

**RICHMOND REGIONAL PLANNING DISTRICT C COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
MARCH 11, 2004**

**Members/Alternates Present**

Angela L. LaCombe (M), Chairman.....Town of Ashland  
John E. Gordon (M), Vice Chairman.....County of Hanover  
Malvern R. Butler (M), Treasurer.....County of Goochland  
Gentry Bell (M).....County of Henrico  
W. R. Britton, Jr. (A) .....County of Charles City  
Richard W. Glover (M).....County of Henrico  
Frank M. Hartz (M).....County of Goochland  
Russell E. Holland (M) .....County of Powhatan  
Michael L. Holmes (M) .....County of Charles City  
William Russell Jones, III (M).....City of Richmond  
David A. Kaechele (M).....County of Henrico  
Sherman W. Litton (M).....County of Chesterfield  
Elizabeth W. Moorhouse (M) .....County of Hanover  
Patricia S. O'Bannon (M) .....County of Henrico  
George K. Roarty (M).....County of Chesterfield  
Robert R. Setliff (M).....County of Hanover  
Frank J. Thornton (M).....County of Henrico  
Stran L. Trout (M).....County of New Kent  
Arthur S. Warren (M).....County of Chesterfield

**Members Absent**

Edward B. Barber (M), Secretary.....County of Chesterfield  
Richard W. Ayers (M) .....County of Powhatan  
Mark S. Daniel (M).....County of New Kent  
John G. Dankos, Jr. (M).....County of Hanover  
James B. Donati, Jr. (M) .....County of Henrico  
John C. Grier (M).....City of Richmond  
Peter R. Grimm (M).....City of Richmond  
Gwen C. Hedgepeth (M).....City of Richmond  
Renny B. Humphrey (M) .....County of Chesterfield  
R. M. "Dickie" King, Jr. (M) .....County of Chesterfield  
Delores L. McQuinn (M).....City of Richmond  
Kelly E. Miller (M) .....County of Chesterfield  
William J. Pantele (M).....City of Richmond  
Lisa D. Ware (M).....County of Henrico

**Others Present**

John R. Amos .....RRPDC Legal Counsel (Amos & Amos PLLC)  
Phillip Amiss..... Amelia County  
Shea Hollifield ..... Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development  
Philip Vannoorbeeck..... Amelia County

**Staff Present**

Paul E. Fisher .....Executive Director  
Katherine E. Barrett .....Executive Secretary  
Jo A. Evans .....Assistant Executive Director  
Daniel N. Lysy .....Director of Transportation  
Jackie S. Stewart.....Director of Planning and Information Systems  
Peter M. Sweetland .....Finance and Contracts Administrator  
Patricia A. Villa..... Communications Coordinator

**Call to Order**

Chairman Angela LaCombe called the regularly scheduled March 11, 2004 meeting to order at 1:10 p.m. in the RRPDC conference room.

**I. ADMINISTRATION**

**A. Certification by Commission Executive Director of Meeting Quorum**

Mr. Fisher announced that a quorum was not present at this time.

**B. Requests for Additions or Changes in Order of Business**

Due to the lack of a quorum, Chairman LaCombe changed the order of business to discuss non-action items.

*Mr. Warren and Mr. Jones arrived at the meeting. At this point, Chairman LaCombe announced a quorum of 17 members were now present.*

**C. Approval of Minutes of February 12, 2004 RRPDC Meeting**

There being no corrections or additions, on motion of Mr. Butler, seconded by Mr. Gordon, the Richmond Regional Planning District Commission unanimously approved the minutes of the February 12, 2004 meeting.

**D. Presentation of Resolutions of Appreciation to Outgoing Members**

Chairman LaCombe introduced Mr. Roy Harrison, Jr., Powhatan County, who was present to receive the following resolution:

**WHEREAS**, the Honorable Roy J. Harrison, Jr. has served the Richmond Regional Planning District Commission with dedication and distinguished service from February 1993 through December 2003; and

**WHEREAS**, he served as Chairman of the Richmond Regional PDC from July 1997 until June 1998, bringing about many positive advances; and

**WHEREAS**, he was Chairman of the Regional Competitiveness Committee from July 2001 until December 2003; and

**WHEREAS**, while holding these positions, he contributed significantly to the many Richmond Regional Planning District Commission standing committees, fostering a regional vision; and

**WHEREAS**, he provided immeasurable guidance, fostering regional cooperation, enhancing civic responsiveness while building consensus for action; and

**WHEREAS**, his unwavering public commitment to advancing the Richmond Regional Planning District Commission's visions and goals was demonstrated wholly and sincerely, serving the Region with dedication and advocating community involvement for the good of the Region;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Richmond Regional Planning District Commission sincerely appreciates his important contributions and leadership;

**AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Richmond Regional Planning District Commission, this 12th day of February 2004, acknowledges and commends his dedicated efforts.

Mr. Harrison expressed appreciation for the opportunity to serve on the Richmond Regional Planning District Commission.

Ms. Ringley, Mr. Ward, Mr. McHale, Mr. Jernigan, Mr. Lacy, and Mr. Gulley were not present to receive their resolution of appreciation. Mr. Gulley did ask Mr. Fisher to convey to the Commission his appreciation for having served on the Commission and worked with the other jurisdictions.

**E. Open Public Comment Period**

There were no requests to address the Commission at this time and Chairman LaCombe closed the public comment period.

**F. Approval of January 2004 Financial Report**

Mr. Butler presented the financial report for January. Mr. Butler also noted the funds distribution addition in the Cash Basis Income statement shown on lines 13-15.

There being no corrections or additions, on motion of Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Warren, the Richmond Regional Planning District Commission unanimously accepted for audit the financial report for January 2004.

**G. Chairman's Report**

There was no Chairman's Report at this time.

**H. Executive Director's Report for February 2004**

In addition to the written report, Mr. Fisher gave a brief report on the following items:

1. An orientation session for new Commissioners and new MPO members was held on March 8, 2004, covering the organization, legislative authorization, staffing, typical work products, and other related information. Fourteen members and staff attended the meeting.
2. The Third Annual RRPDC Area Planning Commissioner's Forum will be held on March 19, 2004 at the Holiday Inn Select-Koger Center from 11:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**II. OLD BUSINESS**

**A. Legislative Update**

Ms. Patricia Villa, RRPDC Communications Coordinator, gave a brief presentation on the update on legislation which may impact local governments, and legislation that have had significant changes. The annual "Yeas and Nays" report will be included in the May Commission agenda.

### **III. NEW BUSINESS**

#### **A. Nominating Committee Report and Election of Officers**

Mr. Gordon reported that the Nominating Committee met and recommended the nomination of Mr. Edward Barber to fill the unexpired term as RRPDC Secretary.

There being no nominations from the floor, on motion of Mr. Warren, seconded by Mr. Jones, the Richmond Regional Planning District Commission unanimously approved the Nominating Committee report electing Mr. Edward Barber as RRPDC Secretary for the unexpired term ending June 30, 2004.

Since Mr. Barber was absent from this meeting, he will take the oath of office at the April Commission meeting.

#### **B. Approve Request to Apply for Rural Transportation Planning Program Funds and Supplemental Grant**

Mr. Fisher reported that local planning staff and Planning District Commission staff developed the annual scope of work for rural transportation planning to begin July 1, 2004. The program budget is \$60,000 of which \$48,000 (80 percent) is funded by the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT). Projects included in the scope of work historically have been of great use to the rural localities in the region, and significantly increased their ability to leverage transportation funds for related projects.

Since July 1993, the Richmond Regional Planning District has adopted an annual work program for rural transportation planning. Rural transportation planning is provided for the non-MPO portions of Charles City, Goochland, New Kent and Powhatan counties. The work in this program is largely paid for by a grant from the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT). As in past years, VDOT provides \$48,000 and the PDC provides \$12,000 of in-kind service for a total program budget of \$60,000. PDC staff worked with local planning staffs, RideFinders, and VDOT to develop the scope of work for FY 05.

Mr. Fisher presented the resolution and requested Commission approval authorizing the Executive Director to submit the scope of work to the Virginia Department of Transportation for approval.

On motion of Mr. Michael Holmes, seconded by Mr. Russell Jones, the Richmond Regional Planning District Commission unanimously adopted the following resolution:

**WHEREAS**, supplemental Federal Highway Planning and Research (HPR) funds are being made available by the Virginia Department of Transportation for transportation planning in rural localities; and,

**WHEREAS**, the purpose of the HPR funds shall be to provide transportation planning assistance in the counties of Charles City, Goochland, New Kent and Powhatan; and,

**WHEREAS**, the HPR funded planning activities will be administered in accordance with the provisions of 23 CFR Part 420, Highway Planning and Research Program Administration; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Richmond Regional Planning District Commission has reviewed the proposed Scope of Work for this project.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Richmond Regional Planning District Commission formally accepts the responsibility to administer the HPR funds for rural transportation planning; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Richmond Regional Planning District Commission directs its staff to administer the HPR funds, and to provide transportation planning assistance as specified in the Scope of Work; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Richmond Regional Planning District Commission authorizes the Executive Director to execute all necessary documentation to carry out the intent and purpose of this resolution.

**C. Approve 2004 Virginia Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program Regional Priorities**

Mr. Fisher reported that each year the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) offers funding assistance to non-entitlement localities statewide. This region's non-entitlement localities are the Town of Ashland and the counties of Charles City, Goochland, Hanover, New Kent and Powhatan. Localities may submit projects that benefit low- and moderate-income persons to DHCD for funding assistance.

DHCD ranks local projects by merit and uses a point system to determine which projects will be funded. As part of the ranking, DHCD asks each Planning District Commission (PDC) to submit a list that prioritizes the

CDBG project types. The ranking DHCD uses prioritizes the nine project types into three priority groups with one being the highest. DHCD uses each region's ranking to allocate points to local projects, with the Group 1 projects receiving the highest number of points. This list is typically due to DHCD by mid-March.

To prepare the regional list, Richmond Regional PDC staff asked each non-entitlement locality to prepare and submit their own priority ranking of CDBG categories. At this time, none of the non-entitlement localities are planning to apply for a CDBG project this year. However, because DHCD now allows applications to be submitted year round, a locality may submit an application later in the funding cycle.

Mr. Fisher requested that the Commission approve the revised priority list, as distributed at the meeting, and resolution for submittal to the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development.

On motion of Mr. Stran Trout, seconded by Mr. Russell Jones, the Richmond Regional Planning District Commission unanimously adopted the following resolution and priority list:

**WHEREAS**, the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development offers funding assistance for projects that benefit low- and moderate-income persons to non-entitlement localities statewide; and

**WHEREAS**, the counties of Charles City, Goochland, Hanover, New Kent, Powhatan and the Town of Ashland are eligible jurisdictions; and

**WHEREAS**, the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development ranks local projects by merit to determine which projects will be funded; and

**WHEREAS**, the Richmond Regional Planning District Commission staff have worked with member non-entitlement localities to develop a list prioritizing the eligible 2004 Community Development Block Grant project types for the region; and

**WHEREAS**, staff from the participating jurisdictions agree that it is important to establish an approved listing of prioritized 2004 Community Development Block Grant project types as the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development allows for submission of grant applications year round and localities may submit applications later in the funding cycle.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Richmond Regional Planning District Commission adopts the 2004 Virginia Community

Development Block Grant priorities ranking and approves this list for submission to the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development.

Priority 1

Housing – Housing Rehabilitation  
Comprehensive Community Development  
Community Facilities

Priority 2

Economic Development – Development Readiness  
Economic Development – Job Creation and Retention  
Economic Development – Business District Revitalization

Priority 3

Community Service Facilities  
Economic Development – Site Redevelopment  
Housing – Housing Production Assistance

**D. Grant Application – Virginia Coastal Resources Management Program**

Mr. Fisher stated that on February 25, 2004, the planning district commission received a request for proposals from the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) for the Virginia Coastal Resources Management Program. The grant provides \$27,500 for coastal program planning in the region, and requires a match of \$27,500. This is an increase in funds from \$25,000 last year.

The work tasks in the application are similar to those in applications previously submitted. The grant will allow the planning district commission to continue working with member governments on coastal projects such as GIS data development, tributary strategy development, and support of the commission's Environmental Technical Advisory Committee.

To be eligible to receive grant funds, the application must be submitted to DEQ by March 15.

On motion of Ms. Patricia O'Bannon, seconded by Mr. Frank Thornton, the Richmond Regional Planning District Commission unanimously adopted the following resolution:

**WHEREAS**, the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, Virginia Coastal Resources Management Program offers funding assistance for regional and local technical assistance projects; and

**WHEREAS**, the counties of Charles City, Chesterfield, Hanover, Henrico, New Kent, the City of Richmond and the Town of Ashland are within the Virginia Coastal Zone; and

**WHEREAS**, the funded program activities will be administered in accordance with the provisions of Sections 306/306A of the Coastal Zone Management Act; and

**WHEREAS**, the Richmond Regional Planning District Commission staff have worked with the Regional Environmental Technical Advisory Committee to plan and draft the Project Summary; and

**WHEREAS**, staff from the participating jurisdictions agree that it is important to coordinate local and regional environmental activities, provide training and information to local staff and conduct special projects as requested from member governments.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Richmond Regional Planning District Commission formally accepts the responsibility to administer the funds for Coastal Resources Management; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Richmond Regional Planning District Commission directs its staff to administer the Coastal Resources Management funds, and to provide assistance as specified in the Project Summary; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Richmond Regional Planning District Commission authorizes the Executive Director to execute all necessary documentation to carry out the intent and purpose of this resolution.

**E. Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development Review of PDC Boundaries**

Mr. Fisher stated that he had invited Ms. Shea Hollifield of the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) to attend the Executive Committee and Commission meetings today to give a brief summary of how their process will work on this issue and answer any questions raised by the members. Mr. Fisher stated that both Mr. Philip Vannoorbeeck, Amelia County Administrator, and Mr. Phillip Amiss, Amelia County Board of Supervisors, were also present to make a few brief comments and address any questions the Commission may have following Ms. Hollifield's remarks.

Mr. Fisher reported that in late September 2003, DHCD advised that they were reviewing the boundaries and membership of Planning District Commissions statewide. In response to that notification from DHCD, the RRPDC, at its October meeting, adopted a motion that a letter be sent to DHCD advising that RRPDC is satisfied with the current boundary and membership. That letter was sent on October 10, 2003.

In mid-December, by Resolution, Amelia County requested that DHCD study the appropriateness of Amelia County becoming a member of the Richmond Regional Planning District Commission. Some RRPDC jurisdictions received letters from Amelia County asking that their locality support them in the effort to become a member of the RRPDC. RRPDC has not received a written request from Amelia County regarding their interest in becoming a member of the RRPDC.

In response to that information, Mr. Fisher met with the RRPDC area Chief Administrative Officers to discuss this matter. The Chief Administrative Officers concluded that additional information concerning Amelia County's relationship with the Piedmont Planning District Commission (PPDC) was needed and that Amelia County representatives should be invited to attend the March meeting to answer questions.

Mr. Fisher also noted that the timeline on this matter has changed over the last few months. Initially, staff thought that DHCD was going to schedule public meetings sometime in late February. DHCD has now changed their timeline because they wanted to postpone for the public hearings that they are required to hold until after the General Assembly session so that this would not be an issue for any of the legislators.

Mr. Fisher stated that he put this matter on the March agenda in anticipation of DHCD holding public hearings in late March or early April. Ms. Hollifield advised Mr. Fisher on March 10 that because of some activity going on in the PPDC, DHCD is now going to defer holding hearings in the Piedmont and Richmond PDC areas until late May or early June. Given the change in schedule, Mr. Fisher noted that it is not imperative that the Commission take action today. There is now more time to see what happens with some additional activity occurring in PPDC. Mr. Mike Chandler has been hired by the PPDC to analyze the issues that have emerged, concerns over the services of that planning district, and to make a final report based on interviews and public discussions by June 1, 2004. The question the RRPDC or PPDC will have at some point is whether or not Amelia will still want to pursue membership in this planning district regardless of the outcome of Mr. Chandler's analysis.

Also, DHCD has received requests from two other Piedmont Planning District Commission member localities (Lunenburg and Charlotte counties) to leave Piedmont PDC and join the Southside Planning District Commission.

From the material that Amelia County submitted to DHCD and various newspaper articles, Mr. Fisher's gave a presentation which included the following issues that the Commission should draw its attention to in developing a position on this matter:

### **Amelia's Interest**

- Contiguous to RRPDC
- Share common boundaries with Chesterfield and Powhatan
- Growing rapidly – “High Growth”
- Demographics becoming reflective of RRPDC area
- “Competitive” community for community economic development funds
- Growth/land use management
- Proximity with Route 360 growth corridor and Route 288
- 70 percent of Amelia workforce migrates to Richmond area
- Share Appomattox River water resources with at least Chesterfield County

### **Impact on RRPDC**

- Additional jurisdiction requesting technical assistance – staff time implications
- Additional jurisdiction competing for rural transportation planning assistance from fixed amount of available funding – staff time implications
- Potential impact on MPO
- Impact on budget
  - Population ± 12,000
  - At 60 cents/capita \$7,200
- Two voting commissioners to the RRPDC
  - Elected supervisor
  - Planning commissioner

### **Other Information (Relationships within their Planning District Commission)**

- PPDC dues increase from 60 cents to 85 cents/capita
  - Amelia's representatives on Piedmont Planning District Commission (PPDC) supported PPDC budget (Jim Bennett, Amelia Board of Supervisors and Charles Dodson, citizen

representative from Amelia voted in favor of PPDC budget and dues increase)

- 93 percent of weighted vote of Commission approved dues increase and budget
  - Amelia County refused to pay increase
    - Did not believe they were getting services warranting increase
    - Thought PDC should use its unallocated fund balance
    - Amelia was “flat funding” other external agencies
- Two other PPDC counties are requesting joining Southside PDC

Mr. Fisher then asked Ms. Shea Hollifield, Deputy Director of the Department of Housing and Community Development, to give a brief report on their process.

Ms. Hollifield stated that DHCD is required by the Code of Virginia to review the PDC boundaries every 10 years. They started that process by opening a comment period from October 22 through December 1, 2003. During that comment period, they received formal notice from Amelia, Lunenburg, and Charlotte counties that they were interested in changing their PDC membership. This was new to DHCD since they have only done one PDC boundary review prior to this time. Their decision has been to approach this deliberately and not rush into anything. DHCD is in the process of completing a demographic analysis to make an objective determination of some of the circumstances concerning those counties.

Ms. Hollifield noted that the counties that did express an interest cited different kinds of reasons. Amelia basically said that they felt that their future was more oriented towards the Richmond Region in terms of growth patterns and the out migration of their labor force. Also, demographics have changed over the past 10 years in ways to make them more similar to Hanover, New Kent, Powhatan, Charles City, and Goochland than they are to the other six counties in PPDC. That is something that DHCD is trying to get an objective handle on.

The Code of Virginia directs DHCD to look at a number of things when looking at a boundary review. They are to look at the recognition of communities of interest, common economic and market interest, ease of communications, travel time in order for Commissioners to fully participate in the Commission, federal metropolitan statistical area boundaries, population base adequate to ensure the financial viability of the Commission, geographic factors and natural boundaries, and the wishes of the governmental subdivisions that would be involved.

Ms. Hollifield stated that DHCD is required to hold at least one public hearing in each planning district that would be affected by any potential

boundary change. This means that DHCD will hold three different public hearings—one in Richmond PDC area, one in Piedmont PDC area, and one in Southside PDC area. Ms. Hollifield said that because DHCD wants to go about this in a very deliberate and thoughtful way, they are going to go beyond the requirements of the Code. They anticipate having one set of input hearings. They expect to schedule those hearings in late May or early June in order to give Mr. Chandler a chance to make as much progress with his work as possible. Following that, DHCD will formulate their recommendations, take input on those recommendations, and hold a final public hearing on those recommendations. Ms. Hollifield would like to have had the process wrapped up so that it could be implemented by July 1, 2004, but that does not appear possible. Ms. Hollifield anticipates that by the end of the summer, DHCD will come up with a final recommendation and be ready to make whatever change there might be or announce that there will not be a change. If there is to be a change, it can go into effect July 1, 2005. That would give all of the affected parties a chance to make any necessary budgetary adjustments.

Ms. Hollifield stated that Mr. Chandler is planning to have his final report to Piedmont Planning District Commission on June 1, 2004. Mr. Chandler is working with a committee of PPDC members. He will be surveying all the member jurisdictions, following up with personal interviews, trying to identify any concerns and issues, and submitting the final report.

Ms. Hollifield noted that the range of options could be: 1) to make no change whatsoever; 2) to make a boundary change which could affect one, two or three of the three counties; or 3) to suggest dual membership in another PDC. Those ranges of options exist for each of the three counties that have expressed an interest in changing membership.

Chairman LaCombe stated that the Executive Committee did talk extensively about this matter today. Given that DHCD has changed their public hearing and public input schedules, the consensus of the Executive Committee was that information would be given today, and questions answered, and then spend the next month or two gathering more information, and watch how the process goes before the Commission makes a formal recommendation or formal input at the sessions.

Mr. Kaechele asked if DHCD will make a recommendation or a decision. Ms. Hollifield stated that DHCD will make a decision—it's called a recommendation. However, the final authority or responsibility for determining the PDC boundaries rests with DHCD.

Mr. Amos stated that it appears that DHCD has the authority to determine what the counties are within the boundaries meaning they could extend

them. If any of the members of the Commission wish to have input, they need to make their wishes known at the public input hearing.

Chairman LaCombe stated that an important distinction made at the Executive Committee meeting was that the public input sessions will really be the time to give input. By the time DHCD has the public hearing that would be a hearing based on what will be their final recommendations. Therefore, the time for the Commission to make a decision is at the input session.

Mr. Jones stated that he did not think the Commission wanted to develop sprawl anymore than necessary. Secondly, he felt that the Commission would not want to contribute to the economic decline of Southside Virginia. He said we don't want to give the visual focus that Southside Virginia is not a thriving community. We want to encourage business to go to that community. We don't want to pull all the counties apart and not have a good central base.

Chairman LaCombe then introduced Mr. Philip Vannoorbeeck, Amelia County Administrator, who was present to give a brief report and answer questions.

Mr. Vannoorbeeck introduced Mr. Phillip Amiss, Amelia County Board of Supervisors, who was also present to answer questions.

Mr. Vannoorbeeck stated that he read with interest some of the bullet points raised in Mr. Fisher's presentation, and there are some issues there that he wanted to address. One was dissatisfaction with service. He stated the reason they are here today and the reason the Board adopted the resolutions is not a dissatisfaction—we truly are a rapidly changing county. Our planning commission is facing subdivisions that we have never seen. Southside Virginia is facing 4200 acre subdivisions which are something unheard of in Southside Virginia or Amelia County. When we look at 4200 acre subdivisions and 1000 new homes either on Lake Chesdin or other properties, those are daunting task for Amelia County to face. We are at a crisis point. Our population was only about 2,000 to 3,000 people. From 1990 to 2000 it represented over a 30 percent increase in population for the county—more than Chesterfield County. Those are the kinds of facts and figures that they hope when the Commission makes its deliberations and DHCD makes their deliberations that everyone will focus on— not dissatisfaction; we are not trying to hurt Nottoway County and the PPDC. Mr. Vannoorbeeck stated that they have concerns of how to pay for schools, libraries, and fire stations, etc. All of the things that Amelia County is attempting to do has already been done and mastered by Richmond Regional PDC. Unfortunately, Charlotte, Lunenburg, and Prince Edward are either unable, or because of State Code, to collect

proffers or do commission rezoning on lots, or they are not interested. They are worried about school construction. They have just finished renovating a \$7.5 million middle school and high school. Their school system has come to them and shown what each new house will represent to Amelia County. Within the next 5-10 years they will be in another school construction mode. A \$20 million middle or elementary school for Amelia County represents a \$0.25-\$0.30 tax increase on their current tax base. He stated that they want to get the expertise from the Commission and look at the things the Commission does. They would like to build a relationship with the Chesterfield, Henrico, and other planning departments. They would like to be at the table when decisions are made such as the Powhite Extension and other transportation issues.

Mr. Vannoorbeck stated that they are not trying to be a difficult member, they do not want to be an unhappy member, and they do not want to cause any distress or undue problems. For the genuine interest of Amelia County, he believes that if they can come to the table with the Richmond Regional PDC, they can do those things and learn about those things that the Richmond Regional PDC does now.

Regarding the issue about fees and dues, Mr. Vannoorbeck stated it was a 40 percent dues increase in one year. At the same time, the County was not in a position where they wanted to raise taxes. They did raise taxes last year by \$.02, but they gave the equivalent of \$120,000 to the County school system for the increase. The Piedmont Planning District Commission has a reserve fund in excess of 50 percent of their total budget. They have a large reserve fund—that is a cash reserve fund not an asset reserve fund. They felt like there was an opportunity for Piedmont PDC to use some of their reserve as the Richmond Regional PDC will have to do this year. They felt that was a more appropriate use than a 40 percent increase.

Mr. Vannoorbeck stated that Amelia County does its own grant writing and uses outside consultants. It has been at least three years since the Piedmont PDC has prepared any grant applications for Amelia County.

Discussion followed. Ms. O'Bannon asked if the Amelia County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to come to the Richmond Regional PDC. Mr. Vannoorbeck said he thought so.

Following general discussion regarding dues, staffing, and budgets, it was a consensus of the members to further discuss the matter at the April meeting.

**IV. OTHER BUSINESS**

**A. Announcements**

There were no announcements at this time.

**B. Committee Reports**

There were no committee reports at this time.

**C. For Your Information**

Mr. Fisher noted information material was provided in the agenda.

**V. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Chairman LaCombe adjourned the meeting at 2:10 p.m.

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Paul E. Fisher  
Executive Director

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Angela L. LaCombe  
Chairman