

RICHMOND REGIONAL PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION
Minutes of Meeting
March 13, 2014

Members (Alternates) Present

Parker C. Agelasto.....	City of Richmond
Manuel Alvarez (A).....	Goochland County
Daniel Arkin	City of Richmond
Jonathan T. Baliles	City of Richmond
Timothy M. Davey	Chesterfield County
Steve A. Elswick	Chesterfield County
Evan Fabricant.....	Hanover County
Daniel A. Gecker, Secretary.....	Chesterfield 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
Angela Kelly-Wiecek, Chairman	Hanover County
Eric Leabough	Henrico County
Floyd H. Miles.....	Charles City County
John H. Mitchell.....	Henrico County
Tyrone E. Nelson.....	Henrico County
Patricia S. O'Bannon.....	Henrico County
C. Harold Padgett	Hanover County
Ken Peterson, Vice Chairman	Goochland County
W. Canova Peterson	Hanover County
Edward W. Pollard	New Kent County
Faye O. Prichard.....	Town of Ashland
Charles R. Samuels.....	City of Richmond
Randall R. Silber (A).....	Henrico County
Frank J. Thornton	Henrico County
C. Thomas Tiller.....	New Kent County
Carson Tucker	Powhatan County
Arthur S. Warren	Chesterfield County
David Williams, Treasurer	Powhatan County

Members Absent

Karin Carmack	Powhatan County
David A. Kaechele	Henrico County
Lynn McAteer	City of Richmond

Others Present

John Amos..... RRPDC Legal Counsel
Jerry Fox..... Greater Richmond Chamber
Ben Gastrock..... Virginia Tech

Staff Present

Robert A. Crum..... Executive Director
Jo A. Evans.....Assistant Executive Director
Julie H. Fry..... Executive Secretary
Sulabh Aryal.....Associate Planner
Billy Gammel.....Associate Planner
Chuck Gates..... Communications Coordinator
Barbara Jacocks.....Principal Planner
Daniel N. Lysy.....Director, Urban Transportation
Peter M. Sweetland..... Finance and Contracts Administrator
Jackie Stewart..... Director, Planning

Call to Order

Chairman Kelly-Wiecek called the regularly scheduled March 13, 2014 RRPDC meeting to order at approximately 9:05 a.m. in the RRPDC board room. She noted that there is a full agenda today and because the MPO is scheduled to meet following today’s PDC meeting, she is targeting a 10:00 adjournment time. Chairman Kelly-Wiecek 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 Kelly-Wiecek asked if there were any additions or changes to be made to the agenda. There were no requests to change the agenda, and the agenda was accepted as presented.

C. Open Public Comment Period

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

D. Chairman's Report

Chairman Kelly-Wiecek thanked those members who attended the annual RRPDC Legislative Breakfast in January. She said the event was very well attended and she would recommend that RRPDC continue to host the annual event.

The Chairman reported that she, Mr. Crum, and several staff members attended the VAPDC Winter Conference in February. She noted that Mr. Crum will provide a more detailed report on the meeting later on the agenda.

Chairman Kelly-Wiecek welcomed Mr. Eric Leabough to the Board as a new member representing the Henrico County Planning Commission. Mr. Leabough replaces Ms. Bonnie-Leigh Jones.

E. Executive Director's Report

Mr. Crum brought members' attention to the 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 said he would like to make all members aware of a meeting scheduled to be held at the RRPDC on March 28. RRPDC staff was contacted by the Chesterfield County Planning Department with a request that a meeting be set up with partners from both Chesterfield County and the City of Richmond to discuss and exchange information on planning efforts linked to the jurisdictions' borders. Both staffs provided a list of those who should be invited, including local planning and transportation staffs, elected officials, and planning commission members. Mr. Crum said if any member of the RRPDC Board wants to attend, the meeting is being held in the RRPDC Board Room on Friday, March 28, beginning at 10:00 a.m. Mr. Crum said RRPDC staff is happy to act in the role of meeting facilitator whenever any locality asks for the PDC's help. Mr. Crum said while RRPDC will host the meeting and introduce the topics, the meeting will be led by the staffs of the two jurisdictions.

Mr. Crum said he would also like to provide some information on Bridging Richmond, which is a regional organization that works with the eight Richmond Region school districts to promote regional cooperation and collaboration among the school systems to achieve regional education goals. When Bridging Richmond was reformed, Mr. Crum sat on the committee that developed the new structure. One of the ideas suggested was to have local government representation on the board. Both the Small and Large Jurisdictions Committees have a representative on the Bridging Richmond Board – Faye Prichard (Ashland) and Steve Elswick (Chesterfield). Mr. Crum asked Ms. Prichard if she had any information from the last Bridging Richmond Board meeting that she would like to pass along. He noted that Mr. Elswick was not able to attend that meeting but had participated in a pre-meeting with Ms. Prichard and Ms. Kelly Parmley, Bridging Richmond Executive Director.

Ms. Prichard said there were a couple of items she would like to bring to members' attention. Bridging Richmond has set as its target to have 60 percent of the Region's students achieve some type of higher education by 2025. She said while she and Mr. Elswick both agree this is a laudable goal, there is a significant population in the Region that will not attend college. It will be important not to forget about these students. She said the next order of business for Bridging Richmond should be to determine what can be offered to these students in the form of post-secondary education.

Ms. Prichard reported while Bridging Richmond will continue to be known legally as Bridging Richmond, marketing efforts will reference Bridging RVA. She said this is being initiated to ensure that the entire Region is encompassed in the plan. Ms. Prichard said the Bridging RVA brand was developed by Altria staff. She asked if anyone had any feedback on either topic.

Ms. Jaeckle said Chesterfield County had recently met with a group of manufacturers who said there was a gap between high school and college graduates. She said many manufacturers will say that certain types of college graduates are not as employable as those who have attended a technical school.

Ms. O'Bannon asked for clarification on who would be included in that 60 percent – college graduates or just some type of post high school training. She said the community colleges are providing technical training to high school graduates. Ms. Prichard said the 60 percent does include community colleges. She said it does not specifically refer to a four-year degree education.

Chairman Kelly-Wiecek said it is important to know how to define "higher education." She asked if it meant specifically a four-year degree or any kind of post secondary training or program. Ms. Prichard said Bridging Richmond is defining higher education as not including any journeyman programs or other similar training. This is defined as attending an institution of higher learning, whether a two- or four-year institution. It does not specifically leave out that segment of students who do receive some other form of education. Ms. Prichard said the concern is for those student who do not plan to do either but still need some sort of viable income and other opportunities.

Chairman Kelly-Wiecek said this 40 percent segment is also being brought up in discussions by the Capital Region Collaborative and the Workforce Investment Board (WIB). She said she was glad to hear that Bridging Richmond is also aware that this other segment needs attention.

Mr. Fabricant said he felt those students who do pursue journeyman training and other employment requiring some sort of certification can also be just as successful. Ms. Prichard said the executive director of Bridging Richmond, Kelly Parmley, agrees and will make this type of post-secondary education the next focus of Bridging Richmond. She said Bridging Richmond recognizes that this segment must have and develop skillsets if they are not going on to college.

Mr. Elswick said during the discussions at Bridging Richmond, a dual path was suggested so that one path is not placed above the other. He said he and Ms. Prichard both strongly encouraged the dual path approach but did not meet with much success. He said if the RRPDC Board is in agreement that a dual path is the right approach, he and Ms. Prichard can certainly take that back to Bridging Richmond.

Ms. Jaeckle noted that there is a lack of opportunity for apprenticeships here in the Region, and she suggested that there should be a regional effort to connect businesses with apprenticeship programs.

Ms. Prichard said she and Mr. Elswick will be glad to take these suggestions back to Bridging Richmond.

Chairman Kelly-Wiecek asked if there was data for the Region on how many students go on to college and how many are in some other type of training program. Ms. Prichard said she did not have that information available at this time, but she would be glad to forward it on as it had been distributed at the last Bridging Richmond meeting.

Mr. Crum added that he would like to include briefings on Bridging Richmond as a standing agenda item for the benefit of RRPDC members. He said both Ms. Prichard and Mr. Elswick brought up all of these points during the meeting they had prior to the Bridging Richmond Board meeting. He said that all eight regional school superintendents are represented on the Bridging Richmond Board.

Mr. Holland said if the superintendents are on the Bridging Richmond Board, they should have a good idea regarding how many students have the aptitude to continue on to college and which ones should focus on some type of trade training. He reviewed a program in Pittsburgh that focused on apprenticeship programs and the positive results achieved from that effort. He said this program was discussed in the Richmond Region several years ago, but he felt that the same results had not been realized here.

F. Environmental and Intergovernmental Reviews

Chairman Kelly-Wiecek asked Mr. Crum to provide information on this item.

Mr. Crum said RRPDC staff contacts partner agencies to ask for comments regarding each review and then compiles the comments to return to the appropriate reviewing agency. This report is provided for members' information only and requires no action.

II. CONSENT AGENDA

Chairman Kelly-Wiecek said the Executive Committee recommended approval of the items listed on the Consent Agenda:

- A. Approval of Minutes – December 13, 2013
- B. Approval of November, December, and January Financial Reports

- C. Approval of Contract for Legal Services for the Agency with Amos and Amos PLLC
- D. Approval of Authorizing Resolution to Apply for FFY14 Virginia Coastal Zone Management Grant Funds
- E. Approval of Authorizing Resolution to Submit the Rural Transportation Planning Program Scope of Work to VDOT for Approval

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. Holland, 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. Investing in Manufacturing Communities Partnership (IMCP) Grant

Chairman Kelly-Wiecek asked Mr. Crum to make this presentation.

Mr. Crum said he will be glad to respond to any questions after he has completed his presentation. He said he will request action from members for authorization to work with the Crater Region, CCAM, and CCALS to submit a proposal to the US Economic Development Administration (EDA) to have the Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) designated as one of twelve manufacturing communities within the country. Mr. Crum said he will provide background information on the program and the advantages the designation can bring to the Region.

Mr. Crum said he first introduced this information to members during his report in December. Following those discussions, he said he would gather more information to provide to members during the February meeting, which was cancelled due to the winter storm. The deadline for submission to be considered for the IMCP designation is April 14, which allows time for staff to put together a strong proposal.

The goal of this program is to accelerate a resurgence of manufacturing and advanced manufacturing in metropolitan regions around the country. Mr. Crum said it is important to stress that advanced manufacturing, such as the Rolls Royce plant, requires a different skillset than traditional manufacturing.

Up to twelve communities around the country will receive this “manufacturing communities” designation. Benefits of receiving the designation include:

- preferential consideration in federal competitions and assistance across ten agencies, totaling \$1.3 billion; the initial designation will not result in receipt of any grant funds at this time but will provide future opportunities; this will provide another tool to local economic development staffs to use in making areas marketable to attract new industries

- a dedicated federal liaison at each of the agencies who will help the designated manufacturing communities navigate federal resources
- recognition on a government website, accessible to prospective private, foreign, and domestic investors looking for information on communities' competitive attributes and opportunities in the entire Richmond Region

The key areas of focus the EDA will be reviewing to determine which communities receive the designation include:

- workforce and training (WIB, Bridging Richmond, community colleges, CCAM, CCALS)
- advanced research (Rolls Royce, Greater Richmond Partnership)
- infrastructure and site development (CEDS information)
- supply chain support (MPO, Port of Richmond, Richmond's Future Logistics Task Force)
- trade and international investment
- operational improvement and capital access

Mr. Crum provided a listing of those federal agencies which are participating in the IMCP and noted the ones which have already agreed to provide priority assistance to the designated communities. Mr. Crum said it is anticipated the remaining agencies will be on board shortly.

Current regional efforts that can influence the Region's submission include:

- Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)
- Greater Richmond Partnership
- Capital Region Collaborative
- Richmond's Future
- Logistics Roundtable
- Fort Lee
- Commonwealth Center for Advanced Manufacturing (CCAM) – a cooperative effort to develop technology that supports workforce training skills and technology to in turn support advanced manufacturing
 - Virginia State University
 - Old Dominion University
 - University of Virginia
 - Virginia Tech
- Commonwealth Center for Advanced Logistics (CCALS) – a cooperative effort to develop workforce training needed to support the growing logistics sector
 - Virginia Commonwealth University
 - Virginia State University
 - University of Virginia
 - Longwood University

CCAM and CCALS developed out of efforts by the Crater PDC with Rolls Royce and development of the cooperative efforts among the universities and colleges.

Mr. Crum provided a map of the regional industrial employment clusters showing supply chain and advanced manufacturing employers. Most of the alignment is along I-95 within the Rts. 295/288 beltway system.

Mr. Crum said he has contacted Mr. Denny Morris, the Crater PDC Executive Director, to discuss the IMCP. They have also had discussions with Dr. Barry Johnson, who is with UVA and is developing an IMCP submission for the Crater Region. Dr. Johnson would like to partner with the RRPDC to develop a more competitive submission. With the inclusion of the Richmond Region, along with the Port of Richmond, CCAM and CCALS, Rolls Royce, and other regional assets, a very competitive submission can be submitted. Mr. Crum said another advantage to a joint submission is that it will keep the MSA intact.

Advantages to a joint submission include:

- increases competitiveness of proposal
- approaches the designation as an MSA
- links the manufacturing, logistics, and workforce assets of each region
- recognition of the addition of VCU into the CCALS effort

The deadline to complete the submission is April 14. Mr. Crum said there is already a lot of data available to include in the submission. Dr. Johnson has indicated he will be available to help pull data from each region together to form the joint submission.

Mr. Crum said he will ask that the RRPDC Board take action to authorize him to collaborate with the Crater Region, CCAM, and CCALS to submit an application through the Investing in Manufacturing Communities Partnership requesting that the Richmond and Crater Regions be jointly designated as a “manufacturing community.”

Mr. Crum said he will be glad to address any questions.

Chairman Kelly-Wiecek noted there was discussion on this topic during the Executive Committee meeting. She said that while the Executive Committee did not discuss the inclusion of the entire MSA, she felt that was a significant factor to consider. She said she felt that link should be included in the motion. Mr. Crum said the MSA includes only a portion of the Crater PDC; however, it does include the most significant areas of that district.

Ms. O’Bannon asked why Virginia Union University was not included in the list of universities cooperating with CCAM and CCALS. Mr. Crum said those entities determine their own membership, and he could certainly suggest to them that Virginia Union be included. Ms. O’Bannon said she felt Virginia Union did offer the types of training focused on by these groups.

Mr. Elswick asked for clarification on the submission deadline. He noted that in the materials provided, the deadline is listed as March 14. Mr. Crum said the federal government has issued an extension of the deadline until April 14.

Mr. Glover asked, if the designation is received, what role will the RRPDC play. Mr. Crum said any funds received will not come to the RRPDC. The RRPDC will work with the Crater PDC to determine joint projects for which joint applications could be made for funding. The RRPDC would also monitor opportunities available from the cooperating agencies and pass that information along to local economic development staffs. Mr. Crum said the prospect of having the RRPDC act as a grants warehouse has been discussed previously, and he feels this will be an opportunity for the RRPDC to act in that type of role to monitor opportunities to distribute to local staffs.

Mr. Holland asked if there are other areas of the country which have received this designation. Mr. Crum said he understands this is the first time these designations will be offered by the federal government. He noted there have been other communities that have received funding for other project types through the IMCP Program.

Mr. Glover asked what the role of the federal government will be once any funding is awarded to a locality. Mr. Crum said the federal government would be the granting entity and would set forth any requirements that would need to be followed with regard to how the funds were used. The federal government would monitor the funds' use and audit the program as they would any federal grant program. Mr. Crum said he did not see that funds would come directly to the RRPDC but would go to the locality that submitted the application for a qualifying project.

Mr. Fabricant said he would like to make a motion that the Board authorize Mr. Crum to work with Crater PDC to submit the IMCP application as presented by Mr. Crum. Mr. Davey seconded the motion.

Mr. Agelasto said he has noticed on the IMCP website that a state may also apply for the designation. He asked if Mr. Crum knew whether or not the state of Virginia had made such a submission. Mr. Crum said he is not aware of any such submission from the state, based on his discussions with Dr. Johnson. The only other group that may make a submission is Hampton Roads. Mr. Crum said EDA has been very supportive of CCAM and CCALS through efforts of Crater PDC. He said he felt that if RRPDC joined with Crater PDC to make the submission, the regions could be very competitive.

There was no other discussion and the motion carried unanimously.

B. Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Priorities List

Chairman Kelly-Wiecek asked Ms. Jacocks to make this presentation.

Mr. Jacocks said each year, staff will ask the Region's non-entitlement localities (Town of Ashland and the Counties of Charles City, Goochland, Hanover, New Kent, and Powhatan) if they have priority projects for which they will seek grant funding from the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) through the CDBG Program. This year's project categories and suggested priorities are listed under Tab 9. Since the list was developed and distributed, staff has learned that neither Ashland nor Charles City will apply for funding.

Ms. Jacocks said she would recommend that the priorities be approved as presented in case one or both localities decided to submit applications for project funding. She noted that the list will be reviewed again next year.

Mr. Crum referred members to the information under Tab 9. There are three project types under the Economic Development priority and one under Housing. He said that if a locality decided to go ahead and submit an application for funding, approval of the list would give the localities the flexibility to do so.

Chairman Kelly-Wiecek clarified that members would be approving the priorities and not the specific projects.

Ms. Prichard said she appreciated the flexibility to submit an application for funding if the Town of Ashland decided to proceed with their project.

Mr. Tucker made a motion that the Community Development Block Grant priorities be approved as presented by staff. The motion was seconded by Mr. Holland. There was no further discussion and the motion carried unanimously.

V. OTHER BUSINESS

VAPDC Winter Conference

Chairman Kelly-Wiecek said she previously reported that she, Mr. Crum, and several PDC staff members attended this conference in February. She asked Mr. Crum to provide more information on the Conference.

Mr. Crum reported that the Virginia Association of Planning District Commissions (VAPDC) is an organization where representatives of all 21 PDCs around the state come together to exchange information and ideas and to interact with state agencies. Efforts are ongoing to have more elected officials involved in VAPDC activities. Mr. Crum said he appreciated that Chairman Kelly-Wiecek attended the meetings this year.

The VAPDC Winter Conference began this year on Thursday, February 6, with the Virginia Municipal League / Virginia Association of Counties Legislative Day. This is the third year that VAPDC has partnered with these two agencies. That afternoon, a meeting of the Virginia Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (VAMPO)

was held. All of the state's MPOs send representatives to discuss projects and to exchange best practices.

During a dinner meeting on February 6, Dr. Glenn Dubois, Chancellor of the Virginia Community Colleges System, presented information on the state's community college strategic plan along with many workforce and job training issues. Mr. Crum said Dr. Dubois has a very clear vision of how the community colleges can be engaged with workforce training and preparation. Both John Tyler and J. Sargeant Reynolds Community Colleges were present to participate in the conversation.

On February 7, an awards breakfast was held during which Mr. Denny Morris, Executive Director of the Crater PDC, received the Gordon N. Dixon Award, which recognizes an executive director, a VAPDC commissioner, or a PDC commissioner who has provided leadership and made outstanding contributions to promoting the concept of regionalism in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Mr. Crum said he thought this was a well-deserved recognition for Mr. Morris.

Also that morning, three of the newly appointed State Secretaries made presentations to attendees: Molly Ward, Secretary of Natural Resources; Maurice Jones, Secretary of Commerce and Trade; and Aubrey Layne, Secretary of Transportation. Next week, Secretary Layne will meet with representatives of the state's MPOs, and Mr. Crum will be participating in that meeting. Mr. Crum said he will extend an open invitation to Secretary Layne to attend any MPO meeting whenever his schedule allows.

Henrico County Division of Fire's Maritime Emergency Response Department

Chairman Kelly-Wiecek recognized Ms. O'Bannon.

Ms. O'Bannon said she wanted to make members aware that when truck traffic is moved from I-64 and transferred to barges along the James River, other problems are created for the localities. She read from a letter she received from Anthony McDowell, who is Henrico County's Fire Chief. The letter noted problems encountered when river traffic is increased along 40 miles of the James River within the borders of Henrico County, such as maritime-based fire suppression, hazardous materials response, and emergency medical services. Henrico County also provides maritime support along the James River to the City of Richmond and the City of Hopewell, as well as to Charles City County.

Henrico County's Fire Division recently applied for and received a federal grant in the amount of \$320,000, with a required local match of \$100,000, to purchase a new fire boat. This new vessel will have a fire pump for firefighting, as well as "... a platform for deploying and retrieving divers, a tow winch, and the capability to deploy hazardous materials booming materials." Henrico County will also provide its staff with training on how to operate the new vessel.

Ms. O'Bannon said the increased river traffic shifts funds from the state's highways to the local governments to respond to water emergencies. She said she supports the barge

program; however, she wanted members to be aware of the other impacts this increased water traffic can have on local government funding.

Chairman Kelly-Wiecek thanked Ms. O'Bannon for her comments.

Mr. Tucker noted that he wanted to recognize and thank Henrico County for stepping up and providing this service.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

There was no additional business to bring before the Board, and Chairman Kelly-Wiecek adjourned the meeting at approximately 9:55 a.m.

Robert A. Crum, Jr.
Executive Director

Angela Kelly-Wiecek
Chairman