



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

Toll Free (877) 819-6348

RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING

**Marion County Commission Office
100 East Burkhalter Avenue
Buena Vista, Georgia
February 27, 2019**

MINUTES

Members Attending/Representing

(Representing 14 Counties)

Barry Waters, City of Ft. Gaines
Bruce Hill, City of Oglethorpe
Chip Jones, Stewart County
Danny Blackmon, Georgetown-Quitman
Doug Etheridge, Harris County
A.J. Rivers, Crisp County
James R. "Bump" Welch, Marion Co.
James Morton, Cusseta-Chattahoochee Co.
Jeanie Bartee, City of Cordele
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
Randy Howard, Sumter County,
RVRC Vice Chair
Tom Queen, Taylor County
Tony Kennedy, Webster County
Wally Summers, Sumter County
Evelyn Turner Pugh, Muscogee County
Ernest Jenkins, Clay County
Pam Jordan, Talbot County
Jayson Griffin, Macon County
Tameka Harris, Taylor County

Members Not Present

Clay Jones, Sumter County
Damon Hoyte, Cusseta-Chattahoochee Co.
Dr. Edward Lee, Cusseta-Chattahoochee
Freeman Montgomery, Talbot County
Hobby Stripling, City of Vienna
Barry Whitley, City of Butler
Carvel Lewis, Georgetown-Quitman
Clinton Perry, Jr. Taylor County, RVRC Chair
Dr. Carole Rutland, Muscogee County
Fred Gordon, Muscogee County
Greg Barineau, Schley County
Jimmy Babb, City of Lumpkin
Matt Gunnels, Marion County
Nelson Brown, City of Americus
Patricia Goodman, Randolph County
Rebecca Chambers, City of Hamilton
Richard McCorkle, Marion County
Sam Farrow, Jr., Crisp County
Steve Whatley, City of Cuthbert
Terrell Hudson, Dooly County
Carlton Wilson, City of Ellaville
Ralph Brown, City of Buena Vista
Jerry "Pops" Barnes, Muscogee County,
RVRC Secretary
Harry Lange, Harris County

Others Present

Sarah Lee Crumbs, Georgetown-Quitman Co.
Family Connections
Rebecca White, Randolph County Chamber
Debbie Stone, Stewart County
Elaine Gillispie, Cong. Bishop's Representative
Tammye Jones, Cong Bishop's Representative
John Watford, SGTC
Paul Farr, SGTC
Michelle McGowan, SGTC
Lindsey Glisson, City of Columbus
Bobby Kemerait, UGA
Matt Murdoch, Marion Co. Extension Agent

Staff Present

Patti Cullen, Executive Director
Sarah Walls, Asst. Executive Director
Katie Howard, AAA Director
Emily Chambers, Finance Officer
Gerald Mixon, Planning Director
Rick Morris, Planning Director
Jim Livingston, Comm. & Eco. Dev. Dir.
Janice West, WIOA Director
Grace Grant, Executive Secretary

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

Equal Opportunity Employer

Welcome and Recognition of Visitors

Randy Howard, Vice Chair, brought the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

Vice Chair Howard asked John Watford, President of South Georgia Technical College, 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 January 23, 2019 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 January 23, 2019 council minutes. Barry Waters, City of Fort Gaines, made a motion to approve the minutes as presented; Danny Blackmon, Georgetown-Quitman County, seconded the motion. The motion passed with no opposition.

University of Georgia Cooperative Extension

Robert Kemerait, Professor, UGA Tifton Campus, gave a PowerPoint presentation explaining the purpose and roles of the Georgia Cooperative Extension. He explained that the Cooperative Extension Service gives individuals access to the resources at a land grant university. These universities are centers for research in many subjects, including entomology and agriculture. The county agents provide non-biased opinions. Counties pay half of an extension agent's salary. They often look at ways to add value to our agricultural products. Mr. Kemerait stated that Georgia grows more blueberries than any other product. He said that the UGA Cooperative Extension should impact all citizens and the UGA Cooperative Extension programs need the support of the citizens.

Resolution to Enter Into FY 20 Contract with Department of Human Services

Katie Howard, AAA Director, reported that the resolution to enter into contract with the Department of Human Services (DHS) was mailed to each Council member for their review. Katie stated that the purpose for the resolution is to get authorization to sign a contract with the Georgia Department of Human Services, Division of Aging Services, to provide services for seniors and persons with disabilities. Vice Chair Howard requested a motion to accept the resolution to enter into contract with the Department of Human Services. Mickey George, Macon County, made a motion to accept the resolution as presented; Bruce Hill, City of Oglethorpe, seconded the motion. The motion passed with no opposition.

Adoption of Area Plan

Katie Howard, AAA Director, reported that the Area Agency on Aging has a four-year plan with the Georgia Department of Human Services, Division of Aging Services. Katie stated that the State sets goals and objectives for the plan and the AAA evaluates and updates the four-year plan annually. The plan is then submitted to the AAA Advisory Council, River Valley Council, and the Division of Aging Services for review. Vice Chair Howard requested a motion for the adoption of the Area Plan. Evelyn Turner Pugh, City of Columbus, made a motion to adopt the Area Plan; Pam Jordan, Talbot County, seconded the motion. The motion passed with no opposition.

Approval of Workforce Safety Policy

Katie Howard reported the Division of Aging Services created a Workforce Safety Policy to enforce safety for the aging staff. Katie stated that after looking at the policy she and Patti thought it would be a good idea to adopt a similar Workforce Safety Policy for all RVRC staff. She stated that the policy was mailed to each Council member for their review. Vice Chair Howard requested a motion for the adoption of the Workforce Safety Policy. James Morton, Cusseta- Chattahoochee County made to the motion to accept the Workforce Safety Policy as presented; Micky George, Macon County, seconded the motion. Motion passed without any opposition.

Staff Reports

Katie Howard stated that the waiting list for Aging services is down and now is a great time to refer individuals to the Aging Department in a timely manner. She stated that River Valley hosted A Matter of Balance Class for Lay Leaders. She said 5 Lay Leaders were trained in Diabetes Self-Management.

Rick Morris reported Planning Staff is continuing to provide technical assistance for Local Plans and Updates, Zoning, Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plans, Environmental Planning, Historic Preservation, TE projects, and GIS activities. More information is provided in the Staff Reports that is included in the Council packet.

Jim Livingston, Community and Economic Development Director, stated that the Community and Economic Development staff is presently working on fourteen CDBG applications and administering twenty-one. Jim stressed the importance of pictures and surveys for the 2019 applications. He stated that the Department of Community Affairs has put an emphasis on compliance, timeliness and making sure all local governments who submit applications are fully compliant Qualified Local Governments. Jim said that over 500 responses have been received from the Broadband Survey and encouraged all that have not filled out the survey to please do so. Jim stated that staff is continuing to work on a map of regional cooperation to show all the ways communities in our region work together.

Janice reported that the final WIOA State Monitoring reports were received and there were 3 findings. Janice stated the staff is in the process of correcting the findings and will send them back to the State by March 15th. Janice also reported that Kelsi Cannon, a WIA participant in the practical nursing program, was named South Georgia Technical College's Georgia Occupational Award of Leadership (GOAL) winner for 2019. Kelsey will represent the college in regional and state level competitions, in hopes of being named the statewide Student of the Year.

Emily Chambers, Finance Officer, reported that through December 31, 2018, the General Fund revenues are at 40% of the budgeted amount and the General Fund expenditures are at 46% of the budget, resulting in an increase of \$1,300 in the General Fund fund balance with a total Fund Balance of \$685,500 as of December 31, 2018.

Presentation to Patti Cullen, Executive Director

South Georgia Technical College staff, Wally Summers, President John Watford, Paul Farr, and Michelle McGowan presented Patti with a plaque showing their appreciation for all her work with SGTC and the region.


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

Equal Opportunity Employer

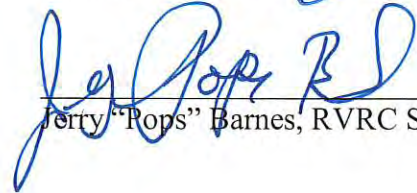
ADJOURN

Jimmy Bradley made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned.

February 27, 2019
Date



Clinton Perry, Jr., RVRC Chair



Jerry "Pops" Barnes, RVRC Secretary