

RICHMOND REGIONAL PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION
Minutes of Meeting
March 14, 2013

Members (Alternates) Present

Parker C. Agelasto.....	City of Richmond
L. Ray Ashworth	City of Richmond
Jonathan T. Baliles	City of Richmond
Steve A. Elswick	Chesterfield County
Even Fabricant.....	Hanover County
Richard W. Glover	Henrico County
Kathy C. Graziano.....	City of Richmond
Russell J. Gulley.....	Chesterfield County
James M. Holland.....	Chesterfield County
Dorothy Jaeckle.....	Chesterfield County
Bonnie-Leigh Jones	Henrico County
David A. Kaechele	Henrico County
Angela Kelly-Wiecek, Vice Chairman.....	Hanover County
Kelli Le Duc (A).....	New Kent County
Lynn McAteer	City of Richmond
Floyd H. Miles.....	Charles City County
John H. Mitchell.....	Henrico County
Tyrone E. Nelson.....	Henrico County
C. Harold Padgett	Hanover County
Ken Peterson, Treasurer	Goochland County
W. Canova Peterson	Hanover County
Edward W. Pollard	New Kent County
Faye O. Prichard, Chairman	Town of Ashland
Charles R. Samuels.....	City of Richmond
Randall R. Silber (A).....	Henrico County
C. Thomas Tiller.....	New Kent County
Carson Tucker	Powhatan County
Arthur S. Warren	Chesterfield County
David Williams, Secretary	Powhatan County

Members Absent

Richard Ayers	Powhatan County
Timothy M. Davey	Chesterfield County
Daniel A. Gecker	Chesterfield County
Patricia S. O'Bannon.....	Henrico County
Frank J. Thornton	Henrico County

Others Present

John AmosRRPDC Legal Council
Rosalyn Dance..... Virginia House of Delegates
Kelli Parmley.....Bridging Richmond
Joanne Simmelink Chesterfield County

Staff Present

Robert A. Crum Executive Director
Jo A. Evans.....Assistant Executive Director
Julie H. Fry Executive Secretary
Anne Darby Senior Planner
Billy Gammel Associate Planner
Chuck Gates Communications Coordinator
Barbara Jacocks Principal Planner
Jin Lee Senior Planner
Daniel N. Lysy Director, Urban Transportation
Barbara Nelson Principal Planner
Greta Ryan..... Senior Planner
Randy Selleck Principal Planner
Matt Smith Intern
Jackie Stewart..... Director, Planning
Peter M. Sweetland..... Finance and Contracts Administrator
Lee Yolton Principal Planner

Call to Order

Chairman Prichard called the regularly scheduled March 14, 2013 RRPDC meeting to order at approximately 9:00 a.m. in the RRPDC board room. She then led 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 to the Order of Business

Chairman Prichard asked if there were any additions or changes to be made to the agenda. Mr. Crum asked if an item could be added to the agenda. He noted that on Monday, he sent information to all members on a request to add information on the Regional Indicators Project to today’s agenda. He asked if the item could be added

under New Business as Item IV. C, to follow the presentation on the Rural Transportation Program. Ms. Kelly-Wiecek made a motion that the Regional Indicators Project be added to the agenda as Item IV. C, under New Business. The motion was seconded by Mr. Williams. There was no additional discussion and the motion carried unanimously. There were no additional requests to change the agenda, and the agenda was accepted as amended.

C. Open Public Comment Period

As there were no requests from the public to address the Commission, Chairman Prichard closed the public comment period.

D. Chairman's Report

Chairman Prichard said she did not have a report, but said she hoped the new meeting time will work well for everyone.

E. Executive Director's Report

Mr. Crum brought members' attention to the monthly staff activity report, which is included in the agenda book under Tab 1 and details work being advanced by staff on behalf of the localities. He said staff will be happy to address any questions on what is included in the report.

Mr. Crum reported that there is a new initiative that has been launched by the Virginia Chamber of Commerce called Blueprint Virginia. This program will put together a statewide economic development strategy. Mr. Crum said the goal is to have the strategy completed by November to allow the Virginia Chamber an opportunity to provide the new governor with economic development information from a business perspective once the new administration is in office.

The Virginia Association of Planning District Commissions (VAPDC) has been asked to participate in Blueprint Virginia and has appointed Mr. Crum to represent VAPDC on the Blueprint Virginia Advisory Council. Mr. Crum said he wanted to make the Board aware that he will be serving on the Blueprint Virginia Advisory Board and that he will be providing regular updates on the project as it moves forward. A consultant has already been identified. Blueprint Virginia will be reaching out to the different regions across the state to use existing economic development strategies and studies that have been done in the different regions.

Mr. Crum noted there is information in the Work Status Report on the Chapel Island project being undertaken by the City of Richmond. He reported that RRPDC staff has been involved in this project as well. The project is being managed by Barbara Jacocks, RRPDC Principal Planner, as well as other RRPDC staff members. RRPDC staff secured a Coastal Zone Management Grant in the amount of \$50,000 for the City of Richmond. The grant is being matched by volunteer time. The work being

completed by the volunteers is to build walking paths around Chapel Island, as well as a canoe put-in. Last weekend the James River Hikers did volunteer work on the trails. Nathan Burrell, with the City of Richmond, has done an incredible job of securing volunteers, such as Friends of the James River and Altria. RRPDC is serving as the fiscal agent for the project. Photos have been posted on the James River Hikers' website. A presentation on the project will be provided to Board members during an upcoming meeting as the project is nearing completion. The project is a good example of regional cooperation with regard to leveraging assets and bringing groups of volunteers together.

F. Regional Interest Items

Chairman Prichard noted this is a new item on the agenda. At the Capital Region Collaborative (CRC), members participate in Open Karaoke at each meeting. Each member gives a brief update on things going on in their localities or businesses. She said this has been very helpful to allow members to discuss all manner of issues. Chairman Prichard asked for Board members to take about thirty seconds to mention something positive going on in their locality.

Items brought up by members going around the table:

- Ashland is becoming a center for regional distribution centers with cooperation from Hanover County
- Green top Sports has relocated to the former Gander Mountain store; Green top is a locally owned business in Hanover County
- Goochland County is working with Powhatan County and the Department of Corrections to develop infrastructure in the central and western parts of the county
- Powhatan County has hired a new county administrator, Pat Weiler, from Manassas; she is currently building her management team
- Urban Land Institute (ULI) will host Reality Check on May 14; everyone is encouraged to support and participate in this event
- Charles City County is in its budget process; the General Assembly has recommended a two percent salary increase for teachers; localities are being asked to pick up just over one percent of this cost
- Chesterfield County is benefiting from sports tourism; the county has been able to add jobs and investments during the recession thanks to sports tourism
- Chesterfield County's Capital Improvement Program and upcoming bond referendum will consist of renovating old schools instead of building new schools; this approach will not increase operating expenses
- New Kent County has had a gas pipeline extended by Virginia Gas which has allowed the addition of a new vendor to purchase gas
- City of Richmond plans to eliminate the box on employment applications that indicates *felon* for all non-sensitive positions; this will allow these applicants to go through the process instead of being eliminated up front
- Chesterfield County Planning Commission is working on implementation of the comprehensive plan

- Hanover County has finalized property tax adjustments
- Hanover County Planning Commission is reviewing the comprehensive plan
- Henrico County Planning Commission is working on cell tower placements
- Powhatan County would like to thank RRPDC staff for putting together the Rural Transportation Program which helps the county identify issues with rural roads and to bring those before VDOT for funding; Powhatan State Park will open in July; there will be a hay ride on April 21 to tour the park; RRPDC members are invited and should RSVP to Mr. Tucker or Mr. Williams
- Benedictine High School in the City of Richmond will host an Iron Chef competition between VCU basketball coach Shaka Smart and University of Richmond basketball coach Chris Mooney; two local executive chefs will team up with the coaches; the event will be on April 25 and proceeds will benefit Positive Vibe Café
- The Jefferson Cup soccer tournament is being held over three weekends in Henrico, Goochland, and Chesterfield Counties (March 9, 16, and 23) involving 900 teams; economic impact for the Region is expected to be about \$15 million
- City of Richmond is undertaking a derelict building program to hold property owners accountable; the city would like to compare lists of owners with other jurisdictions to see if there are properties across several jurisdictions to bring stronger court cases against the property owners
- Washington Redskins will be in town for training camp; please come out to support them; Richmond Squirrels season will begin within the next few weeks
- Henrico County's new manager, John Vithoukias, has presented a balanced budget
- Henrico County is holding a citizens academy to provide information to citizens on the various county departments; tours of the government complex will be offered as well to attendees
- elected officials have difficult jobs to balance tax issues between those who want additional services and are willing to pay more taxes and those who aren't willing to pay more
- the RRPDC board room looks great with the recent painting refresh

Mr. Crum noted that the painting is being completed for the cost of the paint only as staff is volunteering their time to make the office space brighter.

Chairman Prichard said that this information sharing item will be a standard item on agendas going forward and she thanked members for participating today as there was a lot of good information presented.

II. CONSENT AGENDA

Chairman Prichard said the Executive Committee recommended approval of the items listed on the Consent Agenda:

- A. Approval of Minutes – February 14, 2013
- B. Approval of January Financial Report

- C. Regional Community Development Block Grant Priorities
- D. Coastal Zone Management Grant

There was no request to have any of the items removed from the Consent Agenda for additional discussion and on motion made by Ms. Graziano and seconded by Mr. Williams, the Consent Agenda was approved unanimously as presented.

III. OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business to bring before the Board.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Bridging Richmond

Chairman Prichard asked Mr. Crum to introduce the guest speaker.

Mr. Crum introduced Kelli Parmley, who is the Executive Director for Bridging Richmond. He said he has worked with her over the past several months on a task force set up by Dr. Michael Rao, VCU President. The task force was asked to set up a new governing structure and direction for Bridging Richmond. Bridging Richmond is an effort to ensure that the Region's children are adequately prepared to enter college or the workforce and ultimately to sustain economic growth in the Region. Mr. Crum said he thought it was an appropriate time to have Ms. Parmley provide information to members regarding Bridging Richmond and its mission. He noted that no action would be required following the presentation; however, he encouraged members to ask any questions they may have.

Ms. Parmley thanked members for the opportunity to speak with them today. She said she would like to provide information on Bridging Richmond and where the organization is headed over the next few years. She said Bridging Richmond will not duplicate any efforts already underway in the localities, but will focus on bringing these efforts together to move the Region forward. Ms. Parmley said there is a national movement underway to focus on cradle to career partnerships for workforce preparation. Ms. Parmley reported that she has spent the last few days attending a national conference to discuss education and its relationship to workforce preparation.

One of the discussion points focused on the "leaky pipeline," which indicates that of 100 ninth-grade students who enter high school, on average, only 18 will graduate and enter college. Data collected over several years by various organizations notes that poor readers by third grade are four times likely to drop out of school.

Ms. Parmley provided information on middle school students. She said as students go from fifth to sixth grade, if they are not engaged in their studies, future academic success diminishes. The Standards of Learning show that from third to fifth grade, there has been success in reading but from fifth to eighth grade, there is a decline.

Middle school is an important focus for areas such as hope, engagement, and well being. Bridging Richmond has begun conversations in several of the Region's jurisdictions to facilitate bringing the community and parents together to support middle school students as they transition into high school.

Other areas of focus include improvement in drop out rates. A national study focused on how disconnected youth impact other areas such as the juvenile justice system. The report identified some key issues for addressing disconnected youth.

Many employers are becoming frustrated with the fact that graduates of both high school and college are not prepared with 21st century skills to fill positions that are available. This points to the need to begin to prepare students as early as the third grade with the skills needed. Ms. Parmley noted that currently, in conjunction with the Greater Richmond Chamber, a survey of local employers is underway to ask them to identify the top ten 21st century skills needed for entry level workers and which key occupations the employers are having the most difficulty filling.

A study conducted by CEOs for Cities concluded that if the Richmond MSA increased its college attainment rate by one percentage point to 31.3 percent, or an additional 8,081 graduates, the Region would capture a \$900 million Talent Dividend.

Ms. Parmley pointed out that improving the educational success of youth and ensuring a talented workforce is complex. A high degree of interdependent actors and factors are needed; no one single person or organization has the magic solution. Conditions of success:

- common agenda
- shared measurements systems
- mutually reinforcing activities
- continuous communications
- backbone support organizations
 - facilitate a shared agenda
 - support alignment and coordination of activities
 - establish shared measurement practices
 - build public will to take action
 - advance policy solutions and changes
 - mobilize resources, both human and financial, across public and private sectors in support of the agenda

Bridging Richmond is a cradle-to-career organization. An insulated pipeline will ensure that every child succeeds. Each child will be healthy and safe, socially and civically supported, and prepared for school and work.

Ms. Parmley discussed the three core challenges:

1. silos, language, practice

2. program rich, system poor
3. data rich, information poor

Ms. Parmley said her focus at Bridging Richmond will not be to work over any systems and programs already in place. She said she has heard in her conversations with other groups that something different needs to be done, but no one is sure what to change. By working collectively to create value, a common agenda can be developed; there can be alignment through a common framework. Work can be aligned to community goals; incubate and scale; map assets and identify gaps; and create networks or coalitions. Shared measurement and use of evidence can be accomplished through data, analysis, best practice, evaluation, and research. Ms. Parmley pointed out that through advocacy, public will, policy, and resources can be impacted.

Ms. Parmley reported that Bridging Richmond is the backbone organization for workforce preparation in the Richmond Region. The current focus is on the executive council and proposals to create representation from the RRPDC (a representative each from the small and large jurisdictions) and an advocacy council to include representatives from each of the RRPDC's nine member jurisdictions.

Ms. Parmley encouraged members to look at a program currently in place that is making some traction – Richmond Promise Neighborhood. She said this group is a strong partner with Bridging Richmond and is focusing on two elementary schools, one middle school, and one high school. This is a neighborhood effort to do the same work as Bridging Richmond but focused to one neighborhood.

Ms. Parmley said she would be glad to address any questions.

Ms. Kelly-Wiecek noted there are currently a lot of unemployed college graduates. She said she thought emphasis should be placed on helping students know what type of specialty degree could help them find employment as opposed to just a general bachelor's degree. She also said she thought a disservice was being done to students to tell them that the only path to success was a college degree. She said Hanover County has a very successful technical school for students which can offer certificates that will lead to a successful career in things such as food preparation. Ms. Kelly-Wiecek said it can be very deflating for high school seniors to be encouraged to attend college when that may not be possible for them. She asked if this is something Bridging Richmond will also look at in addition to college degrees.

Ms. Parmley said there must be a distinction between a community level indicator that deals with the entire Region and one that is geared toward an individual. She said if there is not a focus on bachelor's degrees in the Region, she feels there will be a missed opportunity for economic development opportunities. Ms. Parmley said business and education leaders need to be brought together to have that conversation on what types of bachelor's degrees are needed. She also pointed out that career discussions need to be held with middle school students instead of waiting for the

students to enter high school. Ms. Parmley indicated that parents need to be brought into the conversation. Additionally, some of the humanities graduates are best suited for careers that require 21st century skills. For example, history majors are very analytical.

Mr. Fabricant said with reference to a comment regarding truancy, he would suggest that time be taken to find out what is going on in the student's home that may influence the student's school attendance. He said emphasis does need to be on those adults who are raising the children, whether it's parents, grandparents, or other family members.

Ms. Parmley said Bridging Richmond does want to bring in other organizations to work toward all of the aspects of a student's life and well being.

Mr. Pollard asked what data was used to determine that if a child is not reading at a third grade level when he or she reaches third grade, that they will have a higher chance of not succeeding in school.

Ms. Parmley said there have been several studies done at many local (Smart Beginnings) and national levels that point to this fact. She said during the first three grades, students learn to read and going forward, they read to learn. She said she would be glad to provide more information on these studies if anyone would like to have it sent to them.

Mr. Pollard said he feels that teaching guidelines change from grade to grade and this inconsistency may be a hindrance to learning.

Ms. Parmley indicated that regionally a lot of information has been gathered and put into practice for children until they enter kindergarten. More data needs to be collected on what happens to children as they go through kindergarten to third grade. Support mechanisms for students and parents during kindergarten to third grade are different from what is needed for those in third grade through middle school.

Mr. Warren asked if technology was hampering the ability for students to communicate face-to-face.

Ms. Parmley said her feeling is that technology does impact the ability to communicate. Clearly there needs to be some way to help students learn how to effectively communicate once they enter college and the workforce.

Mr. Warren asked if there is a program in Cincinnati that is particularly successful since Ms. Parmley referenced that several times during her presentation.

Ms. Parmley said the Cincinnati Foundation has invested in several entities, backbone organizations, over about fifteen years. These entities were able to change the

conversation in their region to work together toward a common purpose. The model they are using is showing great forward strides in education.

Mr. Elswick asked if Bridging Richmond would look to the localities for funding.

Ms. Parmley said they are not asking the localities for funding. She said Bridging Richmond is asking RRPDC members to think about how what they do will connect to partner around key issues. She said leadership will be needed to help build support for what Bridging Richmond wants to accomplish. She said participation in some of the initiatives will also be important.

Chairman Prichard thanked Ms. Parmley for her time and her presentation.

Chairman Prichard announced that Delegate Rosalyn Dance, member of the Virginia House of Delegates, had joined the meeting. Chairman Prichard welcomed Delegate Dance on behalf of the members.

B. Rural Transportation Program

Chairman Prichard asked Mr. Crum to introduce this agenda item. Mr. Crum said the next two items on the agenda will require action by Board members. The presentation will be made by RRPDC staff, Barbara Jacocks, Principal Planner, and Anne Darby, Senior Planner.

Mr. Crum said the Rural Transportation Program agenda item will require Board action to authorize him to file a grant application to request grant funds to continue the Rural Transportation Planning Program over the next fiscal year. Mr. Crum said staff wanted to share some information on what has been accomplished through this program over the past few months and projects that are planned for the next fiscal year.

Ms. Jacocks noted that staff was previously before the Board in November to ask for endorsement of the Rural Transportation Long Range Plan (RTLRP). She said the RTLRP is a foundation to discuss the program with members today. Ms. Jacocks said that Ms. Darby is the primary point of contact for the Rural Transportation Planning Program. She will be providing additional information momentarily.

Ms. Jacocks reported that RRPDC receives about \$58,000 per year (since 2006) for Rural Transportation Planning. Now that there is a long range plan to provide guidance, staff wanted to branch off to provide technical assistance to the rural localities. These areas fall outside of the MPO study area and include parts of Goochland, Powhatan, New Kent, and Charles City Counties.

Ms. Jacocks reminded members that the RTLRP identified about 60 deficiencies in the rural road network in all of the localities. She said that by focusing on some specific enhancements, staff hopes to provide greater direction to be included in the

statewide transportation plan. Ms. Jacocks provided maps to show the deficiencies identified in each of the rural areas.

Ms. Jacocks reported that last year staff determined that a rotating technical assistance program for the rural areas, similar to what is done for the larger jurisdictions, would provide a good base for projects to be completed. Each locality chooses a project for staff assistance.

Ms. Darby reported that in Charles City County, staff assisted with developing a document for use in conversations with developers to protect the Virginia Capital Trail. Ms. Darby showed examples of information included in the brochure that was developed, including background on the Trail, environment, history, corridor study area, land use, parcels, and economic development. With regard to economic development, the information states why it is in the best interest of the county to protect the Trail. There are also examples of parking requirements and setbacks. Ms. Darby pointed out that the brochure also shows examples of three scenarios for new residential development around the Trail. The appendix references zoning and other regulations.

Ms. Darby said this year's work program includes a VDOT-suggested element referred to as A Day to Ride the Roads. VDOT provided transportation and a driver to take county officials, interested parties, and RRPDC staff to tour areas of projects in the RL RTP or potential project areas. Ms. Darby said the Richmond Region Commonwealth Transportation Board member, Roger Cole, was able to attend the first day of Ride the Roads. She said those on the Rides were able to discuss the deficiencies, funding, and how they fit into the statewide program. Ms. Darby provided photos of examples of some of the deficiencies seen during the Rides.

Ms. Darby said staff is now working on priority setting that will transfer into FY 14. Each jurisdiction will choose its top projects so when funding is available, work can begin. There were examples of the types of data staff supplies to the Rural Transportation Advisory Committee (RTAC) to assist them in decision making.

Once the Charles City County brochure is finalized, RRPDC staff will begin assisting Goochland County. The Goochland County Board of Supervisors asked for an inventory of gravel roads, some of which are currently maintained by VDOT and some of which are private but have the potential to be included in VDOT's Rural Addition Program or Rural Rustic Road Program. Staff is creating a database on information that has been collected to date on the roads.

GIS technical assistance is also being given to Charles City County to update the county's zoning, parcel layer, and address layer for 911 emergency services. A map of these layers was also provided to Virginia Power to show the location of transformers.

Ms. Darby said staff is asking members to review the FY 14 Draft Work Program which includes

- standard elements
- project prioritization
- rotating technical assistance project

Mr. Williams asked if prioritization was based on dollar amounts or what can be done with the money received.

Ms. Darby said VDOT has provided a plan that is moving away from major capital improvements to smaller projects such as safety and geometric deficiencies. None of the current RL RTP projects are cost-heavy. VDOT has not provided a definitive plan for future funding.

Mr. Williams said he thought a change to the MPO study area boundary may be in the best interests for the rural jurisdictions. As an example, Mr. Williams noted that funds were made available for the entrance to Powhatan State Park. A request for these funds could not be submitted through the MPO even though the entrance is to a state park. Powhatan County could not make the submission through the MPO because that portion of the county is not in the MPO study area.

Chairman Prichard asked if there was a motion to approve the resolution to allow staff to submit the application for Rural Transportation Planning funds.

Mr. Tucker made a motion that the Board approve the resolution authorizing the Executive Director to submit a grant application to the Virginia Department of Transportation for Federal Highway Planning and Research Funds to provide transportation planning assistance to the rural jurisdictions as outlined by RRPDC staff. Mr. Williams seconded the motion. There was no additional discussion and the motion carried unanimously.

C. Regional Indicators Project (new item added)

Mr. Crum said this is an action item for members. Information was sent out to all members this past Monday.

Mr. Crum said this is an opportunity for a new program at RRPDC, and he first discussed the program with the Executive Committee last month. The Executive Committee directed Mr. Crum to proceed in exploring the possibility of housing a Regional Community Indicators Project at RRPDC.

The idea of the Indicators Project for the Richmond Region was first discussed following the InterCity Visit to Boston. The Boston Indicators Project is a ten-year project that has been used to establish regional metrics for ten important issues in the Greater Boston Region. Data has been collected over the past ten years by the Boston

Metropolitan Planning Council and local Community Foundation, which partnered together on the Project. Benchmarks for the issues were established and used to monitor progress and change in their community related to the ten significant areas.

Mr. Crum said over the last several years, reports issued by the Brookings Institute rate the greater Richmond Region in ways that are not typically very beneficial to the Region as compared to other metro regions. Staff always contacts Brookings to discuss the rankings. Brookings staff will say that local data should be used and distributed; Brookings uses MSA data. Mr. Crum said the Brookings' ratings impact the entire Region in the Region's ability to recruit and attract new businesses.

RRPDC staff thinks there is an opportunity to use local data from various organizations and non-profits and to bring that information together in a regional database located at RRPDC. The data can be monitored to establish bench line information and to monitor changes in trends within the community.

Mr. Crum said there are already a lot of great efforts underway in the Region, such as the Capital Region Collaborative (CRC), the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), Bridging Richmond, and Richmond's Future. The CRC has established seven priority areas, and these topic areas can form the basis for the Indicators Project. Mr. Crum said more information will be presented by staff on CEDS within the next month or two. Ms. Parmley just presented information that can be used to monitor workforce preparation. Dr. Train's organization, Richmond's Future, is also launching its own initiatives.

Mr. Crum said now is a good time to set benchmarks around the CRC's seven priorities to have data to measure the Region's progress over the next five to ten years.

Mr. Crum said since there are already a lot of organizations in the Region currently collecting data, there is a need to find partners to bring the information together into one database hub. Many organizations and individuals in the Region believe that hub should be at RRPDC. The RRPDC Executive Committee has said one of the RRPDC's strengths is having good, reliable data that assists with good decision making at the local and regional levels.

Mr. Crum said it is proposed that the Regional Indicators Project be divided into two phases. Mr. Crum said he will be asking members to give him authorization today to proceed with Phase I. Phase I will be to complete a strategic plan that identifies the steps and resources needed to implement a Regional Indicators Project.

The Community Foundation has indicated they will entertain a grant application, offline from their normal funding schedule, from RRPDC to fund Phase I in the amount of \$25,000. The timeframe for Phase I will be from April 1 through September 30, 2013. Before Phase II could proceed, Mr. Crum said he would come

back to the Board for authorization to continue work on development and maintenance of the Indicators Project.

Mr. Crum said the information sent to the members on Monday contained a detailed scope of work. Key work tasks for the Strategic Plan will be

- to identify community partners
- to research successful Indicators Projects in other areas of the country
- to identify key indicators
- to evaluate computer infrastructure of RRPDC
- to establish protocol for data sharing
- to identify financial needs and funding partners

The Community Foundation has indicated they are confident funding partners can be identified and they will be interested in possibly providing some funding for Phase II. Mr. Crum said the localities will not be asked for funding support. No local match will be required for the Community Foundation funding.

Mr. Crum said he would like for the Board to allow him to submit a grant application to The Community Foundation for \$25,000 to fund Phase I of the Regional Indicators Project. The funding would be used to complete the strategic plan development during the timeframe of April 1 through September 30. Mr. Crum said he believes this project is consistent with the RRPDC's goal to become a regional data hub. The Indicators Project is a good match with RRPDC staff skill sets of GIS and data analysis. Mr. Crum said he believes now is a good time to establish regional benchmarks with all of the other regional efforts that are being implemented.

Chairman Prichard asked if there were any questions.

Ms. Jones said she supports submitting the grant application. However, she wondered how much local staff time will be needed to supply data. Mr. Crum said that concern will be addressed by the fact that he believes most of the data will be collected from non-profits. RRPDC will be sensitive to any impacts on local staffs. He said he would like to include local staffs in the strategic planning process to ensure that all concerns are voiced and addressed. Mr. Crum said there are about 15-20 non-profits in the Region that are collecting data that can be used to begin the project.

Mr. Fabricant made a motion that the proposal be approved as presented by staff.

Mr. Kaechele asked if the work will be done in-house or if consultants will be used. Mr. Crum said the work will be completed in-house under his direction and in coordination with the CEO of The Community Foundation. He said the influx of funding will be of assistance to the RRPDC budget as it was not previously identified. Mr. Crum said he believes that as a regional Commission, this is a project the RRPDC should take on.

Mr. Holland said he was in Boston on the InterCity trip and that he will be interested to see the expected outcomes over the next five to ten years.

Mr. Tucker said during Ms. Parmley's presentation, she said the Region was program rich and systems poor. He said there are a lot of organizations doing a lot of good work. He said he thought the RRPDC could develop a system to tie all of these programs together. Mr. Tucker said he hoped RRPDC could function in that capacity.

Mr. Crum said a process to develop a strategic plan for the agency has begun with the Large and Small Jurisdictions and with staff.

Mr. Holland seconded Mr. Fabricant's motion. Mr. Holland added he felt one of the most important areas to monitor will be workforce development.

There was no additional discussion and the motion carried unanimously.

V. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Committee Reports

There were no other committee reports to present.

B. Announcements

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

There was no other business to bring before the Board and Chairman Prichard adjourned the meeting at approximately 10:40 a.m.

Robert A. Crum, Jr.
Executive Director

Faye O. Prichard
Chairman