

**SOUTHSIDE PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION**  
**Quarterly Meeting**  
**January 25, 2024**

The quarterly virtual meeting of the Southside Planning District Commission (SPDC) was held on January 25, 2024 utilizing ZOOM technology. The meeting was also held in person in the Commission's Conference Room, 200 South Mecklenburg Avenue, South Hill, Virginia. The required public notice and receipt of public comments was provided as outlined in the requirements of electronic meetings.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Tom Tanner called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. Chair Tanner announced that the Commission recently lost four Commissioners as a result of no longer serving on county Boards. A Certificate of Appreciation will be mailed to Bernard Jones, Brunswick County, who served 19 years; John Zubrod, Brunswick County, who served 6 years; Garland Ricketts, Halifax County, who served 27 years; and Charles Jones, Mecklenburg County, who served 3 years. Chair Tanner then introduced three new Commissioners - Dr. Alfonzo Seward and Dr. Barbara Harris with Brunswick County and Keith McDowell with Halifax County. Mecklenburg County will appoint a new Board member at next month's meeting. Chair Tanner extended a warm welcome to the new Commissioners and noted that Director Gosney will soon send a copy of the SPDC Orientation Manual. Chair Tanner then asked staff to introduce themselves to the new Commissioners.

Roll Call and Recognition of Guests - Director Gosney conducted the roll call. With a total of eight (8) Commissioners being present in person and five (5) virtual, a quorum was met for the meeting. David Lipscomb, Vice President of Member/Energy Services with Mecklenburg Electric Coop, was in attendance as the Guest Speaker.

Southside PDC Commissioners

<b>BRUNSWICK COUNTY</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Virtual</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Dr. Alfonzo Seward		X	
Leslie Weddington - Treasurer		X	
Dr. Barbara Jarrett-Harris		X	
<b>HALIFAX COUNTY</b>			
Stanley Brandon			X
William Claiborne		X	
Jerry Lovelace		X	
Keith McDowell	X		
Scott Simpson	X		
<b>MECKLENBURG COUNTY</b>			
Vacant			
Vacant			
Charlie Simmons	X		
Tom Tanner - Chair	X		
Claudia Lundy	X		
<b>SOUTH BOSTON</b>			
Joseph Chandler	X		
George Leonard - Vice Chair	X		
<b>SOUTH HILL</b>			
Kim Callis	X		
Lillie Feggins-Boone			X
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>

Southside PDC Staff

Staff / Titles	Present	Absent	Virtual
Deborah Gosney, Executive Director	X		
Leslie Kubasek, Finance Director/HR	X		
Andy Wells, Director of Local Services	X		
Ashleigh Zincone, Senior Community Planner	X		
Sangi Cooper, Senior Community Planner	X		
Chad Neese, Senior Planner/GIS Specialist	X		
Erika Tanner, Community Planner I	X		
Magen Long, Administrative Assistant	X		

Public Comment Period – No written or public comments were received.

Approval/Modification of Agenda – Chair Tanner asked for any modifications to the agenda. Hearing none, **upon motion by Joseph Chandler, seconded by Claudia Lundy, the Agenda was unanimously approved as presented; the virtual roll call vote was unanimous.**

**MEETING MINUTES**

Chair Tanner noted that the minutes of the October 26, 2023 Annual Dinner Meeting were included in the meeting packet emailed prior to the meeting. He asked for any changes and/or additions. There being none, **upon motion by Kim Callis, seconded by Alfonzo Seward, the October 26, 2023 minutes were unanimously approved; the virtual roll call vote was unanimous.**

**TREASURER’S REPORT**

Treasurer Weddington presented the financial report for the period ending November 30, 2023 as follows: Assets - \$1,543,250.59; Liabilities - \$1,334,147.56; Retained Earnings - \$135,614.89; and Net Balance - \$73,488.10. Expenditures to date totaled \$469,113.69, which is 39.4% of the annual budget. The expenditures are on target for FY24. **Upon motion by George Leonard, seconded by Joseph Chandler, the Treasurer’s Report was unanimously accepted; the virtual roll call vote was unanimous.**

**GUEST SPEAKER**

David Lipscomb, Vice President of Member and Energy Services with Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative, presented an update on the SPDC Regional Fiber Broadband Project that provided current numbers on total fiber installed, number of premises passed, and total dollars invested to date. He noted that additional applications were being submitted to serve CAF-II areas to ensure that all unserved/underserved areas would receive reliable broadband coverage.

**FY24 BUDGET AMENDMENTS REPORT**

Director Gosney reviewed the FY24 Budget Amendment. Revenue brought forward totals \$960,631 and new revenue is \$1,824,596.20 of which \$1,021,883 was deferred to the FY25 Budget. The total FY24 amended budget is \$1,763,344.20 with overall adjustments resulting in an increase of \$488,766.00 in FY24 revenues. Total expenditures remained unchanged at \$1,191,097.56 with a net balance of \$572,246.64. There being no questions or comments received, **upon motion by Joseph Chandler, seconded by Claudia Lundy, the FY24 Budget Amendment was unanimously approved; the virtual role call vote was unanimous.**

**FY23 AUDIT**

Director Gosney reported to the Board that Michael Aukamp with Dunham, Aukamp & Rhodes from Chantilly, Virginia audited the Southside Planning District Commission's books again this year. As the PDC is

the Support Organization and Fiscal Agent for the GO Virginia organization, GO Virginia is included in our audit. Mrs. Gosney informed the Board that the auditor reported that there were no findings or financial/compliance issues. A final audit will be posted on the SPDC website. **Upon motion by Scott Simpson, seconded by Kim Callis, the FY23 Audit was unanimously accepted; the virtual roll call vote was unanimous.**

#### **SOUTHSIDE ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN**

Chad Neese, PDC Senior Planner/GIS Specialist presented the Southside Transportation Plan which contains project specific recommendations aligned with potential funding sources and next steps for each locality; an inventory of existing bicycle, pedestrian, and trail facilities; an overview of the planning process with survey data displayed in interactive dashboards; a list of funding opportunities; regional demographics; and supplemental information that includes crash data, trail counts, health statistics, and economic impacts. The final version of The Pathway Forward was adopted by the Transportation Technical Advisory Committee on January 11, 2024. The plan was respectfully submitted to the SPDC Commissioners for their consideration of adoption. **Upon motion by Joseph Chandler, seconded by Keith McDowell, the Resolution for the Southside Transportation Plan was unanimously adopted; the virtual roll call vote was unanimous.**

#### **SALE OF BB&T BUILDING**

Deborah Gosney, Executive Director, requested the approval of the Commission to proceed with the sale of the existing BB&T Building, 111 East Danville Street, South Hill to the Town of South Hill for \$300,000. South Hill has plans to renovate the structure for the relocation of the South Hill Police Department. Southside Virginia Community College supports the sale of the building and will receive \$175,000 as a donation to be used strictly for workforce training programs as this amount in funding was received from the Tobacco Commission per contract, dated November 16, 2006, to purchase the building. The remaining funds will be restricted and used for PDC needed building repairs. The Town of South Hill has committed to relocating the programs/classes that were being held in the building to nearby locations. **Upon motion by Scott Simpson, seconded by George Leonard, Deborah Gosney was given the authority to proceed with sale of the BB&T by unanimous vote for those attending in person; the virtual roll call vote was as follows – Leslie Weddington-yes, Barbara Jarrett-Harris-yes, Alfonzo Seward-abstained, and William Claiborne-yes.**

#### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Executive Director Gosney reported the following:

Annual Dinner Meeting - The October Annual Dinner Meeting, held at the Berry Hill Resort in South Boston, was well attended with a total of 82 attendees. The upcoming meeting is to be held in Mecklenburg County.

Southeast Crescent Regional Commission – SCRC is one of seven federal regional commissions and authorities authorized by the United States Congress to address instances of major economic distress in certain defined socioeconomic regions. Southside PDC was successfully awarded \$29,000 from the SCRC Local Development District (LDD) Pool of funds.

Travel and Special Events – Director Gosney attended the following: 1) Governor's Summit on Rural Prosperity held in Blackstone; 2) Rural Planning Caucus held at Mountain Lake Lodge in Pembroke; and 3) Virginia Housing Rural Advisory Council Holiday Board Meeting in Richmond. 4) Director Gosney is to attend the upcoming VML/VACo Local Government Day and Evening Reception in early February.

Southside Regional Opioid Abatement Assessment – The Agreement with Virginia Tech to prepare the Opioid Needs Assessment has been executed. A kickoff meeting will be scheduled soon. The Assessment is projected to be completed by the end of the year.

Southside PDC Regional Housing Market Analysis – Local data analysis sheets are projected to be completed this month. Housing Forward Virginia will review the information to develop recommendations and strategies. The Market Study is projected to be completed by the end of the year.

Recent Grant Activity – The Year-in-Review (emailed) details the grant activity for FY24. A total of 21 project applications were approved to date totaling \$24,428,672 in dollars received for the region. To highlight just a few, PDC staff submitted four CDBG applications last June and three of the four were announced by the Governor last month, a total of \$3,769,050 in grant funds received; Chase City, South Hill, and South Boston were the three localities that received CDBG funds this year. PDC Staff also submitted three Tobacco Commission applications and two of the three were approved; Brunswick County and Brodnax are the two localities that received these funds. We currently have eight (8) additional application requests that have been submitted which are pending review and approval.

Project Pipeline – The Active Projects List (emailed) lists all active projects by County in the PDC region including the updated status of each project. PDC staff assistance was provided in applying for and/or administering these projects. To date, staff is currently administering 45 projects that total \$138,071,925 in federal and state funds received for the three-county region.

Next Meeting

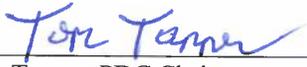
The next PDC meeting is an in-person meeting scheduled for Thursday, April 25, 2024, at noon. Lunch will be provided for Commissioners and Staff in attendance.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

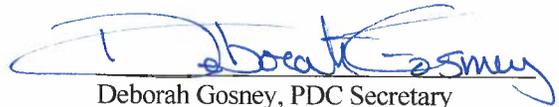
There was no other business presented.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Chair Tanner adjourned the meeting at 1:23 p.m.



Tom Tanner, PDC Chair



Deborah Gosney, PDC Secretary