



Minutes
Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission Meeting
Via Zoom Video Conferencing – October 19, 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	✓ Rachel Salatin, Marketing 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		✓ Kathy Nyquist, New Venture Advisors
✓	Frank Friedman, Chair		✓ Caroline Myran, New Venture Advisors
			✓ Melissa Hamilton, New Venture Advisors
			✓ Travis Carter, SVP

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 October 19, 2020, CSPDC meeting was conducted via Zoom Video Conferencing. The October 19, 2020, Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission Zoom Video Conference was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Chairperson Friedman.

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 August 17, 2020, CSPDC Commission Zoom Video Conferencing meeting. Mr. Fletcher noted that on page 3, under discussion on the Local CARES Act Relief Funding, he should be listed with the City of Harrisonburg instead of Rockingham County. Mr. Short moved, seconded by Mr. Hirschmann, to approve the minutes as corrected. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairperson's Report

Under Chairperson's Report, Chairperson Friedman reported on the I-81 Advisory Committee, noting that the Committee will hold a meeting on October 23, 2020, at 9:00 a.m. remotely. He reported on the local CARES Act Relief funding, noting that the CSPDC staff is providing support and assistance in tracking the funding and following the guidelines. Chairman Friedman stated that the Executive Committee will be conducting the Executive Director's annual evaluation in the upcoming weeks.

Executive Director's Report

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

- Noted that staff is continuing to work under a hybrid schedule, with half of the staff working in the office every other day and teleworking on the other days. Ms. Riedesel stated that the CSPDC will be working with SVP and others to study telework as a business attraction and a workforce talent recruitment tool for the region.
- Announced that Nathan Garrison has accepted the Planner II position with the CSPDC and will begin work on November 2nd. Ms. Riedesel noted that the Transit Program Administrator position has been advertised and interviews will begin this week.
- Gave an update on the VATI broadband project that the Commission had applied for a year ago with co-applicant BARC Electric Co-op for \$2.2 million to provide broadband infrastructure in Bath and Rockbridge counties. Ms. Riedesel stated that the project was challenged by an incumbent carrier in Bath County and after negotiations, the areas in Bath County were removed. She noted that the Commission entered into a contract with the state for a revised project that will provide high speed internet to 492 residents and businesses in Rockbridge County. Ms. Riedesel stated that the project is scheduled to begin at the end of this calendar year and should take approximately 9-12 months to complete. On behalf of Rockbridge County, Mr. Slaydon expressed his appreciation for all the hard work involved in providing this much needed service to Rockbridge County.
- Announced that there are two greenway trails under development that connect the PDC to other regions of the state that are coming to the region. Ms. Cundy gave a report on the two greenway trails: 1) the Crozet Blue Ridge Tunnel, which connects Augusta County and the City of Waynesboro to Nelson County and the village of Afton, noting that the Tunnel is scheduled to open at the end of this year; and 2) the tentatively named Shenandoah Rail Trail, which starts in Broadway and runs 38 miles north to Strasburg, which is in the beginning stages of development.

Treasurer's Report

Chairperson Friedman presented for consideration the Treasurer's Report (attached to file minutes). Mr. Short gave a report on the August 31, 2020, Financial Statement, noting that the CSPDC's financial position remains strong. He reported that the auditors, Brown Edwards & Co., LLP, are working on the Commission's FY 2020 audit and anticipates presenting the Audit to the Commission at the December Commission meeting. Mr. Short moved, seconded by Ms. Dull, to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

GO Virginia Region 8 Update

Mr. Short, GO Virginia Region 8 Council member, gave an update on GO Virginia. He announced that to date, 11 projects have been approved and funded by the Region 8 Council. Mr. Short stated that the 11 projects represent a total of \$1,877,196 of GO Virginia funds, with \$1,558,276 in local

matching funds, for a total funding of \$3,435,472. He reported 3 of the 11 projects have been closed out (Rockbridge Area Advanced Manufacturing, Staunton Innovation Hub Tech-Lab Feasibility Study, and Shenandoah Valley Talen Solutions Strategy). Mr. Short stated that the GO Virginia Region 8 Council will hold a meeting on October 20, 2020, at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom.

Presentation on Agriculture Enterprise Center Feasibility Study

Ms. Salatin introduced and welcomed Kathy Nyquist of New Venture Advisors, along with Caroline Myran and Melissa Hamilton, who were present to give an update on the Shenandoah Valley Agricultural Enterprise Center Feasibility Study. Ms. Salatin gave a general overview on the project, noting that the Study will determine if a certified, commercial, shared-use facility in the central Shenandoah Valley is possible, practical and viable. She noted that this multi-use facility is expected to support the region's many small to mid-size agricultural businesses and entrepreneurs by expanding market reach and reducing some of the risk and burden of facility building by any one operation. Ms. Nyquist presented a PowerPoint presentation on the Study. She reviewed the project goals, definition of a food center, scope of work overview, survey responses to date, interview summary, timeline, deliverables and next steps, noting that the final presentation is scheduled for May 2021.

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Update

Ms. McCarty gave an update on the CEDS Committee, noting that the CSPDC is a designated Economic Development District (EDD) under the Economic Development Administration (EDA), U.S. Department of Commerce. She noted that the CSPDC Board serves as the CEDS Committee and is responsible for developing and updating the CEDS on a regular basis. Ms. McCarty stated that in October 2018, the Commission approved the CSPDC CEDS plan, which is a strategy-driven plan for regional economic development to help understand the regional economy, leverage the region's strengths and weaknesses, and further generate opportunities to create wealth in the region. She reviewed the Plan's five visions and goals. Ms. McCarty reported that the Shenandoah Valley Regional Airport was awarded a \$2 million grant from the Economic Development Administration (EDA) to construct new airport hangars and training space to support increased aviation activity in the region, in which staff assisted the Shenandoah Valley Regional Airport in submitting the grant application. She reported on the EDA CARES application for Shenandoah Valley Recovery Assistance for \$400,000, to be used during the period of July 1, 2020, through June 30, 2022, at a 100 percent federal grant rate. Ms. McCarty stated that the funds will be used to develop a Recovery and Resiliency Plan, put into place 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.

Commonwealth Intergovernmental Review Process (CIRP)

Chairperson Friedman presented for consideration Commonwealth Intergovernmental Review Process (CIRPs). Ms. Riedesel stated that she had received a CIRP submitted by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality for FY 2022 Performance Partnership Grant (PPG). She noted that DEQ is requesting \$18,190,150 in federal funds for FY 2022 106 water activities funded under DEQ's PPG. This workplan represents overall general activities and commitments which remain constant from year to year and adjustments to specific commitments or revised activities. Ms. Riedesel noted that the primary goal of this project is to improve the ability of DEQ to identify,

regulate, and protect wetlands in Virginia. Ms. Sandum moved, seconded by Mr. Short, for endorsement of the project. Motion was carried by unanimous vote.

Adjournment

Chairperson Friedman announced that the next CSPDC meeting would be held on December 21, 2020. There being no further business to come before the Commission, a motion for adjournment was unanimously passed at 6:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rita F. Whitfield
Clerk to the Commission

Approved:

George Hirschmann
CSPDC Secretary