

**WEST PIEDMONT PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION
MINUTES
of the
June 28, 2007, Meeting**

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

PRESENT

HENRY COUNTY

Jim Adams
Charlie Redd

FRANKLIN COUNTY

Leland Mitchell

ROCKY MOUNT

Roger Seale

MARTINSVILLE

Kimble Reynolds, Jr., Vice-Chairman
Kathy Lawson

PATRICK COUNTY

Danny Foley
David Young

DANVILLE

Harry Kolendrianos, Chairman
Stokes Daniels
Sherman Saunders

PITTSYLVANIA COUNTY

William Pritchett
James Astin, Treasurer

ABSENT

Steve Angle, Rocky Mount
Frank B. Fuller, Jr., Martinsville
Ralph Casey, Rocky Mount
Russ Johnson, Franklin County
Paula Burnette, Henry County
Jerry Adams, Patrick County
Henry Davis, Pittsylvania County
Marshall Blair, Franklin County

STAFF

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

GUESTS

John Morris, Support to Eliminate Poverty
Ed Stone, Support to Eliminate Poverty

1. **Call to Order**

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

2. **Confirmation of Minutes of the May 31, 2007, Meeting—WPPDC/M(07)5**

Mr. Adams made a motion, seconded by Mr. Young, to approve the minutes of the May 31, 2007, meeting. Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.

THE BOARD:

Voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the May 31, 2007, meeting.

3. **Treasurer's Reports: April 30, 2007—WPPDC/P(07)30 and May 31, 2007—WPPDC/P(07)40**

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

THE BOARD:

Voted unanimously to approve the April 30, 2007, and May 31, 2007, Treasurer's Reports as presented.

4. **Register of Administrative Reviews Under the Virginia Intergovernmental Review Process—June 2007—WPPDC/P(07)45**

THE BOARD:

Noted this informational report.

5. **Intergovernmental Review: Town of Gretna—U.S. EPA State and Tribal Grant (STAG) Program Application: Gretna Waterworks Improvements Project—WPPDC/P(07)42**

The Town of Gretna was applying to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for \$346,900 in State and Tribal Grant (STAG) funds for a grant for waterworks improvements to be combined with \$133,068 in Tobacco Commission funds and \$150,762 in revolving loan funds; the total project cost estimate was \$630,730. The project entailed replacing the old 6-inch water main with a new 10-inch water main from the Town water plant over to the Town's principal distribution network for a distance of 2,100 linear feet; this would allow reduction in pump head requirements by approximately 35 feet and increases the pump output to meet or exceed the 300 gpm design treatment plant rate. It would be easier to implement and have minimal, if any, environmental impact; it also would reduce energy costs of pumping and safety risks associated with the existing main. The cost would be \$196,668.

The Town was also pursuing solutions to water system pressure problems. The VA Department of Health had reduced the permitted effective storage of three ground storage tanks to 0.156 million gallons which then reduced the usable storage volume and limits the Town's ability to manage disruptions in water production or provide adequate fire protection, while still protecting the finished water supply. The Town and County Service Authority had worked out an agreement to use the Service Authority's hydro-pneumatic booster station on the tank property to increase water pressure to the 16 Town customers near the tanks; this would allow the water works to utilize the majority of tank volume for effective storage and subsequently be permitted for the 0.432 MGD design production capacity, which would then improve system reliability. To do this, approximately 2,220 linear feet of new 4-inch water distribution main would be installed to serve the 16 high elevation customers from the new hydro-pneumatic station. The line would be installed along existing roads to avoid any environmental impact and was the most cost effective way to solve the Gretna tank effective storage problem. The cost of the improvements would be \$157,300.

The water treatment plant did not, at the time of the application, have any standby power source or ability to continue water production during power outages. The Town would install an emergency power generator at the plant; it would have non-significant environmental site impact; the cost would be \$69,000.

The VA Department of Health's inspections and later, a consultant's study, provided the Town with a list of deficiencies that needed to be corrected in the water plant's filtering system using the loan funds; this listing was included in the Board paper. Due to the importance of these projects and need to protect the public health, EPA had appropriated \$346,900 in State and Tribal Assistance Grants (STAG) to assist the Town. The Town was completing the application to finalize this grant. This grant required the Town to provide a certain percentage of local funding match, such that 55% of a project may be funded by STAG and 45% with local funding match. The Town intended to finance their local share with a Drinking Water Sate Revolving Loan and grant from the Tobacco Indemnification and Community Revitalization Commission.

During the Intergovernmental Review Process, no adverse comments had been received.

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

THE BOARD:

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

6. Intergovernmental Review: Support to Eliminate Poverty (STEP) – Patrick County Operations Center Project—USDA Rural Development Agency – Community Facilities Loans and Grants—WPPDC/P(07)43

Support to Eliminate Poverty, Incorporated (STEP) had requested the Commission's review and comment for the planned construction of a new office complex to be located in Stuart to house its local area operations. The total expected expenditure for the project was \$1,123,000 --\$1,108,000 in USDA Rural Development funds through the Community Facilities Loans and Grants Program and \$15,000 in applicant's funds. The new 7,200 SF facility would be a one-floor, totally accessible building, with adequate space to fulfill current and future staffing needs. The present building's physical limitations would be sufficiently reduced and construction would be of the highest quality utilizing the most modern, energy efficient, state of the art equipment. The initial concept was to construct a steel shell building with the exterior wrapped in brick or other masonry. The building site would be acquired as a 9-acre tract of land just east of the Patrick County Memorial Hospital near US Route 58. The agencies STEP and Piedmont Community Services Board were working together to purchase the tract of land for use of their respective facilities. Each organization would construct its operations center, sharing development costs for water and sewer services, parking lots and property entrance, and other agreed upon elements of development and ongoing maintenance.

During the Intergovernmental Review Process, no adverse comments had been received. Mr. John Morris and Mr. Ed Stone of STEP were present to respond to questions concerning the proposed project.

Mr. Saunders made a motion, seconded by Mr. Young, to make a favorable comment on the project. Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.

THE BOARD:

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

7. Virginia Department of Housing & Community Development—Southern Rivers Watershed Enhancement Program—WPPDC/P(07)34

The Board was advised that the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development had taken over a program to improve water quality in the non-Chesapeake Bay watersheds of Virginia which would address construction, expansion or enhancement of publicly-owned wastewater treatment systems to provide measurable community development benefits. The program was appropriated \$17 million. The program's funds would be divided into three areas of allocation: Planning Grants; Managed On-Site Construction Grants; and Wastewater Treatment System Construction Grants. The program goal was to improve water quality in the streams and groundwaters of the 'southern rivers' regions of Virginia while directly enhancing the quality of life of communities and their residents through installation and expansion of sewage treatment and collection systems. Planning District areas most affected [which include 'southern rivers'] were Lenowisco PDC, Cumberland Plateau PDC, Mount Rogers PDC, West Piedmont PDC, Roanoke Valley-Alleghany RC, Region 2000 RC, Commonwealth RC, Southside PDC, and Crater PDC.

The *Planning Grants* would get \$1 million and localities could request funds on an open, rolling basis through April 1, 2008, or until funds are exhausted, with a \$20,000 per project limit and \$50,000 cap per County or City. The *Managed On-Site Construction Grants* program were allocated \$2 million and localities could request funds on an open, rolling basis through April 1, 2008, or until funds are fully allocated, with up to \$500,000 per project limit and a \$500,000 cap per County or City. The *Wastewater Treatment System Construction Grants* program was allocated \$14 million and localities could request funds on a competitive basis through three rounds of funding. Round 1 would close on July 10, 2007, with \$7,000,000 available. Round 2 would close on December 15, 2007, with \$7,000,000 available. Round 3 would close on April 1, 2008 and applications would receive whatever balances of funds were left unexpended from prior Rounds. Up to \$1,000,000 per project would be available, with not more than \$1,000,000 available per County or City through Rounds 1 and 2. The award cap would not apply for Round 3 providing satisfactory progress on previously awarded grants could be demonstrated.

THE BOARD:

Noted this informational report.

8. Discussion Concerning Nomination: Virginia Roanoke River Basin Advisory Committee

The Executive Director advised that Mr. George Stovall's term as the PDC's citizen representative on the Virginia Roanoke River Basin Advisory Committee expired on June 30, 2007, and that the PDC had been requested to provide a candidate for appointment for approval by a consensus of the legislative members of the

Advisory Committee. It was noted in the request from the staff of the VA Department of Environmental Quality that, in order for a citizen member to be reappointed, the member must attend at least 50% of the meetings during their current term of service.

THE BOARD:

Instructed the Executive Director to obtain additional information concerning the appointment including the frequency, location, and length of meetings and whether travel/mileage reimbursement was provided and to then consider nomination of a candidate at an upcoming meeting.

9. Update on Application to the VA Department of Environmental Quality for Phase II Development of Regional Water Supply Plan

The Executive Director advised that the staff had submitted a grant application, along with resolutions from the Region's participating cities, counties, and towns, for funding for Phase II development of the Regional Water Supply Plan. He noted that Phase I work was being completed in conjunction with a project management team made up of local government representatives and Draper Aden, the consulting firm which the PDC has contracted with for this first phase.

THE BOARD:

Noted this report.

10. Updates and Reports on Regional Projects/Activities Related to:

a) US Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration

It was noted that the CEDS document had been sent to the Philadelphia Regional Office.

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

The Executive Director informed the Board that staff had continued to work with VHB Incorporated of Richmond, a transportation consulting firm currently working to finish the Access Management Guidebook project for Franklin County being funded by VDOT. The staff had asked for some additional field work to be done and also for an extension of the contract between West Piedmont and VDOT.

He also noted that the PDC anticipated following up on the Section 527 Traffic Impact Analysis and Review Program being put in place by VDOT this year in the Salem Construction District and then next year in the Lynchburg Construction District. He had recently attended a workshop on this program at which training had been requested in respect to comprehensive plan preparations to meet the 527 requirements.

It was also reported that staff was working on finalizing a Phase I year report for the Rural Long-Range Transportation Plan for submission to VDOT.

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

The Executive Director briefed the Board on a series of public meetings with Hayes Seay Mattern & Mattern this month for public outreach to obtain input and gauge public response for the access management studies on Route 58 West and on Memorial Drive-West Main Street in Danville. The work done to date looked impressive and appeared to please the Danville City staff. The public outreach meetings had been very well attended.

It was also reported that staff had held a kick-off meeting with the URS Corporation on the Iris Lane Corridor Study and the Route 730 to Route 29 Connector Corridor Study in conjunction with the Danville MPO.

Staff had advertised for Statements of Qualifications for firms to conduct a study of U.S. Route 29 North of Danville, the segment that lies between Route 726 and Dry Fork Road, which is Route 718 at the northern border of the Danville MPO Study Area. SOQs and proposals had been received from four firms.

THE BOARD:

Noted these reports.

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

The Executive Director advised the Board that the staff had been working on the Rural Long-Range Transportation Plan over the past quarter to get it ready for year-end submission to VDOT. In addition, a significant amount of time had been devoted on SAFETEA-LU compliance matters in conjunction with VDOT. Work had continued on comprehensive planning.

The Executive Director noted that the Commission had received a tax bill, followed by a delinquent billing, for taxes on the 1100 Madison Street property from the Martinsville Commissioner of Revenue. He noted that the Commission Attorney, Mr. John Swezey, had continued to work to clarify with that office that the Commission has tax-exempt status, providing the necessary documentation. Mr. Reynolds noted that he would check with the Commissioner of Revenue on this matter to make sure it has been taken care of or to see if additional paperwork is required on the part of the Commission.

THE BOARD:

Noted these reports.

12. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Robert W. Dowd, AICP
Executive Director

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