

Meeting Minutes
Roanoke Valley Allegheny Regional Comprehensive Economic
Development Strategy Committee

November 20, 2008
3:00 PM, Greenfield Education and Training Center
57 South Center Drive
Daleville, VA 24083

Committee Members:

Present:

Kevin Boggess, Stephanie Brown, Darlene Burcham, Stephanie Clark, Richard Flora, Teresa Hammond, Ken Lanford, Hal Mabe, David Moorman (on behalf of Gerald Burgess), Steve Mullins, Tracey Shiflett, Chuck Simpson, Anne Stanley, Mark Stockwell, John Strutner, Mark Taylor, Brenda Walker, Joyce Waugh, Hunter Young

Absent:

Don Assaid, Carl Brinkley, Ione Callender, John Doane, Beth Doughty, Jennifer Durling, Rob Erdman, Carolyn Fidler, Byron Foley, Jay Foster, James Houff, Gary Keener, Chris Lawrence, Michael Maxey, Joseph McNamara, Dan O'Donnell, Kevin Persinger, David Preston, David Price, David Trinkle, Doloris Vest, Rebecca Walter, Terri Workman.

Others present:

Diane Akers, President, ComBiz Solutions
Jim Griffith, Verizon
Terry Hall, Appalachian Power
David Kleppinger, Alleghany Highlands Economic Development Corporation
Wayne G. Strickland, Executive Director, RVARC
John Hull, Regional Economic Resources Planner, RVARC
Laura Williams, Economic Development Specialist, RVARC

Proceedings:

-Meeting called to order at 3:08

Welcome and Introductions:

-Mr. Wayne Strickland welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for coming. He gave a brief review of what the CEDS Committee had already accomplished and an overview of the next few steps ahead for the CEDS Committee and CEDS Document.

Presentations:

-Mr. John Hull presented a power point of the project evaluation and ranking process. He explained how each project was prioritized by the sub-committee using the criteria that the committee had approved in the previous meeting.

-Mr. Hull then presented an action plan which included a list of top ten or “vital” projects and a short explanation of each. He also noted that the list of vital projects is a requirement for CEDS documents funded by the US Economic Development Administration and the list will likely change each year as projects move forward and are completed. Mr. Hull also thanked the sub-committee that worked on ranking the projects for their support of this effort. Mr. Hull commented that any project listed in the ranking is eligible for EDA funding regardless of whether or not it is listed in the “vital” projects listing.

The complete presentation has been attached to these minutes.

Comments/Questions:

-Mr. Mark Taylor asked about the process of the ranking and if there would be an opportunity for any committee member to object to the ranking.

-Mr. Hull responded that if there were any objections to the ranking he would open up the floor for any comments or motions.

-Mr. Strickland commented that each of these projects were given a score based on the criteria that was approved and thus this was a mathematical approach not just a subjective ranking by the sub-committee.

-Mr. Mark Stockwell asked if top ten projects could be expected to be funded by the EDA.

-Mr. Strickland responded that while there is no guarantee, each of the vital projects are of the type that the EDA would typically fund.

-Mr. Griffith asked if the ranking criteria the sub-committee used for prioritization is similar to the criteria the EDA uses.

-Mr. Hull stated that much of the criteria used in ranking the projects are also used by the EDA.

-Mr. Stockwell asked what the process would be if one of the top ten is no longer relevant.

-Mr. Hull replied that if a project was deemed irrelevant in a future year, then that project would be removed and every other project on the listing would then move up one ranking. He noted that an Annual Report will be produced at the end of each year which will include a new prioritized list of projects and the list will change as the projects move forward.

-Mr. Strickland asked the committee, if over the past few months in reviewing the project listing, was there anything that should be listed in the top ten that was not.

-Ms. Darlene Burcham commented that she was surprised passenger rail did not receive a higher priority. She stated that the transportation systems in the region were limited and that this is a problem for the region. She added that improvements are needed to accommodate the additional infrastructure of passenger rail and these could be EDA projects. Ms. Burcham also said that

having additional transportation systems would help the economy of the entire region. She asked why this particular project had been ranked so low.

-Mr. Hull responded that the passenger rail project would not likely be EDA eligible and Roanoke city does not currently meet distress-based funding eligibility guidelines. This affected the rank it was given among the other projects that are EDA eligible.

-Mr. Hull then presented the public meeting and survey results. He encouraged the committee members to read the public meeting packet to see the actual comments from the public.

Metrics/Action Plan:

-Ms. Diane Akers presented the action plan to the committee. She stated that there has been a lot of research put into the action plan and metrics; including looking at benchmark CEDS documents. Ms. Akers explained that the metrics and action plan are the methods we will use to evaluate our progress with the CEDS at the end of each year and throughout the process.

The complete presentation has been attached to these minutes.

Comments/Questions:

-Mr. Stockwell asked how many projects the committee could expect to be funded by the EDA.

-Mr. Hull responded that it's a very competitive process but his expectation would be that 2-3 infrastructure projects could be funded within the next 5 years through a variety of funding sources.

-Ms. Stephanie Clark asked if grant funding had to be matched from the localities.

-Mr. Hull responded that as with most federal projects, localities would need to provide a 50% match to the federal funding. It is likely that state funding could be used to help match what is needed for federal funding.

-Mr. Strickland took some time to explain the process of getting a project funded and moving it forward for those of the committee who had not worked with grants before noting that no project can involve more than 80% federal funding and that typically no more than 50% of a project's funding can originate from any federal source. He also mentioned that the CEDS does not obligate any of the participating locality's to make expenditures.

Nominating a Chair and Vice Chair:

-Mr. Hull explained the process by which the sub-committee nominated the Chair and Vice Chair noting that the subcommittee held a teleconference with RVARC staff and made nominations. He presented the two nominations: Mr. Ken Lanford for the position of Chair and Mark Taylor for the position of Vice Chair.

The suggestion of the Nominating Subcommittee was entered as a motion which was seconded by Ms. Joyce Waugh.

The Committee unanimously approved the motion.

-Mr. Hull presented the next steps in the process of the CEDS document noting that a draft of the CEDS document would be provided to Committee members by mid-December and that the Committee should plan to consider that draft in January to forward to the Regional Commission board in February.

The complete presentation has been attached to these minutes.

-Mr. Hull then asked the committee if Thursday, January 8, 2009 would work for the next committee meeting.

There were no objections from the committee.

-Committee tentatively set next meeting for January 8, 2009 and asked staff of RVARC to send a full announcement of the meeting date, location and time.

Chairman Lanford asked if there were any motions to approve the prioritized project listing as presented by the staff.

The motion to approve the prioritized project package was made by Mark Taylor and seconded by David Kleppinger.

The motion was unanimously approved by the committee.

-Mr. Hull thanked the committee members for attending the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 4:10 PM

Minutes submitted by Laura Williams, Economic Development Specialist.

Website: <http://www.regionalstrategy.org>