

# WEST PIEDMONT PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION MINUTES

of the  
December 11, 2008, Meeting

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

## PRESENT

### HENRY COUNTY

Jim Adams  
Paula Burnette  
Charlie Redd

### PATRICK COUNTY

Ron Knight  
Karl Weiss

### PITTSYLVANIA COUNTY

Henry Davis

### FRANKLIN COUNTY

Leland Mitchell

### ROCKY MOUNT

Roger Seale  
Ralph Casey

### DANVILLE

Harry Kolendrianos, Chairman  
Buddy Rawley

### MARTINSVILLE

Kimble Reynolds, Vice-Chairman  
Kim Adkins

## ABSENT

James Astin, Pittsylvania County, Treasurer  
Marshall Blair, Franklin County  
Jerry Greer, Rocky Mount  
Kathy Lawson, Martinsville  
Bobby Thompson, Franklin County  
William Pritchett, Pittsylvania County  
Jerry Adams, Patrick County  
Gary Miller, Danville

## STAFF

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

## GUESTS

Joe Springer, Parsons Transportation Group  
Jeanne Martin, Earth Environmental Consultants Incorporated

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

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

**2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

Mr. Adams made a motion, seconded by Mr. Casey, to approve the minutes of the October 23, 2008, meeting. Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.

**THE BOARD:**

Voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the October 23, 2008, meeting

**3. POINTS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

The Executive Director updated the Board on various requests from federal agencies for "ready-to-go" economic development and infrastructure projects.

It was noted that Ms. Rebecca Goranssen of the Franklin County Youth Center had requested that the agenda item for her presentation to the Board be dropped from the agenda.

**THE BOARD:**

Noted this report.

**4. TREASURER'S REPORTS: JULY 31, 2008—WPPDC/P(08)55; AUGUST 31, 2008—WPPDC/P(08)56; AND SEPTEMBER 30, 2008—WPPDC/P(08)57**

Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Rawley to approve the Treasurer's Reports as presented. Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.

**THE BOARD:**

Voted unanimously to approve the July 31, 2008; August 31, 2008; and September 30, 2008, Treasurer's Report as presented.

**5. INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW: FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS – APPLICATION TO US ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY STATE AND TRIBAL ASSISTANCE GRANT (STAG) PROGRAM FOR A DRINKING WATER INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT FOR THE EXTENSION OF A WATER LINE FROM ROANOKE COUNTY LINE TO WIRTZ AREA OF COUNTY—WPPDC/P(08)58**

The Executive Director informed the Board that Franklin County is developing water service for a section of the U.S. Route 220 corridor by arranging for a water line from the Roanoke County line to the Wirtz area of the County. To finance the effort the County was applying for a State and Tribal Assistance Grant (STAG) in the amount of \$962,200 to be matched with other funds in the amount of \$1,369,100 for a total project amount of \$2,331,300. The US Environmental Protection Agency administers the STAG Program.

The project included construction of 7.25 miles of 12-inch waterline from the Roanoke/Franklin County line to the Plateau Plaza/Wirtz area of Franklin County to provide reliable drinking water to the area. The line will be constructed within the existing VDOT right-of-way of Route 220. The Western Virginia Water Authority owns and operates an existing water treatment, transmission and distribution system with sufficient capacity to service water to their current customers and those proposed within Franklin County. The Authority estimates that their current water supply will meet their projected needs until the year 2050. As demand increases, a water storage facility will be required to provide adequate service and fire flow protection in the area.

Various issues, concerns, and needs have pointed the way toward development of the new line. In respect to health and safety, the line and clean water supply it brings, can counteract some problems of petroleum contamination in the past. Well water yields in areas of the corridor have been varied and the development potential can be affected due to poor productivity of wells. The line may also eventually benefit Boones Mill and Rocky Mount by providing alternative water sources that they may be able to use in times of drought conditions in the future.

The County's project schedule anticipates the beginning of construction in December 2008, the completion of construction by December 2009, and closing out of the STAG grant by December 2010. It is anticipated that the Western Virginia Water Authority will issue bonds to finance water line extension and the governments will contribute their respective portions of the annual debt service paid to the Authority annually over the term of the bond issues, and that the bond issue will be secured by respective proportionate moral obligations of Franklin County and Roanoke County. The local share match required for the STAG grant will be paid through this debt service.

Ms. Jeanne Martin of Earth Environmental Consultants Incorporated was present to respond to questions concerning the project. During the Intergovernmental Review Process, no adverse comments were received.

Mr. Seale made a motion, seconded by Mr. Casey, to make a favorable comment on the proposed project. Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.

**THE BOARD:**

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

**6. PRESENTATION BY JOE SPRINGER, PARSONS TRANSPORTATION GROUP/VDOT CONSULTANT, REGARDING U.S. ROUTE 29 STATEWIDE CORRIDOR STUDY**

The Executive Director introduced Mr. Joe Springer of Parsons Transportation Group, the consulting firm currently developing the U.S. Route 29 Statewide Corridor Study in conjunction with the Virginia Department of Transportation.

Mr. Springer provided background information on the Route 29 Corridor Study, which will cover a 219-mile segment from North Carolina to I-66 at Gainesville. He noted that Route 29 is a National Highway System Route designated by Congress to serve interstate travel and movement of goods. He pointed out that Route 29 serves long-distance travel, connecting three MPO areas, rural areas, and heavy commuter travel to Northern Virginia. In addition, it was pointed out that Route 29 carries large volumes of local traffic which conflict with its' service to through travel. It was noted that, at the January 16, 2008, meeting of CTB members and elected and local leaders, the most noted issues of concern with regard to Route 29 were safety-congestion, through travel/through-put, local traffic-access control, and land use/transportation planning.

Mr. Springer stated that the Route 29 Corridor Study will include a public focus on why this transportation corridor is important; how they use the corridor; and goals for safe future transportation. In addition, the project will include corridor data collection to provide travel information (traffic data, transit and rail passenger use and freight movements by rail and highway) and land uses (employment, cultural centers, universities, and parklands). The short-term/immediate action plan will identify solutions for critical safety "hot spots"; recommend improvements for transit, rail or other passenger services; recommend improvements for freight movements; make recommendations for congestion mitigation; and develop local access management plans. He pointed out that interim corridor recommendations would include enhancements to rail and regional transit, recommendations for land use controls, development of a corridor access management plan, recommendations for safety and congestion management, and improved freight movements. Ultimately, the Route 29 Corridor Plan will create a blueprint for the corridor which will provide a multimodal vision plan for the entire corridor, building on the commonalities of citizen concerns along the corridor, provide additional capacity for the highway transit and rail modes, recommendations that are context sensitive and responsive to environmental concerns, and provide a forum for public review of the draft.

Mr. Springer also provided a timeline and overview of the approach to be utilized in the plan development; a copy of the Route 29 Corridor Study Timeline/Approach handout is attached. He briefed the group on the listening tour plan and kickoff, designed to inform elected and appointed officials and to generate a dialog with the general public. The listening tour, which was detailed in the handout, will include a Planning Studio Session to be held on December 19, 2008, from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Danville Municipal Building, Fourth Floor Conference Room. During this open/drop-in format session, VDOT and Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation will have an opportunity to discuss where everyone is in their respective part of the study process and what needs to be accomplished to keep the project on schedule. In addition, the session will allow PDC members, local government representatives, and other key stakeholders an opportunity to join the Study Team in the afternoon to discuss the study and offer insight into key issues. Input from the listening tour, previous studies, existing databases, study committee input, and fieldwork would be analyzed and compiled to develop a complete picture of issues and constraints in the corridor study area. At that point, a more formal set of seven meetings would be held to close out the listening tour portion of the study to ensure that everyone has a chance to hear the same thing and to give an opportunity for public review. One of these seven meetings would be held in Danville. He then outlined the steps in Phases I and II of the study.

**THE BOARD:**

Noted this report.

**7. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REVIEW: VA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY REQUEST FOR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REVIEW—STUDENT CENTER BUILDING AT DANVILLE COMMUNITY COLLEGE—VA DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION – DEQ PROJECT #08-224s—WPPDC/P(08)60**

The Executive Director advised that the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality has requested the Commission's review and comment on an Environmental Impact Review Report for the planned development of a Student Center project on the campus of Danville Community College. Virginia Code require reports and reviews

for construction or land acquisition projects whose cost exceed \$500,000 and are considered to be a major Commonwealth project.

The proposed facility will be constructed at a site on the north-central portion of the Danville Community College campus off Neathery Lane, between the Learning Resources Center and the 'Castle' a building and area currently utilized as a student lounge area. The intent of the project is to construct a building to be utilized by the students for food service, meetings, and student lounge space. The facility will consist of approximately 4,900 square feet of enclosed space, totaling approximately 6,600 square feet with approximately 1,700 square feet of outside awning-covered area. The facility will have a common area with tables and chairs to seat approximately seventy-five persons; a food service area; a small office for the Danville Community College Student Government Association; restrooms; and a meeting room.

The Environmental Impact Report notes that there are no water and sewer utilities on the proposed construction site, that may require prior relocations, or that will be affected by construction activities at the site. Electric lamps/lamp posts will likely be relocated around the new facility. The new student center will be connected to existing utilities on the campus.

An examination of environmental related criteria was made in developing the report. The following items did not appear to have any significant impacts on them, that might be attributable to the College's project development: endangered, threatened, or rare species; significant habitat for terrestrial wildlife and birds; unique or important terrestrial vegetation; aquatic life; historic structures and archaeological sites; forested land; wetlands; streams, rivers, lakes and ponds; watersheds; flood plain; groundwater characteristics; parks and recreational areas; natural areas and scenic resources; miscellaneous resources. In respect to air quality, the facility should not significantly impact air quality on or near the site; exhaust emissions of construction equipment will most likely be dispersed by normal wind flow patterns and the effect of dust will be minimized by appropriate control measures such as periodic wetting and application of gravel. In regard to unavoidable adverse effects, these will be associated with initial construction activities and therefore of short-term nature. No threatened or endangered plant and animal species are expected to be encountered on or near the proposed project site; therefore the impact on existing wildlife should be minimal.

Mr. Rawley briefed the Board on the project, noting that the Student Center Building was being funded with \$1.5 million in private funds.

Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Ms. Burnette, to make a favorable comment on the proposed project. Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.

**THE BOARD:**

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

**8. UPDATE ON DEVELOPMENT OF A REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY PLAN IN CONJUNCTION WITH VA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**

The Executive Director informed the Board that Phase II of the Regional Water Supply Plan was nearing completion and that DEQ had approved a majority of the work for payment to the consultant. Currently, the PDC staff was working on a contract to conduct the final Phase III portion of the Plan. It was noted that grant funds would not be available for Phase III and that the Cities of Danville and Martinsville and Counties of Henry, Patrick, and Pittsylvania had all adopted resolutions which included providing funding for Phase III. Phase III will consist of: Statement of Needs; Alternatives Development and Reviews; Final Report Development. It was anticipated that the plan may be available for adoption in June 2009. It was also noted that a drought plan and drought response ordinance needed to be presented to each local elected body; this is a required component of the plan.

**THE BOARD:**

Noted this report.

**9. UPDATES AND REPORTS RELATED TO U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION**

The Executive Director reported that the Commission staff was in the process of soliciting projects from the localities and updating the various chapters of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy. The Board was also advised of the importance of the development of the CEDS document this year due to potential federal economic stimulus funds which may be available. It was also noted that the City of Martinsville and Henry and Patrick Counties were working on potential projects for Appalachian Regional Commission funding.

The Deputy Director referred the Board to a letter dated December 11, 2008, from Mr. M. Lyle Lacy, III, Interim Danville City Manager, requesting an amendment to the 2008 CEDS document priority project list. The following information was presented for consideration of inclusion in the CEDS as an amendment:

Project:	Danville City/Pittsylvania County Cane Creek
Priority:	1
Description:	Grade pad for industrial development on Lot #1, Cane Creek
Funding Sources:	EDA - \$780,000; Local Sources - \$520,000; Total Funding: \$1,300,000
Environmental Impact:	Positive
Number of Jobs:	500-700

Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Redd, to amend the 2008 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy to include the project noted above. Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.

**THE BOARD:**

Voted unanimously to amend the 2008 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy to include the project noted above.

**10. UPDATE ON REGIONAL PROJECTS/ACTIVITIES RELATED TO RURAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING PROGRAM IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE VA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

The Executive Director reported that the Phase II work on the Regional Rural Long-Range Transportation Plan was progressing. He noted that he was currently working on a report that provides the detail on each transportation mode in respect to needs, gaps, or deficiencies and then sets out any known set of recommendations and plans to counter the deficiencies. He also advised that staff had completed the list of Detailed Study Locations and received Technical Committee approval; the list was then turned over to the VDOT District Planning Engineers and VDOT's on-call consultant.

**THE BOARD:**

Noted this report.

**11. UPDATES AND REPORTS RELATED TO THE DANVILLE MPO PROGRAM IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE VA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

The Executive Director advised the Board that the MPO had received a pair of reports by URS Corporation on corridor studies in Danville-Pittsylvania County, the latest relating to a corridor study to create a bypass of Route 29 business in Danville. He noted that a teleconference was scheduled with VHB Corporation on the progress of the Access Management Plan for a section of Route 29 north of Danville near Blairs in Pittsylvania County. He noted that staff was completing the reports from a public meeting on access management studies for a second section of Route 29 being assisted by Kimley Horn consultants.

**THE BOARD:**

Noted this informational report.

**12. FINALIZATION OF WPPDC LEGISLATIVE PACKAGE-LETTER FOR YEAR 2009 VIRGINIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY—WPPDC/P(08)59**

The Executive Director referred the Board members to last year's legislative letter which had been included in the meeting package. He informed the group that he had solicited input from the local government managers to use in developing the letter for the upcoming General Assembly Session and that input received had been incorporated into the package presented. He noted that he planned to check with the Franklin County Administration again concerning the items included for Smith Mountain Lake.

At its earlier session, the Executive Committee had voted unanimously to recommend that the Board approve the Legislative Package-Letter with the changes as presented and authorize the Executive Director to make any required modifications prior to submission to area legislators.

Mr. Seale made a motion, seconded by Mr. Davis, to accept the Executive Committee's recommendation.

In a related matter, the Executive Director reviewed a draft letter prepared in followup to discussion at the last meeting concerning funding of certain state programs with impact on local government services. Following further discussion, Mr. Mitchell made a motion, seconded by Mr. Casey, to instruct the Executive Director to send the letter to the legislators separate from the annual legislative package-letter and to also include this as an item in the annual legislative package-letter. Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.

**THE BOARD:**

- (a) Voted unanimously to approve the annual legislative package-letter with the changes as presented and to also include an item concerning funding of certain state programs with impact on local government services along with other required modifications prior to submission to area legislators;

- (b) Voted unanimously to instruct the Executive Director to send a separate letter, as presented in the Board package, to area legislators concerning funding of certain state programs with impact on local government services.

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**13. HIGHLIGHTS OF COMMISSION AND STAFF ACTIVITIES; OTHER BUSINESS AND REPORTS**

It was reported that the City of Martinsville's Planning Commission had scheduled a public hearing on the City's comprehensive plan update for December 18<sup>th</sup>. The Board was also briefed on the status of a pilot public transportation system for Martinsville and Henry County. A map showing the routes was displayed and a brief overview was provided to the Board in a November 5<sup>th</sup> News Release from the Piedmont Area Regional Transit, which will be managed by RADAR of Roanoke, a non-profit organization that has organized and maintained both public and private human service transportation for more than 25 years.

**THE BOARD:**

Noted this report.

**14. ESTABLISH PER CAPITA CONTRIBUTION RATE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2010**

At its earlier session, the Executive Committee had voted unanimously to recommend that the Board discuss a possible 3 to 5 cent increase in the FY 2009 per capita contribution rate for Fiscal Year 2010.

During discussion, it was decided that, due to the current economic situation, it would be best for the PDC to maintain its current level; however, should the need arise during the year, the Board would discuss the funding level again.

Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Daniels, to maintain the current per capita contribution rate of 55 cents per capita and to table discussion of an increase at this time. Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.

**THE BOARD:**

Voted unanimously to keep the FY 2010 per capita contribution rate at 55 cents, the same as for FY 2009 and to table discussion of an increase at this time.

**15. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Robert W. Dowd, AICP  
Executive Director