

**WEST PIEDMONT PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION
MINUTES
of the
August 27, 2009, Meeting**

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

PRESENT

HENRY COUNTY

Paula Burnette
Wes George
Jim Adams

PATRICK COUNTY

Ron Knight

FRANKLIN COUNTY

Marshall Blair
Bobby Thompson
Leland Mitchell

MARTINSVILLE

Kimble Reynolds, Vice-Chairman
Kim Adkins

ROCKY MOUNT

Roger Seale
Jerry Greer

DANVILLE

Harry Kolendrianos, Chairman
Albert K. "Buddy" Rawley, Jr.
Gary Miller

PITTSYLVANIA COUNTY

James Astin, Treasurer
Henry Davis

ABSENT

William Pritchett, Pittsylvania County
Jerry Adams, Patrick County
Kathy Lawson, Martinsville
Karl Weiss, Patrick County
Ralph Casey, Rocky Mount

STAFF

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

1. **Call to Order and Welcome to Guests**

The Chairman established a quorum and called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

2. **Regional Forum Opportunity—Comments from Commissioners and/or Public**

There were no comments from Commissioners or the public.

3. **Confirmation of Minutes of the June 25, 2009, Meeting—WPPDC/M(09)5**

Mr. Astin made a motion, seconded by Mr. Rawley, to approve the minutes of the June 25, 2009, meeting as presented. Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.

THE BOARD:

Unanimously approved the minutes of the June 25, 2009, meeting as presented.

4. **Points Arising from Previous Meetings**

The Executive Director briefed the Board on a recent meeting he had attended of the Virginia-North Carolina Bi-State Roanoke River Basin Commission.

Mr. Davis updated the Board on the Smith Mountain Lake Relicensing.

THE BOARD:

Noted these reports.

5. **Treasurer's Report –May 31, 2009—WPPDC/P(09)44**

Mr. Blair made a motion, seconded by Mr. Seale, to approve the June 30, 2009, Treasurer's Report as presented. Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.

THE BOARD:

Unanimously approved the June 30, 2009, Treasurer's Report as presented.

6. **Register of Administrative Reviews Under the Virginia Intergovernmental Review Process—July-August 2009--WPPDC/P(09)43**

THE BOARD:

Noted this informational report.

7. **WPPD Fiscal Year 2009 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 2009 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.

8. **Environmental Review: Request by VA Department of Environmental Quality for Review of VA Department of State Police's STARS Smith Mountain Radio Tower Project—DEQ Project #09-162S—WPPDC/P(09)46**

The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality had requested the Commission's review and comment on an Environmental Impact Report review for the Smith Mountain Radio Tower Project that is part of the Statewide Agencies Radio System (STARS). The Virginia State Police planned to construct a 150-foot tall self-supporting lattice tower and associated communications equipment on Smith Mountain in Pittsylvania County at the terminus of Jasmine Road and 6.5 miles northeast from the intersection of Liberty Road and Jasmine Road in Pittsylvania County. The Statewide Agencies Radio System program is an upgrade to the State Police's 1977 land mobile radio system. The concept of the program was a shared system composed of the twenty state agencies that use two-way radio communications as regular part of their operations.

Eventually, the tower sites would grow to 94 locations and the network they serve would have alternative paths, or loops, to provide continuous, high reliability in the event of path outages. Forty-five of these tower sites would be used for the actual two-way communications with the user's mobile and portable radios. From these sites, the Commonwealth personnel would receive quality, statewide, mobile radio coverage. STARS would be one of the first geographically statewide systems to employ digital trunked technology in the VHF 150 MHz band. Virginia would also be one of the first states to employ an Integrated Voice and Data (IV&D) land mobile radio architecture, which uses the same mobile radio for both voices and law enforcement computer communications.

Virginia would have statewide mobile data coverage. Integrating the voice and data networks saves the Commonwealth the expense of a separate data infrastructure and an additional radio/modem in each vehicle.

The Environmental Impact Report's mitigation section indicated that the proposed project was not anticipated to adversely affect the project site area or surrounding environment. The Virginia State Police planned to adhere to a list of guidelines as outlined in the Board paper in an effort to minimize impact to the project site and surrounding area.

Mr. Astin made a motion, seconded by Mr. Rawley, to make a favorable comment on the application. Upon vote, the motion carried with Mrs. Burnette voting in the negative.

THE BOARD:

Voted to make a favorable comment on the project.

9. Request for Support for Local Government Applications for Local Government Applications for Virginia Department of Health Grants—WPPDC/P(09)48

The Executive Director reviewed requests for letters of support for applications being submitted to the Virginia Department of Health by several localities within the region.

Dr. Miller made a motion, seconded by Mr. Reynolds, to provide letters of support for the projects. Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.

THE BOARD:

Voted unanimously to provide letters of support for Virginia Department of Health grant requests for the following projects:

- City of Martinsville – Lanier Road Water Line Replacement Project
- City of Martinsville—Water System Mapping Project
- Franklin County – Route 220 Water Utilities Planning Project
- Rocky Mount – PER for Water Line Extension Project

10. Support/Endorsement of Pittsylvania County Application to USDA Rural Development for Funds to Purchase Police Vehicles

Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Rawley, to provide a letter of support/endorsement for Pittsylvania County's request for \$50,000 in USDA Rural Development funding through the Community Facilities Loans and Grants Program for the purchase of Sheriff's Department vehicles. Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.

THE BOARD:

Voted unanimously to provide a letter of support/endorsement for Pittsylvania County's request for \$50,000 in USDA Rural Development funding through the Community Facilities Loans and Grants Program for the purchase of Sheriff's Department vehicles.

11. Status Report on Phase II and III Development of Regional Water Supply Plan in Conjunction with VA Department of Environmental Quality

The Executive Director updated the Board on work underway on Phases II and III of the Water Supply Plan. He noted that plans were being made to hold a Public Participation Workshop at the PDC office on Thursday, October 29, from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

THE BOARD:

Noted this informational report.

12. Request for Endorsement of Amendment to Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan Requested by Henry County – WPPDC/P(09)45

The Executive Director advised that Henry County had received an award of funding from the VA Department of Housing and Community Development for improvements in Bassett for the South Street Improvements Project. The \$1.4 million in CDBG funds award to the County would be used to rehabilitate 21 low- to moderate-income households, repair water and sewer lines, and improve Pleasant Ridge and South Street up to VDOT standards. He further noted that the comprehensive nature of the South Street Improvements Project required that the County also apply for FEMA funds from the VA Department of Emergency Management under the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program (or PDM) to install storm drainage sewer facilities to protect housing and infrastructure improvements. The PDC, working with its member localities, had developed a Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan in 2006. It was pointed out that this document must be in place for localities to receive pre- and post-disaster financial aid from FEMA. Henry County had requested the PDC Board to consider amendment to the Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan to include the South Street Neighborhood Improvement Project activities as a high priority. The applications would be submitted by October 16, 2009, and the County hoped for a positive grant decision by Spring 2010. PDM-funded project activities would include storm drainage sewer piping installed along Highland

Avenue, Pleasant Ridge, and South Street, with six new drop inlets. The Board paper included a Supplement to the West Piedmont Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (copy attached), along with a map for the referenced Henry County CDBG project.

Mr. Adams made a motion, seconded by Mr. Astin, to approve the amendment to the Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan to include the project outlined above. Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.

THE BOARD:

Voted unanimously to approve the attached Supplement to the West Piedmont Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan to provide support for the South Street Improvement Project activities in Henry County.

13. Update on Development on Grant Application to VA Department of Emergency Management/FEMA for Funding to Update the West Piedmont Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan

In continuing discussion concerning the West Piedmont Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan, the Executive Director briefed the Board on the staff's efforts to date to develop a grant application to the VA Department of Emergency Management to employ a consultant to complete the requirements for the five-year update of the document. It was explained that the member localities would need to complete Letters of Intent to participate in the plan update effort and to provide in-kind services/travel to be used as the required 25 percent local match. The grant application deadline was mid-October, with grant award to be made in FY 2010 which would provide for consultant procurement after July 1, 2010. It was noted that the Board had approved the submission of the application at a previous meeting.

THE BOARD:

Noted this report.

14. Request for Amendment to Year 2009 West Piedmont Economic Development District's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy to include Project for Water and Wastewater Collection Infrastructure to Serve Commonwealth Crossing Business Centre – Henry County – WPPDC/P(09)47

The Executive Director informed the Board that Benny Summerlin, Henry County Administrator and General Manager of the Henry County Public Service Authority, had requested that the West Piedmont Economic Development District amend its 2009 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy to include a project which would provide water and wastewater collection infrastructure to serve the Commonwealth Crossing Business Centre (CCBC) in the County. CCBC is a 730-acre industrial site off U.S. Route 220 near the Virginia-North Carolina line owned by the Henry County Industrial Development Authority.

The project would include installation of approximately 27,550 linear feet of 12-inch waterline along existing state roads from the existing water system at Magna Vista High School to U.S. Route 220 near Ridgeway and across U.S. 220 to connect to the existing PSA water system in Ridgeway. A 12-inch line would extend south along U.S. Route 220 from this new line to Reservoir Road at the CCBC.

The entire wastewater collection system serving CCBC is based on gravity flows. The proposed wastewater collection lines would be laid out in a pattern that will maximize coverage and therefore serve the largest acreage in CCBC. The main wastewater collection line parallels Patterson Branch and a creek that drains to Patterson Branch. Downstream of the CCBC, the wastewater would be conveyed to the existing wastewater collection system via a 12-inch gravity sewer that will parallel Marrowbone Creek. The wastewater collection system in and downstream of the CCBC would be owned and operated by the Henry County PSA. The proposed system connects to the existing system running approximately 26,050 linear feet to the northeast along Marrowbone Creek.

The total project cost was estimated at \$4,240,000. The County has commitments for matching funds in the amounts of \$800,000 from the SBA and \$1,720,000 from the Virginia Tobacco Commission's Reserve Fund Program. A request would be made for \$1,720,000 in funding from the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration.

In order to be eligible for EDA funding, projects must be included in a CEDS document developed by the Economic Development District and approved by EDA. The proposed amendment to the CEDS document for this project would be as follows:

Project:	Infrastructure Improvements (Water and Sewer) to Serve Commonwealth Crossing Business Centre – Henry County
Priority:	1 (high)
Description:	To install water and sewer infrastructure to serve the Commonwealth Crossing Business Development Centre, 1 740 +/- acre park off U.S. Route 220 South in Henry County
Funding Sources:	SBA: \$ 800,000
	VA Tobacco Comm: \$1,720,000
	EDA: \$1,720,000
	Total: \$4,240,000
Environmental Impact:	Positive
Number of Jobs:	2,500 est.

Mrs. Burnette made a motion, seconded by Mr. Reynolds, to amend the 2009 CEDS project list to include the project outlined above, with transmittal to the Philadelphia Regional Office of the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration. Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.

THE BOARD:

Voted unanimously to amend the 2009 CEDS project list to include the project outlined above, with transmittal to the Philadelphia Regional Office of the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration.

15. Update on Appalachian Regional Commission Activities

The Board was informed that staff had attended a recent How-to-Apply Workshop in Abingdon, along with representatives from the area, to learn more about developing successful ARC applications. Staff also plans to meet with several potential applicants in the fall to begin working on applications for next year's funding round in order to have more time to develop competitive applications based on strategic planning and identified project needs during the upcoming months.

THE BOARD:

Noted this report.

16. Update on Status of Development of West Piedmont Regional Rural Long-Range Transportation Plan

It was noted that staff was meeting with the PDC's Transportation Technical Advisory Committee on the day following Board meeting to present recent information and mapping that could be integrated into the Regional Rural Long-Range Transportation Plan regarding park and ride lots. Other updates addressed the ground counts at various intersections and the turning movement counts at other intersections that were felt to be needed to supplement the consultant's earlier site visits to key intersections with high level of concerns identified by the Committee members last year and that were not otherwise being addressed by VDOT for inclusions in the Plan.

THE BOARD:

Noted this report.

17. VDOT's 2035 Surface Transportation Plan Input Request

The Executive Director stated that VDOT had advised that it would be sending out a letter and master list of projects that it wanted the PDC to review for potential inclusions in the Statewide Surface Transportation Plan and that he would like the Board's input on how to conduct the review of the project list. He noted that he had not yet seen the list and did not know when it would arrive but knew it would be due in early October. He stated that there were various approaches to obtaining a review which would include his review of the project list using the PDC's resources and returning comments or taking it to a committee for review. He also noted that, on the MPO side, he could also conduct a review using the plans and information given to him in making a response independent of other input or he could get input from MPO Project Management Team or MPO Board.

In followup, Mr. Mitchell noted that, with respect to Franklin County, it would be appropriate to simply submit information to Mr. Huff, the County Administrator, for response. It was noted that this approach would be an effective means of reviewing the project list in the event there was not sufficient time to get the necessary information to the committees or to the Board for a meeting prior to the October deadline.

Mrs. Burnette suggested that something be mentioned concerning the need for increased mowing in right of way and also reopening rest areas on interstates.

THE BOARD:

Agreed for the Executive Director to work with the local government administrators on reviewing the master list of projects for VDOT's 2035 Surface Transportation Plan input request in the event information was not readily available for a review by committees or by a formal Board meeting prior to the early October deadline for review.

18. Update on Danville Metropolitan Planning Organization Activities

The Executive Director noted that progress was being made on development of the Danville MPO's Long-Range Transportation Plan. He stated that an introductory, initial public meeting had been held at the Danville Airport to explain the plan update process and to review with citizens the displays made for the various environmental factors that must be considered when alternatives are developed. Some information on accident site concentrations and information on modes of transportation other than highways, such as the Danville Transit System, had also been presented.

He also informed the Board that some final changes had been put together to review with the consultant on the U.S. Route 29 Access Management Study that was developed for the Blairs area in Pittsylvania County.

THE BOARD:

Noted this report.

19. Secondary Street Acceptance Requirements (SSAR) – Response to Delegate Charles Poindexter

The Executive Director referred the Board to the earlier correspondence from Delegate Charles Poindexter concerning the new SSAR regulations. As instructed by the Board, he had requested input from the Franklin and Pittsylvania County Administrators on the regulations. He provided the response from Rick Huff, the Franklin County Administrator, and following discussion, the Board instructed him to develop a followup letter to Delegate Poindexter relating Franklin County's concerns as outlined in the attached letter.

Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Thompson, to instruct the Executive Director to develop a letter to Delegate Charles Poindexter outlining the PDC's concerns with the new Secondary Street Acceptance Requirements as noted in the attached correspondence from Mr. Rick Huff, Franklin County Administrator. Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.

THE BOARD:

Voted unanimously to instruct the Executive Director to develop a letter to Delegate Charles Poindexter outlining the PDC's concerns with the new Secondary Street Acceptance Requirements as noted in the attached correspondence from Mr. Rick Huff, Franklin County Administrator.

20. Discussion of Legislative Letter for Upcoming General Assembly—WPPDC/P(09)49

The Executive Director advised that the previous year's legislative letter had been included in the Board package for review and input from the Commissioners. He stated that he would also be requesting input from the local government administrators and others so that the letter could be updated over the next couple of months. He indicated that Mrs. Adkins had input to include on the topics of workforce and education and that any other input from Board members would be appreciated.

THE BOARD:

Noted this report.

21. Request for Endorsement of Application for US Department of Labor's Grant Funds for Aid to Health Care Sectors and Other High Growth and Emerging Industries – West Piedmont Workforce Investment Board

The Executive Director and Mrs. Adkins, Executive Director of the West Piedmont Workforce Investment Board, briefed the Commissioners on the WIB's intent to apply for the US Department of Labor's Grant Funds for aid to Health Care Sectors and Other High Growth and Emerging Industries. This program funds originated from an authorization in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. The WIB application would target gaining jobs in the region's identified high growth sectors of advanced manufacturing and information technology; targeted sectors are automotive, wood products, electronics, advanced automation and instruments, motor sports engineering, plastics/polymers, unmanned systems, and robotics. The application would seek \$5 million over a 36-month period to train and certify more than 2,000 low-income, adult, and emerging job seekers and dislocated and incumbent workers to gain employment in the targeted growth sectors.

Mr. Adams made a motion, seconded by Mr. Rawley, to provide a letter of support for the project. Upon request, the motion carried unanimously.

THE BOARD:

Voted unanimously to make a favorable comment on the proposed project.

22. Comments Regarding Draft Amendments to Parts I, II, III, and XIII of the Virginia Stormwater Management Program Permit Regulations

The Executive Director distributed a letter dated August 18, 2009 (copy attached), from Mr. Coleman Speece, President of the VA Association of Planning District Commissions to Mr. David C. Dowling, Policy, Planning and Budget Director of the VA Department of Conservation and Recreation. VAPDC outlined six comments regarding

the Draft Amendments to Parts I, II, III, and XIII of the Virginia Stormwater Management Permit Program Regulations to address water quality and quantity and local stormwater management program criteria. The letter stated that VAPDC supports the VA Soil and Water Conservation Board's purpose to protect the quality and manage the quantity of stormwater runoff to state waters. It further stated that, with that being said, the VAPDC would neither endorse nor disapproved the proposed regulations but offered the following comments:

- *Comment #1:* VAPDC supports changes to the existing regulations that clarify and streamline the Virginia Stormwater Management Program. We are concerned that little progress has been made to adequately streamline program delivery and consolidate regulatory oversight functions or to eliminate the duplication between the various permit programs such as the VSMP, the MS4, and Construction; as well as the Chesapeake Bay Preservation regulations.
- *Comment #2:* The regulatory process should consider existing and future local government comprehensive plans and provide for local community flexibility in program development. As required by HB3202, within a designated Urban Development Area a locality's comprehensive plan shall satisfy the requirements for stormwater management. Implementation based on these adopted plans should be a consideration in the development of stormwater management regulations at the state level.
- *Comment #3:* Many localities have expressed concerns over the proposed fee structure. Stormwater fees should be developed by localities and should be based on the actual cost to administer the program. These fees should be re-evaluated annually during the local budget process. This will allow the regulated community to evaluate the costs as well as provide sufficient funding to manage a program which includes long-term maintenance.
- *Comment #4:* Many localities have expressed concerns about local enforcement authority and the burden of enforcing a larger, more complex program, including BMPs located on private property.
- *Comment #5:* The Stormwater Handbook and BMP Clearinghouse are both referenced extensively in the draft regulations and are STILL under development. As in September of the prior year, it is still hard to fully understand the implications of the regulations without these elements fully in place.
- *Comment #6:* There is concern that as the draft regulations are currently constructed there may be the potential to further promote urban sprawl as land developers seek out larger sites to more easily achieve the standard; as opposed to the redevelopment of existing urban land.

Following discussion, Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Astin, to support VAPDC's position as outlined above. Upon vote, the motion carried, with Mr. Blair voting in the negative.

THE BOARD:

Voted to support VAPDC's position/comments on the Draft Amendments to Parts I, II, III, and XIII of the Virginia Stormwater Management Program Permit Regulations to address water quality and quantity and local stormwater management program criteria.

23. Energy Grants – VA Department of Mines, Minerals, and Energy

The Executive Director briefed the Board on an arrangement in cooperation with the VA Association of PDCs and the Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals, and Energy through which Virginia's PDCs would be entering into an agreement with VDMME and the Northern Virginia PDC, as the lead PDC, to assist in administering the ARRA energy grants program. He noted that he would be passing on copies of the grant application and guidelines as soon as they were made available to the staff.

THE BOARD:

Noted this report.

24. Other Business

The Board congratulated Dr. Kolendrianos on his recent retirement.

25. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

Robert W. Dowd, AICP
Executive Director

attachments