



Virginia's Region 2000 Local Government Council Meeting

Partnership Conference Room
Lynchburg, Virginia
July 17, 2014, 5:00 pm

Members Present:

Kenneth Bumgarner, Town of Amherst Council
John Spencer for Aileen Ferguson, Appomattox County Administrator
Joan Foster, City of Lynchburg, *Chair*
Delegate Scott Garrett, Virginia House of Delegates
Stanley Goldsmith, Campbell County Board of Supervisors
Stacey Hailey, Bedford Town Council
Jack Hobbs, Amherst Town Manager
Charles Kolakowski, Bedford Town Manager
R. David Laurrell, Campbell County Administrator
Mayor Mike Mattox, Town of Altavista, *Vice-Chair*
Mark Reeter, Bedford County Administrator
Gary Tanner, Appomattox County Board of Supervisors

Absent:

Mayor Phyllis Campbell, Town of Brookneal
Waverly Coggsdale, Altavista Town Manager
Sen. Tom Garrett, Senate of Virginia
Bill Gillespie, Appomattox Town Manager
Mayor Paul Harvey, Town of Appomattox
L. Kimball Payne, Lynchburg City Manager
John Sharp, Bedford County Board of Supervisors
Russell Thurston, Brookneal Town Manager
Claudia Tucker, Amherst County Board of Supervisors

Others Present:

Bob Bailey, Center for Advanced Engineering and Research
Scott Baker, Bedford, Virginia Cooperative Extension
Ben Bowman, Workforce Investment Board, Director
John Brunner, Amherst, Virginia Cooperative Extension
Kevin Camm, Lynchburg, Virginia Cooperative Extension
Mike Davidson, Campbell County Economic Development
Joanthan Faris, Thomas P. Miller & Associates
Philipp Gabathuler, Local Government Council, Senior Planner
Kelly Hitchcock, Local Government Council, Senior Planner
Bruce Jones, Appomattox, Virginia Cooperative Extension
Megan Lucas, Region 2000 Alliance, CEO
Rosalie Majerus, Local Government Council, Deputy Finance Director
Elizabeth Narehood, Region 2000 Alliance, Vice President
Matt Perkins, Local Government Council, Administrative Program Coordinator
David Proffitt, Interim Amherst County Administrator
Jason Ruiten, News and Advance
Jeff Taylor, Appomattox County Economic Development
Bob White, Local Government Council, Deputy Director of Core Services

Meeting Minutes

1. **Welcome and moment of silence:** Mike Mattox, Vice-Chair, called the meeting to Order at 5:00 p.m., welcomed the Council, and opened with a moment of silence.

2. **Resolutions of Appreciation:**

Mike Mattox presented Joan Foster and David Laurrell each with Resolutions of Appreciation and read the same aloud before the Council.

Upon a motion by Gary Tanner to adopt the resolutions of Appreciation for Joan Foster and David Laurrell, seconded by Jack Hobbs, this motion carried unanimously.

3. **Approval of Minutes of April 17, 2014 and May 15, 2014:** Upon a motion by Jack Hobbs, seconded by Joan Foster, the meeting minutes from the April 17, 2014 and May 15, 2014 Local Government Council meetings were unanimously approved as presented.

Mike Mattox and Gary Tanner abstaining.

4. **Finance report:** Rosalie Majerus, Deputy Director of Finance, presented the year-to-date financial report through June 30, 2014. Rosalie noted that there were no unexpected revenues or expenditures and briefed the Council on certain aspects of the financial report.

5. **Resolution of Support for the Center for Advanced Engineering and Research's Spectrum Management Research Testbed (SMART) Grant Application:**

Bob Bailey, Center for Advanced Engineering and Research Executive Director, spoke to the project. He noted that the CAER has been working with the Wireless at Virginia Tech contingent to establish some capacity to develop a spectrum sharing testbed. He noted that this effort was written into the Region 2000 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) and that the EDA grant application requires that the Local Government Council approve a resolution of support. Bob noted that the project is a 3 million dollar project with money coming from the EDA and the Tobacco Commission project to build up the infrastructure. He noted that the CAER would then market research and development testing services to those in the industry such as Verizon and the US Navy.

Upon a motion by Gary Tanner to adopt the resolution of support for the CAER's SMART grant application, seconded by Stan Goldsmith, this motion carried unanimously.

6. **Presentation and Approval of the "Strategic Plan for the Agriculture and Forestry Economy in Virginia's Region 2000":**

Philipp Gabathuler presented the project to the Council and highlighted some facts regarding the Agriculture Industry in Virginia.

Jonathan Faris presented to the Council the project overview including those that were involved and he reviewed and highlighted the Strategic Plan's vision, goals and projects. Jonathan also highlighted the economic impact of the agriculture and forestry industries.

Additionally, he identified and summarized the priority projects such as the development of a regional agriculture and forestry website and to complete a regional food hub feasibility study.

Scott Baker spoke specifically to the identified priority project of the Plan of marketing regionally through development of a website focusing on the access to information for both the producer and consumers.

Kevin Camm spoke specifically to the identified priority project of the Plan of completing a Food Hub Feasibility Study. He briefed the Council on the existing working group and the work that they are doing to proceed with this priority project.

Those involved in the Plan fielded questions from the Council.

Upon a motion from David Laurrell for approval of the Resolution and authorization from the Council for the Executive Director of the LGC to use council budgeted agriculture funds to support the development of the “Regional Agriculture and Forestry Website” and in completing “Regional Food Hub Feasibility Study” priority project, seconded by Gary Tanner, this motion carried unanimously.

Joan Foster and Del. Scott Garrett offered comments of support and encouragement in regards to this project as a regional opportunity and its importance to the Region 2000 and to the Virginia economy.

7. Introduction of Ben Bowman, Region 2000 Workforce Development Director:

Ben Bowman offered comments regarding the plans for moving forward in regards to regional workforce development. He noted that he plans to continue to meet with the economic developers, educational leaders and business leaders. He noted that he will be focusing some immediate needs such as relocating the Career Center and the need to increase the WIB’s visibility online, for both the job seeker and the employer.

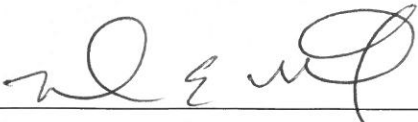
8. Introduction of Megan Lucas, Region 2000 Business & Economic Development Alliance CEO:

Megan Lucas offered comments on her activities as CEO and her vision and focus for the next few years for the region’s economic development. She noted that she has been focusing on engaging the board members of the Alliance and meeting with the investors. Also, she noted that she has been meeting with the local economic developers to understand what is offered so that she is better equipped to market the Region. She noted the some of the feedback she has received on certain aspects of the region, specifically the branding of the region.

9. Items from Staff/Council:

Bob White asked for volunteers to conduct the yearly performance review for Gary Christie, Executive Director of the Local Government. It was decided that Joan Foster, Mayor Mike Mattox and Waverly Coggsdale would coordinate with Gary to conduct his performance review.

10. **Adjourn:** With no further business and on consensus of the Council to adjourn, Mike Mattox adjourned the Council at 6:08 p.m.

Signed:  _____

By: Mike Mattox, Chair (title)