



Minutes
Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission Meeting
112 MacTanly Place, Staunton, VA 24401
April 16, 2018, 7:00 p.m.

Member Jurisdiction Representatives					
	Augusta County		City of Staunton		Staff
✓	Terry Kelley	✓	Carolyn Dull	✓	Bonnie Riedesel, Executive Director
✓	Marshall Pattie, Treasurer		Sharon Angle		Rebecca Joyce, Community Program Manager
	Vickie Moran		Rockbridge County	✓	Elizabeth McCarty, Director of Planning
	Leslie Tate	✓	Jay Lewis	✓	Ann Cundy, Transportation Program Manager
	Bath County	✓	Chris Slaydon	✓	Nancy Gourley, Transit Program Manager
✓	Edward Hicklin		Rockingham County	✓	Cindi Johnson, Fiscal Officer
	City of Buena Vista	✓	Ned Overton	✓	Rita Whitfield, Office Manager
	Lisa Clark		William Kyger	✓	Spencer Eavers, FOG Coordinator
	City of Harrisonburg	✓	Casey Armstrong, Secretary		Others
✓	Ted Byrd	✓	Kim Sandum		
✓	George Hirschmann		City of Waynesboro	✓	Katie Frazier, VA Agribusiness Council
	Adam Fletcher		Jeff Freeman	✓	Shepherd Cronemeger, VA Agribusiness Council
	Highland County	✓	Rusty Johnson		
	Kevin Wagner, Vice Chair				
	City of Lexington				
✓	Frank Friedman, Chairman				

Call to Order

The April 16, 2018, Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Friedman.

Public Comment

Chairman Friedman opened the floor to the public for comments. There were no public comments.

Minutes

Chairman Friedman presented the minutes from the February 5, 2018, CSPDC Commission meeting. There being no corrections or additions, Chairman Friedman declared the minutes approved as presented.

Chairman's Report

Under Chairman's Report, Chairman Friedman announced Ms. Leslie Tate had a baby girl on April 7th, and Ms. Lisa Clark will be the new representative for the City of Buena Vista. He distributed copies of the Infographic designed for Go Virginia and gave an update on GO Virginia. He noted that the region's first application for GO Virginia funding for the Rockbridge Area Advanced Manufacturing Project (RAAMP), a 40-week welding training program located at Byers Technical Institute in Rockbridge County, was approved by the State GO Virginia Board in February. Chairman Friedman noted that two proposals, one from Cyber Security Workforce Development and Jobs Program for Harrisonburg; and one from CUED-In, an app-based platform, were received on April 6th and are currently under review. He stated that currently, Region 8 has approximately \$850,000 available in per capita funds for the region. In addition, the statewide competitive phase of the GO Virginia initiative is open with approximately \$11 million available for multi-regional projects. Chairman Friedman announced that the next Regional Council meeting will be held on April 27th at the Virginia Horse Center in Lexington.

Executive Director's Report

Under Executive Director's Report, Ms. Riedesel distributed and reviewed copies of "*CSPDC Investments in the Region - FY2014-2017.*" She stated that one of the more important services provided by the CSPDC to its member jurisdictions is writing grants and finding ways to bring additional financial resources into the region. Ms. Riedesel noted that over the past 45 years, the CSPDC has worked to help find and create investments for a multitude of public projects and programs including economic and community development, flood mitigation, disaster preparedness training, broadband, water and sewer projects, environmental planning, transportation planning, affordable housing, recreational facilities, and bicycle and pedestrian planning. She stated that for every \$1 the CSPDC has received in local dues, it has leveraged approximately \$36 in state and federal funds over the last ten years. Ms. Riedesel noted that over the past four fiscal years, these efforts have brought in more than \$27.5 million in new investments to the region.

Treasurer's Report

Chairman Friedman presented for consideration the Treasurer's Report (attached to file minutes). Dr. Pattie gave a report on the February 28, 2018, Financial Statement. He reported on the Executive Committee meeting, held prior to the Full Commission meeting. Dr. Pattie stated that the Executive Committee had reviewed and approved the FY18 Budget Revision. He reviewed the program and expense changes to the Budget Revision. Dr. Pattie moved, seconded by Mr. Johnson, to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Staff Reports

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Update-Elizabeth McCarty, Director of Planning

Ms. McCarty gave an update on the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for the region, which is a strategy-driven plan for regional economic development. She stated that as an

EDD, the CSPDC receives funding each year from EDA to provide a variety of data tools and technical assistance to the localities, but also to coordinate regional economic development efforts. Ms. McCarty reported on the CEDS project team and role, noting that the project team has representation from each of the four subregions and includes key regional partners and CSPDC participation. She noted that a public hearing on the CEDS will be held at the next Commission meeting on June 18th where the consultants, Camoin Associates, will present the CEDS report.

Ms. McCarty reported that CSPDC staff has created an economic asset web app called Discover. Locate. Grow., that allows users to discover business and quality of life assets in the CSPDC region. She presented the web app and showed how each locality has a tab with a short description and link to their economic development pages. Ms. McCarty stated that users can click on locality features in the interactive map to find more information, including demographic data such as population, median age, cost of living, and unemployment rates. Also, users can view industrial/business parks and business incentive zones in the CSPDC region.

Virginia Breeze and BRITE Transit Display Racks - Nancy Gourley, Transit Program Manager

Ms. Gourley gave an update on Virginia Breeze, noting that the Virginia Breeze bus service was launched on December 1st by the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT). She stated that the Virginia Breeze connects travelers from Blacksburg to Washington, D.C. with multiple destinations in-between, including Lexington, Staunton, and Harrisonburg. Ms. Gourley noted that ridership on the Virginia Breeze has exceeded expectations. She stated that in March 2018, there were 973 northbound and 871 southbound trips for a total of 1844 rides. In addition, March fare collections almost covered the operating cost of the service. On three separate occasions since the onset of service, a second bus had to be added to meet the demand. Ms. Gourley noted that this pilot transit program is funded through the Federal Transit Administration's 5311 Intercity Bus Program.

Ms. Gourley presented the BRITE Transit displays, noting that displays similar to this one are being included in 20 of the most popular public and private agencies served by the transit service, such as libraries, visitor centers, and government offices. These displays will include a customized poster based on the specific location, a full BRITE system map, and times when the bus stops at that particular location, as well as contact information for riders.

Bike the Valley Campaign Rebranding – Ann Cundy, Transportation Program Manager

Ms. Cundy reported on Bike the Valley rebranding. She presented a preview of the new logo and website for Bike the Valley. Ms. Cundy distributed copies of Bike the Valley rack cards which will be used to direct visitors to the website for information on bike routes, trails and greenways, and cycling events and more in Virginia's Shenandoah Valley.

Ms. Cundy announced that the Virginia Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) is hosting a public hearing on May 3, 2018, from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Staunton Holiday Inn Conference Center regarding the FY 2019-2024 Six-Year Improvement Program (SYIP). She noted that the public hearing is to provide the public the opportunity to review and comment on transportation projects that have been recommended for funding in the FY 2019-2024 SYIP. Ms.

Cundy stated that projects recommended for the FY 2019-2024 SYIP include interstate highway, primary road, rail, bicycle, pedestrian and public transportation initiatives.

Regional Wildfire Plan and Survey – Bonnie Riedesel, Executive Director

Ms. Riedesel reported that the CSPDC is in the process of creating a Community Wildfire Protection Plan for the region that looks at areas in the region that are vulnerable to wildfires. She noted that the Wildfire Protection Plan will be part of an All Hazards Mitigation Plan that looks at other hazards such as floods, tornadoes, blizzards, and other natural disasters. Ms. Riedesel stated that as part of the planning process, the CSPDC, along with the Regional All Hazards Mitigation Plan Committee, have launched an online survey of the region's residents to gauge their perceptions about natural hazards and their willingness to implement mitigation measures to protect their families, homes, and businesses. She noted that the results of the survey will be incorporated into both the Wildlife Protection Plan and the All Hazards Mitigation Plan. Ms. Riedesel distributed copies of a postcard with the link to the All Hazards Survey, noting that the link to the Survey was also on the CSPDC website and was submitted to various groups and organizations throughout the region.

Consideration of 2018 CDBG Regional Priorities (BAF #18-4)

Chairman Friedman presented for consideration the 2018 CDBG Regional Priorities (attached to file minutes). Ms. Riedesel stated that each year, the CSPDC is requested to prepare a list of CDBG regional priorities for submission to the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development. These priorities set the stage for the Region's communities to access CDBG funds should they decide to submit applications during the program year and provide bonus points during the selection process. Ms. Riedesel noted that CSPDC staff has coordinated with the localities and has prepared the attached list for the Board's consideration and approval. She stated the submission deadline for the priority list was March 23, 2018, and given time constraints, the list was submitted on February 23, 2018. Dr. Pattie moved, seconded by Mr. Kelley, to approve ratification of the Executive Director's endorsement letter for the 2018 CDBG Regional Priorities. Motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of FY19 Rural Transportation Work Program (BAF #18-3)

Chairman Friedman presented the FY19 Rural Transportation Work Program. Ms. Cundy gave a brief review on the program, noting that this program supports the following: program administration; transportation-related grant writing for member localities; transportation planning assistance offered to rural localities; rural long-range transportation planning; completion of a rural corridor or intersection plan; assistance and support of the State's efforts related to transportation planning, including data collection; and development of performance measures in transportation planning, and bicycle and pedestrian planning. She noted that the program provides \$58,000, and the CSPDC will provide a \$14,500 match. Ms. Dull moved, seconded by Mr. Hirschmann, to approve the Resolution authorizing application for the FY19 Rural Transportation Planning Assistance Program grant. Motion was carried by unanimous vote.

Commonwealth Intergovernmental Review Process (CIRPs) (BAF #18-2)

Chairman Friedman presented for consideration Commonwealth Intergovernmental Review Process (CIRPs). Dr. Pattie moved, seconded by Mr. Armstrong, to endorse the staff recommendations on agenda items 8A and 8B. Motion carried unanimously. They are as follows:

- 8A. An application submitted by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) for VADEQ VPDES IP eReporting Solution Project for a total funding of \$197,414. Staff recommends endorsement.
- 8B. An application submitted by the CSPDC for USDA Farmers Market Promotion Program (FMPP) for Tour de Farm for \$150,000. Staff recommends endorsement.

Presentation: “Agribusiness in the Modern Economy” – Katie Frazier, President, Virginia Agribusiness Council

Ms. Riedesel introduced and welcomed Ms. Katie Frazier, President, Virginia Agribusiness Council. Ms. Frazier introduced Ms. Shepherd Cronmeger, Virginia Agribusiness Council Director of Member Services and Events. Ms. Frazier gave a presentation on “Agribusiness in the Modern Economy”. She noted that the Virginia Agribusiness Council represents agricultural and forestry producers, suppliers, marketers, processors and commodity associations in the Commonwealth with a unified voice through its government affairs activities. Ms. Frazier reported on dairy operations in the region, robotic milkers, promoting agritourism in the region, opportunities for youth to invest in agricultural, hemp growth and production, and legislation currently under consideration at the state.

Adjournment

Chairman Friedman announced that the next CSPDC Commission meeting will be held on Monday, June 18, 2018. There being no further business to come before the Commission, a motion for adjournment was unanimously passed at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rita F. Whitfield, Clerk to the Commission

Approved:

Frank Friedman
Chairman