

River Valley Regional Plan 2012-2032



Stakeholder Involvement Plan

Table of Contents

Creating a Successful Regional Plan

- Development.....2
- Major Challenges.....2

Stakeholders

- Identification of River Valley Stakeholders.....3
- Importance of Stakeholder Participation.....3
- Stakeholder List.....4

Participation Techniques

- Informational Techniques.....13
 - Citizen Notification
 - Media Announcements
- Interactive Techniques.....13
 - Public Hearings
 - Vision Meetings
- Partnership Techniques.....14
 - Steering Committee
 - Stakeholder Meetings

Schedule of Completion

- Benchmark Dates.....16
- Schedule Chart.....17

Creating a Successful Regional Plan

The development of a Meaningful Regional Plan begins with the insightful input of a community's citizens, government officials, and staff addressing the issues of today, the opportunities of tomorrow, and the steps necessary to effectuate positive change over the next twenty (20) years. The River Valley Regional Commission's Community Participation Plan is designed to encourage as much public participation, open dialogue and communication as possible in order to achieve a Regional Plan consensus that translates into better government decisions and greater community agreement with those decisions.

The major challenge in developing a successful plan for the River Valley Region is convincing its citizens that the Regional Plan belongs to each and every citizen of the River Valley Region, and that broad based public participation is necessary to obtain citizen ownership of the plan. It is also necessary to educate plan participants that the plan should represent a balance of community interest, defined by a give-and-take process that seeks local opinion and knowledge on planning issues. The end result is a community consensus (a Vision) in regards to future development policies and practices. Successful communities first create a vision, then agree upon a course of action to achieve the vision, and finally take the steps necessary to implement the vision.



Stakeholders

Identification of the River Valley Regional Stakeholders

An essential element in implementing a Regional Plan is to recognize other organizations and interested parties that could not only provide support, but could provide leadership in the execution of some of the programs outlined in the plan. These interested groups, or stakeholders, have a vested interest in the successful growth and development of the River Valley Region, and are therefore an integral part of the community planning process. The Community Participation Program should include tools to identify and engage representatives who have a present or future stake in the community. Key stakeholders include the community residents representing a diverse range of backgrounds and interests, specifically those that have been historically left out of the decision making process, such as members of low-income communities, immigrant communities, and ethnic and minority groups, as well as business and industry leaders, civic leaders, the development community, real estate professionals, media representatives, city and county staff, and elected officials. Other key stakeholders include agriculture and forestry interests, banks, religious institutions and leaders, civic clubs, students, tourism officials, service organizations, and military leaders and members of the military with vested interest in the community. Local groups, property owners, and local business owners have also been identified as key stakeholders.

Importance of Stakeholder Participation

Stakeholders are vital to the process, because they not only create change, but are also affected by it. Participation of these groups can help foster community understanding and support for the Regional Plan document, and provide fuel for the implementation of the plan. Since the list can grow and more organizations and interested parties identified throughout the process there will be names and interested parties not included in this list. In order to ensure that all interested parties have a voice in the process, local government officials will be utilized to encourage participation and guide the planning process.

Stakeholders (by County)

Below is a listing of individuals, agencies, and other organizations that will be engaged in the development of the Regional Agenda for the River Valley Region. The list highlights key constituents that play a vital part in the development of projects within the region.

Regional Stakeholders

Contact Person	Title	Organization	Contact Information
Annette Santiago	Vice President	GA Bikes	asantaigo@tsys.com
Kenyon Thweatt	Senior Employer Program Manager	Clean Air Campaign	rkthweatt@cleanaircampagin.org
Elaine Gillespie	Field Representative	Congressman Bishop's Office	202-225-3631
Nykia Burke	Outreach Coordinator	Georgia Safe Routes to School	404-849-4517
Josh Holmes	Director of Land Protection	Georgia Land Trust	256-447-1006
Bryan Wagoner	Director of Communications	Georgia Association of Water Professionals	770-618-8690
Brent Matthews	Manager	Georgia Erosion and Sedimentation Training Institute	770-778-3688
Will Wingate	Vice President of Advocacy and Land Conservation	The Georgia Conservancy	404-876-2900 x 103
April Chapman	Director of Communications	Georgia Green Industry Association	888-401-2450
Alva Hopkins	Director of Communications	Georgia Forestry Associations	478-992-8110
Sally Bethea	Upper Chattahoochee River Keeper	River Keeper	404-352-9228
Roger Martin	Executive Director	Chattahoochee RiverWarden, Inc.	706.649.2326
Gordon Rogers	River Keeper- Flint River	River Keeper	912-223-6761
Annetta Berry	Regional Coordinator	Family Connections	706-577-3712
Claudya Mueller	Director	Chattahoochee Valley Regional Library	706-243-2670
Jean Turn	Director	Kinnafoochee Regional Library	229-995-6331
Peter Bowden	Director	Columbus Convention & Visitors Bureau	706-322-1613
Mike Bunn	Director	Historic Chattahoochee Commission	334-687-9755
Dr. Ajay Gehlot	Executive Director	Southwest Georgia Healthcare	229-887-3324
James Lloyd	VP of Economic Dev.	Columbus Technical College	706-649-1449
Wally Summers	VP of Economic Dev.	South GA Technical College	229-931-2044
Maggie Potter	Reg. Tourism Rep.	GDEcD	706-649-1306
Candice Scott	Program Rep	GDEcD	404-217-6695
Jo Childers	Regional Representative	Georgia Department of Community Affairs	229-924-3707
George Steuber	Deputy to the Garrison Commander	Department of Public Works-Fort Benning	(706) 544-7081

Margaretha Morris	Regional Director	Department of Family and Children Services	229.931.2512
Beverly Townsend	District Health Director	West Central Georgia Health District	706.321.6300
Jack Reed	Regional Representative	Ga. Department of Transportation	706.646.6982
Matt Trice	VP of Economic Development	Albany Technical College	229-430-6618
Brant Slay	Land Protection Manager	The Nature Conservancy	706-662-0217
Tom Horne	Manager of Engineering	Columbus Water Works	706-649-3400
Forrest Hill	Director	Two Rivers RD&D	706-885-0101
Bert Earley	SW Ga Regional Forest Water Specialist	GA Forestry Commission	229-430-5125
Luke Crosson	Region Five Representative	GA Soil and Water Conservation Commission	229-854-5470
Jon Huffmaster	Legislative Director	GA Farm Bureau	478-474-0679 x 5284
Matt Trice	VP of Economic Development	Albany Technical College	229.430.6618
Chattahoochee County			
Contact Person	Title	Organization	Contact Information
Ronnie Burgamy	Commissioner	Chattahoochee County Board of Commissioners	706-989-3980
Jim Lawrence	Commissioner	Chattahoochee County Board of Commissioners	jel646976@att.net
Jimmy Howell	Chief Appraiser	Chattahoochee County Tax Assessors Office	706-989-3249
Matty Kinney	President	Chattahoochee County Chamber of Commerce	706-570-8248
Tom Weaver	Interim County Manager	Unified Government of Cusseta-Chattahoochee County	706-989-3602
Emmett Moore, Jr.	Chairman	Chattahoochee County Board of Commissioners	706-989-3602
Jack Yates	Chairman	Chamber of Commerce	706-989-3764
Carole Grier	Coordinator	Family Connections	706-718-1901
Clay County			
Contact Person	Title	Organization	Contact Information
David Shivers	Commission Chair	Clay County Board of Commissioners	229-254-2568
Steven Foy Martin	Councilman	City of Fort Gaines	229-869-3241
Mable Giles	Chief Appraiser	Clay County Tax Assessor's Office	229-768-2000
Leata Gleaton	Coordinator	Family Connections	229-768-3541
Annette Lloyd Holland	Lodge & Park Manager	Lodge at George T. Bagby	229-768-2571
Ken Penuel	Chair	Clay County EDC	229-768-2410
Anne Lyne	Chair	DDA	229-768-2443
Spencer Mueller	County Administrator	Clay County	229-768-3238 x 7
Samuel Tyrel Johnson	Mayor	City of Fort Gaines	229-768-3898
Crisp County			

Contact Person	Title	Organization	Contact Information
Walter Mathis	Commission Chair	Crisp County Board of Commissioners	229-276-2672
A.J. Rivers	Vice Chair	City of Cordele	229-273-6714
Tim Quick	Chief Appraiser	Crisp County Tax Assessor's Office	229-276-2635
Monica Mitchell	Director	City of Cordele Main Street	229-276-2902
Zack Wade	Chairman	City of Cordele	229-273-2177
Jeff Johnson	City Manager	City of Cordele	229-276-2900
Mike Speight	Business Banker	State Bank and Trust	478.472.4418
Willie Patrick		South Georgia Ness	229-938-3647
David Fant	Human Resource Manager	Norbord Inc.	229-276-2844
Gary Ramsey	VP of Architectural Trim Product	Con-Art Precast, Inc.	229-853-5000
Monica Simmons	Executive Director	Chamber of Commerce	(229) 273-1668
Bob Evans	President	Central Bank and Trust	229.928.6200
Dooly County			
Contact Person	Title	Organization	Contact Information
Terrell Hudson	Commission Chair	Dooly County Board of Commissioners	walterhudson@hotmail.com
Emerson Lundy, Jr.	Mayor	City of Vienna	229-268-4744
James C Lockerman	Chief Appraiser	Dooly County	229-268-4719
Robert Cooke	Executive Director	SWGA United	229-268-7592
Gloria Royal	City Clerk	City of Lily	229-268-6016
Kathryn Braxton	Coordinator	Vienna Better Hometown	229-268-4920
Janet Joiner	Community Development Director	City of Vienna	229-268-4920
Steve Sanders	County Administrator	Dooly County	229-268-4228
Steve Haugabook	Facility Manager	Flint River Services	478-627-3718
Greg Speight	Chairman	Unadilla Downtown Development Authority	478-627-3047
Bob Jeter	Executive Director	EDC and IDA of Dooly County	(229) 268-4554
Rhonda Lamb-Heath	Executive Director	Chamber of Commerce	229-268-8275
Harris County			
Contact Person	Title	Organization	Contact Information
Rebecca Chambers	Mayor	City of Hamilton	706-888-2185
John Harry Lange	Commission Chair	Harris County Board of Commissioners	langeci@mchsi.com
Wayne Morris	Chief Appraiser	Harris County	706-628-5171
Lynda Dawson	Executive Director	Harris County Chamber of Commerce	1-888-478-0010
John Bain	Utilities Director	Callaway Gardens	706-663-6768
Hank Arnold	Executive Director	Pine Mountain Tourism Association	706.663.4000
Jack L. McClung	Soil Conservation Technician	National Resources Conservation Service/USDA	706-628-5313
Danny Bridges	County Manager	Harris County	706-628-4958
Joe Teel Jr.	Mayor	Town of Pine Mountain	706-663-2213

Derek Williams	President	First People's Bank	706.663.2700
Macon County			
Contact Person	Title	Organization	Contact Information
Gerald Beckum	Mayor	City of Oglethorpe	ochogl@windstream.net
Ambrose Richard Felton	Commission Chair	Macon County Board of Commissioners	478-952-0605
Jimmy Davis	President/Executive Director	Chamber of Commerce / Economic Development Authority	478-472-2391
Carol Blythe	Chief Appraiser	Macon	478-472-6560
JoAnn White	City Clerk	City of Marshallville	478-967-2010
Camille Bielby	Downtown Development Manager	City of Montezuma	478-472-8144
Yvonne Sutherland	President	Macon County Historical Society	478-472-6518
Shirley Lashley	City Clerk	City of Oglethorpe	478-472-6485
Mary M. Haigler	Coordinator	Oglethorpe Better Hometown	478-472-4603
Edward Sealoover	County Manager	Macon County	478-472-7021
Marion County			
Contact Person	Title	Organization	Contact Information
Kevin Brown	Commissioner / Coordinator	Marion County Board of Commissioners / Family Connections	marioncfc@windstream.net / 229-649-2020
Tom Leanza	Chief Appraiser	Marion County Tax Assessor's Office	229-649-5504
P.J. and Penny Rogers	Chairman	Pasaquan	229-649-7513
Ralph Brown	Mayor	City of Buena Vista	478-472-3608
George Neal, Jr.	Chairman	Marion County	229-649-5213
Janet Teele	WIB Chair	Central Bank of Georgia	229-649-4600
Muscogee County			
Contact Person	Title	Organization	Contact Information
Teresa Tomlinson	Mayor	Columbus Consolidated Government	706-653-4712
Jerry "Pops" Barnes	Councilor	Columbus Consolidated Government	jbarnes@columbusga.org
Anne King	Executive Director	MidTown Inc.	706-494-1663
Bill Jenkins	ADA Transportation Coordinator	METRA	706-225-4581
Pat McHenry	Associate Dean, College of Letters and Sciences	Columbus State University	706-568-2056
Silvia Bunn	Mildred L. Terry Library Manager	Chattahoochee Valley Libraries	sbunn@cvrls.net
Jennifer Collins	Assistant Director	Oxbow Meadows (Columbus State University)	706-687-4090
Lisa Randolph	Director	Oxbow Meadows (Columbus State University)	706-687-4090
Blake Melton	V.P Financial Strategies	Synovus	706-644-7685
Joel Reed	Patrol Services (Bike Patrol)	Columbus Police Department	706-225-4033

Jason McKenzie	Owner	Ride-On-Bikes	706-324-1132
Lisa Rowe	Director of Business Development	Uptown Columbus, Inc & BID	706-596-0111
Rosana Juestel	Planner	Planning Department (Columbus Consolidated Government)	706-225-3934
Saundra Hunter	Director	METRA	706-225-4581
Betty Middleton	Chief Appraiser	Muscogee Co Tax Assessor	706-653-4398
Bill Turner	Advisory Board	WC Bradley Foundation	706-571-6040
John Turner	President	Trees Columbus	706-571-0436
Carole Rutland	Executive Director	Riverway South	706-566-5257
Will Johnson	Planning Division Chief	City of Columbus	706-225-3930
Richard Bishop	Director	Uptown Columbus, Inc & BID	706-596-0111
Betsy Covington	Executive Director	Community Foundation of the Chattahoochee Valley	706-320-0027
Rick Jones	Planning Director	City of Columbus	706-225-3936
Elizabeth Barker	Executive Director	Historic Columbus Foundation	706-322-0756
Candice Wayman	Program Coordinator	Coalition for Sound Growth	706-596-8818
Owen Ditchfield	Representative	Concerned Citizens of Columbus	706-687-2860
Pete Swiderek	Chief, Conservation Branch	Ft. Benning Directorate of Public Works	706-544-7077
Quitman County			
Contact Person	Title	Organization	Contact Information
David McMiller	Commissioner	Georgetown-Quitman Board of Commissioners	229-334-5655
Richard Morris	Commission Chair	Georgetown-Quitman Board of Commissioners	229-334-0903
Robert McGowan	Chief Appraiser	Quitman	229-334-2159
Sara Lee Crumbs	Coordinator	Quitman County Family Connections	229-334-7553
Mary Ellen Moore	GED Director	Stewart/Quitman GED	229-334-8610
Henry Balkcom	Chairman	Quitman County Development Authority	229-334-5924
Allen Fort	Superintendent of Education	Unified Government of Georgetown-Quitman County	229-334-4189
Randolph County			
Contact Person	Title	Organization	Contact Information
Jimmy Bradley	Commission Chair	Randolph County Board of Commissioners	229-732-2522
Steve Whatley	Mayor	City of Cuthbert	229-732-3721
Ricky C. Daniel	Chief Appraiser	Randolph County	229-732-3791
Teresa Bryant	Practice Manager	Randolph County Medical Association	229-732-3721
Charles Curry	President	First State Bank of Randolph County	229-732-3171
Patricia Goodman	Executive Director	Randolph County Chamber of Commerce	229-679-5095
Jamey Hulsey	District Manager,	Cobb EMC	229-732-3796

	Pataula District		
Paul Langford	Chair	Randolph County Development Authority	229-241-2337
Kaunita Murphy	Coordinator	Randolph County Family Connection	229-732-6211
Don Porter	Local Manager	Georgia Power	229-732-2522
Karen Reese		NRCS	229-732-3721
Diane Watkins	School Superintendent	Randolph County	229-732-3601
Schley County			
Contact Person	Title	Organization	Contact Information
Greg Barineau	Commission Chair	Schley County Board of Commissioners	770-331-7877
Donna Prince	Chief Appraiser	Schley County Tax Assessor's Office	229-937-9169
Frances Hunter	County Administrator	Schley County	229-937-2609
Linda Adams	Business Owner	City of Ellaville	229-937-5708
Patricia Jones	Councilor	Ellaville City Council	229.937.2207
Stewart County			
Contact Person	Title	Organization	Contact Information
Charles Gibson	Mayor	City of Lumpkin	229-838-4333
Joe Lee Williams	Commission Chair	Stewart County Board of Commissioners	229-942-3149
Sue Whipkey	Chief Appraiser	Stewart County	229-838-6058
Gary Blackburn	Manager	Farmers State Bank	229-887-3311
Sally Long	Chairwoman	Stewart County Historic Commission	229-838-6804
Randy Butts	Treasurer	Stewart County Historic Commission	229-838-6804
Floyd Fort	Superintendent	Stewart County School District	229-838-4329
Leo Goodsell	Director	Westville	229-838-6310
Chip Jones	Director	Richland Better Hometown	229-887-3433
Mac Moye		Stewart County Detention Center	229-321-0162
Debbie Stone	Member	Lumpkin Downtown Development Authority	229-887-3323
Rossie Ross	Director	Richland Downtown Development Authority	229-887-3323
Sumter County			
Contact Person	Title	Organization	Contact Information
Andrea Brooks	Commissioner	Sumter County Board of Commissioners	229-942-1169
Mandy Young	Community & Economic Development Director	City of Americus	229-924-4411 x 232
Angie Singletary	Downtown Development Director	City of Americus	229-924-4411
Keith Wishum	Pastor	Williams Road Church	229-591-8820

Angela Westra	President	Americus-Sumter Chamber of Commerce	229-924-2646
Bill Harris	Owner	Café Campesino	229-924-2468
Brad Bennett	Superintendent	Andersonville National Historic Site (National Park Service)	229-924-0343
Charlene Pennymon	Assistant Vice President	Citizens Bank of Americus	229-924-4011
Eugene Edge	Councilman	City of Plains	229-824-5445
Gary Ingram	Superintendent	Jimmy Carter National Historic Site	229-824-4104 x 23
Barry Blount	Mayor	City of Americus	229-924-4413
George Ellis	Owner	Home Aid	homeaid@bellsouth.net
Brian Parkinson	Associate Professor of History	Georgia Southwestern State University	bparkin@gsu.edu
Tripp Pomeroy	Co-Owner	Café Campesino	229-924-2468
Monica Horne	Chief Appraiser	Sumter County	229-928-4513
Donna Windam	City Clerk	City of Plains	229-824-5445
Cathy Tyler	Chief Financial Officer	The Staffing People, Inc.	229-924-0476
Wally Summers	VP of Economic Development	South Georgia Tech	229.931.2044
Mark Todd	President and CEO	Magnolia Manor	229.924.9352
Talbot County			
Contact Person	Title	Organization	Contact Information
Tony O. Lamar	Mayor	City of Talbotton	706-665-8542
Freeman Montgomery	Commission Chair	Talbot County Board of Commissioners	706-366-1956
Tommy Bussey	Chief Appraiser	Talbot County	706-665-3377
Dot Bass	Coordinator	Family Connections	706-573-8183
Pam Jordan	Executive Director	Talbot County Chamber of Commerce	706-665-8079
Slade Johnson	Chair	Talbot County Development Authority	706-587-1859
Ollie Chester	Mayor	City of Geneva	706-269-3113
Sandra Higginbotham	County Manager	Talbot County	706-665-3220
Taylor County			
Contact Person	Title	Organization	Contact Information
Harold Heath	Mayor	City of Butler	478-862-5435
Clinton Perry, Jr.	Commission Chair	Taylor County Board of Commissioners	4778-951-4454
Patty Bentley	Commissioner	Taylor County Board of Commissioners	478-862-6022
Charlyn Lemons	Chief Appraiser	Taylor County	478-862-3802
Billy Patterson	Executive Director	Taylor County Chamber of Commerce	478-862-6022
Lea Spell	City Clerk	City of Butler	478-862-5456
Lenda Taunton	County Manager	Taylor County	478-862-3336
Patsy Brunson	Executive Director	Taylor County Development Authority	478-885-1166
Melinda Posey	President	Central Bank of Georgia	478-862-3062
Webster County			
Contact Person	Title	Organization	Contact Information

Melvin Crimes	Commissioner	Unified Government of Webster County	melvin1952@yahoo.com
Kristin Rushing	Chief Appraiser	Webster County Tax Assessor's Office	229-828-3690
Mike Goare	Soil Conservation Technician	USDA	229-828-2015
George Moore	Commission Chair	Unified Government of Webster County	229-828-5775
Rhonda Holbrook	Manager	Tolleson Lumber Company	800-768-6977

Participation Techniques

Participation Techniques are an essential component in developing community plans. The Community Participation Plan of the Regional Plan describes the techniques that will be utilized to obtain feedback from specific stakeholder groups, as well as from local residents and citizens of the region.



Large group meetings, similar to the one pictured above, will be used in the Visioning portion of the plan development, to gain a broader cross-section of opinions and input.



In addition, smaller scale meetings will be held with advisory boards and specific stakeholder groups to refine the plan.

Informational Techniques

This type of participation technique is designed to inform the citizens of the River Valley region of the purpose and goals of the Regional Plan. By informing local residents of the importance of planning for the region's future, we will be able to encourage participation and involvement from stakeholders in the development of this important plan. The proposed informational techniques will be designed to be electronic, interactive, easily accessible and visually appealing to the region's citizens.

Citizen Notification

The River Valley Regional Commission will employ a variety of notification techniques to encourage citizen involvement in the regional planning process. Local governments, civic leaders and groups, religious organizations, local businesses, and community service organizations will be contacted to assist in notifying citizens regarding upcoming involvement opportunities. Press releases, posters and announcements at public meetings will also be used to notify the public about upcoming meetings and to generate public interest. Public Service Announcements (PSA) will also be broadcast through the major radio network include Clear Channel Radio which includes a wide variety of stations and reaches out to a wide spectrum of demographic groups within the region. PSA's will also run in the region's television networks including the Columbus Consolidated Government Television station. Citizen notifications will also be posted on the River Valley Regional Plan's Facebook group and website.

Media Announcements

The River Valley Regional Commission will also utilize various social networking and online media to update citizens and local governments regarding the progress of the Regional Plan's development. E-mail blasts, which will include an electronic newsletter, will be sent periodically as the Regional Plan evolves. Upcoming meetings, announcements, and requests for comments and assistance will be made through the River Valley website and Facebook page. Citizens will also have the option to join the River Valley Regional Plan Facebook group to gain access to weekly updates and project photos, and will also provide citizens with direct line of open communication with the RVRRC planning staff through the Facebook group. The Regional Plan's website will also be updated weekly and will automatically sync with our Facebook group, thus providing consistent and current information to those living within the River Valley Region (www.rivervalleyrc.org/regionalplan.htm).

Interactive Techniques

This type of participation technique is intended to gain citizen input on the different issues and opportunities that the River Valley region will face in the upcoming years. These meetings are also intended to gather input on the desired vision for the future growth and development of the region as a whole.

Visual Preference Surveys

A visual preference survey is a technique for obtaining public feedback on physical design alternatives. It is often used when designing zoning codes, planning redevelopment, and

conducting urban planning research. The survey consists of a series of images that participants must score according to their preference. The images may be actual photographs or computer-simulated images depicting potential urban environments. The participants' input is then used to make decisions about the future built environment.

Strengths

- Visually preference surveys are a generally simple and inexpensive tool to use, requiring little prep time and few resources.
- Visual Preference Surveys can be an engaging way to discern the growth objectives and goals of a community.
- Visual Preference Surveys can be adapted to a variety of different media, including paper, with a set of photographs mailed to citizens; electronic, built into an online survey, or conducted during a public meeting.

Drawbacks

- A visual preference survey is only as strong as the set of images that it utilizes, and the results of the survey are only representative of those that participate.

Regional Open House

To ensure that all of the residents within the River Valley region have an opportunity to provide input and participate in the planning process of the Regional Plan, a series of official public hearings will be held throughout the River Valley Region. A series of four open houses will be held throughout the region, in Taylor County, the City of Columbus, Clay County, and the City of Americus. These meetings are open to the public, and all residents of the region will be encouraged to attend to see the progress of the Regional Plan, as well as to offer their feedback and opinion. The exact dates and locations of these meetings will be advertised to the public in the necessary legal organs, as well as advertised on the River Valley website and Facebook pages.

Vision Meetings

The goal of the vision meetings will be to review the general Vision Statement created for the Regional Plan. The primary goal of the vision meeting will be to survey participants about the River Valley Region's current issues and opportunities and to discuss how citizens would like to see the River Valley region grow in the future. In order to achieve the above goals, an S.W.O.T. (Strength, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) Analysis will be conducted, Issues and Opportunities for the planning period will be discussed, and quality of life issues will be reviewed. These are all major steps necessary to achieve the desired results discussed during the meetings, as well as to establish measures that can be taken to quantify future success within the River Valley Region.

Partnership Techniques

This type of participation technique is designed to gain more specific feedback from targeted stakeholder groups within the region.

Regional Steering Committee

Composed of members of the executive committees of the River Valley Regional Commission Council, this Regional Steering Committee will aid RVRC staff in the formulation of the Regional Plan. This committee will provide feedback, advise the planning team, and shape the overall planning process. The first Steering Committee Meeting will be held on September 20, 2011 at the RVRC office in Columbus. Following this meeting, the Steering Committee Members will meet on a monthly basis with RVRC Staff, prior to board meetings, to discuss progress and development of the regional plan, as well as addressing lingering questions and concerns. Steering Committee members will be asked to attend Stakeholder Meetings in order to ensure adequate representation of both the RVRC Council and regional stakeholders.

Environmental Planning Committee

Carol Rutland	Rebecca Chambers
Jerry "Pop" Barnes	Harry Lange
Gerald Beckum	Greg Barineau

Historic Preservation Planning Committee

AJ Rivers	Gerald Beckum
Chip Jones	Patricia Jones
Charles Gibson	

Land Use Planning Committee

David McMiller	Greg Barineau
George Moore	Mike Speight

Transportation Planning Committee

A.J. Rivers	Chip Jones
Clinton Perry Jr.	David Shivers
Emerson Lundy	George Moore
Gerald Beckum	Derek Williams
Harry Lange	Jim Lawrence
Kevin Brown	Mike Speight
Pat McHenry	Steve Whatley
Wally Summers	

Schedule of Completion

Benchmark Dates

July - September : Creation of the Community Assessment Plan and the Public Participation Plan

September 20th : RVRC staff will meet with the Regional Steering Committee to review the draft Community Assessment Plan and draft Public Participation Plan, prior to transmittal

November 30th : Approval by the River Valley Regional Board

December : Transmittal of the Community Assessment Plan and the Public Participation Plan to the Department of Community Affairs for review

January/February : Plans are under review by Department of Community Affairs

April : RVRC staff will begin issuing visual preference surveys and compiling results

May : The RVRC staff will conduct two Vision meetings at its office locations in Columbus and Americus to gain valuable stakeholder feedback on the development of the Regional Plan's Vision and plan for future development. These two meetings are crucial to development of the Community Agenda, and are tentatively scheduled as follows:

Columbus Office: May 1st, 2012 at 6 p.m.

Americus Office: May 15th, 2012 at 6 p.m.

June : The RVRC staff will conduct the four Regional Open House meetings throughout the River Valley Region. These meetings are tentatively scheduled as follows:

Taylor County: June 7th, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.

The City of Columbus: June 14th, 2012 at 6 p.m.

Randolph County: June 21st, 2012 at 6 p.m.

The City of Americus: June 28th, 2012 at 6 p.m.

July 25th: Transmittal of the Community Agenda to the Department of Community Affairs for review and approval by the River Valley Regional Board

August/September: Community Agenda under review by Dept. of Community Affairs

October : Final adoption of the River Valley Regional Plan

Schedule of Completion for the River Valley Regional Plan July 2011 - June 2012

	July 2011	Aug 2011	Sept 2011	Oct 2011	Nov 2011	Dec 2011	Jan 2012	Feb 2012	Mar 2012	Apr 2012	May 2012	June 2012	July 2012	Aug 2012	Sept 2012	Oct 2012	
Public Participation Plan																	
Community Assessment																	
Public Participation Plan and Community Assessment under review by DCA																	
Community Agenda																	
Community Agenda under review by DCA																	
Final Adoption																	