

WEST PIEDMONT PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION MINUTES

of the
April 24, 2008, Meeting

held at the
Commission Office
1100 Madison Street, Martinsville, VA
at 7:30 p.m.

PRESENT

HENRY COUNTY

Paula Burnette
Jim Adams
Charlie Redd

PATRICK COUNTY

Karl Weiss
Ron Knight

FRANKLIN COUNTY

Bobby Thompson

MARTINSVILLE

Kathy Lawson
Kimble Reynolds, Vice-Chairman

ROCKY MOUNT

Roger Seale
Jerry Greer

DANVILLE

Harry Kolendrianos, Chairman

PITTSYLVANIA COUNTY

Henry Davis

ABSENT

James Astin, Treasurer, Pittsylvania County
Stokes Daniels, Danville
Sherman Saunders, Danville
William Pritchett, Pittsylvania County
Ralph Casey, Rocky Mount
Marshall Blair, Franklin County
Jerry Adams, Patrick County
Leland Mitchell, Franklin County

STAFF

Robert W. Dowd, AICP, Executive Director
Joan Hullett, Assistant Director
Tammy Moss, Administrative Assistant

GUESTS

Vince Copenhaver, Franklin County
Jill Watson, Ferrum College
Greg Berry, Hurt Police Chief

1. **Call to Order**

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. He introduced and welcomed the guests present.

2. **Confirmation of Minutes of the March 27, 2008, Meeting—WPPDC/M(08)3**

Mr. Adams made a motion, seconded by Mr. Redd, to approve the minutes of the March 27, 2008, meeting. Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.

THE BOARD:

Voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the March 27, 20078 meeting.

3. **Treasurer's Report: February 29, 2008—WPPDC/P(08)16**

Mr. Seale made a motion, seconded by Mr. Thompson, to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.

THE BOARD:

Voted unanimously to approve the February 29, 2008, Treasurer's Reports as presented.

4. **Intergovernmental Review:**

Applicant: County of Henry

Project: Virginia Community Development Block Grant Application for Riverside Drive Neighborhood Improvement Project--WPPDC/P(08)17

Description: Request for \$997,302 in CDBG funds with match of \$39,780 from VDOT's HSIP Program, \$178,550 from Henry County, and \$94,040 from STEP and Homebuyer Programs.

Grant funds will allow the County to implement a neighborhood project benefiting low-to-moderate income households with housing rehabilitation, relocation, homeownership creation, and improvements to neighborhood amenities in the Bassett community.

Comments: Mr. Adams briefed the Board on the proposed project. No adverse comments received during review process.

Action: Motion by Ms. Burnette, seconded by Mr. Reynolds, to make a favorable recommendation on the project. Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.

5. **Intergovernmental Review:**

Applicant: County of Franklin

Project: Virginia Community Development Block Grant Application for Ferrum Center – Ferrum School Renovation Project--WPPDC/P(08)18

Description: Request for \$700,000 in CDBG funds with match of \$250,000 in Historic Tax Credits, \$212,500 from Ferrum College, and \$451,750 from STEP

Grant funds will be used for the renovation of the former Ferrum School building which will include adding community services of childcare, after school care, and a LIFE Academy, and programs managed by STEP, Incorporated.

Comments: Ms. Jill Watson of Ferrum briefed the Board on the proposed project. In addition to favorable comments received on the proposed project, Mr. Tony Handy, VDOT Residency Administrator, noted the following:

"...While we are supportive of the nature of the proposal, we cannot currently recommend supporting the proposal, due to the potentially unsafe condition it could create on Route 40. Our review of the proposal indicates the use would require a VDOT Commercial Entrance Permit, and as such the proposed entrance onto Route 40 must meet all applicable requirements of VDOT's 2003 Minimum Standards for Entrances to State Highways. We completed an initial field review of the entrance location and our findings indicate the proposed entrance location will not meet the minimum sight distance requirements for issuance of a VDOT Commercial Entrance Permit, and thus an entrance onto Route 40 at this location would not be allowed for this use."

Mr. Thompson noted that the County and Ferrum College were currently working with VDOT on solutions to remedy this situation such as undertaking a traffic study, reducing the speed limit, and an entrance on an adjacent property.

Action: Motion by Mr. Adams, seconded by Mr. Reynolds, to make a favorable comment on the project, contingent on an agreement being worked out with VDOT on the concerns noted above. Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously, with Mr. Thompson abstaining.

6. **Intergovernmental Review:**

Applicant: Town of Hurt

Project: USDA Rural Development Agency Program Application for Funding for the Replacement of Public Safety Vehicles--WPPDC/P(08)19

Description: Request for \$26,000 in federal funds with a match of \$47,451 in local funds.

Grant funds will allow the Town to replace public utility and safety vehicles that have reached the end of their useful lifespan. New vehicles would include a regular cab work truck with heavy duty locking rear, snowplow prep package, and trailer equipment; a utility vehicle with heavy-duty service fittings; and a police vehicle.

Comments: No adverse comments received during review process. Chief Greg Berry was present to respond to questions concerning the application.

Action: Motion by Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Thompson, to make a favorable recommendation on the project. Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.

7. Intergovernmental Review:

Applicant: County of Pittsylvania

Project: Application to the Environmental Protection Agency for Funds for the Ringgold Road-Tom Fork Road Waterline Construction Project--WPPDC/P(08)22

Description: Request for \$656,200 in EPA STAG (State and Tribal Assistance Grant) funds, to be matched with \$770,062 in Virginia Tobacco Commission Funds and \$144,631 in local funds.

Grant funds will allow the County to develop a waterline from a water storage tank in Ringgold East Industrial Park to the Mount Zion Acres Subdivision. The line will serve an area that currently does not have a reliable water supply of acceptable quality.

Comments: Mr. Dowd briefed the Board on the proposed project. No adverse comments received during review process; however, Mr. Randy Hamilton, the VDOT Residency Administrator, noted that "If waterline is to be installed upon VDOT's right of way, the Department needs to review/approve the plans prior to issuance of the Land Use Permit."

Action: Motion by Mr. Redd, seconded by Mr. Greer, to make a favorable recommendation on the project. Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously with Mr. Davis abstaining.

8. Consideration of Resolution Authorizing Contracting with Consultant for Assistance in Final Phases of Development of Regional Water Supply Plan—WPPDC/P(08)21

Mr. Seale made a motion, seconded by Mr. Greer, to adopt a resolution (a) authorizing the Executive Director to contract with a consultant firm to continue work in FY 2009 to carryout remaining work on Phase II as well as Phase III to complete the Regional Water Supply Plan with the Cities of Danville and Martinsville and Counties of Henry, Patrick, and Pittsylvania providing the required funding on a per capita basis and (b) to include the option of contracting for and utilizing any Commonwealth of Virginia funding that may become available for plan development. Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.

THE BOARD:

Voted unanimously to (a) authorizing the Executive Director to contract with a consultant firm to continue work in FY 2009 to carryout remaining work on Phase II as well as Phase III to complete the Regional Water Supply Plan with the Cities of Danville and Martinsville and Counties of Henry, Patrick, and Pittsylvania providing the required funding on a per capita basis and (b) to include the option of contracting for and utilizing any Commonwealth of Virginia funding that may become available for plan development. (Copy of resolution attached.)

9. Updates/Reports on Regional Projects/Activities Related to:

a. US Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration

Copies of the 2008 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) document were distributed, with the Deputy Director giving an overview of the planning process involved. The Board will consider approval of the document at its May meeting. (Members who were not present will receive a copy by mail prior to the next meeting.)

b. Rural Transportation Planning Program in conjunction with the VA Department of Transportation

The Executive Director informed the Board that the PDC staff had met with a consultant and Pittsylvania County officials to resolve the deadlock that had been experienced on the special Route 29 study with regard to project cost and that Richmond VDOT staff representatives had come down to resolve the impasses. A new consultant proposal was anticipated.

He also advised that he had been invited to participate in the consultant selection process for a new study of Route 29 corridors from Prince William County to Pittsylvania County. This new work would bring on an improved focus on a former study effort where no consensus was reached primarily on the northern end of the corridor.

As part of the Regional Rural Long-Range Transportation Plan development, the PDC staff had prepared maps for a series of meetings with local officials, VDOT Salem and Lynchburg officials, and VDOT resident engineers concerning special study area designations of hot spots or trouble spots for a consultant firm to assist with.

c. Danville Metropolitan Planning Organization Assistance Program in conjunction with the VA Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration

The Executive Director briefed the Board on another round of public meetings on the Route 29 Blairs area study and also the Piney Forest Road Bypass Study and Route 730 to Route 29 industrial connector study. He also noted that the MPO would be interviewing firms soon for the Danville Pittsylvania MPO long-range plan update project for next year.

THE BOARD:

Noted these reports.

14. Highlights of Commission and Staff Activities; Other Business and Reports

The Executive Director noted that the staff continues to work on development of chapters for updating the Patrick County Comprehensive Plan and the Martinsville Comprehensive Plan.

The Board was informed that the USDA grant for kitchen equipment for the Spencer Penn Centre in Henry County had been approved.

The Board was also informed that the staff had, in conjunction with the VA Department of Environmental Quality staff, held a Drought Response Plan workshop for local governments. It was noted that a Drought Response Plan would be required as part of the Regional Water Supply Plan currently being developed for the Cities of Danville and Martinsville and the Counties of Patrick, Pittsylvania, and Henry.

The Executive Director advised that the Budget and Work Program Committee had been working on a budget and strategy statement/work program for the Board's consideration at its May meeting.

THE BOARD:

Noted these reports.

15. Appointment of Nominating Committee for Fiscal Year 2009

The Chairman appointed the following Board members to serve on the Nominating Committee for Fiscal Year 2009: Ms. Lawson, Martinsville; Mr. Daniels, Danville; Mr. Thompson, Franklin County; Mr. Jim Adams, Henry County; Mr. Weiss, Patrick County; Mr. Pritchett, Pittsylvania County; and Mr. Casey, Rocky Mount.

16. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Robert W. Dowd, AICP
Executive Director

attachment