



[www.rivervalleyrc.org](http://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

**RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING**

Marion County Commission Office

Minutes

June 22, 2016

**Members Attending/Representing**

(Representing 15 Counties)

A.J. Rivers, Crisp County  
Carlton Wilson, City of Ellaville  
Chip Jones, Stewart County  
Clinton Perry, Jr., Taylor County, RVRC Chair  
David Kinsey, Georgetown-Quitman County  
Debbie Stone, Stewart County  
Dr. Carole Rutland, Muscogee County  
Edward Lee, Cusseta-Chattahoochee County  
Evelyn Turner-Pugh, Muscogee County  
Freeman Montgomery, Talbot County  
James Morton, Cusseta-Chattahoochee County  
Jason Hoch, Schley County  
Jeanie Bartee, City of Cordele  
Jimmy Bradley, Randolph County  
Harry Lange, Harris County  
Knox Blackmar, City of Talbotton  
Maggie McGruther, Sumter County  
Melvin Crimes, Webster County  
Mickey George, Macon County  
Mike Speight, Crisp County, RVRC Secretary  
Nelson Brown, City of Americus  
Ralph Brown, City of Buena Vista  
Randy Howard, Sumter County  
Richard McCorkle, Marion County  
Richard Morris, Georgetown-Quitman County, RVRC Vice-Chair

Terrell Hudson, Dooly County  
Tom Queen, Taylor County  
Wally Summers, Sumter County

**Members Not Present**

Barry Whitley, City of Butler  
Bruce Hill, City of Oglethorpe  
Cecil "Butch" McMickle, Marion County  
Clark Henderson, Crisp County  
Doug Etheridge, Harris County  
Fred Gordon, Muscogee County  
George Moore, Webster County  
Greg Barineau, Schley County  
Hobby Stripling, City of Vienna  
James R. "Bump" Welch, Marion County  
Jerry "Pops" Barnes, Muscogee County  
Jim Lawrence, Cusseta-Chattahoochee County  
Joe Lee Williams, Stewart County  
Lawrence Young, Stewart County  
Lee Hubbard, Clay County  
Pam Jordan, Talbot County  
Patricia Goodman, Randolph County  
Rebecca Chambers, City of Hamilton  
Steven F. Martin, City of Ft. Gaines  
Steve Whatley, City of Cuthbert  
Tommy McKenzie, Macon County

**Staff Present**

Patti Cullen, Executive Director  
Sarah Walls, Assistant Executive Director  
Rick Morris, Planning Director  
Gerald Mixon, Planning Director

Emily Chambers, Finance Officer  
Tammy Collins, Finance Officer  
Jim Livingston, Community & Economic Development  
Becky Holmes, Office Manager

**Others Present**

Roy Barnes, Barnes Law Group, LLC  
Timothy Smith, SSBCI, GDCA  
Jo Childers, DCA  
Edwina Turner, Stewart County  
Family Connections Coordinator  
Kenny Calhoun, Dooly County

Judy Tucker, Columbus  
Kathy Burns, Rep. for Senator Perdue  
Laura Gower, Rep. for Senator Isakson  
Krystal Health, Sumter County  
Family Connections Coordinator  
John Bevis, Barnes Law Group, LLC

### **Welcome and Recognition of Visitors**

Clinton Perry, Jr., Chair, brought the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. and welcomed everyone. Richard Morris, Vice Chair, led the council in prayer and Mike Speight, Secretary, led the council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Review and Approval of Minutes\***

Council reviewed the minutes of the May 25, 2016 council meeting. Terrell Hudson, Dooly County, made a motion to approve the minutes as presented; Evelyn Turner-Pugh, Columbus, seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **911 Litigation Update**

Former Governor Roy Barnes, Barnes Law Group, LLC, updated the council on the progress being made concerning the 911 Litigation lawsuit and how it impacts local governments in the state. Mr. Barnes explained that technology continues to expand which means funds must be available to keep the 911 systems updated. Each local government collects \$1.50 per telephone line; the telephone companies are supposed to collect this money. All telephone lines are supposed to pay this fee but many businesses have a multi-line system and are only paying for one line. He explained that Cobb and Gwinett counties lawsuits were moving forward because as much as \$52 million has not been collected. Mr. Barnes explained that it would be better to have all planning districts file together. This lawsuit will compare the number of lines to how many have been paid for. He said the contingent fee is 23% for litigation which includes audit fees and any other necessary fees. If the case is lost the planning districts will not owe anything.

### **Small Business Credit Initiative (SSBCI) What it Offers Small Businesses**

Timothy Smith, Program Specialist with the Georgia Department of Community Affairs, updated the council about the State Small Business Credit Initiative Act which set aside \$48 million for the State of Georgia to work with small businesses in the state. He explained several programs that are available due to this money:

**GA LPP (Georgia Loan Participation Program)** - The State purchases up to 25% of an approved loan, for loans ranging from \$100,000 to \$5 million. Current Amount of GA SSBCI Funds Designated: **\$8 million.**

**Georgia Funding for CDFIs** - Approved CDFIs can use SSBCI funds to partner with banks to provide credit to small businesses for eligible projects. Current Amount of GA SSBCI Funds Designated: **\$20 million.**

**Small Business Credit Guarantee (SBCG)** - A 50% loan guarantee with a conversion option into a risk reserve pool offering up to 80% reimbursement for loan losses. Current Amount of GA SSBCI Funds Designated: **\$17,808,507.**

**Georgia Capital Access Program (GCAP)** - A risk reserve pool funded with borrower/lender fees matched with SSBCI funds. Current Amount of GA SSBCI Funds Designated: **\$2 million.**

Mr. Smith said that currently there is no loan participation in River Valley region and urged elected officials to help get the word out that these funds are available for approved loans.

### **Approval to Submit an Application to USDA for a Rural Community Development Initiative Grant\***

Jim Livingston, Community and Economic Development Director, requested approval to submit an application to USDA for a RCDI grant. The application will be for the Front Door Initiative. Thru a series of classes this grant will help local citizens receive the skills needed to promote tourism in their cities and counties.

Evelyn Turner Pugh, Muscogee County, made a motion to approve the submittal of an application to USDA for a Rural Community Development Initiative Grant; Ralph Brown, Jr., Buena Vista, seconded the motion. By a show of hands the motion passed unanimously.

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

**Adoption of Regional Work Program 2016-2020\***

Gerald Mixon, Planning Director, presented a resolution to adopt the annual update of the Regional Work Program, noting it had been approved by the Department of Community Affairs. A copy of the Regional Work Program was included in the council packet.

Richard Morris, Georgetown-Quitman County, made a motion to adopt the Regional Work Program 2016-2020 as presented; Evelyn Turner Pugh, Muscogee County, seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Evaluation of FY2016 Annual Work Program\***

Patti Cullen, Executive Director, presented the evaluation of the FY2016 Annual Work Program. She explained that the work program was compiled in house for RVRC staff. Patti highlighted accomplishments for each department. A copy of the Evaluation of the FY16 Annual Work Program was emailed to each council member and was included in the council packet. She then requested council approval of the Evaluation of the FY2016 Work Program.

Tom Queen, Taylor County, made a motion to approve the Evaluation of the 2016 Annual Work Program as presented; James Morton, Cusseta-Chattahoochee County, seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Review/Approval of FY2017 Annual Work Program\***

Patti Cullen, Executive Director, gave an overview of the RVRC Annual Work Program that has been planned for FY2017. She explained that there may be changes made to the work program throughout the year as projects and grants are added, changed or removed.

Carol Rutland, Muscogee County, made a motion to approve the FY2017 Annual Work Program as presented; Mike Speight, Crisp County, seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Adopt Changes to the Policies and Procedures Manual\***

Patti Cullen, Executive Director, presented the Policies and Procedures Manual and reviewed the changes and additions to the council. Changes were made concerning employee meal expenses, Family Medical Leave Act, Leave Without Pay and general formatting to the document. A new Mission Statement was included, that was compiled by the CED's committee, that was previously approved by the council.

Mickey George, Macon County, made a motion to adopt the changes to the Policies and Procedures Manual; Harry Lange, Harris County, seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Evaluation of the RVRC Executive Director\***

Clinton Perry, Jr., Chair, presented the evaluation of Patti Cullen, Executive Director of the RVRC. He explained the Executive Committee had evaluated her performance and found that she had done an excellent job leading the commission and the staff.

Mike Speight, Crisp County, made a motion to approve the evaluation; Richard Morris, Georgetown-Quitman County, seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Review/Approval of FY2017 Budget for RVRC\***

Emily Chambers, Finance Officer, presented an overview of proposed FY2017 Annual Budget. She said the Executive Committee had met and reviewed the budget before the council meeting and recommended approval.

Harry Lange made a motion to approve the FY2017 budget as presented; Melvin Crimes, Webster County, seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Set Date, Time and Location of RVRC Council Meetings for FY2016\***

Patti Cullen, Executive Director, suggest the council keep the same meeting date, time and location for council meetings, unless there were any objections, for FY17. The council decided to continue to hold council meetings on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month, at 10:30 a.m. in the Marion County Commission office, in Buena Vista. No meeting will be held in July or December. The November meeting will be held on the third Wednesday due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

Harry Lange, Harris County, made a motion to approve the date, time and location for the RVRC council meeting for FY17 and Melvin Crimes, Webster County, seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Adjourn**

Clinton Perry, Jr. then adjourned the meeting.

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Date

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Clinton Perry, Jr., Chair

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Mike Speight, Secretary