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

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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
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.