



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

Local Government Council Office
Lynchburg, Virginia 24504

March 17, 2016 at 5:00 pm

Final Minutes

Members Present:

Kenneth Bumgarner, Amherst Town Council
Carl Boggess, Interim Bedford County Administrator
Kenneth Campbell, Amherst County Board of Supervisors
Joan Foster, Lynchburg City Council
Mayor Paul Harvey, Town of Appomattox, *Chair of Council*
Jack Hobbs, Amherst Town Manager
Larry Jackson, Lynchburg Regional Economic Alliance
L. Kimball Payne, Lynchburg City Manager
Dean Rodgers, Amherst County Administrator
Frank Rogers, Campbell County Administrator
Michael Rousseau, Campbell County Board of Supervisors
Bryan Moody, Appomattox County Board of Supervisors

Members Absent:

Susan Adams, Appomattox County
Waverly Cogsdale, Altavista Town Manager
Delegate Scott Garrett, Virginia House of Delegates
Bill Gillespie, Appomattox Town Manager, *Treasurer of Council*
Stacey Hailey, Bedford Town Council
Charles Kolakowski, Bedford Town Manager
Mayor Mike Mattox, Town of Altavista
Mayor Phyllis Campbell, Town of Brookneal
John Sharp, Bedford County Board of Supervisors, *Vice Chair of Council*
Kenneth Campbell, Amherst County Board of Supervisors
Russell Thurston, Brookneal Town Manager

Others Present:

Ben Bowman, Region 2000 Workforce Development Director
Scott Baker, Bedford County Extension
Gary Christie, Local Government Council, Executive Director
Philipp Gabathuler, Local Government Council, Senior Planner
Phillip Gottwals, ACDS, Inc.
Rosalie Majerus, Local Government Council, Deputy Director of Finance
Matt Perkins, Local Government Council, Admin. Program Coordinator
Bob White, Local Government Council, Deputy Director

Meeting Minutes

1. Welcome | Moment of Silence | Introduction of New Members

Paul Harvey called to order this meeting of the Executive Committee at 5:00 pm, welcomed the Council, opened with a moment of silence, and welcomed and introduced Kenneth Campbell of Amherst County Board of Supervisors to the Local Government Council.

Bryan Moody, at the request of the Chair, spoke to and answered questions from the Council related to the recent tornado the affected Appomattox County.

2. Approval of Minutes | January 21, 2016

Upon a motion by Joan Foster to approve the minutes of January 21, 2016 as presented, and being seconded by Frank Rogers, this motion carried unanimously.

3. Finance Report

a. Year-to-Date Report as of February 29, 2016

Rosalie Majerus noted that the operating account is tracking below plan and salaries are on target. Majerus noted that relative to grants, billing has started on CEDS update project.

b. Health Insurance Benefit

Gary Christie and Rosalie Majerus provided an overview of the health insurance premiums for FY17 noting that the rates are increasing 8.17% over last year. Majerus noted the staff recommends employees share proportionally in the increase by keeping the same employee percentage contribution as the current year.

Upon a motion by Joan Foster to maintain the current percentage division of health care costs between employer and employee for FY 17 in response to the Local Government Council's increase in health insurance premiums, duly seconded by Kim Payne, this motion carried unanimously.

4. Region 2000 Food Hub Opportunity

Bob White introduced the project, staff and consultants involved in the Food Hub project. White noted that this current effort was developed from the Agriculture Strategic Plan.

Phillip Gottwals, ACDS, presented a review of the Food Hub project which has been designed as a structure for either cattle or crop producers to aggregate their product for sale to large scale buyers, such as grocery chains or institutions. Gottwals examined and presented a definition of a Food Hub, including its goals, objectives. Additionally, he noted regional opportunities and noted existing demand.

Gottwals specifically noted the development of a business plan for a Producer/Grower cooperative. He noted that a major component of the business plan would be develop a Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) program and a set of quality standards to cover local producers

that enables them to enter the supply chain. He presented to the role of the food hub in this process and the primary objective for the creation of a non-profit organization to run the cooperative.

Gottwals reviewed the role of, and the request to, the Local Government Council and fielded questions and comments from the Council. Michael Rousseau suggested that, now that we have connected buyers and sellers, we should allow the market to move the process forward. He was not supportive of public involvement in the concept as presented. Mr. Gottwals noted that the process allows producers to become GAP certified at a much lower cost through the group GAP process.

Having a desire to gauge the interest and commitment for the local growers and producers in the Region, the Council, by consensus, requested a report/update from the growers/producers meeting being held in late March before deciding further on a course of action.

5. Consideration and Approval of the FY 17 Rural Transportation Planning Work Program

Bob White presented the Rural Transportation Plan Work Program. He provided an overview of activities including the update of the Long Range Rural Plan, support of alternative transportation planning activities and other support of on-going state initiatives. White noted that the TTC has recommended approval of the Program.

Upon a motion by Kim Payne to approve the FY 17 Rural Transportation Planning Work Program, duly seconded by Jack Hobbs, this motion passed unanimously.

6. Discussion of Tourism Proposal

This agenda item, by consensus, has been tabled to a future meeting of the Local Government Council.

7. Consideration of Resolution asking the Commonwealth of Virginia for Support in the 2017 Session for Planning Funds for the Redevelopment of the Central Virginia Training Center

Gary Christie presented for the Council's consideration and support a request from Amherst County a resolution for the County of Amherst to seek planning funds from the Commonwealth in 2017 to begin positioning site facilities of the Training Center for re-use. The resolution from Amherst asks for funds for a full environmental assessment.

Upon discussion, the Council agreed to Dean Rodgers approaching Senator Newman to determine if the requests in the resolution comport with his efforts in regard to the Training Center and to obtain his comments and/or suggestions and, if appropriate, to present to the Council a resolution stating such support to be considered for approval.

8. Update on Region 2000 Workforce Development, Workforce Center Move, and Annual Spring Dinner program

Ben Bowman update the Council on the move of the Workforce Center to the VEC and renewed the Workforce Board's commitment to be present in each community.

Additionally, Bowman also provided specifics regarding the April spring dinner program which will be held in Appomattox.

9. Update and Discussion on GO Virginia Regions

Gary Christie noted that Go Virginia did pass the General Assembly and he expects the Governor to sign it. Christie provided a brief overview of the program. Christie presented the Council with an opportunity to provide input of their preference of regions to work with or with which to be paired. Kim Payne noted existing working relationships with the Roanoke Valley and by consensus the Committee agreed that we should continue working with the Roanoke and Danville regions.

10. Discussion and Update to Staffing Changes

This agenda item, by consensus, has been tabled to a future meeting of the Local Government Council.

11. Adjourn

There being no further matters to discuss, Mayor Paul Harvey, *Chair*, adjourned the meeting at 6:34 pm by a motion to adjourn present by Michael Rousseau and duly seconded by Kim Payne.

Signed:  _____

By: Carl Boggess, Acting Chair (title)