



RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING

Buena Vista, GA

December 6, 2023

10:30 A.M.

Meeting Minutes

Council Members (Counties Represented: 15)

Albert King, Vienna
Bill McClellan, Schley
Bruce Hill, Oglethorpe
Carvel Lewis, Georgetown-Quitman, RVRC Chair
Charles Coffey, Chattahoochee
Chip Jones, Stewart
Darrell Holbrook, Webster
Doug Ethridge, Harris
Eugene Cason, Dooly
J.R. Dowdy, Crisp, Vice-Chair
James Davenport, Clay
Jayson Griffin, Macon
Jessie Smith, Sumter
Kenneth Sumpter, Fort Gaines

Kevin Brown, Buena Vista
Larry Sparks, Talbot County
Randy Howard, Sumter
Richard McCorkle, Marion
Rob Grant, Harris
Shane Grier, Marion
Tameka Harris, Taylor, RVRC Secretary
Terrell Hudson, Dooly
Timothy Biddle, Chattahoochee
Tom Queen, Taylor
Tony Lamar, Talbotton
Toyia Tucker, Columbus
Xavier McCaskey, Columbus

Members Not Attending

Barbara Cullefer, Lumpkin
Barry Witley, Butler
Bobby Jenkins, Cuthbert
Carl Oliver, Macon
Danny Blackmon, Georgetown-Quitman
Greg Dominey, Schley
Jeff McCarter, Randolph

Joe Lee Williams, Stewart
Joshua Deriso, Cordele
Lee Kinnamon, Americus
Maggie McGruther, Sumter
Melvin Crimes, Webster
Ransom Farley, Hamilton
Skip Henderson, Columbus

Others Present

Allyson Drinnon, Congressman Sanford Bishop's Office
Mary Stevens, Talbot Chamber of Commerce
Laura Gower, Congressman Ferguson's Office
Rebecca White, DCA
Nicole Acree, Taylor County Development Authority
Kenny Riner, Chattahoochee County Manager

Tom Horn, Columbus Water Works
Christopher Kelly, Congressman Bishop's office
Natalie Bradley, Flint Energies
Ronnie Dollar, Clay County Administrator
Brenda Williams, Office of Senator Warnock

RVRC Staff Attending

Jim Livingston, Executive Director
Katie Howard, AAA Director
Blaine Hoskins, Planning
Tracie Hadaway, Planning
Mariyana Kostov, Planning

Tammy Collins, Finance
Rick Morris, Planning
Robbie Monfort, AAA
Camille Bielby, Planning

WELCOME AND RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

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

APPROVAL OF OCTOBER MINUTES*

The council reviewed the October 25, 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, Vice-Chair Dowdy asked for a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was made by Darrell Holbrook, Webster County and seconded by Albert King, Vienna. The motion was passed with no opposition.

APPROVE FINANCIAL AUDIT*

Char Lewis introduced the RVRC Auditor, David McCoy with McNair, McLemore, Middlebrooks & Co., LLC. Mr. McCoy presented the FY23 Audit Report to the Council and noted that it was another clean audit with an unmodified opinion from the audit firm. A full review of the audit with Mr. McCoy was conducted by the Executive Committee and it was presented to the council with their recommendation for approval.

Chair Lewis asked for a motion to approve the Audit Review. The motion was made by Bruce Hill, Oglethorpe and seconded by Tom Queen, Taylor County. The motion was passed with no opposition.

DEMENTIA CARE SERVICES PROGRAM

Robbie Monfort, Dementia Care Specialist, spoke about this new position within the Area Agency on Aging. The mission is to bring awareness, education and partnering with stakeholders within the 16-county region supporting the goal of making our communities "Dementia Capable." She spoke of the importance of having this information provided in the surrounding counties and the support and guidance of the leaders who know their communities would be in accomplishing this goal. With our aging population, it is vital we educate and support those who have dementia and their care partners.

STAFF REPORTS

Katie Howard, AAA Director gave a short update on Aging programs and reminded members that there is currently no wait list for the Caregiver Time Out program. Eligible people could apply this week and potentially receive service next week. She also stated that the AAA staff are available to do programs for churches, civic groups, garden clubs and other groups in the region.

Rick Morris, Direction of Planning and Government Services reported the Planning Staff has been working on Harris, Crisp, and Taylor County's Comprehensive Plans. The Comprehensive Plan Survey links can be found on the RVRC web pages for each county. Staff are working on zoning cases for Quitman, Talbot and Clay Counties. Corrections were made to the Quitman County Pre-Disaster Plan and the new draft was sent to GEMA. Staff are participating in the development of Disaster Recovery and Redevelopment Plans for both Sumter and Crisp Counties. Harris County GIS staff has been working on updating the tax parcel data, developing the GIS online data portal, and the conversion of the county's zoning map into a digital format. Staff attended an Upper Flint Regional Water Planning Council meeting in Reynolds on November 13th and a Middle Chattahoochee Regional Water Planning Council meeting on November 15th. Mr. Morris advised that County Commissioners should stay abreast of regional water related issues in their counties.

ADJOURN

As there was no further business, Chair Lewis requested a motion for the meeting to be adjourned. Motion was made by Terrell Hudson, Dooly County and seconded by Darrell Holbrook, Webster County. The motion was passed with no opposition. The meeting was adjourned.

January 24, 2024

Carvel Lewis, Chair

Tameka Harris, Secretary