



www.rivervalleyrc.org

Columbus Office

710 Front Avenue, Suite A
P. O. Box 1908
Columbus, GA 31902
Phone (706) 256-2910
Fax (706) 256-2908
TDY (706)256-2944

Americus Office

228 West Lamar Street
Americus, GA 31709
Phone (706) 256-2910
Fax (229) 931-2745
Fax (229) 931-2917

Toll Free (877) 819-6348

RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING

**Marion County Commission Office
100 East Burkhalter Avenue
Buena Vista, Georgia
April 25, 2018**

MINUTES

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
- Clinton Perry, Jr. Taylor County,
RVRC Chair
- 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
- James R. "Bump" Welch, Marion Co.
- Jason Hoch, Schley County
- Jayson Griffin, Macon County
- Jerry "Pops" Barnes, Muscogee Co.,
RVRC Secretary
- Jimmy Bradley, Randolph County
- Lee Hubbard, Clay County
- Maggie McGruther, Sumter County
- Melvin Crimes, Webster County
- Mickey George, Macon County
- Pam Jordan, Talbot County
- Patricia Goodman, Randolph County

- Ralph Brown, City of Buena Vista
- Randy Howard, Sumter County,
RVRC Vice Chair
- Terrell Hudson, Dooly County, ACCG
- Tony Kennedy, Webster County
- Walt Rosso, Cusseta-Chattahoochee Co.

Members Not Present

- Barry Whitley, City of Butler
- Carvel Lewis, Georgetown-Quitman Co.
- Cecil "Butch" McMickle, Marion Co.
- Chip Jones, Stewart County
- Evelyn Turner Pugh, Muscogee County
- Freeman Montgomery, Talbot County
- Greg Barineau, Schley County
- Hobby Stripling, City of Vienna
- James Morton, Cusseta-Chattahoochee
- Jeanie Bartee, City of Cordele
- Jimmy Babb, City of Lumpkin
- Joe Lee Williams, Stewart County
- Knox Blackmar, City of Talbotton
- Nelson Brown, City of Americus
- Rebecca Chambers, City of Hamilton
- Richard McCorkle, Marion County
- Sam Farrow, Jr., Crisp County
- Steve Whatley, City of Cuthbert

- Tameka Harris, Taylor County
- Tom Queen, Taylor County
- Wally Summers, Sumter County

Others Present

- Elaine Gillispie, Congressman Bishop's
Representative
- Amy Boney, Director Lighthouse
Children's Advocacy Center
- Denise Grier
- Justin Johnson
- Debbie Stone, City of Lumpkin

Staff Present

- Patti Cullen, Executive Director
- Sarah Walls, Assistant Executive Dir.
- Katie Howard, AAA Director
- Emily Chambers, Finance Officer
- Rick Morris, Planning Director
- Allison Slocum, Senior Planner
- Jim Livingston, Comm. & Eco. Dev. Dir.
- Gerald Mixon, Planning Director
- Janice West, WIOA Director
- Joel Hanif, Community Developer
- Becky Holmes, Office Manager

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

Equal Opportunity Employer

Welcome and Recognition of Visitors

Clinton Perry, Jr. brought the meeting to order. He welcomed everyone and asked if there were any visitors. He then asked Jerry “Pops” Barnes, Secretary, to lead the council in prayer and Randy Howard, Vice Chair, then lead the council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Review and Approval of Minutes*

Council reviewed the minutes of the March 28, 2018 council meeting that was 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 March 28, 2018 council minutes. Barry Waters, Ft. Gaines, made a motion to approve the minutes as presented; Harry Lange, Harris County, seconded the motion. The motion passed with no opposition.

LightHouse-CAC (Children’s Advocacy Center)

Maggie McGruther, Sumter County, introduced guest speaker Amy Boney, Director of LightHouse Children’s Advocacy Center. Ms. Boney gave a slideshow presentation explaining how the LightHouse Children’s Advocacy Center provides services for children that are victims or suspected victims of sexual abuse, severe physical abuse, witness to violence, commercialization and sexual exploitation and other cases requesting assistance by law officials and DFACS. Ms. Boney also announced that a Pediatric/Adolescent & Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Training Course, for registered nurses, will be held June 4-8, at Georgia Southwestern State University. The course will be free of charge for those willing to commit to serve the Southwestern Circuit for at least one year. For more information call 229-931-4488 or email Nikki Still at nikki@sowegachildren.org.

Resolution to Enter Contract with DHS for the Provision of Regional Hunger Coalition Services*

Katie Howard, Director of the Area Agency on Aging, requested council approval to enter into a contract with the Department of Human Services for the Provision of Regional Hunger Coalition Services. This contract will provide funds to develop a regional coalition to bring together the aging network with for-profit, nonprofit, faith-based, civic, healthcare and other organizations that serve older adults and their caregivers. These coalitions, established across the state, will address a number of areas of concern identified in the Senior Hunger Plan for the State of Georgia.

Harry Lange, Harris County, made a motion to approve the resolution; Walt Rosso, Cusseta Chattahoochee County, seconded the motion. The motion passed with no opposition.

Approval of Care Coordination Contract*

Katie Howard, Director of the Area Agency on Aging, requested council approval of the Care Coordination Contract. This program provides telephonic case management services and will be provided under a contract with the Central Savannah River Area (CSRA) Regional Commission/Area Agency on Aging.

Jerry “Pops” Barnes, Muscogee County, made a motion to approve the contract; Walt Rosso, Cusseta Chattahoochee County, seconded the motion. The motion passed with no opposition.

Transmittal of the 2018-2022 Regional Plan*

Allison Slocum, Senior Planner, presented the Regional Plan for council review and requested approval to submit the 2018-2022 Regional Plan to the Department of Community Affairs. She noted that there will be more additions and corrections before the plan will be submitted. Ms. Cullen asked that all comments on the plan be submitted by Monday, April 30th.

Barry Waters, Ft. Gaines, made a motion to approve the transmittal of the 2018-2022 Regional Plan, Patricia Goodman, Randolph County, seconded the motion. The motion passed with no opposition.

Budget Amendment*

Emily Chambers, Finance Director, presented the second budget amendment for FY18. She stated the primary need for the budget amendment was that we had received additional funds of \$222,204 from the Department of Human Services Transportation contract. The amended budget has a projected overall increase in fund balances of \$33,479, an increase of \$7,693 over the last budget amendment. The General Fund has an increase in Fund Balance of \$5,893, with the remaining \$1,800 increase in the Proprietary Funds. There were no changes to the Indirect Cost Plan. She explained that the Finance Committee had met and reviewed the amendment before the council meeting and that the Finance Committee recommended approval of the amendment. Emily then requested council approval of the Budget Amendment.

Terrell Hudson, Dooly County, made a motion to approve the Budget Amendment; Harry Lange, Harris County, seconded the motion. The motion passed with no opposition.

Staff Reports

Emily Chambers, Finance Officer, gave the financial report for February, stating that there was an overall net increase in fund balance of \$49,719. She said that the operating expenditures were right on target with the budget and that the fringe and indirect rates were still below fifty percent.

Katie Howard, Area Agency on Aging Director, reported that several bills were passed in the 2018 Georgia General Assembly that benefits senior citizens. She said no new funds were allocated but there also were no funding cuts. Katie said staff held an Open House at the RVRC Americus office March 23rd to showcase the Assistive Technology (AT) Lab for seniors. The lab will be staffed the first Friday of each month from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. With increased interest the hours may be extended. Both the Columbus and Americus' AT labs are open by appointment. She said staff is available for demonstrations at local civic and church groups. Over 30 people attended the 2018 Engage with Co-Age meeting at the Columbus RVRC office. They learned about Co-Age and how they can work with senior advocates thru out the state.

Jim Livingston, Community and Economic Development Director, explained that his department had submitted nine (9) Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) to the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) April 2nd, in addition to managing twenty (20) other projects. Staff made comments to DCA's Consolidated Plan. Primarily we suggested to (1) simplify the CDBG process (2) allow funds to be used for code enforcement and (3) allow modular/stick-built housing to be competitive when replacing mobile homes under the CDBG program. Georgia Department of Transportation hosted an open house on the replacement of the Lee Street Bridge and another meeting is scheduled for May 10th. He urged everyone in attendance to attend the meeting. An application to the Georgia Transportation Infrastructure Bank (GTIB) was submitted for Buena Vista for streetscape improvements to the Courthouse Square.

[Chattahoochee](#) | [Clay](#) | [Crisp](#) | [Dooly](#) | [Harris](#) | [Macon](#) | [Marion](#) | [Muscogee](#)
[Quitman](#) | [Randolph](#) | [Schley](#) | [Stewart](#) | [Sumter](#) | [Talbot](#) | [Taylor](#) | [Webster](#)

Janice West, WIOA Director, gave the staff report for her department. She explained that Harvey's Grocery Store in Montezuma would be closing on or before April 30th. Harvey's employs 40 full and part-time employees. Staff met with Harvey's employees and provided them with information about services available to them thru the WIOA program. Janice also noted that the unemployment rate for the eastern counties decreased from 7.2% to 5.8% for the month of February and also decreased from 6.7% to 5.6% in the western counties.

Gerald Mixon, Planning Director, reported the input sessions for the Comprehensive Plan Update for Taylor County, Butler and Reynolds continue. Harris County, Hamilton, Pine Mountain, Shiloh and Waverly Hall had a kick-off meeting April 24th at the Harris County Courthouse, to begin work on their Comprehensive Plan Update. He reported that GIS staff has merged about a dozen address lists from local utility customers, electrical utilities and E-911 address lists to compile a comprehensive list of residential addresses for the 2020 Census. As lists are completed they will be forwarded to the Census Bureau for an initial review before the local review is completed. Staff is reviewing road data in Harris County under the Map-21 program. This data will include local road names, ownership, median types, one-way and reversible lanes and surface types. Gerald said staff reviewed four cases for the Board of Historic Architecture Review (BHAR) in Columbus during April. The Prison to Peanuts Ride was held in Americus April 14th and was a great success with 132 riders from across the state participating in the event. Bicycle Week will begin in Columbus with a Pedaling for Kids event May 12th, Ride with the Mayor on May 15th, Ride of Silence on May 16th and Bike to Work Day on May 18th. Staff continues to compile information needed by the State Historic Preservation Office so construction can continue on the Andersonville Depot rehabilitation project.

Ms. Cullen announced that the May Council meeting would be the Annual Legislative Luncheon and would be held at the Josh Gibson Center.

Terrell Hudson, Dooly County, moved to adjourn; Harry Lange, Harris County, seconded the motion.

Date

Clinton Perry, Jr., Chair

Jerry "Pops" Barnes, Secretary