

**RICHMOND REGIONAL PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING
SEPTEMBER 9, 2004**

Members/Alternates Present

John E. Gordon, Jr. (M), ChairmanCounty of Hanover
Malvern R. Butler (M), Vice Chairman.....County of Goochland
Richard W. Ayers (M)County of Powhatan
Gentry Bell (M)..... County of Henrico
W. R. Britton, Jr. (A) County of Charles City
Amy M. Cheeley (M).....County of Hanover
Frank M. Hartz (M).....County of Goochland
Harvey L. Hinson (A) County of Henrico
Michael L. Holmes (M) County of Charles City
Renny B. Humphrey (M)County of Chesterfield
William Russell Jones, III (M).....City of Richmond
R. M. “Dickie” King, Jr. (M)County of Chesterfield
Angela L. LaCombe (M).....Town of Ashland
Sherman W. Litton (M).....County of Chesterfield
Kelly E. Miller (M).....County of Chesterfield
Elizabeth W. Moorhouse (M)County of Hanover
Patricia S. O’Bannon (M)County of Henrico
William J. Pantele (M)City of Richmond
Robert R. Setliff (M).....County of Hanover
Stran L. Trout (M).....County of New Kent
Lisa D. Ware (M)..... County of Henrico

Members Absent

Russell E. Holland (M), TreasurerCounty of Powhatan
Edward B. Barber (M), SecretaryCounty of Chesterfield
Mark S. Daniel (M).....County of New Kent
James B. Donati (M)..... County of Henrico
Richard W. Glover (M)..... County of Henrico
John C. Grier (M).....City of Richmond
David A. Kaechele (M)..... County of Henrico
Delores L. McQuinn (M)City of Richmond
George K. Roarty (M).....County of Chesterfield
Frank J. Thornton (M)..... County of Henrico
Arthur S. Warren (M)County of Chesterfield

Others Present

John R. Amos.....RRPDC Legal Counsel (Amos & Amos PLLC)
Marjorie Payne..... MPO Elderly and Disabled Advisory Committee

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 S. Villa Communications Coordinator

Call to Order

Chairman John Gordon called the regularly scheduled September 9, 2004 meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. in the RRPDC conference room.

I. ADMINISTRATION

A. Certification by Commission Executive Director of Meeting Quorum

Mr. Fisher certified that a majority of the voting members/alternates were present to constitute a quorum.

B. Requests for Additions or Changes in Order of Business

There were no requests for additions or changes in the order of business

C. Open Public Comment Period

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

D. Approval of Minutes of July 8, 2004 Meeting

Ms. LaCombe noted a correction to the minutes to show that she was absent. There being no further corrections, on motion of Mr. Pantele, seconded by Mr. Ayers, the Richmond Regional Planning District Commission unanimously approved the minutes of the July 8, 2004 meeting.

E. Approval of June 2004 Financial Report

In the absence of the Treasurer, Mr. Fisher presented the financial report. There being no corrections, on motion of Mr. Holmes, seconded by Mr. Jones, the Richmond Regional Planning District Commission unanimously accepted for audit the financial report for June 2004 as presented.

F. Approval of July 2004 Financial Report

In the absence of the Treasurer, Mr. Fisher presented the financial report. There being no corrections, on motion of Mr. Pantele, seconded by Ms. LaCombe, the Richmond Regional Planning District Commission unanimously accepted for audit the financial report for July 2004 as presented.

G. Chairman's Report

- Attended the Annual VAPDC Summer Conference on July 22-24, 2004 in Virginia Beach. Highlights included:
 - A discussion of this year's State budget issue at the General Assembly by Robert Vaughn, staff Director of the House Appropriations Committee.
 - A presentation on the requirements of the Hazard Mitigation Planning Program by the Virginia Department of Emergency Management.
 - A further review of the State's financial situation by Delegate L. Preston Bryant, Jr.
 - A presentation of VDOT's Access Management Project which is intended to help protect the capacity of existing roads by managing access points better.

H. Executive Director's Report for July and August 2004

Mr. Fisher presented the written staff status report, a copy having been included in the agenda.

II. OLD BUSINESS

A. Plaque and Resolution of Appreciation for Outgoing Chairman

Chairman Gordon presented the following resolution to Ms. Angela L. LaCombe and commended her for her services to the Commission:

WHEREAS, the Honorable Angela L. LaCombe has provided her valuable leadership and insight to the Richmond Regional Planning

District Commission since October 2000, serving as Chairman from July 2003 through June 2004; and

WHEREAS, during that time, the Richmond Regional PDC acted on issues of significant importance to the Region and benefited from the regional cooperation which she fostered; and

WHEREAS, her knowledge, experience, and personal dedication to enhancing civic responsiveness and building consensus for action proved immeasurable to the Richmond Regional PDC; and

WHEREAS, while advocating community involvement for the good of the Region, she represented not only the interests of the Town of Ashland, but those of the entire Region; and

WHEREAS, her unwavering public commitment to advancing the Richmond Regional PDC's visions and goals was demonstrated wholly and sincerely, serving the Region with dedication;

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

AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Richmond Regional Planning District Commission, this 8th day of July 2004, acknowledges and commends her dedicated efforts.

Chairman Gordon also presented a plaque to Ms. LaCombe in recognition of her services and leadership as Chairman for FY 2004.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. FY 05 RRPDC/Department of Housing and Community Development Contract

Chairman Gordon stated that the Commission has not received the contract; therefore, the Executive Committee recommended deferral of this item until the October meeting.

B. Review of Agenda for RRPDC and MPO Special Work Session Scheduled for September 23, 2004

Chairman Gordon reported that the Special Work Session is scheduled for September 23, 2004 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in Room B-17 at the Greater Richmond Convention Center.

At the Chairman's request, Mr. Fisher distributed a copy of the Work Session agenda and gave a brief overview of each of the following agenda items:

1. Organization Changes

Mr. Fisher stated that it has been over two years since staff provided the Commission with an analysis of the advantages and disadvantages of making organization changes that could significantly strengthen the RRPDC and provide for a more efficient deliver of services. However, the Commission decided not to move forward with the changes. The two major changes considered were 1) engaging the Chief Administrative Officials as members of the Commission, and 2) empowering the Executive Committee to conduct business eight months of the year with the full Commission meeting quarterly. Mr. Fisher also noted that the agenda included a summary of the organization changes as proposed initially in April 2002 and as amended in the last form that went before the Commission at its February 2003 meeting.

2. Dues Restructuring

Mr. Fisher stated that this item has been discussed with the Executive Committee several times. Staff has provided the Commission with statistics demonstrating a need to update the RRPDC dues structure. The last dues restructuring occurred in 1991. The RRPDC current dues rate of 60 cents per capita compares to the statewide median of 69 cents and an average of 78 cents. The reason this discussion is being pursued is that the last two years staff thought they would have to go into the undesignated fund balance by some amount to balance the budget. A decision needs to be made as to how the Commission wants to go into the fund balance or come to a dues increase and what the Commission wants to set as the threshold where to keep the fund balance. Mr. Fisher noted the advantages of restructuring dues and disadvantages to leaving the per capita rate unchanged.

3. Legislative Agenda

Mr. Fisher stated that this initiative is whether or not to pursue a regional legislative agenda or presentation to the General Assembly that has been formally acted upon by the Commission. Local governments in Virginia are increasingly at the mercy of the General Assembly and the U.S. Congress. Mr. Fisher stated that Chairman Gordon wants to focus the discussion at the Work Session not so much the specifics of any particular area of legislation but the overall concept of whether the Commission wants to move forward with an adopted regional legislative agenda.

4. Collaboration with the Greater Richmond Chamber of Commerce and Others to Implement the “2026 Long-Range Transportation Plan”

Mr. Fisher stated that this item is one that is both a PDC and MPO issue. The issue is how to implement the 2026 Long-Range Transportation Plan. This coincides with the initiative the Greater Richmond Chamber of Commerce has conducted as released in a news conference and issue paper. Governor Baliles is Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce’s Regional Transportation Advisory Board. That group and Governor Baliles are very concerned about the lack of any identified funding sources that deal with the long-range transportation needs that are in the 2026 Long-Range Transportation Plan. The Chamber of Commerce has some initiatives underway that deal with long-term funding and to deal with regional transit provisions.

Mr. Fisher stated that he has asked Mr. Jim Dunn from the Chamber of Commerce if he and perhaps Governor Baliles would be able to address the Work Session group and present a summary of what they have put in their press release as well as analytical material based on data from the Long-Range Transportation Plan.

Mr. Fisher noted that Chairman Gordon has suggested that the RRPDC and MPO work closely with the Greater Richmond Chamber of Commerce and other entities toward putting in place the institutions necessary to assure implementation of the “2026 Long-Range Transportation Plan.” It has also been suggested that collaborations with VML, VACo, the Hampton Roads region and the Northern Virginia region may also be appropriate.

5. Review of Mission Statement

Mr. Fisher stated that Chairman Gordon, at the August 19, 2004 RRPDC and MPO Executive Committee meetings, proposed that the RRPDC review its Mission Statement and consider adopting a new Mission Statement. Mr. Fisher noted in the agenda the following current Mission Statement, two draft alternatives and a proposed MPO Mission Statement.

The current Mission Statement is:

“To plan for the physical, social, and economic development of the Region in cooperation with the State, areawide and local governments; to facilitate and assist in the implementation of regional and local plans; and to provide specified services to the Region and its member governments.”

The following are two draft alternatives:

“To serve as the regional forum of nine local governments to address greater-than-local issues and to promote consensus in the spirit of regional cooperation in order to foster and improve the quality of life in the Richmond region.”

“To improve the quality of life throughout the Richmond region by serving as the regional forum of nine local governments to address issues of regional significance, providing technical assistance to localities, and promoting the social, environmental, demographic, and transportation interests of the region.”

Also, the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization does not currently have a Mission Statement. The following is proposed for discussion purposes:

“To serve as the federal and state designated regional transportation planning organization that serves as the forum for cooperative transportation decision-making to assure the future mobility within and through the Richmond region.”

C. RRPDC Alternate MPO Member

Mr. Fisher stated that the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) took action at their July 21, 2004 meeting to recommend appointments of Paul E. Fisher, RRPDC Executive Director, as the MPO’s member to the EPA designated Section 174 Lead Planning Organization (LPO) for the Richmond Nonattainment Area for ozone air quality standards, and Daniel N. Lysy, RRPDC Director of Transportation, as the MPO’s alternate member. This action was in response to a request from the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VDEQ) for the MPO’s recommendation on its LPO member (see attached MPO Agenda Item I.E, from the July 21, 2004 MPO agenda attachments). VDEQ is currently requesting recommendations for LPO membership from nonattainment area jurisdictions and the Richmond Area and Tri-Cities Area MPOs. It is staff’s understanding from VDEQ that the Governor will consider local jurisdiction and MPO recommended appointments and take final action to appoint the LPO membership.

Mr. Fisher noted that he currently serves as the Commission’s member to the MPO. The Commission’s alternate MPO member position is currently vacant. In order for the MPO’s recommended LPO alternate appointment to be able to serve on the LPO, the Commission will need to take action to appoint Mr. Lysy as the Commission’s alternate MPO member.

Mr. Fisher stated that the Executive Committee endorsed the recommendation at its meeting earlier today.

On motion of Mr. Trout, seconded by Ms. O'Bannon, the Richmond Regional Planning District Commission unanimously approved the appointment of Mr. Daniel N. Lysy, RRPDC Director of Transportation, as the Commission's alternate member to the MPO.

D. Presentation on Rural Transportation Projects for FY 04

Ms. Jackie Stewart, RRPDC Director of Planning and Information Systems, presented an overview of the Commission's FY 2004 rural transportation planning programs. They are as follows:

Village Plan – New Kent County
VDOT Rural Rustic Road Program – New Kent County
Rural Driving Tour – Charles City, Powhatan, Goochland, and New Kent counties
Regional Scenic Roads – Charles City, New Kent, Goochland, and Powhatan counties
Living Towns – Goochland County

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 several informational items included in the agenda.

V. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chairman Gordon adjourned the meeting at 1:50 p.m.

Paul E. Fisher
Executive Director

John E. Gordon, Jr.
Chairman

