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RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING

Buena Vista, GA

June 22, 2022

10:30 A.M.

Meeting Minutes

Council Members

(Counties Represented: 14)

Albert King, Vienna
Bryon Hickey, Columbus
Carvel Lewis, Georgetown-Quitman, RVRC
Secretary
Charles Coffey, Chattahoochee
Chip Jones, Stewart
James Davenport, Clay
Jayson Griffin, Macon
Joe Lee Williams, Stewart
Joshua Deriso, Cordele

Kenneth Sumpter, Fort Gaines
Lee Kinnamon, Americus
Melvin Crimes, Webster
Rebecca White, Randolph
Richard Dowdy, Crisp
Rob Grant, Harris
Tameka Harris, Taylor, RVRC Vice-Chair
Tom Queen, Taylor
Tony Lamar, Talbotton

Members Not Attending

Barry Whitley, Butler
Bill McClellan, Schley
Bobby Jenkins, Cuthbert
Bruce Hill, Oglethorpe
Carl Oliver, Macon
Danny Blackmon, Georgetown-Quitman
Darrell Holbrook, Webster
Doug Ethridge, Harris
Eddie Moore, Georgetown-Quitman
Dr. Edward Lee, Chattahoochee
Eugene Cason, Dooly
Greg Dominy, Schley
James R. "Bump" Welch, Marion
Jerry "Pops" Barnes, Muscogee, RVRC Chair

Jimmy Babb, Lumpkin
Kevin Brown, Buena Vista
Maggie McGruther, Sumter
Mark Waddell, Sumter
Matt Gunnels, Marion
Pam Jordan, Talbot
Patrick Shivers, Clay
Randy Howard, Sumter
Richard McCorkle, Marion
Sher'Londa Walker, Talbot
Skip Henderson, Columbus
Terrell Hudson, Dooly
Tim Biddle, Chattahoochee
Wesley Williams, Randolph

Others Present

Diadra Powell, City of Americus
Paul Farr, SGTC
Shonda Blair, Taylor County Development
Authority
Natalie Bradley, DCA

Christy Bozeman, GA Dept. of Economic
Development
Laura Gower, Office of Drew Ferguson
Brenda Williams, Office of Senator Warnock

Welcome and Recognition of Visitors

Tameka Harris, Vice-Chair, brought the meeting to order. She welcomed visitors to the meeting. Carvel Lewis, Secretary, led the council in prayer and Tameka Harris led the council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF APRIL 27, 2022 MINUTES*

Council reviewed the April 27, 2022 meeting minutes which were emailed to 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 Tameka Harris requested a motion to approve the April 27, 2022 council minutes as presented. Joe Lee Williams, Stewart County made the motion to approve the April 27, 2022 minutes as presented; Melvin Crimes, Webster County seconded the motion. The motion passed with no opposition.

APPROVAL OF MAY, 25, 2022 MINUTES*

Council reviewed the May 25, 2022 meeting minutes which were emailed to 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 Tameka Harris requested a motion to approve the May 25, 2022 council minutes as presented. Albert King, Vienna made the motion to approve the May 25, 2022 minutes as presented; Carvel Lewis, Georgetown/ Quitman seconded the motion. The motion passed with no opposition.

MEET THE NEW DIVISION OF AGING SERVICES DIRECTOR

MaryLea Boatwright Quinn, Georgia Department of Human Services Aging Services Director spoke on how she has worked in private for-profit industry; government agencies and nonprofit agencies and she believes that the work she has done in all these agencies has led her to understand that not one of these agencies can serve our aging adults. She hopes to forge strong partnerships between all these agencies to provide places that people will want to live out their golden years.

DCA REGIONAL UPDATE

Natalie Bradley, DCA Regional Director spoke about the various programs that are on-going. Ms. Bradley gave an update on the Georgia Rental Assistance program. The state has already awarded around \$500 million through that program and there is still about \$500 million left to award. If our communities have people that are not able to pay their rent or utilities, let them know about the program. They may be a qualified applicant.

Ms. Bradley also reported that \$80 million in HOME ARP Funding has been approved and this is mainly for Homeless or Transitional Housing.

ADOPT REGIONAL PLAN ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT FY 2022*

Gerald Mixon presented a sample resolution for adoption of the Regional Plan Annual Implementation Report FY 2022.

Tameka Harris requested a motion to approve the Regional Plan Annual Implementation Report. Tom Queen, Taylor County made the motion to approve the Regional Plan Annual Implementation Report as presented. Albert King Vienna seconded the motion. The motion was passed with no opposition.

REGIONAL PLAN 5-YEAR UPDATE

Allison Slocum, RVRC Regional Planner gave an update on the 5-Year Plan. Allison reported, we are beginning the process for the Regional Plan. It is similar to a comprehensive plan that a local government would develop. It covers the same elements: Population, Housing, Economic Development, Community Facilities and Services, Health and Human Services, Transportation, Natural and Cultural Resources, and Land Use. The final document will also include the Regional Work Program or the list of programs and projects that RVRC intends to undertake for the next 5 years. A steering committee will be created that consists of at least 1 representative from each county. This group will meet every month prior to the regional commission's council meeting. A list of stakeholders from each county is needed to assist with garnering community participation and reviewing the document. By state law there are 2 required public hearings and 3 required workshops/listening sessions. The steering committee and stakeholders will assist in determining locations, dates, and times for these meetings. The first draft is scheduled to be submitted to DCA March 1, 2023. The final draft should be ready for adoption by the regional council at the June, 2023 council meeting.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF FY23 BUDGET*

The FY23 Budget was approved on June 22, 2022 by the Executive Committee for presentation to the full Council. The budget estimates a \$25 thousand increase in fund balance in the General Fund and an increase in net position in the enterprise funds of almost \$19 thousand. The budget includes all state and federal contracts that are known at this time, with conservative revenue estimates for local contracts and projects. The budget accounts for a two percent cost of living increase plus \$40,000 in merit increases for all employees.

Tameka Harris requested a motion to approve the FY23 Budget. Tony Lamar, Talbotton made the motion to approve the FY 23 Budget as presented. Albert King, Vienna seconded the motion. The motion was passed with no opposition.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF FY23 CALENDAR*

Jim Livingston, RVRC Executive Director, presented the River Valley Regional Council Calendar for FY23. He said the meeting dates mirror FY22 but with a couple of changes. He proposed moving the November meeting date to the first Wednesday of December. The meeting dates were proposed as follows:

July 2022 - No meeting will be held in July.
August 24, 2022
September 28, 2022
October 26, 2022
December 7, 2022
January 25, 2023

February 22, 2023
March 22, 2023
April 26, 2023
May 24, 2023 - Legislative Lunch
June 28, 2023

Tameka Harris requested a motion to approve the FY23 Calendar. Carvel Lewis, Georgetown-Quitman made the motion to approve the FY23 Calendar as presented and Charles Coffey seconded the motion. The motion was passed with no opposition.

STAFF REPORTS

Emily Chambers, Finance Officer reported, through April 30, 2022 there was an increase in fund balance in the General Fund of \$74,000, leaving unassigned fund balance of \$980,696 in that fund with cash on hand of \$743,000. The enterprise funds had an increase in net position of \$859,138, of which \$819,000 is loan revenue in the EDA CARES RLF that has been loaned out to loan recipients. Total net position in the enterprise funds was \$2,044,000 on April 30, 2022, with \$1.1 million cash available for loans.

Janice West, WIOA Director reported, as of June 8th WIOA enrollments totaled 92 individuals enrolled in various training activities. Enrollments may continue to increase until June 30th 2022. July 1, 2022 begins the new Program Year 2022. Individuals who haven't completed their WIOA training services by June 30th will be carried over into the new upcoming year to finish their training. WIOA will have an average of 10% decrease in federal/state funds for the upcoming program year. Middle Flint WIOA has a decrease of \$100,218.00 in available funding for PY 22 because of federal/state budget cuts. It is anticipated that due to the decrease in WIOA funds there will be a decrease in enrollments for PY 2022. Georgia unemployment rates for April 2022 was 3.5% for the region. Unemployment rates have continued to decrease over the past 12 months. The Middle Flint WIOA area is currently exceeding local performance measures for the 3rd quarter of PY 2021.

Katie Howard, AAA Director reported on special events that happened during the month of May. Older Americans Month was discussed as well as the new contracts with the West Central GA Public Health Department. These two (2) contracts will provide funding to hire nutritionists to provide counseling services to address obesity in our region as well as purchasing a mobile unit to be used for vaccinations and booster shots.

Gerald Mixon, Planning Director reported, the three local comprehensive plans are in play; one in the process of being adopted, one approaching adoption and the third is being developed for adoption in the fall. Zoning technical assistance continues to be provided in some shape, form or fashion. Four pre-disaster mitigation plans are in play; one being closed out, another in FEMA review and drafts of two being prepared for review in late summer/early fall. Work continues under our contract with the Department of Transportation supplementing/updating the department's data base with locations of school zones, sidewalks, traffic control devices, etc. Work continues on the regional brownfield project, progressing toward Phase 2 environmental assessments of ten sites, and leading ultimately to an application for brownfield remediation of a reduced list of sites. The Department of Natural Resources is the primary sponsor of the state's regional water plans. Located in two of the state's major river basins, the Middle Chattahoochee and Upper Flint, River Valley staff is attending the five-year water plan updates. Staff continues to assist the City of Columbus with reviews of proposed property improvements in historic districts. Staff assisted/facilitated regular cycling activities, meetings, and ride events. "Irregular" events included the annual Bike Ride Across Georgia and the Juneteenth Historic Sites Family Bicycle Tour, both in Columbus.

ADJOURN

As there was no further business, Vice-Chair Tameka Harris requested a motion for the meeting to be adjourned. Motion was made by Melvin Crimes, Webster County and seconded by Albert King, Vienna. Meeting was adjourned.

August 24, 2022

Jerry "Pops" Barnes, Chair

Carvel Lewis, Secretary