

SOUTHSIDE PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION
Regular Quarterly Meeting
April 27, 2023

A regular quarterly meeting of the Southside Planning District Commission (SPDC) was held on April 27, 2023 at the Commission’s Conference Room, 200 South Mecklenburg Avenue, South Hill, Virginia. Chair Tom Tanner called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

Director Gosney called the roll. With a total of 13 Commissioners being present in person, 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	Present	Virtual	Absent
M. J. Colgate			X
Charles Jones	X		
Claudia Lundy			X
Charlie Simmons	X		
Tom Tanner - Chair	X		
SOUTH BOSTON			
Joseph Chandler	X		
George Leonard – Vice Chair	X		
SOUTH HILL			
Kim Callis	X		
Lillie Feggins-Boone	X		
TOTAL	13	1	3

Staff in Attendance:

Deborah Gosney, Executive Director
Andy Wells, Director of Local Services
Chad Neese, Senior Planner/GIS Specialist
Magen Long, Administrative Assistant
Sangi Cooper, Senior Community Planner
Stephanie Creedle, Finance Director/HR

Guests in Attendance:

No guests were in attendance.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW COMMISSIONER AND STAFF MEMBER

Chair Tanner announced new Commissioner, Claudia Lundy, who will be representing Mecklenburg County. He also introduced the SPDC's new Administrative Assistant Magen Long.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

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

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The January 26, 2023 minutes were previously dispensed to members for review.

UPON MOTION BY CHARLES JONES, SECONDED JOSEPH CHANDLER, THE JANUARY 26, 2023 MINUTES WERE UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Weddington presented the financial report as of March 31, 2023 as follows: Assets, \$1,609,145.93; Liabilities, \$1,419,447.95; Retained Earnings, \$182,136.96; and Net Balance, \$7,561.02. Expenditures to date totaled \$836,262.16, which is 75 percent of the annual budget. The expenditures are on target for FY23.

UPON MOTION BY JOHN ZUBROD, SECONDED BY KIM CALLIS, THE MARCH 31, 2023 TREASURER'S REPORT WAS UNANIMOUSLY ACCEPTED.

FY24 BUDGET

Scott Simpson presented the FY24 Budget, as recommended by the Budget and Finance Committee. Mr. Simpson reviewed the Committee's recommendation and introduced the Committee Members: Kim Callis, Charlie Simmons, George Leonard, Leslie Weddington and himself, serving as Chair. He then asked Finance Director Stephanie Creedle to provide an overview of the FY24 Budget as detailed below.

The FY24 Revenue is as follows:

<u>FY24 Revenue</u>	
Member Jurisdiction Dues	\$ 148,107.20
Revenue Brought Forward	993,300.00
New Revenue Approved	413,171.00
Deferred Revenue	(300,000.00)
Interest Income	<u>20,000.00</u>
Total Revenue	\$1,274,578.20

The FY24 Expenditures are as detailed below:

<u>FY24 Expenditures</u>	
Direct Chargeable Salaries	\$426,525.60
Employee Fringe Benefits	302,365.37
Travel/Per Diem	10,000.00
Other Direct Cost – Grants	60,000.00
Other Direct Cost – S/L	40,000.00
Indirect Costs	<u>337,703.58</u>
Total Revenue	\$1,176,594.54

Ms. Creedle noted that Revenues exceed Expenditures by \$97,983.66.

UPON MOTION BY GEORGE LEONARD, SECONDED BY JOHN ZUBROD, THE FY24 BUDGET WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED WITH ONE CHANGE FROM A 5% COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT TO A 7% COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT.

FY24 MANAGEMENT PLAN

Director Gosney referred Commissioners to the FY24 Management Plan. She gave a brief overview of each section and noted that it serves as the SPDC Work Program each year.

UPON MOTION BY LESLIE WEDDINGTON, SECONDED BY JOSEPH CHANDLER, THE FY24 MANAGEMENT PLAN WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

VDOT RURAL TRANSPORTATION WORK PROGRAM

In FY24, each planning district commission/regional commission, which has rural areas in Virginia, will receive \$58,000 from VDOT’s Rural Transportation Planning Assistance Program, with a required local match of \$14,500 utilizing local government member dues, to conduct rural transportation planning activities.

Senior Planner/GIS Specialist Chad Neese reviewed the list of activities in the proposed FY24 Rural Transportation Planning Assistance Work Program.

Mr. Neese then asked for a Resolution to be passed approving the FY24 Work Program for Rural Transportation Planning and committing the PDC to providing matching funds of \$14,500.

UPON MOTION BY JOHN ZUBROD, SECONDED BY KIM CALLIS, THE FY24 WORK PROGRAM AND RESOLUTION FOR RURAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING WITH A COMMITMENT OF \$14,500 IN MATCHING FUNDS WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

FY24 EDA PLANNING GRANT

The PDC will be invited by the U. S. Department of Commerce – Economic Development Administration to submit an Application for Federal Assistance for a Partnership Planning Program investment. Historically, the Partnership Planning investment is in the amount of \$70,000. The Commission applies for this grant annually which assists with the preparation of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) as well as economic development projects. The PDC must commit to providing matching funds of \$70,000. Local member dues are utilized to meet this match requirement. The invitation is usually received in late May or early June.

UPON MOTION BY GEORGE LEONARD, SECONDED BY CHARLES JONES, THE FY24 EDA PLANNING GRANT APPLICATION WITH A COMMITMENT OF \$70,000 IN MATCHING FUNDS WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

CEDS UPDATE

Senior Planner/GIS Specialist Chad Neese gave an update on the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). Mr. Neese reminded the Commissioners that major updates to the CEDS occurs every five years with the next update being done in 2025; however, annually, staff performs a cursory review. The goals and objectives were reviewed and amended. A CEDS Committee meeting will be scheduled in May to discuss proposed changes and to gather input. Following this meeting, there will be a mandatory 30-day review period in June with any warranted revisions to the CEDS being made. The final updated CEDS will be presented at the July Quarterly Meeting for the Commission’s approval.

CDBG REGIONAL PRIORITIES

Director Gosney stated that each year the DHCD Virginia Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Regional Priorities list must be submitted. Mrs. Gosney presented the proposed priorities to the Commission along with the proposed 2023 CDBG Applications as follows:

Project Types/Activity Categories:

- **Priority 1** – Comprehensive Community Development
 - Housing – Housing Rehabilitation
 - Public Infrastructure
- **Priority 2** – Economic Development – Business District Revitalization
 - Community Service Facility

Proposed 2023 CDBG Applications are:

- South Boston Westside Village Housing Production Project – CIG Project
- South Hill Nicks Lane Comprehensive Project – CIG Project

- Chase City B Street Comprehensive Project, Phase 2 – CIG Project
- Halifax Banister Town Housing Rehab Project – CIG Project
- South Boston Sinai Community Center Project – Planning Grant
- Brunswick County Cleaton Road Housing Rehab Project – Planning Grant
- La Crosse Housing Rehab Project – Planning Grant

UPON MOTION BY CHARLES JONES, SECONDED BY JOSEPH CHANDLER, THE PRIORITIES LIST FOR SUBMISSION TO DHCD WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

SOUTHSIDE REGIONAL FIBER BROADBAND PROJECT UPDATE

Director Gosney gave an update on the Southside Regional Fiber Broadband Project. To date, the following has been accomplished:

- 882,498 linear feet of fiber has been installed.
- 1,237 serviceable passings have been completed.
- 275 current subscribers have been reached.
- 5 remittance requests have been submitted with 3 requests having been paid. To date, the SPDC has requested \$6,304,836.50 to be reimbursed for \$13,903,077.70 in total project expenditures.

The SPDC has also agreed to assist Empower and the Counties of Halifax and Mecklenburg with grant management and closeout on three VATI projects that preceded the Southside Regional Fiber Broadband Project. All three of these projects should be closed out by July 1, 2023. Mrs. Gosney stated that a second VATI application totaling \$29,267,614 was submitted that includes additional unserved areas in the SPDC member counties and Charlotte County but also includes areas in Greenville County. Several challenges by other internet service providers were received that have been accepted; thus, the application’s scope of work was significantly reduced. The rescoped application was submitted to DHCD on December 19, 2022 which will add 4,804 serviceable units which includes Greenville County. The application is pending DHCD review and approval.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Executive Director Gosney reported on the following:

- Funding Agency Partnerships – Southside PDC hosted the Tobacco Commission Roundtable last month at the Colonial Center in South Hill. The new interim Executive Director James Campos was introduced, and valuable community stakeholder input regarding Tobacco Commission programs was presented. The SPDC also hosted the Rural Development (RD) Programs Showcase last month at the Clarksville Community Center. The GO Virginia Region 3 footprint, consisting of 13 counties and 2 cities, was the targeted draw for the event.
- Travel – Executive Director Gosney attended the 1) Southern Virginia Regional Alliance Site Development Reception and Dinner held at IALR in Danville; 2) Federal Reserve “Investing in Rural America” Conference held at the Hotel Roanoke; GO Virginia Support Organization Reception and Retreat in Richmond; and 4) VAPDC Executive Directors’ Meeting in Charlottesville.

- Recent Project Activity – The “Year in Review,” emailed to the Commissioners, details the SPDC’s project activity for FY23. A total of 16 funding requests totaling \$9,877,010 have been approved to date. The Towns of Clarksville and South Hill were recently awarded DEQ ARPA funds for sewer improvement/extension projects. There are currently seven additional application requests that have been submitted and are pending review and approval.
- Opioid Settlement Funds – After many discussions with various agencies, the SPDC is proposing a Needs Assessment be prepared for our three-county region. The Opioid Abatement Authority has Planning Grant funds available on a competitive basis with a deadline of May 5, 2023. A meeting with the three County Administrators was held and all agreed that this is the best approach to identifying the severity of the issue, the current programs in place and what is needed moving forward to treat, prevent and reduce opioid use disorder. Requests for Proposal will be solicited and reviewed to select the best organization/university to prepare the study.
- Active Projects List – The Active Projects List was provided to Commissioners detailing all active projects by County and includes the updated status of each project. PDC Staff assisted in applying and/or administering these projects.
- Next PDC Meeting – The next Quarterly meeting is a virtual meeting scheduled for July 20, 2023 at Noon. Lunch will be provided for those wishing to attend in person.

OTHER BUSINESS

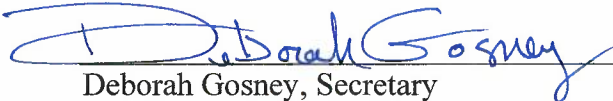
SPDC Treasurer and Brunswick County Administrator Leslie Weddington gave a detailed description of current projects and upcoming events in Brunswick County. Director Gosney also informed the Board that the GO Virginia All Hands Meeting is being held on May 4, 2023 in South Boston.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:02 p.m.



 Tom Tanner, SPDC Chair



 Deborah Gosney, Secretary