



Minutes
Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission Meeting
112 MacTanly Place, Staunton, VA 24401
April 15, 2019, 7:00 p.m.

Member Jurisdiction Representatives					
	Augusta County		City of Staunton		Staff
✓	Butch Wells	✓	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
✓	Billy Fitzgerald		Rick Chandler		
	City of Harrisonburg	✓	Rhonda Cooper		Others
	Sal Romero	✓	Kim Sandum	✓	Jay Langston, Shenandoah Valley Partnership
	George Hirschmann		City of Waynesboro	✓	Jessica Wetzler, Daily News Record
✓	Adam Fletcher		Terry Short		
	Highland County		Rusty Johnson		
	Kevin Wagner, Vice Chair				
	City of Lexington				
✓	Frank Friedman, Chairman				

Call to Order

The April 15, 2019, 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 4, 2019, CSPDC Commission meeting. Ms. Angle moved, seconded by Ms. Sandum, to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried with Adam Fletcher and Leslie Tate abstaining due to absence.

Chairman's Report

Under Chairman's Report, Chairman Friedman introduced and welcomed Butch Wells, Augusta County representative, and Jessica Wetzler, from the Daily News Record. Chairman Friedman

distributed a list of Commissioners contact information and ask everyone to update their contact information.

Chairman Friedman gave an update on GO Virginia as follows:

- Reported that the Shihadeh Innovation Center project in Winchester was finally approved by the GO Virginia Board in the amount of \$540,000. He reported on how the funds for this project will be utilized.
- Noted that in 2018, the GO Virginia State Board awarded Blue Ridge Community College (BRCC) a \$200,000 grant to launch a Cyber Security Training Program. Graduates of the program will be placed in jobs that have an average wage of \$54,000.
- Announced that the GO Virginia Region 8 Council recently launched its first, annual "Call for Projects" to identify and prioritize projects for the Fiscal Year 2020. Chairman Friedman stated that two GO Virginia summit meetings were held at Lord Fairfax Community College and Blue Ridge Community College on March 13 and 14, respectively. He noted that following the summits, the Region 8 Council invited organizations to submit project ideas by completing and submitting Project Abstracts. Chairman Friedman stated that the Region 8 Council will discuss these project ideas at their April 23, 2019 meeting, in Edinburg.

Executive Director's Report

Under Executive Director's Report, Ms. Riedesel reported on the following:

- Stated that after a competitive bid process and five proposals, the CSPDC has entered into a five-year contract with Litten and Sipe, LLP, effective July 1, 2019, and terminating on June 30, 2024, with the potential for a total of three-one-year extension periods.
- Announced that Fields of Gold Farm Trail members Laurel Fork Sapsuckers, Meadow Croft Farm, Mountain View Farm, Rockbridge Vineyards, and Showalter's Orchard were featured, among other Shenandoah Valley farmers, in *The Furrow's* March 2019 issue. Ms. Riedesel stated that the article entitled *Oh Shenandoah: A Place Where Farmers Gladly Welcome Visitors*, discusses the region's agricultural heritage, product diversity, and the Fields of Gold Farm Trail Program. She noted that *The Furrow* is a worldwide farm magazine published by John Deere & Company.
- Stated that BARC Electric Cooperative has applied for a federal grant to the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) for \$1 million in funding through the 2019 POWER Initiative grant program. Ms. Riedesel noted that funding will be used to fund high-speed internet services and an innovation hub for citizens and businesses of the Town of Goshen. She stated that if awarded, CSPDC staff will assist with grant administration services.
- Announced that the CSPDC has officially kicked off its 50th Anniversary and will be celebrating the CSPDC's accomplishments throughout the year. Ms. Riedesel stated that articles about past CSPDC projects and programs will be featured in the monthly newsletters.

She stated that each member jurisdiction was asked to adopt a resolution commending the CSPDC on its 50th Anniversary and in September, a special 50th anniversary celebration is being planned.

Treasurer's Report

Chairman Friedman presented for consideration the Treasurer's Report (attached to file minutes). Ms. Riedesel gave a report on the February 28, 2019, Financial Statement. Ms. Dull moved, seconded by Ms. Angle, to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Upcoming Election of Executive Committee (Board Memo #19-4)

Chairman Friedman presented Update on Election of Executive Committee Members. Ms. Riedesel gave an update on the election of the Executive Committee members, stating that the current terms of the CSPDC's Executive Committee members will expire June 30, 2019. She explained that the Executive Committee consists of seven Commissioners, each from a different member jurisdiction, and reviewed the election process. Ms. Riedesel noted that several Commission members terms will also expire June 30, 2019. She stated that each jurisdiction was notified regarding the election of the Executive Committee and the expiring terms.

Consideration of 2019 CDBG Regional Priorities (BAF #19-3)

Chairman Friedman presented for consideration the 2019 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 22, 2019. Given time constraints, the list was submitted on March 12, 2019. It was the consensus of the members present to ratify the Executive Director's endorsement letter for the 2019 CDBG Regional Priorities.

Consideration of FY20 Rural Transportation Work Program (BAF #19-4)

Chairman Friedman presented for consideration the FY20 Rural Transportation Work Program. Ms. Cundy gave a brief review on the program, noting that the program will provide \$58,000 and CSPDC will provide a \$14,500 match. She stated that the match is financed using member assessment revenues. Ms. Cundy stated that these funds will be used for 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. Ms. Dull moved, seconded by Ms. Sandum, to approve the Resolution authorizing application for the FY20 Rural Transportation Planning Grant application. Motion was carried by unanimous vote.

I-81 Legislative Update

Chairman Friedman presented I-81 Legislative Update. Ms. Cundy gave an update on I-81, noting that Virginia lawmakers voted to approve higher truck registration fees and gas tax increases along

the I-81 corridor to fund long-needed improvements for the interstate. She stated that both the House and Senate voted to accept Governor Northam's amendments to Senate Bill 1716 and House Bill 2718, which lawmakers passed earlier this year without a source of funding. The amendment allows for a 2.1 percent increase in the motor fuels tax along I-81, which will amount to about 7 cents a gallon.

Hazard Mitigation Plan Update

Ms. Joyce gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Hazard Mitigation Plan and distributed copies of the Central Shenandoah Valley Hazard Mitigation Plan-2019 Hazard Identification Ranking (attached to file minutes). She noted that the plan is required by the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act as amended by the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 to be eligible to receive federal mitigation funding. Ms. Joyce stated that having a Hazard Mitigation Plan helps grant applications for other federal/state programs score higher. She reported on the planning process, noting that all 21 localities in Planning District Six have appointed representatives to the Steering Committee. Ms. Joyce reviewed the funding and timeline, noting that the CSPDC will submit the draft to the Virginia Department of Emergency Management for review in October 2019, VDEM will review and approve in October through February 2020, and the local adoption process is scheduled for March through April 2020.

CSPDC Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDs) Update

Ms. McCarty gave an update on CEDs, noting that the CSPDC is a designated Economic Development District (EDD) under the Economic Development Administration (EDA), U.S. Department of Commerce. She stated that every EDD is required to have a CEDs plan, which is a strategy-driven plan for regional economic development. Ms. McCarty noted that the CSPDC Board serves as the CEDs Committee and is responsible for developing and updating the CEDs on a regular basis. She stated that the new CEDs was presented to the Commission at their August 2018 meeting, followed by a 30-day public comment period, and submitted to EDA. Ms. McCarty reviewed the CSPDC's Strategic Direction/Action Plan's five visions, noting that beneath each vision are goals which help define how that vision will be achieved. She reported that CSPDC staff has created an economic asset web app that allows users to discover business and quality of life assets in the CSPDC region. Ms. McCarty showed the web app and 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. She distributed copies of the CSPDC Region-Economic Highlights, and stated that she had copies of the CSPDC CEDs Executive Summary available for anyone who wanted a copy.

Commonwealth Intergovernmental Review Process (CIRPs)

Ms. Riedesel stated that there were no CIRPs for consideration. She presented two CIRPs that were signed off by staff and required no action as follows:

- (1) An application submitted by the Shenandoah Valley Regional Airport (SHD) for Phase One Development for: 1) for the construction of an access road to access future hangar development; and 2) installation of water and sewer lines to serve future hangar development. Staff waived review on the project as the Commission staff does not feel it

has the expertise to evaluate the impact of a proposed project on the environment, or the need or feasibility of the proposed project.

- (2) An application submitted by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) for 319h Watershed Project funding. All work will occur within the James River and Tributaries, City of Richmond. Staff waived review on the project as it has been determined that the project is an application that does not propose activities which will have direct or significant indirect impacts on the local jurisdictions within Planning District Six.

Shenandoah Valley Partnership Presentation

Chairman Friedman introduced and welcomed Jay Langston, SVP Executive Director, who was present to discuss SVP's ongoing and upcoming activities and SVP's evolving changes. He distributed copies of a handout describing the basic tenets of economic development, location factors, and the SVP strategic plan. Mr. Langston reported on transportation and warehousing employment in the Shenandoah Valley, available industrial and commercial properties, non-college careers, and need for prepared sites. He stated that the Shenandoah Valley Partnership (SVP) works with public and private partners at the local, regional, and state level to develop an economic climate for business success throughout the Shenandoah Valley. Mr. Langston noted that through regional cooperation, the SVP brings together business, government, and education leaders to attract new business to the area, help existing businesses expand, and guide strategic workforce development to grow and sustain a healthy economic future for our region.

Adjournment

Chairman Friedman announced that the next CSPDC meeting will be held on June 17, 2019. There being no further business to come before the Commission, a motion for adjournment was unanimously passed at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rita F. Whitfield
Clerk to the Commission

Approved:

Rick Chandler
CSPDC Secretary