

# WEST PIEDMONT PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION MINUTES

of the  
December 10, 2009, Meeting

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

## PRESENT

### HENRY COUNTY

Jim Adams  
Wes George  
Paula Burnette

### PATRICK COUNTY

Karl Weiss  
Ron Knight

### PITTSYLVANIA COUNTY

James Astin, Treasurer  
Henry Davis

### FRANKLIN COUNTY

Leland Mitchell

### ROCKY MOUNT

Ralph Casey  
Jerry Greer

### MARTINSVILLE

Kimble Reynolds, Jr., Vice-Chairman  
Kathy Lawson

### DANVILLE

Harry Kolendrianos, Chairman  
Buddy Rawley

## ABSENT

Kim Adkins, Martinsville  
William Pritchett, Pittsylvania County  
Jerry Adams, Patrick County  
Gary P. Miller, Danville  
Bobby Thompson, Franklin County  
Roger Seale, Rocky Mount

## STAFF

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

## GUESTS

Eva Doss, Executive Director, Southside Business Technology Center  
Ed Stoots, Regional Forester, Western Region, VA Department of Forestry

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Vice-Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and welcomed the guests in attendance.

**2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

Mr. Jim Adams made a motion, seconded by Mr. Davis, to approve the minutes of the October 22, 2009, meeting. Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.

**THE BOARD:**

Voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the October 22, 2009, meeting.

**3. REGIONAL FORUM OPPORTUNITY—COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC AND/OR COMMISSIONERS**

There were no comments from the public.

Mrs. Burnette briefed the Board on an organization that operates a program in Carroll County which involves job creation.

**THE BOARD:**

Noted these comments.

**4. POINTS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Executive Director informed the Board that staff had provided technical assistance to five localities in the development of a total of ten Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants through the Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals, and Energy. He noted that DMME would be announcing grant awards in early 2010.

**THE BOARD:**

Noted this report.

**5. TREASURER'S REPORTS: SEPTEMBER 30, 2009—WPPDC/P(09)52 and OCTOBER 31, 2009—WPPDC/P(09)72**

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

**THE BOARD:**

Voted unanimously to approve the September 30, 2009, and October 31, 2009, Treasurer's Reports as presented.

**6. REGISTER OF ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEWS UNDER THE VIRGINIA INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS—NOVEMBER – DECEMBER 2009--WPPDC/P(09)75**

**THE BOARD:**

Noted this informational report.

**7. INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW: WEST PIEDMONT PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION APPLICATION TO APPALACHIAN REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR PLANNING GRANT FUNDING FOR ANNUAL LOCAL DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT PROGRAM ACTIVITIES--WPPDC/P(09)76**

In 2009, the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) announced the designation of the West Piedmont Planning District as a Local Development District in conjunction with the ARC's inclusion of the City of Martinsville and Henry and Patrick Counties as eligible program participants. At that time, the Planning District Commission agreed to be the annual applicant and recipient for Local Development District administrative grant funds and to work in conjunction with representatives of the Local Development District members in developing annual reports that may be required. The PDC also agreed to conduct its economic development planning and development activities consistent with Section 302 of the Appalachian Regional Development Act of 1986, as amended, to establish and expand economic development services in its service area that are deemed to be useful and pertinent to the objectives and purposes of such act on behalf of the City of Martinsville and Patrick and Henry Counties in conjunction with the Appalachian Regional Commission.

In its capacity as a Local Development District, the Planning District Commission is eligible to receive planning grant monies from the Appalachian Regional Commission. This grant requires a 50% match, which is allocated from the PDC funds. The Planning District Commission has submitted its annual grant application to the Appalachian Regional Commission requesting \$35,869; this grant will require a local match in the amount of \$35,869 from the Commission's funds.

At its earlier session, the Executive Committee voted unanimously to recommend that the Board make a favorable comment on the project. Mr. Astin made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Burnette, to accept the Committee's recommendation. Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.

**THE BOARD:**

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

**8. PRESENTATION BY MR. ED STOOTS, REGIONAL FORESTER—WESTERN REGION, VA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY**

Mr. Stoots made a presentation concerning forestry in the Commonwealth. He noted numerous statistics as well as explained the Department of Forestry's mission and discussed a number of issues impacting the Commonwealth's forests.

**THE BOARD:**

Noted this report.

**9. REQUEST FOR AMENDMENT TO WPPD COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (CEDs) BY SOUTHSIDE BUSINESS TECHNOLOGY CENTER—SOUTHSIDE/SOUTHWEST BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT--WPPDC/P(09)73**

Ms. Eva Doss, Executive Director of the Southside Business Technology Center, had requested that the West Piedmont Economic Development District amend its 2009 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy to include a project which will provide business assistance consulting services to both entrepreneurs assessing new business venture opportunities and existing businesses in Southside and Southwest Virginia assessing their business operations and potential business opportunities. The region to be served by the project included the West Piedmont Planning District and the Mount Rogers Planning District.

The Southside Business Technology Center, established in 2005, would be the prime contractor for the proposed project. It would subcontract work to the Virginia Tech Business Technology Center, established in the 1990's, for projects in Southwest Virginia. The proposed project would support 29 company projects per year for three years. Five of these projects would be in Southwest Virginia under the direction of the VTBC, with the remaining in Southside Virginia under the direction of the SBTC.

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

Project:	Southside and Southwest Business Development Support	
Description:	The project will provide business assistance consulting services to both entrepreneurs assessing new business venture opportunities and existing businesses in Southside and Southwest Virginia assessing their business operations and potential business opportunities. The region to be served includes the West Piedmont and Mount Rogers Economic Development Districts.	
Funding Sources:	EDA:	\$522,000
	SBTCVT BTC:	\$261,000
	Company Client Funding:	\$261,000
	[50% of project cost will be requested from EDA; 25% will be from companies served and 25% will be from organizations supporting the SBTC and VTBC, respectively.]	
Total Project Cost:	\$1,044,000	
Number of Jobs:	The fundamental rationale for this project is to advance productivity, innovation and entrepreneurship in Southside and Southwest Virginia by helping businesses and entrepreneurs develop the foundation for new businesses and business expansions. Companies that participated in FY 2007 BTC projects were expected to increase revenues and/or investment by \$4+ million and create 100+ jobs within two years of project recommendation implementation.	

Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Rawley, to amend the 2009 WPPD Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy to include the above-reference project, 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 WPPD Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy to include the above-reference project, with transmittal to the Philadelphia Regional Office of the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration.

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

The Executive Director reported that the Commission staff had submitted grant applications to EDA for the Cane Creek Centre, a joint Danville-Pittsylvania County project, and Commonwealth Crossing Business Centre, a Henry County project. He noted that it was the staff's understanding that the projects were being reviewed in the Philadelphia Regional Office of the Economic Development Administration.

He also noted that staff has work underway to update the 2009 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy document.

**THE BOARD:**

Noted this report.

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

The Executive Director updated the Board on work efforts in conjunction with the VA Department of Transportation in development of the Regional Rural Long-Range Transportation Plan. He noted that the consultants that the WPPD and VDOT staffs had been working with had indicated that they were putting together the data collected in the early fall and would be utilizing some amended data in the form of traffic forecasts and accident data to assemble a list of recommendations for improvements to be made in the Region over the next five, ten, or twenty years. The consultants wanted the PDC staff to review the information after which it would be taken to the PDC's transportation committee for their review over a six-week period. He noted that this would be a key step in the culmination of all the information into a draft planning report to be subjected to public review. He anticipated that the PDC would have a plan for consideration for approval in 2010.

**THE BOARD:**

Noted this report.

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

The Executive Director informed the Board that the Danville Metropolitan Planning Organization's Year 2030 Long-Range Transportation Plan, adopted in 2004, had been updated with approval from the Danville Metropolitan Planning Organization Board following carrying out the public participation process and holding a public hearing in Danville on November 30, 2009.

He noted that the development of the MPO's Year 2035 Long-Range Transportation Plan was continuing into 2010. The MPO was revising the planning effort in order to account for the development of the megapark just west of the Route 58 Bypass west of Danville.

He told that work was also being finalized on one of the MPO's corridor study project.

**THE BOARD:**

Noted this report.

**13. FINALIZATION OF WPPDC LEGISLATIVE PACKAGE-LETTER FOR 2010 VIRGINIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY—WPPDC/P(09)74**

The Executive Director reviewed the draft legislative package-letter for the 2010 Virginia General Assembly Session and noted the revisions that had been made. Following discussion, several additional changes were offered and Mrs. Burnette made a motion, seconded by Mr. George, to approve the letter with those changes. Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.

**THE BOARD:**

Voted unanimously to approve the WPPDC legislative package-letter for the 2010 Virginia General Assembly with revisions as included in the attached copy.

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

The Executive Director informed the Board that a Stakeholder's Meeting had been held on the Regional Water Supply Plan on October 29<sup>th</sup> at the Commission Office. The meeting had been advertised in area newspapers and letters had been sent to a large number of stakeholders that had been identified by the Water Supply Planning Committee made of representatives of the participating localities of Danville and Martinsville and Henry, Patrick, and Pittsylvania Counties.

**THE BOARD:**

Noted this report.

**15. HIGHLIGHTS OF COMMISSION AND STAFF ACTIVITIES; OTHER BUSINESS AND REPORT**

The Executive Director noted that he had been working with the Pittsylvania County Assistant Administrator/Planning Director on development of a Transportation Chapter for their comprehensive plan update.

He noted that staff had been assisting the Virginia Department of Outdoor Recreation and Conservation in finalizing the state trails inventory. He noted that, like the PDC staff, the Department was using GIS software and systems therefore the PDC staff could assist in the effort of mutual benefit to the state and PDC.

He noted that staff had continued to work with Martinsville and Henry County on their new pilot transit system. A group from the city, county, and PDC had traveled to Danville to meet with Marc Adelman, Director of the Danville Transit System, to tour the City's transit facilities as well as get input on transit planning.

Staff had also been working on finalizing draft sections of the Patrick County Comprehensive Plan Update.

During discussion, Mr. George inquired about the followup to the PDC's response to Cy Stober of Piedmont Triad Council of Governments concerning the decline of participation with the COG's 205j study regarding setting up a central database for the Dan River areas in Virginia and North Carolina in respect to water quality issues. The Executive Director advised that he had received an email from a state agency in North Carolina indicating that the Piedmont Triad had been shortlisted for receipt of 205j funds from the State of North Carolina to carry out the project. He noted that he had the day following the last Board meeting sent notification that the PDC was declining participation in the project and thus the application for 205j funds.

**THE BOARD:**

Noted this report.

**16. RESOLUTIONS/CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION**

The Board unanimously adopted Resolutions and Certificates of Appreciation for outstanding service to the Planning District Commission and their localities to Paula Burnette, an elected representative from Henry County, and Marshall Blair, a citizen representative from Franklin County. Mrs. Burnette had served on the Board since 1994 and Mr. Blair had served since 1999.

**17. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

Robert W. Dowd, AICP  
Executive Director