

**Rappahannock Rapidan Regional Commission
 October 23, 2019 Regular Meeting
 RRRC Board Room
 420 Southridge Parkway Suite 106, Culpeper VA 22701**

MINUTES

	Culpeper County		Town of Culpeper
X	John Egertson		Chris Hively
X	Steven L. Walker	X	Meaghan E. Taylor, Vice-Chair
	Fauquier County		Town of Gordonsville
X	Christopher T. Butler	X	Robert K. Coiner, Chair
X	Paul S. McCulla		Town of Madison
	Madison County		William Lamar
	Charlotte Hoffman		Town of Orange
X	Jack Hobbs		Martha Roby
	Orange County	X	Greg Woods
X	James P. Crozier		Town of Remington
	R. Bryan David	X	Evan H. 'Skeet' Ashby
	Rappahannock County		Town of The Plains
X	Garrey W. Curry, Jr.		Christopher R. Malone
	Roger Welch		Town of Warrenton
			Brandie Schaeffer
		X	Jerry Wood, Treasurer
			Town of Washington
		X	Frederic Catlin

*Others Present: Shannon Holland, Central Virginia Partnership for Economic Development; John McCarthy, Piedmont Environmental Council
 Staff Present: Hunter Berry, Joe Costello, Monica Creel, Michelle Edwards, Patrick Mauney*

- 1. Call to Order**
Chair Robert Coiner called meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.
- 2. Pledge of Allegiance**
- 3. Roll Call & Quorum Determination**
A quorum of the Commission membership was confirmed.
- 4. Agenda Approval**
Upon motion by M Taylor, 2nd by J Crozier, the agenda was approved unanimously.
- 5. Public Comment**
There were no comments from the public.

6. Presentations

a) Presentation: GO Virginia Region 9 Update, Shannon Holland

Chair Coiner welcomed Ms. Shannon Holland, GO Virginia Director with the Central Virginia Partnership for Economic Development, to the meeting. Ms. Holland reviewed the status of the GO Virginia program at the state level and the Region 9 council made up of the Rappahannock-Rapidan region and Thomas Jefferson Planning District region. A copy of the presentation slides will be attached with the approved minutes in the RRRC minutes book.

Ms. Holland shared that since the first grants were approved in 2017, GO Virginia has funded 51 projects statewide at a total of more than \$20 million in funding. In Region 9, projects must meet be focused on target industries and project types outlined in the recently revised regional Growth and Diversification Plan. Projects are focused on talent development, growing existing businesses, innovation/commercialization/ entrepreneurship, and site readiness. Target industries are Financial/Business services, food & beverage manufacturing, information technology & communications, light manufacturing, and biomedical/biotechnology.

Commissioners briefly discussed an upcoming rural entrepreneurship ecosystem study and the need to tie projects in with workforce development opportunities. S Walker and J Crozier asked about the ability to use GO Virginia funds for broadband. Ms. Holland indicated that funds are available for broadband middle-mile projects that improve business conditions based on a recent policy change at the state level, but that details on how to craft such a project are still in development.

7. Approval of Minutes

a) August 28, 2019

Chairman Coiner presented the minutes from the August 28th meeting. J Crozier moved to approve as presented, 2nd by P McCulla. The motion carried unanimously.

8. Intergovernmental Review

There were no intergovernmental review items for consideration.

9. Financial Reports

a) FY2020 YTD Revenues and Expenditures

b) FY 2019 Draft Audit Report

Chair Coiner asked P Mauney to review the financial reports. P Mauney noted that revenues are at 32% of budget and expenses at 24% of budget through the first quarter. Budget adjustments will be presented in December to reflect additional funds received or anticipated for mobility management and the regional housing study.

P Mauney also reviewed the draft RRRC audit that was received earlier in the week. Hard copies were available at the meeting, and digital copies will be sent out following the meeting for Commissioners' review and asked for any comments or questions to be sent as needed. Chair Coiner noted that the Commissioner listing needed to be updated on page 2. P Mauney noted a positive increase of \$23,000 in large part due to the

Chesapeake Bay WIP III funding. Lastly, P Mauney noted that the current auditing firm has been in place for several years and suggested it may be prudent for the Commission to consider putting the audit to bid in the future.

10. Executive Director's Report

P Mauney thanked all who attended the annual meeting and mentioned that the RRRC Annual Report was distributed at the meeting and is posted on our website and will include upcoming budget requests for FY 2021. P Mauney also shared that funding from the Virginia Development Authority (VHDA) was recently approved for the Regional Housing Study and that a Request for Proposals would be distributed for a consultant later in October. P Mauney also referenced a recent Farm to school meeting that had food service directors from all 5 counties & other stakeholders in attendance, with potential opportunities to develop regional farm to school priorities moving forward.

P Mauney also noted that the draft Active Transportation Plan was released for public comment via the RRRC newsletter, website, committees and media contacts. Any comments on the Plan need to be in by November 20th. A final version will be presented for the Commission's consideration in December.

Lastly, P Mauney referenced that RRRC's proposal to the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program for wildfire GIS analysis has passed first round of reviews at state level. Next step is submission to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for review and potential approval.

a) DHCD Annual Report

P Mauney noted that a copy of the agency annual report submitted to the Department of Housing and Community Development was included for Commissioner's reference.

11. Staff Updates

a) Foothills Area Mobility System (FAMS)

Chair Coiner asked P Mauney to review item 11A regarding the Foothills Area Mobility System (FAMS) program. P Mauney provided Commissioners with an overview of the history and funding sources related to FAMS, along with recent changes in federal and state funding impacting the current services coordinated by FAMS and RRRC. A copy of the presentation slides will be attached with the approved minutes in the RRRC minutes book.

P Mauney noted that there are challenges related to the long-term operation of the FAMS Call Center that may necessitate transitioning the current full-time positions to Commission employees from a contractual agreement with the Community Services presently in place. Other options will be discussed with RRCS-AAA, PATH Foundation and other regional partners in the next few months and staff expects to bring a recommendation to the Board in 2020. P Mauney also reviewed the current status of the Foothills Express transit route, stating that officials with the Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) have stated that the route will no longer be funded with current funds, but could turn into a regular transit route for Virginia Regional Transit. RRRC staff

is committed to working with VRT and Culpeper and Madison counties to determine if there is a logical path to continue the route beyond late 2020 when current funding is expended. At that point, RRRC will no longer have a role in the Foothills Express, which will reduce the organization's overall revenue, but have little effect on the agency's financial situation as the funds are entirely pass-through via existing contract with VRT.

b) Chesapeake Bay Watershed Planning Administration

Chair Coiner asked M Edwards to discuss the status of Chesapeake Bay Watershed planning funding. M Edwards reviewed the recently completed WIP III bridge contract outcomes, including outreach, workshops, stakeholder coordination and local funding needs surveys. M Edwards also shared that staff is continuing to negotiate with DEQ for funding to continue through December 2020.

M Edwards also noted that she has recently served on an ad-hoc Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act Workgroup tasked with exploring options to expand the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act beyond the current coastal zone areas. Options discussed included implement capacity changes at the Department of Environmental Quality to address current needs before exploring expansion options; fully extend the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act to the entire Bay watershed; and/or voluntary adoption of the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act by localities outside the coastal zone areas. Consensus amongst the workgroup is to enhance capacity to address existing needs, rather than seek expanded regulation outside the current Preservation Act areas. Staff will continue to update local governments as discussions continue.

12. New Business

a) USDA NRCS Regional Conservation Partnership Program

Chair Coiner asked P Mauney and M Edwards to report on item 12A. P Mauney noted that Regional Commission staff were made aware of an upcoming Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) grant through the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). M Edwards noted that to date, RRRC staff and various partner agencies have held preliminary discussions about a potential application for an RCPP grant focused on the Rappahannock-Rapidan region. These partners include USDA NRCS, Piedmont Environmental Council, John Marshall Soil & Water Conservation District, Friends of the Rappahannock, American Farmland Trust, American Battlefield Trust and the Smithsonian Institution's Virginia Working Landscapes (VWL) initiative. Under the 2018 Federal farm bill, \$300 million per year is available for RCPP funded projects, and it is estimated that a RCPP grant proposal for the RRRC region could request \$3 million, though potential partners continue to evaluate the mix of projects and practices that could be included in the proposal.

Chair Coiner asked John McCarthy to discuss interest from his perspective at Piedmont Environmental Council. Mr. McCarthy noted that the project fits well with regional priorities about agricultural development, farmland preservation, and water quality and that RRRC brings an ability with grant management and coordination that would be beneficial to the application.

J Crozier moved to authorize staff to continue working with partners on an application to the RCPP and for RRRC to serve as lead partner on the application, 2nd by E Ashby. The motion carried unanimously.

13. Closed Session

No closed session was held.

14. Upcoming Meetings

Chair Coiner noted upcoming meetings, including the Commission meeting on December 11th.

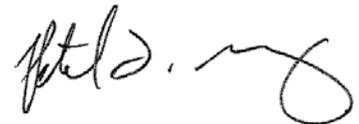
15. Regional Roundtable

Commissioners discussed items of interest from their localities.

16. Adjournment

Chair Coiner adjourned the meeting at 2:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:



Patrick L. Mauney
Secretary & Executive Director

(Drafted by Monica Creel)