



MINUTES
November 14, 2019

Members and Alternates (A) Present

Parker Agelasto..... City of Richmond
 Nolen Blackwood (A) City of Richmond
 Steve Elswick Chesterfield County
 Gloria Freye..... Chesterfield County
 Timothy Davey..... Chesterfield County
 Dorothy Jaeckle Chesterfield County
 Angela Kelly-Wiecek, Secretary Hanover County
 Kristen Larson City of Richmond
 Susan Lascolette Goochland County
 Tyrone Nelson, Chair Henrico County
 Larry Nordvig Powhatan County
 Patricia Paige, Treasurer..... New Kent County
 Canova Peterson Hanover County
 Dr. George Spagna, Vice Chair Town of Ashland
 Randy Silber (A)..... Henrico County
 Frank Thornton Henrico County
 Randy Whittaker Hanover County
 Christopher Winslow..... Chesterfield County

Others Present

Eric Gregory..... Hefty, Wiley and Gore
 Mark Rhodes..... Dunham, Aukamp & Rhodes, PLC
 David Sacks..... Henrico County

Staff Present

Terry Eckhout..... Director of Finance
 Diane Fusco..... Office Manager
 Sidd Kumar..... Project Coordinator
 Chet Parsons..... Director of Transportation
 Martha Shickle..... Executive Director

Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Nelson called the regularly scheduled November 14, 2019 meeting to order at approximately 9:15 a.m. in the James River Board Room. He then led members in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

Certification of Meeting Quorum

Ms. Shickle, Executive Director, confirmed a quorum was present.

1. Requests for Additions or Changes to Order of Business

Chairman Nelson asked if there were any requests to change the agenda or order of business. With no requests for changes the agenda was approved.

2. Public Comment Period

Seeing no requests from the public to address members of the Commission, Chairman Nelson closed the public comment period.

3. Minutes for the October 10, 2019 Meeting

Mr. Peterson made a motion to accept the October 10, 2019 minutes as presented; Ms. Lascolette seconded the motion and the minutes were accepted. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Regional Forum: Local Government Panel

Chairman Nelson asked Ms. Shickle to introduce the panel for the regional forum. Ms. Shickle said five local government county administrators were in attendance for the meeting and the administrators for the remaining four localities would be in attendance at a Commission meeting in the Spring.

John Budesky, Goochland County; Michelle Johnson, Charles City County; Rodney Hathaway, New Kent County; Joshua Farrar, Town of Ashland; and Ted Vorhees, Powhatan County comprised the panel of County Administrators. Ms. Shickle asked each panelist to highlight issues and opportunities at the local level and how they may relate to the region.

Mr. Vorhees (Powhatan) began the session and discussed issues such as development in rural communities, broadband, and accessing federal funds. He discussed the recent VACO meeting and the goal of equal taxation treatment and the argument for this to be a local decision. He also mentioned a regional transportation funding taxing authority to enhance the region's ability to better leverage state and federal transportation funding.

Mr. Farrar (Ashland) discussed redevelopment efforts in Ashland and employing a strategic approach to use existing properties effectively and making use of local taxes. Regionally he agrees that some type of regional tax authority for transportation is critical. He feels now is the time to move on transportation issues and mass transit is an important topic to explore from a regional perspective.

Mr. Hathaway (New Kent) shared that the County is divided by how it's citizen would like the county to look in the next 20 or 30 years. Half of the county does not want additional development, but the other half would like to see more big box stores and retail development. The County is starting on a strategic planning process and aims to get community input and this feedback will serve as a road map for the future. Other areas of priority are broadband, investments in transportation infrastructure and leverage for additional state and federal funds. Mr. Hathaway also agrees with a regional transportation tax authority and mentioned many investments that have been made in emergency services for New Kent.

Ms. Johnson (Charles City) referenced the tough election season and announced that the County will have new Board member in 2020. She said a new library and Dollar General store have opened in the county and new development is taking place including two new power plants. Both projects are in excess of \$1 billion investments and will change the face of Charles City; the opportunities are endless. An assisted living facility has also been approved that will allow older citizens to stay in the county.

Mr. Budesky (Goochland) noted the county administrators do lean on each and as demonstrated from the panel have a very strong relationship. He said Goochland is in a very good place and is structurally sound financially but noted there are service demands that must be balanced with the county's relatively low tax rate. He said the school population is dropping while the current median house value is \$505,000. He agrees there are regional transportation funding challenges that have been discussed in the past and different approaches should be considered in addition to a taxing solution.

Chairman Nelson thanked the panel members and asked if there were any questions. Ms. Jaeckle noted population wants benefits of density but not the density – they want broadband but not the people.

Ms. Lascolette said Smart Scale needs to be fixed. Ms. Kelly-Wiecek noted other regions have plans in place to seek authority to generate local transportation funds to improve competitiveness of applications submitted for funding and that we need to work with what is available.

Chairman Nelson asked Ms. Johnson about the power plants she mentioned in Charles City County. She said two natural gas power plants are planned and permitted and each plant will create jobs during construction and then fewer once they are operational. Ms. Johnson stated many citizens that are against the power plants are misinformed. Public hearings have been planned and there will be an information session with representatives from the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality. She reiterated the power plants are a great opportunity for the county and the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Mr. Thornton pointed out progressive regions are needed for the future and we need to customize the tools necessary for this region.

Ms. Shickle asked about implications of the newly designated tribal organizations. Mr. Hathaway discussed contact with the Pamunkey tribe regarding a casino being built and settling on a location that is about 3,000 acres. He said the federal government may underwrite some of the costs. Ms. Johnson mentioned discussions with the Chickahominy tribe regarding casinos in Charles City County and grant funding possibilities as the plans develop. She indicated she will keep the Regional Commission informed as these plans develop.

Mr. Nordvig commented on transportation planning and suggested developing these plans in conjunction with VDOT. He also discussed broadband and the need for funding to address the gap of service and the need for quick action

Chairman Nelson thanked the panel for attending the meeting and all the great work they are doing across the region.

5. Reports

a. Executive Director's Report

i. Intergovernmental and Environmental Review Summary

Ms. Shickle mentioned the review summary is included for informational purposes only; no action is requested.

ii. Cooperation Agreement for Multi-Jurisdictional Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice

Ms. Shickle said the Regional Commission was approached this summer about providing support for this analysis to economize the cost associated with producing this report. The localities affected determined they would like to work together to procure vendor services and asked the Regional Commission to administer the project. This would mean the Regional Commission would solicit the vendor and manage that vendor contract on behalf of the participating jurisdictions.

The total project cost has been capped at \$125,000, of which \$15,000 was set aside to compensate the Regional Commission for administering the project. Ms. Shickle pointed out that she has been working with David Sacks from Henrico County and he is in attendance to answer additional questions.

Mr. Elswick asked who represents the localities and if the study only addresses impediments and not the things that are being done well. Ms. Shickle pointed out the title is federal language. Representatives from the local community development departments are supervising the project; in Chesterfield County, the contact is Kathleen Thompson. Mr. Sacks provided additional contacts from the other localities involved.

Ms. Jaeckle asked about previous analysis and where they are located. Mr. Sacks said for Chesterfield County, one was completed about five years ago. He confirmed the most

recent mandate states the analysis must be done every five years and each locality should have the last one that was completed available for review either online or through the community development offices.

Ms. Kelly-Wiecek confirmed Regional Commission staff is not actually doing the study and asked where this study fits in to the strategic planning framework. Ms. Shickle said the study does fit within the framework in prioritizing work prioritized by the localities and this project is similar to how we work with emergency services to coordinate cost effective consultant services for multiple partnering jurisdictions. In addition, there is potential to enhance our database for the region. The equity analysis data may be useful in other program areas. Ms. Kelly-Wiecek said it would be helpful going forward to show where these types of projects fit within the matrix of the strategic framework.

Mr. Winslow asked about the standards of evaluation and Mr. Sacks replied standards used by HUD remain the same.

Mr. Peterson asked for clarification about the special assessment terminology used in the presentation. Ms. Shickle said each locality pays a portion of the total cost of the project and those jurisdictions that are not participating in the analysis are not contributing. Mr. Gregory said the special assessment can be considered a fee for service.

Mr. Agelasto asked if the bylaws have any stipulation about conducting a project outside of the Regional Commission boundaries. Ms. Shickle said she is not aware of any prohibition and the Regional Commission regularly collaborates with neighboring PDCs including the Crater PDC.

Ms. Lascolette asked what happens if the Regional Commission exceeds the \$15K fee and Ms. Shickle said the MOU does cap the fee at \$15K so any overages would be absorbed by the Regional Commission. Ms. Lascolette asked if Ms. Shickle feels confident the work can be managed within this fee. Ms. Shickle said the agency time allocations model indicates the project can be completed within this budget.

There were no additional questions and Chairman Nelson asked for a motion to approve the proposed agreement. Mr. Agelasto made the motion which was seconded by Mr. Winslow. The motion was approved unanimously.

b. Executive Committee/Chairman's Report

Ms. Larson pointed out today's meeting is Mr. Agelasto last meeting with the Regional Commission. Chairman Nelson reviewed other Commissioners whose terms would be ending in December – Ms. Jaeckle, Mr. Elswick, Ms. Cabell and Mr. Miles.

Chairman Nelson said he would give the outgoing Commissioners a chance to address the Board at the December meeting. Mr. Agelasto said it has been an honor to serve and he was thanked with a round of applause from the Commission.

c. Audit, Facilities & Finance Committee Report

September Financial Statements:

Dr. Spagna referred to Tab 4 of the agenda packet and said reports were reviewed by the Audit, Facilities & Finance committee. Overall, the reports are positive as the agency operating revenues for the first quarter exceeded expenses. The agency is performing better than expected at this time of the year due to a lag in filling vacancies (reducing personnel expenses) and less than expected expenses for contractors in the first quarter.

Dr. Spagna made a motion to accept the September Financial Statements as presented and Ms. Jaeckle seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously. The Financial statements were accepted as presented.

FY19 Draft Annual Audit:

Dr. Spagna said the FY2019 review resulted in a clean audit with no recommendations for major changes. He said the Executive Committee motion to enter in to closed session in the earlier meeting mentioned fraud but there was no case of fraud, just an error in the language used. Dr. Spagna deferred any audit questions to Mr. Rhodes.

Chairman Nelson said the draft audit was distributed to localities' CAOs and Managers and suggestions to changes in language have been incorporated. Ms. Shickle also commented Henrico County had non-substantative changes that have been incorporated as well following distribution of the meeting materials.

Mr. Rhodes confirmed there were no findings in internal controls or concerns with regard to compliance with uniform guidance requirements. There were no additional questions.

Dr. Spagna made a motion to approve the FY2019 Annual Audit and Mr. Thornton seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

d. Public Outreach and Engagement Committee Report

Mr. Nordvig reported the committee is meeting after the Full Commission adjourns and would provide an update at the December meeting. He also encouraged any locality that has not completed a resolution of the 50th Anniversary and the rebranding of PlanRVA to do so. He said this provides press for PlanRVA and exposure for the Board. He mentioned local community involvement, promotional products, and more activities to come.

Adjournment

With no other business, Chairman Nelson adjourned the meeting at approximately 10:27 a.m.

minutes approved at 12/12/19 meeting

