RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING

Marion County Commission Office
100 East Burkhalter Avenue, Buena Vista, Georgia

Minutes
March 28, 2018

Members Attending/Representing
(Representing 15 Counties)
Barry Waters, City of Ft. Gaines
Bruce Hill, City of Oglethorpe
Carlton Wilson, City of Ellaville
Carvel Lewis, Georgetown-Quitman Co.
Chip Jones, Stewart County
Danny Blackmon, Georgetown-Quitman
Dr. Carole Rutland, Muscogee County
Dr. Edward Lee, Cusseta-Chattahoochee
Doug Etheridge, Harris 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
Jerry "Pops" Barnes, Muscogee Co., RVRC Secretary
Knox Blackmar, City of Talbotton
Lee Hubbard, Clay County
Maggie McGruther, Sumter County
Melvin Crimes, Webster County
Patricia Goodman, Randolph County
Randy Howard, Sumter County, RVRC Vice Chair
Richard McCorkle, Marion County
Tameka Harris, Taylor County
Terrell Hudson, Dooly County, ACCG
Tony Kennedy, Webster County
Walt Rosso, Cusseta-Chattahoochee Co.
Wally Summers, Sumter County
Joe Lee Williams, Stewart County

Members Not Present
A.J. Rivers, Crisp County
Barry Whitley, City of Butler
Cecil "Butch" McMickle, Marion Co.
Clinton Perry, Jr. Taylor County, RVRC Chair
Fred Gordon, Muscogee County
Freeman Montgomery, Talbot County
Greg Barineau, Schley County
James Morton, Cusseta-Chattahoochee
Jason Hoch, Schley County
Jeanie Bartee, City of Cordele
Jimmy Babb, City of Lumpkin
Jimmy Bradley, Randolph County
Mickey George, Macon County
Nelson Brown, City of Americus
Ralph Brown, City of Buena Vista
Pam Jordan, Talbot County
Rebecca Chambers, City of Hamilton
Sam Farrow, Jr., Crisp County
Steve Whatley, City of Cuthbert

Tom Queen, Taylor County

Others Present
Elaine Gillispie, Congressman Bishop's Representative
Sarah Lee Crumbs, Georgetown-Quitman Co. Family
Connections Coordinator
Lindsey Glisson, Deputy Clerk of Council, Muscogee County
Candy Head, Georgia Department of Labor
Debbie Stone, City of Lumpkin

Staff Present
Patti Cullen, Executive Director
Sarah Walls, Assistant Executive Dir.
Emily Chambers, Finance Officer
Rick Morris, Planning Director
Allison Slocum, Senior Planner
Jim Livingston, Comm. & Eco. Dev. Dir.
Gerald Mixon, Planning Director
Kia Barrow, ADRC Program 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

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Welcome and Recognition of Visitors
Randy Howard, Vice Chair, brought the meeting to order. He welcomed everyone and recognized visitors. He then asked Jerry “Pops” Barnes, Muscogee County, to lead the council in prayer and Melvin Crimes, Webster County, to lead the council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Review and Approval of Minutes*
Council reviewed the minutes of the February 28, 2018 council meeting that were mailed or emailed to council members the previous week for their review.

There being no additions or changes, Randy Howard, Vice Chair, requested a motion to approve the February 28, 2018 council minutes. Barry Waters, Fort Gaines, made a motion to approve the minutes as presented; Harry Lange, Harris County, seconded the motion. With a show of hands, the motion passed with no opposition.

Regional Defense Transformation Update
Randy Howard, asked Mr. Gary Jones, Executive Vice-President of Military Affairs at the Greater Columbus Chamber of Commerce to come forward and give his presentation. Mr. Jones gave a slide show presentation updating the council on the overall regional impact of Fort Benning on the region.

Update of the Regional Plan
Allison Slocum, Senior Planner, updated the council on the progress being made on the Regional Plan. She said that four SWOT meetings had been held as well as listening sessions. The final session was held at the RVRC Council meeting January 24th. Allison said the Economic Development, Housing, Population and Regional Needs and Opportunities sections have been completed. She anticipates the plan will be brought before the council for approval to transmit to the Department of Community Affairs for their review and approval at the April meeting with final approval scheduled for the June meeting.

Evelyn Pugh requested that the WIOA Program be included in the Regional Plan and that the plan be sent to all county and city clerks.

Staff Reports
Emily Chambers, Finance Officer, reported an overall increase in fund balance through January of about $100,000. She said expenditures were at 54% and 59% of budgeted amounts in the General Fund and Internal Service Fund respectively, and stated that both Fringe and Indirect rates remained below fifty percent. She also announced that the RVRC Banking Services Request for Proposal had been completed and placed on the RVRC website for banks to download. The RVRC is hoping to sign a new banking services agreement for the next five years beginning July 1, 2018.

Rick Morris, Planning Director, announced that plan update activities were underway for Taylor County and the cities of Butler and Reynolds. Staff will begin shortly working with Clay County, Fort Gaines, and Quitman on their Comprehensive Plan. Zoning Ordinance variance language is being updated for Hamilton, Quitman County and the Chattahoochee Planning Commissions. Rick said that staff have discussed installing a composting facility to help stop the illegal carcass dumping in the Patapaul Creek watershed. He said the “Prison to Peanuts” bicycle ride is scheduled for April 14, 2018 and invited everyone to attend. The “Fort
Benning Century Ride” was held to celebrate Fort Benning’s 100 year anniversary. This ride had 326 riders from across the southeast attending.

Jim Livingston, Community & Economic Development Director, said that staff continues to work on nine (9) Community Development Block Grant applications ($4.8 million) that are due to be submitted to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs on April 2. Jim explained that staff are also administering 20 projects, two (2) of which are due to closeout soon. He urged everyone to make sure that financial reports and other reporting requirements stay up-to-date. The Department of Community Affairs is keeping a close eye on those reports as a requirement for funding CDBG applications. Jim also announced that Regional Development Authority training will be held in June and will be open to everyone. More details will be announced soon. He said there is one prospect for the Revolving Loan Fund program and requested that everyone continue to let the public know that funds are available for lending.

Kia Barrow, ADRC Program Director, presented the staff report in the absence of Katie Howard, AAA Director, who was attending a conference. Kia explained that staff had held an Assistive Technology (AT) Lab open house in the Americus office. They showcased many items that are available to area seniors and gave information on where the items can be purchased. This AT lab is the same lab that is in the Columbus office. Kia said that there are 241 people on the waiting list for services. Staff will be facilitating two (2) Tai Chi classes; one in Muscogee County and one in Randolph County. A Matter of Balance class has also begun in Macon County.

Janice West, WIOA Director, reported the WIOA program was audited in February by the WIOA State office. Staff has submitted a monitoring response to the State WIOA office and is waiting to be notified if the corrective action plan will be accepted. Janice said on April 4 the Georgia Department of Labor will hold the next One Stop partners’ meeting at the Americus Career Center. A business plan for the One Stop Center will be presented to the partners at that meeting. Janice noted that 258 people are being served thru the WIOA training activities and the numbers will continue to increase thru June 30.

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

Date

Clinton Perry, Jr., Chair

Jerry “Pops” Barnes, Secretary

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