

**WEST PIEDMONT PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION
MINUTES
of the
August 23, 2007, Meeting**

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

PRESENT

HENRY COUNTY

Jim Adams

FRANKLIN COUNTY

Leland Mitchell

Marshall Blair

ROCKY MOUNT

Roger Seale

Ralph Casey

MARTINSVILLE

Kimble Reynolds, Jr., Vice-Chairman

Kathy Lawson

PATRICK COUNTY

David Young

DANVILLE

Harry Kolendrianos, Chairman

Stokes Daniels

PITTSYLVANIA COUNTY

William Pritchett

James Astin, Treasurer

ABSENT

Steve Angle, Rocky Mount
Charlie Redd, Henry County
Frank B. Fuller, Jr., Martinsville
Russ Johnson, Franklin County
Paula Burnette, Henry County
Jerry Adams, Patrick County
Henry Davis, Pittsylvania County
Sherman Saunders, Danville
Danny Foley, Patrick County

STAFF

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

1. **Call to Order**

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and noted that a quorum was present.

2. **Confirmation of Minutes of the June 28, 2007, Meeting—WPPDC/M(07)6**

Mr. Adams made a motion, seconded by Mr. Young, to approve the minutes of the June 28, 2007, meeting. Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.

THE BOARD:

Voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the June 28, 2007, meeting.

3. **Points Arising from Previous Meeting**

The Executive Director advised that the issue concerning the Commission's tax-exempt status had been resolved with the City of Martinsville.

THE BOARD:

Noted this report.

4. **Register of Administrative Reviews Under the Virginia Intergovernmental Review Process—July-August 2007—WPPDC/P(06)41**

THE BOARD:

Noted this report.

5. **Quarterly Report of Activities: State Data Affiliate Center & VEC Business & Industry Data Center Programs—Fourth Quarter – FY 2007 – WPPDC/P(07)46**

THE BOARD:

Noted this report.

6. **WPPD Fiscal Year 2007 Annual Report Prepared for the VA Department of Housing and Community Development in Accordance with the Regional Cooperation Act, Code of Virginia**

The Executive Director advised the Board that their meeting packages had included the PDC's FY 2007 Annual Report prepared for the VA Department of Housing and Community Development as required by the Regional Cooperation Act of the Code of Virginia. DHCD provides this report for all PDCs to the General Assembly each year. This information is required in order for the Commission to begin receiving monthly payments from the State.

THE BOARD:

Noted this informational report.

7. **Status Report on Regional Water Supply Plan Development; Grant Application Status**

The Executive Director advised that the Commission had applied for \$50,000 in DEQ grant funds for Phase II of the Regional Water Supply Plan; however, due to the limited funding available and the large number of grant applications, the grant award was actually for \$25,000—as was most all of those awarded to regions. The staff was continuing its efforts on this project in conjunction with Draper Aden, the local government representatives, and DEQ staff. He noted that the target date for completing Phase I data collection is October 31, 2007. The Project Management Team, made up of a representative from the Cities of Danville and Martinsville and Counties of Henry, Patrick, and Pittsylvania, have agreed to continue the Phase II work with Draper Aden.

THE BOARD:

Noted this informational report.

8. **Updates and Reports on Regional Projects/Activities:**

a) **US Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration**

It was noted that the recently-approved CEDS document had been sent to the Philadelphia Regional Office. A ribbon-cutting ceremony had been held on August 13th for the opening of The Franklin Center in Rocky Mount. The PDC staff had assisted Franklin County with development of a \$1 million EDA grant for this project as well as a \$176,000 USDA grant for technology equipment for the facility.

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

The Executive Director informed the Board that staff had completed its work with VHB Incorporated of Richmond, a transportation-consulting firm that developed an Access Management Guidebook project for Franklin County that was funded by VDOT.

He also briefed the Board on the Phase I products, which had been developed for the Regional Rural Long-Range Transportation Plan that the PDC staff and localities are working on in conjunction with VDOT. He explained the work to be undertaken in conjunction with Phase II, which was getting underway. A number of the maps and other information included in Phase I were available for review.

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

The Executive Director updated the Board on the Iris Lane and Route 730 to Route 29 Connector Studies for the Danville MPO. He noted that the consultant was pulling together a great amount of detail as part of the data collection effort and in preparation for a future meeting.

He also briefed the group on the Memorial Drive-West Main Street and Route 58 West Corridor Access Management projects being developed for the MPO. He noted that public meetings had been held on these two corridors. Most recently, an all-day session had been held to review the aerial photography showing all the businesses and actively used properties to start determining approaches to improving the safety of the corridors while still maintaining good access by the owners and their customers.

He reported that a meeting had been scheduled by VDOT on SAFETEA-LU changes being brought to the MPOs involving projects proposed and their budgets and time of construction.

THE BOARD:

Noted these reports.

9. Discussion of Legislative Letter for Upcoming General Assembly Session

The Executive Director referred the Board members to the copy of the previous year's legislative letter that had been included in the meeting package. He requested that members provide him with any changes needed. He also noted that he would be distributing it to the local government administrators for their input after which he would bring an updated version back to the Board for review.

THE BOARD:

Noted this report.

10. Letter to Commonwealth Transportation Board with List of Regional Priorities for Primary, Interstate, Enhancement, and Safety Type Projects Covering Jurisdictions in the VDOT Salem and Lynchburg Construction Districts

The Executive Director noted that work was underway to prepare the list of regional transportation projects for VDOT and the Commonwealth Transportation Board for their annual update of the Six-Year Improvement Program for Interstates, Primaries, Enhancement Program, Safety Program, etc. Input would be solicited from the local government administrators.

THE BOARD:

Noted this report.

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

At its earlier session, the Executive Committee had voted unanimously to recommend that the Board authorize the Chairman and/or Executive Director to sign letters/resolutions of endorsement for localities' applications for SAFETEA-LU projects. Mr. Young made a motion, seconded by Mr. Daniels, to accept the Committee's recommendation. Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.

THE BOARD:

Voted unanimously to authorize the Chairman and/or Executive Director to sign letters/resolutions of endorsement for localities' applications for SAFETEA-LU projects.

12. Nominations for the West Piedmont Area Citizen Representative to the Virginia Roanoke River Basin Advisory Committee

Following discussion, the Board unanimously agreed to nominate a representative from the Henry County Public Service Authority to serve as the region's citizen representative to the Virginia Roanoke River Basin Advisory Committee. Mr. Jim Adams agreed to work with the Executive Director on obtaining the name of the individual selected to serve in this capacity.

THE BOARD:

Unanimously agree to nominate a representative from the Henry County Public Service Authority to serve as the region's citizen representative to the Virginia Roanoke River Basin Advisory Committee.

13. Adjournment

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

Robert W. Dowd, AICP
Executive Director