

**REGION 2000 LOCAL GOVERNMENT COUNCIL MEETING**

Region 2000 Partnership Offices  
828 Main Street, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor  
August 16, 2007  
5:00p.m.

**PRESENT:**

Mayor Rudy Burgess..... Altavista  
Waverly Coggsdale.....Altavista  
Mayor Joan Foster.....City of Lynchburg  
Eddie Gunter, Jr.....Campbell County  
Kathleen Guzi.....Bedford County  
Jack Hobbs.....Town of Amherst  
John Sharp.....Bedford County  
John Spencer (representing Aileen Ferguson)..... Appomattox County  
Harold Swisher.....Town of Amherst  
Rodney Taylor.....County of Amherst

**ABSENT:**

Joyce Bennett.....Town of Appomattox  
Phyllis Campbell.....Town of Brookneal  
Samuel Carter.....Appomattox County  
Lee Cobb.....Economic Development Council  
David Garrett.....Town of Appomattox  
Charles Kolakowski.....Bedford City  
David Laurrell.....Campbell County  
Kimball Payne.....City of Lynchburg  
Ray Vandall.....County of Amherst

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Bob Bailey.....CAER  
Traci Blido.....Region 2000 Partnership  
April Branton.....Local Government Council  
Gary Christie.....Local Government Council  
Chris Dumond.....Lynchburg News and Daily Advance  
Danny Inge.....Workforce Investment Board  
Jeff Kessler.....VDOT  
Rosalie Majerus.....Local Government Council  
Bob White.....Local Government Council

**1. WELCOME**

Chairman John Sharp welcomed attendees and introduced Chris Dumond from the News and Advance. Mr. Sharp asked if there would be any objections to opening the meeting with a moment of silence. No one voiced an objection and a moment of silence was held.

**2. RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION FOR EDDIE GUNTER, JR. AND HIS SERVICE AS CHAIRMAN DURING FY 08.**

Upon a motion by Kathleen Guzi, seconded by Jack Hobbs, the Council unanimously approved the attached resolution and authorized the Secretary to record the resolution in the permanent records of the Council.

**3. INTRODUCTION OF APRIL BRANTON, GIS COORDINATOR PROJECT MANAGER**

Executive Director Gary Christie introduced April Branton as the new GIS Coordinator. April noted that she was previously on the staff of Mathews County working with GIS and planning and she has moved to the Altavista area. April also reported that she is working on digitizing tax parcel maps for Amherst and Appomattox County and has developed an on-line process for these jurisdictions to check parcel map accuracy.

**4. UPDATE ON THE CENTER FOR ADVANCED ENGINEERING AND RESEARCH FROM BOB BAILEY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CAER**

Bob Bailey gave an overview of activities related to CAER. He noted that it will be important for the CAER to establish partnerships with knowledge creative organizations, specifically universities with Research and Development capabilities. Mr. Bailed pointed out that master research agreements have been signed with Virginia Tech to bring faculty to our region to work with our local businesses. A similar agreement is being worked on with the University of Virginia. An agreement with Liberty University is in place to use the wireless testing building (electromagnetic compatibility lab left by Erickson) which should be up and running in a month or so. Ongoing discussions are underway with James Madison University, William and Mary, NASA Langley, Oak Ridge National Labs and Jefferson Labs. Our two major emphases are on the nuclear industry and wireless technology.

The CAER will work to find and facilitate research projects between local industry and these universities. We have completed one project to date and have four other projects currently underway.

CAER will also work to foster commercialization of local products and technologies. CAER also plans to provide physical infrastructure where research and development can take place by developing a facility here in Region 2000 which will house labs and facilities for faculty and research staff. This facility will provide space for commercialization of creative knowledge, not unlike what is done for businesses at the small business development center.

CAER will research and seek out other grant funding, including Federal Grants, for the development of projects and the operation of the facility.

Finally, CAER will work to improve the educational opportunities for science and technology here in Region 2000. That will mean partnering with CVCC on their new engineering program with UVA, encouraging the development of graduate engineering opportunities, including the merger of the Center for Advanced Engineering and their connections to graduate level engineering classes with the CAER.

Mr. Bailey suggested that the LGC and local officials could offer letters support when CAER applies for funding opportunities. We want to establish an entrepreneurial culture in Region 2000 which encourages the growth of small to medium sized companies. These companies always need physical infrastructure which comes from localities so that localities should be on the lookout for opportunities to add additional infrastructure that will support these new technology based businesses.

In response to a question related to the sustainability of CAER, Bailey noted that there are models around the country where, in 15-20 years, research operations such as CAER can be sustained through the research work, licenses and royalties and not be as dependant on public subsidies. A center that supports this knowledge innovation can be, to some degree over time, supported by the revenues of the innovations that come forward. However, he noted that it does take a long time to generate the cash flow from the market based initiatives.

Mr. Bailey noted that CAER is managed as a 501 (C) organization with a Board of Directors of business and technology leaders and regional economic development officials.

Upon a motion by Kathleen Guzi, seconded by Eddie Gunter, Jr., the Local Government Council unanimously agreed to approve the Center for Advanced Engineering as a partner in the Virginia's Region 2000 Partnership.

## **5. WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**

Danny Inge, Executive Director of the Workforce Development Board, presented a 2008 Strategic Plan for workforce development. He noted that the plan outlined both state and regional goals for workforce development.

~~Acting as the Chief Elected Local Officials of Region 2000, Mr. Eddie Gunter, Jr. made a motion, seconded by Mr. John Sharp, to authorize the Chairman to sign the 2007-2008 Strategic Plan.~~

Mr. Eddie Gunter, Jr. made a motion, seconded by Mr. John Sharp, to authorize the chairman to sign the 2007-2008 Strategic Plan. The motion was unanimously approved by the Chief Local Elected Officials acting as the Region 2000 CLEOs.

Mr. Inge thanked the members of the Council for their support in contacting Governor Kaine encouraging him to retain the existing workforce development area for our region. State workforce officials have established a committee of workforce development board chairs and directors to develop some alternative proposals.

**6. ROANOKE RIVER BASIN ADVISORY COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS**

Upon a motion by Kathleen Guzi, seconded by Eddie Gunter, Jr., the Council unanimously agreed to recommend the following names to serve on the Roanoke River Basin Advisory Committee:

Joel Carnefix, 104 Chestnut Drive, Appomattox  
Mark Wagner, 5068 Dundee Road, Huddleston  
Rick Youngblood of 425 Dearborn Rd, Evington

**7. UPDATE ON THE SOLID WASTE AND SERVICES AUTHORITY**

LGC Deputy Director Bob White reported that four jurisdictions (Campbell and Nelson Counties and Bedford and Lynchburg Cities) have agreed to form a services authority and two other jurisdictions (Amherst and Appomattox Counties) are considering joining. Mr. White reported that Clarke Gibson, formerly Public Works Director for the City of Bedford, has been hired as the Solid Waste Director and he will start work on September 10th. Mr. White noted that the goal continues to be that the Authority will be operational and accepting trash by the summer of 2008.

Amherst County Administrator Rodney Taylor explained that the Amherst County Board had asked the Authority to consider operating two landfills due to concerns about the amount of traffic that might be generated if at any time the landfill becomes the predominate landfill for the region. Mr. Taylor reported that the consultants had estimated a cost of \$67,000 annually to operate the landfill and that this was acceptable to the county.

Mr. Taylor further noted that the operating agreement allows out of the region waste to be accepted by the Authority and did not specify that the Amherst Landfill could only accept trash from Amherst and Nelson Counties. The Amherst Board is now evaluating this language and would be more comfortable if this language can be changed.

**8. RESOLUTION TO APPLY FOR VDOT'S RURAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ON-CALL CONSULTING SERVICES PROGRAM**

Upon a motion by Jack Hobbs, seconded by Kathleen Guzi, the Council voted unanimously to authorize the Chairman to sign a resolution applying for VDOT's On-Call Consulting services for Appomattox County.

**9. UPDATE ON RURAL LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLANNING**

Mr. Bob White updated the Council that VDOT is now requiring a regional planning process for the rural portion of our area in a similar way that a regional long range plan is required for the urban area. LGC staff has been working with local planning officials in developing that plan. Data gathering occurred last year and this year we will do analysis and goal setting for the plan. In FY 09 there will be a public outreach effort to communicate the plan and hear comments on the specific recommendations. In FY 2010 we will see a call for localities to endorse the plan. VDOT's efforts to develop a long range rural plan in part seek to better coordinate land use planning and transportation development.

**10. FINANCIAL REPORT**

Rosalie Majerus presented the financial statement through June 30, 2007 and noted that, although we had budgeted to end the year in a deficit, we actually ended the year with an estimated \$22,500 surplus. This in part was due to hiring the GIS staff member in mid-year, in part due to additional interest income and in part because some move costs were delayed since the move didn't occur until the last part of the year.

Mrs. Majerus reported no unusual revenues or expenditures had occurred since the April Council meeting.

Upon a motion by Kathleen Guzi, seconded by Mayor Joan Foster, FY 07 Supplemental Appropriation 07-013 which documents additional revenue and expenses for projects we received this year was unanimously approved.

**11. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF APRIL 19, 2007**

Upon a motion by Eddie Gunter, Jr., seconded by Jack Hobbs, the Council approved the April 19, 2007 minutes as presented.

**12. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S UPDATE**

Executive Director Gary Christie asked Council members to encourage new Bedford City Mayor Skip Tharp to join the organization or appoint a designee to the organization.

Also re-introduced was Traci Blido, Communications Officer with the Partnership who reported that she is working on a Marketing Video about the region designed to help local businesses attract and retain workers.

Mr. Christie noted that the move is complete from the Galleria building and offered staff's appreciation of the Council's support for the upgraded offices and parking.

**13. WORK SESSION**

Mr. Christie asked the Council to have a few members assist in planning for a strategic planning session. Mayor Joan Foster and Kathleen Guzi offered to help. It was also suggested that we ask David Laurell if he would serve on this ad hoc committee.

The Council thought early January might be a good time to hold this work session if we could avoid inclement weather.

**14. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Chairman Sharp adjourned the meeting at 6:15 p.m.

**Attachment- Resolution of Appreciation for Mr. Eddie Gunter, Jr.**

# *Eddie Gunter, Jr.*

## **Virginia's Region 2000 Local Government Council**

*Whereas*, Eddie Gunter, Jr. has served as Chairman of the Local Government Council from July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2007, and

*Whereas*, under Mr. Gunter's leadership the Local Government Council built the framework for the creation of a Regional Services Authority whose first project will be regionalizing solid waste disposal services for many Region 2000 member jurisdictions with the Local Government Council providing important operations and coordination services to the Authority, and

*Whereas*, under Mr. Gunter's leadership the Local Government Council successfully created a coalition of twelve political jurisdictions and four utility service authorities to build a truly regional source water plan for the long range provision of drinking water for the residents and businesses of Region 2000 and were recognized by the Department of Environmental Quality with two grants of over \$60,000 to help offset some of the costs of the development of the regional plan, and

*Whereas*, under Mr. Gunter's leadership the Local Government Council helped Appomattox County and Town receive grants from the Virginia Department of Transportation, the Tobacco Commission and the National Park Service for pedestrian planning, corridor studies along Route 460, development of a tourism attraction at the Battle of Appomattox Station, and the creation of a satellite campus of the Central Virginia Community College, and

*Whereas*, under Mr. Gunter's leadership the Local Government Council helped Amherst County and Town with a Virginia Department of Transportation Enhancement grant in the Town of Amherst and a Department of Housing and Community Development Planning Grant in Old Town Madison Heights and provided technical assistance on comprehensive plans, and

*Whereas*, under Mr. Gunter's leadership the Local Government Council assisted Campbell County and the Towns of Brookneal and Altavista with grants from the Virginia Department of Rehabilitative Services to help access for the disabled, the Department of Transportation for an Enhancement grant, and the Department of Housing and Community Development for Downtown Planning grants, and

*Whereas*, under Mr. Gunter's leadership the Local Government Council assisted Bedford County and Bedford City with a county wide transit analysis and technical assistance with planning projects, and

*Whereas*, under Mr. Gunter's leadership the Local Government Council assisted the City of Lynchburg with transportation planning services, participation on the City's Tourism review committee, TMDL development, and VDOT Enhancement grant writing services, and

*Whereas*, under Mr. Gunter's leadership both the Governor and Lieutenant Governor of the Commonwealth met in Lynchburg with leaders of Region 2000 to encourage the Council to continue efforts in regional cooperation, and

*Whereas*, Mr. Gunter represented the Local Government Council as a member of the Region 2000 Partnership's Coordinating Committee and the Partnership grew with the addition of the Young Professionals of Central Virginia, a shared Communications Officer position and relocated to new and professional office space where all of the Partner organizations can better share resources and improve our capability of working together.

*Now therefore be it resolved* that the Local Government Council expresses our sincere appreciation to Mr. Gunter for his service as Chairman of the Council and

*Further* resolves to instruct the Council Secretary to include this resolution as part of the Council minutes.

**ATTESTED BY:**

**CERTIFIED BY:**

---

**Gary F. Christie, Secretary**  
Virginia's Region 2000 Local  
Government Council

---

**John Sharp, Chairman**  
Virginia's Region 2000 Local  
Government Council