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**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 Stripling, City of Vienna  
James R. "Bump" Welch, Marion Co.  
James Morton, Cusseta-Chattahoochee Co.  
Jeanie Barte, City of Cordele  
Jerry "Pops" Barnes, Muscogee County,  
RVRC Secretary  
Jimmy Bradley, Randolph County  
Joe Lee Williams, Stewart County  
Knox Blackmar, City of Talbotton  
Maggie McGruther, Sumter County  
Melvin Crimes, Webster County  
Mickey George, Macon County  
Patricia Goodman, Randolph County  
Ralph Brown, City of Buena Vista  
Randy Howard, Sumter County,  
RVRC Vice Chair

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 Whitley, City of Butler  
Carvel Lewis, Georgetown-Quitman  
Clinton 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  
Tameka 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.

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

## **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.