

Local Government Council Meeting Region 2000 Partnership's Large Conference Room 828 Main Street, 12th Floor Lynchburg, VA

October 16, 2014 ~ 5:00 p.m.

Agenda

1.	Welcome and moment of silence
2.	Minutes of September 18, 2014 Meeting Mike Mattox, Chair
3.	Finance report
4.	Selection of Vice Chair of the LGCMike Mattox, Chair
5.	Discussion of 2015 LGC Legislative AgendaMike Mattox, Chair
6.	Discussion on General Assembly members to serve on the Local Government Council
7.	EDA Planning Grant and the Region 2000 Economic Indicator Dashboard Scott Smith, Senior Planner, LGC
8.	Report from Region 2000 Business & Economic Development Alliance
9.	Items from Staff
10	. Items from Council
11	. Closed session to consider personnel, promotions and salary matters of the Local Government Council and Services Authority and Briefing on probable litigation
12	. Adjourn
13	Next Meeting: November 20, 2014, 5:00 p.m. Large Conference Room, 828 Main Street, Lynchburg, Virginia

Virginia's Region 2000 Local Government Council Meeting October 16, 2014

Agenda Summary

1. Welcome and moment of silence

2. Minutes of September 18, 2014 Meeting:

(See Attachment 2)

Recommended Action: Approve minutes as presented subject to revisions noted by members of Council. Note that we missed the makers of the motions to go into and out of the closed session and will need to fill in those blanks.

3. Finance report:

(See Attachment 3)

Deputy Director of Finance, Rosalie Majerus, will present the year-to-date financial report through September 30, 2014.

At this time of year we discuss whether to ask for an adjustment for dues for the upcoming budget season. It is staff's recommendation that LGC dues remain at the same per capita rate for FY 16, \$0.575. There may be some slight adjustments to the actual amount that a city/county pays based on any change in population estimates.

Recommended Action: For Council's information, review and discussion. Request a motion to maintain dues at \$0.575 per capita for FY 16.

4. Selection of Vice Chair of the Local Government Council:

Don Kidd from Amherst County has asked that we pass this year on his service in the leadership rotation of the LGC. Gary Tanner from Appomattox County has indicated that he is willing and able to serve as Vice Chair for the balance of this year.

Recommended Action: Staff recommends approval of Gary Tanner as Vice Chair.

5. <u>Discussion of LGC Legislative Agenda</u>

For the past several years the Local Government Council submits to the General Assembly a Legislative Agenda identifying regional priorities that may relate to programs, projects, or activities of specific relevance or importance to Region 2000.

Staff presents the following list to begin a conversation on legislative priorities. The list needs to be finalized by the November meeting.

1. Local Taxing Authority

The Virginia's Region 2000 Local Government Council supports legislation that maintains local taxing authority over local revenue sources, and opposes legislation at the state or federal levels that would reduce or eliminate control over local revenue streams. Taxation issues should be addressed by the governing bodies at the level that they are assessed: federal, state or local.

2. Implementation of JLARC recommended competitive regional collaboration grants

The Local Government Council encourages the General Assembly to supply a series of state funded, competitive regional collaboration grants as outlined in the December 2012 Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee's report, "Encouraging Local collaboration Through State Incentives". These competitive regional collaboration grants would facilitate local government cooperative projects to reduce costs and improve services for both the Commonwealth and for Virginia's localities.

3. Increased state funding for Planning District Commissions

Planning District Commissions have proven to be effective and efficient methods of service delivery for the Commonwealth and localities. The Local Government Council supports an additional \$200,000 in each year of the biennium for planning district commission to support additional work on regional cooperation and support for state initiatives.

4. Substance Abuse Treatment

Restore state funding for substance abuse treatment programs. Such funding could be provided to Community Service Boards, programs such as "The Healing Place" or other pilot programs.

Recommendation Action: For Council's consideration and discussion.

6. Selection of legislators to serve on LGC

Senator Tom Garrett and Delegate Scott Garrett will have served us well on the Local Government Council between 2012 and 2014. According to our charter it is appropriate that we should examine whether to rotate membership on the LGC to other General Assembly Members:

Charter provisions:

"Each governmental subdivision which is either a city or county and a party to this charter agreement shall appoint two members to the LOCAL GOVERNMENT COUNCIL, one of whom shall be the Chief elected member of the governing body, or their elected designee. The other appointee shall be the Chief Appointed Official of each governmental subdivision, or their appointed designee.

Additionally, one member of the Local Government Council shall represent Virginia's Region 2000 as appointed by that Board and two members shall represent Virginia's General Assembly. The General Assembly members shall serve two-year alternating terms so that all General Assembly members within the region shall be members of the

Local Government Council on a rotating basis on a schedule as approved by the Local Government Council."

Current Region 2000 General Assembly Members:					
Senate of Virginia	House of Delegates				
Sen. Frank Ruff – District 15	Terry Austin – District 19				
Sen. Ralph Smith – District 19	Kathy Byron – District 22				
Sen. Tom Garrett – District 22	Scott Garrett – District 23				
Sen. Steve Newman – District 23	Ben Cline – District 24				
	Matthew Farris – District 59				
	James Edmunds – District 60				
Previous service by Gene	eral Assembly Members:				
2000 - 2010	Steve Newman				
2006 - 2010	Ben Cline				
2010 - 2012	Kathy Byron				
2010 - 2012	Frank Ruff				
2012 - 2014	Tom Garrett				
2012 - 2014	Scott Garrett				

Recommended Action: For Council's discussion and consideration.

7. EDA Planning Grant and Region 2000 Economic Indicator Dashboard:

A. Dashboard

For FY 12-13 and 13-14, the Local Government Council applied for and received a \$50,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration (EDA), to continue its work on the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). We matched the federal dollars with \$50,000 of our own, both in kind and cash. One of the primary objectives of this planning grant was to evaluate the metrics used by the CEDS and, if appropriate, develop new metrics that are better indicators of the region's economic health.

The primary product of this planning grant effort is the Region 2000 Economic Indicator Dashboard, which provides a snapshot of the region's economic health through 24 key data points, including labor force size, annual average wage, gross domestic product, STEM employment, and cost of living. The dashboard was funded by the EDA, Local Government Council, and Workforce Investment Board. It will be updated periodically by LGC staff.

The Region 2000 Economic Indicator Dashboard may be accessed at: www.region2000dashboard.org

B. New Grant

(See Attachment 7b)

Staff proposes to apply for another planning grant from the EDA to continue the refinement of our CEDS, implement the new metrics included in the dashboard, and work towards the CEDS serving as the region's strategic plan for economic development.

If awarded, the grant would provide up to \$100,000 in revenue over two fiscal years.

No additional staff would be needed for this grant. This grant is based on a 50-50 match requirement. We would meet our match (up to \$100,000) with in-kind funds from staff time and overhead indirect charges, and budgeted cash.

The following highlights the scope of work.

- Keeping the document current and legal by gathering and analyzing the statistical information to compare our region's actual demographic changes to the new metrics selected in FY 13-14 and updating the project listing as needed.
- Respond to requests for regional economic development data for regional and local economic development officials
- Work with the Business and Economic Development Alliance to establish/maintain a CEDS committee to hold at least one meeting in FY 15 to review and update the CEDS projects.
- Work with stakeholders to develop the CEDS into the regional strategic plan for economic development

Recommended Action: Adopt resolution to authorize the Executive Director to apply for up to \$100,000 in EDA planning grant funds to maintain an up-to-date Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy. The grant would be matched with an equal amount of inkind and budgeted cash funds.

8. Report from the Region 2000 Business & Economic Development Alliance:

Megan Lucas, Alliance CEO, will present to the Local Government Council an update on the joint work of the Alliance and the Lynchburg Regional Chamber as they explore collaborative regional structures (such as the regional economic development program being housed at a Chamber of Commerce).

Both the Lynchburg Chamber and the Alliance Boards of Directors have voted to continue exploring this possible operational merger.

9. Items from Staff:

a. Update on 2014 Facilitated Strategic Planning Meeting

In August Bill Leighty and Lane Ramsey met with the LGC in a retreat setting about long range planning and future priorities. Unfortunately, Mr. Leighty suffered a mild stroke in September and plans to join us at the November meeting to continue the discussion.

b. Conversation on poverty as a regional issue in Region 2000

(See Attachment 9b)

Attachment 9b is an editorial from this week's Lynchburg News and Advance on poverty as a regional issue.

10. Items from Council:

11. Next meeting:

November 20, 2013

MPO: 4:00 p.m. LGC: 5:00 p.m.

Location: 828 Main Street, 12th Floor

Lynchburg, Virginia 24504

12. Closed session to consider personnel, promotions and salary matters of the Local Government Council and Services Authority and Briefing on probable litigation:

A. Jack Hobbs (committee chair), Waverly Coggsdale and Aileen Ferguson will report on their review of the 2014 salary study.

(See Attachment 12 - Closed Session File)

B. Gary Christie will brief the Council on probable litigation.

Requested Motions –

To go into closed session:

I move that the Board go into closed session in accordance with the Virginia Code 2.2-3711(A) (1) for the discussion of personnel, promotions and salaries of employees of the Local Government Council and the Services Authority and briefing on probable litigation.

To return to open session:

I move that the Board return to open session pursuant to Section 2.2-3712.D and certify that only those business matters lawfully identified in the motion to go into closed session and exempt from the open meeting requirements of the Freedom of Information Act were heard, discussed or considered in a closed session.

13. Adjourn



Virginia's Region 2000 Local Government **Council Meeting**

The Parlor, 900 Main Street Lynchburg, Virginia September 18, 2014, 5:00 pm

Members Present:

Kenneth Bumgarner, Town of Amherst Council Waverly Coggsdale, Altavista Town Manager Aileen Ferguson, Appomattox County Administrator Joan Foster, Lynchburg City Council Stanley Goldsmith, Campbell County Board of Supervisors Stacey Hailey, Bedford Town Council Mayor Paul Harvey, Town of Appomattox Jack Hobbs, Amherst Town Manager Charles Kolakowski, Bedford Town Manager Mayor Mike Mattox, Town of Altavista, Chair L. Kimball Payne, Lynchburg City Manager Dean Rodgers, Amherst County Administrator John Sharp, Bedford County Board of Supervisors

Absent:

Mayor Phyllis Campbell, Town of Brookneal Delegate Scott Garrett, Virginia House of Delegates Sen. Tom Garrett, Senate of Virginia Bill Gillespie, Appomattox Town Manager R. David Laurrell, Campbell County Administrator Mark Reeter, Bedford County Administrator Gary Tanner, Appomattox County Board of Supervisors Russell Thurston, Brookneal Town Manager Claudia Tucker, Amherst County Board of Supervisors

Others Present:

Elizabeth Arledge, Evergreen Solutions LLC, Director, National Capital Region Emmie Boley, Local Government Council

Ed Craighill, Boxley Materials Co.

Nick Donohue, Commonwealth of Virginia, Deputy Secretary of Transportation

Philipp Gabathuler, Local Government Council, Senior Planner

Robert Garcia, VDOT

Randy Hamilton, VDOT

Gaynelle Hart, City of Lynchburg, Director of Public Works

Kelly Hitchcock, Local Government Council, Senior Planner

Christine Kennedy, Lynchburg Chamber of Commerce, Interim President

Megan Lucas, Region 2000 Alliance, CEO

Rosalie Majerus, Local Government Council, Deputy Finance Director

Barry Moore, Liberty University, VP Outreach & Strategic Partnerships

Matt Perkins, Local Government Council, Administrative Program Coordinator

Turner Perrow, Lynchburg City Council

Edie Swan, Lynchburg City, Director of Advocacy & Special Projects

Shannon Valentine, Commonwealth Transportation Board

Chris Winstead, VDOT Lynchburg District, District Administrator

Bob White, Local Government Council, Deputy Director of Core Services Rick Youngblood, VDOT

Meeting Minutes

- 1. <u>Welcome and moment of silence:</u> Mike Mattox, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m., welcomed the Council, and opened with a moment of silence.
- 2. <u>Approval of Minutes of July 17, 2014 and August 21, 2014:</u> Upon a motion by Kim Payne, seconded by Waverly Coggsdale, the meeting minutes from the April 17, 2014 and May 15, 2014 Local Government Council meetings were unanimously approved as presented.
- **3.** <u>Finance report:</u> Rosalie Majerus, Deputy Director of Finance, presented the year-to-date financial report through June 30, 2014. Rosalie noted that revenues and expenditures were tracking according to plan. Majerus also presented a proposed change in format to better present direct operating costs by separating the pass-thru expenses and revenues of the Radio Board and WIB.
- 4. Mr. Nick Donohue, Deputy Secretary of Transportation to update the Region on HB2 and regional priorities for transportation projects:

Nick Donohue addressed the Council on HB 2, which provides for the development of a prioritization process for projects funded by the Commonwealth Transportation Board, and briefed the Council on the state of transportation in the Commonwealth. He noted that the prioritization will weigh factors such as congestion mitigation, economic development, accessibility, safety, and environmental quality as well as mentioning those areas that the prioritization process will exclude. He also noted that the Department of Transportation plans to have a process adopted by the Summer of 2015. He mentioned that prioritization process does not guarantee outcomes but rather dictates the process in order that there is transparency and accountability regarding the projects that are funded; the CTB maintains policy discretion in deciding what projects are ultimately funded. He asked the Council for two things: 1) Stay engaged in the process as the Governor's plan moves forward and 2) begin a regional dialogue on project evaluation and weighting and what body will present projects to the CTB for consideration.

Shannon Valentine, likewise, addressed the Council on work of the CTB and other aspects of the prioritization process.

Nick Donohue fielded questions from the Council and those other guests present.

Chris Winstead noted VDOT Lynchburg District's public hearing on the 6 Year Improvement Plan.

5. Items from Staff:

Gary Christie mentioned to the Council that he would like them to begin consideration of the Council's legislative priorities to be sent to the General Assembly for FY15.

Christie also asked the Council for their consideration of the Fall LGC dinner meeting. The Council, by consensus, agreed to forgo the fall dinner meeting and wait until the Spring of 2015.

6.	Items	from	Coun	cil

No matters were brought before Council.

7.	Closed session to consider personnel, promotions and salary matters of the Local Government Council and Services Authority:				
	Upon a motion by to go into closed session in accordance with the Virginia Code2.2-3711(A) (1) for the discussion of personnel, promotions and salaries of employees of the Local Government Council and the Services Authority, seconded by the motion carried unanimously.				
	In closed session, the Council appointed an ad hoc committee to further review the information presented and to report back to the Council with observations and recommendations at a future meeting.				
	Upon a motion byto return to open session pursuant to Section 2.2-3712.D and certify that only those business matters lawfully identified in the motion to go into closed session and exempt from the open meeting requirements of the Freedom of Information Act were heard, discussed or considered in a closed session, seconded by, the motion carried unanimously.				
8.	Adjourn: With no further business and on consensus of the Council to adjourn, Mike Mattox adjourned the Council at 6:32 p.m.				
Sig	gned:DRAFT				
Ву	:(title)				

	<u>FY15</u> Budget	Actual Through 9/30/14	Diff Between Budget & Actual	% of Budget Used
OPERATIONS FUND (EXPENDITURES)		<u> </u>		
SALARY				
<u></u>				
ADMINISTRATION	163,039	40,166	122,873	24.64%
FINANCE	128,296	32,074	96,222	25.00%
OPERATIONS	223,345	56,279	167,066	25.20%
WIA	112,201	26.183	86,018	23.34%
		20,103	,	23.34%
Salary Study	15,000 641,881	154,702	15,000 487,179	24.10%
DADT TIME LIELD			· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
PART TIME HELP	15,000	990	14,010	6.60%
- .	050 004	4== 000	504.400	20 700
Total Salaries & Wages	656,881	155,692	501,189	23.70%
EMPLOYED COCT FICA	E0 0E4	44.007	00.04.4	00.500
EMPLOYER COST FICA EMPLOYER COST V R S	50,251	11,337	38,914	22.56%
EMPLOYER COST V R S EMPLOYER COST HEALTH INS	48,269	11,634 18,066	36,635	24.10%
EMPLOYER COST HEALTH INS	67,791 8,473	1,841	49,725 6,632	26.65% 21.73%
WORKERS COMP	600	510	90	85.00%
Total Fringe Benefits	175,384	43,388	131,996	24.74%
OFFICE EXPENSES				
AUDITING SERVICES	5,000		5,000	0.00%
PAYROLL ACCOUNTING SERVICES	8,250	1,897	6,353	22.99%
LEGAL SERVICES	3,000	1,097	3,000	0.00%
LIABILITY INSURANCE	1,200	1,017	183	84.75%
CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	22.000	1.144	20,856	5.20%
ADVERTISING	1,000	1,111	1,000	0.00%
POSTAGE	1,500	86	1,414	5.73%
TELEPHONE	4,200	979	3,221	23.31%
INTERNET SERVICES	300	84	216	28.00%
OFFICE SUPPLIES	6,000	979	5,021	16.32%
PRINTING & BINDING	7,000		7,000	0.00%
TRAVEL	7,500	1,484	6,016	19.79%
SPECIAL MEETINGS	9,500	1,466	8,034	15.43%
EDUCATION & TRAINING	6,000	1,429	4,571	23.82%
DUES, SUBSCRIPTIONS	10,800	6,825	3,975	63.19%
PUBLICATIONS	700		700	0.00%
MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES	1,000	171	829	17.10%
FURNITURE & FIXTURES	1,000		1,000	0.00%
RENTAL OFFICE EQUIPMENT	4,800	718	4,082	14.96%
OFFICE RENT	50,984	19,825	31,159	38.88%
PARKING	4,500	1,045	3,455	23.22%
COMPUTER EQUIP/SOFTWARE	10,000	536	9,464	5.36%
Total Office Expenses	166,234	39,685	126,549	23.87%
	998,499	238,765	759,734	23.91%

VIRGINIA'S REGION 2000	LOCAL GOVE	RNMENT CO	UNCIL		
Budget to Actual for FY15					
as of September 30, 2014					
	FY15 Budget	Actual Through 9/30/14	Diff Between Budget & Actual	% of Budget	
Total Operations Expenses (from Page 1)	998,499	238,765	759,734	23.91%	
Direct Project Expenses					
Agriculture Project - From Fund Balance Appomattox Enhancement Grant	50,000 150	7,507 32	42,493 118	15.01% 21.33%	
Brookneal Enhancement	1,000	32	997	0.30%	
CDBG-Appomattox Town	500	444	56	88.80%	
CDBG - Brookneal		58	1	33.5376	
CDBG - Madison Heights	500	242	258	48.40%	
CDBG - Madison Heights Planning Grant	250		250	0.00%	
DHCD	2,500	325	2,175	13.00%	
DRPT / FTA	2,500	16	2,484	0.64%	
EDA CEDS	·	10,224	,		
Regional Radio Board	2,500	275	2,225	11.00%	
Regional Library	·	4,090	,		
Regional Tourism - From Fund Balance	50,000		50,000	0.00%	
RideSolutions	22,414	6,152	16,262	27.45%	
TMDL Redevelopment	100		100	0.00%	
Town of Amherst Comp Plan	200		200	0.00%	
Town of Appomattox Comp Plan		414			
VDOT - PL	7,702	1,932	5,770	25.08%	
VDOT - Rural	2,500	193	2,307	7.72%	
WIA	198,000	30,063	167,937	15.18%	
Total Direct Project Expenses	340,816	61,970	293,632	18.18%	
TOTAL OPERATING & DIRECT PROJECT EXPENSES	\$1,339,315	\$300,735	\$1,053,366	22.45%	
Pass Thru Expenses					
Regional Radio Board	1,167,488	227,181	940,307	19.46%	
VDOT - PL	129,510	0	129,510	0.00%	
WIA	698,000	75,937	622,063	10.88%	
Total Pass Thru Expenses	\$1,994,998	\$303,118	\$1,691,880	15.19%	
Total Expenses	\$3,334,313	\$603,853	\$2,745,246	18.11%	

Budget to Actual for FY15 as of September 30, 2014				
	<u>FY15</u> <u>Budget</u>	Actual Through 9/30/14	Diff Between Budget & Actual	% of Budget
Revenues				
ODED ATIONS FUND (DEVENUE)				
OPERATIONS FUND (REVENUE)				
Dues Town of Appomattox	1,045	1,045	0	100.00%
Dues Town of Brookneal	1,045	1,045	0	100.00%
Dues Town of Amherst	1,045	1,045	0	100.00%
Dues Town of Altavista	1,045	1,045	0	100.00%
Dues Town of Bedford	1,045 44,392	1,045 44,392	0	100.00%
Dues Lynchburg Dues Bedford County	44,392	44,392	0	100.00% 100.00%
Dues Campbell County	31,642	31,642	0	100.00%
Dues Amherst County	18,706	18,706	0	100.00%
Dues Appomattox County	8,731	8,731	0	100.00%
Miscellaneous Revenue	18,000	867	17,133	4.82%
				25.5.5
Total Operations Revenue	170,286	153,153	17,133	89.94%
Direct Project Revenues				
Agriculture Grant		3,601	(3,601)	#DIV/0!
Appomattox Enhancement Grant	1,500	0,001	1,500	0.00%
Brookneal Enhancement	9,000		9,000	0.00%
CDBG- Appomattox Town	5,000	400	4,600	8.00%
CDBG-Madison Heights	12,500		12,500	0.00%
CDBG - Madison Heights Planning Grant	5,000		5,000	0.00%
DHCD	72,471	18,992	53,479	26.21%
DRPT / FTA	107,558	26,313	81,245	24.46%
EDA/CEDS	27 500	10,211	(10,211)	#DIV/0!
Regional Radio Board Region 2000 Services Authority	37,500 154,796	24,039 34,943	13,461 119,853	64.10% 22.57%
RideSolutions	44,214	13,847	30,367	31.32%
TMDL Redevelopment	3,000	10,017	3,000	0.00%
Town of Amherst Comp Plan	2,750		2,750	0.00%
Town of Appomattox Comp Plan	25,000		25,000	0.00%
VDOT-PL	121,072	36,593	84,479	30.22%
VDOT-Rural	58,000	9,664	48,336	16.66%
Virginia's Region 2000	7,200	1,500	5,700	20.83%
WIA	402,000	79,406	322,594	19.75%
Total Direct Project Revenues	1,068,561	259,509	809,052	24.29%
Interest	900	108	792	12.00%
Interest	900	100	192	12.00 /
TOTAL OPERATIONS & DIRECT PROJECT REVENUES	4 220 747	442.770	020 077	33.29%
INC. TENOLO	1,239,747	412,770	826,977	33.29%
Surplus/(Use of Fund) Balance	(99,568)	112,035	(226,389)	
Funding from Fund Balance for Tourism	50,000		50,000	0.00%
Funding from Fund Balance for Agriculture Grant	50,000		50,000	0.00%
	\$432	\$112,035	(\$126,389)	
Pass Thru Revenue	_			
Regional Radio Board	1,167,488	927,514	239,974	79.45%
VDOT - PL	129,510	0	129,510	0.00%
WIA	698,000	79,632	618,368	11.41%
Total Pass Thru Revenues	\$1,994,998	\$1,007,146	\$987,852	50.48%
Total Revenue	3,334,745	1,419,916	1,914,829	
Net Surplus/(Use of Fund) Balance	432	816,063		

VIRGINIA'S REGION 2000 LOCAL GOVERNMENT COUNCIL

LOCAL GOVERNMENT COUN				Attachment 3	
Budget to Actual for FY15 as of September 30, 2014					
as of September 30, 2014	<u>, </u>				
CASH ON HAND					
Sun Trust Checking	+				
LGC Funds		346,027			
WIA Trainit Funds		4,805			
Local Govt Invest Pool		470,945			
Petty Cash		176			
Cash on Hand	\$	821,953			
	_				
CALCULATION OF ESTIMATED YEAR-END FUND BA	LAN	CE			
		<u> </u>			
Cash on Hand	\$	821,953			
Less Expenditures Remaining (and Current Liabilities)	\$	(1,130,660)			
Plus Revenues Remaining (and Current Assets)	\$	1,141,956			
Estimated Year-end Fund Balance	\$	922 240			
Estillated Teal-elia Fulla Balance	-	833,249			
1,000,000 800,000 600,000 400,000			75 ^{865,736 90}	02,952 ^{933,423} 833,24	9
200,000 -	60 Eal Year	FY10 FY11	FY12	FY13 FY14 FY15 Estimate	¬ —



RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING APPLICATION FOR U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION PLANNING GRANT FUNDS FOR FY 14-15 AND FY 15-16

WHEREAS, the staff of the Virginia's Region 2000 Local Government Council has prepared an application for a grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration (EDA) Planning Program and Local Technical Assistance Program; and

WHEREAS, the activities to be funded by this grant have been reviewed and recommended for approval by the Virginia's Region 2000 Local Government Council; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia's Region 2000 Local Government Council wishes to apply for up to \$100,000 in matching funds from the EDA.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Virginia's Region 2000 Local Government Council does hereby approve the application for Planning Program and Local Technical Assistance Program funds and does authorize it to be submitted to the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration.

Upon a motion by Member	duly seconded by Member			
	adopted this 16th day of October 2014 by the Virginia's			
Region 2000 Local Government Council.				
ATTESTED BY:	CERTIFIED BY:			
Gary F. Christie, Secretary Region 2000 Local Government Council	Mike Mattox, Chair Region 2000 Local Government Council			

Poverty is a Challenge for Entire Region

By THE EDITORIAL BOARD | Posted: Tuesday, October 7, 2014 6:00 am

It's a number that hits you right in the belly: Nearly a quarter of the population of Lynchburg lives in poverty.

In Virginia, 11.1 percent of the state's 8.3 million residents live below the poverty line, according to the 2010 U.S. Census. In Lynchburg, 24.3 percent of the city's 78,000 residents do. In Virginia, the median household income was \$63,636; in Lynchburg, it was only \$37,774.

So just what do these figures mean?

That the City of Lynchburg isn't a business friendly city? That taxes on job-creating businesses, large and small, are too high and should be cut? That regulations and zoning should be scaled back to allow easier, less encumbered business growth?

Perhaps, but instead of one side or the other scoring political points from Lynchburg's distressingly high poverty numbers, we need to realize that's not the entire picture.

For that, we need to take a look at the U.S. Census data for the entirety of Central Virginia, the bedroom counties of Bedford, Campbell, Amherst, Appomattox and Nelson. And when we do, we see that poverty is a much more complicated issue and is much more of a regional challenge to all of Central Virginia.

In Amherst, the poverty rate is 11.7 percent, much closer to the state average of 11.1 percent. In Bedford, it's only 8.8 percent. Campbell comes in at 13.6 percent, Nelson at 11. 5 percent and Appomattox at 16.4 percent. In all of the counties, the median household income, while below the state average, still is substantially higher than in Lynchburg.

The answer to the question of why a quarter of Lynchburg's residents live at or below the poverty line really is quite simple: Because a city, with its concentration of services and other amenities, is the most logical place for the poor to live.

Think about it.

Public transit enables a person to get to a job, the grocery store, the doctor's office. Depending on where a person lives, walking is even an option, eliminating the expense of maintaining a car. Social services such as the Free Clinic of Central Virginia or the Johnson Health Center are easily accessible. Private aid organizations such as Daily Bread or the Salvation Army are also centrally located and easy for their patrons to get to. Affordable, safe housing is also more easily found in a city, especially Section 8, subsidized units.

Poverty, therefore, is a regional problem, albeit a regional problem for which Lynchburg taxpayers are footing the bill, while the counties are largely off the hook. But the solution to poverty in Central Virginia also can be a regional one, too.

Regional reform of local tax structures. Expansion of public transit further into the surrounding counties to open up employment opportunities. Regional recruitment of new businesses or fostering the growth of businesses already here, whether located in Lynchburg or in one of the counties.

Just as poverty — specifically poverty in Central Virginia — is no one's fault, addressing it is the responsibility of all of us. Lynchburg alone can't be expected to pull the load for the entire region.

Closed Session Material

Report from the Ad Hoc Committee to review the 2014 Evergreen, Inc. Salary Study for the Region 2000 Local Government Council

From: Jack Hobbs, Chair Aileen Ferguson Waverly Coggsdale

Date October 9, 2014

The Committee recommends the following:

- 1. Adopt the pay plan as proposed with the understanding that the four executive directors would be outside this structure:
- 2. Adopt the employee slotting plan (i.e. re-categorization employees into new grades and steps) with the understanding that we will consider comments from partner boards on the slotting of the employees they fund;
- 3. Approve the raises for the two Local government Council employees who would be below their new pay grades at an annual cost of \$5,257 effective December 1, 2014;
- 4. Receive the evaluation form allowing staff to utilize or modify the form as appropriate. The Council should reiterate that, at a minimum, annual performance reviews are required;
- 5. Accept recommended changes to job descriptions;
- 6. Continue the past practice of merit raises based on performance provided funds are available:
- 7. Consider periodic updates of the salary plan as needed such as annually and concurrent with the budget due to inflation (i.e. cost of living); and,
- 8. Authorize and direct the Executive Director to review the agreement with partner organization boards which allows these organizations to use the Local Government Council as the Employer of Record and why the PDC Board has directed the slotting/integration of non-executive director level staff into the overall pay plan.

Salary study documents can be found at:

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/gqrcrhi3my65sew/AABVN I6vGALhx1dU5F87uqfa?dl=0