**RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING**

**South Georgia Technical College**
**Pope Center**
**South Georgia Parkway**
**Americus, Georgia**
**May 22, 2019**

**10:30 A.M.**

**Minutes Summary**

**Members Attending**
(Representing 15 Counties)
- A.J. Rivers, Crisp County
- Bruce Hill, City of Oglethorpe
- Carvel Lewis, Georgetown-Quitman County
- Chip Jones, Stewart County
- Clay Jones, Sumter County
- Clinton Perry, Jr., Taylor County, RVRC Chair
- Danny Blackmon, Georgetown-Quitman County
- Dr. Edward Lee, Cusseta-Chattahoochee County
- Ernest Jenkins, Clay County
- Evelyn Turner Pugh, Muscogee County
- Fred Gordon, Muscogee County
- James R. “Bump” Welch, Marion County
- Harry Lange, Harris County
- Hobby Stripling, City of Vienna
- James Morton, Cusseta-Chattahoochee County
- Jayson Griffin, Macon County
- Jeanie Bartee, City of Cordele
- Jerry “Pops” Barnes, Muscogee County, RVRC Sec.
- Knox Blackmar, City of Talbotton
- Matt Gunnels, Marion County
- Randy Howard, Sumter Co., RVRC Vice-Chairman
- Richard McCorkle, Marion County
- Tameka Harris, Taylor County
- Terrell Hudson, Dooly County
- Tony Kennedy, Webster County
- Wally Summers, Sumter County

**Members Not Present**
- Barry Waters, City of Ft. Gaines
- Barry Whitley, City of Butler
- Carlton Wilson, City of Ellaville
- Damon Hoyte, Cusseta-Chatt. Co.
- Doug Etheridge, Harris County
- Dr. Carole Rutland, Muscogee County
- Freeman Montgomery, Talbot County
- Greg Barineau, Schley County
- Jimmy Babb, City of Lumpkin
- Jimmy Bradley, Randolph County
- Joe Lee Williams, Stewart County
- Maggie McGruther, Sumter County
- Melvin Crimes, Webster County
- Nelson Brown, City of Americus
- Pam Jordan, Talbot County
- Patricia Goodman, Randolph County
- Ralph Brown, City of Buena Vista
- Rebecca Chambers, City of Hamilton
- Sam Farrow, Jr., Crisp County
- Steve Whatley, City of Cuthbert
- Tom Queen, Taylor County

Equal Opportunity Employer
Others Present
County and City Representatives
Representative Debbie Buckner, Georgia, District 137
Representative Mike Cheokas, Georgia District 138
Representative Ed Rynders, Georgia District 152
Senator Freddie Powell Sims, Georgia, District 12
Senator Ed Harbison, Georgia, District 15
Senator Greg Kirk, Georgia District 13
Field Representative Max Kirby for US Congressman Drew Ferguson, 3rd District of Georgia
Director Kenneth Cutts for US Congressman Sanford Bishop, 2nd District of Georgia
Field Representative Laura Gower for US Senator Johnny Isakson
Field Representative Jody Redding for US Senator Johnny Isakson
Field Representative Kathy Burns for US Senator David Perdue
RVRC Staff

Welcome and Recognition of Visitors
Clinton Perry, Chair, brought the meeting to order. He welcomed council members, distinguished guests and visitors. Jerry “Pops” Barnes, Secretary, gave the invocation and Randy Howard, Vice Chair, led the council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Review and Approval of Minutes*
Council reviewed the minutes of the April 24, 2019 council meeting that was either mailed or emailed to council members the previous week for their review.

There being no additions or changes, Chair Clinton Perry, requested a motion to approve the April 24, 2019 council minutes. Evelyn Turner Pugh, Muscogee County, made a motion to approve the minutes as presented; Harry Lange, Harris County, seconded the motion. The motion passed with no opposition.

Nomination of Officers for FY20-21
Wally Summers, Chair of the Nominating Committee, announced the Nominating Committee had met April 24th and were nominating Randy Howard, Sumter County, as RVRC Chairman, James “Pops” Barnes, Muscogee County, as RVRC Vice Chairman, and Bruce Hill, Mayor of Oglethorpe, as Secretary for fiscal year 2020-2021.

Chair Perry requested a motion to approve the nominations of officers. Carvel Lewis, Georgetown-Quitman County, made a motion to approve the nominations as presented; Tameka Harris, Taylor County, seconded the motion. The motion passed with no opposition. Mr. Perry thanked the council for allowing him to serve on the council and said the new slate of officers were very capable of carrying on the RVRC commission’ business.

Presentation of Years of Service
Randy Howard, Vice Chair, thanked Chair Clinton Perry, Chair, for his service to not only to the River Valley region but also Taylor County and the State of Georgia. He then presented him with a plaque of appreciation for 14 years of service with the Middle Flint Regional Development Center and River Valley Regional Commission. Four of those years he also served as the River Valley Council Chair.
Mr. Perry thanked the council for the plaque. He also thanked Wally Summers, Vice President of Economic Development at South Georgia Technical College, and the staff for providing the accommodations for the meeting and luncheon.

**Staff Recognition**

Three staff members were recognized for their years of service with the River Valley Regional commission and presented an award.

Jim Livingston, Executive Director, recognized staff members with five years or more in five year increments. They were Rick Morris, Planning Director, 15 years of service and Emily Chambers, Finance Officer (not present), 10 years of service. Clinton Perry, Chair, presented Jim Livingston, Executive Director, for 5 years of service.

**Legislator’s Remarks**

Clinton Perry, Vice Chair, introduced the following legislators and field representatives who updated the council and guests concerning legislative matters:

- Representative Debbie Buckner, Georgia, District 137
- Representative Mike Cheokas, Georgia District 138
- Representative Ed Rynders, Georgia District 152
- Senator Freddie Powell Sims, Georgia, District 12
- Senator Ed Harbison, Georgia, District 15
- Senator Greg Kirk, Georgia District 13
- Senator Randy Robertson, Georgia District 29
- Field Representative Max Kirby for US Congressman Drew Ferguson, 3rd District of Georgia
- Director Kenneth Cutts for US Congressman Sanford Bishop, 2nd District of Georgia
- Field Representative Laura Gower for US Senator Johnny Isakson
- Field Representative Jody Redding for US Senator Johnny Isakson
- Field Representative Kathy Burns for US Senator David Perdue – Video Presentation

Chair Clinton Perry adjourned the meeting. He then gave the blessing and lunch was served.