RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING

Marion County Commission Office
100 East Burkhalter Avenue
Buena Vista, Georgia
January 23, 2019

MINUTES

Members Attending/Representing (Representing 15 Counties)
Barry Waters, City of Ft. Gaines
Bruce Hill, City of Oglethorpe
Carlton Wilson, City of Ellaville
Chip Jones, Stewart County
Clay Jones, Sumter County
Damon Hoyte, Cusseta-Chattahoochee Co.
Doug Etheridge, Harris County
Dr. Edward Lee, Cusseta-Chattahoochee
Freeman Montgomery, Talbot County
Harry Lange, Harris County
Hobby Striping, City of Vienna
James R. “Bump” Welch, Marion Co.
James Morton, Cusseta-Chattahoochee Co.
Jeanie Bartee, City of Cordele
Jerry “Pops” Barnes, Muscogee County, RVRC Secretary
Richard McCorkle, Marion County
Tom Queen, Taylor County
Tony Kennedy, Webster County
Wally Summers, Sumter County

Members Not Present
A.J. Rivers, Crisp County
Barry Whiteley, City of Butler
Carvel Lewis, Georgetown-Quitman
Clint Perry, Jr. Taylor County, RVRC Chair
Danny Blackmon, Georgetown-Quitman
Dr. Carole Rutland, Muscogee County
Evelyn Turner Pugh, Muscogee County
Ernest Jenkins, Clay County
Fred Gordon, Muscogee County
Greg Barineau, Schley County
Jayson Griffin, Macon County
Jimmy Babb, City of Lumpkin
Mark Gunnels, Cusseta-Chattahoochee
Nelson Brown, City of Americus
Pam Jordan, Talbot County
Rebecca Chambers, City of Hamilton
Sam Farrow, Jr., Crisp County
Steve Whatley, City of Cuthbert
Tamika Harris, Taylor County
Terrell Hudson, Dooly County

Others Present
Amy Varnum, Georgia Dept. of Labor
Sarah Lee Crumbs, Georgetown-Quitman Co. Family Connections
Rebecca White, Randolph County Chamber
Debbie Stone, Stewart County
Janet Joiner, City of Vienna
Kathy Burns, Senator David Perdue Representative
Laura Gower, Senator Isakson Representative
Elaine Gillispie, Cong. Bishop’s Representative
Tammye Jones, Cong Bishop’s Representative
William Easton, GDOT TIA Program Manager
Kenneth Franks, State TIA Administrator
Ronnie Crozier, Clay Co. Manager
Ben Cowart, GEFA External Affairs Manager
Terry Smith, Geotechnical & Environmental Consultants, Inc.

Staff Present
Patti Cullen, Executive Director
Sarah Walls, Asst. Executive Director
Katie Howard, AAA Director
Emily Chambers, Finance Officer
Tammy Collins, Finance Officer
Gerald Mixon, Planning Director
Jim Livingston, Comm. & Eco. Dev. Dir.
Janice West, WIOA Director
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, welcomed everyone and asked new council members to introduce themselves.

Chair Howard asked Jerry “Pops” Barnes, Secretary, to lead the council in prayer and Bruce Hill, City of Oglethorpe, to lead the council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Review and Approval of Minutes*
Council reviewed the minutes of the November 28, 2018 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 November 28, 2018 council minutes. Harry Lange, Harris County, made a motion to approve the minutes as presented; Bruce Hill, City of Oglethorpe, seconded the motion. The motion passed with no opposition.

Georgia Environmental Finance Authority (GEFA) Loan Program and Funding
Ben Cowart, External Affairs Manager, gave a PowerPoint presentation explaining the Georgia Environmental Finance Authority’s Loan Program.

Transportation Improvement Act (TIA) Update
Kenneth Franks, State TIA Administrator and William Eastin TIA Program Manager, gave a PowerPoint presentation highlighting some of the Transportation Investment Act (TIA) projects that have been completed, are in progress in the region.

Disclosure of Employee’s Business Transactions with Local Governments for Calendar Year 2018 (per O.C.G.A. 50-8-63) *
Patti Cullen, Executive Director, explained that each year the RVRC is required, by Law, to disclose if any employee has had any business transactions with local governments within the region.

Patti requested permission to notify DCA that there were no business transactions between RVRC employees and local governments. Barry Waters, City of Fort Gaines, made a motion to approve the request and Joe Lee Williams, Stewart County, seconded the motion. The motion passed with no opposition.

Budget Amendment*
Emily Chambers, Finance Director, explained that the Executive Committee had met prior to the Council meeting and had discussed Budget Amendment 1 for Fiscal Year 2019 at length. A projected fund balance of approximately $72,500 had been added to the budget since the initial budget in July. This was primarily due to an increase in the Community Development Block Grant funds we received in October. Harry Lange, Harris County, made a motion to approve Budget Amendment 1; Bruce Hill, City of Oglethorpe, seconded the motion. The motion passed with no opposition.

Staff Reports
Staff reports were presented by Emily Chambers, Finance Officer; Janice West, WIOA Director; Katie Howard, AAA Director; Gerald Mixon, Planning Director; and Jim Livingston, Community and Economic Development Director for their departments.
ADJOURN
Randy Howard asked Representatives from Senator Isakson, Senator Perdue and Congressman Bishop’s office to give updates on the federal shutdown. Wally Summers announced a new program at SGTC for log truck drivers.

Patti Cullen, Executive Director, announced her retirement on April 30, 2019. She stated she had been with the organization for 37 ½ years and that she enjoyed working with all the cities and counties over the years.

Randy Howard adjourned the meeting.