

# WEST PIEDMONT PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION MINUTES

of the  
March 27, 2008, Meeting

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

## PRESENT

### HENRY COUNTY

Jim Adams

### PATRICK COUNTY

Jerry Adams  
Karl Weiss  
Ron Knight

### PITTSYLVANIA COUNTY

James Astin, Treasurer  
William Pritchett

### MARTINSVILLE

Kimble Reynolds, Vice-Chairman  
Kathy Lawson

### ROCKY MOUNT

Roger Seale  
Ralph Casey  
Jerry Greer

### DANVILLE

Harry Kolendrianos, Chairman  
Stokes Daniels  
Sherman Saunders

### FRANKLIN COUNTY

Marshall Blair

## ABSENT

Charlie Redd, Henry County  
Paula Burnette, Henry County  
Henry Davis, Pittsylvania County  
Leland Mitchell, Franklin County  
Bobby Thompson, Franklin County

## STAFF

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

1. **Call to Order**

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

2. **Confirmation of Minutes of the February 28, 2008, Meeting—WPPDC/M(08)2**

Mr. Astin made a motion, seconded by Mr. Thompson, to approve the minutes of the February 28, 2008, meeting. Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.

**THE BOARD:**

Voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the February 28, 2008, meeting.

3. **Points Arising from Previous Meetings**

The Executive Director informed the Board that the Regional CDBG Priorities had been submitted to the VA Department of Housing and Community Development following the Board's approval which included the addition of the Ferrum School Renovation Project in Franklin County.

**THE BOARD:**

Noted this report.

4. **Treasurer's Report: January 31, 2008—WPPDC/P(08)11**

Following the report by Treasurer Astin, Mr. Blair made a motion, seconded by Mr. Casey, to approve the Treasurer's Reports as presented. Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.

**THE BOARD:**

Voted unanimously to approve the January 31, 2008, Treasurer's Report as presented.

5. **Register of Administrative Reviews Under the Virginia Intergovernmental Review Process—March 2008—WPPDC/P(08)15**

**THE BOARD:**

Noted this informational report.

6. **Intergovernmental Review:**

Applicant: Erath Veneer Corporation of Virginia – Rocky Mount, VA

Project: USDA Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Program—Application for Funds/Purchase of Renewable Energy Biomass Boiler System—Proposal/Feasibility Study for Earth Veneer Corporation of Virginia--WPPDC/P(08)14

Description: \$187,500 bank loan and \$11,000 cash combined with \$65,500 in USDA grant funds for a total project cost of \$264,000)

Grant and loan funds will enable the company to finance the purchase of equipment to employ renewable energy in the form of burning biomass and improve efficiency of operations and thus reduce costs and improve competitiveness in line with the objectives of the USDA program under which the application was made.

Comments: No adverse comments received during review process.

Action: Motion by Mr. Seale, seconded by Mr. Greer, to make a favorable recommendation on the project. Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.

7. **Intergovernmental Review:**

**Danville Metropolitan Planning Organization Notification of Intent to Apply for Federal Transit Administration Section 5303 Planning and Technical Assistance Funds--FY 2009—WPPDC/P(08)12**

The Executive Director, who serves as the Danville Metropolitan Planning Organization's Administrator, advised that he would be filing a Notification of Intent to apply for Section 5303 Planning and Technical Assistance funds from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). The FTA funds to be sought with approval of the Danville MPO and the City of Danville would be in the amount of \$66,524 with matching funds of \$8,316 from the Commonwealth of Virginia's Department of Rail and Public Transportation and \$8,315 from the City of Danville on its approval. The following efforts will be undertaken by the parties to the work program:

a. **Danville MPO Administration/Planning**

Provide transit planning administrative assistance to the DTS to meet FTA Section 5307 requirements for preparing and submitting grant applications; maintaining and implementing a Public and a Private Sector Participation Process; and DTS's conduct of short- and long-range transit planning activities; develop the Transportation Improvement Program transit sections and the annual Unified Work Program transit planning elements and insure project selection and public participation procedures are maintained and implemented. The MPO and WPPDC staff would employ \$12,040 in the grant funds and match to carry out its responsibilities.

b. City of Danville/Danville Transit System Planning (Pass-Through Grant Supported):

Danville Transit System (DTS) would conduct transit planning and assist on certain administration efforts necessary to comply with FTA requirements in order to receive Section 5307 program capital and operating grants. These requirements include maintaining Civil Rights (Title VI), DBE and EEO requirements, performance monitoring, ADA planning and preparing all necessary reports. DTS would coordinate with the MPO on transit planning activities, including maintaining the Public Participation Plan and updating the financial information, if required. Funds were expected to be used to support, in part, a Transit Manager to assist in the preceding efforts. Remaining grant assistance would be used to carry out the following task elements: a) Program Support and Administration; b) Short-Range Transportation Planning; c) Drug/Alcohol Planning and Customer Service Training. The Danville Transit System staff would employ \$71,115 of the grant funds and matches to carry out its activities using a pass-through from the MPO and PDC staff. The Danville Transit System's funds would come from an anticipated award of Section 5303 grant funds to the MPO, a portion of which would then be awarded to Danville Transit System in the form of a pass-through grant from the Danville MPO. Funds that would be made available to the DTS total \$71,115; Danville MPO would use the remaining \$12,040 in funds.

The Executive Director noted that the City of Danville (Pittsylvania County) MPO was utilizing Section 5303 funds in the current fiscal year. He also noted that the City of Danville and the Danville MPO anticipated the funding request and it was being included in the upcoming Unified Work Program for FY 2009. In addition to Commission review and consideration of the application notice of intent, the MPO Administrator was also requesting Board consideration of approval of a resolution authorizing the MPO Administrator/WPPDC Executive Director to apply for funds and to contract with the City of Danville for the pass-through funds from the FTA Section 5303 planning grant, anticipating the City's desire for these funds and the MPO's own approval of the pass-through action.

At its earlier session, the Executive Committee voted unanimously to recommend that the Board adopt the resolution (copy attached).

Mr. Saunders made a motion, seconded by Mr. Daniels, to accept the Executive Committee's recommendation. Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.

**THE BOARD:**

Voted unanimously to adopt the resolution (copy attached) as presented authorizing the MPO Administrator/WPPDC Executive Director to apply for funds and to contract with the City of Danville for the pass-through funds from the FTA Section 5303 planning grant, anticipating the City's desire for these funds and the MPO's own approval of the pass-through action.

**8. Review of Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Performance Measures in Conjunction with U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration—WPPDC/P(08)13**

The Deputy Director informed the Board that the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration, guidelines require that each Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy document include an evaluation tool for the implementation/action plan. A copy of the "Program Evaluation for July 1, 2007 – June 30, 2008" and "Implementation Plan for July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009" components to be included in the 2007 CEDS to meet the above-referenced requirement had been included in the Board package. Basically, the staff had developed a table, which presented an overview of the tasks and accomplishments for the period from July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008, to carry out a list of stated objectives relative to the CEDS document. In addition, the table set forth an implementation plan for the upcoming year listing the CEDS objectives and specific tasks for the Economic Development District. It was noted that this information would be sent to the Philadelphia Regional Office of EDA as well as the Virginia EDA Economic Development Representative Megan Coll with the 2008 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy being developed with input from a Project Management Team. It was noted that the CEDS document presentation and review would be at the May meeting.

At its earlier session, the Executive Committee voted unanimously to recommend that the Board approve the "Program Evaluation for July 1, 2007 – June 30, 2008" and "Implementation Plan for July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009" for submission to EDA with the 2008 CEDS document.

Mr. Daniels made a motion, seconded by Mr. Astin, to accept the Executive Committee's recommendation. Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.

**THE BOARD:**

Voted unanimously to approve the "Program Evaluation for July 1, 2007 – June 30, 2008" and "Implementation Plan for July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009" for submission to EDA with the 2008 CEDS document.

9. **Update on the Development of Phase II for the Regional Water Supply Plan in Cooperation with the VA Department of Environmental Quality**

The Executive Director reported that work was progressing on Phase II; however, it was noted that DEQ grant funding would not be available for Phase III as anticipated, leaving the localities to provide the entire amount needed to complete the project.

**THE BOARD:**

Noted this report.

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

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

The Executive Director advised that work was continuing on the development of the annual update to the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy document. The staff plans to distribute copies for review at the April meeting, for consideration of approval at the May meeting.

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

The Executive Director informed the Commission that Mr. Rob Hofrichter of the Richmond VDOT Office would be making a presentation at the March 28<sup>th</sup> PDC-VDOT sponsored workshop for local planners and the PDC's Rural Long-Range Transportation Planning Committee/Technical Advisory Committee concerning access management regulations and the new Secondary Streets Acceptance Program.

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

The Executive Director reported on the following projects:

- Route 29 Blairs Access Management Study (started work; held a public meeting March 24 and a stakeholders meeting)
- Route 29 Tightsqueeze Access Management Study (working with VDOT on scope and cost proposal, which is still at issue)
- West Main Street-Memorial Drive Access Management Study (held public meeting in Danville)
- Route 58 West Access Management Study (held public meeting in Danville)
- Iris Lane Parkway Corridor Study (held public meeting on March 26 at Bonner Middle School)
- Route 730-Route 29 Connector Corridor Study (held public meeting on March 27 at Danville Airport)
- Constrained Long-Range Transportation Plan (have placed advertisements in newspapers for consultant firms qualifications statements for our subcommittee to review)

**THE BOARD:**

Noted these reports.

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

The Executive Director updated the Board on several projects that the staff was working on including a Franklin County-Rocky Mount Street Map which the staff had developed in conjunction with the Franklin County staff. Board members discussed the map and several of its features. Mr. Casey noted that he uses maps in his work from a number of localities and that the maps produced by the WPPD staff were the best he has used.

The Executive Director also stated that the VA Department of Environmental Quality had asked for a review of the Environmental Impact Report on VDOT's Carlisle facility equipment storage building and that, since the Board had already reviewed VDOT's environmental report, he planned to indicate the WPPDC's endorsement of the DEQ report since it cited no significant problems.

**THE BOARD:**

Noted this report.

12. **Update on General Assembly**

The Executive Director provided the Board with an article concerning transportation issues.

**THE BOARD:**

Noted this report.

13. **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

Robert W. Dowd, AICP  
Executive Director