

Region 8 Planning and Development Council

Thursday, November 17, 2011 ~ 12:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Daniel Hileman, Region 8 PDC Chairman, called the meeting to order at approximately 12:30 P.M.

PREVIOUS MINUTES

A motion was made by Joan Ashley to approve minutes for October 2011. The motion was seconded by Grady Bradfield. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS

- A letter dated August 1, 2011 from Gary Michael, Mayor – City of Petersburg, appointing Donnalie Hope as his representative to the Regional Council.
- A letter dated October 18, 2011 from Tiffany Parker – Substance Abuse Prevention Coordinator for the Potomac Highlands, announcing that Grant County is planning a Town Hall Meeting on November 1, 2011 from 6-8 p.m. at the Landis Arts Center, Petersburg.
- A flyer announcing the Eastern West Virginia Community and Technical College's Technology Training Center's Open House on Thursday, November 3, 2011 from 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.
- An e-mail dated November 4, 2011 Melissa Merritt, Conservation Specialist – WV Conservation Agency announcing an upcoming water-quality interest meeting to discuss the community's concerns about water quality in the South Branch River Watershed.
- An e-mail dated November 14, 2011 from Laura Brown, Associate – RLS & Associates, Inc., transmitting the Regional Coordinated Transportation Plan Update for review and adoption.

REPORTS

Treasurer's Report

In lieu of a Treasurer's Report, an agency balance sheet and agency-wide line item revenues and expenditures sheet was provided to members in their information packets.

BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS

Regional Transportation Plan

Members were provided a copy of the Regional Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan Update for review. J. Douglas Carter, Executive Director – Potomac Valley Transit spoke to Council members about the importance of having this plan in place to aid agencies in obtaining funding. He pointed out that Region 8 PDC was the lead in writing the plan in 2007. RLS & Associates, Dayton, OH has prepared this year's update. An update is prepared every four years. Agencies such as Committee's on Aging, Potomac Highland's Guild, and Valley Medical Transport are required to be included in the plan to receive federal assistance. The plan must be adopted to be valid. Mr. Carter concluded by stating that PVTA is not affected by the plan although the agency did participate in its creation and update.

Terry recommended that Council members review the document and consider adopting a resolution at the next meeting. Chairman Hileman tabled the topic until the December 15 meeting.

Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant

The Council previously approved a \$50,000 EECBG for the City of Romney. The project includes the removal of existing HVAC system and install one 3-ton heat pump, one 4-ton heat pump, related controls, wiring, and thermostats. The City is responsible for replacing all duct work, additional duct work, cold air returns, and increase attic insulation. The City is requesting to expand the Change of Scope to include insulation and caulk at an additional cost of \$650. Members were provided a copy of the proposal from Royal Aire.

Bob Horan made a motion to approve the Change of Scope to include the additional funds. Dave Parker seconded. Motion carried.

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Exercise

Terry reported that the draft CEDS Update is now available online at www.regioneight.org and at local libraries for public review. Members were also provided a copy in their meeting packet. The review period will end December 13. Public meetings are scheduled for November 29 at 2:00 p.m. at the Mineral County Courthouse Commission room and November 30 at 6:00 p.m. at Region 8 PDC conference room. The Council has received a few comments that will be incorporated into the report. The final document is due to the Economic Development Administration by December 29. The document will be available at the December 15th meeting for final review and approval.

Priority Projects List

As part of developing the Council's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy the Council's staff prepares a priority project list by collecting information through requests and formal contact and public meetings. The projects are evaluated using a rating system that treated similar projects in the same manner and is based on EDA's five investment principles. The rating system addresses the following:

- Is the project supported by a study or market analysis?
- Are other funds committed to the project?
- Does the project support economic diversification and change?
- Will the project cause direct investment of private capital?
- Does the project have a high probability of success?
- Will the project lead to higher paying jobs?
- Will the project make a return on the public investment?
- Does the project create the potential for economic growth?
- Is there an urgent need for the project?

The rating system favors:

- Projects that support job creation over projects that improve the quality of life.
- Projects that address issues that significantly impact life over projects that make a community a better place to live.
- Projects with the potential to serve a wide area over localized projects.
- Projects that are fully developed over projects that are still in a planning stage.
- Projects that have funding commitments over projects that must find all needed funds.

The regional council reviews, finalizes, and adopts the priority list. The Council can revise the list at any time and the list does not control funding. Highly rated projects are not assured of funding. Projects at the bottom of the list have been and will be funded. Relative placement is more important than absolute placement. However, EDA wants to see its projects near the top of the list. A project's place on the list does not impact the resources that the PDC staff will commit to the project. Terry recommended that the Council review and consider the priority projects list. Then at the December meeting be prepared to make any final changes and adopt the list along with the annual CEDS update report.

Upper Potomac Area Agency on Aging

The State's four Area Agencies on Aging recently submitted a proposal to the Bureau of Medical Services to participate in a new program under the Bureau designed to transition disabled individuals from an institutional setting (nursing homes, etc.) into the community. The program, titled "Take Me Home WV", is part of the Bureau's 5-year *Money Follows The Person* demonstration grant through Centers for Medicaid and Medicare. Their goal is to transition 600 individual in the five year period.

Scott Gossard, Executive Director – UPAAA, offered a summary of the program. This program is designed to transition disabled individuals from a nursing home back into the community. Once it is determined that the individual can safely make the transition, they will be monitored up to 12 months. There are also separate funds available to the individual to assist with housing costs and goods/services beyond what is paid by Medicaid.

The program's service area will cover the same 26 counties that the Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) serves. Scott noted that the program will create two full-time and one part-time position. There will be start-up funds available for hiring and training staff.

Legislative Luncheon

Terry noted that in previous years the PDC has hosted a Legislative Luncheon during the first full week in January. Last year the event was held at the South Branch Inn, Moorefield. The PDC invited Hardy County Chamber of Commerce members and provided lunch for approximately 75 people. This event has outgrown the South Branch Inn facility. The Landes Arts Center in Petersburg is a larger facility that can hold up to 400 people. This makes it possible for the PDC to invite Chamber of Commerce members from all five counties. As a cost savings, the event would become a "Legislative Reception". Berkeley County Chamber of Commerce hosts a Legislative Luncheon each year, one day after Region 8 PDC. This year their event is scheduled for Friday, January 6. Thursday, January 5 would be the date should the Council wish to continue with the event.

At the conclusion of discussion, Joan Ashley made a motion to continue with the event with reception type food and invite Chamber of Commerce members from all five counties. Jim Twigg seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Joan Ashley then motioned that the staff look into two locations (Potomac State College and Landes Arts Center) and choose the one most appropriate for this event. Jim Twigg seconded the motion. Motion carried.

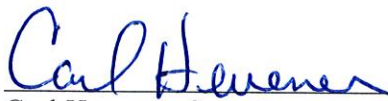
Director's Update

Terry reported that due to lack of funding, he has laid-off Richard Wheeler, Loan Specialist. His employment will end November 30. The duties of the EECBG, 604(b) Water Quality program and the loan programs will be picked up between Angie Curl, Pam Keplinger, and himself.

Teresa Green-Longley, LSW, Program Manager – Transitional Housing Center prepared a letter for Council members describing the program. A copy of the letter is attached.

ADJOURNMENT

Jim Twigg made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Grady Bradfield seconded motion. The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:30 p.m.



Carl Hevener, Secretary


Stacey Heavner, Executive Assistant