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RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING

Marion County Commission Office and On-line

April 27, 2022

10:30 A.M.

Minutes Summary

Council Members

(Counties Represented: 14)

Albert King, Vienna
Bobby Jenkins, Cuthbert
Bruce Hill, Oglethorpe
Darrell Holbrook, Webster
Doug Ethridge, Harris
Dr. Edward Lee, Chattahoochee
Greg Dominy, Schley
Jayson Griffin, Macon
Jimmy Babb, Lumpkin
Joe Lee Williams, Stewart
Kenneth Sumpter, Fort Gaines
Lee Kinnamon, Americus

Maggie McGruther, Sumter
Matt Gunnels, Marion
Melvin Crimes, Webster
Pam Jordan, Talbot
Randy Howard, Sumter
Rebecca White, Randolph
Richard McCorkle, Marion
Rob Grant, Harris
Tim Biddle, Chattahoochee
Tom Queen, Taylor
Tony Lamar, Talbotton
Wesley Williams, Randolph

Members Not Attending

Barry Whitley, Butler
Bill McClellan, Schley
Bryon Hickey, Columbus
Carl Oliver, Macon
Carvel Lewis, Georgetown-Quitman, RVRC
Secretary
Chip Jones, Stewart
Charles Coffey, Chattahoochee
Danny Blackmon, Georgetown-Quitman
Eddie Moore, Georgetown-Quitman
Eugene Cason, Dooly
James Davenport, Clay
James R. "Bump" Welch, Marion

Jerry "Pops" Barnes, Columbus, RVRC Chair
Joshua Deriso, Cordele
Julie Brown, Hamilton
Kevin Brown, Buena Vista
Mark Waddell, Sumter
Patrick Shivers, Clay
Richard Dowdy, Crisp
Sher'Londa Walker, Talbot
Tameka Harris, Taylor, RVRC Vice-Chair
Terrell Hudson, Dooly
Skip Henderson, Columbus

Others Attending

Natalie Bradley, DCA
Jason Cooper, Terracon
Kenneth Franks, GDOT
William Easton, GDOT

Diadra Powell, Americus City Manager
Brenda Williams, Office of Senator Warnock
Laura Gower, Office of Congressman Drew
Ferguson

Staff

Jim Livingston, Executive Director
Katie Howard, AAA Director
Emily Chambers, Finance
Tammy Collins, Finance
Rick Morris, Planning
Janice West, WIOA
Mariyana Kostov, GIS Planner

John Morgan, Bike-Ped Planner
Merri Spence, Executive Secretary
Scottie DeClue, Planning
Camille Bielby, Planning
Sara Standridge, AAA
Alison Slocum, Planning

WELCOME AND RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Council member, Randy Howard brought the River Valley Regional Commission council meeting to order at 10:30 A.M. Mr. Howard welcomed visitors to the meeting.

Council member Bruce Hill gave the invocation and lead the council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MARCH 23, 2022 MINUTES*

Council reviewed the March 23, 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 Randy Howard requested a motion to approve the March 23, 2022 council minutes as presented.

Melvin Crimes, Webster County made the motion to approve the March 23, 2022 minutes as presented; Albert King, Vienna seconded the motion. The motion passed with no opposition.

EPA BROWNFIELD UPDATE

Jason Cooper, Environmental Consultant with Terracon presented a slideshow on Brownfields. Mr. Cooper said there is a \$600,000 grant for Brownfield for Crisp, Dooly, Macon and Sumter Counties. The grant is split between hazardous substances and petroleum substances. They have identified 14 sites. The next step is to investigate and get soil samples. Mr. Cooper explained that a Brownfield site is a property whose full use is hindered by fears of environmental contamination. The PowerPoint presentation will be emailed to all council members.

GDOT TIA UPDATE

Kenneth Franks, GDOT TIA Administrator, explained that TIA (Transportation Investment Act) created 12 special districts with the TIA Legislation in 2010. The regions were enabled to create a Transportation Investment list that would be supported by a 1% sales tax for up to 10 years. 75% of the funds raised by the 1% sales tax go to fund the projects on the approved projects list with 25% being disbursed to counties and cities directly. Mr. Franks shared information on TIA collections,

timing, and number of completed projects. William East, GDOT shared photos and spoke on the many projects that have been completed and some that are still on-going. The PowerPoint presentation will be emailed to all council members.

SERDI REVIEW

Jim Livingston, Executive Director shared summary findings of the SERDI Review. They included efforts around an Annual Government Briefing, Regional Focus on Economic Development, a Library of Models for Distribution, Staff and Salary Analysis, better Marketing and Communications, and setting up Youth Leadership programs.

Already work is being done on several of these with new initiatives with RESA to get Student Government Association Presidents together. Looked at and dismissed application to Fanning to assist. Determined much easier lift independent of outside help. Use Regional Plan input for goal and objective for youth input. River Valley Youth Council to meet bi-annually. Fall meetings to set goals, introduce ideas of regional leadership, and set annual work plan. Spring meeting for reporting on the work plan. One meeting to be held in Americus at Georgia Southwestern, one meeting in Columbus at Columbus State University.

We have also participated to help with a salary survey for Northeast Regional Commission and expect to have those results shared with us.

The Library of Models for Distribution holds a lot of promise and is worth exploring with our partners. The other initiatives require more thought and cost but are important for us to pursue.

A copy of the SERDI Final Report was shared with Council Members.

STAFF UPDATES

Emily Chambers, Finance Officer reported, through February 28, 2022, the Operating Funds had an increase in fund balance of \$99,340, and the General Fund had Unassigned Fund Balance of \$1,009,667 at month's end. Cash on hand in the General Fund was \$678,345. The Proprietary Funds had an increase in net position of \$734k through February, leaving a Total Net Position of \$1,919,553. These funds have total assets of \$2.3 million, and \$1.1 million of that is cash available for small business loans. We continue to track our expenditures for budget compliance, and Finance staff does not foresee any material deviations from budget for this fiscal year.

Katie Howard, AAA Director reviewed the wait list for all services except Personal Care which is not available at this time due to an issue with WellSky. On May 6 the Annual Senior Wellness Fair will be held in the parking lot of the Columbus office as a drive-thru event. The first 300 persons will receive a t-shirt and lunch.

Rick Morris, Planning Director, reported that RVRC staff, Ft. Benning ACUB members, and the UGA Carl Vinson Institute met with steering committee groups in Chattahoochee, Stewart, Talbot, and Taylor Counties. Marion and Russell County in April. All local comprehensive plans, regional plans, and economic development strategies have been reviewed and summarized.

RVRC staff is beginning the process to update our Regional Plan. Staff is currently reviewing River Valley local plans as well as neighboring Regional Plans. Staff is working on identifying school zones, sidewalks, and traffic control devices for Marion, Crisp, and Dooly counties. Unadilla cemetery mapping: staff is finished with field collection and now is entering graveside information onto our GIS database.

The FY20 Implementation of the Pataula Creek Watershed Management Plan Phase II was scheduled to begin in October but has not yet started. EPD has approved the final scope revisions and is working on putting together the contract for execution.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning staff has been involved with 10 plus projects over the month of April. May will also be a busy month for staff given May is Bike to Work Month and that May 3rd is our annual ride with the Mayor of Columbus.

Janice West, WIOA Director, reported WIOA staff is currently working on One Stop Certification for the comprehensive and affiliate One Stop Centers in the region.

WIOA enrollments for April totaled 86 individuals enrolled in various training activities. Enrollments continue to be lower than normal as a result of Covid 19. Service Providers are actively seeking applicants for WIOA funded services.

Regional unemployment rates for February 2022 were 4.4% which is lower than the previous unemployment rate for February 2021 which was 6.1%.

WIOA staff are in the planning process for services and Provider budgets for the upcoming program year 2022-2023 which begins in July 2022. WIOA is anticipating a federal WIOA funding decrease for PY 2022 of an estimated 10% reduction on WIOA funds for the upcoming year. Enrollment numbers and services may be impacted as a result of funding decrease.

ADJOURN

As there was no further business, Council Member Randy Howard requested a motion for the meeting to be adjourned. Motion was made by Darrell Holbrook, Webster County and seconded by Melvin Crimes, Webster County. Meeting was adjourned.

April 27, 2022

Jerry "Pops" Barnes, Council Chair