

**RICHMOND REGIONAL PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION**  
**Minutes of Meeting**  
**November 8, 2007**

**Members/Alternates Present**

Malvern R. Butler (M) ..... County of Goochland  
Amy M. Cheeley (M)..... County of Hanover  
Robert R. Cosby (M)..... County of Powhatan  
James B. Donati (M), Secretary ..... County of Henrico  
John E. Gordon, Jr. (M) ..... County of Hanover  
Kathy C. Graziano (M) ..... City of Richmond  
John C. Grier (M)..... City of Richmond  
Jerilynn T. “Jeri” Grigsby (M)..... County of Henrico  
Russell E. Holland (M) ..... County of Powhatan  
Michael L. Holmes (M), Vice Chairman ..... County of Charles City  
Renny B. Humphrey (M) ..... County of Chesterfield  
R. M. “Dickie” King, Jr. (M), Chairman ..... County of Chesterfield  
Beverley C. Lacy (M) ..... City of Richmond  
Kelly E. Miller (M) ..... County of Chesterfield  
Patricia S. O’Bannon (M) ..... County of Henrico  
William J. Pantele (M), Treasurer ..... City of Richmond  
Faye O. Prichard (M) ..... Town of Ashland  
Ellen F. Robertson (M) ..... City of Richmond  
Robert R. Setliff (M)..... County of Hanover  
Brenda L. “Sam” Snyder (M) ..... County of New Kent  
Donald D. Sowder (M) ..... County of Chesterfield  
Millard D. “Pete” Stith, Jr.(A) ..... County of Chesterfield  
Frank J. Thornton (M)..... County of Henrico  
Stran L. Trout (M)..... County of New Kent  
Arthur S. Warren (M) ..... County of Chesterfield  
David T. Williams (M) ..... County of Powhatan

**Members Absent**

Thomas M. Branin (M) ..... County of Henrico  
Richard W. Glover (M)..... County of Henrico  
Courtney Hyers (M)..... County of Goochland  
David A. Kaechele (M)..... County of Henrico  
Sherman W. Litton (M)..... County of Chesterfield  
Delores L. McQuinn (M) ..... City of Richmond  
Elizabeth W. Moorhouse (M) ..... County of Hanover  
George K. Roarty (M)..... County of Chesterfield

**Others Present**

George M. Homewood..... County of New Kent

**Staff Present**

Jo A. Evans ..... Interim Executive Director  
Julie H. Fry..... Executive Secretary  
Daniel N. Lysy ..... Director of Transportation  
Allyson Finchum..... Principal Planner  
Barbara Nelson..... Principal Planner  
Sarah Smith..... Associate Planner  
David Stinson..... Intern  
Peter M. Sweetland..... Finance and Contracts Administrator

**Call to Order**

Chairman King called the regularly scheduled November 8, 2007 RRPDC meeting to order at approximately 1:10 p.m. in the RRPDC board room. At this time Chairman King asked Mr. Gordon to lead the Commission in the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

**I. ADMINISTRATION**

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

Ms. Evans stated that a quorum of members was present.

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

Chairman King asked if there were any changes in the order of business. There were no requests made.

**C. Open Public Comment Period**

Chairman King asked if there was anyone from the public in attendance who wished to make a comment. As there were no requests from the public to address the Commission, Chairman King closed the public comment period.

**D. Approval of Minutes – October 11, 2007 Meeting**

Chairman King asked Mr. Donati to present minutes of the RRPDC meeting held on October 11, 2007. Ms. O’Bannon noted that there was a small error in verb tense that she would address later with whoever typed the minutes. She said she would like to compliment whoever does write the minute as they are very complete. Ms. Evans stated the Executive Secretary, Julie Fry, writes the minutes. Ms. O’Bannon thanked Ms. Fry for her work, as did Chairman King. A

motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. Donati and seconded by Mr. Butler. There being no further discussion, the minutes were unanimously approved as presented. Ms. O'Bannon, Ms. Lacy, and Ms. Snyder abstained from the vote as they was not in attendance at that meeting.

#### **E. Approval of September Financial Reports**

Chairman King asked Mr. Pantele to present the financial reports for September 2007. Mr. Pantele called the members' attention to the report under Tab 2. Mr. Pantele moved that the report be accepted; Mr. Donati seconded the motion. There being no questions, the September 2007 financial reports were unanimously approved as presented and accepted for audit.

#### **F. Chairman's Report**

Chairman King noted his written report was under Tab 3 of the agenda book. He said he was greatly appreciative of everyone's attendance at today's meeting which shows there is tremendous interest in the future direction of this organization. The two subcommittees worked long and hard trying to accomplish a direction for RRPDC. If the motion should not be approved today, it would be his recommendation that the search for a new executive director be postponed until such time the Commission can agree on what will be expected of that individual. Since new members will be brought on to the board in January, the search could be postponed until February or March so that time and money would not be wasted until it is known what will be expected of the new executive director.

During the December meeting, Jim Regimbal, from Fiscal Analytics, will be present to give members an overview of the proposed state budget and its impact on projects of interest to the Commission.

Chairman King noted that when he first joined the Commission, the only members he knew were the ones from Chesterfield County. At that time he wished he had known others. He has developed a tremendous amount of respect over the years for those who sit around this table. Chairman King thought it would be appropriate, even though it is a sensitive issue to those who will not be on the Commission in January, to host a meet-and-greet for new board members in the region. This would be held prior to the December Commission meeting. He has asked staff to help with this, and he would welcome suggestions from Commission members. Chairman King stated the purpose of this meeting would be to meet others prior to the first Commission meeting because everything is built on relationships. It would give him an opportunity as outgoing Chairman to tell the newly elected officials the story of the RRPDC – how federal monies dried up and as a result, for whatever reason, it was seen that this organization became dysfunctional. This organization should, by all rights, be setting the regional vision because all residents who live in the region are represented around

this table. Chairman King felt that those who go forward with the agency need to adopt the guidelines and vision that will be set, whether they are legislative agendas, GIS, transportation, or whatever. The new members need to know that the Commission is finally unified in this respect. There is a significance to this organization; there is a purpose; and they need to know how much work was done to get to this point. When the first meeting does occur, at least there will have been a chance to meet these new people.

Chairman King has asked Mr. Butler, Mr. Gordon, and Mr. Trout to serve on the Nominating Committee to offer a slate of names to fill the Chairman's position and Vice Chairman's position for the remainder of this fiscal year. These individuals are also MPO members. The MPO bylaws require that the current jurisdiction (Chesterfield County) must retain the MPO chairmanship.

Chairman King recognized Ms. O'Bannon who indicated this process has been undertaken previously. In the past, the chairmanship has stayed with the same jurisdiction. Chairman King clarified the person would just serve for the remainder of the fiscal year, from January through June. Mr. Trout restated that the MPO bylaws require this but the RRPDC bylaws do not.

#### **G. Interim Executive Director's Report for September/October 2007**

Ms. Evans noted that she and Mr. Anzivino, from Springsted, had spoken earlier in the week. He is going to begin contacting Commission members to gather information needed to begin the executive director search.

Ms. Evans stated the report of staff activities over the past two months is in the agenda book under Tab 4. She encouraged members to read the report for details of work being done by staff on behalf of each jurisdiction.

Ms. Evans noted each member has been given a copy of the report on the Chickahominy River Recreational Access study. Staff has been somewhat remiss in bringing to the Commission some of the products of staff's efforts. Staff will continue to do this as warranted and requested by the Commission members. This study was mentioned during last month's meeting. While Ms. Stewart could not be at today's meeting, if anyone has questions, please feel free to contact Ms. Stewart with those.

Under Tab 6, For Your Information, staff has collected legislative programs for five of the nine jurisdictions. These are available should anyone want to have copies. As legislative programs are received from the other jurisdictions, these will all be compiled into a booklet that will summarize the legislative programs from each jurisdiction and offer a list of common issues. Should the Commission decide today to focus on a legislative program as part of the future direction, this information will be available so no time will be lost going forward in to the 2009 legislative session.

Chairman King recognized Ms. O'Bannon who called the Commission's attention to the Interim Executive Director's Report, under Tab 4, page 8. Under the item listed as "Emergency Services Program," Ms. O'Bannon noted that the Coordinated Regional Public Radio Communication Plan had reached the interest of the Department of Homeland Security. She had spoken to various groups on this recently regarding how this was handled by RRPDC through the Memorandum of Understanding with local public radio and how RRPDC approached the problem. The Department of Homeland Security is very interested in learning more about that. Ms. O'Bannon sat on interoperability committees, one through NACo. She wanted to point out that the plan worked up by the Commission has reached the national level.

Ms. O'Bannon also noted that she sits on the committee that will determine which locality receives money offered through the Department of Homeland Security's Public Safety Interoperability Communications grant program. The amount began at \$25 million; the governor will make the final determination on which localities receive the money. Ms. O'Bannon wanted to point out that RRPDC's grant application went to the top of the list because of its regional impact. Those requests from only one locality were placed at the bottom of the list while those involving more than one locality were move to the top of the list for consideration. The RRPDC application was second on the list because it included eight jurisdictions. The total amount of money was decreased to \$13 million based on state needs. The application was well-written and very complete. Ms. O'Bannon wanted to pass along her thanks to everyone who worked on this.

Chairman King thanked Ms. O'Bannon for her comments. He also clarified that the legislative programs received from the localities will be broken down to show those issues of common interest throughout the region. He mentioned this because one of the items to be discussed momentarily is the development of a strong legislative program for the region.

## **II. OLD BUSINESS**

### **A. Future Direction of RRPDC**

Chairman King congratulated the Chesterfield delegation for being present at today's meeting. He appreciated that everyone, regardless of personal concerns and schedules, made time to be here. He appreciated that so many of the members were at today's meeting to discuss this important matter.

Chairman King briefly reviewed previous discussions for those members who had not been present during those meetings. The three previous chairman, Mr. Holland, Mr. Gordon, and Mr. Butler, had all tried to accomplish a way to better utilize the organization. The organization is a very underutilized organization at a great cost to the taxpayers. This organization can be so much more, as evidenced

by what Ms. O'Bannon had just stated. All differences and territorial issues need to be put aside. There are so many things with common interest that this organization can accomplish. Chairman King thanked Ms. Prichard and Mr. Gordon for spearheading the effort to get the Commission to this point. This will also impact the search for a new executive director.

Under Tab 5, the motion made by Mr. Gordon was listed for consideration. In talking with some members of the Commission, Chairman King stated these members did not want to prioritize the items listed in the motion, only to vote on the motion as made by Mr. Gordon. This is the beginning step to set the future direction for RRPDC and to gain back what RRPDC was designed to do. Chairman King has faith that the region can work together on these issues. The large jurisdictions, in their committee, yielded to the fact that they are part of this organization to assist the smaller jurisdictions and help them accomplish some of the things they need to accomplish.

Chairman King asked Mr. Gordon to please restate his motion. He reminded members there was no need to rehash how they had gotten to this point. Once the motion is seconded, there will be time for discussion. This motion is extremely important as it is stated, and it should be left to the two jurisdictional committees to prioritize the items.

Mr. Gordon said he regretted some of the things he had said in frustration at the end of last month's meeting. He wanted to apologize to those members who had witnessed his frustration. Like everyone can be, he was passionate about the work that he had been asked to do. The motion was listed under Tab 5, and his motion would be that the Commission adopt these priorities as the vision and future direction of RRPDC. The priorities are:

- Regional Infrastructure Assessment and/or Initiatives
- Proactive Legislative Action
- GIS Regional Initiatives
- Communication, Visibility, and Effectiveness (and all following bullet points)
- Assistance with Identifying Grant Opportunities and with Writing Grant Proposals
- Retain the Two Jurisdictional Committees to Facilitate Continued Discussion of Matters Specific to Each and to Recommend Additional Priorities.

Mr. Butler seconded the motion. Mr. Holland asked for clarification on the last bullet as Mr. Gordon did not read the entire bullet point. Mr. Gordon said his motion did include the entire bullet point.

Chairman King called for the question. The motion was approved unanimously and was met with a round of applause from Commission members.

Chairman King said he is cautiously optimistic with regard to the passage of this motion. He commended the board for its work and said it had been a pleasure to have been affiliated with this board over the past four years. This is the highlight of his time with this organization. He trusts that future boards will take the organization in the direction as set by this board and expand on the priorities. To those who will not be on this board in the near future, Chairman King commended them on their attendance today. If this board finished with integrity, finished unified, and took the organization into the future, then his public life and affiliation with this organization had been worth it. Chairman King said he would venture to say that he was speaking for everyone, whether they will return or not.. He thanked those who will not be returning, Mr. Holland, Mr. Holmes, and Mr. Miller, for taking the time to be in attendance and to finish the job. Chairman King thanked each member for participating. He invited everyone to participate in the upcoming meeting with the newly elected officials who will be taking the Commission into the future and stated it is time for the Commission to take the lead in setting the vision for the region.

Chairman King recognized Ms. Evans. Ms. Evans said she would like to note on behalf of staff that staff is very aware of what happens during board meetings whether staff is present or not. Staff has been waiting for something to happen as it did today. There are a lot of good, professional planning staff here, and this staff wants to be able to do good things for the region. All of staff will be happy to hear that a new direction has been set and that they will be able to move forward working on new and different things, in addition to all of the things that need to be done. Ms. Evans thanked the board for their efforts to do this for staff and for the region.

Ms. Prichard thanked every member of the Commission on behalf of the Small Jurisdictions Committee for this vote, noting this is an opportunity for everyone to move forward. She also thanked members of the Large Jurisdictional Committee for their participation. In particular, Ms. Prichard thanked Mr. Holland and his staff and Mr. Trout and his staff for the help they gave to the Small Jurisdictions Committee.

Mr. Setliff said he was very happy this had been accomplished, and he was looking forward to working through this list and developing a new list. He asked which of the newly elected officials will be invited to the gathering since it will not be know who will actually serve on the Commission board until after the boards of supervisors meet. Chairman King said he wanted to include everyone to let them know what it is that the Commission does, especially now that this motion has been passed. This will also help in giving direction to a new executive director to make sure the priorities are met. The reason things have not been done in the agency is because the Commission did not give the executive director any direction. The new executive director will work for the Commission and can do whatever it is that the Commission tells him or her to do.

Mr. Pantele added his thanks to the previous chairmen and their work in trying to get the Commission to this point. He said he wanted to thank Chairman King for his efforts. Since Chairman King had made the decision not to run for reelection to office, he certainly could have handed off responsibility for the Commission to someone else. Chairman King volunteered to handle this difficult duty and to tackle the difficult issue. His handling of the issue, in having the two jurisdictional committees take on this issue, turned out to be a brilliant move. This gave both groups the opportunities to say things they may not have felt comfortable saying in front of the entire Commission. Both groups found there were things both groups were interested in. The risk was in coming together and hoping the energy found in both smaller groups translated to the larger group. This will be a building block for the future. Now it is in the hands of those who will carry on, and Mr. Pantele said he hoped everyone will do their best not to let Chairman King down.

Chairman King thanked Mr. Pantele for his comments.

**III. NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business to discuss.

**IV. OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business to discuss. Chairman King reminded members that the budget would need approval at the next meeting and encouraged members to be in attendance.

**V. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Chairman King adjourned the meeting at approximately 1:45 p.m.

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Jo A. Evans  
Interim Executive Director

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R.M. "Dickie" King, Jr.  
Chairman