

**RICHMOND REGIONAL PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION**  
**Minutes of Meeting**  
**November 13, 2014**

**Members (Alternates) Present**

Parker C. Agelasto.....	City of Richmond
Jonathan T. Baliles .....	City of Richmond
Karin Carmack .....	Powhatan County
Timothy M. Davey .....	Chesterfield County
Steve A. Elswick .....	Chesterfield County
Evan Fabricant.....	Hanover County
Daniel A. Gecker, Treasurer.....	Chesterfield County
Russell J. Gulley.....	Chesterfield County
Angela Kelly-Wiecek .....	Hanover County
David A. Kaechele .....	Henrico County
Floyd H. Miles, Secretary.....	Charles City County
John H. Mitchell.....	Henrico County
W. Canova Peterson .....	Hanover County
Ken Peterson, Chairman.....	Goochland County
Edward W. Pollard .....	New Kent County
Rodney Poole .....	City of Richmond
Faye O. Prichard.....	Town of Ashland
Randall R. Silber (A).....	Henrico County
Frank J. Thornton .....	Henrico County
Zach Trogdon (A).....	Charles City County
Carson Tucker .....	Powhatan County
David Williams, Vice Chairman .....	Powhatan County

**Members Absent**

Daniel Arkin .....	City of Richmond
Richard W. Glover .....	Henrico County
Kathy C. Graziano.....	City of Richmond
James M. Holland.....	Chesterfield County
Dorothy Jaeckle.....	Chesterfield County
Eric Leabough .....	Henrico County
Tyrone E. Nelson.....	Henrico County
Patricia S. O'Bannon.....	Henrico County
C. Harold Padgett .....	Hanover County
Charles R. Samuels.....	City of Richmond
C. Thomas Tiller.....	New Kent County
Arthur S. Warren .....	Chesterfield County

**Others Present**

John Amos ..... RRPDC Legal Counsel  
John Easter ..... Greater Richmond Chamber  
Raina Fields ..... VCU  
Jo Gehlbach..... Richmond Association of Realtors  
Tyee Mallory..... Office of Sen. Kaine  
Michael Martz..... Richmond Times-Dispatch  
Chrystal Neal ..... Greater Richmond Chamber  
Michael Rao ..... VCU  
Carrie Roth..... Virginia BioTechnology Park  
John Vitoulkas ..... Henrico County

**Staff Present**

Robert A. Crum ..... Executive Director  
Jo A. Evans..... Assistant Executive Director  
Julie H. Fry ..... Executive Secretary  
Sulabh Aryal..... Associate Planner  
Anne Darby ..... Senior Planner  
Billy Gammel ..... Associate Planner  
Chuck Gates ..... Communications Coordinator  
Barbara Jacocks ..... Principal Planner  
Sarah Rhodes..... Principal Planner  
Jackie Stewart..... Director, Planning  
Peter M. Sweetland..... Finance and Contracts Administrator

**Call to Order**

Chairman Peterson called the regularly scheduled November 13, 2014 RRPDC meeting to order at approximately 9:10 a.m. The meeting was held at the Virginia BioTechnology Research Park. He 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 Peterson said, out of consideration for Dr. Rao’s schedule and if there are no objections, he would like to change the order of business to allow Dr. Rao to provide his presentation to members at this time. He said the agenda will be picked back up at this point following Dr. Rao’s presentation.

#### **IV. NEW BUSINESS**

##### **A. Dr. Michael Rao, President, Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU)**

Chairman Peterson noted that Dr. Rao became the fifth president of Virginia Commonwealth University and the VCU Health System in 2009.

Under the Quest for Distinction strategic plan, Dr. Rao is piloting strategic efforts focused on academic quality, student success, and research that foster regional economic development and improve lives.

As president of VCU and the VCU Health System, Dr. Rao leads a national research university with a leading academic medical center that is the largest employer in the Richmond area and the sixth largest in Virginia, with about 20,000 employees.

Under Dr. Rao's leadership, VCU's place among national research universities continues to rise, with many programs ranked among the best in the nation by U.S. News & World Report. He also has overseen one of the largest-ever expansions of VCU's master site plan. Dr. Rao has been in higher education administration for more than 20 years and holds a bachelor's degree in chemistry from the University of South Florida and a Ph.D. in higher education from the University of Florida.

Dr. Rao thanked members for the invitation to speak with them this morning. He said he knows members have a great interest to bring everyone together to accomplish what needs to be done in the Region. He said the Region has been able to come together to combine resources and talent needed to move the Region forward. Dr. Rao said he appreciates that everyone works toward this goal. Dr. Rao said the ability to accomplish things individually is becoming more and more difficult.

Dr. Rao said moving forward, it will be important to pay attention to how the generations are changing and to note there is more emphasis on creativity and entrepreneurship. He said he tries to pay attention to the students at VCU and is becoming aware that they are not interested in the same sorts of things he was interested in at the same age. He said this helps him see opportunities for moving forward. He said he believes that going forward the Region will continue to develop as an emerging innovation economy.

Dr. Rao said he appreciates what Ms. Roth has done already to move the BioTechnology Park forward. He said Dr. Trani had the ability to see how the future might develop. He said the value of the BioTech Park is changing to meet the emerging needs of the Region. The Park is going to be centered more on innovation. Dr. Rao said efforts need to be made to keep college graduates in the Region. Great headway is being made in this direction at the BioTech Park thanks to Ms. Roth's leadership.

Resources around the Region need to be combined to position the Region as one that fosters creativity and innovation.

Dr. Rao said about 51 percent of arriving students at VCU expect to leave and start their own companies. About 15 percent of those students do start their own companies prior to graduation. He said VCU is currently tracking about eight new companies that were started by students. It is concerning, however, that about half of those graduating from VCU do not stay in the Region. This is about 10 percent lower than in previous years, which is a good improvement.

Dr. Rao said that he wants to continue to send the message that VCU is committed to creating a larger number of graduates by focusing on creativity and entrepreneurship, which in turn will create more jobs. To keep more of the graduates in the Region, there must be higher paying jobs, and research plays a large role in this effort.

Dr. Rao said that students today are not looking for which job will offer the best salary, but which job/location will offer the type of lifestyle they want to live. He said the term most students use to describe where they want to live is *cool*. They want to be in a progressive place that offers entrepreneurship and where they are looked up to because they started a new company instead of being employed by a larger corporation. Dr. Rao said the Region does need to continue to attract the Fortune-type companies, but attention also needs to be placed on recognizing those who want to be creative and start their own companies.

Dr. Rao said the Region has grown significantly over the past few years, and he believes that innovation has played a role in this growth. Innovation is only one aspect, but it needs to be combined with the concept of bringing it quickly to the rest of the community.

Dr. Rao said more small start-ups will need to be created. The environment for how these small businesses are welcomed into the Region will be important. Attention will need to also remain on the Region's ability to attract and retain larger companies. There is an opportunity to attract these types of businesses by making sure the Region is welcoming.

Dr. Rao said this is one reason he began to develop the idea to bring to VCU, and the community, the Institute of Contemporary Art (ICA). He said this will help move innovation all the way down Broad Street, which is an effort begun by Dr. Trani.

Residents need to feel an interconnectivity in the community with the downtown area. Residents need to feel safe at any time. This is one reason VCU has made some of the expansion decisions it's made. New efforts have been made by the VCU Police Department which have resulted in a 95 percent crime solve record.

Dr. Rao said VCU now has about 23,000 employees with the addition of the South Hill Community Hospital. He said most of these employees come from vibrant areas and the Region needs to make sure it's going to be a good match for these residents.

Dr. Rao related experiences he had while visiting universities in China where staff knew a significant amount about VCU. He said this was a real honor. Dr. Rao said VCU will continue to focus on its role as a major research university, which results in not only worldwide recognition, but in additional funding from the federal government and other

partners. Dr. Rao said this investment helps to provide more jobs for the community. He said VCU estimates that the return on research investment is about twenty-to-one.

Dr. Rao noted that VCU will continue to contribute to the Region's economic development as it expands. He said there is more square footage under construction now than there has been in the history of the university. He said that of all the research universities in the state, VCU had the smallest number of square feet per student. The kinds of spaces created will be shared and *cooler*. This will attract a more diversified employee pool. VCU's employees live throughout the Region and contribute to the Region's economic development.

Dr. Rao said for VCU to continue to be a contributor in the Region's economic development, everyone will need to appreciate the benefit of giving and taking. He said great progress is being made in this effort. He said if VCU can assist in efforts to make the Region a better place for its residents, he will be glad to do so.

Dr. Rao said he would be glad to answer any questions.

Mr. Fabricant asked for an example of what Dr. Rao meant by "give and take." Dr. Rao said in his travels around the Region, he feels there are ways to help the residents by eliminating borders and sharing resources. He said as an example, perhaps there would be a way to recruit a new company to the Region by offering locations in different jurisdictions. He said leadership discussions should center on how to invest funds to provide greater benefits to the entire Region. Dr. Rao said he is not an expert in this, but he thinks that if residents feel the Region is more interconnected, then they will feel more connected.

Mr. Thornton asked how Dr. Rao felt students viewed transportation needs in the Region. Dr. Rao said students wish they could use public transportation to reach all areas in the Region. He said he thinks the Region needs to have more discussion on public transportation and rethink how it works and who it works for. Dr. Rao said as the Region grows, so will traffic. One way to mitigate increased traffic is through the use of public transportation.

Mr. Gecker said he appreciates all that VCU has done for the Region. He asked if VCU will have any role in the anti-poverty movement and in assisting with equalizing opportunity. Dr. Rao said students at VCU have logged about one million hours of community service. For example, medical students assist with public health screenings. He said many students assist in the local school systems. He said he sees research moving in a direction to determine how more residents can be given equal opportunities. He said VCU will want to work with other partners to address such needs around the Region. He said based on his own background, he wants all of VCU's students to be aware of and be sensitive to the needs of everyone within all areas of the community. Poverty is in all types of areas, and it will be important for VCU and its partners to ensure that everyone has what is needed to help themselves succeed. He said he will welcome any other ideas on how VCU can assist in creating models that can be transferred from one area to another. He

said VCU was just given an award for the work pharmacy students are doing on long-term care.

Chairman Peterson asked if there has been any consideration given to expanding VCU to satellite campuses. Dr. Rao said VCU is offering clinics in various areas of the Region. As far as educational facilities, VCU will be open to the idea of expansion where there is a need for a large concentration of people. He said the focus now is on offering online education. VCU currently has agreements with all of the state's community colleges to dual-admit students and to guarantee transfer if the students complete certain courses at a 2.5 GPA or greater. VCU's facilities are available to these students. VCU will also expand online degrees. Dr. Rao said it is far less costly to educate a student for the first two years at a community college. What is most important is making sure the student has what is needed in order to graduate. Dr. Rao said there is a program in use called "Do the Math," which shows students that it is less expensive to take 15 credit hours per semester in order to graduate in four years instead of extending their time to five years. Dr. Rao said that it will not be cost effective for VCU to duplicate administrative offices in multiple locations.

Mr. Kaechele asked how many students are enrolled at VCU. Dr. Rao said there are about 32,000 students enrolled. Mr. Kaechele asked how that number broke down to those students who are from out of state, who are from in state, and how many are from the Richmond Region. Dr. Rao said about 15 percent come from out of state. He said VCU is open to increasing that amount as these students share in the investment needed for VCU to continue. He said international students dramatically enhance the environment at VCU. Northern Virginia contributes the most in-state students. Richmond offers a significant amount, but Chesterfield County contributes the most students from the Region.

Chairman Peterson thanked Dr. Rao for his presentation and congratulated Dr. Rao on his ability to attract and retain some of the best and brightest students and faculty. He said he believes that everyone shares Dr. Rao's goal to increase the number of students who remain in the Region following graduation.

## **I. ADMINISTRATION**

Chairman Peterson said the meeting agenda will resume with Item I.C.

### **C. Open Public Comment Period**

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

### **D. Chairman's Report**

Chairman Peterson reported that he had participated on a tour of the Port of Richmond on October 15. He said he was impressed with the potential for expansion in the Port area and noted that investments would need to be made to continue to improve and expand the Port. He said one need is expanded capability to warehouse more refrigerated items in the area

near the Port. Chairman Peterson noted that the Port of Richmond is working to develop a closer relationship with the Port of Virginia.

Chairman Peterson also reported that the Capital Region Collaborative's Indicators Action Team had held its inaugural meeting yesterday. He said members of the Team have been charged with identifying regional indicators for the Regional Indicators Project. He said there are two other Action Teams – Workforce Development and Job Creation – that will also meet to discuss how to move these initiatives forward.

### **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 thanked Ms. Roth for hosting the meeting today. He said that following the meeting, Ms. Roth will provide a tour of the facility to members. Ms. Roth said members should gather in the atrium following the meeting. Mr. Crum said he hopes that as many members as possible will be able to participate.

Mr. Crum reminded members that in the spring, the agency's Principal Planner, Barbara Nelson, left to accept a position with the US Department of Transportation. Mr. Crum said Ms. Nelson's position has been filled by Sarah Rhodes. He asked Ms. Rhodes to step forward. Mr. Crum said Ms. Rhodes previously worked for the Thomas Jefferson PDC in Charlottesville. She has family here in the Richmond area. Mr. Crum said Ms. Rhodes will be handling the RSTP and CMAQ allocations for transportation projects, and she also has pedestrian/bicycle experience from her work at TJPDC. Ms. Rhodes said she is glad to be a part of the RRPDC team and recently became a new mother.

Mr. Crum said if Board members who parked in the Coliseum parking deck will see Ms. Fry after the meeting, she can validate their parking sticker for complimentary parking.

### **F. Environmental and Intergovernmental Reviews**

Chairman Peterson 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. He said these are provided to members to inform them of the work being done by RRPDC staff in cooperation with local staffs as part of the statutory requirements for the agency and to let members know about development activities in their neighboring jurisdictions.

## **II. CONSENT AGENDA**

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

- A. Meeting Minutes – October 9, 2014
- B. Financial Reports – September 2014

Chairman Peterson asked if there were any questions on these items.

Mr. C. Peterson asked if there could be a continuing policy going forward that those who were not in attendance at the previous meeting could be automatically noted as abstaining from the vote on the meeting minutes.

Ms. Kelly-Wiecek said she thought Mr. C. Peterson meant that he would not abstain from his vote for the entire Consent Agenda, but only for the meeting minutes that are included on the Consent Agenda. She said other members may have this same issue.

Chairman Peterson said normally a vote is taken on the entire Consent Agenda, and he asked if Mr. C. Peterson was requesting that the items be voted on separately.

Mr. C. Peterson said he would like for an abstention to be shown automatically for those who were not in attendance at the meeting, but the other items on the Consent Agenda could be voted on.

Chairman Peterson asked Mr. Amos, RRPDC legal counsel, if he had an opinion on whether this could be done.

Mr. Gecker said the minutes are a record of the meeting and even if a person was not in attendance, the vote is only to say the minutes are a record of the meeting. Mr. Amos said he thought that would be a correct statement.

Chairman Peterson asked Mr. Amos if he is comfortable in making a ruling on this issue today. Mr. Amos said he would like to speak with the Chairman after the meeting and make a determination after the discussion.

Mr. C. Peterson said he would withdraw his request until Mr. Amos was ready to make a determination on whether it could be done.

Chairman Peterson asked if there were any other questions. Mr. Williams made a motion that the Consent Agenda be approved as presented. Mr. Gecker seconded the motion. There was no additional discussion and the motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Peterson asked Mr. Amos if he would address Mr. C. Peterson's request at the next meeting. Mr. Amos said he would.

### **III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was no Unfinished Business to bring before the Board.

### **IV. NEW BUSINESS**

#### **B. Regional Legislative Program**

Chairman Peterson asked Mr. Crum to make this presentation.

Mr. Crum brought members' attention to page 2 of the agenda. He said this will be an action item. He said this proposal is being brought before members from the Executive Committee.

Mr. Crum reported that over the past couple of months, members of the Executive Committee and staff have taken a look at the current RRPDC Legislative Program and discussed how to move forward with it.

As background, Mr. Crum reminded members that a regional legislative agenda has been developed since 2008. There have been some successes and some challenges. He said it was felt that it was time to discuss what has gone well, where the challenges have been, and what role the RRPDC should play in regional legislative matters moving forward.

From 2008 through 2013, the process has been to begin to develop a regional legislative agenda with members of the Large and Small Jurisdictions Committees (LSJC) in September and October, once the local jurisdictions have worked to develop their own legislative agendas. The LSJC would discuss all of the local legislative issues and determine which of those would benefit from a regional approach.

Those regional items would be brought before members of the RRPDC Board in November and December. The regional agenda would be circulated to members of the Capital Region Caucus prior to a breakfast reception held in January. This event has been well-attended, averaging about 120 guests. During the breakfast, members of the Board would present the regional legislative agenda to General Assembly members and other community partners.

Mr. Crum said some of the challenges faced during the past have been:

- presentation of a legislative agenda to members of the General Assembly in January is late in the process; bills need to be dropped early in the fall or by December in order to have any impact
- while the breakfast reception is well-attended, it occurs at a very busy time coming out of the holidays – jurisdictions may be having organizational meetings, General Assembly members are preparing for the start of the session, and there have been conflicts with other organizations having their own legislative receptions

- it's not practical for the RRPDC, as a regional agency, to take positions on specific bills or proposals during the General Assembly session
- bills are revised weekly as they move through the process; what was supported regionally at the beginning is transformed and feedback is needed on changes in a very short timeframe; it is very difficult to reach out to all members for a consensus on changes in the timeframe needed by General Assembly members; this can result in confusion and frustration regarding whether or not the RRPDC can support the revised bill as a regional body

Mr. Crum said the revised approach as recommended by the Executive Committee is to replace the January breakfast reception with a reception to be held in June. This will be following the end of the General Assembly session. The legislative process could begin with a focus on the regional indicators. This is the annual report out from the Capital Region Collaborative (CRC) and the RRPDC on what the regional indicators data is showing – where is the Region strong and what areas need attention. The hope is that the process would be changed from one that is very subjective to one that is based on data and fact. This data should show what regional issues need to be addressed. This could be a value-add to the General Assembly members and to the local jurisdictions as they begin to develop their own legislative agendas.

The Executive Committee also discussed having the LSJC meet jointly around the time of cross-over in the General Assembly to see which bills are moving through the process and to identify any bills that the RRPDC should support or challenge.

It is being recommended that the 2014 Legislative Position Statements that were adopted by the RRPDC Board last year be readopted for the 2015 General Assembly session. These statements are listing under Tab 5 in the agenda packet. The Executive Committee agreed that some guidance should be provided to General Assembly members in the upcoming session.

For the 2015 General Assembly session, RRPDC staff will not register as lobbyists. Mr. Crum said he wanted to stress that this can change if the jurisdictions feel it is needed.

Mr. Crum said there are two action requests for members to consider:

1. The RRPDC Board takes action to approve a revised approach to the RRPDC Legislative Program, as outlined on page 2 of this month's agenda.
2. The RRPDC Board approves the Legislative Position Statements under Tab 5 as the Commission's Legislative Agenda for the 2015 General Assembly session.

Chairman Peterson asked if there were any questions.

Ms. Carmack said she thought the time between the end of the General Assembly and the proposed reception in June was too long. She said she wondered if there would be good attendance from the General Assembly members in June. Ms. Carmack asked if another meeting with legislators would be held prior to the start of General Assembly to remind

them of what was discussed in June. She said she understood that January was too late to begin the process but thought a meeting in September would be better.

Mr. Crum said he felt the need for additional contact with legislators is a valid concern. He said the meeting in June could be to provide the data points and a follow up meeting could be an invitation to attend an RRPDC Board meeting in September.

Mr. Fabricant asked if the time of the reception would be changed from a breakfast to something later. He said he felt that a breakfast meeting would be better attended.

Mr. Crum said staff agreed an earlier meeting is better. Others, including RRPDC Board members, have indicated previously that it's better to take time out in the morning for a meeting than to break up a day.

Mr. Elswick suggested that at the reception, the jurisdictions' administrators and managers be invited to work together to present a status of the Region report based on the regional indicators. He said this could be done at the same time the indicators are presented in June or at whatever time is selected.

Ms. Kelly-Wiecek said she is looking forward to the development of regional indicators and thought the reason these would be presented to legislators is for them to use the indicators to develop bills that will address areas the indicators show as needing attention. She said June was selected to provide time for the information from the indicators, and the report from the administrators as suggested by Mr. Elswick, to be used by the jurisdictions to help develop local legislative agendas.

Mr. Crum said that was the vision of the Executive Committee. He said he also thought Mr. Elswick's idea to have the administrators and managers present a state of the Region report is also a good idea. Having the professional administrators and managers use the indicators to help provide a report on the Region would strengthen the process.

Chairman Peterson said the idea behind the revision is to make the Legislative Program more effective. June is a time to provide data and information to the legislators on where the localities see the Region. From that data and information, the implications and possible policies to address them can be developed. He said the legislators can be asked to report on what actions were taken during the just-concluded legislative session that might address the issues as identified by the indicators. There may be another opportunity in September or October to connect again with the legislators to ask what they've been able to accomplish with that data to potentially address the areas where attention is needed. During the summer, many of the jurisdictions are also interacting with their legislators and the indicators can be used during those meetings.

Ms. Kelly-Wiecek said Hanover County uses the summer to develop its legislative agenda and does not present this to legislators until the fall. She said she wanted to suggest that the LSJC meet to discuss the indicators prior to the reception in June.

Chairman Peterson said the indicators should also be fully vetted by the Executive Committee and full RRPDC Board before presentation.

Mr. Davey said he thought economic development needed to be added as well as the other categories. He said there are state economic development issues that will impact the Region.

Mr. Fabricant said he would like to make a motion.

Chairman Peterson asked if Mr. Fabricant would hold off on his motion for a few more moments. Chairman Peterson asked Mr. Crum to return back to the slide that showed the requested actions. He said there are two actions being requested.

Mr. Tucker said he'd like to propose a motion based on the conversation. He asked for Mr. Crum to show the slide with the proposed Legislative Program bullet points. Mr. Tucker suggested as a third bullet point the addition of:

- The RRPDC Board will invite the legislators to a regularly scheduled RRPDC meeting in October or November to reiterate the indicators, to review the jurisdictions' administrators and managers work, and the legislative agenda that is presented in June with any revisions made during the interim.

Ms. Kelly-Wiecek suggested that instead of using the word *reiterate* perhaps wording to say there would be a review of proposed initiatives that are developed as a result of the indicators. She said these would not need to be specifically regional.

Mr. Crum said he would like to offer a friendly amendment by recommending that the parameters of the meeting should not be so specific that there is an elimination of flexibility. He suggested the following bullet point:

- The RRPDC Board will invite Capital Region Caucus members to a September or October Board meeting to receive an update from Caucus members and local jurisdictions on deliberations regarding legislative matters as preparations are made for the next General Assembly session.

Mr. Crum said this provides flexibility to address any needs that may evolve. Mr. Tucker said he would agree to that phrasing.

Ms. Kelly-Wiecek asked about the LSJC meeting to discuss the indicators. She said the addition can be made as follows:

- The RRPDC Large and Small Jurisdictions Committees would meet in joint session shortly after crossover and again prior to the June event....

Mr. C. Peterson said that he believed what was trying to be accomplished is to agree that meeting in January is too late in the process to make an impact and that a meeting should

be held in a timely fashion prior to the legislators starting the next General Assembly session. He said there should be flexibility to have the meeting in June or whenever it is determined to be the best time to bring issues before members of the General Assembly. He said the bullet point can be kept as it is and eliminate the reference to the June timeframe. He said the bullet point could state that the event will be held in a timeframe suitable to provide legislators time to react to the data from the indicators.

Mr. Miles asked if only regional legislators would be invited to the event or if all General Assembly members would be invited. He said for some issues that may surface, there may not be a regional legislator on the particular committee that would discuss any related legislation. He said not all members of the General Assembly will be willing to attend an event in Richmond during the summer.

Mr. Crum said focus has always been placed on the Capital Region Caucus members. He said if there are some strategic committee chairs who should be targeted, then invitations can be issued to them.

Mr. Miles said if a specific bill is trying to be passed and a regional legislator is not on the appropriate committee, there is not a high probability that the bill will pass through the committee. He said at the very least, the committee chairs should be included in any event.

Chairman Peterson said in reviewing the five bullet points for the revised Legislative Program, a bullet point should be added to hold a fall meeting with legislators as a follow-up to the spring meeting. He asked if there was consensus to those points.

Mr. Silber said that while this may work, he felt it was asking a lot of the legislators. He said many of the localities meet with their local legislators in the fall. Mr. Silber said a reception in the spring is a good idea, but he did not think members should lock themselves into a fall meeting unless there was some significant reason to do so.

Chairman Peterson asked Mr. Silber if his suggestion was to have the data presentation in the spring and then to have legislative agenda development occur at the local level.

Ms. Kelly-Wiecek said another approach would be to meet with legislative staff members in the fall.

Mr. Crum said contact can always be made with legislators by RRPDC if the localities make the request. Mr. Crum said all that needs to be decided today is to have the June meeting. He said Mr. Silber brings up a good point not to meet for the sake of meeting, but if there is a need, there is the flexibility to do so.

Mr. Gulley suggested that based on the conversation, staff be given time to rewrite the proposed change and bring it back to members during the December meeting.

Ms. Kelly-Wiecek said that the original motion as presented is to approve the revised program as it appears on page 2 of the agenda. She said meeting minutes will reflect the

discussion on the need to retain flexibility to call an additional meeting if needed. She said she believes there is enough understanding among members that the agenda can move forward without a need to bring the item back next month. She said if there is still an issue with what is reflected in the minutes, this can be addressed at the next meeting.

Chairman Peterson asked if there was consensus to move forward.

Mr. C. Peterson made a motion that the revised approach to the RRPDC Legislative Program as outlined on page 2 of the agenda be approved as presented. Mr. Davey seconded the motion.

Mr. Fabricant asked if he could make a friendly amendment that the precise time of the reception be left open and that the Executive Committee could determine the appropriate timeframe. Mr. Crum said that could be changed to read *spring/summer*.

Mr. C. Peterson said he would change his motion to reflect that the first bullet point as listed on page 2 of the agenda be revised to eliminate the word *June* and to add that the Legislative Reception be held at a time appropriate to allow time for preparation of the legislative agenda for the upcoming General Assembly session. Mr. Pollard seconded the friendly amendment.

There was no additional discussion and the motion carried as amended.

Chairman Peterson asked if there was a motion to approve the 2014 Legislative Position Statements as printed to be used as a guide for the 2015 General Assembly. Ms. Kelly-Wiecek so moved, and the motion was seconded by Mr. Thornton. There was no additional discussion and the motion carried unanimously.

## V. OTHER BUSINESS

Chairman Peterson asked if there was any other business or any announcements. He recognized Mr. Agelasto.

Mr. Agelasto said the VEPCO agreement was recently renewed and he believes that all of the Region's jurisdictions are party to that agreement. He wanted to know if anyone had feedback on any potential implications as a result of the agreement.

Mr. Crum asked if Mr. Agelasto could provide a brief description of the agreement. Mr. Agelasto said this agreement is how regional governments come together in collective bargaining with Dominion Power every four years to establish rates. There are new provisions in the contract, which was approved in June. For example, one provision is to give localities more access to Dominion poles for street lights. Another example is to provide more flexibility in contracting with Dominion contractors to complete installation work when completing local construction projects to eliminate the need for the localities to work through Dominion.

Mr. Gecker said he thought it would be appropriate for members to hear about the agreement's provisions.

Mr. Agelasto said the new contract runs through 2018. He said if there is anything in the current contract that should be addressed prior to the next renewal, then perhaps members could address these together.

Mr. Elswick said he would agree that it would be appropriate to review the contract.

Mr. Thornton noted that the Richmond Regional TPO recently went through a process to revise some policies in order to maintain greater transparency. He said he felt that RRPDC might benefit from a similar process. He said he feels that a better job needs to be done to let the Region's citizens know what the RRPDC does in the Region and that citizens be given an opportunity to play a larger role in what the RRPDC does and to learn how the RRPDC may impact the lives of the Region's citizens. He said that he hoped some discussion could take place on how to get the Region's citizens more involved with the RRPDC.

Chairman Peterson said he agreed that the agency does want to be as transparent as possible. He noted that from time to time, Mr. Crum has been invited to speak before local boards of supervisors in a public forum when citizens are in attendance. He asked Mr. Thornton that if he has specific ideas on how to increase citizen participation, he would welcome the input.

Mr. Amos asked for clarification on whether the contract with Dominion was SCC related or if it was an individual contract. Mr. Agelasto said this is a separate contract negotiated with about 80 localities that are part of VEPCO.

Chairman Peterson announced that the next meeting will be held on Thursday, December 11, at the RRPDC office.

Chairman Peterson said members who would like to tour the BioTech Park facilities with Ms. Roth should meet in the atrium as soon as possible.

## **VI. ADJOURNMENT**

As there was no additional business to bring before the Board, Chairman Peterson adjourned the meeting at approximately 10:40 a.m.

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Robert A. Crum, Jr.  
Executive Director

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Ken Peterson  
Chairman