

WEST PIEDMONT PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION

MINUTES

of the

October 24, 2024 Meeting

held at the Commission Office
1100 Madison Street, Martinsville, VA

PRESENT

Jim Adams, Chairman, Henry County
Tim Tatum, Vice-Chairman, Franklin County
Kathy Lawson, Treasurer, Martinsville
Jerry Adams, Patrick County
Ken Bowman, Pittsylvania County
Ralph Casey, Rocky Mount
Pam Cobler, Henry County
Wes George, Henry County (V)
Vic Ingram, Pittsylvania County
Clayton Kendrick, Patrick County
Tyler Lee, Rocky Mount (V)
Joe Martin, Martinsville
Dr. Gary Miller, Danville (V)
Doug Perry, Patrick County
Aaron Rawls, Martinsville

ABSENT

Nick Mitchell, Franklin County
David Rotenizer, Franklin County
Lucas Tuning, Rocky Mount
Lee Vogler, Danville

STAFF

Kristie Eberly, Executive Director
Sean Campbell, Housing Program Director

(V) = Virtual Attendance

In accordance with the *West Piedmont PDC Remote Electronic Participation and All-Virtual Meeting Policy*, members attended virtually for the following reasons:

Wes George, Henry County-Personal matter
Dr. Gary Miller, Danville-Personal matter
Tyler Lee, Rocky Mount-Personal matter

1. Call to Order and Welcome

The Chairman established a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Regional Forum Opportunity – Comments from Public

There were no comments.

3. **Consent Agenda**

a. **Confirmation of Minutes of the August 22, 2024 Meeting.**

Mr. Tim Tatum made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Kathy Lawson, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Upon vote, the motion was carried unanimously.

4. **Appalachian Regional Commission: Authorization for Annual Application for Administrative Grant Funds and Intergovernmental Review**

The Executive Director explained that each year West Piedmont applies to the Appalachian Regional Commission for Local Development District (LDD) funding. Last year's funding was \$106,232 with \$53,116 coming from Planning District funds to match the same amount from ARC. Each year the PDC needs to have a resolution to apply for the upcoming year's funding. Staff recommends the approval of the Resolution for authorization to apply for the ARC funding.

Mr. Jerry Adams made a motion, seconded by Mr. Tim Tatum, to approve the Resolution for authorization to apply for Annual Administrative Grant Funds through ARC. Upon vote, the motion was carried unanimously.

5. **Economic Development Administration: Authorization for Annual Application for Planning Funds**

The Executive Director explained that the Economic Development Administration (EDA) requires the PDC to apply to receive annual planning funds for the Economic Development District (EDD) each year. The funding received last year from EDA was \$70,000 and the PDC match was \$46,667 for a total grant of \$116,667. The PDC Staff recommends the approval of the Resolution for authorization to apply for EDA planning funds.

Mr. Tim Tatum made a motion, seconded by Mr. Vic Ingram, to approve the Resolution to authorize the PDC to apply for EDD planning funds through EDA. Upon vote, the motion was carried unanimously.

6. **Rural Transportation Planning Assistance: Authorization for Annual Application for Planning Assistance Funds**

The Executive Director explained that these funds are for Rural Transportation planning in the areas outside of the MPO area. The grant request is for \$58,000 with PDC match for \$14,500. The PDC Staff recommends that the Resolution be approved to apply for Rural Transportation planning funds.

Dr. Gary Miller made a motion, seconded by Mr. Joe Martin, to approve the Resolution to authorize the PDC to apply for Rural Transportation planning funds. Upon vote, the motion was carried unanimously.

Comments were made referring to further information about handicapped options outside of the MPO area and the Executive Director offered to bring in Mr. Joe Bonanno, Senior Transportation Planner, at a future meeting to explain the programs in more detail.

7. Consideration of Resolutions of Support for Round 6 Smart Scale Transportation Project Applications for Henry County and Franklin County

The Executive Director explained that the Round 6 Smart Scale applications chosen by Henry and Franklin Counties for improvements to roads in their areas require a resolution from the WPPDC. Henry County is submitting an application for transportation project funding to the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) for the Intersection of Route 220 and Morehead Avenue (Route 87) intersection improvement by reconfiguring the intersection to a continuous Green-T alternative configuration. Franklin County is submitting an application to the CTB for transportation project funding for realignment of Route 220 at Henry Road (Route 605) to improve horizontal and vertical roadway curvature. Both project resolutions are recommend for approval by staff.

Mr. Tyler Lee made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Kathy Lawson, to approve the Resolution of Support for Franklin County. Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Kathy Lawson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Tim Tatum, to approve the Resolution of Support for Henry County. Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.

8. Executive Director's Report

PDC Housing Program is on schedule for completion by mid-2025.

Regional Broadband Projects: There is now over 887 miles of fiber installed in Pittsylvania, Bedford, Charlotte, Patrick, Henry and Franklin Counties having over 5,095 serviceable passings and over 715 current subscribers. Dinwiddie will begin next year.

Regional Tourism Initiative: Outdoor Recreation project is now underway. Destination By Design was chosen as the Consultant for the project. Focus Groups will begin in the next few weeks with anticipated project completion in May or June 2025.

Staff Project List:

- *Franklin County/Bedford County Raise 122 Corridor Study- The application for 2024 was awarded. Project kick-off meeting was September 24, 2024. It will take about 1 year for the project to get under contract with FHWA.
- *Patrick County Business Development Center-ARC and TRRC applications were approved. ARC contract negotiation is underway. The IRF application for the lower level was also approved. The RFP for construction is anticipated to be released in November.
- *Pine Hall Housing Rehab CDBG-Martinsville-Project is underway with completion by December 2024. A compliance review is slated for November 2024.
- *Regional Broadband VATI Project(s)-All projects are progressing. DHCD site visits are scheduled for October in Charlotte County and Pittsylvania County.
- *Regional Outdoor Recreation Development Plan-Friends of SWVA is leading the project which is ARC funded. WPPDC was awarded a TRRC grant which is match for Patrick and Henry Counties and Martinsville. Stakeholder and focus group meetings with the consultant will be starting in November.
- *Rural Investment Collaborative-Community Investment Training-The application for the Federal Reserve Bank's 5-month training program was approved and housing staff will be participating in the program. There were 20 localities chosen to participate and WPPDC was fortunate to have been one. Once completed, WPPDC can apply for Community

Development funding through the Federal Reserve Bank.

- *WPPDC Acquire, Renovate & Sell (ARS) Program-Applied for planning grant funds from VA Housing and DHCD to inventory available housing sites in the region and create a mapping tool. The DHCD application was awarded but is not under contract yet.
- * HUD - Pathways to Removing Obstacles grant. This grant is a 7-million-dollar opportunity to develop housing and infrastructure, buy down mortgage rates, and provide down payment assistance to homebuyers with an income that is lower than 80% of the Area Median Income. HUD has identified specific target areas in the WPPDC region for this program.

Transportation:

Danville MPO-Safe Streets for All (SSFA): Plan is moving along well. The working group will meet this week. Plan is expected to be completed in January 2025, at an estimated cost of about \$171,000.

Danville MPO-Transportation Analysis Zones (TAZ)-MPO Staff is working on updating the Transportation Analysis Zones (TAZ) for the Danville MPO Area. Work should be completed by November 2024.

WPPDC Office & Administration:

The WPPDC still has a vacant Community Development Specialist position and will be advertising for the Finance Technician position in the next few weeks.

9. Other Business

The Executive Director noted that the leak in the roof has been fixed on the exterior of the building. The interior has a small spot that needs cosmetic repair and will be fixed internally. The cost of the external repair was \$4,750.00 which included the replacement of the entire back section of the roof.

The Executive Director has spoken to the auditor, it was understood that they anticipated having the audit completed and available by the December 5th meeting.

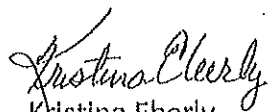
The Chairman read a Resolution of the WPPDC in honor of Mr. Ralph Casey for his 32 years of service on the WPPDC Board. The Chairman asked for a motion to adopt the Resolution. Mr. Tim Tatum made a motion, seconded by Mr. Vic Ingram. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

10. Comments from Commissioners

There were no other comments from the Commissioners.

11. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:33 p.m.


 Kristina Eberly
 Executive Director