



www.rivervalleyrc.org

Columbus Office

710 Front Avenue, Suite A
Columbus, GA 31901
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 and On-line
January 26, 2022
10:30 A.M.
Minutes Summary

Council Members

(Counties Represented: 15)

Albert King, Vienna
Bruce Hill, Oglethorpe
Barry Whitley, Butler
Bryon Hickey, Muscogee
Carvel Lewis, Georgetown-Quitman, RVRC
Secretary
Charles Coffey, Chattahoochee
Chip Jones, Stewart
Darrell Holbrook, Webster
Doug Ethridge, Harris
Dr. Edward Lee, Chattahoochee
Eugene Cason, Dooly
Jayson Griffin, Macon
Jerry "Pops" Barnes, Muscogee, RVRC Chair
Joe Lee Williams, Stewart

Kenneth Sumpter, Fort Gaines
Kevin Brown, Buena Vista
Maggie McGruther, Sumter
Matt Gunnels, Marion
Melvin Crimes, Webster
Pam Jordan, Talbot
Rebecca White, Randolph
Richard Dowdy, Crisp
Rob Grant, Harris
Sher'Londa Walker, Talbot County
Skip Henderson, Muscogee
Tim Biddle, Chattahoochee
Tom Queen, Taylor
Wesley Williams, Randolph

Members Not Attending

A.J. Rivers, Crisp
Bill McClellan, Schley
Danny Blackmon, Georgetown-Quitman
Eddie Moore, Georgetown-Quitman
Greg Dominy, Schley
James Davenport, Clay
James R. "Bump" Welch, Marion
Jimmy Babb, Lumpkin

Julie Brown, Hamilton
Mark Waddell, Sumter
Patrick Shivers, Clay
Randy Howard, Sumter
Richard McCorkle, Marion
Tameka Harris, Taylor, RVRC Vice-Chair
Terrell Hudson, Dooly
Tony Lamar, Talbotton

Others Attending

Jim Youngquist, SERDI
Tim Ward, SERDI
Paul Farr, Southwest Georgia Technical College
Natalie Bradley, DCA
Rayetta Volley, Sumter County Administrator
Shonda Blair, Taylor County Dev. Auth.
Angela Redding, Cordele City Manager
Vickie Wainwright, Butler City Admin.

Toyia Tucker, Columbus Consolidated Gov't
Tammye Pettyjohn Jones, Sanford Bishop's
Office
Brenda Williams, Raphael Warnock's Office
Tom Horn, Columbus Water Works
David McCoy, Clifton, Lipford, Hardison &
Parker, LLC

Staff

Jim Livingston, Executive Director
Katie Howard, AAA Director
Emily Chambers, Finance Officer
Tammy Collins, Finance Officer
Rick Morris, Planning
Janice West, WIOA
Mariyana Kostov, GIS Planner
John Morgan, Bike-Ped Planner
Sarah Wall, Asst. Executive Director
Merri Spence, Executive Secretary
Gerald Mixon, Planning

Kat Mournighan, Planning
Will Griggs, Planning
Allison Slocum, Planning
LaCarole Lloyd, AAA
Kia Barrow, AAA
Savannah Brown, Planning
Franetta Miles, Planning
Scottie DeClure, Planning
Laura Schneider, Planning
Tenisha Tookes, WIOA

WELCOME AND RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Jerry "Pops" Barnes, Chair, brought the River Valley Regional Commission council meeting to order at 10:30 A.M. Chair Barnes welcomed visitors Jim Youngquist and Tim Ryan from Southeastern Regional Directors Institute (SERDI) to the meeting.

Jim Livingston, RVRC Executive Director, welcomed new council members and recognized those council members that have left office.

Carvel Lewis, RVRC Secretary, then gave the invocation and led the council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 27, 2021 MINUTES*

Council reviewed the November 27, 2021 meeting minutes which were emailed to council members the previous week for their review. The minutes were also included in the council packets that were available at the meeting.

There being no additions or changes, Pops Barnes, Chair, requested a motion to approve the November 27, 2021 council minutes as presented.

Darrell Holbrook, Webster County made the motion to approve the November 27, 2021 minutes as presented; Charles Coffey, Chattahoochee County, seconded the motion. The motion passed with no opposition.

AUDIT REVIEW AND APPROVAL*

Jim Livingston introduced the RVRC Auditor, David McCoy with Clifton, Lipford, Hardison & Parker, LLC. Mr. McCoy said his firm was the external auditors for River Valley Regional Commission and performed the 2021 Annual Comprehensive Financial Audit for River Valley. He said they were able to meet remotely with the Finance/Audit Committee in December to review the report in detail. Mr McCoy said he is here today to review and answer any questions about the audit.

Mr. McCoy explained that the RC receives federal funding for various programs that are operated at the RC. David MccCoy spoke of the Findings Report and how it is a good summary of the entire audit report. The report discusses that there were no material weaknesses identified, no sufficient weaknesses identified, there were no federal material weaknesses identified or significant deficiencies. The report discloses the WIOA Cluster and the EDA Revolving Loan Programs were the major programs for the 2021 annual audit. Each year an analysis determines which programs need to be monitored during each physical year and again there were no compliance issues discovered during testing and there were no findings reported in 2021.

A link to this report can be found at <https://rivervalleyrc.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/2021-River-Valley-Regional-Commission-ACFR.pdf>.

Chair Barnes asked for a motion to approve the Audit Review. A motion was made by Darrell Holbrook, Webster County to approve the Audit Review. Charles Coffey, Chattahoochee County seconded the motion. The motion was passed with no opposition.

RVRC 101 – AN INTRODUCTION TO RVRC SERVICES

Jim Livingston explained he wanted the council to have the opportunity to see and hear about the excellent work that's done at the RVRC by the employees that work "behind the scenes". The RVRC Staff presented a slide show and explained the many things they do. Staff went into detail on: **Bicycle Pedestrian Planning, Transportation Planning, Community Development, Historic Preservation, Land Use, Revolving Loan Fund, Environmental Planning, GIS, Regional Planning, Workforce Development and Area Agency on Aging.**

The slideshow will be emailed to each council member.

TIA-2 UPDATE

Carvel Lewis, in his capacity as the TIA Roundtable Chair, spoke about the TIA-2 project list. Mr. Lewis said the TIA Roundtable concluded in December and had adopted an improved and revised list of projects. He reminded the council that every county in our region has a project. Mr. Lewis said how important it is to stress to our local elected officials that if this TIA-2 is not passed in May 2022, there will be no additional funds for local transportation projects.

Mr. Lewis thanked everyone that helped in developing the investment list. Additional information will be coming in the upcoming months to help with marketing.

DISCLOSURE OF EMPLOYEE'S BUSINESS TRANSACTIONS WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENTS FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2021 (PER O.C.G.A. 50-8-63) *

Jim Livingston explained that each year the RVRC is required to disclose if they have any employees who also work for local governments. Mr. Livingston will be sending a letter to the Department of Community Affairs disclosing there are no known employees working for local governments.

Chair Barnes asked for a motion to approve the disclosure letter. Carvel Lewis, Georgetown-Quitman made the motion to approve the disclosure letter and Melvin Crimes, Webster County seconded the motion. The motion was passed with no opposition.

ADJOURN

As there was not further business, Chair Barnes requested a motion for the meeting to be adjourned. Motion was made by Darrell Holbrook and seconded by Melvin Crimes, both of Webster County. Meeting was adjourned.

February 26, 2022

Jerry "Pops" Barnes, Chair

Carvel Lewis, Secretary