



**Central Virginia Planning
District Commission**
828 Main Street, 12th Floor
Lynchburg, VA 24504
Electronic Meeting - GoToMeeting

**January 21, 2021
5:00 pm**

Minutes

Members Present:

Sara Carter, Amherst Town Manager
Waverly Coggsdale, Altavista Town Manager
Mayor Richard Conner, Town of Appomattox, Chair
Trevor Hipps, Appomattox County Board of Supervisors
Megan Lucas, Lynchburg Regional Economic Alliance
Wayne Mitchell, Altavista Town Council
Dean Rodgers, Amherst County Administrator
Frank Rogers, Campbell County Administrator
Gary Shanaberger, Appomattox Town Manager
John Sharp, Bedford County Board of Supervisors
Mayor Dwayne Tuggle, Town of Amherst
Treney Tweedy, City of Lynchburg
Charlie Watts, Campbell County Board of Supervisors

Members Absent:

Jimmy Ayers, Amherst County Board of Supervisors
Susan Adams, Appomattox County Administrator
Robert Hiss, Bedford County Administrator
Bruce Johannessen, Bedford Town Council
Mark Peake, Senate of Virginia
Russell Thurston, Brookneal Town Manager
Bart Warner, Bedford Town Manager
Reid Wodicka, City of Lynchburg

Others Present:

Ben Bowman, Central Virginia Workforce Development Director
Kenny Brown, Campbell County Board of Supervisors
Gary Christie, Central Virginia Planning District Commission, Executive Director
Mallory Cook, Central Virginia Planning District Commission
Philipp Gabathuler, Central Virginia Planning District Commission
Kelly Hitchcock, Central Virginia Planning District Commission
Ada Hunsberger, Central Virginia Planning District Commission
Nat Marshall, Central Virginia Workforce Development Board Chair
Jennifer Moore, Amherst County Board of Supervisors

Welcome, Moment of Silence, Introduction of New Members,

Richard Conner, Chair, welcomed everyone and opened the meeting of the Central Virginia Planning District Commission at 5:00 p.m.

Mayor Conner welcomed Wayne Mitchell, from Altavista Town Council as a new member, and Charlie Watts, from the Campbell County Board of Supervisors as a returning member.

The Commission members by consensus recognized Jon Hardie of Campbell County and Beverly Dalton of Altavista, and thanked them for their service to the PDC in 2020.

The Workforce Development Board Council was also recognized for attendance. John Sharp of Bedford County and Treney Tweedy of the City of Lynchburg are members of the Commission and serve on the Council, and Kenny Brown of Campbell County and Jennifer Moore of Amherst County have also joined to participate in this meeting on behalf of the Council.

1. Approval of the November 19, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Upon a motion made by Frank Rogers, seconded by Megan Lucas, the minutes of the November 19, 2020 PDC meeting were unanimously approved as presented.

2. Financial Update

Gary Christie reported that the financial reflect approximately 41% of the year completed, with expenses measuring slightly below that percentage. There are no new revenues or expenditures to report. Revenue collection is slightly behind, but staff are anticipating some one-time larger payments that will be received to compensate for this.

An audit report for FY 2020 will be provided at the March PDC meeting.

3. Discussion with Lori Strumpf of Strumpf Associates on the Update of the Central Virginia Workforce Strategic Plan

Ben Bowman introduced Lori Strumpf with Strumpf Associates and explained that the Central Virginia Workforce Development Board is required to complete a strategic plan once every four years that seeks to develop a local plan that reflects the different roles and responsibilities needed in the region related to education and training providers.

Lori Strumpf reviewed the process for the Strategic Planning team to identify challenges in the region and the emerging areas of focus for the coming years. The Strategic Planning team is seeking to identify any additional challenges that the regional workforce system may be facing over the next twelve to eighteen months.

Richard Conner noted the potential for increase in minimum wage in the region and nationwide and asked about whether businesses are concerned about these changes. Ms. Strumpf stated that most businesses in the region and state have noted that continuing to

increase wages are necessary in order for organizations to remain competitive and increase employee retention, but some companies are not able to keep up with those retention demands.

Frank Rogers asked if the team had identified more specific industry-needs, as opposed to the general region/statewide trends presented in the meeting. Ms. Strumpf stated that Strategic Planning team has noted that healthcare, manufacturing, and construction are the industries that will be targeted.

John Sharp also expressed concern about the potential national plans for increasing the minimum wage and stated that business in Bedford County have expressed concern over being able to hire younger individuals to train. Additionally, he noted that some industries have already begun to move towards automation in response to wage increases and could create less entry-level/lower skilled jobs for new workers.

Treney Tweedy asked about how workers are being supported to develop and learn the skills needed for higher-paying and higher skilled jobs. Ms. Strumpf stated that there are two priorities in helping workers develop skills to be included in the plan: focusing on soft skills as well as technical skills for specific jobs. Ms. Tweedy stated that she believes the priority should be in building a more effective pipeline to get workers opportunities to develop the specific skills needed for higher paying jobs.

4. Overview of the Long Range Transportation Plan Dashboard

Ada Hunsberger provided a presentation introducing the recently launched Long Range Transportation Plan Dashboard (Connect Central Virginia 2045). The platform was built to create an interactive platform with data, charts and graphs and is dynamically updating with data as soon as it becomes available.

An overview of the dashboard was explained, showcasing the different projects and information for both rural and urban areas in the region. The dashboard will continue to be updated and staff welcomes all comments on the dashboard.

<https://dashboards.mysidewalk.com/connectcentralva>

5. Creating Online, Data-Driven Reports for Communities

Philipp Gabathuler provided a presentation on the report-creating feature in the MySidewalk platform. Reports can be created for a variety of data and can provide very specific information to individual localities or communities in the region as needed.

6. Other Business from Members or Staff

Gary Christie reported that PDC staff are working with the Health Department and Emergency Service providers in the region regarding COVID-19 vaccine distribution.

Gary Christie also thanked the Commissioners and guests in attendance for participating in the meeting.

Adjourn - There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:02 p.m.