



**Minutes**  
**Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission Meeting**  
**Via Zoom**  
**February 5, 2024, 6:00 p.m.**

<b>Member Jurisdiction Representatives</b>					
	<b>Augusta County</b>		<b>City of Staunton</b>		<b>Staff</b>
	Butch Wells	✓	Amy Darby	✓	Bonnie Riedesel, Executive Director
	Pam Carter	✓	Sharon Angle	✓	Ann Cundy, Director of Transportation
	Vickie Moran		<b>Rockbridge County</b>	✓	Jeremy Crute, Regional Planner
✓	Julia Hensley	✓	Jay Lewis	✓	Devon Thompson, Transit Planner
	<b>Bath County</b>		Chris Slaydon	✓	Steve Bolster, Regional Planner
	Vacant		<b>Rockingham County</b>		Ansley Heller, Transportation Planner
	<b>City of Buena Vista</b>	✓	Leila Longcor	✓	Donnie Kern, Finance Director
✓	Tyson Cooper	✓	Rhonda Cooper, Secretary	✓	Paula Melester, Regional Planner
	<b>City of Harrisonburg</b>	✓	Kim Sandum		Joshua Smoot, Regional Planner
	Laura Dent			✓	Rita Whitfield, Office Manager
✓	Monica Robinson		<b>City of Waynesboro</b>		
✓	Adam Fletcher	✓	Terry Short, Treasurer		
	<b>Highland County</b>		Jim Shaw		
✓	Henry Budzinski				<b>Others</b>
	<b>City of Lexington</b>			✓	Jim Youngquist, SERDI
✓	Frank Friedman, Vice Chair			✓	Joel Hensley, Rockingham County
				✓	Buster Lewis, Rockbridge County

**Call to Order**

The February 5, 2024, meeting of the Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission (CSPDC) was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Vice Chairperson Frank Friedman. Pursuant to the 2022 amendment to Virginia’s FOIA law, the CSPDC is eligible to hold up to two meetings virtually each year. The CSPDC February 5, 2024, meeting was conducted via video conferencing using Zoom.

**Public Comment**

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

## **Minutes**

Vice Chairperson Friedman presented the minutes from the October 16, 2023, CSPDC Commission meeting. There being no corrections or additions, Chairman Friedman declared the minutes approved as presented.

## **Executive Director's Report**

Under Executive Director's Report, Ms. Riedesel gave an update on staff. She introduced and welcomed Donnie Kern, new Finance Director; announced that Olivia Wright has resigned her position as Housing Program Manager; and announced two new staff babies, Zach Beard and his wife had a baby girl in December; and Joshua Smoot and his wife had a baby boy in January.

Ms. Riedesel stated that every two years, the Commission produces a document called *Facts & Figures*, which represents a sampling of 175 different demographic and economic measures from the Regional Data Center. She noted that printed copies are available, and a digital copy is available on the Regional Data Center. Ms. Riedesel noted that copies will also be distributed to the public through the region's local governments, area economic development organizations, Chambers of Commerce, and other organizations.

Ms. Riedesel reported on *Investments in the Region - FY20-FY23*. She stated that one of the most important services the CSPDC provides to the localities is identification of funding opportunities and grantsmanship. She stated that in FY23, the Commission applied for and received approval for \$7.7 million in grant funding for the Region. Ms. Riedesel stated that for the past four years, the Commission has been instrumental in bringing in more than \$67 million in new investments to the Region, which calculates to \$74 in new investments for every \$1 in local membership dues.

Ms. Riedesel announced that this was her last Commission meeting, as she is retiring in March. She expressed her appreciation for the opportunity to serve the region for the past 29 years and for the help of her dedicated staff, a strong working relationship with the local governments, and support from the CSPDC Commissioners.

## **Treasurer's Report**

Vice Chairperson Friedman presented for consideration the Treasurer's Report (attached to file minutes). Mr. Kern gave a report on the December 2023 Financial Statements, noting that the CSPDC's financial position remains strong. He reviewed the Balance Sheet, noting that the \$1.2 million increase in cash and investments is a result of collections for annual assessments, and matching funds projects that also correlates to the decrease of receivables by \$1.5 million. Mr. Kern reported on the Income Statement, noting that the revenue year to date is \$2,446,695. Mr. Short moved, seconded by Ms. Hensley, to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

## **Update on Executive Director Search**

Vice Chairman Friedman introduced and welcomed Mr. Jim Youngquist of SouthEast Regional Directors Institute (SERDI) to report on the Executive Director search. Mr. Youngquist gave an update on the search, noting that two applicants have applied so far, and that the closing date to submit resumes is February 16<sup>th</sup>. He stated that the CSPDC Executive Committee has appointed the following individuals to serve on the Search Committee: Executive Committee members Frank

Friedman, Terry Short, Sharon Angle, and Rhonda Cooper; and non-Executive Committee members Billy Fitzgerald, Nancy Gourley, and Deborah Flippo. Mr. Youngquist stated that he will be meeting with the Search Committee to review the resumes after the February 16<sup>th</sup> deadline. Vice Chairman Friedman stated that after reviewing the resumes, the Executive Committee members will present their selection to the CSPDC Full Commission for consideration.

### **Recognition of New Commissioners**

Vice Chairperson Friedman welcomed and recognized the following new Commissioners:

- Henry Budzinski – Highland County
- Leila Longcor – Rockingham County
- Tyson Cooper – City of Buena Vista

Vice Chairperson Friedman recognized the following outgoing Commissioners and on behalf of the CSPDC, expressed his appreciation for their outstanding leadership and notable service to the Planning District Commission and to the people of the District, shown during their terms as Commissioners.

- Eddie Hicklin – Bath County
- David Blanchard – Highland County
- Billy Fitzgerald – City of Buena Vista
- Sallie Wolfe-Garrison – Rockingham County

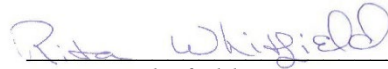
### **Rockbridge Region General Aviation Airport Resolution (BAF #24-1)**

Vice Chairman Friedman presented for consideration a Resolution for the Rockbridge Region General Aviation Airport. He introduced and welcomed Mr. Buster Lewis, who was present to give a review on the Rockbridge Region General Aviation Airport Feasibility Study. Mr. Lewis stated that the Rockbridge region is exploring the possibility of a General Aviation Airport in the area. He noted that the Virginia Department of Aviation and the Federal Aviation Administration have funding for planning, which may provide on a cost-sharing basis for a feasibility study, which, in turn, would provide for an in-depth analysis of the potential project, a market condition analysis, an in-depth look at competition, and recommendations for a site. Mr. Lewis stated that the Virginia Department of Aviation has identified a “gap” in aviation services in the Rockbridge region and considers the Rockbridge region an underserved community and recognizes the important economic benefits that a General Aviation Airport would bring to the region. He noted that the Rockbridge region has garnered the support of many community and economic development organizations, higher education institutions, and private business and industry. Mr. Lewis stated that the CSPDC will assist Rockbridge County, the City of Buena Vista, and the City of Lexington, with this initiative by seeking and applying for state and federal funding to conduct a feasibility study and administering the planning grant(s), if awarded. Ms. Hensley moved, seconded by Mr. Short, to endorse the Resolution of Support for the Rockbridge Region General Aviation Airport Feasibility Study. Motion was carried by unanimous vote.

## **Adjournment**

On behalf of the Commission, Vice Chairperson Friedman expressed his appreciation to Ms. Riedesel for her outstanding leadership and notable service to the Planning District Commission and to the people of the District, shown during her 29 years of service. He announced that the next Commission meeting will be held on Monday, April 15, 2024. There being no further business to come before the Commission, a motion for adjournment was unanimously passed at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



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*Rita F. Whitfield*

*Clerk to the Commission*