



**Minutes of the
Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission
Full Commission Meeting
112 MacTanly Place
Staunton, VA 24401
August 17, 2026, 7:00 p.m.**

Attendance: 25

	Augusta County		Rockbridge County		Staff
✓	Carolyn Bragg		Leslie Ayers	✓	Garreth Bartholomew
	Vacant	✓	Chris Slaydon*	✓	Zach Beard
	Julia Hensley		Rockingham County	✓	Philippe Bone
	Bath County	✓	Sallie Wolfe-Garrison	✓	Jeremy Crute
✓	Lynn Ellen Black*		Joel Hensley	✓	Ann Cundy
	City of Buena Vista	✓	Rachel Salatin	✓	Kayla Dixon
	Jesse Lineberry	✓	Kim Sandum*	✓	Danielle Gannon
	City of Harrisonburg		City of Staunton	✓	Donnie Kern
✓	Laura Dent	✓	Brad Arrowood	✓	Rachel Kinzer
	Nasser Alsaadun	✓	Sharon Angle	✓	Paula Melester
	Adam Fletcher		City of Waynesboro	✓	Kimberly Miller
	Highland County	✓	Terry Short	✓	Rich Sagui
	Henry Budzinski	✓	Leslie Tate	✓	Devon Thompson
	City of Lexington				
✓	John Driscoll				

*Indicates remote electronic participation

Call To Order

The Commission meeting of August 17, 2026, was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Vice Chair Carolyn Bragg presided as Acting Chair following the passing of Chair Frank Friedman.

Remote Participation

Acting Chair Bragg noted that several Commissioners provided notice of their inability to attend in person and requested to participate remotely by Teams. She stated that the Commission's Remote Participation Policy requires the assembled quorum of members to approve remote electronic participation. **Mr. Arrowood moved, seconded by Ms. Angle, to approve remote electronic participation, including the ability to vote, for the Commissioners participating by Teams. The motion carried unanimously.**

Public Comment

Acting Chair Bragg opened the floor for public comments. There were no public comments.

Consideration of Minutes

Acting Chair Bragg presented the minutes of the meeting held on June 15, 2026. ***Ms. Tate moved, seconded by Mr. Short, to approve the minutes as presented. The motion carried unanimously.***

Chair's Report

Acting Chair Bragg reported on the following items:

- She discussed the loss of Chair Frank Friedman on July 2nd, noting it was a shock to the Commission. The Commission made a gift in his memory to the Frank Friedman Memorial Fund at the Community Foundation of Rockbridge, Bath, and Alleghany. She invited Commissioners to share remembrances; several Commissioners spoke to his character, compassion, and charismatic personality. Commissioner Driscoll noted he would share the Resolution of Appreciation (discussed later in the Agenda) with the Lexington City Council at its next meeting.
- She welcomed John Driscoll as the newest Commissioner representing the City of Lexington and asked him to introduce himself. Mr. Driscoll noted his prior service on the Lexington Planning Commission and his first interaction with the CSPDC when he participated in a comprehensive plan rewrite. His earlier career was in regional planning, and he and his wife relocated to Lexington/Natural Bridge to be near her family.
- She welcomed Kayla Dixon as CSPDC's newest full-time staff member, serving as Community Outreach and Engagement Planner. Ms. Dixon previously served as the JMU MPA graduate assistant and graduated in May.
- She welcomed Lauren Stuhldreier, Economic Development Representative with the U.S. Economic Development Administration, who presented later in the meeting.

Executive Director's Report

Ms. Cundy reported on the following items:

- **Virginia Retirement System (VRS):** Ms. Cundy thanked Kimberly Miller and Donnie Kern for their work transitioning the CSPDC into VRS.
- **BRITE Transit:** The transition to new turnkey contractor Resource Management Systems (RMS) is underway.
- **Water Supply Plans:** CSPDC submitted a third round of funding applications to VADEQ for the Upper Shenandoah and Upper James water supply plans. Thanks in part to VAPDC's advocacy during the last General Assembly session, each plan is eligible for approximately \$40,000 in this round for Phase Three work, up from \$8,000 in prior rounds. Ms. Cundy credited VAPDC Executive Director David Blunt for his role in securing the increase.

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- **Groundwater Studies:** Staff continue coordinating with the Alliance for the Shenandoah Valley, VADEQ, and USGS regarding potential local or regional groundwater studies.
 - **FY26 Annual Report:** Staff are preparing another round of visits to member boards and councils this fall to share the FY26 annual report and hear local priorities for the coming year.
 - **Childcare Data Partnership:** CSPDC has partnered with the Virginia Early Childhood Foundation on a GIS-based analysis of childcare availability and demand in the region, with Regional Planner Rachel Kinzer leading the GIS work.
 - **Rural Health Transformation Initiative:** CSPDC is exploring a role administering the “Connected Care Closer to Home” component of the federal Rural Health Transformation Program with DMAS, potentially funding telehealth or mobile care projects through local health systems. Staff have met with Augusta Health and are engaging Sentara RMH and Carilion Clinic, under a tight federal deadline requiring at least one project under contract by July 31. Discussion followed on what provider types, including non-corporate or cooperative care models, might be eligible.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Terry Short introduced the Treasurer's Report and turned the floor over to Finance Director Donnie Kern. Mr. Kern introduced David Blount, Executive Director of the Virginia Association of Planning District Commissions (VAPDC), for a special presentation. Mr. Blount announced that Acting Chair Bragg had joined the VAPDC Board as of the end of July and then he presented the 2026 VAPDC Gordon Dixon Award to Executive Director Ann Cundy in recognition of her outstanding leadership and contributions to promoting regionalism in the Commonwealth.

Mr. Kern then presented the Treasurer's Report, noting that CSPDC's financial position remains strong. Mr. Kern noted changes in revenues and expenses, specifically an increase in contracted services due to the Rockbridge County Airport Feasibility Study, which was not included in the original or amended budget. He noted that the annual audit is proceeding smoothly.

Mr. Short moved, seconded by Ms. Tate, to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution of Appreciation for Frank Friedman

Acting Chair Bragg read the Resolution of Appreciation honoring Chair Frank Friedman (full text included in the meeting materials). The Resolution recognized Mr. Friedman's service on the Commission from 2015 until his passing on July 2, 2026, his contributions as Mayor of Lexington and representative to the Go Virginia Region 8 Council and the Improve I-81 Advisory Committee; his advocacy for succession planning and the Commission's transition to the Virginia Retirement System; and the collegiality and respect he brought to

every meeting. Chair Bragg expressed the Commission's deepest sympathies to his family and honored his memory, decade of service, and leadership.

Appointment of Executive Committee Member (BAF #26-13)

Acting Chair Bragg reported that the vacancy on the Executive Committee created by Chair Friedman's passing must be filled through appointment by the full Commission, per CSPDC Bylaws, from among Commissioners representing jurisdictions not currently represented on the Executive Committee. The eligible Commissioners are: Lynn Ellen Black (Bath County), Jesse Lineberry (Buena Vista), Henry Budzinski (Highland County), and John Driscoll (Lexington). Ms. Black declined due to other commitments. Mr. Driscoll expressed his willingness to serve. Mr. Lineberry and Mr. Budzinski were unavailable for comment.

Mr. Short moved, seconded by Ms. Angle, to appoint John Driscoll to fill the unexpired term of Commissioner Frank Friedman on the Executive Committee. The motion carried unanimously.

Economic Development Administration Update

Lauren Stuhldreyer, Economic Development Representative with the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA), provided an overview of EDA funding opportunities available to the region. Virginia falls within EDA's Philadelphia Regional Office; CSPDC is one of 14 Economic Development Districts among Virginia's 21 planning district commissions, a designation built on the Commission's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy and requiring a PDC letter of support with any application. Eligible applicants include governmental entities, higher education institutions, Indian tribes, and nonprofits.

- EDA's primary regional funding is Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance: Public Works funds construction of publicly owned infrastructure tied to industry (not housing or childcare); Economic Adjustment Assistance is more flexible, typically funding studies and feasibility work.
- Typical local match is 60/40 (70/30 for Buena Vista), rising to 80/20 for a major employer closure or a FEMA-declared disaster.
- Competitive applications show private industry support, a clear employment pipeline, and a concise project narrative.
- Recent Virginia examples: a LENOWISCO PDC supply chain analysis, a training facility renovation at Mountain Gateway Community College, a New River Regional Water Authority infrastructure project, an innovation/maker-space project, and hangar construction at Shenandoah Valley Regional Airport with Blue Ridge Community College.
- EDA's fiscal year runs October–September, with rolling funding; once a year's allocation is exhausted, applications roll to the next fiscal year.

CSPDC Fiscal Year 2027 Work Program (Board Memo #26-07)

Executive Director Cundy introduced CSPDC staff to provide a brief overview of the Commission's FY27 work program by program area.

- **Community & Economic Development:** Director of Planning Jeremy Crute highlighted three broadband projects (over \$17 million) bringing high-speed internet to more than 3,700 households in Bath, Highland, and Rockbridge Counties; water and sewer work in Dayton, Bridgewater, Broadway, Goshen, and Timberville; workforce training support for the Shenandoah Valley Center for Advanced Learning; the childcare data partnership noted above; placemaking projects in Goshen; and a regional aviation innovation corridor study.
- **Environmental Planning:** Regional Planner Rachel Kinzer reported on the Watershed Implementation Plan program (including a no-match Watershed Wellness Mini Grant and recent projects in Lexington and along Lewis Creek), the Regional Flood and Stormwater Resilience Plan (underway with 17 of the Commission's 21 localities, completing this fall), and continued work on the Upper James and Shenandoah River water supply plan updates, expected to conclude in 2029.
- **Housing:** Regional Planner, Philippe Bone reported on housing development (the 48th Habitat for Humanity home now complete in Rockbridge County, 128 affordable units underway in Waynesboro and Harrisonburg, and a third round of Virginia Housing funding ahead), housing preservation work in Bath and Augusta Counties (a CDBG grant and a pending \$65,000 USDA grant application), and continued first-time homebuyer support through Virginia Housing's SPARC program.
- **Transportation:** Program Manager Zach Beard reported that the Commission's two MPOs are each launching a corridor study this year - Frontier Drive in Staunton and Stone Spring/Ridgedale Roads in Rockingham County - alongside an upcoming Long-Range Transportation Plan update and continued work with the Town of Dayton on its comprehensive plan. Transportation Planner Garreth Bartholomew reported on the rural program, including VDOT Ready, Set, Go projects in Grottoes, Mount Crawford, and Timberville, a Route 42 safety assessment, and ongoing coordination with VDOT.
- **Transit and Rideshare:** Ms. Thompson reported a successful FTA triennial review, the transition to newly contracted transit provider, Resource Management Systems (RMS), and upcoming work including a transit marketing campaign, new bus shelters in Staunton, Augusta and Waynesboro, and a full Transit Development Plan update. Ms. Gannon reported that Afton Express will shift into ridership monitoring following last year's schedule change, while the rideshare program builds an employer database to guide outreach to regional employers.

Following the presentations, a Commissioner noted involvement in a citizen effort (blueridgerail.org) advocating for passenger rail service to Harrisonburg and encouraged Commissioners to submit comments to DRPT's statewide rail plan, due September 30.

Intergovernmental Reviews (Board Memo #26-08)

Ms. Cundy noted that the three intergovernmental reviews included in the packet, all from VADEQ, require no action from the Commission. One review, a draft VPDES permit reissuance for the Mount Sidney Wastewater Treatment Plant in Augusta County, directly affects the CSPDC region.

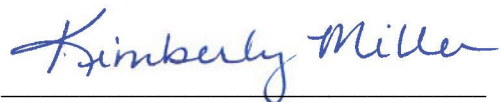
Other Business

Acting Chair Bragg reminded Commissioners that the next CSPDC Commission meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 19, 2026. As has become customary, this may be an off-site meeting; the location is to be determined, and she welcomed suggestions.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kimberly Miller, Commission Clerk