



RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING

Buena Vista, GA

August 23, 2023

10:30 A.M.

Meeting Minutes

Council Members (Counties Represented: 15)

Albert King, Vienna	Kevin Brown, Buena Vista
Barbara Cullefer, Lumpkin	Lee Kinnamon, Americus
Bill McClellan, Schley	Maggie McGruther, Sumter
Bruce Hill, Oglethorpe	Melvin Crimes, Webster
Carvel Lewis, Georgetown-Quitman, RVRC Secretary	Ransom Farley, Hamilton
Charles Coffey, Chattahoochee	Rob Grant, Harris
Chip Jones, Stewart	Shane Grier, Marion
Danny Blackmon, Georgetown-Quitman	Tameka Harris, Taylor, RVRC Vice-Chair
Darrell Holbrook, Webster	Terrell Hudson, Dooly
Doug Ethridge, Harris	Tom Queen, Taylor
J.R. Dowdy, Crisp	Tony Lamar, Talbotton
James Davenport, Clay	Toyia Tucker, Columbus
Jayson Griffin, Macon	Xavier McCaskey, Columbus
Joe Lee Williams, Stewart	

Members Not Attending

Barry Whitley, Butler	Jeff McCarter, Randolph
Bobby Jenkins, Cuthbert	Kenneth Sumpter, Fort Gaines
Carl Oliver, Macon	Larry Sparks, Talbot County
Eugene Cason, Dooly	Randy Howard, Sumter
Greg Dominey, Schley	Richard McCorkle, Marion
Jessie Smith, Sumter	Skip Henderson, Columbus
Joshua Deriso, Cordele	Timothy Biddle, Chattahoochee

Others Present

Mary Stevens, Talbot Chamber of Commerce	Chloe Landreth, New Horizons Behavioral Health
Laura Gower, Congressman Ferguson's Office	Mandy White, Randolph County Chamber
Rebecca White, DCA	Locke Shivers, Clay County Sheriff
Clark Harrell, Crisp County	Alecia Rucker-Wright, GEMA
Nicole Acree, Taylor County Development Authority	R.G. Whitaker, GEMA
Kenny Riner, Chattahoochee County	Ronnie Crozier, Clay County Dev. Authority
Tom Horn, Columbus Water Works	Natalie Lee, Georgia Geospatial Information Office
Hunter Singleton, Clay County	Christopher Drake, Sanford Bishop's office
Christy Bozeman, GDEcD	Jamie Loyd, CTC
Clara Hill, wife of Bruce Hill	Brian Sillitto, Columbus Chamber
Will Johnson, Columbus	
Johnny Floyd, Jr., Chattahoochee County EMA Director	

RVRC Staff Attending

Jim Livingston, Executive Director
Katie Howard, AAA Director
Rick Morris, Director of Planning and Govt. Services
Merri Spence, Executive Secretary
Tammy Collins, Finance Officer
Allison Slocum, Assistant Director of Planning
Blaine Hoskins, Planning

Emily Chambers, Finance Officer
Tracie Hadaway, Planning
Camille Bielby, Planning
Mariyana Kostov, Planning
Janice West, WIOA
Michael Murray, Planning

WELCOME AND RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Carvel Lewis, Georgetown-Quitman County, RVRC Chair, brought the meeting to order and welcomed visitors. Secretary Tameka Harris, Taylor County led the council in prayer and Vice-Chair J.R. "Dick" Dowdy, Crisp County lead the council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF JUNE MINUTES*

The council reviewed the June 28, 2023 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, Chair Lewis asked for a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was made by Darrell Holbrook, Webster County and seconded by Albert King, Vienna.

NEXT GENERATION 9-1-1

Aliesha Rucker-Wright and R.G. Whitaker with GEMA and Natalie Lee with Georgia Geospatial gave a presentation to help us better understand Next Generation 9-1-1. Ms. Wright started the presentation by sharing that one of several legislative mandates is the task of Next Generation 9-1-1. She went on to define and explain the importance of Next Generation 9-1-1 by increasing caller location accuracy, increasing compatibility with emerging communication trends, improving emergency response for the public and first responders and increasing redundancy and resiliency of the 9-1-1 system. The upgrade to Next Generation 9-1-1 can be compared to the difference in a landline telephone to your internet based mobile phone, for a more robust 9-1-1 system.

Ms. Lee spoke about the GIS piece of Next Generation 9-1-1 and how important it is to have accurate, up-to-date data across the state. It will make response to 911 calls quicker and more precise. The group presented an exceptional power point presentation that will be emailed to council members.

APPROVE REGIONAL PLAN*

Allison Slocum, Assistant Director of Planning, announced that the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) approved the RVRC Regional Plan on July 26, 2023. Staff presented the plan for adoption by the council. Chair Lewis asked for a motion to approve the RVRC Regional Plan. The motion was made by Albert King, Vienna and seconded by Melvin Crimes, Webster County.

UPDATE ON RIVER VALLEY TRANSPORTATION ALLIANCE

Jim Livingston updated the Council on the River Valley Transportation Alliance effort to attract additional federal funding to the region for projects. A meeting for interested parties was held in July with good regional attendance. A full report from the consulting firm helping identify opportunities and pathways will be issued in early fall.

APPROVAL OF FEDERAL DOT RURAL AND TRIBAL ASSISTANCE APPLICATION*

The RVRC has prepared an application for the Rural and Tribal Assistance Pilot Program. The application window for submittal is August 14th through September 28th and it is a “first come first serve” opportunity as long as you meet the requirements. The RVRC application proposes to assist six communities in our region with a feasibility study and cost estimates for downtown streetscapes and Complete Street projects. The application will be requesting \$320,000 so that both fiscal year appropriations can be accessed. With this amount of funding, the RVRC will select a planning/engineering firm to prepare the studies. Chair Lewis asked for a motion to approve the Federal DOT Rural and Tribal Assistance Application. The motion was made by Tom Queen, Taylor County and seconded by Albert King, Vienna.

RESOLUTION TO APPLY FOR GDOT UNDER TITLE 49 U.S.C., SECTION 5311*

Michael Murray, Transportation Planner, addressed the Council and Informed them that he was in the process of applying for two grants from the Georgia Department of Transportation. The first being Title 49 U.S.C., Section 5311. Mr. Murray asked the Council members to consider a vote to approve authorizing resolutions for the grant applications. Chair Lewis asked for a motion to approve the Resolution to apply for GDOT Title 49 U.S.C., Section 5311. The motion was made by Terrell Hudson, Dooly County and seconded by Darrell Holbrook, Webster County.

RESOLUTION TO APPLY FOR GDOT UNDER TITLE 49 U.S.C., SECTION 5304*

Michael Murray, Transportation Planner, addressed the Council and Informed them that he was in the process of applying for two grants from the Georgia Department of Transportation. The second being Title 49 U.S.C., Section 5304. Mr. Murray asked the Council members to consider a vote to approve authorizing resolutions for the grant applications. Chair Lewis asked for a motion to approve the Resolution to apply for GDOT Title 49 U.S.C., Section 5304. The motion was made by Melvin Crimes, Webster County and seconded by Albert King, Vienna.

STAFF REPORTS

Katie Howard AAA Director reported The Area Agency on Aging currently has over 400 persons on the waiting list for services; however, there is no waiting list for the Caregiver Time Out program. Council members were asked to make referrals for people in their community who are serving as caregivers for loved ones with dementia. The emergency services for the Adult Protective Services Program are moving forward with only a few staffing capacity challenges. The Dementia Care Specialist has completed numerous training courses and is able to go out to the community to give presentations on Dementia, caring for someone with Dementia, and Developing Dementia Capable Communities. Please call if you would like her to make a presentation. The AAA continues its partnership with the West Central Georgia Health District on vaccine awareness.

Rick Morris, Director of Planning and Govt. reported that on August 18, the CV10G, Fort Moore and RVRC presented the River Valley Community Compatible Development Plan. The RVRC signed a contract with Harris County to support the county’s GIS needs. Staff will start the conversion of the Harris County zoning map into a digital format. Allison Slocum, Assistant Director of Planning, attended a regional planning meeting for the Bicentennial of General Lafayette’s Tour of America, 1824 – 1825 at Fort Mitchell. The RVRC has contracted with RMS, a new transportation provider, to take over operations in Muscogee County. Operations are now running smoothly in Muscogee County.

Janice West-Director of WIOA reported WIOA started a new program year on July 1, 2023. During PY 2023, WIOA will be offering the following activities: Individual Training Accounts (ITAs), On-The-Job Training (OJT), One Stop Services and Youth services for both high-school seniors and out of school youth. WIOA currently has 59 individuals enrolled in various training activities as of August 22nd. This number of enrollments will increase as the fall semester starts with area Technical Colleges and Universities. Regional unemployment rate for June 2023 was 4.4%. Georgia’s state unemployment rate is currently 3.2%. Individual county unemployment rates are included in the staff activity report under the WIOA section.

ADJOURN

As there was no further business, Chair Lewis requested a motion for the meeting to be adjourned. Motion was made by Darrell Holbrook, Webster County and seconded by Melvin Crimes, Webster County. The meeting was adjourned.

September 27, 2023

Carvel Lewis, Chair

Tameka Harris, Secretary