for local transportation projects. The River Valley region has 23 approved projects with eight being under construction and one project completed at this time.

Mr. Mullins said that the TIA office oversees TIA projects as well as paying all invoices. Mr. Mullins said that other regions in the state have noticed the benefits that Central Savannah RC, Heart of Georgia RC and River Valley RC have received because of this tax and that the Middle Georgia region is planning to put the Transportation Investment Act back on the ballot to encourage voters to approve it for their region. Mr. Mullins then opened the floor for questions and asked that if anyone had any other questions or concerns to contact the TIA office.

Insurance Requirements and Needs

Tommy McKenzie then introduced Nancy Quarles, Senior Vice President of Public Entities of America. Ms. Quarles explained to council members the requirements and options in regards to property and liability insurance programs related to risk management services that cover public sector and general government operations. She stated that she works with local insurance agents to find the most beneficial insurance rates for their property, general liability, automotive and line of duty insurance coverage (covers downtime for employees and loss of use of property) among other types that may be needed. Ms. Quarles said new liabilities that are becoming more prevalent that should be considered are cyber liabilities (breaches in security), wrongful act, body cam (police), drones and privacy issues. She said she had worked with many counties and cities and used Montezuma as an example. Upon advice from their insurance agent and herself, Montezuma was able to save \$60,000 on their 1st year of insurance.

Review and Approval of GACares Resolution*

Shameika Averett, GACares Coordinator, presented and requested approval of a resolution for the RVRC to enter into a contract with the Georgia Department of Human Services, Division of Aging, for the provision of the GACares and Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers programs.

George Moore, Webster County, made a motion to approve the GACares resolution to enter into a contract with Georgia DHS, Division of Aging; Melvin Crimes, Webster County, seconded the motion. Secretary Speight asked if there were any comments, questions or concerns; there being none the motion passed unanimously.

Chattahoochee | Clay | Crisp | Dooly | Harris | Macon | Marion | Muscogee
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application to conduct environmental studies, Phase 1 and 2. The coalition grant is for a maximum amount of \$600,000. The submittal date is December 20, 2016. Potential brownfield areas may be in Crisp, Dooly, Macon, and Sumter counties.

Katie Howard, Area Agency on Aging Director, presented the staff report for her department. She said Open Enrollment for Medicare is underway at this time and the closing date for enrollment is December 7th. Katie said staff is available for anyone that needs help and that staff would be glad to visit any groups that would like to have a better understanding of the options that are available. The aging department now has a Facebook page and Katie invited everyone to visit the page and be more informed about RVRCA's Area Agency on Aging department. To reach the page log into Facebook and search for "area agency on aging-river valley regional commission" and the page will be shown. Katie also thanked Abby Cox again for speaking at the council meeting.

Rick Morris, Planning Director, presented the staff report for his department. He said that staff continues to update comprehensive plans in 4 counties and 14 cities; Macon County and its municipalities have adopted their Comprehensive Plans. Staff is continuing to provide zoning assistance to the region. Staff is working on a grant application for Long Cane Creek. Rick mentioned that the City of Buena Vista is searching for an artist to restore old outdoor advertising signs. He reported that the Stewart County Historic Commission held their annual Fair on the Square with 110 people participating in a bicycle ride thru Florence Marina, Providence Canyon, Omaha, and Lumpkin. Over 200 students at the Furlow Charter School participated in the Safe Routes to School program on International Walk to School Day October 5th.

Other Business

Patti Cullen, Executive Director, reviewed the Department of Audits report on Regional Commissions and asked if any of the counties or cities were having problems or concerns with the RVRCA performance to please let her know.

Clinton Perry, Chair, reminded everyone of the GARC Annual Conference to be held November 2-4 on St. Simons.

Adjourn

Chair Perry asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Harry Lange, Harris County, made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mike Speight, Crisp County. The meeting adjourned.

11/16/2016
Date



Clinton Perry, Jr., Chair


Mike Speight, Secretary