



Minutes
Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission Meeting
Via Zoom Video Conferencing – August 17, 2020, 5:00 p.m.

Member Jurisdiction Representatives					
	Augusta County		City of Staunton		Staff
✓	Butch Wells		Carolyn Dull, Vice Chair	✓	Bonnie Riedesel, Executive Director
	Pam Carter	✓	Sharon Angle	✓	Rebecca Joyce, Community Program Manager
	Vickie Moran		Rockbridge County	✓	Elizabeth McCarty, Deputy Director
✓	Leslie Tate		Jay Lewis	✓	Ann Cundy, Director of Transportation
	Bath County	✓	Chris Slaydon	✓	Lee Bell, Finance Director
✓	Edward Hicklin		Rockingham County	✓	Rita Whitfield, Office Manager
	City of Buena Vista	✓	Steve Schofield	✓	Hunter Moore, Regional Planner/GIS Coordinator
✓	Billy Fitzgerald	✓	Brent Trumbo	✓	Grace Blanchard, Regional Planner
	City of Harrisonburg	✓	Rhonda Cooper		
	Sal Romero	✓	Kim Sandum		
✓	George Hirschmann, Secretary		City of Waynesboro		
✓	Adam Fletcher	✓	Terry Short, Treasurer		
	Highland County		Rusty Johnson		
✓	David Blanchard				Others
	City of Lexington			✓	Jim Halasz, Lexington
✓	Frank Friedman, Chair			✓	Leslie Beauregard, City of Staunton
				✓	Steven Bolster, Rockbridge County

Call to Order

Governor Ralph Northam declared a state of emergency in Virginia on March 12, 2020, in response to COVID-19. In light of this emergency, the August 17, 2020, CSPDC meeting was conducted via Zoom Video Conferencing. The August 17, 2020, Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission Zoom Video Conference was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Chairperson Friedman. He recognized Mr. Steven Bolster from Rockbridge County, and Mr. Jim Halasz from the City of Lexington.

Public Comment

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

Minutes

Chairperson Friedman presented the minutes from the June 15, 2020, CSPDC Commission meeting. There being no corrections or additions, Chairperson Friedman declared the minutes approved as presented.

Chairperson's Report

Under Chairperson's Report, Chairperson Friedman thanked everyone for participating in the Zoom Commission meeting. He expressed his appreciation for all the hard work everyone is doing in their communities, especially in relation to COVID-19.

Executive Director's Report

Under Executive Director's Report, Ms. Riedesel reported on staff updates. She welcomed and introduced Grace Blanchard, newly hired Regional Planner; and announced that Tracy Hibbitts, Regional Planner and Aidan Quirke, Transit Program Manager, have resigned from the Commission. Ms. Riedesel presented the CSPDC's "*A Year In Review*." She stated that this report highlights the programs, projects, and events that took place over the past year. Ms. Riedesel noted that as reflected in the report, the Commission has been busier than ever working to make the communities and region a safer, stronger, cleaner, more livable and more economically viable. She expressed her appreciation to the Commission for their strong and continued support of the CSPDC and its regional planning programs and projects.

Treasurer's Report

Chairperson Friedman presented for consideration the Treasurer's Report (attached to file minutes). Mr. Short gave a report on the June 30, 2020, Financial Statement. He noted that the CSPDC's financial position remains strong and is current on all reimbursement requests. Upon a question from Chairperson Friedman regarding the rental space at the BRITE Transit facility in Fishersville, Ms. Riedesel responded that the Commission entered into a listing agreement with Cottonwood Commercial to market the space. She noted that there was some interest in the rental space, but due to COVID-19 and teleworking, office space rentals have decreased. Ms. Riedesel noted that there is the possibility of renting the space to multiple tenants and she hoped to have additional information at the next meeting. She stated that the Commission will need to acquire permission from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) in order to rent out the space. Mr. Short moved, seconded by Mr. Fitzgerald, to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

GO Virginia Region 8 Update

Mr. Terry Short, GO Virginia Region 8 Council member, gave an update on GO Virginia. He noted that the GO Virginia Region 8 Council held a meeting on July 14, 2020, via Zoom. Mr. Short reported on the following:

- Announced that Mr. George Pace stepped down as Chair of the Region 8 Council in June, and Mr. Chris Kyle was appointed as the new Chair.
- Announced that in April 2020, the State GO Virginia Board made \$1 million of Economic Resiliency and Recovery (ERR) and Fast Access funding available to each of the nine Go Virginia regions across the state to address the impacts of COVID-19 on the economy.
- Reported that since April, the Go Virginia Region 8 Council has approved three projects in Region 8: 1) Start-Up Shenandoah; 2) Reopen SAW; and 3) Small Business Resiliency Team. Mr. Short gave a description on each project, noting that the total number of approved projects in Region 8 is 11, with a total grant award of \$1,878,227.
- Announced that the next scheduled meeting of the Region 8 Council is scheduled for October 20, 2020, tentatively at Cross Keys Vineyard.

Locality Discussion on the Local CARES Act Relief Funding

Chairperson Friedman presented for discussion the Local CARES Act Relief Funding. Ms. Leslie Beauregard, City of Staunton; Mr. Brent Trumbo, Rockingham County; Ms. Leslie Tate, Augusta County; Mr. Adam Fletcher, City of Harrisonburg; and Mr. Edward Hicklin, Bath County each gave a brief summary of how their respective localities were utilizing their CARES Act Relief funding.

Presentation on Economic Development Administration (EDA) CARES Act Program

Ms. McCarty gave a review on the EDA CARES Act program. She noted that the CARES Act provided the Economic Development Administration (EDA) with \$1.5 billion to aid communities and regions as they recover from the impacts of the coronavirus pandemic. She stated that as a designated Economic Development District and current EDA Partnership Planning grantee, the CSPDC was invited to apply for a non-competitive supplemental award. The CSPDC submitted its application on June 3, 2020, and was notified on July 31, 2020, that the application was approved in the amount of \$400,000 for a 24-month period, with no required match. Ms. McCarty noted that the CSPDC will participate in developing an Economic Recovery and Resiliency Plan, deploy a Disaster Recovery Coordinator and Team utilizing existing staff, expand technical assistance to the localities to identify and apply for recovery funding, and implement technology to effectively communicate with the resiliency and recovery partners. She stated that under the EDA CARES funding announcement, localities are eligible to apply for financial assistance through a competitive process. Ms. McCarty noted that the CSPDC has shared this funding opportunity with local government staff and has provided further guidance to several localities that have contacted CSPDC staff about potential projects.

Central Shenandoah Hazard Mitigation Plan Update

Ms. Joyce gave an update on the Central Shenandoah Hazard Mitigation Plan. She stated that the 2020 update of the Plan has been completed by staff and will be approved by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), contingent upon adoption by the 21 local jurisdictions. Ms. Joyce noted that this fall, each of the local jurisdictions' will be asked to adopt the 2020 Hazard Mitigation Plan through a resolution. She reviewed the importance of each of the local jurisdictions in the Central Shenandoah Planning District to adopt the Plan. Ms. Joyce stated that the Federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 requires local governments to develop and adopt natural hazard mitigation plans in order to be eligible to receive certain hazard mitigation grant funds in the future. She reported on the new Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program, which will replace the Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) grant program. Ms. Joyce noted that the BRIC program will have more annual funding each year than the previous PDM grant program. On behalf of the City of Staunton, Ms. Beauregard expressed her appreciation for staff's assistance on the flood that occurred last week in the City.

Chesapeake Bay WIP III Update

Ms. Moore gave an update on the CSPDC's Chesapeake Bay Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP III) and reported on the highlights of the CSPDC's work for far. She stated that the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) made grant funds available to the CSPDC to continue work on the Chesapeake Bay Phase III Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP III). Ms. Moore noted that the annual program calls for the CSPDC to provide interim technical and administrative assistance to local governments. She stated that a full list of the 2020 deliverables

can be found on the CSPDC's WIP webpage. Ms. Moore noted that DEQ expects funding for 2021 to be on schedule, and the CSPDC should know more on the funding amount in August or September.

Consideration of Virginia Statewide Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP)

Chairperson Friedman presented for consideration the Virginia Statewide Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP). Ms. Cundy gave a summary on the Plan, noting that the Virginia statewide PTASP for small public transportation providers is a comprehensive plan outlining the Safety Management Systems (SMS) programs at 15 small transit agencies in the Commonwealth. She noted that the PTASP provides general information on each transit agency, including its overall structure and services; the agency Safety Management Policy; Safety Risk Management program; Safety Assurance program; and Safety Promotion program. Mr. Wells moved, seconded by Mr. Hirschmann, to approve the Virginia Statewide Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan as presented. Motion was carried by unanimous vote.

Ms. Cundy gave an update on SMART SCALE Round 4 applications. She stated that the Commission and several local governments in the region submitted a total of 25 SMART SCALE applications that were due today at 5:00 p.m. Ms. Cundy gave a brief review on the projects that were submitted. She noted that she would keep everyone updated on which applications will be recommended for funding. Mr. Fletcher expressed his appreciation to staff and everyone involved in submitting the SMART SCALE applications, noting that these applications involve a lot of extremely significant hard work and effort from staff.

Commonwealth Intergovernmental Review Process (CIRPs) (BAF #20-16)

Chairperson Friedman presented for consideration Commonwealth Intergovernmental Review Process (CIRPs). Ms. Riedesel stated that she had received an additional CIRP submitted by Health Equipment Loan Program to Rural Development for medical equipment and purchase of property for a total funding of \$180,000 for consideration. Mr. Slaydon moved, seconded by Ms. Tate, to endorse the staff's recommendations. Motion carried unanimously. They are as follows:

- A. *An application submitted by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) for VADEQ 2020 State Clean Water Revolving Fund (VCWRLF) Capitalization Grant.* DEQ is requesting \$39,025,200 in federal funds to meet the yearly loan demands of Virginia's local governments, as well as citizens and corporations, to facilitate needed wastewater collection and treatment facilities and non-point source improvements across the Commonwealth of Virginia. Staff recommends endorsement.
- B. *An application submitted by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) for VADEQ 2020 Water Use Data and Research Project.* DEQ is requesting \$122,643 in federal funds to develop estimates of non-reported agricultural irrigation withdrawals at the county level and improve understanding of how these withdrawals vary through time, particularly during dry periods. Staff recommends endorsement.
- C. *An application submitted by the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin for Clean Water Act.* The Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin (ICPRB) is applying to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region III for Federal Programs-

Section 106 Potomac Basin Water Quality Improvement for FY21-FY22 for a total funding of \$690,048.00. Staff recommends endorsement.

- D. *An application submitted by the Health Equipment Loan Program to Rural Development for Medical Equipment and to Purchase Property.* The Health Equipment Loan Program is a nonprofit organization in Churchville that started in 2014. The organization is dedicated to recycling used, donated, durable medical equipment, and loan it to those in need at no cost. They are presently co-located with a business in Churchville that is moving and which has agreed to sell them the property. The organization is applying for a Rural Development loan of \$155,000 to purchase the land and buildings and for a Rural Development grant of \$25,000 to purchase equipment to further and improve their mission, for a total of \$180,000. Staff recommends endorsement.

Adjournment

Chairperson Friedman announced that the next CSPDC meeting would be held on October 19, 2020. There being no further business to come before the Commission, a motion for adjournment was unanimously passed at 5:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rita F. Whitfield
Clerk to the Commission

Approved:

George Hirschmann
CSPDC Secretary