

RICHMOND REGIONAL PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION
Minutes of Meeting
October 13, 2016

Members and Alternates (A) Present

Parker C. Agelasto.....City of Richmond
Chris ArcherHenrico County
Timothy M. DaveyChesterfield County
Steve A. ElswickChesterfield County
Evan Fabricant.....Hanover County
Richard W. GloverHenrico County
Kathy C. Graziano, Treasurer.....City of Richmond
Jimmy Hancock.....Henrico County
James M. Holland.....Chesterfield County
Dorothy Jaeckle, Vice Chairman.....Chesterfield County
Angela Kelly-WiecekHanover County
Susan LascoletteGoochland County
Floyd H. Miles, Chairman.....Charles City County
Tyrone E. Nelson, Secretary.....Henrico County
Larry Nordvig.....Powhatan County
Patricia S. O'Bannon.....Henrico County
Edward W. PollardNew Kent County
Randy Silber (A)Henrico County
George SpagnaTown of Ashland
Frank J. ThorntonHenrico County
Carson TuckerPowhatan County
Randy Whittaker.....Hanover County

Members Absent

Jonathan T. BalilesCity of Richmond
Tommy BraninHenrico County
Karin CarmackPowhatan County
Gloria L. FreyeChesterfield County
Mike C. Gray.....City of Richmond
Leslie Haley.....Chesterfield County
Michelle Mosby.....City of Richmond
W. Canova PetersonHanover County
Rodney PooleCity of Richmond
C. Thomas Tiller.....New Kent County
Christopher Winslow.....Chesterfield County

Others Present

John Budesky Goochland County
Joe Casey Chesterfield County
Selena Cuffee-Glenn City of Richmond
Joshua Farrar Town of Ashland
Elizabeth Greenfield Richmond Association of Realtors
Rhu Harris Hanover County
Rodney Hathaway New Kent County
Mark Rhodes Dunham, Aukamp & Rhodes
Keith Rogers City of Richmond
Dan Schardein Goochland County
Joanne Simmelink Chesterfield County
Zach Trogdon Charles City County
John Vithoukias Henrico County

Staff Present

Martha Shickle Executive Director
Sulabh Aryal Senior Planner
Tiffany Dubinsky Principal Planner
Jo Evans Director, Operational Projects
Julie Fry Executive Secretary
Billy Gammel Senior Planner
Chuck Gates Manager, Community Affairs
Barbara Jacocks Director of Planning
Ken Lantz Principal Planner
Jin Lee Senior Planner
Josh Mallow Planner
Barbara Nelson Director of Transportation
Phil Riggan Planner
Sarah Rhodes Principal Planner
Jackie Stewart Manager, Special Projects
Peter Sweetland Finance and Contracts Administrator
Chris Wichman Senior Planner

Call to Order

Chairman Miles called the regularly scheduled October 13, 2016 RRPDC meeting to order at approximately 9:15 a.m. in the RRPDC Board Room. He asked Ms. Shickle to lead members in the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

I. ADMINISTRATION

A. Certification by Commission Executive Director of Meeting Quorum

Ms. Shickle, RRPDC Executive Director, reported that a quorum of members was present.

B. Request for Additions or Changes to the Order of Business

Chairman Miles asked if there were any requests to change the agenda or order of business. No requests from members were received and Chairman Miles indicated the agenda would stand as presented.

C. Open Public Comment Period

Chairman Miles opened the public comment period, noting that if anyone wished to address the members, to please come to a microphone and provide his or her name, locality of residence, and if appropriate the name of any organization being represented. Chairman Miles asked that any citizen speaker please limit comments to three minutes, and organizations should limit their comments to five minutes.

As there were no requests from the public to address members of the Board, Chairman Miles closed the public comment period.

D. Approval of September 8, 2016 Meeting Minutes

Chairman Miles asked Mr. Nelson to present the minutes of the September 8, 2016 to members for their consideration and action.

Mr. Nelson asked if there were any changes or corrections to be made to the minutes. There being no corrections or comments, Ms. Kelly-Wiecek moved for approval of the September 8, 2016 minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Graziano. There was no additional discussion and the minutes of the September 8, 2016 meeting were approved unanimously as presented.

E. Acceptance of August 2016 Financial Report

Chairman Miles asked Ms. Graziano to present the financial report for August 2016.

Ms. Graziano said if there were no questions or corrections, she would ask for a motion to accept the August 2016 financial report for file as presented. Mr. Nelson so moved and the motion was seconded by Mr. Spagna. There was no further discussion and the motion carried unanimously.

F. Chairman's Report

Revised RRPDC Personnel Policy

Chairman Miles reported during this morning's Executive Committee meeting, members discussed the revised Personnel Policy. He asked Ms. Shickle to provide a summary of the discussion.

Ms. Shickle said the revised Personnel Policy presented this morning included all comments and suggestions received during last month's meeting from members and Mr. Amos, RRPDC legal counsel. Those changes included the following:

- addition of the RRPDC Mission Statement
- addressing the At Will Employment statement
- qualification that Standards of Conduct are applicable to all employees
- amendments to the Drug and Alcohol Free Workplace section per Mr. Amos' suggestions
- clarification to the section on workplace harassment to state that any employee is eligible to report such harassment regardless of probationary status and that this reporting is not connected to the grievance procedure
- addition of protective orders to the criminal charges section
- addition of language that use of agency-owned electronic devices for personal reasons during work hours should not impede an employee's productivity

Ms. Shickle said she also suggested the following revisions, some of which are made in anticipation of a proposed rule change to the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA):

- clarity of authority for amendments to and approval of the Personnel Policy and noting the Executive Committee is authorized to make such changes based on discussion from last month's meeting
- addition of language that incidents of harassment be reported immediately
- text changes to payroll, merit increases, and discharge/dismissal with regard to clarification that payroll will be regular and frequent and that any salary increases or changes will be made at the time the Board approves such increases or changes instead of only on July 1
- clarification that suspensions or dismissals can be made with or without pay

Chairman Miles added that the Executive Committee approved the Policy with the exception of two sections, which will be discussed again during the November Executive Committee meeting.

Review of Upcoming RRPDC Meeting Topics

Chairman Miles said he has asked Ms. Shickle to determine when there are topics that need to be brought before members. He said he does not want to have a meeting just because it's scheduled on the calendar. The Executive Committee will continue to meet regularly.

He said Ms. Shickle will review a meeting schedule with members of the Executive Committee in November, and the results of this discussion will be reported to members of the full Commission Board in December.

G. Executive Director's Report

Ms. Shickle brought members' attention to the staff activity report, which is included in the agenda book under Tab 3 and details key projects being advanced by staff on behalf of the localities. She said she will be glad to answer any questions on the report.

Ms. Shickle also reported that Mr. Amos was unable to attend today's meeting due to a family emergency.

Chairman Miles recognized Mr. Agelasto, who asked when the RRPDC Board will consider a regional legislative package.

Ms. Kelly-Wiecek said at this point in the year, she did not feel there was time to develop a meaningful legislative package. This type of work would typically begin in August.

Ms. Shickle said her understanding is that a regional legislative program was no longer an initiative that the agency would take on. She said if this is something members would like to consider in the future to please let her know.

II. CONSENT AGENDA

Chairman Miles noted there are no items on the Consent Agenda this month.

III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no Unfinished Business to bring before members.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Report from the RRPDC Audit Committee – Ms. Graziano

Chairman Miles asked Ms. Graziano to provide this report.

Ms. Graziano reported that the Audit Committee met this morning to review the audit findings with Mr. Mark Rhodes, who is with Dunham, Aukamp & Rhodes and who conducted this year's audit. She said the Audit Committee and members of the Executive Committee recommend that the full Board accept the report as presented. She said Mr. Rhodes is in attendance and can address any questions members may have.

Mr. Nordvig said on page 40, which is the summary page, he noted that the summary indicates a clean audit. He asked if there were any areas that need improvement or if any issues that were found during the audit were corrected before the report was written.

Mr. Rhodes said there were no findings with regard to internal controls or financial statements. He said there were no material findings.

Mr. Nordvig asked Ms. Shickle if she had any suggestions for improving how the agency handles its finances.

Ms. Shickle said the agency's internal controls and separation of duties are quite significant. She said she and the auditor have confidence in how the controls and duties are handled. The audit is a useful tool to use for decision making and identifying agency efficiencies.

Mr. Holland said he appreciates the control of expenses, especially on printing costs. He said he appreciates seeing that the actual expenses are less than budgeted amounts. Ms. Shickle said she has been with the agency for only six months of this audit period. She said the budget was set by Ms. Jacocks during her tenure as Interim Executive Director, along with Ms. Evans and Mr. Sweetland. Ms. Shickle said she feels it's important to recognize their efforts as well.

Ms. Kelly-Wiecek moved that the draft FY16 Audit Report be accepted as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Agelasto. There was no additional discussion and the motion carried unanimously.

B. Regional Chief Administrative Officials and Managers Panel

Chairman Miles thanked all of the region's Chief Administrative Officials (CAOs) and Managers for taking time to meet with members this morning. He said he's very interested in hearing their perspectives on regional issues.

Ms. Shickle said that Ms. Weiler (Powhatan County) could not attend today as she is out of town to visit with family and sent her regrets. Ms. Shickle thanked all of the CAOs/Managers for agreeing to take part in this discussion. Ms. Shickle said each CAO and Manager will provide two or three minutes of comments on what they see as regional issues or concerns. She said she hopes the discussion will generate some questions and discussion among the RRPDC Board members regarding what they see as important issues to undertake during future meetings and development of the agency's work program.

City of Richmond

Ms. Cuffee-Glenn said she would begin today's discussion by thanking everyone for the opportunity to speak with them. She noted that she relocated back to the Richmond region about eighteen months ago. She said all of the CAOs and Managers believe the Richmond region is a strong region and as long as the partnerships and collaborative efforts continue, the region will continue to be strong. Ms. Cuffee-Glenn said that despite what is written in the newspaper, the region's leadership does meet on a regular basis and there is a cooperative spirit.

With regard to her perspective on regional concerns, Ms. Cuffee-Glenn said the City of Richmond has experienced a seven percent growth since 2010. She said it will be important to accommodate this growth, especially with regard to millennials and others who have decided that Richmond is the place they want to live. There is a variety of amenities and the cost of living is relatively low.

One of the issues she sees as being critical is the need to understand the impact of poverty, not only on the City of Richmond, but on the region as a whole. As the region continues to grow and prosper, it will need to ensure that housing choices can be accommodated and that there are job opportunities.

Ms. Cuffee-Glenn said the region has a good footprint with regard to economic growth, and it will be important for everyone to participate in that growth. She said poverty does permeate the entire region and should be kept at the forefront of areas to address.

An additional issue that Ms. Cuffee-Glenn said she'd like to bring forward is public transportation. She said she and Mr. Vithoukaskas have been working closely together as the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project moves forward. She said the linkages that can be provided by public transportation are critical, especially for local businesses. By working together on public transportation, the region can also reduce its carbon footprint over the next ten to twenty years.

Henrico County

Mr. Vithoukaskas also thanked members for the invitation to participate in the panel discussion. He said he's been with Henrico County for about twenty years, with a background in the county's financial department. He's been the County Manager for the past four years. During those four years, he said his perspective has changed significantly with regard to how he sees the region and how everyone works together. Mr. Vithoukaskas noted that there are many instances in which he's seen news articles about how the region does not work together.

Mr. Vithoukaskas said the story of how the region works together on varied projects needs to be told. He said Henrico County is currently involved with Junior Achievement and he believes everyone will benefit from efforts to find a new facility for that organization. There are other ongoing joint efforts, such as sharing water and offering assistance with procurement. Mr. Vithoukaskas said he, along with Ms. Cuffee-Glenn, Mr. Harris, and Dr. Casey have asked their procurement staffs to work more closely together to identify additional local vendors and cost efficiencies.

Mr. Vithoukaskas said one of his concerns is the change taking place in the regulatory environment that go beyond the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL)/US Clean Water Act. He said the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is currently working on proposed regulations that could impact the entire James River basin. Localities need to have growth and economic development. Regulatory agencies that blindly put forth regulations will impede much of what the region tries to do collectively.

Mr. Vithoukaskas said Henrico County struggles with its school system. He said poverty is not an excuse for failure. He said the expected outcomes for the K-12 systems should not be excused based on where students live and their economic status. Mr. Vithoukaskas said he feels this seems to be happening more and more around the region, and he sees the source as the K-12 system. He said there should not be the excuse that the students are growing up poor and noted expectations for these children should not be lowered. Mr. Vithoukaskas said he feels that elected school boards create a different dynamic and elected officials across the state may need to address this dynamic in order to enhance the K-12 system.

Mr. Vithoukaskas said to control the region's destiny with regard to economic development, there will need to be some way to address the potentially harmful roadblocks created by others. Changes should be made within the K-12 system, noting the education system is probably the largest expenditure for the localities.

Town of Ashland

Mr. Farrar said this is his first appearance with the CAOs/Managers. He is currently the Deputy Town Manager in Ashland and will serve as the Interim Town Manager following Mr. Hartgrove's departure on October 21. He said he's been with the Town of Ashland for about ten years. Mr. Farrar said he views Ashland as a microcosm of the region – a small urban area surrounded by suburbs and a rural fringe. He said what the region deals with on a macro basis, he believes Ashland deals with the same issues on a micro basis.

Mr. Farrar said one of the Town Council's priorities is the redevelopment of commercial properties. Ashland also deals with its share of poverty. Ashland is a small, walkable urban area in Hanover County where social services, jobs, and affordable housing are located, just as they are in the larger jurisdictions. This all contributes to the same issues the region deals with.

Ashland is trying to redevelop to promote economic development and affordable housing. Mr. Farrar said Ashland is seen as the affordable housing alternative in Hanover County. If citizens can't afford to go into some Hanover County neighborhoods, they come into Ashland. He said there are pockets of poverty that Ashland is dealing with strategically.

Looking to the future, Mr. Farrar said he would like to offer Ashland as a place to see which initiatives could work. Towns sometimes have more flexibility than counties or cities, both with regard to regulations and State Code and what can be accomplished with economic development. He said Ashland will be glad to serve as an area for new ideas and innovation.

Chesterfield County

Dr. Casey said he's been the CAO in Chesterfield County since July 1. He said he would venture to say that all of his colleagues would agree there is always something that keeps

them awake at night as they think about their responsibilities to their localities. He said they are all local, public servants, not elected and not appointed.

Dr. Casey said they each have responsibilities to their citizens, employees, and local businesses regardless of the jurisdiction's size. Dr. Casey provided examples of instances where there could be a disconnect and noted that there is always the question of what can be done to help. Once answers are identified, then it's part of the job to frame a way to approach and prioritize ways to solve issues, understanding that it is important to be willing to change.

There must also be trust established in working with citizens, employees, and local businesses. Dr. Casey said he sees trust as having four parts: engagement, transparency, performance, and accountability. Dr. Casey said he also sees connectivity as an attribute to have with regard to communities.

He pointed out that he trusts all of his colleagues sitting with him on the panel. He said they are all honest and forthcoming with one another and work together to solve problems. Dr. Casey said they all have respect for one another and understand that there must always be a win-win situation.

Dr. Casey said he sees public safety and schools as universal topics of concern to all of the region's citizens. He said local governments are empowered to educate children and respond to a 911 call for assistance. There are many mutual aid agreements in the region between all of the jurisdictions, and these never receive any press coverage.

Dr. Casey pointed out that the Richmond region has four AAA-rated localities that adjoin each other. There are only two other areas in the country with a similar number of AAA-rated localities: Washington DC and Raleigh/Durham. The Richmond region competes with Raleigh/Durham and probably exceeds that region in many ways.

Dr. Casey said the K-12 system does not mention local government as part of its curriculum. He said it will be important to educate everyone on what this region has to offer. The concept of live-work-play is really local-local-local.

Dr. Casey noted that Chesterfield County is part of two regions, and he appreciates the fact that the Richmond region is very easy to work with.

Charles City County

Mr. Trogdon said he is originally from Virginia and had been living and working professionally in North Carolina for many years before returning to become Charles City County's CAO. He said he lived in the Charlotte (NC) region and knows that the Richmond region does compete with that region for jobs and business recruitment.

Mr. Trogdon said Charles City County does have many of the same concerns as the larger jurisdictions, such as state budget issues. He said Charles City is located between two

regions and its residents can go to either the Richmond region or the Hampton Roads region for various opportunities. He said he found the recent meeting in Williamsburg on the concept of a mega region to be very informative with regard to the GO Virginia initiative and other issues such as transportation, jobs, and economic development.

Charles City County has been involved with a broadband project over the past several months. Mr. Trogdon said the county is currently working to have the project finalized. He said that while the larger jurisdictions may not have the same problem with regard to offering broadband services to their citizens, it was critical to Charles City County. The county was able to obtain funding through the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) as well as additional assistance received from RRPDC. Mr. Trogdon said he will be glad to share best practices with other jurisdictions needing to undertake a broadband project.

Mr. Trogdon said the county does have a strategic economic development plan and cannot succeed in its efforts without support from the rest of the region. Economic development is important in order for the county to meet its responsibilities to its citizens.

Mr. Trogdon said it will be interesting to see how the widening of I-64 impacts Charles City County. The county will need to rethink some of its efforts to be able to react and respond to the widening project.

Charles City County also wants to be part of a regional public safety communications effort and to continue to be a part of and development of mutual aid agreements.

Hanover County

Mr. Harris said he has worked for Hanover County for over thirty years and has been the CAO for thirteen years. He said he believes that the region's leadership is the strongest of any other area in the country and there are many areas of which the region can be proud.

Mr. Harris said his key concern is public safety. He said he worries whether or not Hanover has enough resources. Hanover is transitioning from a volunteer system to a combined system of volunteers and paid staff. He said volunteers are difficult to find and it is important to be able to meet the demands of the citizens by having enough staff and the right equipment. The demands on the sheriff's department are vastly different today than they were a few years ago. He said the goal of public safety is not to generate revenue but to keep the citizens safe.

Mr. Harris said as with the other jurisdictions, there is concern regarding the state budget as the state is a major funding partner. When the state cannot meet its fair share of demands, more pressure is placed on the localities to make up the difference.

Mr. Harris said another concern in Hanover County is transportation. Secondary road funds are vastly inadequate and it's very difficult for localities to fill that funding gap. He said the localities cannot continue to make up funding discrepancies with local revenue.

New Kent County

Mr. Hathaway said he has been with New Kent County for almost thirteen years and has served as the CAO for about four and a half years. He said his main concern is how to manage growth in the county. New Kent is a small rural county. Over the past ten years, population has steadily increased. The US Census shows New Kent County as having the fifth fastest growth rate in the Commonwealth.

Mr. Hathaway said the New Kent County Board is making broadband one of its top priorities. Currently only about 40 percent of the county is being served by Cox Communications. He said this is becoming more of an issue as all of the middle and high school students in the county have been provided with laptops. Verizon has reached its capacity in the county and is not able to offer additional service. Residents are having to deal with more expensive and less reliable means to access the internet. The county has received a planning grant from DHCD to look at the possibility of bringing a wireless broadband system into the county. He said the county is wrapping up this phase of the grant and will apply for a construction grant next year.

Mr. Hathaway noted that New Kent County is a groundwater community and relies solely on groundwater to meet its needs. The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is moving to transition more and more communities away from groundwater. Alternatives will be for New Kent to purchase water from adjoining communities or to pull water from one of the three surrounding rivers. These alternatives are very expensive for the county's limited budget. If the county wants to continue to grow, these alternatives will need to be carefully considered.

Mr. Hathaway said that the county's school system will be facing some capital needs in the near future – construction of a new elementary school, expansion of the middle school, and renovation of the high school.

Public safety is also an area of concern for New Kent County with regard to staffing and support. Mr. Hathaway noted that I-64 divides the county and provides its own challenges with regard to public safety. He reported that a new public radio station was brought online in the county yesterday.

Mr. Hathaway said transportation is also an issue in New Kent County. Funding has been provided by Hampton Roads to expand I-64 on the eastern border of the county, and VDOT will be expanding I-64 on the western border. He said there will be a need to determine how to address the unimproved portion of I-64 that runs through New Kent County.

As the county continues to grow, Mr. Hathaway said the county cannot continue to rely on residential property taxes to take care of infrastructure and to provide services. The current tax rate is relatively low and many capital projects have been undertaken. In order to keep the tax rate low, Mr. Hathaway said the county is looking toward economic development. He said he hopes the new activity in Virginia's ports will stimulate economic growth and development in the county.

Mr. Hathaway said he would like to thank RRPDC for providing this opportunity and would look forward to additional such discussions.

Goochland County

Mr. Budesky said he's been Goochland County's CAO for about 75 days, noting that he'd previously served as New Kent County's CAO a few years ago and most recently worked with Mr. Harris as a member of his leadership team in Hanover County. He said he values the ability to call on his fellow CAOs/Managers for their knowledge base and their friendship. He said he agrees that the story about how well they all work together is not told often enough, if at all. There are many mutual aid relationships with regard to utilities, public safety, tourism, economic development, and transportation.

Mr. Budesky said his primary concern is public safety and the need to develop a more career-centric staff. Volunteer levels have dropped by 15 percent since 2013. Needing to ensure that the infrastructure can keep up with the demands is also a concern. There are also challenges with border-related 911 calls that need to be addressed.

Goochland is proud that all of its public schools are accredited; however, working within the confines of the composite index is an issue. Mr. Budesky said Goochland County funds about 75 percent of its public education out of its general fund, putting stress on its tax base.

Mr. Budesky noted that about 50 percent of the county's parcels are in the county's land use program. This leaves the county with the remaining base of the 53-cents tax rate to address the service level challenge. The county has good economic development potential, but the county needs to balance its growth.

Even with the median annual income in the county at about \$94 thousand and median home sales at about \$400 thousand, there are pockets of poverty in the county. Mr. Budesky said this creates unique challenges in being able to serve the needs of all of Goochland's citizens.

Route 288 poses its own challenges and those are also a concern for Goochland County. The county relies on VDOT and state funding to maintain its road system.

Mr. Budesky said that Goochland County has one of the highest staff turnover rates in the region. Keeping a quality and talented workforce to manage the programs in the county is a challenge. The county is working toward being more competitive in that area.

Broadband is also an issue, and the county is working with various partners to try to correct the lack of service. In some areas, there will be a need to utilize wireless capability to meet the demand. This is also a public safety concern.

Mr. Budesky said he feels it's important to recognize what the region is doing well and to realize there is the potential to do even more. He thanked members for inviting all of the CAOs/Managers to participate in this discussion.

Chairman Miles thanked everyone for their time and participation. He asked members if there were any questions.

Mr. Fabricant thanked all of the CAOs/Managers for providing such a beautiful region to their citizens. He said it has many good things to offer and he credits the jurisdictions' leadership for making the region what it is today. Mr. Fabricant said he would like to ask the CAOs/Managers what the RRPDC can do to assist them to make the region even better.

Mr. Vithoulkas said he feels the one thing that needs to be communicated is the story of the region instead of having the story told by others. He said the reality is very different from what is being portrayed in the media or through other means. Mr. Vithoulkas said going forward, news about all of the mutual aid agreements and projects needs to be told. The more people who tell the positive story, the better the localities' economic development efforts can compete with other regions. He said traffic congestion is nonexistent when compared to other regions such as Raleigh/Durham. Sports tourism is really expanding in the region and everyone benefits from that expansion and the additional revenue sporting events provide.

Mr. Fabricant suggested that the CAOs/Managers Panel be presented in a more public venue so all of the region's citizens can hear what they have to say.

Mr. Nordvig said heroin is becoming a national epidemic. When he first ran for elected office, he asked Powhatan County's Commonwealth's Attorney what he saw as the county's biggest issue. The reply was heroine. Goochland and Powhatan Counties have partnered to form the Rural Substance Abuse Awareness Coalition (RSAAC). Mr. Nordvig said he's read of other similar efforts in the region. He said he's spoken with Carl Leonard (Chesterfield County Sheriff) about the program that's been started in Chesterfield County. Mr. Nordvig asked how the region can join together to address the heroin epidemic.

Dr. Casey noted that the program Sheriff Leonard is developing addresses addiction after a person has been arrested. He said the problem is multi-faceted – what should be done once a person is in custody within the current programs, including drug courts. Dr. Casey said he felt the state needed to take a leadership role as well to give localities the ability to work together. He said there are many nonprofits working on addiction issues such as the McShin Foundation. Dr. Casey said addicts need a fellow addict to be an accountability partner. He said there are challenges with being forgiving enough to offer employment opportunities. There also needs to be an effort to educate parents on how to recognize warning signs and not to enable a child. Heroin is produced in other parts of the world and there needs to be some recognition that users are funding those operations. Dr. Casey said he's sure his fellow CAOs/Managers would be willing to listen to other ideas on how to address the heroin issue.

Ms. Cuffee-Glenn added that the City of Richmond has recognized this issue is multi-jurisdictional and involves multiple agencies. There needs to be a unified response and a linkage of disciplines.

Mr. Nordvig pointed out that Powhatan County does not have a local hospital and all of the county's drug cases go into Henrico County for treatment. He said he feels there should be a one-stop-shop entity that will bring together all of the resources.

Mr. Holland said another organization dealing with similar issues is Substance Abuse Free Environment (SAFE). He said when he served on the SAFE board, letters were sent to the parents of all school children to offer information on drug abuse.

Mr. Agelasto said that in addition to the McShin Foundation, there is also an organization called The Healing Place. He said he and Mr. Vithoulkas participated in an intake simulation at The Healing Place, which is operated through CARITAS. Mr. Agelasto said both of these organizations offer treatment for men, and noted there is no similar organization in Virginia to offer assistance to women who are addicts.

Mr. Vithoulkas added that heroin alters the brain. The science behind the addiction shows that the brain is forever changed after the drug's use. He said he does not believe there is one solution to the heroin epidemic.

Ms. O'Bannon noted that with so many states legalizing marijuana and relaxing laws relating to its use, countries that produce heroin are increasing production to make up the difference in lost drug revenues. She said some of the heroin producers are lacing the drug with other chemicals that cause irreversible damage. Ms. O'Bannon said efforts need to be taken to keep heroin out of the country.

Ms. Kelly-Wiecek said the way people from outside of the region see the Richmond region has an impact on economic development. She said she sees the Richmond region on an upward trend, but she wonders what top issue the CAOs/Managers might identify that could help boost the region's economic development if that issue could be addressed.

Mr. Harris said he feels that the entire region could benefit from enhanced educational opportunities.

Ms. Shickle said she's been asked to wrap up the discussion, and she would like to thank all of the CAOs/Managers for attending today's meeting. She said they have all been very supportive of her as she's moved into the region and become familiar with the responsibilities of her role as Executive Director.

Ms. Shickle said she has asked all of the CAOs/Managers the same question that Mr. Fabricant asked – what can RRPDC do to take the region to the next level. Conversations will be held over the next few months with the Executive Committee on how to structure future meetings and how to develop the agency's work program so the agency is more supportive to the jurisdictions. She said she found today's conversation helpful to her and

she hopes members have found it useful as discussions continue on the future role of RRPDC. Ms. Shickle said she has heard from the CAOs/Managers that RRPDC should help tell the story of the region. Staff is actively working to identify ways to tell the community at large about all of the positive work being done in the region.

Chairman Miles asked members to join him in thanking all of the CAOs and Managers with a round of applause.

V. OTHER BUSINESS

Chairman Miles said he would like to end today's meeting with a personal story that he would like to be passed along to each of the jurisdiction's public safety departments. He said he and his wife were targeted by scammers on Monday. The scammers telephoned to say that the Miles' youngest son has been in an accident and they needed to send money to help get assistance to their son. Chairman Miles said Henrico County police and the state police were very responsive to his call. Chairman Miles said he has another son who is a state police officer. His son was able to speak with the scammer and when he identified himself as a state police officer, the scammer became verbally abusive.

Chairman Miles said he would like for everyone to be aware of this scam.

Chairman Miles asked if there was any other business to bring before members. No other business was identified.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

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

Martha Shickle
Executive Director

Floyd H. Miles, Sr.
Chairman