

SOUTHSIDE PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION
Regular Quarterly Meeting
January 26, 2023

A regular quarterly meeting of the Southside Planning District Commission (SPDC) was held on January 26, 2023, at the Commission’s Conference Room, 200 South Mecklenburg Avenue, South Hill, Virginia. Vice Chair George Leonard called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. This meeting was held in person and by electronic communications, via the Zoom electronic platform. The required public notice and receipt of public comments was provided as outlined in the requirements of electronic meetings. Before starting the agenda, Vice Chair Leonard asked for a moment of silence to remember former Chair Glanzy Spain, who passed away in December; La Crosse Mayor Billy Gill, who passed away in December and was the husband of SPDC’s Administrative Assistant Julie Gill; and Commissioner Charles Jones’ wife who passed away this month.

Director Gosney called the roll. With a total of 13 Commissioners being present in person and virtually, a quorum was met for this meeting. The Roll Call is as follows:

BRUNSWICK COUNTY	Present	Virtual	Absent
Bernard Jones, Sr.	X		
Leslie Weddington – Treasurer		X	
John Zubrod	X		
HALIFAX COUNTY			
Stanley Brandon			X
William Claiborne		X	
Jerry Lovelace		X	
Garland Ricketts	X		
Scott Simpson	X		
MECKLENBURG COUNTY			
M. J. Colgate			X
Charles Jones	X		
Charlie Simmons			X
Tom Tanner – Chair	X		
Vacancy			
SOUTH BOSTON			
Joseph Chandler	X		
George Leonard – Vice Chair	X		

SOUTH HILL	Present	Virtual	Absent
Kim Callis	X		
Lillie Feggins-Boone	X		
TOTAL	10	3	3

Staff in Attendance:

Deborah Gosney, Executive Director
 Andy Wells, GIS & Cartography Manager
 Ashleigh Zincone, Senior Community Planner
 Chad Neese, Senior Planner/GIS Specialist
 Erika Tanner, Community Planner I
 Julie Gill, Administrative Assistant
 Sangi Cooper, Senior Community Planner
 Stephanie Creedle, Finance Director/HR

Guests in Attendance (virtually):

Beth Englehorn, Executive Director/CEO – Southside Behavioral Health
 Wayne Carter, County Administrator – Mecklenburg County
 Carl Espy, Town Manager – Town of Halifax
 Savannah Hall, Town Clark – Town of Alberta

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Vice Chair Leonard asked for public comments. Hearing none, the public comment period was closed.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

UPON MOTION BY JOHN ZUBROD, SECONDED BY JOSEPH CHANDLER, THE AGENDA WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

GUEST SPEAKER

Beth Englehorn, Executive Director/CEO, Southside Behavioral Health was our guest speaker. Ms. Englehorn spoke on the National Opioid Settlement and programs to support Opioid Addiction Recovery.

As a result of the National Opioid Settlement, counties in participating states are and will continue to receive annual allotment payments from opioid distributors/manufactures over the next 16 years. As the annual allocation is not enough to appropriately tackle the opioid issues, Southside PDC County Administrators have agreed to pool these funds, to also include counties outside of the PDC region, in an effort to maximize outcomes. PDC Executive Director has initiated conversations with Southside Behavioral Health and collaboration between the two agencies is underway to identify a potential new program or invest in an existing program to expand services.

UPON MOTION BY CHARLES JONES, SECONDED BY JOSEPH CHANDLER, THE SOUTHSIDE PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR IS AUTHORIZED TO COORDINATE WITH COUNTIES WITHIN THE SPDC REGION AS WELL AS SURROUNDING COUNTIES TO RESEARCH AND DECIDE HOW TO MAXIMIZE THE USE OF NATIONAL OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUNDS.

ELECTION OF CHAIR

The Nominating Committee of the Southside Planning District Commission met on January 12, 2023, to discuss nominations for Chair to be elected to serve the remainder of the 2022-2024 Term left vacant by Glanzy Spain who passed away in December 2022. The Nominating Committee present was comprised of John Zubrod (Chair), Lillie Feggins-Boone, Joseph Chandler, and Garland Ricketts. As Mr. Spain represented Mecklenburg County, the Committee unanimously nominated Tom Tanner, a Mecklenburg County Commissioner, to serve as Chair to fill the unexpired 2022-2024 term. The floor was then opened for additional nominations. No additional nominations were offered.

UPON MOTION BY CHARLES JONES, SECONDED BY KIM CALLIS, THE NOMINATIONS FOR CHAIR WERE CLOSED, AND TOM TANNER WAS ELECTED TO SERVE AS CHAIR FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE 2022-2024 TERM PREVIOUSLY HELD BY GLANZY SPAIN.

CONSENT AGENDA

The Commissioners received the minutes from the previous Commission meeting, dated October 27, 2022, and the Treasurer's Report for the period ending December 31, 2022, prior to today's meeting for review. The Commissioners were asked if any of the Consent Agenda items needed to be moved to regular discussion items. Hearing none, the Consent Agenda items were recommended for approval.

UPON MOTION BY LILLIE FEGGINS-BOONE, SECONDED BY JOHN ZUBROD, THE CONSENT AGENDA WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

FY23 BUDGET AMENDMENTS

Stephanie Creedle, Finance Director, reported on the FY23 proposed Budget Amendments.

Revenues were adjusted as listed below:

- ❖ Revenue Brought Forward From FY22 - \$36,066.69
- ❖ New Revenue Approved - \$484,488.34
- ❖ Deferred Revenue - (\$248,200.00)
- ❖ Interest Income - \$21,000.

Overall adjustments resulted in an increase of **\$293,355.03** in approved FY23 Revenues.

Expenses were adjusted as listed below:

- ❖ Other Direct Cost - Grants - \$50,000.00
- ❖ Indirect Costs - (\$5,440.20)

Overall adjustments resulted in an increase of **\$44,559.80** in FY23 Expenses.

The net increase to the FY23 Amended Budget is **\$248,795.23**.

UPON MOTION BY JOHN ZUBROD, SECONDED BY JOSEPH CHANDLER, THE FY23 BUDGET AMENDMENTS WERE UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

FY22 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 nor financial/compliance issues. Our dues paying members, as well as our funding agencies, receive a copy of the audit each year. The audit is also posted on the SPDC website.

UPON MOTION BY KIM CALLIS, SECONDED BY JOHN ZUBROD, THE FY22 AUDIT WAS UNANIMOUSLY ACCEPTED.

REVISED FY23 RURAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING WORK PROGRAM

The Rural Transportation Planning Work Program between the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) and the PDC is drafted and adopted in April of each year in accordance with the VDOT and Federal Highways Administration (FHWA) requirements. Chad Neese, PDC Senior Planner/GIS Specialist explained to the Board that the budgeted amounts for program activities need to be adjusted to align with actual activities as they have evolved this fiscal year. VDOT is requiring Board approval to make these changes.

UPON MOTION BY CHARLES JONES, SECONDED BY LILLIE FEGGINS-BOONE, THE REVISED FY23 RURAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING WORK PROGRAM WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

ECONOMIC RESILIENCY PLAN

Chad Neese, PDC Senior Planner/GIS Specialist, presented the Economic Resiliency Plan for adoption. Mr. Neese explained that the Resiliency Plan has become an EDA requirement and will be included as an appendix to our current CEDS. EDA states that *"The CEDS provides a critical mechanism to help identify regional vulnerabilities and prevent and/or respond to economic disruptions. Therefore, embracing economic resilience must be a key component of the CEDS document."* To satisfy this requirement, the PDC worked with the CEDS Committee in the development of the Resiliency Plan and created 48 resiliency strategies and grouped them into one of three goals including: 1) Invest in Ourselves, 2) Create Communities of Choice, and 3) Grow Smarter and More Sustainable. As required, the Plan was available for public comment for a 30 day period and shared with the Commissioners, CEDS Committee and localities. To date, all comments received have been addressed. The final Plan was submitted to EDA who noted it to be "thoughtful and thorough."

UPON MOTION BY KIM CALLIS, SECONDED BY GEORGE LEONARD, THE ECONOMIC RESILIENCY PLAN WAS UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED.

REGIONAL BROADBAND FIBER UPDATE

Erika Tanner, PDC Community Planner I, provided an update on the Regional Broadband Fiber Project. To date, all the high-level design for the project has been completed, and the region has been separated into zones. Mrs. Tanner explained how to access the <https://empowermec.net> website where residents can check “Current and Future Eligibility” by entering their addresses to see if they are in the project area and to determine which phase. She also explained how to use the Availability Map to see the "open" zones and the construction phase timeline. As of this month, the project has had 418,756.8 linear feet of fiber installed, 673 passings, and 103 subscribers. EMPOWER now has 3,586 subscribers and 391 applicants. Of the project budget of \$154,959,190.00, the expenditures, as of December 2022, totaled \$7,848,968.09, with a VATI remittance request of \$2,489,829.41 which is currently under DHCD review.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Executive Director Gosney reported on the following:

- Annual Dinner Meeting – The October Annual Dinner Meeting, held at the Brunswick County Conference Center, was well attended with a total of 85 attendees.
- Best Practices – Executive Director Gosney continues to meet with all 15 PDC local government managers quarterly to review the status of current ongoing projects and to discuss future potential projects. Positive feedback is being received.
- Meeting Facilitators – The PDC continues to host and facilitate the Town Managers Quarterly Roundtable and the Lawrenceville Community Stakeholders Meetings. PDC Staff schedules the meetings, develops the agendas, and prepares the follow-up notes.
- Funding Agency Partnerships – The PDC coordinated an in-person visit with Perry Hickman, the new Rural Development State Director, and Anne Herring to meet with staff at the PDC office and share new programs. An in-person meeting was also coordinated with Lauren Stuhldreher, EDA State Representative, to meet with staff at the office. Questions and project ideas were exchanged.
- External Activities – Executive Director Gosney attended: 1) Tobacco Commission Reception in South Boston, 2) Governor’s Summit on Rural Prosperity in Smithfield, Virginia, 3) NADO Annual Training Conference in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 4) VAPDC Leadership Retreat at Berry Hill in Halifax County, and 5) Virginia Economic Summit & Forum on International Trade held in Richmond.
- In-House Trainings – The PDC hosted a Department of Health - Drinking Water Assistance Program Training at the PDC office presented by Tamara Anderson. All Town Managers were invited to attend and several participated.
- Recent Grant Activity – The Year-in-Review, which was emailed in advance of the meeting, details the grant activity for FY23. A total of 13 grants have been approved, to date, totaling \$8,829,055 in grant dollars received. Three CDBG applications were submitted last April and all three were announced by the Governor in November, a total of \$3,548,845 in grant funds with Chase City, Brunswick County and the Town of Halifax receiving these funds. Additionally, all four of the grants that were submitted in October to the Tobacco Commission were approved totaling \$1,939,210 in grant funds.

Currently, 12 additional grant applications have been submitted and are pending review and approval.

- Active Projects List – The Active Projects List includes all active projects in the Region and is organized by County along with an updated status of each project. PDC staff assistance was provided in applying for and/or administering these projects.
- Next Meeting – The next PDC meeting is an in-person meeting scheduled for Thursday, April 27, 2023, at Noon. Lunch will be provided for Commissioners and Staff in attendance.

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

Director Gosney asked County Administrator Leslie Weddington to say a few words about Brunswick Stew Day at the Capitol in Richmond held the day before the Quarterly Meeting. Ms. Weddington stated that Brunswick Stew Day was a huge success with over 1,100 bowls of stew served. Stew Master Kevin Pair and the South of the Meherrin River Stew Crew cooked the stew at the Capitol and were visited by Governor Youngkin, Lieutenant Governor Winsome Sears, and Delegate Tommy Wright. Director Gosney asked others if they had any local news to share. There were no other comments made.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no Other Business.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:05 p.m.



Tom Tanner, Chair SPDC



Deborah Gosney, Secretary