

SOUTHSIDE PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION
Regular Quarterly Meeting
January 30, 2025

The Southside Planning District Commission (SPDC) held its regular quarterly virtual meeting on January 30, 2025, at the Commission's Conference Room, 200 South Mecklenburg Avenue, South Hill, Virginia.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Tanner called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. Director Gosney called the roll. A total of 11 Commissioners attended in person, and one attended remotely. A quorum was met for this meeting. The Roll Call is as follows:

Brunswick County	Present	Virtual	Absent
Dr. Alfonzo Seward			X
Leslie Weddington -Treasurer			X
Dr. Barbara Jarrett-Harris			X
Halifax County			
Stanley Brandon			X
William Claiborne	X		
Jerry Lovelace	X		
Keith McDowell	X		
Scott Simpson	X		
Mecklenburg County			
Joe Cappaert	X		
Charlie Simmons	X		
Kirk Gravitt		X	
Claudia Lundy			X
Tom Tanner - Chair	X		
South Boston			
Joseph Chandler	X		
George Leonard – Vice Chair	X		
South Hill			
Kim Callis-Past Chair	X		
Lillie Feggins-Boone	X		
TOTAL	11	1	5

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE

Deborah Gosney, Executive Director
 Ashleigh Zincone, Senior Community Planner
 Andy Wells, Director of Local Services
 Chad Neese, Senior Planner/GIS Specialist
 Erika Tanner, Community Planner II
 Leslie Kubasek, Finance Director/HR

GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE

David Lipscomb, Vice President of Member/Energy Services with Mecklenburg Electric Co-op, was in attendance as the Guest Speaker.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair Tanner asked for additions to the agenda. Hearing none, JOSEPH CHANDLER MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED, SECONDED BY LILLIE FEGGINS-BOONE, THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Tanner reported that October 10th, 2024, minutes were included in the packets previously emailed to members for review. Chair Tanner asked for any changes and/or additions. JOSEPH CHANDLER MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE OCTOBER 10th, 2024, MINUTES AS PRESENTED, SECONDED BY LILLIE FEGGINS BOONE, THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

TREASURERS REPORT

Executive Director Gosney presented the December 31st, 2024, financial report as follows: Assets, \$1,918,427.34; Liabilities, \$1,386,371.85; Retained Earnings, \$405,590.61; and Net Balance, \$229,822.51. Expenditures for the year to date totaled \$558,393.04, which was 48% of the annual budget. JOSEPH CHANDLER MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE DECEMBER 31ST, 2024 TREASURER'S REPORT AS PRESENTED, SECONDED BY LILLIE FEGGINS-BOONE, THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

BUDGET OVERVIEW

Finance Director Leslie Kubasek presented the FY25 revenue of \$467,050.00- this is for informational purposes and is not an exact representation of the figures.

FY24 AUDIT

Director Gosney reported to the board that Michael Aukamp with Durham, Aukamp & Rhodes from Chantilly, Virginia performed the FY24 audit of Southside PDC. As the PDC also serves as the Support Organization and Fiscal Agent for GO Virginia Region 3, the financial transactions of GO Virginia were included in the audit report. There were no findings or financial/compliance issues identified. A final audit will be posted on the PDC website. UPON MOTION BY KIM CALLIS, SECONDED BY LILLIE FEGGINS BOONE, THE FY24 AUDIT WAS UNANIMOUSLY ACCEPTED.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES

Andy Wells, Director of Local Services, presented on SPDC's Local Government Services projects and programs. He outlined the nature and significance of these services, explaining their importance to both the PDC and the locality. He also provided an overview of current projects and discussed the benefits and challenges associated with this type of PDC service. Additionally, he highlighted the key characteristics of effective local government services provided by the PDC.

HOUSING SUMMIT UPDATE

Mrs. Tanner informed the Commission that the Southside Regional Housing Summit was scheduled to be held on February 6th at the Estes Center in Chase City. She reminded the Board that a couple of years ago, she requested support to apply for funding to conduct a Regional Housing Market Analysis. Over the last two years, she has worked closely with the Virginia Center for Housing Research at Virginia Tech and Housing Forward Virginia to develop the Market Analysis, which is now complete. She intends to present the completed Analysis at the Summit along with presentations on local opportunities from the Counties and Towns, presentations from funding agencies on funding opportunities to support housing development, a presentation from the Chief Economist from Virginia Realtors, and a panel with local housing experts. The Housing Summit received a \$10,000 sponsorship from Virginia Housing, and Mrs. Tanner expects the Summit to sell all 100 tickets.

CEDS UPDATE

Senior Planner/GIS Specialist Chad Neese provided an update on the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). He provided an overview of the CEDS, the Committee members working on the update, the project timeline, and the results of a SWOT Analysis that was held on January 13th and led by Douglas Jackson from DHCD.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Recent Project Activity - Southside PDC offers grant writing and administrative services to all 15 jurisdictions that are within the District's geographic footprint. A total of six (6) project applications were approved to date, totaling \$5,386,546; an additional thirteen (13) applications have been submitted that are pending review. Southside PDC Staff are currently administering 56 projects that total \$148,636,583 in federal and state funds received throughout the three-county region.
- Conferences and Meetings – Executive Director Gosney and Director of Local Services Andy Wells attended The NADO Annual Training Conference held in New Orleans the end of October, and the Governor's Summit on Rural Prosperity held in Wytheville, VA in late October.

Executive Director Gosney attended the 1) Virginia Housing Focus Group Statewide Strategic Plan Input Session, 2) Virginia Housing Rural Advisory Council Holiday Meeting in Richmond, 3) Tobacco Commission Strategic Input Session in Danville, and 4) VACO Local Government Day and Reception in Richmond.

- Annual Meeting- This year's annual dinner meeting, held on Thursday, October 10th, was jointly hosted by Mecklenburg County/South Hill. The meeting was held at The Dogwood in South Hill, with guest speaker Bill Leighty, Managing Partner with DecideSmart. A total of 84 colleagues and guests attended.

- PDC Opioid Study- The study is complete. The Counties agreed to issue an RFP to encourage community feedback on funding suggestions for the expenditure of opioid abatement funds. The RFP was issued on January 22nd, 2025.
- Commission of Electric Utility Regulation (CEUR) – THE EUR is seeking assistance from the PDC's across the state to prepare the energy plans as required for the Virginia Clean Economy Act. VADPC responded to the letter, there are shared concerns from the PDC's that more time is needed to prepare the plan, and additional funds are needed to prepare the plan. Updates will be given as additional information is received.
- SPDC Office Building- The office building has been successfully transferred from Lake Country Development Corporation to Southside PDC.
- Next PDC Meeting- The July meeting is an in-person meeting scheduled for April 24th, 2025, at noon. Lunch will be provided.

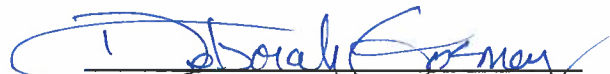
OTHER BUSINESS

Executive Direct Gosney requested feedback from the counties: how can SPDC provide support in 2025.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:15 p.m.


Tom Tanner, PDC Chair


Deborah Gosney, PDC Secretary