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**RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Marion County Commission Office**  
**100 East Burkhalter Avenue, Buena Vista, Georgia**  
**Summary**  
**January 24, 2018**

#### **Members Attending/Representing**

(Representing 15 Counties)

A.J. Rivers, Crisp County  
Carlton Wilson, City of Ellaville  
Cecil “Butch” McMickle, Marion County  
Chip Jones, Stewart County  
Dr. Carole Rutland, Muscogee County  
Dr. Edward Lee, Cusseta-Chattahoochee County  
Doug Etheridge, Harris County  
Evelyn Turner Pugh, Muscogee County  
Harry Lange, Harris County  
James Morton, Cusseta-Chattahoochee County  
James R. “Bump” Welch, Marion County  
Jayson Griffin, Macon County  
Jimmy Bradley, Randolph County  
Joe Lee Williams, Stewart County  
Knox Blackmar, City of Talbotton  
Lee Hubbard, Clay County  
Maggie McGruther, Sumter County  
Melvin Crimes, Webster County  
Mickey George, Macon County  
Patricia Goodman, Randolph County  
Randy Howard, Sumter County  
Tameka Harris, Taylor County  
Terrell Hudson, Dooly County, ACCG  
Tom Queen, Taylor County  
Walt Rosso, Cusseta-Chattahoochee County

#### **Staff Present**

Patti Cullen, Executive Director  
Sarah Walls, Assistant Executive Director  
Allison Slocum, Senior Planner  
Emily Chambers, Finance Officer  
Gerald Mixon, Planning Director  
Janice West, WIOA Director  
Jim Livingston, Community & Economic Dev. Dir.  
Joel Hanif, Regional Planner  
Katie Howard, Area Agency on Aging Director  
Tammy Collins, Finance Officer  
Becky Holmes, Office Manager

#### **Members Not Present**

Barry Whitley, City of Butler  
Bruce Hill, City of Oglethorpe  
Carvel Lewis, Georgetown-Quitman County  
Clinton Perry, Jr. Taylor County, RVRC Chair  
Danny Blackmon, Georgetown-Quitman County  
Fred Gordon, Muscogee County  
Freeman Montgomery, Talbot County  
Greg Barineau, Schley County  
Hobby Stripling, City of Vienna  
Jason Hoch, Schley County  
Jeanie Bartee, City of Cordele  
Jerry “Pops” Barnes, Muscogee County  
Nelson Brown, City of Americus  
Pam Jordan, Talbot County  
Ralph Brown, City of Buena Vista  
Rebecca Chambers, City of Hamilton  
Richard McCorkle, Marion County  
Sam Farrow, Jr., Crisp County  
Steve Whatley, City of Cuthbert  
Tony Kennedy, Webster County  
Wally Summers, Sumter County

#### **Others Present**

Ed Horner, SCORE Counselor  
Matt Berry, Cattlemen’s Association  
Kathy Burns, Senator Perdue’s Representative  
Elaine Gillispie, Congressman Bishop’s Representative  
Laura Gower, Senator Johnny Isakson’s Representative  
Sarah Lee Crumbs, Georgetown-Quitman Co. Family Connections Coordinator  
Susan Gallagher, New Horizons Behavioral Health  
Edwina Turner, Stewart Co. Family Connections Coordinator  
Trey Wilkerson, City of Columbus Planning Department  
Lindsey Glisson, Deputy Clerk of Council, Muscogee County  
Mac Moye, Stewart County Manager  
Joseph B. Williams, Stewart County  
David Kinsey, Georgetown-Quitman County  
Candy Head, GA Department of Labor  
Janet Joiner, City of Vienna  
Debbie Stone, City of Lumpkin

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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 Harry Lange, Harris County, to lead the council in prayer and Chip Jones, Stewart County, to lead the council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Council reviewed the minutes of the November 29, 2017 council meeting that was 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 November 29, 2017 council minutes. Walt Rosso, Cusseta-Chattahoochee County, made a motion to approve the minutes as presented; Knox Blackmar, City of Talbotton, seconded the motion. The motion passed with no opposition.

### **SCORE-A Resources for You and Businesses in Your Community**

Ed Horner, SCORE Counselor, gave a PowerPoint presentation, explaining that SCORE is a network of retired business men and women that are volunteering to help entrepreneurs start small businesses and help existing businesses achieve success. He explained that it is a free service and welcomed anyone with questions or needs to contact him. He left business cards with his contact information.

### **Agricultural Initiatives in the Region**

Matt Berry, Cattlemen's Association-SOWGA, spoke to the council about Agricultural Initiatives in the Region. He said the Georgia Cattlemen's Association uses a three legged approach to meet the needs of cattlemen: Education, Social and Legislative. He said Sumter County is opening a Sale Barn within the next couple of weeks. This will allow cattlemen to sell livestock more frequently and they will be able to sell any number of cattle at a time. The Sale Barn will help the community not only with the sale of cattle but will bring more revenue into the county thru the sale of food, gas, groceries, hotels, etc. as cattlemen travel to the facility.

### **Disclosure of Employee's Business Transactions with Local Governments for Calendar Year 2017 (per O.C.G.A. 50-8-63)\***

Patti Cullen, Executive Director, explained that every 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 (Georgia Department of Community Affairs) that there were no business transactions between RVRC employees and local governments. Evelyn Turner-Pugh, Muscogee County, made a motion to approve the request to notify DCA of this information; Harry Lange, Harris County, seconded the motion. The motion passed with no opposition.

### **Approval of HIPPA Policy**

Katie Howard, Area Agency on Aging Director, presented the AAA HIPPA Policy and requested council's approval. She explained that it was necessary to have a HIPPA policy in place due to the sensitive information (social security numbers, Medicaid numbers, etc.) used in the Aging

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Department. Patti Cullen, Executive Director, mentioned that a HIPPA policy would also be adopted at a later date for the remaining RVRC employees.

Randy Howard, Vice Chair, requested a motion to approve the AAA HIPPA Policy. Harry Lange, Harris County, made a motion to approve the policy; Terrell Hudson, Dooly County, seconded the motion. The motion passed with no opposition.

### **New Horizons Behavioral Health-Stakeholders Satisfaction Surveys**

Susan Gallagher, New Horizons Behavioral Health, gave out a Community Needs Assessment Survey. She requested that everyone complete the survey to enable New Horizons to know what the greatest needs of each community are. She collected the surveys at the close of the meeting.

### **Budget Amendment**

Emily Chambers, Finance Officer, presented Budget Amendment 1 which includes the corrected contract amounts for all known Federal and State contracts. The overall result of the budget amendment is a total projected increase in fund balances of \$25,786. She said this amount is a decrease of about \$13,000 from the original budget, largely due to a twenty percent increase in health insurance costs that went into effect January 1, 2018. The General Fund's projected change in fund balance decreased by \$18,154, and the Proprietary Funds' projected change in net position increased by \$4,798. Emily Chambers said the Executive Committee had met prior to the Council meeting to review the amendment and they recommended approval of Budget Amendment 1.

Randy Howard, Vice Chair, requested a motion to accept Budget Amendment 1. Patricia Goodman, Randolph County, made a motion to accept Budget Amendment 1; Melvin Crimes, Webster County, seconded the motion. The motion passed with no opposition.

### **Regional Plan Exercise**

Allison Slocum, Senior Planner, introduced Trey Wilkerson, City of Columbus Planning Department, who was attending the council meeting. With the help of Trey Wilkerson, voting members on the council members were asked to vote on 9 questions, via an Audience Response System, concerning what they feel the needs are in the region. Allison explained the information will be used to continue to compile information for the RVRC Regional Plan.

### **ADJOURN**

Patti Cullen, Executive Director, welcomed new council member Walter Rosso from Cusseta-Chattahoochee County to the council.

There being no further business to come before the council, Randy Howard, Vice Chair, requested a motion to adjourn. Terrell Hudson, Dooly County, made a motion to adjourn; Tom Queen, Taylor County, seconded the motion. The meeting then adjourned.