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**RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Marion County Commission Office**  
**September 25, 2019**  
**10:30 A.M.**  
**Minutes Summary**

**Members Attending**

(Representing 12 Counties)  
Bruce Hill, City of Oglethorpe, RVRC Secretary  
Clay Jones, Sumter County  
Damon Hoyte, Cusseta-Chattahoochee County  
Danny Blackmon, Georgetown-Quitman County  
Dr. Edward Lee, Cusseta-Chattahoochee County  
Ernest Jenkins, Clay County  
Harry Lange, Harris County  
Hobby Stripling, City of Vienna  
James Morton, Cusseta-Chattahoochee County  
Jayson Griffin, Macon County

Jerry “Pops” Barnes, Muscogee Co., RVRC Vice Chairman  
Knox Blackmar, City of Talbot Talbot  
Matt Gunnels, Marion County  
Melvin Crimes, Webster County  
Mickey George, Macon County  
Patricia Goodman, Randolph County  
Randy Howard, Sumter County, RVRC Chairman  
Tameka Harris, Taylor County  
Terrell Hudson, Dooly County  
Tom Queen, Taylor County  
Wally Summers, Sumter County

**Members Not Present**

A.J. Rivers, Crisp County  
Barry Waters, City of Ft. Gaines  
Barry Whitley, City of Butler  
Carlton Wilson, City of Ellaville  
Carvel Lewis, Georgetown-Quitman County  
Chip Jones, Stewart County  
Clinton Perry, Jr. Taylor County  
Doug Etheridge, Harris County  
Dr. Carole Rutland, Muscogee County  
Evelyn Turner Pugh, Muscogee County  
Freeman Montgomery, Talbot County  
Greg Barineau, Schley County  
James R. “Bump” Welch, Marion County

Jeanie Bartee, City of Cordele  
Jimmy Babb, City of Lumpkin  
Jimmy Bradley, Randolph County  
Joe Lee Williams, Stewart County  
Maggie McGruther, Sumter 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

**Others Present**

Bill Twomey, ACCG  
Elizabeth Bradley Turner, Research and Outreach Manager,  
Georgia Family Connections  
Rebecca Rice, Georgia KIDS COUNT Manager,  
Georgia Family Connections  
Amy Varnum, GA Department of Labor

Sarah Lee Crumbs, Quitman County Family Connections  
Shonda Blair, Taylor County Chamber of Commerce  
Paul Farr, South Georgia Technical College  
Chris Kelley, Field Rep. for Congressman Bishop  
Tammye Jones, Field Rep. for Congressman Bishop  
Debbie Stone, City of Lumpkin  
Janet Joiner, Vienna, Community Development Director

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[Quitman](#) | [Randolph](#) | [Schley](#) | [Stewart](#) | [Sumter](#) | [Talbot](#) | [Taylor](#) | [Webster](#)

Janice Jarvis, Sumter County, Fiscal Administrator  
Kathy Burns, Field Rep. for Senator Perdue

Laura Gower, Field Rep. for Senator Johnny Isakson

**Staff Members**

Sarah Walls, Assistant Director  
Emily Chambers, Finance Officer  
Gerald Mixon, Planning Director  
Janice West, WIOA Director

Allison Slocum, Historic Preservation/Planner  
Kia Barrow, ADRC Program Manager  
Grant Richardson, Community Developer  
Becky Holmes, Office Manager

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**WELCOME AND RECOGNITION OF VISITORS**

Randy Howard, Sumter County, RVRC Chair, brought the regular meeting of the River Valley Regional Council to order at 10:30 a.m. He welcomed council members and visitors. Jerry “Pops” Barnes, Muscogee County, RVRC Vice Chair, gave the invocation and Bruce Hill, City of Oglethorpe, RVRC Secretary, led the council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**MINUTES\***

Council reviewed the minutes of the August 28, 2019 council meeting which were either mailed or emailed to council members the previous week for their review. The minutes were also available in the council packet at the meeting.

Randy Howard, Chair, requested a motion to approve the August 28, 2019 council minutes. Harry Lange, Harris County, made a motion to adopt the minutes as presented; Melvin Crimes, Webster County, seconded the motion. The motion passed with no opposition.

**ACCG LEGISLATIVE POLICY UPDATE**

Bill Twomey, ACCG Government Relations Manager, presented legislative policy updates to the council.

**FAMILY CONNECTIONS CIVIC HEALTH INDEX**

Elizabeth Bradley Turner, Research and Outreach Manager, and Rebecca Rice, Georgia KIDS COUNT Manager, from Georgia Family Connections in Atlanta gave a presentation explaining the Georgia Civic Health Index. They explained that civic health is “the strength within a community to work together to tackle collective problems”.

**STAFF REPORTS**

Kia Barrow, ADRC Program Manager; Sarah Walls, Assistant Executive Director; Janice West, WIOA Director; Gerald Mixon, Planning Director; Grant Richardson, Community Development; and Emily Chambers, Finance Officer; presented staff reports for their departments.

Chair Randy Howard reminded everyone that the Georgia Association of Regional Commission’s Annual Meeting will be held at St. Simons Island, November 6-8, and encouraged everyone to attend.

**ADJOURN**

Harry Lange, Harris County, made a motion to adjourn; Melvin Crimes, Webster County, seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.