

CHARTER AGREEMENT

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Amended March 15, 1973

CHARTER AGREEMENT OF THE
WEST PIEDMONT PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION

This Charter Agreement to organize a Planning District Commission made this 15th day of March, 1970, by and between the undersigned governmental subdivisions as authorized by the Virginia Area Development Act (Title 15.1, Chapter 34, Sections 15.1-1400, et. seq., Code of Virginia (1950), as amended):

NOW THEREFORE it is agreed that:

ARTICLE I

Name, Location, Authority, Purpose

- Section 1. The name of this organization shall be the West Piedmont Planning District Commission, hereinafter called the "COMMISSION."
- Section 2. The principal office of the COMMISSION shall be in Martinsville, Virginia. The location of the principal office may be changed by the concurrence of two-thirds of the COMMISSION members present at a regular meeting, provided that the clerk of the governing body of each member governmental subdivision has been notified of the contemplated relocation in writing at least thirty days before such meeting.
- Section 3. The COMMISSION shall be a public body corporate and politic with all the powers and duties granted to it by the Virginia Area Development Act.
- Section 4. The purpose of the COMMISSION shall be to promote the orderly and efficient development of the physical, social, and economic elements of the Planning District by planning, and encouraging and assisting governmental subdivisions to plan for the future.

ARTICLE II

Membership

- Section 1. COMMISSION members shall be appointed by the respective governing bodies of those political subdivisions which are parties to this Charter Agreement provided, however, that at least a majority, but not substantially more than a majority, of the COMMISSION's members shall be elected officials of the

governing bodies of the governmental subdivisions within the Planning District with each participating county, city, and town of more than 3,500 population having at least one representative, and the other members being qualified voters and residents of the District, who hold no office elected by the people.

Section 2. Governmental subdivisions which are parties to this Charter Agreement shall appoint three members to the COMMISSION on the following basis: from each jurisdiction, two members of the governing body, and one non-elected resident qualified voter.

Section 3. Vacancies on the COMMISSION shall be filled for the unexpired term in the same manner as the original appointment was made.

Section 4. Any member of the COMMISSION shall be eligible for reappointment but may be removed for cause by the governing body which appointed him.

ARTICLE III

Terms of Office and Voting Rights

Section 1. The terms of office of COMMISSION members who are also members of governing bodies shall be coincident with their elected terms of office or such shorter term as their governing bodies shall determine. The terms of office of the citizen members shall be three years. However, in the absence of action by a governing body to designate a replacement for a serving citizen member, he shall continue in office until such designation shall have been made.

Section 2. Each member of the COMMISSION shall have one equal vote in all matters before the COMMISSION. However, on any vote before the Board, a member may request a population-weighted vote. In such a case, each jurisdiction is allocated one vote per 5,000 in population, or major fraction thereof, the votes to be cast by the member designated for that purpose by the jurisdiction. When voting by this procedure, a two-thirds majority is necessary to carry the issue.

ARTICLE IV

Officers

- Section 1. Officers of the COMMISSION shall consist of a Chairman and Vice-Chairman who shall be elected by the membership of the COMMISSION. The COMMISSION, if it desires, may elect other officers such as a secretary-treasurer.
- Section 2. The Chairman and Vice-Chairman shall be elected for terms of one year or until their successors are elected.
- Section 3. COMMISSION officers shall be eligible for the re-election.
- Section 4. The COMMISSION shall appoint an Executive Director who shall be an employee of the COMMISSION and shall serve at the pleasure of a majority of the membership.
- Section 5. The COMMISSION may designate its Executive Director as the organization's secretary-treasurer.

ARTICLE V

Planning District Commission - Regional Planning Commission Merger

- Section 1. Upon the ratification of this Charter Agreement of Counties of Franklin and Pittsylvania, formerly members of the Reservoir Regional Planning Commission but now within the West Piedmont Planning District shall merge with the West Piedmont Planning District Commission. Their proportionate share of all assets shall be transferred to the West Piedmont Planning District Commission and shall be reserved for use on projects initiated by the Reservoir Regional Planning Commission.

ARTICLE VI

Addition or Withdrawal of Members

- Section 1. Any governmental subdivision within the West Piedmont Planning District which is not a party to this Charter Agreement at the effective date thereof may thereafter join the COMMISSION provided that such governmental subdivision is eligible for membership and that it adopts and executes this Agreement.

Section 2. Any governmental subdivision may withdraw from the COMMISSION by submitting to the COMMISSION in writing, at least ninety days before the end of the COMMISSION's then current fiscal year, a notice of intent to withdraw. Such withdrawal shall not become effective until the COMMISSION's fiscal year has ended.

ARTICLE VII

Appointment of an Executive Committee and Adoption of By-Laws

Section 1. The COMMISSION may designate an Executive Committee and delegate to it such powers as the COMMISSION may determine, provided that these powers are not inconsistent with provisions of the Virginia Area Development Act.

ARTICLE VIII

Meetings

Section 1. The COMMISSION shall hold regular meetings on a schedule which will be determined by the membership.

Section 2. Meetings of the COMMISSION shall be open to the public; however, the COMMISSION may hold executive meetings.

ARTICLE IX

Amendments

Section 1. This Charter Agreement may be amended, supplemented, or superseded only by concurring resolutions from a majority of the member governmental subdivisions. All proposed amendments shall be submitted to the COMMISSION for its review and comment to the member governmental subdivisions.

ARTICLE X

Date of Organization

Section 1. The organization of the West Piedmont Planning District Commission shall be effective on the 31st day of March, 1970, or at such time after this date when the Charter Agreement has been adopted and signed by that governmental subdivision whose population when added to the aggregate population of those who have already adopted and signed the Charter Agreement embraces the majority of the population within the West Piedmont Planning District.