

# WEST PIEDMONT PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION MINUTES

of the  
April 23, 2009, 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

Leland Mitchell  
Marshall Blair

### MARTINSVILLE

Kimble Reynolds, Vice-Chairman  
Kathy Lawson

### ROCKY MOUNT

Roger Seale  
Ralph Casey

### DANVILLE

Harry Kolendrianos, Chairman  
Gary Miller

### PITTSYLVANIA COUNTY

James Astin, Treasurer  
Henry Davis

## ABSENT

William Pritchett, Pittsylvania County  
Jerry Greer, Rocky Mount  
Bobby Thompson, Franklin County  
Jerry Adams, Patrick County  
Kim Adkins, Martinsville

## STAFF

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

## GUESTS

Wayne Knox, City of Martinsville  
Mary Ann Mason, Henry County

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 26, 2009, Meeting—WPPDC/M(09)2**

Mr. Adams made a motion, seconded by Mr. Redd, to approve the minutes of the March 26, 2009, meeting. Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.

**THE BOARD:**

Voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the March 26, 2009, meeting.

3. **Treasurer's Report: March 31, 2009—WPPDC/P(09)17**

Mrs. Lawson made a motion, seconded by Dr. Miller, to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.

**THE BOARD:**

Voted unanimously to approve the March 31, 2009, Treasurer's Report as presented.

4. **Points Arising from Previous Meetings**

The Executive Director presented a draft letter and resolution concerning the Kerr Lake Regional Water System's request for an Interbasin Transfer Certificate from the NC Environmental Management Commission for a maximum transfer of 24 mgd from the Kerr Lake in the Roanoke River Basin to the Tar River and Fishing Creek Basins combined and a maximum transfer of 2.2 mgd to the Neuse River Basin. This topic had been discussed at the March meeting, with the Executive Director instructed to draft a resolution based on one adopted by the Henry County Board of Supervisors. He had obtained input from Mr. Davis on these documents which were presented for Board consideration. Dr. Miller noted that Danville City Council had adopted a similar resolution. Mr. Dowd noted that he had been communicating with Mr. John Dyches concerning a resolution to be considered by Martinsville City Council as well.

Following discussion, Mr. Seale made a motion, seconded by Mr. Mitchell, to adopt the resolution as presented which notes that the West Piedmont Planning District Commission is opposed to the transfer of ground or surface water from the Roanoke River Basin to support uses outside the watershed of the Roanoke River Basin and including any of its tributary streams and rivers and to transmit this resolution, along with the cover letter as presented by the Executive Director, to CH2M Hill, the VA Department of Environmental Quality, the NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the Dan River Basin Association, the VA Association of Counties, and the WPPD member jurisdictions. Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.

**THE BOARD:**

Voted unanimously to adopt the resolution as presented (copy attached) which notes that the West Piedmont Planning District Commission is opposed to the transfer of ground or surface water from the Roanoke River Basin to support uses outside the watershed of the Roanoke River Basin and including any of its tributary streams and rivers and to transmit this resolution, along with the cover letter as presented (copy attached) by the Executive Director, to CH2M Hill, the VA Department of Environmental Quality, the NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the Dan River Basin Association, the Roanoke River Basin Association, the VA Association of Counties, and the WPPD member jurisdictions.

For informational purposes, the Executive Director also provided the Board members a similar resolution which had been adopted by the Halifax County Board of Supervisors, Town Council of Halifax, and Town Council of South Boston.

5. **West Piedmont Planning District Commission Quarterly Report of Activities: State Data Affiliate Center and VEC Business & Industry Data Center Programs – Third Quarter – FY 2009 – WPPDC/P(09)21**

The Executive Director referred Board members to this informational report which provided an overview of the types of statistical information and mapping assistance provided to the public and private sectors over the past quarter.

**THE BOARD:**

Noted this informational report.

6. **West Piedmont Planning District Commission Register of Administrative Reviews under the Virginia Intergovernmental Review Process – April 2009 – WPPDC/P(09)18**

The Executive Director referred Board members to a listing of requests for intergovernmental reviews that had been processed administratively during the past month.

**THE BOARD:**

Noted this informational report.

**7. Intergovernmental Review:**

Applicant: Olde Dominion Agricultural Foundation  
Project: US Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Agency – Rural Business Enterprise Grant Application for Olde Dominion Agricultural Complex/Infrastructure Assistance Project--WPPDC/P(09)19  
Description: Request for \$100,000 in RBEG funds to undertake grading of site off US Route 29 in Pittsylvania County for location of Olde Dominion Agricultural Complex. Applicant will also utilize \$1.8 million from the Virginia Tobacco Commission towards construction of the agricultural complex. Center will assist local farmers and farm-related companies in development and marketing of their products as well as provide a gathering place for special events. The complex will serve the entire region.  
Comments: Mr. Fred P. Wydner III, the Pittsylvania County Agricultural Development Director, was unable to attend the meeting due to a scheduling conflict. Mr. Davis commented on the proposed project. No adverse comments received during intergovernmental review process.  
Action: Motion by Mr. Astin, seconded by Mr. Davis, to make a favorable recommendation on the project. Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.

**8. Intergovernmental Review:**

Applicant: County of Patrick  
Project: US Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Agency – Application for Funding for Replacement of Public Service Vehicles--WPPDC/P(09)23  
Description: Request for \$50,000 in Rural Development funds with match of \$46,500 in local funds to replace five police vehicles for the Patrick County Sheriff's Department.  
Comments: Mr. Knight briefed the Board on the need for the proposed project. No adverse comments received during review process. Mr. Davis and Mr. Seale inquired about the availability of funding for public safety vehicle replacement through Rural Development. The Deputy Director noted that Mr. Art Powers had requested that he and Ms. Anne Herring of the Rural Development agency be included on the agenda for the May Board meeting and they would be able to address the Board on this particular funding program as well as others which WPPD localities may be interested in utilizing.  
Action: Motion by Mr. Adams, seconded by Mr. Knight, to make a favorable recommendation on the project. Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.

**9. Intergovernmental Review:**

Applicant: County of Henry  
Project: Virginia Community Development Block Grant Application for South Street Neighborhood Improvement Project--WPPDC/P(09)22  
Description: Request for \$1.4 million in CDBG funds to be supplemented with \$313,632 from the VA Department of Emergency Management FEMA Pre-Disaster Mitigation grant funds; additional federal grant and loan of \$309,862; \$118,959 in local funds; and \$27,400 from local private sources.  
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 of Henry County.  
Comments: Ms. Mary Ann Mason of Henry County was present to respond to questions concerning the proposed project. Mr. Adams made comments to the Board on the need for the proposed project. No adverse comments received during review process.  
Action: Motion by Mr. Knight, seconded by Mr. Redd, to make a favorable recommendation on the project. Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.

**10. Intergovernmental Review:**

Applicant: City of Martinsville  
Project: Virginia Community Development Block Grant Application for Martinsville Lofts Development at Rives Road--WPPDC/P(09)21  
Description: Request for \$500,000 in CDBG funds to be used as a grant portion of \$8,929,284 in a funding package to renovate an industrial building into residential use. The grant is associated with other funding sources including Federal Low-Income Housing Tax Credits; VA Historic Tax Credits; Federal Historic Tax Credits; and a market rate first mortgage. The City is working with The Landmark Group as they plan to use tax credits and City incentives to transform the blighted Martinsville Novelty Building site on Rives Road to a single-family home neighborhood to provide 60 workforce apartments.  
The project will create 60 new housing units for families at 30-60% of area median gross income (AGMI); full rehabilitation of a blighted mill complex; produce a rehabilitated property to increase the City tax base; install 400 feet of sidewalk; replace existing water service line to building; and a new water meter for the site.  
Comments: Mr. Wayne Knox of the City of Martinsville was present to respond to questions concerning the proposed project. No adverse comments had been received on the proposed project.

Action: Motion by Mr. Astin, seconded by Mr. Seale, to make a favorable comment on the project. Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.

**11. Intergovernmental Review:**

Applicant: Ararat Volunteer Rescue Squad Incorporated  
 Project: USDA Rural Development Agency Program Application for Funding for the Replacement of Public Safety Vehicles--WPPDC/P(09)25  
 Description: Request for \$50,000 in USDA Rural Development funds with a match of \$7,000 in Squad funding as well as \$68,000 in local funds to purchase a replacement public safety vehicle to provide services in the Ararat community of Patrick County.  
 Comments: Mr. Knight noted the need for this vehicle to serve the Ararat community. No adverse comments received during review process.  
 Action: Motion by Mr. Mitchell, seconded by Mr. Astin, to make a favorable recommendation on the project. Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.

**12. Environmental Impact Statement Review: VA Department of Environmental Quality Request – Smith Mountain Lake Pumped Storage Project Relicensing to Continue Operating 636-Megawatt Smith Mountain Project – DEQ Project #: 09-063F—WPPDC/P(09)20**

The Executive Director reviewed the Board paper included in the meeting package which included an abstract for review. He also provided Board members with additional summaries regarding the Smith Mountain project relicensing. One document (25 pages) set out in detail the positions taken by the Tri-County Relicensing Committee (TCRC) which were taken off the TCRC website and melded into one document. A second document (9 pages) is a synopsis of the first (25 pages) document, leaving out much of tables and paragraphs used in making points to arrive at the position(s) taken on each of the major topical areas or planning areas addressed in the DEIS. In addition, the Executive Director supplied a document developed by Mr. Bill Brush who had served in consulting capacity to the TCRC. After reviewing the documents with the Board of Commissioners, the Executive Director asked Mr. Davis to take up further discussion of the relicensing review. Mr. Davis reviewed the salient points that TCRC had been addressing and reviewed the key positions that the TCRC had taken. He noted that it would help if the Board would essentially report to DEQ that the PDC supports the TCRC positions. The Executive Director then noted that a cover letter, a resolution, and the long-version of the summary report could be transmitted to DEQ as the Commission response.

Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Mitchell, that the DEQ be sent a letter and resolution noting the Commission's adopting the position of the TCRC in respect to the relicensing of the Smith Mountain Pump Storage Project, and that they be accompanied by a report summarizing the TCRC's position on relicensing and the environmental impact review documents produced. Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously. [The Executive Director noted that he would work with Mr. Davis and Dr. Kolendrianos in getting the items developed and delivered to DEQ by the following Monday, April 27.]

**THE BOARD:**

Voted unanimously to send DEQ a letter and resolution noting the Commission's adopting the position of the TCRC in respect to the relicensing of the Smith Mountain Pump Storage Project, and that they be accompanied by a report summarizing the TCRC's position on relicensing and the environmental impact review documents produced.

**13. Updates/Reports on Regional Projects/Activities Related to:**

**a. US Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration - CEDS Document Distribution**

Copies of the 2009 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. Review of Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Performance Measures in Conjunction with U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration—WPPDC/P(09)14**

The Deputy Director informed the Board that the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration, guidelines require that each Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy document include an evaluation tool for the implementation/action plan. A copy of the "Program Evaluation for July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009" and "Implementation Plan for July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010"

components to be included in the 2008 CEDS to meet the above-referenced requirement had been included in the Board package. Basically, the staff had developed a table, which presented an overview of the tasks and accomplishments for the period from July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009, to carry out a list of stated objectives relative to the CEDS document. In addition, the table set forth an implementation plan for the upcoming year listing the CEDS objectives and specific tasks for the Economic Development District. It was noted that this information would be sent to the Philadelphia Regional Office of EDA as well as the Virginia EDA Economic Development Representative Robert Gittler with the 2009 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy being developed with input from a Project Management Team. It was noted that the CEDS document presentation and review would be at the May meeting.

Mr. Astin made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Burnette, to approve the "Program Evaluation for July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009" and "Implementation Plan for July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010" for submission to EDA with the 2009 CEDS document. Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.

**THE BOARD:**

Voted unanimously to approve the "Program Evaluation for July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009" and "Implementation Plan for July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010" for submission to EDA with the 2009 CEDS document.

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

The Executive Director reviewed the progress being made on the Rural Long-Range Transportation Plan and efforts made on the Route 29 access management plan under development for the Tightsqueeze area south of Chatham and outside the MPO area. He noted that there had been recent public forums held on the Route 29 Statewide Corridor Study that he was participating in as a member of the Technical Advisory Committee.

**THE BOARD:**

Noted this report.

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

The Executive Director informed the Board that noted progress was being made by the consultant working on the Long-Range Transportation Plan for the Danville-Pittsylvania MPO. He indicated that some key modeling steps had been concluded to aid progress on the work. He also noted that the consultant on the Access Management Plan had been working on adjustments to graphics for the Route 29 section near Blairs that lies in the northern extent of the MPO area.

**THE BOARD:**

Noted this report.

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

The Executive Director noted that he had provided the VA Department of Environment Quality with a letter of support for the construction, operation, and maintenance of the Philpott Lake Trail Network. He had contacted Mr. Scott Martin of Franklin County's Parks & Recreation Department for the County's position in regard to this improvement program. Mr. Martin had indicated that the County was in full support of the project.

He also noted that he had received a request from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development for a review of a project in Bassett in Henry County that would continue the expansion of the Bassett Historical Center building. He indicated that a letter had been developed and transmitted to Kerry Johnson of HUD expressing support for the project. He had contacted Mr. Tim Pace of Henry County concerning the County's position on the engineering required to construct the expansion along the floodplain area. Mr. Pace indicated that he agreed with the Director's opinion.

**THE BOARD:**

Noted this report.

In another matter, the Executive Director updated the Board on the status of development of the Regional Water Supply Plan. He advised that the Phase III resolution needed to be revised to account for the extension of the period of time for completing that phase of the plan. The resolution continues to assume that the Commission would employ Draper Aden of Blacksburg as the Commission consultant for the project.

Mr. Astin made a motion, seconded by Mr. Redd, to approve the amended resolution as presented. Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.

**THE BOARD:**

Voted unanimously to adopt a resolution (copy attached) concerning Phase III development and contracting by the Commission for the Regional Water Supply Plan.

**15. Appointment of Nominating Committee for Fiscal Year 2010**

The Chairman appointed the following Board members to serve on the Nominating Committee for Fiscal Year 2010: Mrs. Lawson, Martinsville; Mr. Rawley, Danville; Mr. Blair, Franklin County; Mrs. Burnette, Henry County; Mr. Weiss, Patrick County; Mr. Davis, Pittsylvania County; and Mr. Seale, Rocky Mount.

**16. Resolution, Certificate of Appreciation**

The Board unanimously adopted a resolution of appreciation, which it presented along with a Certificate of Appreciation to Mr. Charlie Redd, Jr., who had served on the Board from 1986 through 2009.

**17. Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Robert W. Dowd, AICP  
Executive Director

attachments