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RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING

**Marion County Commission Office
100 East Burkhalter Avenue
Buena Vista, Georgia
August 22, 2018**

Minutes

Members Attending/Representing

(Representing 14 Counties)

A.J. Rivers, Crisp County
Barry Waters, City of Ft. Gaines
Bruce Hill, City of Oglethorpe
Carvel Lewis, Georgetown-Quitman
Danny Blackmon, Georgetown-Quitman
Dr. Carole Rutland, Muscogee County
Dr. Edward Lee, Cusseta-Chattahoochee
Doug Etheridge, Harris County
Fred Gordon, Muscogee County
Harry Lange, Harris County
Jayson Griffin, Macon County
Jeanie Barteel, City of Cordele
Jerry "Pops" Barnes, Muscogee Co.,
RVRC Secretary
Joe Lee Williams, Stewart County
Knox Blackmar, City of Talbotton
Lee Hubbard, Clay County
Maggie McGruther, Sumter County
Melvin Crimes, Webster County
Mickey George, Macon County
Patricia Goodman, Randolph County
Randy Howard, Sumter County,
RVRC Vice Chair
Terrell Hudson, Dooly County

Tom Queen, Taylor County
Tony Kennedy, Webster County

Members Not Present

Barry Whitley, City of Butler
Carlton Wilson, City of Ellaville
Cecil "Butch" McMickle, Marion Co.
Clinton Perry, Jr. Taylor County,
RVRC Chair
Chip Jones, Stewart County
Evelyn Turner Pugh, Muscogee County
Freeman Montgomery, Talbot County
Greg Barineau, Schley County
Hobby Stripling, City of Vienna
James R. "Bump" Welch, Marion Co
James Morton, Cusseta-Chattahoochee
Jimmy Babb, City of Lumpkin
Jimmy Bradley, Randolph County
Nelson Brown, City of Americus
Pam Jordan, Talbot County
Ralph Brown, City of Buena Vista
Rebecca Chambers, City of Hamilton
Richard McCorkle, Marion County
Tameka Harris, Taylor County
Sam Farrow, Jr., Crisp County
Steve Whatley, City of Cuthbert

Wally Summers, Sumter County
Walt Rosso, Cusseta-Chattahoochee

Others Present

John R. Bevis, The Barnes Law Group
Debbie Ford, RESA
Kathy Burns, Senator Perdue Rep.
Elaine Gillispie, Cong. Bishop's Rep.
Mary Talukder, EPD Land Protection
Group
Tyler Reinagel, GA DCA
Debbie Stone, City of Lumpkin
Sara Lee Crumbs, AAA Advisory Comm.
Laura Gower, Representative for Senator
Isakson

Staff Present

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

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Welcome and Recognition of Visitors

Randy Howard, Vice Chair, brought the meeting to order. He welcomed everyone and introduced visitors. He then asked Jerry “Pops” Barnes, Secretary, to lead the council in prayer and Bruce Hill, City of Oglethorpe, then led the council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Review and Approval of Minutes*

Council reviewed the minutes of the June 27, 2018 council meeting that were mailed or emailed to council members the previous week for their review.

There being no additions or changes, Vice Chair Howard, requested a motion to approve the June 27, 2018 council minutes, Carvel Lewis, Georgetown-Quitman County, made a motion to approve the minutes as presented; Harry Lange, Harris County, seconded the motion. There being no opposition, the motion passed unanimously.

E-911 Update Litigation

John Bevis, Attorney at Law, spoke to the council explaining the E-911 litigation involving 12 of the 16 counties in the River Valley region. He said the lawsuit is against telephone service providers for failing to bill for the correct number of phone lines that 911 fees are applied, to collect the fees, and pay the 911 fees to the local 911 systems. These fees were designed to fund local 911 operations. This equals a shortfall of \$3.1 million for these counties. Mr. Bevis said the Barnes Group is representing 32 local governments across the state for a collective \$175 million dollars not paid over the last 3 years to local governments.

Department of Community Affairs Research Program Overview

Tyler Reinagel, Research and Surveys Manager for the Georgia Department of Community Affairs, gave a presentation to the council explaining the surveys DCA collects and maintains, on Georgia's local governments and authorities. He said there are over 1,200 local governments and authorities in Georgia. DCA performs five surveys on local governments and/or development authorities. These surveys are: Government Management Indicators (GOMI), Report of Local Government Finances, Hotel/Motel Tax, Debit Issuance Report and the Wage and Salary Survey (this survey is voluntary). Both the GOMI survey and the Report of Local Government Finances is required by all local governments and is due to CDA within six months of the close of the local governments fiscal year. All authorities such as, development, housing and hospital are required to register with DCA, complete an annual report of the finances of the authority and complete a Debit Issuance Report. These reports must be completed in order for a local government to be eligible for funds, including Community Development Block Grants (CDBG). Ms. Cullen stressed the importance of local governments completing these in a timely manner.

Local Government Scrap Tire Reimbursement

Mary Talukder, Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD), explained to the council that the Georgia EPD has available funding from the State Solid Waste Trust Fund for the Scrap Tire Abatement Reimbursement program. She explained that the eligibility criteria is that applicants must be a local government or solid waste authority, scrap tire sites must be located in Georgia, permitted/approved scrap tire processors must be used for all abatement activities, and all necessary safety measures must be followed at all times. Activities that are eligible for reimbursement are if a property owner is either financially unable to clean up the tires, the property owner is unknown, a local

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government has determined that the property owner is a victim of illegal dumping, the scrap tires are located on a city or county right-of-way or the scrap tires have been collected during a scrap tire amnesty day event that was sponsored by the local government. She urged council members to take the handout that was given out, that included directions and requirements for the program and an application, back to their local government. Ms. Talukder explained that some cities and counties in the River Valley region were not taking advantage of this program. She requested that if anyone had questions to contact her at 404-362-2537.

Approval to Apply for 5310 Transit Funding From the Georgia Department of Human Services (DHS)*

Jarrod McCarthy, Mobility Manager, explained that 5310 transit funding covers expenses for 100 DHS transit vehicles to transport senior and disable citizens to senior centers, work, and other appointments which resulted in 76,556 trips in FY18. Jarrod explained that the program has expanded from 11 to 12 senior centers. He then requested approval to apply for 5310 transit funding from the Georgia Department of Human Services.

Carvel Lewis, Georgetown-Quitman County, made a motion to grant approval to apply for 5310 transit funding; Harry Lange, Harris County, seconded the motion. There being no opposition, the motion passed unanimously.

Appointment of Private Sector Council Members*

Sarah Walls, Assistant Executive Director, presented a list of eleven people that had agreed to serve as private sector council members for FY19. They are Doug Etheridge, Harris County; Patricia Goodman, Randolph County; Fred Gordon, Muscogee County; Jayson Griffin, Macon County; Chip Jones, Stewart County; Pam Jordan, Talbot County; Dr. Edward Lee, Cusseta-Chattahoochee County; Clinton Perry, Jr., Taylor County; Tom Queen, Taylor County; Wally Summers, Sumter County; and James R. "Bump" Welch, Marion County.

Harry Lange, Harris County, made a motion to accept the appointment of the above named people as private sector council members; Barry Waters, City of Fort Gaines, seconded the motion. There being no opposition, the motion passed unanimously.

Personnel Policy Changes*

Patti Cullen, Executive Director, explained that there were several proposed changes to the Policies and Procedures Manual. These changes were emailed and made available to council members at the council meeting. She stated the Executive Committee had reviewed these changes in detail this morning and the Executive Committee recommended to adopt these changes. Randy Howard asked if there was any discussion and there was none. He then called for a vote. The Council voted unanimously to adopt the changes to the Policies and Procedures Manual as recommended by the Executive Committee.

Approval of the GeorgiaCares/Transitions Program Assistant Job Description*

Katie Howard, Area on Aging Director, stated that funding was available for a part-time employee to become full time which required the RVRC/AAA to develop a job description for the position. The position is for a GeorgiaCares/Transitions Program Assistant. She summarized the job description to the council.

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Bruce Hill, City of Oglethorpe, made a motion to adopt the GeorgiaCares/Transitions Program Assistant job description as presented; Tom Queen, Taylor County, seconded the motion. There being no opposition, the motion passed unanimously.

Staff Reports

Katie Hoard, AAA Director, announced that the Senior Hunger Collation meeting will be held September 14th at the River Valley RC Columbus office at 10:00 am. The Senior Hunger Summit will be held October 17-18 in Columbus at the Columbus Trade Center. The registration fee will be \$175 – seniors over 65 will receive a reduced price. She said ore details to follow. Katie said that a “Farmer’s Market” was held in the Columbus RVRC office on Friday, August 3rd. Each senior was given a \$20 voucher to spend purchasing fresh fruit and vegetables from two local farmers that were certified by USDA. It was a great success with 267 seniors attending. Overall, RVRC/AAA Farmer’s Market was able to serve all 16 counties with a total of 1,164 seniors receiving \$20 vouchers for a total of \$23,280 being spent this summer.

Gerald Mixon, Planning Director, updated council about the Regional Plan. He said the plan received comments from the Department of Community Affairs and that staff had addressed the problems and resubmitted the plan. DCA has not sent approval for the plan yet. He said the plan should be ready for adoption at the September Council Meeting. Gerald said the GIS department has completed updating residential address lists for 14 counties and 28 municipalities in the region. The list has been submitted to the Census Bureau. Gerald said we are working with DCA on further guidance on what will be required for a local community to be considered Broadband ready.

Jim Livingston, Community and Economic Development Director, reported that the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) committee met before the council meeting. He thanked Dr. Carole Rutland, Muscogee County, for agreeing to chair the committee. Jim announced that the Department of Community Affairs Annual Conference will be held in LaGrange, Georgia this year. Staff is hoping to hear the results of the 2018 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) applications within the next couple of weeks. Request letters were mailed out this week to RVRC counties and municipalities requesting possible 2019 CDBG projects. Jim asked everyone to review the 2018 Fall Festivals in the Region flyer and let him know if there were changes.

Terrell Hudson, Dooly County, made the motion to adjourn.

9/26/2018
Date

Clinton Perry, Jr.
Clinton Perry, Jr., Chair

Jerry "Pops" Barnes
Jerry “Pops” Barnes, Secretary

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