RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING
Marion County Commission Office
100 East Burkhalter Avenue, Buena Vista, Georgia
Minutes
February 28, 2018

Members Attending/Representing
(Representing 15 Counties)
A.J. Rivers, Crisp County
Barry Waters, City of Ft. Gaines
Barry Whitley, City of Butler
Carvel Lewis, Georgetown-Quitman County
Chip Jones, Stewart County
Danny Blackmon, Georgetown-Quitman County
Dr. Edward Lee, Cusseta-Chattahoochee County
Evelyn Turner Pugh, Muscogee County
Harry Lange, Harris County
Hobby Striping, City of Vienna
James R. “Bump” Welch, Marion County
Jason Hoch, Schley County
Jayson Griffin, Macon County
Jerry “Pops” Barnes, Muscogee County, RVRC Secretary
Jimmy Bradley, Randolph County
Joe Lee Williams, Stewart County
Knox Blackmar, City of Talbotton
Lee Hubbard, Clay County
Maggie McGruther, Sumter County
Nelson Brown, City of Americus
Pam Jordan, Talbot County
Patricia Goodman, Randolph County
Richard McCordie, Marion County
Tameka Harris, Taylor County
Terrell Hudson, Dooly County, ACCG
Tom Queen, Taylor County
Walt Rosso, Cusseta-Chattahoochee County

Staff Present
Patti Cullen, Executive Director
Sarah Walls, Assistant Executive Director
Allison Slocum, Senior Planner
Emily Chambers, Finance Officer
Gerald Mixon, Planning Director
Janice West, WIOA Director
Jim Livingston, Community & Economic Dev. Dir.
Katie Howard, Area Agency on Aging Director
Becky Holmes, Office Manager

Members Not Present
Bruce Hill, City of Oglethorpe
Carlton Wilson, City of Ellaville
Cecil “Butch” McMickle, Marion County
Clinton Perry, Jr., Taylor County, RVRC Chair
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 County
Jeanie Bartee, City of Corderle
Jimmy Babb, City of Lumpkin
Melvin Crimes, Webster County
Mickey George, Macon County
Ralph Brown, City of Buena Vista
Randy Howard, Sumter County, RVRC Vice Chair
Rebecca Chambers, City of Hamilton
Sam Farrow, Jr., Crisp County
Steve Whatley, City of Cuthbert
Tony Kennedy, Webster County
Wally Summers, Sumter County

Others Present
Bernita Haynes, Georgia Watch, Director
Elaine Gillisiep, Congressman Bishop’s Representative
Laura Gower, Senator Johnny Isakson’s Representative
Sarah Lee Crumbs, Georgetown-Quitman Co. Family
Connections Coordinator
Edwina Turner, Stewart Co. Family Connections Coordinator
Lindsay Gisson, Deputy Clerk of Council, Muscogee County
Candy Head, Georgia Department of Labor
Debbie Stone, City of Lumpkin
Vickie Wainwright, City of Butler
Paul Farr, South GA Technical College
Jamie Barnes, Muscogee County

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

Equal Opportunity Employer
Welcome and Recognition of Visitors
Jerry "Pops" Barnes, Secretary, brought the meeting to order. He welcomed everyone and recognized visitors. He then asked Harry Lange, Harris County, to lead the council in prayer and then lead the council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Review and Approval of Minutes*
Council reviewed the minutes of the January 24, 2018 council meeting that was mailed or emailed to council members the previous week for their review.

There being no additions or changes, Jerry "Pops" Barnes, Secretary, requested a motion to approve the January 24, 2018 council minutes. Harry Lange, Harris County, made a motion to approve the minutes as presented; Walt Rosso, Cusseta-Chattahoochee County, seconded the motion. With a show of hands, the motion passed with no opposition.

Georgia Watch: An Overview
Patti Cullen, Executive Director, introduced guest speaker Berneta Haynes, Director of Equity and Access at Georgia Watch. Ms. Haynes gave a slideshow presentation explaining Georgia Watch which is an organization that advocates for all Georgians on matters that impact their quality of life through education, advocacy and policy development. She said Georgia Watch focuses attention on communities/people that need a champion, particularly those most affected by predatory business practices, high cost of utilities and healthcare, and restricted access to the civil justice system.

Ms. Haynes said Georgia Watch was partnering with the RVRC and other local agencies to host an Energy Equity Forum on May 5th at the RVRC in Columbus. Everyone is invited to attend.

Resolution to Enter Into FY19 Contract with DHS for the Provision of Aging Services
Katie Howard, Area Agency on Aging Director, presented a resolution for approval to enter into the FY19 contract with the Department of Human Services for the provision of aging services. The resolution was included in the council packets.

Pops Barnes, Secretary, requested a motion to approve the resolution to enter into the FY19 Department of Human Services contract for the provision of aging services. Carvel Lewis, Georgetown-Quitman County, made a motion to approve the request to approve the resolution; Walt Rosso, Cusseta-Chattahoochee County, seconded the motion. With a show of hands, the motion passed with no opposition.

Approval of Job Descriptions
Katie Howard, Area Agency on Aging Director, presented job descriptions that were updated to meet the Department of Human Service contract requirements. She explained that education requirements were updated for some positions and job duties were also redistributed for some positions due to staff turnover. Patti explained that the Executive Committee had reviewed the job descriptions at last month’s committee meeting and had recommended approval.
Pop Barnes, Secretary, requested a motion to approve the AAA job descriptions. Carvel Lewis, Georgetown-Quitman County, made a motion to approve the AAA job descriptions; Harry Lange, Harris County, seconded the motion. With a show of hands, the motion passed with no opposition.

**Staff Reports**

Katie Howard, Area Agency on Aging Director; reviewed the Waiting List by county and by service which shows the number of people who are waiting to receive services. She also explained the Caregiver Time Out Program which allows for the maximum flexibility for caregivers in choosing in-home respite providers and allows for up to $100 in reimbursement for services.

Katie announced that there will be a Wellness Walk held at Peachtree Mall, in Columbus on May 4th, from 8-11am. Tables are free for vendors; sponsorship is $125. Sponsors will have their business name on the tee shirts that will be given away. Everyone was invited to attend.

Allison Slocum, Senior Planner; explained that staff was continuing to move forward with the Regional Plan Update. She said a Leadership Meeting was held at 9:30 a.m. before the council meeting. She stated that the leadership team would be meeting again in March and the document would be transmitted to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs in April.

She said staff was reviewing one new Development of Regional Impact (DRI) which was proposed for a multi-use development in Midland (Columbus). Staff is continuing to work with communities on the LUCA updates for the census. The deadline for response to the Boundary and Annexation Survey is March 1st. Staff is working with Stewart and Quitman Counties to install signage addressing illegal dumping of animal carcasses within the Patula Creek Watershed. Staff reviewed eight cases in February for the Columbus BHAR. Staff is working with the Columbus Planning Advisory Committee on the upcoming Ft. Benning Century Ride on March 10th.

Jim Livingston, Community & Economic Development Director; stated staff was hard at work preparing eleven Community Development Block Grant applications to submit to the Georgia Department of Affairs April 1st. He said staff is also administering 21 projects that are in various stages. Scrap Tire Program applications were distributed for any communities that would like to apply. The Local Government Scrap Tire Abatement Reimbursement Program covers the costs of removing, transporting, and processing scrap tires cleaned up from state-listed scrap tire dumps, city and county right-of-ways, and tires collected during scrap tire amnesty events. Jim explained that Dooly, Harris and Sumter counties were presently participating in the program. He said for more information to contact the RVRC office at 706-256-2910 or Environmental Compliance Specialist, Mary Talukder, at 404-675-6013 or at www.epd.georgia.gov.

Janice West, WIOA Director; said the program currently had 240 people being served by various WIOA funded training activities. The WIOA annual state monitoring was held February 5th-9th at the Americus office. Staff was complimented for having excellent case files and policies and

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

Equal Opportunity Employer
procedures that were clear and accessible. The department either met or exceeded all 1st Quarter Performance Achievement goals. Janice announced that effective July 1, 2018 that the WIOA program will be moving from the Georgia Department of Economic Development to the Technical College System of Georgia as the State WIOA Administrator and Fiscal Agent.

Emily Chambers, Finance Officer presented the staff report for her department. She reported that the General Fund had an increase in fund balance of almost $7,000 through December 31, 2017. The General Fund expenditures were at 45% of the budgeted amount and Internal Service Fund expenses were at 49% of the budgeted amount. Fringe and Indirect rates have leveled out to 47% each.

ADJOURN
Patti Cullen, Executive Director, explained that due to unforeseen circumstances at the prison Clinton Perry, Jr., Chair, was not able to attend the meeting and Randy Howard, Vice Chair, was in Atlanta at the state capitol lobbying for Broadband and E-911 issues.

There being no further business to come before the council; the meeting then adjourned.

\[4/10/18\]

Date

\[\text{Clinton Perry, Jr., Chair}\]

Jerry "Pops" Barnes, Secretary