RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING
Marion County Commission Office
September 25, 2019
10:30 A.M.
Minutes Summary

Members Attending
(Representing 12 Counties)
Bruce Hill, City of Oglethorpe, RVRC Secretary
Clay Jones, Sumter County
Damon Hoyte, Cusseta-Chattahoochee County
Danny Blackmon, Georgetown-Quitman County
Dr. Edward Lee, Cusseta-Chattahoochee County
Ernest Jenkins, Clay County
Harry Lange, Harris County
Hobby Stripling, City of Vienna
James Morton, Cusseta-Chattahoochee County
Jayson Griffin, Macon County
Jerry “Pops” Barnes, Muscogee Co., RVRC Vice Chairman
Knox Blackmar, City of Talbotton Talbot
Matt Gunnels, Marion County
Melvin Crimes, Webster County
Mickey George, Macon County
Patricia Goodman, Randolph County
Randy Howard, Sumter County, RVRC Chairman
Tameka Harris, Taylor County
Terrell Hudson, Dooly County
Tom Queen, Taylor County
Wally Summers, Sumter County

Members Not Present
A.J. Rivers, Crisp County
Barry Waters, City of Ft. Gaines
Barry Whitley, City of Butler
Carlton Wilson, City of Ellaville
Carvel Lewis, Georgetown-Quitman County
Chip Jones, Stewart County
Clinton Perry, Jr. Taylor County
Doug Etheridge, Harris County
Dr. Carole Rutland, Muscogee County
Evelyn Turner Pugh, Muscogee County
Freeman Montgomery, Talbot County
Greg Barineau, Schley County
James R. “Bump” Welch, Marion County
Jeanie Bartee, City of Cordele
Jimmy Babb, City of Lumpkin
Jimmy Bradley, Randolph County
Joe Lee Williams, Stewart County
Maggie McGruther, Sumter 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
Sam Farrow, Jr., Crisp County
Steve Whatley, City of Cuthbert
Tony Kennedy, Webster County
Sarah Lee Crumbs, Quitman County Family Connections
Shonda Blair, Taylor County Chamber of Commerce
Paul Farr, South Georgia Technical College
Chris Kelley, Field Rep. for Congressman Bishop
Tammye Jones, Field Rep. for Congressman Bishop
Debbie Stone, City of Lumpkin
Janet Joiner, Vienna, Community Development Director

Others Present
Bill Twomey, ACCG
Elizabeth Bradley Turner, Research and Outreach Manager,
Georgia Family Connections
Rebecca Rice, Georgia KIDS COUNT Manager,
Georgia Family Connections
Amy Varnum, GA Department of Labor
WELCOME AND RECOGNITION OF VISITORS
Randy Howard, Sumter County, RVRC Chair, brought the regular meeting of the River Valley Regional Council to order at 10:30 a.m. He welcomed council members and visitors. Jerry “Pops” Barnes, Muscogee County, RVRC Vice Chair, gave the invocation and Bruce Hill, City of Oglethorpe, RVRC Secretary, led the council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES*
Council reviewed the minutes of the August 28, 2019 council meeting which were either mailed or emailed to council members the previous week for their review. The minutes were also available in the council packet at the meeting.

Randy Howard, Chair, requested a motion to approve the August 28, 2019 council minutes. Harry Lange, Harris County, made a motion to adopt the minutes as presented; Melvin Crimes, Webster County, seconded the motion. The motion passed with no opposition.

ACCG LEGISLATIVE POLICY UPDATE
Bill Twomey, ACCG Government Relations Manager, presented legislative policy updates to the council.

FAMILY CONNECTIONS CIVIC HEALTH INDEX
Elizabeth Bradley Turner, Research and Outreach Manager, and Rebecca Rice, Georgia KIDS COUNT Manager, from Georgia Family Connections in Atlanta gave a presentation explaining the Georgia Civic Health Index. They explained that civic health is “the strength within a community to work together to tackle collective problems”.

STAFF REPORTS
Kia Barrow, ADRC Program Manager; Sarah Walls, Assistant Executive Director; Janice West, WIOA Director; Gerald Mixon, Planning Director; Grant Richardson, Community Development; and Emily Chambers, Finance Officer; presented staff reports for their departments.

Chair Randy Howard reminded everyone that the Georgia Association of Regional Commission’s Annual Meeting will be held at St. Simons Island, November 6-8, and encouraged everyone to attend.

ADJOURN
Harry Lange, Harris County, made a motion to adjourn; Melvin Crimes, Webster County, seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.