



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

February 21, 2013, 5:00 pm
Partnership Conference Room
Lynchburg, Virginia

Final

Members Present:

Bryan David, Region 2000 Economic Development Council
Joan Foster, City of Lynchburg
Mayor Paul Harvey, Town of Appomattox
Jack Hobbs, Amherst Town Manager
Charles Kolakowski, Bedford City Manager
R. David Laurell, Campbell County Administrator
Clarence Monday, Amherst County
L. Kimball Payne, Lynchburg City Manager
Hugh Pendleton, Campbell County Board of Supervisors, LGC Chairman
Frank Rogers, Interim Bedford County Administrator
John Sharp, Bedford County Board of Supervisors
John Spencer, Appomattox Assistant County Administrator on behalf of Aileen Ferguson
Gary Tanner, Appomattox County Board of Supervisors

Absent:

Kenneth Bumgarner, Town of Amherst Council
Mayor Phyllis L. Campbell, Town of Brookneal
Waverly Coggsdale, Altavista Town Manager
Delegate Scott Garrett, Virginia House of Delegates
Senator Tom Garrett, Virginia State Senate
Bill Gillespie, Appomattox Town Manager
Mayor Mike Mattox, Town of Altavista
Steve Rush, Bedford City Council, LGC Vice-Chairman
Russell Thurston, Brookneal Town Manager
Claudia Tucker, Amherst County Board of Supervisors

Others Present:

Gary Christie, Local Government Council, Executive Director
Rosalie Majerus, Local Government Council, Deputy Director of Finance
Matt Perkins, Local Government Council, Administrative Program Coordinator
Eleanor Kennedy, Lynchburg News & Advance
Jeff Taylor, Appomattox County Economic Development
Bob White, Local Government County, Deputy Director of Planning and Core Services

Meeting Minutes

1. Welcome and Moment of Silence:

Chairman Hugh Pendleton called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m., welcomed the members of the Local Government Council Executive Committee, and opened with a moment of silence.

2. Approval of Minutes of November 15, 2012:

Upon a motion by David Laurrell, seconded by Kim Payne, the meeting minutes from November 15, 2012 Local Government Council meeting were approved as proposed with Gary Tanner and Clarence Monday abstaining.

3. Finance report:

Deputy Director of Finance, Rosalie Majerus, presented the year-to-date financial report through January 31, 2013 and reported that expenses and revenues are tracking to plan. No action required by the Council.

4. SBDC local funding discussion

Gary Christie provided the LGC with a brief overview of the background related to funding for Small Business Development services in Region 2000. He said that George Mason University has provided limited, temporary funding to the Central Virginia Community College to house and staff one full time position through June 30, 2013.

Mr. Christie asked the Council to authorize an agreement with Central Virginia Community College to provide up to \$30,000 for CVCC to seek SBA funding and provide small business development services beginning July 1, 2013. Gary noted that this request is for only one year of funding by the LGC and that the localities would be asked to provide \$23,000 in funding for FY 14 to continue the service under CVCC management.

Discussion ensued regarding the appropriateness of the small business development services to the region. Several Council members commented on the fact that they would have to approach their Boards regarding the match. David Laurrell mentioned that the localities previously funded the SBDC and commented that there have been few services provided by SBDC staff over the past few years.

Committee members asked how localities could benefit. Bryan David stated that CVCC has submitted their letter of intent and that if any one vehicle is to be utilized in maintaining a regional and local presence of the SBDC it is CVCC and the leadership of Dr. John Capps. David noted that CVCC currently provides business support services and SBDC services could be a logical extension of current CVCC services.

Concern was raised regarding the exit strategy should authorization be given for the funds in an effort to protect future allocation of money from funding a program that has little or no benefit. Gary Christie restated that the funding from the LGC was only for support of the SBDC for one year and noted that jurisdictional support would be only for one year, also.

Mayor Paul Harvey opened discussions regarding the use of the money and whether this was the best place for it to be placed or can it be used more effectively. Kim Payne compared the previous two years of jobs and investments for Lynchburg and noted that if the program works, then there should be visible, positive economic results for the region.

The Council asked if the capital formation indicated from past results would happen without the SBDC services. Additionally, the Council expressed that better communication and valid information from the SBDC would need to be provided for continued support.

Clarence Monday made a motion in favor of the recommended action contingent on the match by the localities and acceptance by George Mason University. David Laurell asked the motion be amended to include not only the match for this year but also with the understanding that it is a one year commitment and that additional match from localities will be needed on an ongoing basis if the program continues, seconded by Joan Foster. The motion was passed 10 to 3 with John Sharp, Frank Rogers, and Hugh Pendleton voting against.

5. Proposal to apply for Virginia Department of Agriculture funds to develop a regional strategic plan for agriculture and forestry

Gary Christie presented the Council with the background and recent activities of the Agriculture and Forestry Working Group as they met to discuss the grant funds offered by the VDA. He mentioned that local economic developers and extension agents, along with other members of the region with an interested stake in the process, through a series of meetings, recommended that a grant application be submitted for development of a strategic plan for the region's agriculture and forestry community. Jeff Taylor elaborated on the scope of the strategic plan and the benefits of the plan to the community and region, specifically in supporting farmers markets and local industries such as restaurants and food services vendors.

Gary Christie requested of the council to authorize the use of up to \$35,000 in reserve funds and in-kind services as matching funds in the application for the VDACS planning grant program. Upon a motion to authorize the use of the funds described herein by Kim Payne, seconded by Gary Tanner, the Council approved the matter unanimously.

6. Update on discussions with Liberty University on a regional arena

Discussion tabled until March 21, 2013 meeting of the Local Government Council Executive Committee.

7. LGC operations update

a. Region 2000 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)

The Council received a grant from the US EDA in fall of 2012 to continue implementing the CEDS. Staff has updated the CEDS document, which was approved by the EDC and is now at the federal level for their review and approval. Future activities will look at the development of a federally acknowledge Economic Development District within the region and development of a more refined set of metrics to gauge the impacts of programs and initiatives.

b. Regional Libraries

Lynchburg, Bedford County and Campbell County continue to work towards a regional library concept. Currently, the working group is developing a costs/benefits analysis and will have that for consideration for the elected bodies in May. Additionally, the Lynchburg and Bedford librarians are both retiring, and both localities have agreed to move forward with a Joint Interim Executive Director to manage both systems until such time as the regional analysis is concluded.

c. Regional Stormwater

DCR has awarded the Council an \$84,000 grant to prepare for the state mandated stormwater management program that will be in effect in July 2014. Included in this effort is development of a regional administrative manual that all counties can use to administer the program.

8. Executive Director's Report

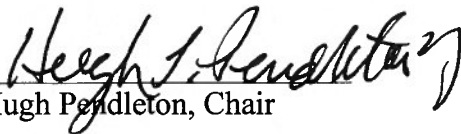
- a.** No discussion of the General Assembly session.
- b.** Annual LGC meeting April 18. Gary reminded the council of the MPO meeting at 4:00 pm and the LGC meeting at 5:00 pm at the Academy of Fine Arts.
- c.** Update on discussions related to organizational changes within the Region 2000 Partnership. Gary Christie has been discussing the funding of the projects in the non-profits of the partnership. Those discussions continue to the point of speaking about the restructuring of the format of the partnership. Bryan David stated also that recent discussions included the establishment of a governance structure regarding decision making power in the allocation of resources.

9. Items from Members

No matters brought by members to the Council.

- 10. Adjournment:** A motion to adjourn brought by Frank Rogers, seconded by Joan Foster, carried unanimously adjourning the meeting at 6:10 p.m.

Signed:


Hugh Pendleton, Chair