

RICHMOND REGIONAL PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION
Minutes of Meeting
April 10, 2008

Members/Alternates Present

W.R. Britton, Jr. (A) County of Charles City
Malvern R. “Rudy” Butler (M)..... County of Goochland
Karin Carmack (M).....County of Powhatan
Amy M. Cheeley (M).....County of Hanover
Deborah B. Coats (A) County of Hanover
Robert R. Cosby (M).....County of Powhatan
Timothy W. Cotman, Sr., Vice Chairman (M) County of Charles City
Marleen K. Durfee (M)..... County of Chesterfield
Daniel A. Gecker (M) County of Chesterfield
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 J. Gulley (M) County of Chesterfield
Brooke D. Hardin (A) City of Richmond
James M. Holland (M) County of Chesterfield
Courtney G. Hyers (M)..... County of Goochland
Dorothy Jaeckle (M) County of Chesterfield
E. Ray Jernigan (M)..... County of Henrico
David A. Kaechele (M)..... County of Henrico
Beverley C. Lacy (M) City of Richmond
Patricia S. O’Bannon (M) County of Henrico
C. Harold Padgett (M)..... County of Hanover
George K. Roarty (M)..... County of Chesterfield
Ellen F. Robertson (M) City of Richmond
Robert R. Setliff (M)..... County of Hanover
Randall R. Silber (A) County of Henrico
Millard D. Stith (A)..... County of Chesterfield
Stran L. Trout (M)..... County of New Kent
Carson L. Tucker (A)..... County of Powhatan
Joseph B. Walton (M) County of Powhatan
Arthur S. Warren, Chairman (M)..... County of Chesterfield

Members Absent

James B. Donati (M), Secretary County of Henrico
Richard W. Glover (M)..... County of Henrico
Delores L. McQuinn (M) City of Richmond
William J. Pantele (M), Treasurer..... City of Richmond
Faye O. Prichard (M) Town of Ashland
Brenda L. “Sam” Snyder (M) County of New Kent

Frank J. Thornton (M)..... County of Henrico

Others Present

John R. Amos..... RRPDC Legal Counsel
John T. Benton..... Citizen
Rob Bradham..... GRCC
Jim Dunn..... GRCC
Ricky Elder..... Dominion Virginia Power
Dawn Garber..... Dominion Virginia Power
Dan Grinnell..... VDOT
Iris E. Holliday..... Dominion Virginia Power
George M. Homewood..... County of New Kent
W. Deney Hurley..... Branscome Inc.
Doris McLeod..... VDEQ
Lisa Moerner..... Dominion Resources
Karl R. Neddenien..... Dominion Virginia Power
Jim Ponticello..... VDOT

Staff Present

Jo A. Evans..... Interim Executive Director
Julie H. Fry..... Executive Secretary
Daniel N. Lysy..... Director of Transportation
Jackie S. Stewart..... Director Planning/IS
Peter M. Sweetland..... Finance and Contracts Administrator

Call to Order

Chairman Warren called the regularly scheduled April 10, 2008 RRPDC meeting to order at approximately 1:10 p.m. in the RRPDC board room. He asked Ms. Jaeckle to lead the Commission members in the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

I. ADMINISTRATION

A. Certification by Commission Interim Executive Director of Meeting Quorum

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

B. Requests for Additions or Changes in Order of Business

There were no changes or additions.

C. Open Public Comment Period

Chairman Warren 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 Warren closed the public comment period.

D. Chairman's Report

Chairman Warren noted that during today's Executive Committee he distributed a resolution endorsed by the four large jurisdictions regarding transportation funding. The Executive Committee approved forwarding the resolution to the full Commission for consideration.

The resolution takes a position that the Commission has agreed on in the past that funding for transportation is the responsibility of the state. The resolution was developed during a regular meeting of the region's chief administrative officials and operations officers. Mr. Gecker, MPO Chairman, has indicated this will be added to today's MPO agenda for discussion. Chairman Warren noted he will bring this issue up again later in the meeting for discussion and possible action.

E. Approval of Minutes – March 13, 2008 Meeting

Chairman Warren presented minutes of the RRPDC meeting held on March 13, 2008, on behalf of Mr. Donati, who was unable to attend today. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. Butler and seconded by Ms. Graziano. There being no further discussion, the minutes were unanimously approved as presented. Ms. O'Bannon abstained from the vote as she was absent from that meeting.

F. Approval of February 2008 Financial Report

Chairman Warren asked Ms. Evans to present the financial reports for February 2008, on behalf of Mr. Pantele, who was not able to attend today's meeting. Ms. Evans called the members' attention to the report under Tab 2. There being no further questions or discussion, on motion made by Mr. Butler and seconded by Mr. Silber, the February 2008 financial report was unanimously approved as presented and accepted for audit.

G. Interim Executive Director's Report

Ms. Evans stated the report of staff activities over the past month was included in the agenda book under Tab 3. She encouraged members to read the report for details of work being done by staff on behalf of each jurisdiction. If there are any questions, Ms. Stewart and Mr. Lysy can address those now, or members can call RRPDC staff at any time with questions or concerns regarding work done for the jurisdictions.

Ms. Evans noted that she had attended the InterCity Visit to Charleston, South Carolina, the annual trip sponsored by the Greater Richmond Chamber (GRCC). Most notable was a presentation by the city's Council of Government on what the city has done with the Urban Land Institute with regard to a regional vision reality check. She noted Mr. Grier has brought this up previously. Ms. Evans thanked Mr. Jim Dunn (GRCC) for the opportunity to attend the event.

Chairman Warren recognized Mr. Dunn and asked if he had anything to add to what Ms. Evans had reported. Mr. Dunn noted that one of the reasons Charleston had been selected for this year's visit was due to the way the city has marketed and promoted its history. Many Richmond agencies, such as those relating to tourism and the local museums, also attended, and he thought everyone brought back good ideas on how to adapt this concept to what Richmond has to offer. Chairman Warren thanked Mr. Dunn for his input.

II. OLD BUSINESS

A. Jurisdictional Committees Reports

Large Jurisdictions Committee Report

Chairman Warren asked Mr. Gordon to present his report from the Large Jurisdictions Committee.

Mr. Gordon noted that the committee will meet tomorrow. Some activity has taken place, however, since the last Commission meeting. From the last Commission meeting, it was agreed that Chairman Warren should meet with representatives from GRCC to discuss the regional visioning exercise currently underway at GRCC and to determine how RRPDC can collaborate with GRCC in this exercise. The meeting was cancelled and rescheduled for this past Monday. The four large jurisdictions were represented at the meeting by elected officials and someone from the jurisdictions' administrative offices; Mayor Wilder and Shelia Hill-Christian from Richmond were in attendance; Ms. Prichard represented the Small Jurisdictions Committee.

A detailed presentation was made by GRCC on what has been done to date on their visioning issue. Commission members discussed the desire to partner with GRCC in this effort. Stemming from discussions last fall, Commission members emphasized to GRCC that it was the Commission's intention to conduct its own visioning exercise independent from any other organization. When it was learned that GRCC was doing this, Commission members viewed this as an opportunity to partner with GRCC. This was well received by members of GRCC. GRCC chairman, Mr. Theodore Chandler, was especially receptive to the partnership proposal. Mr. Gordon noted everyone involved in the GRCC effort would like to make a presentation to the full Commission to let all members know what has taken place to date. He also noted it is believed to be in the best interest of all

involved that a partnership be formed. A follow up meeting is being scheduled to determine what this partnership will involve. It is hoped the meeting can take place next week.

Mr. Gordon and Chairman Warren met to discuss the establishment of the transportation work group as endorsed by the Commission during last month's meeting. Ms. Prichard had been unable to attend that meeting. The make up of the work group was based on a list provided by the Small Jurisdictions Committee.

Chairman Warren said the preliminary list had been shared with members of the Executive Committee today. It is the desire of the Executive Committee that this group be all inclusive. Some of the Committee members recommended that the localities be contacted for recommendations of individuals to serve on this work group. Should transportation authorities be established, it will be up to the local governments to appoint people to serve on the authorities. Chairman Warren noted he will be taking the responsibility to set up this work group and will be working with the localities to identify members. The purpose of the group will be to work with GRCC to address transportation issues and funding from a regional perspective. Any recommendations coming from the work group will be brought back to the Commission before any action is taken.

Mr. Gordon noted that the resolution distributed earlier is not intended to preempt or limit the work done by this work group. It was hoped the work group would be created and could begin work prior to any special session of the General Assembly that may be called to discuss transportation issues. The resolution is intended to communicate to members of the General Assembly how the Commission feels about transportation funding.

Ms. O'Bannon noted this was a good idea and asked if the work group would be flexible in its purpose. Mr. Gordon note the original intent of the work group was to identify ideas and proposals prior to the next General Assembly session. Now that there may be a special session, it's not clear if the work group can have anything ready prior to a special session. The group will, however, continue its work with a fall deadline in mind.

Chairman Warren noted that it was everyone's intent to try to get ahead of the curve on this issue prior to the next General Assembly session. He encouraged any member with ideas or suggestions for the work group to please share them. Ms. O'Bannon said she would encourage the group to be flexible in its purpose. Mr. Setliff said he understood the work group's purpose is to present the Commission's ideas before any legislation is introduced and/or passed. He said he thought the Commission was trying to let the legislators know that any legislation requiring local officials to impose additional taxes on the residents should first have input from the local elected officials.

Chairman Warren indicated the Commission is not alone in this thinking. Other groups such as VML, VACo, etc., have all expressed a desire to keep an eye on how and what legislation is introduced from now on. It was noted that a couple of members of the General Assembly will be asked to be on this work group. Chairman Warren indicated that tentatively included on the list of participants are Senator Watkins, Delegate O'Bannon, and Delegate Peace, as well as a legislator representing the City of Richmond.

Mr. Gordon noted that the Large Jurisdictions Committee will meet tomorrow.

It was noted the proposed resolution was an opportunity to be pre-emptive instead of reactive.

Chairman Warren suggested the transportation funding resolution be considered at this time. Mr. Butler made a motion that the resolution be approved as presented. Ms. Graziano seconded the motion. As there was no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Small Jurisdictions Committee Report

Chairman Warren asked Mr. Trout to give a report on behalf of Ms. Prichard.

Mr. Trout reported that the committee had met on April 3. All five of the jurisdictions were represented. Mr. Trout said the committee had discussed an item that was brought up during the Executive Committee meeting – the intent of CSX to reroute Amtrak service away from the Town of Ashland and the Staples Mill stations in an effort to relieve congestion at Acca Yard. More information will be provided as it becomes available. The MPO may also be working to get additional information.

Also discussed was the rescheduled GRCC meeting.

Mr. Trout said a response to legislation on proffers and impact fees was discussed. All jurisdictions oppose this in its current form. The committee asked Mr. Homewood to draft a response to this legislation. The response will be reviewed by both jurisdictional committees prior to being presented to the full Commission. The committee feels this legislation will be brought up again in some form during the next legislative session.

Transportation funding issues were also discussed. This issue is moving forward with the endorsement of the transportation work group during today's meetings.

Chairman Warren asked Mr. Homewood to make a comment on the draft response he is developing. Mr. Homewood said it had been determined by members of the Small Jurisdictions Committee that a response to the proffers/impact fees issue should be put in writing to forward to the legislators.

The draft response has been distributed to committee members for their input. The key points are that if impact fees are to become law, they should apply to all localities and not a select few. There should be general guidelines on how the fees should be set, leaving details and limits to each jurisdiction based on those needs. Impact fees should not necessarily substitute for the proffer system. While there should not be a double collection, there should not be a replacement for what is already in place.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Presentation: Environmental Enhancements to Chesterfield Power Plant

Chairman Warren introduced Ms. Iris Holliday, Senior External Affairs Manager for Dominion Resource Services. Ms. Holliday thanked members of the Commission for the opportunity to make this presentation today. She thanked in particular Ms. O'Bannon for making the suggestion that the presentation be given.

Ms. Holliday introduced other members of the Dominion team who were in attendance. She then asked Mr. Ricky Elder, Chesterfield Power Station Manager, to give an update on environmental enhancements that have been made to the Chesterfield Power Station.

Presentation: Regulatory Changes in Ozone Air Quality Standards

Ms. Evans introduced Ms. Doris McLeod, Air Quality Planner, with the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, who gave an update on recent regulatory changes in air quality standards and what impacts this will have on the region.

B. Resolution of Appreciation

Chairman Warren presented for consideration a draft resolution of appreciation to outgoing Commission member Mr. David Williams, Powhatan County. He noted that should the resolution be approved, Mr. Williams will be invited to the May Commission meeting to receive it. Mr. Butler moved that the resolution be approved as presented; Mr. Cotman seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, the motion passed.

C. Authorization to File and Execute FY 09 Federal and State Grant Applications and Agreements on Behalf of the Commission for the Richmond Area MPO's FY 09 Unified Work Program

Chairman Warren asked Mr. Lysy to present this item.

Mr. Lysy stated this is an annual request to authorize the Interim Executive Director to file, execute, and administer the FY 09 PL funds contract between RRPDC and VDOT, and to file, execute, and administer the FY 09 Section 5303

Planning and Technical Studies Grant Agreement between RRPDC and VDRPT. On motion made by Mr. Butler and seconded by Ms. Robertson, the request was approved.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Committee Reports

There were no other committee reports.

B. Announcements

There were no announcements.

C. For Your Information

Chairman Warren asked Ms. Evans to give a short report on an item of interest.

Ms. Evans noted that at a previous Commission meeting, one of the members had asked for an update on the proposal from Henrico County to change mailing addresses in certain Henrico County zip code from Richmond Virginia to Henrico Virginia. She recognized Mr. Silber, who gave an update on this issue.

Mr. Silber said approximately ten years ago it became apparent to the county that revenues were being lost due to the naming of the jurisdictions. In conjunction with the City of Richmond, the U.S. Postal Service (USPS), and the Virginia Department of Taxation, in addition to other agencies, it was determined the only way to correct the issue was to rename the jurisdiction to Henrico Virginia. When mail order information is taken by retailers, if the mailing address is Richmond Virginia, then tax revenues from the retailers are mailed to Richmond instead of the actual locality where the purchase originated. A survey form will be sent out by the U.S. Postal Service to ask residents in specific zip codes if they would approve changing their mailing address from Richmond Virginia to Henrico Virginia. If a majority (51%) of survey forms are returned choosing Henrico, then this address change will take place. Mailing addresses in Glen Allen and Sandston will remain unchanged. There are some zip codes that are shared with the City of Richmond. If the change is approved, these will change automatically to Henrico. These shared areas will not be surveyed per USPS. Should the change be approved, USPS will give residents and businesses a certain amount of time to make the change so mail delivery will not be hampered.

Mr. Silber said so far the response has been mixed. Ms. O'Bannon said she thinks once residents and businesses understand the reason for this, they will be agreeable to the change to make sure all tax revenues that should rightly go to Henrico will go to the county.

Other items included in this section:

1. Letter from Whitt Clement, chairman of the Regional Transportation Advocacy Board, to Chairman Warren thanking the Commission for its action to work together with other agencies to address the region's transportation issues.

V. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Commission, on motion duly made and seconded, Chairman Warren adjourned the meeting at approximately 2:25 p.m.

Jo A. Evans
Interim Executive Director

Arthur S. Warren
Chairman