

**Commonwealth Regional Council
Farmville, VA 23901
January 5, 2012**

Welcome & Call to Order

The Vice-Chairman called the Meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. at the Commonwealth Regional Council Office located at One Mill Street, Suite 101, Farmville, Virginia.

Invocation

Mr. Bennett gave the invocation.

Approval Of Minutes Of December 1, 2011 Meeting

Mr. Walker moved and Mr. Wingold seconded to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

ROLL CALL

MEMBERS

PRESENT

ABSENT

Amelia:

Mr. Ellsworth J. Bennett
*Mr. Ralph A. Whitaker, Jr.

Mr. Ellsworth J. Bennett
(Vice-Chairman)

Buckingham:

Vacant
*Ms. Rebecca Carter

*Ms. Rebecca Carter

Charlotte:

Mr. Gary Walker
*Mr. Haywood J. Hamlet

Mr. Gary Walker

Cumberland:

Vacant

*Mr. Timothy Kennell

Lunenburg:

Mr. David Wingold
* Mr. T. Wayne Hoover

Mr. David Wingold
(Secretary)

Prince Edward:

Mr. William G. Fore, Jr.
*Mr. Don C. Gantt

Mr. William G. Fore, Jr.
(Chairman/Treasurer)

NOTE: *Denotes Alternates

STAFF

Ms. Mary Hickman, Acting President/CEO
Ms. Melody Foster, Regional Planner
Mr. Todd Fortune, Community Development Planner
Mr. Andre' Gilliam, Community Development Planner
Ms. Barbara Terry, Part-Time Planner

GUEST

Ms. Megan Harris, *The Farmville Herald*

Treasurer's Report

November Financial Statements: The Vice-Chairman stated the December Financial Statement was enclosed in the Council packet for review. Mr. Walker moved and Mr. Wingold seconded to accept the Financial Statement as presented. Motion carried.

Report of Officers & Committees

Chairman's Report: None.

Old Business

President & Staff Reports:

Status Report – CRC Charter Amendments-Attorney General Opinion: Ms. Hickman reported that she had contacted Mr. Josh Leif with the Virginia Attorney General's Office to seek an opinion on whether the CRC can amend its Charter to allow for "other entities" to be members of the CRC. Ms. Hickman stated Mr. Leif has had other pressing matters and has not been able as of this date to provide a determination for the CRC. Ms. Hickman stated she would report back at the January CRC meeting on the matter.

Status Report of Local Request for Prioritization of Transportation Recommendations: Ms. Foster reported that she had received Local Prioritization of Transportation Recommendations from all seven of the PD #14 counties. Ms. Foster stated the CRC's Transportation Committee will be meeting in February to determine Regional Transportation Priorities to be considered by the CRC for adoption. Ms. Foster stated she will be meeting with VDOT representatives prior to the committee meeting to input local priorities into a spreadsheet that includes other VDOT data to help provide scenarios for the Committee to consider.

Status Report – Chesapeake Bay Multi-PDC Planning Grant Contract: Ms. Hickman stated Virginia is in the process of developing the Phase II Chesapeake Bay Implementation Plan for efforts to clean up the Chesapeake Bay. Counties in PD 14 affected by the Chesapeake Bay cleanup include Amelia, Buckingham, Cumberland, Nottoway and Prince Edward. Ms. Hickman noted that she had reported previously that the CRC along with the other affected Planning District Commissions around the State went together and submitted a multi-PDC application to request planning funding to assist localities in this effort. The Multi-PDC's application was successful. The award contract is included in the Council packet for review and authorization for execution. The total amount available to the CRC is

\$9,000. Ms. Hickman also noted that the Middle Peninsula PDC was the lead applicant on the application for the PDC's. Ms. Hickman stated the CRC will provide a limited service that is tied to facilitation and coordination between the localities affected and the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). Ms. Hickman stated the CRC will not be held responsible for the localities decisions or whether they participate in the process or choose not to participate. The CRC's main purpose is to facilitate and coordinate the localities response if provided to DCR. Services will include the CRC conducting and facilitating a meeting of stakeholders. The CRC will also offer technical assistance and act as a liaison between DCR and the localities. The CRC's reimbursement under the MOU will not be affected if a locality chooses not to participate as long as the CRC provided the opportunity for participation. The CRC is currently planning a training workshop for localities with DCR representatives to utilize a computer software tool to assist the localities in developing additional Best Management Practices (BMP's). Ms. Hickman stated the term for the MOU is from the period of October 15 thru February 1, 2012. All local government submissions are due to DCR by February 1st. Ms. Hickman stated since most PDC's had been working with localities prior to the application being submitted, DCR did allow the period for the MOU to back up to October 15th.

Mr. Wingold moved and Mr. Walker seconded to authorize the Acting President/CEO to execute the MOU between the CRC and Middle Peninsula (the lead PDC) for the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation's Chesapeake Bay Regulatory and Accountability Program. Motion carried.

Status Report – CRC Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan Update: Mr. Fortune stated the Final Plan has been sent to the Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM). VDEM has reviewed the Plan and sent it to FEMA for preliminary approval. The Plan will then be sent back to the CRC to send to all the localities for their final approval. This should be completed by the end of March 2012.

Mr. Fortune also reported that because of the Presidential Disaster Declaration related to Hurricane Irene, FEMA has opened up the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program and will be accepting pre-applications now through January 31, 2012. Priority will be given to localities covered by the Disaster Declaration. In PD 14 the counties would include Amelia, Lunenburg and Nottoway. The remaining counties in the State not covered by the Declaration are also eligible to apply but will not receive priority for their application. Information on this program has been sent to all county administrators. Mr. Fortune stated on January 11, 2012, Mr. Robbie Coates, Hazard Mitigation Coordinator with the Virginia Department of Emergency Management will be at the CRC office to present information on how to apply for these funds. The localities have been notified of the meeting.

Status Project Report-Drakes Branch Wastewater System Improvements Project Media Presentation: Ms. Hickman presented a media presentation on the status of the Drakes Branch Wastewater Systems Improvements project. Ms. Hickman stated Drakes Branch was the recipient of a grant from the Southern Rivers Watershed Enhancement Program in the amount of \$499,538 with a total project cost of \$502,538 to be utilized for wastewater treatment upgrade improvements and sewer system rehabilitation. Ms. Hickman stated the Town owns and operates a 80,000 gpd wastewater treatment plant that had effluent discharges into Twitty's Creek. The Department of Environmental Quality declared Twitty's Creek as impaired water in 2008. The Town was also experiencing inflow and infiltration problems. The Town also had no emergency power source for the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Ms. Hickman stated the CRC assisted the town with grant writing services and grant administration services. Ms. Hickman relayed one of the more interesting aspects of

this project was the unique way the contractor addressed the sewer line rehabilitation. A ultraliner pvc alloy pipe liner was fed into the existing lines and then inflated using steam to adhere to the current pipe. The new liner once inflated and cooled down to normal temperature, becomes the new pipe system. This new method eliminates the need to dig up the entire system to replace the pipes. Ms. Hickman showed a short video that was shot by a video camera that was sent through the pipe before and after the installation. The project was completed in June of 2011. The CRC is currently assisting the Town with closeout procedures, per grant funding requirements.

Council Member Comments: There were none.

New Business

President & Staff Reports

Report on Governor's Transportation Conference: Ms. Foster reported that she had attended the Governor's Transportation Conference in Norfolk, December 7-9, 2011. Ms. Foster stated the Governor announced his Transportation Policy and Funding Plan at the Conference. Ms. Foster stated enclosed in the Council members packet was an outline the Governor provided of the Plan. Ms. Foster stated some of the highlights of the Plan included:

- Increasing transportation's share of year-end surpluses to 75%
- Increasing the dedicated transportation allocation of the sales tax from .5% to .75% over the next 8 years.
- Proposing that the first 1% in revenue growth over 5% each year be dedicated to transportation

Ms. Foster stated further the Conference this year highlighted the Port of Virginia due to its expansion over the past several years and also the anticipated opening of new locks in the Panama Canal that will allow larger ships to travel through to ports along the eastern seaboard. Ms. Foster stated she did note that very little was discussed at the conference of Devolution of Roads (the return of secondary roads to localities) in the State system even though this topic has been discussed very often at recent Commonwealth Transportation Board meetings. Ms. Foster stated this will probably be an ongoing issue that will come up in the future.

Report on VTrans2035 Update Regional Forum: Ms. Foster stated VTrans2035 is the State multimodal long-range transportation plan that assesses transportation needs and assigns priorities on a statewide basis. Ms. Foster stated in the past each time this Plan was updated it was occurring during the middle of a Governor's term and therefore, once a governor established policies they would not be able to implement them before their term would end. In 2011 the General Assembly applied a new timeline to the program to allow each administration to develop a VTrans and implement the recommendations during their term of office. VDOT held five regional forums around the State on December 14th connected through a webinar on the VTrans 2035 Update. Ms. Foster stated she attended the Forum held in Lynchburg. The purpose of the Forums was to engage regional planners and transportation providers in discussion of the goals for the VTrans 2035 Update. Ms. Foster stated some of the views that were shared by participants regarding the goals included the need for funding of rural secondary roads, new revenue sources for transportation, priorities listed were too project specific and a need to consolidate statewide planning documents. Ms. Foster stated input from the forum would be shared with the Commonwealth Transportation Board at their January meeting.

VACO Summary – Governor’s Proposed Budget Proposal: Ms. Hickman stated enclosed in the Council members packet was a summary of the Governor’s 2012-2014 Proposed Budget Proposal that was presented on December 19th to the joint money committees of the Virginia General Assembly. Ms. Hickman stated the summary was provided by VACO and was provided for information.

2013 Virginia Outdoor Plan Public Meeting Schedule: Ms. Terry stated the CRC is partnering with the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation to host public input meetings on the 2013 Virginia Outdoor Plan. The Public Input meetings will be held on March 13, 2012 at 3:00 and 7:00 p.m. in the Mill Room which is located in the basement of the CRC office building.

Upcoming Events/Funding Opportunities: Ms. Hickman stated enclosed in the Council members packet was a listing of upcoming events and funding opportunities. A listing was also provided of key dates for the development of the Virginia 2012-214 Biennial Budget. Ms. Hickman stated this was provided for information.

Council Member Comments: None.

Commonwealth Intergovernmental Review Process: No Action.

Other Business: Ms. Hickman handed out to those present a copy of the newly printed CRC FY 2010-2011 Annual Report. Ms. Hickman stated she and staff would begin attending County Board’s of Supervisor meetings in February to present the Annual Reports to elected officials. Ms. Hickman stated staff and herself would also be attending Town Council meetings beginning in March.

Adjournment: Mr. Walker moved that the meeting adjourn at 12:50 p.m. Motion carried.

Mr. David Wingold, Secretary