



RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL COUNCIL LEGISLATIVE LUNCHEON
South Georgia Technical College, Americus, GA
May 22, 2024
10:30 A.M.
Meeting Minutes

Council Members (Counties Represented: 13)

Bobby Jenkins, Cuthbert	Larry Sparks, Talbot County
Carvel Lewis, Georgetown-Quitman County, RVRC Chair	Leah Clark, Schley County
Charles Coffey, Chattahoochee County	Lee Kinnamon, Americus
Danny Blackmon, Georgetown-Quitman County	Maggie McGruther, Sumter County
Darrell Holbrook, Webster County	Skip Henderson, Columbus
Eugene Cason, Dooly County	Tameka Harris, Taylor County, RVRC Secretary
J.R. Dowdy, Crisp County, Vice-Chair	Terrell Hudson, Dooly County
James Davenport, Clay County	Tony Lamar, Talbotton
Jayson Griffin, Macon County	Toyia Tucker, Columbus
Jimmy Daniels, Oglethorpe	
Kenneth Sumpter, Fort Gaines	

Members Not Attending

Albert King, Vienna	Kevin Brown, Buena Vista
Barbara Cullefer, Lumpkin	Melvin Crimes, Webster County
Barry Whitley, Butler	Patrick Whearley, Hamilton
Bill McClellan, Schley County	Randy Howard, Sumter County
Carl Oliver, Macon County	Richard McCorkle, Marion County
Darrell Holbrook, Webster County	Rob Grant, Harris County
Doug Ethridge, Harris County	Shane Grier, Marion County
Jeff McCarter, Randolph County	Timothy Biddle, Chattahoochee County
Jim Reid, Sumter County	Tom Queen, Taylor County
Joe Lee Williams, Stewart County	Xavier McCaskey, Columbus
Joshua Deriso, Cordele	

Others Present

County and City Representatives	Representative Mike Cheokas, GA House District 151
River Valley RC Staff	Representative Gerald Greene, GA House District 154
Jody Redding, Governor Kemp's Office	Christopher Drake, Congressman Bishop's Office
Senator Freddie Powell-Sims, District 12	Somer Stafford, Office of Congressman Bishop
Senator Ed Harbison, District 15	Christopher Kelley, Congressman Bishop's Office
Representative Debbie Buckner, GA House District 137	Allyson Drinnon, Congressman Bishop's Office
Representative Vance Smith, GA House District 138	Alyse Wolf, Senator Ossoff's Office
Representative Termaine 'Teddy' Reese, GA House District 140	Eboni Morris-Key, Senator Ossoff's Office

WELCOME AND RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Carvel Lewis, RVRC Chairman brought the meeting to order. He welcomed council members, distinguished guests, and visitors. Tameka Harris, Secretary, led the council in prayer and Dick Dowdy, Vice-Chair, led the council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

STAFF RECOGNITION

Jim Livingston, RVRC Executive Director, recognized employees of the River Valley Regional Commission for Years of Service. LaTanya Albright, Case Manager, and Annie Poles, ADRC Counselor, both celebrated 5 years of service. Rick Morris, Senior Planner, celebrated 20 years of service. Chairman Lewis recognized Jim Livingston for 10 years of service.

FEDERAL UPDATES

Chairman Lewis introduced field representatives from state and federally elected officials who updated the council and sent greetings from the elected officials. Chairman Lewis then asked the state elected officials for updates from the most recently completed legislation session.

STATE UPDATES

Jody Redding, Field Representative of Governor Kemp, provided an update from the Office of the Governor.

A panel discussion was led by Chairman Lewis that included **State Senators Freddie Powell-Sims, Senate District 12, and Ed Harbison, Senate District 15**. They were joined by **State House Representatives Debbie Buckner, House District 137, Vance Smith, House District 138, Termaine (Teddy) Reese, House District 140, Mike Cheokas, House District 151, and Gerald Greene, House District 154**.

Both panels provided discussion between legislators and attendees about updates in the state of Georgia and the River Valley Region.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, Chairman Lewis gave the blessing. Lunch was then served.

June 26, 2024

Carvel Lewis, Chairman

Tameka Harris, Secretary