

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Roanoke Valley – Alleghany Regional Commission**  
**Development Strategy Committee**

March 19, 2009  
3:00 PM, Greenfield Education and Training Center  
57 South Center Drive  
Daleville, VA 24083

**Committee Members:**

Present: Kevin Boggess, Carl Brinkley, Ione Callender, Consuella Caudill (representing Chris Lawrence), Stephanie Clark, Richard Flora, Byron Foley, Jay Foster, Teresa Hammond, Kenneth Lanford, Michael Maxey, David Price, Anne Stanley, John Strutner, Spencer Suter (representing Gerald Burgess), Mark Taylor, Brenda Walker, Rebecca Walter, Hunter Young

Absent: Don Assaid, Stephanie Brown, Darlene Burcham, John Doane, Beth Doughty, Jennifer Durling, Rob Erdman, Carolyn Fidler, James Houff, Gary Keener, Hal Mabe, Joseph McNamara, Steve Mullins, Dan O'Donnell, Kevin Persinger, David Preston, David Price, Chuck Simpson, Tracey Shiflett, Mark Stockwell, John Strutner, David Trinkle, Doloris Vest, Joyce Waugh.

**Others Present:**

Terry Hall, Appalachian Power  
Katherine Holcomb, Virginia Employment Commission  
Jill Loope, Roanoke County Economic Development  
John M. Hull, RVARC  
David Kleppinger  
Wayne Strickland

**Proceedings:**

-Meeting called to order at 3:02 PM

*Welcome and Introductions:*

-Chairman Ken Lanford welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for their attendance. He asked everyone in attendance to introduce themselves.

*Update on Roanoke Valley – Alleghany Regional CEDS Approval Process:*

Mr. John Hull with the Roanoke Valley –Alleghany Regional Commission presented on the RVAR CEDS approval process. He reported that following the CEDS Committee's approval of the CEDS Document, it was forwarded to the Regional Commission for consideration in its

February meeting. The Commission approved the CEDS strategy on February 26, 2009. Mr. Hull reported that the final draft was provided to the Economic Development Representative for Virginia who works in the Philadelphia Region Office and who will be responsible for forwarding the document on to other appropriate staff in the EDA Regional Office for approvals. Mr. Hull noted that EDA staff has had a draft form of the Roanoke Valley – Alleghany Regional CEDS in its possession since December. Mr. Hull wanted to thank the Committee for its tremendous show of support of the CEDS process. Many members provided letters of support. He noted that 9 letters of support were provided by local government. Private businesses provided 11 letters and there were also letters provided by chambers of commerce, economic development organizations, and other organizations.

Mr. Hull noted that EDA staff has informed him that the region's first annual CEDS report will be due one year from the EDA's acceptance date of the CEDS document. He mentioned EDA acceptance will then allow application for eligible projects to the EDA funding sources.

Mr. Hull noted that information on eligibility by locality has been presented in the past based on the EDA's eligibility criteria. He noted that these criteria based on unemployment and per capita income are not the sole criteria and that other localities not meeting strict unemployment and per capita income based criteria may potentially apply if there is a special need (underemployment, sustained outmigration, or a distressed neighborhood/area within a locality). It was noted that Alleghany County (including the Town of Clifton Forge), the City of Covington, and Craig County do meet the EDA's distress criteria based on per capita income. He encouraged localities to contact him when ready to discuss grant applications for projects.

#### *Update on American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds for CEDS Implementation*

Mr. Hull gave a presentation on funding available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The entire presentation is attached to the minutes.

Mr. Hull encouraged any locality that is ready to proceed with a project to contact him. He noted that a discussion with the EDA's Virginia Economic Development Representative can quickly determine whether the project is eligible.

#### *Report on Designation as an Economic Development District*

Mr. Hull reported that the Regional Commission has set achieving official US Economic Development Administration designation as an Economic Development District as one of the goals in its strategic plan. He noted that the most important benefit is that it allows local governments that do not meet specific distress criteria to make application to the EDA for projects that will benefit distressed populations elsewhere in the district. He noted that the

region will meet most requirements for designation once the CEDS is approved. He noted that staff of the RVARC has contacted the Governor and requested a letter concurring with the RVARC's designation as an EDD.

Mr. Hull noted that is not sure what a realistic timeframe may be for achieving designation and that it depends somewhat on EDA funding levels for planning support. He stated that he hoped to achieve designation within a year.

#### *Discussion of RVARC Planning Assistance/CEDS Implementation Plans for Upcoming Year*

The following is the meeting schedule for the 2009 year:

March 19, 2009, 3PM-4:30PM, Greenfield Education and Training Center, Expanded Seminar

June 18, 2009, 3 PM-4:30PM, Greenfield Education and Training Center, Expanded Seminar

September 17, 2009, 3 PM-4:30PM, Greenfield Education and Training Center, Expanded Seminar

December 17, 2009, 3 PM-4:30PM, Greenfield Education and Training Center, Expanded Seminar

Mr. Hull noted that the committee will need to consider reprioritizing the project listing between December and February to prepare for the first annual update and report. He asked that localities send along project updates as projects move forward and as projects are completed.

Mr. Hull noted that beginning in March 2010 the RVARC staff will compile a regional data update with data at both the regional and local level as a part of its regular services. This data should be considered by the committee in considering revisions to regional goals and objectives when working with the RVARC staff on updating the CEDS document and preparing annual reports to send to EDA.

Mr. Hull noted that the RVARC staff does have time budgeted under the EDA Planning Assistance grant to assist localities with grant applications and with project development. He asked localities that please also remember that the RVARC has time budgeted to assist with demographic and economic data research and analysis.

#### *Discussion of Projects/Project Updates*

Chairman Lanford asked if there are any project updates or information on new projects.

Mr. Wayne Strickland noted that there is an ongoing discussion with Region 2000 in Lynchburg on collaborating on a Regional Innovation Grant to the Department of Labor. He noted that one meeting has already been held involving the planning districts, community colleges, and workforce investment boards. He noted that he will keep the committee informed as the initiative moves forward.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 PM.