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RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING

**Marion County Commission Office
100 East Burkhalter Avenue
Buena Vista, Georgia
November 28, 2018**

MINUTES

Members Attending/Representing

(Representing 16 Counties)
A.J. Rivers, Crisp County
Barry Waters, City of Ft. Gaines
Bruce Hill, City of Oglethorpe
Carlton Wilson, City of Ellaville
Chip Jones, Stewart County
Clinton Perry, Jr. Taylor County,
RVRC Chair
Danny Blackmon, Georgetown-Quitman
Doug Etheridge, Harris County
Dr. Carole Rutland, Muscogee County
Evelyn Turner Pugh, Muscogee County
Fred Gordon, Muscogee County
Harry Lange, Harris County
Hobby Stripling, City of Vienna
James R. "Bump" Welch, Marion County
Jayson Griffin, Macon County
Jerry "Pops" Barnes, Muscogee County,
RVRC Secretary
Jimmy Bradley, Randolph County
Knox Blackmar, City of Talbotton
Lee Hubbard, Clay County
Maggie McGruther, Sumter County
Melvin Crimes, Webster County
Pam Jordan, Talbot County
Patricia Goodman, Randolph County
Randy Howard, Sumter County,
RVRC Vice Chair
Richard McCorkle, Marion County

Tameka Harris, Taylor County
Terrell Hudson, Dooly County
Tom Queen, Taylor County
Tony Kennedy, Webster County
Walt Rosso, Cusseta-Chattahoochee

Members Not Present

Barry Whitley, City of Butler
Carvel Lewis, Georgetown-Quitman
Cecil "Butch" McMickle, Marion County
Dr. Edward Lee, Cusseta-Chattahoochee
Freeman Montgomery, Talbot County
Greg Barineau, Schley County
James Morton, Cusseta-Chattahoochee County
Jeanie Bartee, City of Cordele
Jimmy Babb, City of Lumpkin
Joe Lee Williams, Stewart County
Mickey George, Macon County
Nelson Brown, City of Americus
Ralph Brown, City of Buena Vista
Rebecca Chambers, City of Hamilton
Sam Farrow, Jr., Crisp County
Steve Whatley, City of Cuthbert
Wally Summers, Sumter County

Others Present

Russell Lipford, CPA, Clifton, Lipford,
Hardison & Parker, LLC
David McCoy, CPA, Clifton, Lipford,
Hardison & Parker, LLC

Linda Buchanan, Ph.D., President,
Andrew College
Aquinas Mackey, US Small Business Assoc.
Chrystal Perry, US Small Business Assoc.
Danielle Lesure, US Small Business Assoc.
Amy Varnum, Georgia Dept. of Labor
Sarah Lee Crumbs, Georgetown-Quitman Co.
Family Connections
Rebecca White, Randolph County Chamber
Edwina Turner, Stewart County Family
Connections
Debbie Stone, Stewart County
Michelle McGowan, South GA Tech College
Shonda Blair, Taylor Co., Eco. Dev. Authority
Janet Joiner, City of Vienna
Lindsey Glisson, Columbus

Staff Present

Patti Cullen, Executive Director
Sarah Walls, Asst. Executive Director
Katie Howard, AAA Director
Emily Chambers, Finance Officer
Tammy Collins, Finance Officer
Rick Morris, Planning Director
Gerald Mixon, Planning Director
Jarrod McCarthy, Mobility Manager
Jim Livingston, Comm. & Eco. Dev. Dir.
Janice West, WIOA Director
Becky Holmes, Office Manager

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Quitman | Randolph | Schley | Stewart | Sumter | Talbot | Taylor | Webster

Equal Opportunity Employer

Welcome and Recognition of Visitors

Clinton Perry, Chair, brought the meeting to order, welcomed everyone and asked first time visitors to introduce themselves.

Chair Perry asked Jerry “Pops” Barnes, Secretary, to lead the council in prayer and Randy Howard, Vice Chair, to lead the council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Review and Approval of Minutes*

Council reviewed the minutes of the October 24, 2018 council meeting that was either mailed or emailed to council members the previous week for their review.

There being no additions or changes, Chair Perry requested a motion to approve the October 24, 2018 council minutes. Barry Waters, City of Fort Gaines, made a motion to approve the minutes as presented; Tameka Harris, Taylor County, seconded the motion. The motion passed with no opposition.

Review and Approval of FY18 Independent Audit Report*

Russell Lipford, CPA, stated that he and David McCoy, CPA, both of Clifton, Lipford, Hardison & Parker, LLC., had presented the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) to the Executive Committee before the council meeting. He said the CAFR covered the reporting period of July 1, 2017 thru June 30, 2018. It was compiled by the River Valley Regional Commission finance staff and independently audited by Clifton, Lipford, Hardison & Parker, LLC. The RVRC received an unmodified opinion by the auditing firm. Mr. Lipford explained that an unmodified opinion is the highest opinion possible.

Patti Cullen, Executive Director, announced that the CAFR is on the RVRC website for review and any questions should be directed to either Emily Chambers or Tammy Collins at the RVRC office. She encouraged everyone to go online and review the document.

Chair Perry then requested a motion to accept the FY18 Independent Audit Report. Harry Lange, Harris County, made a motion to approve the FY18 Independent Audit Report; Bruce Hill, the City of Oglethorpe, seconded the motion. The motion passed with no opposition.

Disaster Loan Information for Businesses

Chrystal Perry, US Small Business Association, spoke to the council about damages caused by Hurricane Michael and said that there were twenty counties declared a federal disaster area in Georgia. She explained that the Small Business Association provides low-interest disaster loans (business structures up to \$2 million at 2.65%, homeowners up to \$200,000 at 2%, renters up to \$40,000 at 2%, and non-profit organizations up to \$2 million at 2.65% interest rates) to help businesses and homeowners recover from declared disasters. There is \$26 million in loans available to be used to repair and/or replace business owners’ buildings, machinery and equipment, inventory and crops. She explained that loans can also be used by neighboring county businesses that incurred economic injury such as loss of their customer base and/or job losses due to the hurricane damage. Individuals and business owners who sustained losses in the designated areas can begin applying for assistance by registering online at www.DisasterAssistance.gov or by calling 1-800-621- 3362 or 1-800-

462-7585 TTY. The toll-free telephone numbers will operate from 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. (local time) seven days a week until further notice.

Staff from the Small Business Association were present to answer questions and provide information about the process to apply for a loan.

Warp and Woof

Linda Buchanan, President of Andrew College, gave a presentation about rural communities stating that most rural communities have the same issues. She explained that communities need to come together and communicate with each other and take advantage of what their city/town has to offer. She said each community needed to pick a data point and get busy solving the issue.

Resolution Authorizing Application for Section 5304 Transit Plan Funding*

Jarrod McCarthy, Mobility Manager, presented a resolution for approval authorizing the RVRC to submit an application for Section 5304: Transit Plan Funding.

Chair Perry requested a motion to approve the resolution to authorize the submittal of a Section 5304 Transit Plan application. Walt Rosso, Cusseta-Chattahoochee County, made a motion to approve the submittal of the application; Evelyn Turner-Pugh, Muscogee County, seconded the motion. The motion passed with no opposition.

Resolution Authorizing Application for Section 5311 Mobility Management Funding*

Jarrod McCarthy, Mobility Manager, presented a resolution for approval authorizing the RVRC to submit an application for Section 5311: Mobility Management Funding.

Chair Perry then requested a motion to approve the resolution to authorize the submittal of a Section 5311 Mobility Management application. Barry Waters, City of Fort Gaines, made a motion to approve the submittal of the application; Knox Blackmar, City of Talbotton, seconded the motion. The motion passed with no opposition.

Private Industry Appointment*

Patti Cullen, Executive Director, explained that due to local elections there would be some changes in council members in January. She also reported that one member of the Private Industry Appointees had resigned due to relocating out of the region. Patti recommended that Randy Howard, Vice Chair, be appointed as a Private Industry Appointee since he will no longer be on the Sumter County Commission.

Chair Perry then requested a motion to approve Mr. Howard as a private industry appointee. Jerry "Pops" Barnes, Muscogee County, made a motion to appoint Randy Howard as a Private Industry Appointee; Evelyn Turner-Pugh, Muscogee County, seconded the motion. The motion passed with no opposition.

Healthcare Case Management Contract*

Katie Howard, AAA Director, requested approval to accept and sign a Healthcare Case Management contract. The twelve AAA's in the state would be contracting with a firm to provide case management services to the firm's clients. Ms. Cullen explained the contract would need to be signed before the next

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council meeting in January; staff is asking for approval from the council to sign the contract once it is received.

Chair Perry then requested a motion to approve the request to sign the contract when it is delivered to the RVRC. Walt Rosso, Cusseta-Chattahoochee County, made a motion to approve the request; Jerry “Pops” Barnes, Muscogee County, seconded the motion. The motion passed with no opposition.

Staff Reports

Katie Howard, AAA Director, presented the staff report for the Aging department. She explained the aging department has rack cards advertising the aging program that are available upon request. The aging department also has a database with over 3,000 resources to help seniors find services they may need. Katie said that Medicare Open Enrollment will end on December 7th and said if anyone needed help with Open Enrollment to contact the RVRC office.

Rick Morris, Planning Director, reported that staff attended the Webster County Board of Commission meeting to discuss implementation of Dirt Road Best Management Practices (BMPs) for Kinchafoonee Creek. These BMPs will be used along the dirt roads near the creek crossings to reduce sediment from entering the creek.

Janice West, WIOA Director, gave the staff report for the WIOA department. She said that staff had completed the Regional Plan and submitted it to the state office for approval. The WIOA department either met or exceeded 10 of 11 Performance Measures for PY18. She said the unemployment rate has continued to decline in the region.

Jim Livingston, Community and Economic Development Director, stated that DCA Commissioner Christopher Nunn and RVRC staff visited the Community Development Block Grant recipients of Cuthbert, Randolph and Stewart Counties, and the City of Richland and DCA staff had gone to Marion County to present the big check awards.. The communities were unable to attend the Department of Community Affairs Fall Conference award ceremony in October due to hurricane conditions. He encouraged business owners that were impacted by the hurricane to contact the Small Business Administration to discuss possible loans. Jim also reported that staff is currently working on 15 CDBG applications. He asked that council members take pictures of any problems that may be occurring in their community because the pictures build the case for CDBG funding. Staff is also administering 21 projects with several nearing closeout.

Jim said that the CEDS committee is working on a survey for rural broadband and hopes to have it available in early January.

Jim reported that The Empire Theater loan had closed. He asked if anyone knows of someone that might be interested in expanding or starting a new business with job retention/creation to contact either himself or Sarah Walls at the RVRC office.

Emily Chambers, Finance Officer, requested that everyone review the audit and read the transmittal letter located on the RVRC website. If anyone has questions she requested they contact her at the RVRC office

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For September, she reported that the RVRC is slightly under budget for Operating Expenditures through Quarter 1, and also about 10% under projected revenues, which resulted in a slight operating deficit of \$14,750. October, as well as the rest of the year, should be back in the black as more General Fund revenue is received.

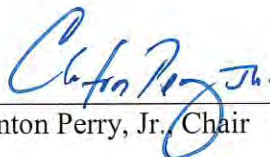
ADJOURN

Clinton Perry announced that the council would not meet in December but would resume meeting on January 23, 2019 at the regularly scheduled time and location. He wished everyone Happy Holidays and thanked them for allowing him to serve as the chair of the council this year.

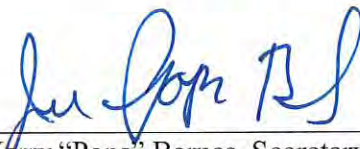
There being no further business to come before the council, he requested a motion to adjourn.

Walt Rosso, Cusseta-Chattahoochee County, made a motion to adjourn; Terrell Hudson, Dooly County, seconded the motion. The meeting then adjourned.

January 23, 2019
Date



Clinton Perry, Jr., Chair



Jerry "Pops" Barnes, Secretary