



Virginia's Region 2000 Local Government Council Meeting

Partnership Conference Room
828 Main Street, 12th Floor, Lynchburg, Virginia
September 17, 2015 - 5:00 pm

Members Present:

Susan Adams, Appomattox County Administrator
Carl Boggess, Interim Bedford County Administrator
Joan Foster, Lynchburg City Council
Bill Gillespie, Appomattox Town Manager
Stacey Hailey, Bedford Town Council
Mayor Paul Harvey, Town of Appomattox, *Chair*
Megan Lucas, Region 2000 Business & Economic Development Alliance
L. Kimball Payne, Lynchburg City Manager
Dean Rodgers, Amherst County Administrator
Frank Rogers, Campbell County Administrator
Gary Tanner, Appomattox County Board of Supervisors
Stanley Goldsmith, Campbell County Board of Supervisors
Jack Hobbs, Amherst Town Manager

Absent:

Kenneth Bumgarner, Amherst Town Council
Mayor Phyllis Campbell, Town of Brookneal
Waverly Coggsdale, Altavista Town Manager
Delegate Scott Garrett, Virginia House of Delegates
Charles Kolakowski, Bedford Town Manager
Don Kidd, Amherst County Board of Supervisors
Mayor Mike Mattox, Town of Altavista
John Sharp, Bedford County Board of Supervisors
Russell Thurston, Brookneal Town Manager

Others Present:

Ben Bowman, Region 2000 Workforce Development Director
Gary Christie, Local Government Council, Executive Director
Laura Hamilton, Beacon of Hope, Executive Director
Rosalie Majerus, Local Government Council, Deputy Finance Director
Elizabeth Narehood, Region 2000 Business & Economic Development Alliance, Vice President
Matt Perkins, Local Government Council, Admin. Program Coordinator

Minutes

1. Welcome | Moment of Silence

Mayor Paul Harvey, *Chair*, called to order this meeting of the Council at 5:10 p.m. welcomed the Council and opened with a moment of silence

2. Approval of Minutes – July 16, 2015

Upon a motion by Gary Tanner to approve the minutes of July 16, 2015 as presented, seconded by Joan Foster, this motion carried unanimously.

3. Finance Report

Gary Christie stated that in review of the financials that all localities have paid their dues. Christie also stated that the Council received a grant for Appomattox Town that is not reflected in the financials but will once the contracts are signed. Christie noted that the year-end-fund balance is still strong.

4. CEDS Planning Process Update

Gary Christie overviewed the details of the CEDS process and what the CEDS update project will involve including those updates to the Region 2000 Economy dashboard, updating goals and objectives to reflect current economic position, and the proposed budget amendments. Christie also noted that the Council will be administering a \$50k grant to Amherst County for a strategic economic plan specifically related to matters in the county. Christie stated also noted the CEDS process does not require the region to focus on specific projects but rather it encourages the region to look at strategies, goals and objectives.

Megan Lucas stated that the Region 2000 Business & Economic Development Alliance fully supports the CEDS update e process. Lucas stated that she would like to see the plan incorporate an implementation matrix that tags organizations that are responsible for specific sections of the plan to move the region/plan forward and to mark/track progress. Upon questions from Council members, Lucas stated that the CEDS plan would certainly include a transportation element. Lucas also stated that she would expect the proposed regional connectivity study to be used as an implementation tool/element for the transportation portion of the plan update.

Christie noted also that the proposed connectivity study, if completed, and with which the LGC staff are working closely with the consultants on that project, could be used as a data source to help inform the CEDS update process. Kim Payne stated that it was important that the hired consultant for the CEDS project be aware of the potential connectivity study so that the same data is not being collected.

Frank Rogers added clarification in stating that our CEDS project needs to be informed that the proposed connectivity study is taking place. Payne stated also that the private sector stakeholders understand the two studies are running concurrently so that it doesn't appear that tax payer money is being spent two projects seemingly accomplishing the same thing. Payne also noted the importance of letting private sector stakeholders understand this because many of them may be contacted through the process of developing each study and we don't want it to appear uncoordinated.

Dean Rodgers noted that there is project specifically related to Amherst and wanted to know if it would be the same consultant. Christie stated that there would be separate procurement processes for the two projects so it was possible that either the same consultant would be chosen or that the projects could have two different consultants.

Upon a motion Joan Foster to adopt the LGC budget amendment related to the EDA grants for both the CEDS and Amherst projects, to accept the EDA grants as presented, to instruct

staff to work with the Region 2000 Business & Economic Development Alliance, or subsequent regional economic development entity, and invite community leaders to serve on the CEDS Committee, duly seconded by Gary Tanner, this motion carried unanimously.

5. Continuation of Discussion on Education and Workforce Development

Laure Hamilton, Executive Director, Beacon of Hope, presented an overview of highlights, a review of program of activities, and the vision for the future for Beacon of Hope as an organization that seeks to impact post-secondary degree and credential attainment by removing barriers to those degrees and credentials for students. Most notably, through their work in the two public high schools in the City of Lynchburg through their Future Centers.

Stan Goldsmith inquired on technical skills training and funding sources. Hamilton noted that all training and degree and industry recognized credential certifications are covered in this program. Hamilton also noted that all funding is derived from private sources (\$1.6 million) and that the program receives no support from public entities.

Frank Rogers inquired if any tension was created between the work of this program and the work of the public education system. Hamilton noted that the city schools system has been very supportive and understands the benefit of the programs successes.

Additionally, Hamilton addressed what it would take for this initiative to be implemented across the region noting that the first step would be a regional analysis.

6. Resolution of Support for Project Submissions to HB2

Gary Christie reviewed the project submissions to HB2 that the region's localities, outside of the MPO planning boundary plan to submit that impact corridors of statewide significance and therefore require a resolution of support from the PDC. The projects submitted for consideration for support were:

County of Appomattox

Project Description: Safety improvements via installation of turn lanes at intersection of US 460 and SR 609 east of Concord.

Project type: Corridor of Statewide Significance.

Project Description: Safety improvements via installation of turn lanes at intersection of US 460 and SR 630 at Evergreen.

Project type: Corridor of Statewide Significance.

County of Bedford

Project Description: Safety improvements via alterations in alignment, profile, and/or cross section to US 460 and US 221 (eastbound lanes) between SR 751 and SR 689 east of Montvale.

Project type: Corridor of Statewide Significance.

Town of Altavista

Project Description: Lynch Mill Road at Altavista Elementary School – construction of a right turn lane at the existing elementary school entrance to alleviate safety concern.

Project type: Corridor of Statewide Significance

Project Description: Main Street and Lynch Mill Intersection – Addition of dedicated right turn lane on Lynch Mill Road and widening of corners at intersection with Main Street to improve turning radius and extend culvert.

Project type: Corridor of Statewide Significance

Town of Appomattox

Project Description: Safety and accessibility improvements along VA 131 between US 460 Bypass and US 460 Business in the Town of Appomattox.

Project type: Corridor of Statewide Significance.

Upon a motion to adopt the Resolution of *Support for Project Applications Submitted to HB2 by Localities for Projects within the Non-urbanized Portions of Planning District 11* by Gary Tanner, duly seconded by Susan Adams, this motion carried unanimously.

7. Call for 2016 Legislative Agenda Items

Gary Christie noted that each year the Local Government Council submits legislative items that identify regional priorities that relate to program, projects, and activities relevant to the Region. Christie stated that a one item that is being discussed in the business and government community are new incentive programs for the general assembly to put up cash for economic development and workforce projects that would encourage multi-jurisdictional and or regional initiatives. Christie mentioned the GoVirginia model.

Payne stated that the current program is similar to one in the past that only lasted a couple years and that it is being sold as a re-distribution of resources and that the money will not be coming from a tax increase. Payne stated that there was a presentation on this at the recent VML conference. Payne noted that he would have no problem supporting the concept as long as GoVirginia was not mentioned specifically in the final legislative agenda submission made by the Local Government Council.

8. Discussion on Update to Regional Strategic Plan: Request from VA Department of Housing and Community Development

Gary Christie stated that each year PDC's are required by State code to have a strategic plan. Each year, he noted, that the PDC is required to report on what it has been done to keep that plan updated. Christie stated that the PDC has used the Partnership strategic plan to fulfill the State requirement however, with the Region 2000 Business & Economic Development Alliance's planned merger with the Chamber, that plan no longer is adequate.

Christie stated that he would like to coordinate all the existing plans that we currently have, or will be working on near-term, and create a "virtual" strategic plan document that is tied together by a cover letter or some similar document that explains how they all work together.

Christie noted that in the future there are other plans that could be worked on and incorporated to make this document a truly comprehensive.

Kim Payne stated that he supported the approach and encouraged the creation of an executive summary for the plan that explains how the various plans work and their relationship.

Jack Hobbs stated that he also supports the approach and was interested to see if there were any “missing” chapters as this concept developed. Christie noted that the elements of housing, health, and community are areas where a plan is not yet in place but has plans to reach out to organizations in the area for development of this component.

9. Items from Staff


No new business matters were discussed.

10. Items from Council

No new business matters were discussed.

11. Adjourn

Upon a motion by Stan Goldsmith to adjourn, seconded by Frank Rogers, Mayor Paul Harvey, *Chair*, adjourned this meeting of the Council at 6:45 p.m.

Signed: 

By: Paul D. Harvey, Chair (title)