

NEW RIVER VALLEY PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION

Minutes of the Commission Meeting

held on January 28, 2010

6:00 p.m.– New River Valley Competitiveness Center, Fairlawn

I. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL

Mr. Starnes called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Mr. T. Starnes, Chair; City of Radford; Mrs. R. Moses, Vice-Chair, Town of Pearisburg; Mr. L. Clevinger, Town of Pulaski; Mr. T. Garrett, Town of Narrows; Mr. F. Gerald, Floyd County; Dr. H. Harvey, City of Radford; Mr. M. Harvey, Montgomery County; Ms. E. Janney, Floyd County; Mr. D. Langrehr, Town of Blacksburg; Mrs. A. Perkins, Montgomery County; Mr. M. Patton, Town of Floyd; Mr. J. Politis, Montgomery County; Mr. J. Sheffey, Pulaski County; Mr. H. Showalter, Town of Christiansburg; Mr. K. Sullivan, Virginia Tech; and Mr. S. Weaver, Treasurer, Town of Christiansburg.

ABSENT: Mr. J. Bain, Town of Pulaski; Mr. D. Dent, Virginia Tech; Ms. D. French, Town of Rich Creek; Mrs. H. Lesko, Town of Blacksburg; Vacant, Giles County; Mr. R. McCoy, Giles County; Vacant, Radford University; and Mr. S. Utt, Pulaski County.

II. APPROVAL OF OCTOBER AND DECEMBER MINUTES

Mr. Starnes stated that due to the lack of a quorum in December, approval of the October minutes were tabled. He asked for a motion to accept the October minutes.

Motion: Mr. Patton moved that the October minutes be approved as presented. Mr. Gerald seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried.

Mr. Starnes asked for a motion to accept the December minutes.

Motion: Mrs. Moses moved that the minutes December minutes be approved as presented. Mr. Patton seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried. 2 abstentions.

III. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Mr. Starnes stated that he had nothing to report.

IV. REVIEW OF MUTUAL CONCERNS AND COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Dr. Harvey stated that the Competitiveness Center is still evaluating its alternatives.

V. APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT FOR OCTOBER, NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER

Mr. Starnes stated that without a quorum at the December meeting, approval of the Treasurer's Report were tabled. Mr. Starnes asked for a motion to approve the October Treasurer's Report.

Motion: Mr. Weaver moved that the October Treasurer's Report be approved as presented. Mrs. Perkins seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried.

Mr. Weaver then presented the November and December Treasurer's Reports, stating that the PDC was still solvent and he would answer any questions.

Motion: Mr. Weaver moved that the November and December Treasurer's Reports be approved as presented. Mr. Sheffey seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried. 1 abstention.

VI. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Starnes stated that the Committee had no report.

VII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Byrd reported on the following:

- **Regional Accomplishments**
 - Public Transportation in the City of Radford
 - Tourism website initiative funded 50%
 - Crooked Road expanding participation area
 - Mobility Manager Phase 2 Application
 - Fine Arts Center of NRV ARC Grant for \$500,000
- **Transportation**
 - City of Radford/Radford University Public Transit
 - City voted to apply for DRPT grant funds for service
 - Potential service between City and RU
 - Christiansburg kicked-off transit on Nov. 23rd
 - Ridership continues to increase regularly
- **Mobility Manager**
 - Phase 1 Underway
 - Services Provider Resource Manual
 - Website development illustrate all services in the region
 - Phase 2 Application to DRPT
 - Implement Mobility Specialist
 - Help connect rider with correct service provider
 - Research Rural Provider Agreements for efficiency

- **Energy Grants**
 - \$42 million in requests for \$9.2 million available
 - Announcements should be in early February
 - Christiansburg, Giles County, Pulaski County, Town of Floyd, City of Radford, and PDC
 -
- **Tourism**
 - Informal working committee representing chambers and local governments
 - Asked PDC to prepare grant for regional tourism website to Virginia Tourism Corporation
 - Project received 50% funding from VTC
 - Meeting 2/2/10 to discuss revised scope
- **Regional Broadband**
 - Funding announcements scheduled for Jan. 30th
 - Will re-submit for Round 2 if not funded in 1st round
- **Southwest Virginia Cultural Heritage Commission**
 - Performing Cultural Heritage Inventory of all 19 counties in Southwest VA
 - Todd Christensen of DHCD serving as Director
 - Montgomery County meeting on 1/19/10
 - Preparing data sheets on top 7 assets in Montgomery County to include on Heartwood website
 - Other NRV counties/city inventory meetings forthcoming
 - Potential presentation at March PDC meeting
- **The Crooked Road**
 - Expanding the footprint to include 19 counties
 - Opportunities for localities to participate
 - Documented success through tourism and downtown improvements targeted by state and federal programs
- **Internal Staff Projects**
 - Completed Technology Inventory
 - All computers, software and naming scheme
 - Preparing Technology Plan
 - 5-year schedule for computer replacement
 - Cost estimates for file server
 - Annual GIS licensing schedule with ESRI
 - Starting regional library (final reports/grant applications)
- **Local Meetings**
 - Meeting with County Administrators and Town/City Managers
 - Presentations to Boards of Supervisors and Councils during new year
- **Next Month**
 - CDBG Project Prioritization
 - Jurisdictions should contact PDC with projects
 - Presentation by Ed Stoots, Regional Forester, Virginia Department of Forestry
 - Value of Virginia's Forests and Land Conservation

VIII. PUBLIC ADDRESS

None

IX. OLD BUSINESS

A. Presentation by Aric Bopp, New River Valley Economic Development Alliance

Mr. Bopp presented a slide show which outlined the make-up of the Alliance, their marketing process, and many of the projects/industries they were instrumental in bringing to the NRV.

Mr. Patton asked what is the Alliance transitioning towards. Mr. Bopp stated that there seems to be a need for hi-tech or bio-tech.

Dr. Harvey asked what are some of the reasons potential clients give for deciding not to locate in the NRV. Mr. Bopp stated mainly location, logistics, no rail, and no major customers or supplies.

B. Presentation by Jennifer Wilsie and Elisabeth Vogel on the HOME Consortium

Ms. Wilsie and Ms. Vogel presented a slide show of some of the finished projects that the HOME Consortium has completed. Ms. Wilsie stated that the HOME Consortium was established in 2007. Each member jurisdiction has to renew their membership every three years. Since 2007, funds have increased from \$827,000 to \$989,000 in 2009.

Ms. Vogel stated that the funds are rotated to a new jurisdiction each year. Some of the projects include: Dora Highway -Town of Pulaski; Baskerville - Pul. Co; Cedar Hill and Old Farm Village - Mont. Co.

C. Declaration of Surplus Items

Mr. Starnes stated that the dump truck had been offered to the localities for bid and Floyd County purchased it for \$11,000.

Items which need to be declared as surplus are: tire shredder, Dodge pick-up, and a small trailer. He asked for a motion to declare these items as surplus property. Staff will then place them on a website, www.Govdeals.com to be bid upon.

Motion: Mr. Gerald moved that the items be declared as surplus property for sale. Dr. Harvey seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

D. Review and Approval of FY09 Audit

Mr. Weaver stated that the audit speaks for itself, honest and forthwith. He stated he was very pleased with it.

Motion: Mr. Sheffey moved that the FY09 Audit be accepted. Mrs. Perkins seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Sheffey commended the staff for their work.

E. Update on Development Corporation/Competitiveness Center

Mr. Byrd stated that Christy Straight and Joe Morgan have been working with Virginia's First to create a Participation Committee to allow VA's 1st members the option of purchasing the Competitiveness Center.

Mr. Huber has contacted Mr. Boucher's office, and Becky Coleman from that office has met him to discuss how they might approach EDA to step away as the first lien holder and then contact Carter Bank.

Mr. Byrd provided a copy of the Competitiveness Center tenant log.

X. NEW BUSINESS

A. Consideration of Participation in Go Green NRV

Mr. Byrd stated that the Go Green NRV is an organization focused on helping NRV businesses evaluate and institute green practices at their work sites. In order to participate with Go Green NRV, an environmental policy statement for each organization must be adopted. Staff has prepared a policy statement for the Commission to consider adopting. The policy statement was provided in the Commissioners packets. He stated that the staff already has in place recycling (aluminum cans, plastic bottles, office paper, newspaper), composting, and energy conservation; and will work to have a more comprehensive, formalized recycling process, sustainable purchasing, additional energy saving strategies, and distribute meeting materials electronically to reduce use of paper copies.

Motion: Mrs. Perkins moved that the Policy Statement be adopted in order to participate in Go Green NRV. Dr. Harvey seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Resolution for Joe Gorman

Mr. Starnes stated that Joe Gorman, who had been a devoted member of the Commission, had passed away. He stated he would be sorely missed. A resolution had been prepared to give to his family. He read the resolution and asked for its approval.

Motion: Mr. Sheffey moved that the Resolution for Joe Gorman be approved. Mrs. Perkins seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

B. Resolution for David Dehart

Mr. Starnes stated that David Dehart, who had served on the Alliance, had also passed away. A resolution had been prepared to give to his family. He read the resolution and asked for its approval.

Motion: Mr. Sheffey moved that the Resolution for David Dehart be approved. Mrs. Janney seconded the motion

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

10-20

C. Resolution in Support of Mobility Manager Grant Application

Mr. Byrd stated that the Commission is currently administering a mobility manager grant funded by the Department of Rail and Public Transportation. There is an expressed need to continue this funding in order to implement the planning data and collection of the first phase by applying for an additional mobility management grant. The Commission will partner with an existing human service provider in the NRV to staff the Mobility Manager position. A critical component of the position is the ability to connect persons searching for transportation to the correct transportation provider.

Motion: Mrs. Perkins moved that the Resolution in support of a mobility manager grant application be approved. Mrs. Janney seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

XII. COMMONWEALTH INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS

A. Continuation or Renewal Projects (Signed-off by the staff)
None

B. Regular Project Review
None

C. Environmental Project Review
None

Mr. Starnes stated there were no projects for review.

Meeting adjourned.

Thomas L. Starnes, Chair
New River Valley Planning District Commission

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*If you have any questions or comments regarding this page, please e-mail [nrpdc@nrpdc.org](mailto:nrvpdc@nrpdc.org)
Last Edited: 2/19/10*