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RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING

**Marion County Commission Office
100 East Burkhalter Avenue
Buena Vista, Georgia
March 27, 2019**

MINUTES SUMMARY

Members Attending/Representing

(Representing 15 Counties)

- A.J. Rivers, Crisp County
- Barry Waters, City of Ft. Gaines
- Bruce Hill, City of Oglethorpe
- Carlton Wilson, City of Ellaville
- Carvel Lewis, Georgetown-Quitman
- Chip Jones, Stewart County
- Damon Hoyte, Cusseta-Chattahoochee Co.
- Dr. Edward Lee, Cusseta-Chattahoochee
- Ernest Jenkins, Clay County
- Evelyn Turner Pugh, Muscogee County
- Harry Lange, Harris County
- Hobby Stripling, City of Vienna
- James R. "Bump" Welch, Marion Co.
- Jayson Griffin, Macon County
- Jeanie Bartee, City of Cordele
- Joe Lee Williams, Stewart County
- Knox Blackmar, City of Talbotton
- Maggie McGruther, Sumter County
- Matt Gunnels, Marion County
- Melvin Crimes, Webster County
- Pam Jordan, Talbot County
- Randy Howard, Sumter Co., RVRC Vice Chair
- Tameka Harris, Taylor County
- Terrell Hudson, Dooly County
- Tom Queen, Taylor County

Members Not Present

- Barry Whitley, City of Butler
- Clay Jones, Sumter County
- Clinton Perry, Jr. Taylor County,
RVRC Chair
- Danny Blackmon, Georgetown-Quitman
- Doug Etheridge, Harris County
- Dr. Carole Rutland, Muscogee County
- Fred Gordon, Muscogee County
- Freeman Montgomery, Talbot County
- Greg Barineau, Schley County
- James Morton, Cusseta-Chattahoochee Co.
- Jerry "Pops" Barnes, Muscogee
County, RVRC Secretary
- Jimmy Babb, City of Lumpkin
- Jimmy Bradley, Randolph County
- Nelson Brown, City of Americus
- Patricia Goodman, Randolph County
- Ralph Brown, City of Buena Vista
- Rebecca Chambers, City of Hamilton
- Richard McCorkle, Marion County
- Sam Farrow, Jr., Crisp County
- Steve Whatley, City of Cuthbert
- Tony Kennedy, Webster County
- Wally Summers, Sumter County

Others Present

- Debbie Stone, Stewart County
- Edwina Turner, Stewart Co. Family Conn.
- Elaine Gillispie, Cong. Bishop's Representative
- Greg Popham, Consulting Real Estate Dev.
- David Dyer, Consulting Real Estate Dev.
- Ben Hamrick, Consulting Real Estate Dev.
- John Watford, South GA Tech. College, President
- Paul Farr, South GA Tech. College
- Lindsey Glisson, City of Columbus
- Monica Horne, Sumter County Tax Assessor
- Russell Johnson, Sumter County Tax Assessor
- Steven Milan, Crisp County
- Clara Hammock, Randolph Co. Chamber of
Commerce
- Tammye Jones, Cong Bishop's Representative

Staff Present

- Sarah Walls, Asst. Executive Director
- Jim Livingston, Comm. & Eco. Dev. Dir.
- Katie Howard, AAA Director
- Emily Chambers, Finance Officer
- Rick Morris, Planning Director
- Janice West, WIOA Director
- Allison Slocum, Historic Preservation/
Senior Planner
- Becky Holmes, Office Manager

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

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Welcome and Recognition of Visitors

Randy Howard, Vice Chair, brought the meeting to order and welcomed council members as well as visitors.

Vice Chair Howard asked Bruce Hill, City of Oglethorpe, to lead the council in prayer and Harry Lange, Harris County, to lead the council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Review and Approval of Minutes*

Council reviewed the minutes of the February 27, 2019 council meeting that was either 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 January 23, 2019 council minutes. Harry Lange, Harris County, made a motion to approve the minutes as presented; Barry Waters, City of Ft. Gaines, seconded the motion. The motion passed with no opposition.

Cell Tower Valuation

Greg Popham, Principle, Consulting Real Estate Development; David Dyer, Partner; and Ben Hamrick, Valuation Sales Team, State Sales Director, presented a PowerPoint presentation to the council. They explained the importance of having the correct valuation on cell towers in order to correctly calculate the property tax value.

Appointment of Nominating Committee

Vice Chair Randy Howard said it was time to select a nominating committee for the 2020 and 2021 fiscal year. He reported that the nominating committee would remain the same as appointed in 2017. They are as follows: Dr. Carol Rutland, Muscogee County; Harry Lange, Harris County; Terrell Hudson, Dooly County; Melvin Crimes, Webster County; and Wally Summers, Sumter County. The Nominating Committee will report at the May council meeting.

Staff Reports

Katie Howard, Area Agency on Aging; Rick Morris, Planning Director; Jim Livingston, Community and Economic Development Director; Janice West, WIOA Director; and Emily Chambers, Finance Officer, gave staff reports for their department.

Executive Session*

Randy Howard, Vice Chair, stated council would go into Executive Session. Harry Lange, Harris County, made a motion that council go into Executive Session and Carvel Lewis, Georgetown-Quitman County, seconded the motion. Staff and visitors were asked to leave the meeting.

After the Executive Session ended staff and visitors were asked to return to the meeting. Mr. Howard thanked the staff for the work that has been done in all of the counties. He explained that Patti Cullen, Executive Director, had made the decision to retire after 37 ½ years at the Regional Commission. He said that Patti had been a great asset to not only the commission but also the counties and cities in the region.

Vice Chair Howard explained since the announcement the Executive Committee had received two applications and that the council had selected Jim Livingston, Community and Economic Director, to be promoted to Executive Director of the River Valley Regional Commission. He explained that during the Executive Session, council had received a motion and it was seconded, to appoint Jim Livingston as the Executive Director. He explained that there would be a six-month probationary period.

Jim Livingston addressed the council by saying that he was excited to be selected to the Executive Director position and thanked the council. He said he felt the council was giving a vote of confidence to not only him but the RVRC staff to carry on the work in the counties and cities in the region.

ADJOURN

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Vice Chair Randy Howard ask for a motion to adjourn. Harry Lange, Harris County, made a motion to adjourn; Terrell Hudson, Dooley County seconded the motion.

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