

RICHMOND REGIONAL PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION
Minutes of Meeting
March 11, 2010

Members/Alternates Present

Willie L. Bennett (M) County of Henrico
Malvern R. “Rudy” Butler (M).....County of Goochland
Deborah B. Coats (A)County of Hanover
Douglas G. Conner (M)City of Richmond
Robert R. Cosby (M).....County of Powhatan
James B. Donati (M), Vice Chairman..... County of Henrico
Marleen K. Durfee (M).....County of Chesterfield
Evan Fabricant (M)County of Hanover
Daniel A. Gecker (M)County of Chesterfield
Richard W. Glover (M)..... County of Henrico
John E. Gordon, Jr. (M)County of Hanover
Kathy C. Graziano (M), ChairmanCity of Richmond
James M. Holland (M)County of Chesterfield
Dorothy Jaeckle (M)County of Chesterfield
E. Martin Jewell (M).....City of Richmond
David A. Kaechele (M)..... County of Henrico
Lynn McAteer (M).....City of Richmond
C. Harold Padgett (M).....County of Hanover
Edward W. Pollard (M)..... County of New Kent
Faye O. Prichard (M), SecretaryTown of Ashland
Robert R. Setliff (M).....County of Hanover
Randall R. Silber (A) County of Henrico
Millard D. “Pete” Stith (A)County of Chesterfield
Stran L. Trout (M), Treasurer County of New Kent
Ernest B. Vanarsdall (M) County of Henrico
Joseph B. Walton (M)County of Powhatan

Members Absent

Karin Carmack (M).....County of Powhatan
Timothy W. Cotman, Sr. (M)..... County of Charles City
John C. Grier (M).....City of Richmond
Russell J. Gulley (M)County of Chesterfield
Courtney G. Hyers (M).....County of Goochland
Patricia S. O’Bannon (M) County of Henrico
George K. Roarty (M).....County of Chesterfield
Charles R. Samuels (M).....City of Richmond
Frank J. Thornton (M)..... County of Henrico
Arthur S. Warren (M)County of Chesterfield

Others Present

Steven Adkins Chickahominy Tribe
John R. Amos..... RRPDC Legal Counsel
Nora AmosTown of Ashland
Ted Chandler.....GRCC
Bernard Harris..... CVWMA
Kim Hynes CVWMA
Kim Scheeler.....GRCC
Jay StegmaierCounty of Chesterfield
Tracy Kemp StallingsGRCC
Bill Street James River Association

Staff Present

Robert A. Crum, Jr..... Executive Director
Jo A. Evans Assistant Executive Director
Julie H. Fry..... Executive Secretary
Allyson Finchum.....Principal Planner
Chuck Gates Communications Coordinator
Barbara JacocksPrincipal Planner
Jin Lee.....Senior Planner
Daniel N. LysyDirector, Transportation
Randy SelleckSenior Planner
Jackie S. Stewart Director, Planning/IS
Sarah StewartSenior Planner
Peter M. Sweetland Finance and Contracts Administrator
Matt Weaver..... Intern
Kathy Wright Intern
Lee YoltonPrincipal Planner

Call to Order

Chairman Graziano called the regularly scheduled March 11, 2010 RRPDC meeting to order at approximately 1:10 p.m. in the RRPDC board room. She then led the Commission members in the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

I. ADMINISTRATION

A. Certification by Commission Executive Director of Meeting Quorum

Mr. Crum certified that a quorum of members was present.

B. Requests for Additions or Changes in Order of Business

Chairman Graziano asked if there were any additions or changes to be made to the agenda. As there were no additions or changes noted, the agenda was accepted as printed.

C. Open Public Comment Period

Chairman Graziano asked if there was anyone from the public in attendance who wished to make a comment to members of the Commission. She reminded speakers that their time is limited to three minutes.

There were no requests from the public to address the Commission, and the Chairman closed the public comment period.

D. Chairman's Report

Chairman Graziano indicated she would not have a report today.

E. Approval of Minutes – February 11, 2010 Meeting

Chairman Graziano asked Ms. Prichard to present minutes from the February 11, 2010 meeting. There being no discussion, on motion made by Ms. Prichard and seconded by Mr. Bennett, the minutes were approved as presented.

F. Approval of the January 2010 Financial Report

Chairman Graziano asked Mr. Trout to present this item.

Mr. Trout stated the financial report is included in the agenda book under Tab 2. There being no discussion, on motion made by Mr. Trout and seconded by Ms. Prichard, the January 2010 financial report was accepted for audit as presented.

G. Executive Director's Report

Mr. Crum brought the members' attention to the monthly staff activity report, which is included in the agenda book under Tab 3, and details work being done by staff on behalf of the localities.

He noted that a packet of information entitled "RRPDC in the News" was placed at each member's seat. He said one of Mr. Gates' responsibilities is to make the public aware of what is going on at the RRPDC. What is included in this packet are various newspaper articles from the past two months. He said Mr. Gates is doing a good job in getting the word out about the activities of the PDC. He thanked members for their support in moving along the initiatives outlined in the articles.

As a follow up to action taken during last month's meeting, the Board authorized staff to begin work on development of a regional Community Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). Staff has submitted a letter of intent to the federal Economic Development Administration. Once approval has been received, staff will submit the application for funding to begin development of the CEDS.

Also last month, the Board authorized staff to take \$70,000 from the fund balance to purchase a regional license for the eCivis grants search software. Mr. Crum contacted each administrative officer in the nine member jurisdictions to ask if the locality would be interested in participating in the license. He reported that all nine member localities have signed up for the regional license. This will be available for all jurisdictions' use on July 1. Mr. Crum thanked members for their leadership in this effort. He said staff is very optimistic that additional funding sources will be identified that will benefit the jurisdictions. Staff in the jurisdictions provided positive feedback to RRPDC staff with regard to the opportunities eCivis will offer to them.

Mr. Crum asked Ms. Evans to give a brief report on activities of the Regional Area Funding Team (RAFT). Ms. Evans reported that late last summer, the Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy contacted the PDC with information regarding grant funds that were available under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). She reported that Goochland County has been awarded a grant under the ARRA in the amount of \$179,500 for work on park and ride lots in the county. RAFT brought information on this opportunity to the localities when it was received. PDC staff will assist the county in this effort as requested. Ms. Evans noted that RAFT meets on the third Thursday of each month.

Chairman Graziano thanked Mr. Crum and his staff, as well as members of the Commission, for their work in making the public and media aware of work being done by the RRPDC.

Chairman Graziano recognized Mr. Walton who asked for clarification on the number of member jurisdictions that indicated an interest in participating in the regional eCivis license. Mr. Crum said all nine member jurisdictions will sign onto the regional license. Mr. Holland said he looks forward to the additional grant opportunities this software will bring to the Region.

II. OLD BUSINESS

A. Jurisdictional Committees Reports

Chairman Graziano asked Mr. Gordon to present a report from these committees.

Mr. Gordon reported that the committees had not met in March and will hold a joint meeting in April.

B. Legislative Update

Mr. Gates thanked members of the Commission for their quick response to the call for action regarding PDC funding. Staff is hearing positive feedback on these contacts; however, a state budget will not be finalized until later in the week. Mr. Gates asked members to continue their contact with conferees of the Senate budget committee or with their own legislators to encourage them to retain PDC funding.

Mr. Gates also thanked Chairman Graziano for sending a letter in support of continued PDC funding to all members of the Capital Region Caucus. Mr. Gates recognized Kim Scheeler, Greater Richmond Chamber of Commerce, who also wrote a letter to Caucus members in support of PDC funding.

At the federal level, a hearing was held to discuss House Resolution 413, Public Safety Employer/Employee Cooperation Act, which mandates that all state and local governments enter into collective bargaining agreements with all public safety employees. Mr. Gates said he has a website address that details the discussions of that hearing, and he will share this with any member who wishes to have more information on this bill.

Mr. Gates said following adjournment of the General Assembly, he will review all legislation that passed with regard to the regional legislative agenda and provide a report on this to members during the April Board meeting. He noted that Senator Watkins and Delegate Dance both patroned stormwater regulation bills that delayed implementation of the regulations, which was the position taken by RRPDC members in the legislative agenda. The bills have passed and are waiting to be signed by the governor.

Chairman Graziano thanked Mr. Gates for his efforts during the General Assembly session.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Capital Region Collaborative / Smart Beginnings Program

Chairman Graziano asked Mr. Crum to introduce this item.

Mr. Crum reminded members that over the last seventeen months, the Capital Region Collaborative Organizing Team (CRC) has been meeting monthly to advance the CRC, which is a cooperative arrangement between this Board and the Greater Richmond Chamber of Commerce (GRCC) to identify, prioritize, and implement actions that will strengthen the quality of life in the Richmond Region.

Over the last four months, the PDC staff has worked with the GRCC staff to meet with eleven focus groups in the Region to ask what they would identify to be important regional priorities that government and business leaders should address in the community. While this input has been received, the CRC has used two pilot projects to test the process of how to work together to advance initiatives. These pilot projects are high speed rail and early childhood education. The CRC believes this to be an important issue for the community and identified organizations that are already working on this and how the CRC can assist to advance those efforts. The CRC was able to learn that the Smart Beginnings Program is working on early childhood education, and more specifically, on a school readiness program.

Sherrie Brach, CEO of the Greater Richmond and Petersburg United Way, will make a presentation to give an overview of the Smart Beginnings Program. Also in attendance at today's meeting are members of the CRC, which includes members of the Commission. Mr. Crum asked Commission members who are members of the CRC to raise their hands (Chairman Graziano, Mr. Gordon, Ms. Durfee, Mr. Kaechele, Mr. Trout, Ms. Prichard). Other members of the CRC who are in attendance today are Kim Scheeler (GRCC), Tracy Kemp Stallings (HCA Healthcare), Ted Chandler, and Jay Stegmaier (Chesterfield County).

Ms. Brach thanked members of the Commission for the opportunity to present this information to them today. She indicated this area is bigger than just early childhood education/development, but also includes all opportunities for children to prepare to enter the school system. The United Way and the GRCC have been involved in this issue for the past ten years. This is an opportunity to move the initiative further along by working cooperatively across the Region. A lot of progress has been made, and she said she would review the data that has been collected. Ms. Brach indicated many business leaders, local government officials, and local school officials are already involved.

Ms. Brach reviewed specific program points:

1. New Math of Future Success
 - healthy births and strong families
 - quality early learning experiences
 - school readiness and performance
 - high school graduation and post-secondary education/training
 - all equal quality workforce, productive contributing citizens, strong community
2. Leading Indicators in Each Jurisdiction
 - number of children ages 0-5
 - number of children ages 0-5 living in poverty
 - percentage of kindergartners not meeting fall PALS-K benchmark
 - percentage of births to mothers with less than 12th grade education
 - percentage of third graders passing third grade English SOL

3. Smart Beginnings is led by a Leadership Council which sets the strategic direction for the Region's early childhood efforts and holds it accountable; this is a regional coalition of over 100 broad stakeholders engaged at multiple levels; development of a regional plan for children's school readiness with a five-year agenda (list of Leadership Council provided)
4. Regional Vision for all children ages 0-5 in the Greater Richmond Region will be healthy, well-cared for and ready to succeed in school and in life (socially, emotionally, physically, and intellectually ready)
5. Comprehensive Regional Plan for Children's School Readiness is a five year plan and regional priorities with an accountability system
Ready Families + Ready Early Care and Education Services + Ready Schools + Ready Health Services + Ready Communities = Ready Children
6. Five Year Regional Priorities are:
 - a. Ready Families (home visiting; evidence-based parenting education classes)
 - b. Ready Early Care and Education Services (child care workforce development; quality rating and improvement system)
 - c. Ready Health Services (expand early childhood mental health services and the identification of developmental/physical delays; support existing children's health insurance efforts)
 - d. Ready Schools (gain regional agreement on definition of children's kindergarten readiness; promote on-time enrollment of preschoolers and kindergartners)
 - e. Ready Communities (build champions for children; provide adequate and diversified funding to effective programs; strengthen and sustain regional and local coalitions)
7. Community Indicators of Impact
 - a. Short-term (five years): fall PALS-K scores; child abuse and neglect rates; children enrolled in quality early care and education; health insurance coverage
 - b. Long-term (10-20 years): third grade English SOL percentages; foster care rates; juvenile crime rates; teen pregnancy rates; high school graduation rates
8. Importance of Locality Leadership
 - a. Regional Plan for Children's School Readiness calls for: local planning efforts can address jurisdictional characteristics and processes; regional characteristics: urban v. rural, demographics, existing systems/resources

Ms. Brach indicated that Smart Beginnings will also encompass the Petersburg area and some of the other southside areas. She indicated many of the jurisdictions are already advancing areas of the Smart Beginnings Program. By working with the CRC, it is hoped that all localities will be able to move forward in the efforts based on what is needed in each locality. Localities will be at different levels in their efforts. For example, Hanover County is further ahead and already has its own Leadership Council in place. Ms. Brach shared data on where each of the nine member jurisdictions are in the process.

What was presented to the CRC is a plan that should be strategic and based on localized data, community assets, leverages existing public and private resources, and connects with a regional plan. The local councils should be impactful and results-driven as well as measurable with focused strategies that allow for tracking progress on specific indicators and performance measures.

Smart Beginnings will offer technical and staffing assistance and will not ask for funding from the localities. The goal is for each locality to begin a planning process. Seed money has been provided from private donors and the GRCC to total \$75,000, which can be made available to jurisdictions in the form of grants. Examples of what this money can be used for are personnel, meeting costs, and other contracted services.

Benefits to the localities include:

- leverage interagency and regional resources and best practices
- access to increased funds through collaborative grants and other revenue sources
- access to technical assistance from regional partners
- develop programs more efficiently with economies of scale
- established regional plan, framework, and technical assistance will decrease start-up time
- integration of regional coalition and local councils will work together to develop and implement a plan

Ms. Brach reviewed the aspects of the Request for Participation (RFP):

- planning grants up to \$10,000 over a 12-month period with a goal of having a leadership structure in place, conduct a community assessment, complete strategic planning
- seed grants up to \$10,000 over a 12-month period to support implementation of strategies approved by existing early childhood council

The timeline for the RFP will be:

- release the RFP by April 26
- hold an informational session/dinner on May 3 – invite school boards and elected officials
- summit held on May 4
- applications for grants due May 28
- task group reviews applications and makes recommendations to CRC June 1 -29
- notify recipients by June 30

Mr. Crum asked members of the CRC if they wished to make additional comments.

Mr. Scheeler noted that when he speaks with business leaders about their biggest concerns over the next ten years, the most common concern is the need to have a

skilled workforce available and ready to hire. It is imperative that children be ready to learn when they enter the school system. He said the CRC is not asking for any financial assistance from the jurisdictions to move the Smart Beginnings Program forward. Endorsement does not commit the localities to any financial commitment. Participation will be up to each locality but it will be beneficial to bring together all groups across the Region that are already involved in early childhood education programs. Ms. Brach provided a list of those individuals and organizations that have already endorsed this program.

Mr. Glover asked how this program differs from the pre-kindergarten plan proposed by former Governor Kaine. Ms. Brach said this plan was only one component of a larger plan. She said Smart Beginnings works with families to prepare children for school.

Mr. Glover asked if there would be a facility set up for this program. Ms. Brach said it is home-based through other agencies such as social services and SCHIP working with parents. Ms. Brach said in Hanover County, for example, it was determined that the government cannot fund all of the early childhood needs. The pre-kindergarten plan and the Virginia Preschool Initiative (VPI) are just components of the larger issue. Smart Beginnings will augment what the government cannot fund.

Mr. Glover asked if Smart Beginnings will support the agencies already involved, such as the Departments of Education and Social Services. Ms. Brach said that is what the program is intended to do. Smart Beginnings will assist in funding programs or in helping to find other funding sources.

Ms. Brach said it will be important to learn from the localities what types of barriers they have in moving early childhood education/development programs forward. Smart Beginnings will work with localities within those constraints to help better leverage available resources. The intention of Smart Beginnings is to create more opportunities for public/private partnerships. Ms. Brach said the agencies mentioned by Mr. Glover are already involved with the Smart Beginnings Program.

Ms. Brach said what is being asked of the Commission members is to participate in a leadership role. Mr. Glover said he is concerned that funding will be needed at some point. She said it will be important to learn how funding gaps can be filled by identifying diversified funding sources.

Chairman Graziano recognized Mr. Chandler. Mr. Chandler said he sees one role of the CRC to be identifying redundant resources and how these resources can be realigned. This is also an opportunity for the public and private sectors to come together to form a stronger voice in the General Assembly. Mr. Chandler said the business community is looking forward to what the CRC can do to move programs forward. He said everyone took note when all of the jurisdictions

rallied together on the High Speed Rail initiative. The CRC has been able to bring together a more regional collaboration that expands out to include the Richmond Region. Mr. Chandler said this is a testing of processes. He thanked the Commission for its participation and leadership on the CRC. Mr. Chandler said collaboration goes beyond regional cooperation.

Mr. Butler noted he was in the daycare business for about fourteen years and the children who came out of those daycares were well prepared for school. He said the issue is how to work with children whose parents cannot afford to put them in daycare and who are not eligible to receive state or federal assistance to pay for daycare. He said he felt an obligation to take in children in those situations. He said there needs to be a program to address these types of children. Mr. Butler said he felt businesses should offer subsidies for children who can't afford to be placed in quality daycare facilities. He said most children are cared for by relatives or other types of babysitting services that offer no education programs. Mr. Butler said another issue is children who have parents who are not well educated or who have substance abuse problems.

Ms. Brach said Smart Beginnings does have a parent education piece to address this. She said the faith-based community is also working with the United Way to address how to offer quality daycare services. She said it's important to reach as many children as possible whose parents are asking for assistance.

Mr. Butler said the problem with the program proposed by former Governor Kaine was that the localities could not provide the additional facilities this plan called for. He said the Goochland County Tiny Tots program will be cut due to inadequate funding.

Ms. Brach said all of the barrier issues being raised can be discussed in the Smart Beginnings Program. She said not all of the issues will be identified unless there is collaboration between jurisdictions. Ms. Brach said she sees this as an important reason why the Region should support Smart Beginnings.

Mr. Butler said the cycle of babysitting versus quality daycare must be addressed.

Ms. Durfee said this effort is about pooling resources and identifying redundancies to maximize what is available. Once this is done, long-term plans can be put in place to address the issue.

Mr. Holland said he thinks this is an excellent concept. He said this is an opportunity to look at best practices and utilization of resources. He said he will be interested in seeing data once the 2010 census is completed. Mr. Holland said he believes the Commission can help move this forward.

Chairman Graziano summarized that the action being requested is for the Commission Board to endorse the school readiness planning process as outlined by the Smart Beginnings Program.

Ms. Jaeckle said care should be taken in how much parental responsibility any organization should take over. She said she has heard that 55 percent of obstetrics bills in one local hospital are paid by Medicaid. In looking at the Ready Families program, she said she is concerned that too many parents will expect the government to take care of their children. She said this was certainly not the case in past years when parents relied on family and friends to offer assistance. Ms. Jaeckle said she believes if businesses are to become involved, they should offer mentoring programs so that better educated employees work with those who are not as well educated. She said this is how to teach people how to be better parents. She said it is a lifestyle issue.

Mr. Walton said he agreed with Ms. Jaeckle that care should be taken, but it is also important to realize that emphasis has been on children after that age of 18 instead of ages 0-5. The level of incarceration after age 18 seems to point to a need to focus on 0-5 aged children. He said an option should be given to parents so they have flexibility on whether to place children in junior or senior years of high school in favor of having them go into preschool. If the children are going to be on the streets at age 15 or 16, they would be better prepared by having gone through a quality preschool program.

Mr. Amos, RRPDC legal counsel, said he understands action is being requested to endorse the Smart Beginnings Program. As far as mechanics are concerned, the RFP will be required by April 26 from each locality interested in the program. Mr. Crum said a regional process is being outlined for members' information. He said a regional statement of support from the RRPDC as a regional organization will make a statement that this needs to be done at a Richmond Regional level and that the process outlined makes sense to move forward over the next few months.

Ms. Brach said part of the planning will be to identify the concerns voiced by members today.

Mr. Glover asked what ramifications will come from the endorsement. Mr. Crum said endorsement will not commit any of the jurisdictions to provide funds; the action does not require a jurisdiction to submit an application to Smart Beginnings unless the jurisdiction wants to do so. Information will be provided to all nine jurisdictions indicating grant funds are available for planning efforts in the locality. To kick off the initiative, a forum will be held in May and invitees will include all elected officials and all school board members in the Richmond Region. A presentation similar to what was heard today will be given so everyone will know what is being proposed. What is being asked from the Commission Board is an endorsement of the process.

Mr. Amos asked if the total amount of grant funding is \$70,000 going in or if that is after the estimated costs shown on page 10 of the handout. Ms. Brach said what is shown on page 10 is an example of how grant money can be used in the locality. The amount of the grant will be based on what the locality determines to be needed. It will depend on the size and scope of the jurisdiction. The example was modeled after the work that has already been done in Hanover County. Smart Beginnings has a total of \$75,000 on hand to offer.

Chairman Graziano asked Mr. Gordon, as CRC Co-Chair, to make a closing statement and then she will ask for a motion.

Mr. Gordon reminded members that the CRC is made up of members of the Commission and business community. The CRC endorsed the two initiatives early on – early childhood education and high speed rail. The CRC understands that any significant action taken should be brought back to the Commission Board and the GRCC for endorsement. No funds are being requested; a report from the CRC is being given. A request for endorsement only is being made for the next undertaking with Smart Beginnings. He said he hoped members of the Commission would see the wisdom of this initiative and that they would support this proposal.

Chairman Graziano asked Mr. Gordon if this was his motion. Mr. Gordon said he would move that the Commission endorse the school readiness planning process as outlined by Smart Beginnings. Mr. Jewell seconded the motion.

Mr. Butler said this is more of a school board item and he would like an opportunity to discuss this with his county administrator to take to the school board. He said many of the problems being faced in the school are with children who cannot speak English. Ms. Brach said this is one of the opportunities of being able to develop a locality-specific plan.

Ms. Jaeckle said she is concerned that when funding for social services programs is lost, an advocacy group will approach the Board for funding because it endorsed a regional plan to move in this direction. She said there is a price tag to endorse such a program even if it is not shown.

Mr. Holland said he agreed with what Mr. Walton said about the amount of money spent in localities on education. He feels the overriding issue this speaks to is quality of life. He said it should be determined how much is spent on programs in the localities and if these funds are being spent wisely. He noted each school system is different. It is important to make sure each child who graduates from high school is prepared to fill out job applications and to enter the workforce and to be able to produce and contribute to the community. He said he endorses this initiative. He said results matter.

Ms. Durfee said there is a price to pay when no support is given to collaborative efforts. What has been presented today is a planning process. The CRC has taken a great deal of time to research the early childhood education issue. This is not a funding request. Resources need to be pooled and this will offer that opportunity. The process was well thought out by members of the CRC and should be endorsed.

Mr. Trout said school superintendents were consulted during the process and the chairman of the New Kent County Board of Supervisors sits on the Smart Beginnings Leadership Council. He said the action being requested today is to allow the process to move forward. No request for funding is being made. He said he is in favor of what is being proposed.

Mr. Cosby said he is not prepared to act on this issue today. The RFP won't be issued for another six weeks. The Commission will meet again prior to that. He said he would feel better prepared to vote on the issue if he had time to discuss this with those in his county who would be involved.

Mr. Glover said he agreed with Mr. Cosby. Mr. Glover said he felt Smart Beginnings has the authority to move forward without this vote. He said he has a problem with having an issue being presented and then being expected to vote on it. He said he is not against what is being presented, but he would like time to discuss this with his school system and county management.

Chairman Graziano asked Mr. Gordon if he would like to amend his motion to delay a vote until the April Commission meeting or if he would like to leave his motion as stated. Mr. Gordon said he would like to leave his motion on the table. He said there are some timing issues and he understands what Mr. Glover said about moving forward without endorsement. Mr. Gordon said all that is being requested is an endorsement from this regional body. A regional summit is being planned to bring together all school board and elected officials. He said he did not think the CRC would be comfortable moving ahead with this without endorsement.

Mr. Cosby asked why a vote was needed so quickly.

Chairman Graziano reminded members there is a motion with a second on the floor. Mr. Holland called for the question.

Chairman Graziano asked for all those in favor of the motion to raise their hands. The vote was 16 in favor. Chairman Graziano asked for those against the motion to raise their hands. The vote was 7 against. The motion carried.

Ms. Durfee noted that the school superintendents were asked for feedback by the CRC in a meeting held at the RRPDC.

Chairman Graziano thanked Ms. Brach for her presentation.

B. Central Virginia Waste Management Authority Plan Amendment

Mr. Crum said Kim Hynes, Central Virginia Waste Management Authority (CVWMA), will present a major amendment to the Solid Waste Management Plan to allow expansion of the Tri-Cities Regional Landfill in Petersburg. He noted that because both RRPDC and the Crater PDC endorsed the Plan, they are both required to approve any amendment to the Plan. Ms. Hynes will give an overview of what the amendment involves. Mr. Crum noted that he has confirmed the Crater PDC has endorsed the amendment as has the host community (Petersburg).

Ms. Hynes thanked members of the Commission for the opportunity to present this item. She said action is being requested from the Board to approve the amendment. She said many of the Board members were involved in the development of the original Plan. She provided background information on the Plan.

CVWMA is a regional authority that serves 13 member localities, including all nine RRPDC member localities. CVWMA was formed from the RRPDC twenty years ago to provide recycling and solid waste programs as mandated by the State.

Other discussion points included:

- CVWMA serves about 1,000,000 residents in an area of about 2,500 square miles
- CVWMA has a 20-member board of directors
- 9VAC10-130-10 et seq. requires each locality or solid waste planning unit to develop a solid waste management plan (SWMP) and to identify waste disposal capacity over a 20-year period (July 2004 – June 2024); define process to achieve mandated recycling rate
- PDCs are responsible for development and maintenance of a solid waste plan for the central Virginia Region (CVWMA service area)
- CVWMA is the plan holder and responsible for the implementation of the plan
- a technical committee was formed and the 20-year plan was approved on August 20, 2004
- plan philosophy: provide CVWMA member jurisdictions with an umbrella document that on a regional basis allows each locality the flexibility to address solid waste needs as best suited for each individual locality

Ms. Hynes said any major plan amendment must be presented in public hearings and approved by both RRPDC and Crater PDC and submitted to the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) for review and approval. Since 2004, four major amendments have been incorporated.

The proposed amendment will be the fifth amendment. The former City of Petersburg Landfill was sold to CFS Group, LLC in the fall of 2009. They have made an application to increase capacity and to expand the site through mechanically stabilized earth walls. The result of this expansion will add four million cubic yards of capacity and 20 years of additional life. A transfer station will also be added.

Benefits to this amendment will be:

- optimized waste disposal and recycling services in the Tri-Cities area and beyond
- assure adequate and economical disposal capacity
- above fits with the overall philosophy of the plan

A public hearing was held on January 14, 2010 and no comments were received. The City of Petersburg has approved the proposed amendment and sees an economic benefit to the area residents and surrounding localities. Crater PDC approved the amendment on February 11, 2010.

Ms. Hynes said CVWMA is requesting approval by RRPDC.

Mr. Donati asked if approval must be obtained by the Commission Board for any landfill in the Region, such as Waste Management or Allied Waste.

Ms. Hynes said that was correct for any major permit modification or permit application to the DEQ, if it is not already included in the Plan.

Mr. Donati asked if a recommendation had been made to DEQ regarding the East End Landfill which was recently allowed to expand its facility in tonnage per day.

Ms. Hynes said the capacity was already included in the solid waste plan when it was Simons Hauling Landfill, from a capacity standpoint. Ms. Hynes asked Mr. Harris to offer additional comment.

Mr. Harris said the expansion took place, as amendment one to the Plan, when it was the old Simons Hauling Landfill. The increase of tonnage per day does not require an amendment because it does not increase the capacity of the landfill. He said the increased tonnage is strictly a DEQ and community host issue. Mr. Harris noted CVWMA notified DEQ with a letter of consistency, saying the proposal to increase daily intake is consistent with the Plan.

Mr. Donati said there was tremendous opposition to this increase. Mr. Harris said if further expansion is requested, then an amendment would be required. The Petersburg landfill is increasing actual capacity.

Chairman Graziano asked if there was a motion to approve the amendment. Mr. Setliff moved that the Board approve the major amendment to the Central Virginia Solid Waste Management Plan and authorize the Central Virginia Waste Management Authority to submit the amendment to the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality for approval. Mr. Walton seconded the motion.

Mr. Kaechele asked where the landfill is located. Mr. Harris said the landfill is in Petersburg, which is part of the Crater PDC area. Mr. Harris said the Plan that is in place also includes the RRPDC jurisdictions.

Ms. Coats asked if the actual amendment language was included in the agenda book. She said she saw the resolution but did not see the actual amendment. Mr. Crum said background information is included on the agenda. The actual language is summarized in the background information. Ms. Coats asked if Board members would be allowed to see the actual language before a vote was taken. Ms. Hynes said the actual amendment could be forwarded to members if they so desired. Mr. Harris said everything is included in the background information.

There being no further discussion, the motion carried.

Ms. Hynes thanked members of the Commission for their action.

C. Chickahominy Water Trail Partnership Memorandum of Understanding

Mr. Crum said action is being requested for the Board to approve RRPDC participation in the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Chickahominy Water Trail Partnership. He said Ms. Stewart will present this item and will introduce two guests who will speak to this Partnership.

Ms. Stewart introduced Bill Street (James River Association) and Chief Steven Adkins (Chickahominy Tribe). She said they represent two partners in the MOU. Ms. Stewart noted that in 2006, the RRPDC Board passed a resolution in support of federal efforts to discover the trail through the Region with the focus to date being on the Chickahominy River.

Mr. Street thanked members for the opportunity to make this presentation. He said the MOU is a formality to an already working partnership. He said the James River Association appreciates the support given by the RRPDC to the Chesapeake Water Trail. This incorporates the effort into the Chickahominy River. The Captain John Smith Water Trail would not be complete without a functional and well developed section on the Chickahominy. The goals of the Trail are to encourage the education and understanding of the waterways and its history and interaction with the native villages.

Chief Adkins said what is being sought is support from RRPDC to elevate the credibility to the Partnership and to let the community know the Chickahominy

River is one of the most pristine in the area. He said there is a goal to increase recreation while maintaining the flora and fauna on the river.

Mr. Street said another important part is tourism and how to increase tourism by utilizing the river and aiding economic development. He said it is hoped this will become a national destination.

Ms. Stewart said signing the MOU does not obligate the RRPDC to any financial contributions and staff time will be limited to what is already included in the current work program.

Mr. Glover asked if this portion of the river was designated as a scenic byway. Mr. Trout said it was not.

Chairman Graziano thanked Mr. Street and Chief Adkins for their comments.

Mr. Trout said he has been working with the Partnership for several months. The Trail dedication will be held on May 29. Mr. Trout made a motion that the RRPDC approve the Memorandum of Understanding to join the Chickahominy Water Trail Partnership. Mr. Fabricant seconded the motion.

There was no further discussion and the motion carried.

D. Community Development Block Grant

Chairman Graziano asked Ms. Stewart to present this item.

Ms. Stewart said this is an annual item for consideration and action. RRPDC staff works with the non-entitlement localities of the Region to establish priorities to submit to the Department of Housing and Community Development. The regional rankings are included in the agenda book. Charles City County and perhaps New Kent County will be looking at a broadband project.

Action is requested that the priorities list be approved as presented for submission to the Department of Housing and Community Development.

Mr. Vanarsdall moved that the list be approved as presented for submission to the Department of Housing and Community Development. Mr. Bennett seconded the motion.

There was no further discussion and the motion carried.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Committee Reports

There were no other committee reports.

B. Announcements

There were no announcements.

C. For Your Information

Included in this section is a letter from Kim Scheeler, CEO of the Greater Richmond Chamber of Commerce, to Senator Walter Stosch expressing concern with the Senate Finance Committee's proposal to eliminate state funding for all PDCs.

V. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Chairman Graziano adjourned the meeting at approximately 2:50 p.m.

Robert A. Crum, Jr.
Executive Director

Kathy C. Graziano
Chairman