

THOMAS JEFFERSON PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION
Draft Minutes of December 4, 2008 Meeting

City of Charlottesville

David E. Brown
Jason Pearson, Treasurer

Albemarle County

Sally H. Thomas
Ann H. Mallek

Fluvanna County

Charles W. Allbaugh, Vice Chair
Chris Fairchild

Greene County

Jeri Allen
Carl Schmitt

Louisa County

Fitzgerald Barnes
Jackson Wright

Nelson County

Fred Boger
Connie Brennan, Chair

Commissioners Present:

David Brown, Charlottesville
Sally Thomas – Albemarle County
Ann Mallek – Albemarle County
Charles Allbaugh – Fluvanna County
Chris Fairchild – Fluvanna County
Jeri Allen – Greene County
Fitzgerald Barnes—Louisa County
Fred Boger – Nelson County
Connie Brennan – Nelson County

Guests Present:

Grant Tate, former Commissioner
Tim Castillo, Nelson Co. Service
Authority
Bar Delk, Louisa Co. Water Authority
Richard Havasy, Louisa BOS
Charles Rasnick, Project Manager,
Virginia Dept of Transportation
Dan Rudge, Chief of Planning, DRPT
Joseph Springer, Parsons
Vladimir Gavrilocic, Renaissance
Planning Group

Commissioners Absent:

Jason Pearson – Charlottesville
Carl Schmitt – Greene County
Jack Wright – Louisa County

Staff Present:

David Blount, Legislative Liaison
Melissa Barlow, Director of Trans Pgrms
Rochelle Garwood, Sr. Planner, Env.
Don Reed, Chief Financial Officer
Will Cockrell, Transportation Planner

Call to Order: Chair Connie Brennan called the meeting to order.

Matters from the Public: Former Commissioner Grant Tate spoke about the qualifications and background of Chris Fairchild, his successor representing Fluvanna on the Commission.

Introduce New Commissioner: Charles Allbaugh introduced Chris Fairchild as the new Commissioner representing Fluvanna and Chris also expressed his appreciation at being a Commission member (Charles and Chris were late arrivals to the meeting).

Introduce New Staff: Will Cockrell introduced himself as a new Planner II at the TJPDC. Will comes to us from the Louisa County Planning Department and also has worked for the City of Charlottesville.

Consent Agenda:

Minutes: On a motion by David Brown, seconded by Fred Boger, the Commission approved the minutes of the November 6, 2008 meeting as submitted, with Connie Brennan and Fitzgerald Barnes abstaining.

December IGRs: Staff briefly commented on the two IGRs before the Commission concerning New Cabell Hall and the Wintergreen Mountain Sewage Treatment Plant. Tim Castillo from the Nelson County Service Authority said that some previous concerns about stream volume concerning this permit had been favorably addressed. **On a motion by Fred Boger, seconded by Jeri Allen, the Commission approved IGR FY09-18 and FY09-19**, as submitted.

FY09-01: Staff briefly highlighted the recent discussions and concerns expressed by Louisa County about Commission action, in the form of a letter to Department of Environmental Quality, following its October 2 discussion on this IGR concerning a permit reissuance for the Zion Crossroads Wastewater Treatment Plant. Staff noted that the State Water Control Board had approved the permit application earlier in the day. Commissioner Barnes stated that the County had several concerns; one, that a lot of misinformation was being spread about the treatment plant, and that Louisa should have been contacted for input before the letter went out. He stated that the plant is a key to the success of Zion Crossroads. Louisa County Water Authority Director Bar Delk expressed his disappointment that his staff was not contacted either, and provided information to clarify or correct each of the bulleted points contained in the letter to DEQ. Louisa BOS member Richard Havasy provided additional information in reaction to several of the bulleted items. He stated that the letter lacked research, study and investigation, and he urged the Commission to ensure that they have better research in the future. Mr. Barnes indicated that a result of this situation, Louisa membership in the PDC at this time is very fragile. He also noted that the DEQ letter could cause legal problems for the County should there be a future lawsuit over the treatment plant. Mr. Havasy stated that Louisa would like a letter of apology to the BOS for not contacting them and for not investigating this properly.

Commissioners expressed that they were more comfortable with the treatment plant's operation after hearing the testimony and information from the Louisa officials, though acknowledged that there was some valid information contained in the letter to DEQ. Commissioners also discussed how to improve the way IGRs are handled in the future so that localities are informed of their contents and when the Commission will discuss them. The Commission directed that staff, in the future, send all chief administrative officers of localities in the region the IGRs that will be discussed at the next Commission meeting, and that any response letters sent by the Commission also be copied to the chief administrative officer of any affected locality. The Commissioners discussed what should be included in a letter to Louisa County. It was agreed that the letter should include an apology for not contacting Louisa officials and for directing action without their representatives present at the meeting, that the Commission was comfortable with the permit having been reissued, and that additional steps (noted above) will be taken to get input on IGRs in the future. The Commission agreed to send a letter to DEQ stating it was comfortable with action taken to reissue the permit. Staff was asked to draft the letters and circulate them among Commissioners for concurrence before forwarding them to Louisa County and DEQ under the Commission Chair's signature.

Commissioner Roundtable: The Commission reviewed a list of suggested topics for the Commissioner Roundtable discussion at its January meeting. It agreed to have "Hazardous Waste" as the topic for the next roundtable, to include discussion from each locality about what they are doing in this area and the challenges/issues faced.

StreamWatch: StreamWatch Director John Murphy gave an overview of the work of "StreamWatch," an ecological monitoring program, and its citizen volunteers in conducting biological surveys at various sites throughout the Rivanna River watershed. The group collects and analyzes samples of invertebrates that dwell on stream bottoms for indicators of stream health. He explained that ranges of index scores represent various degrees of a stream's biological health. He noted that stream health is affected by the likes of population, current development and agriculture activities, and

that approximately three-quarters of the Rivanna basin's streams fail the state's aquatic life water quality standard. StreamWatch also is engaged in a land use study in conjunction with the Rivanna River Basin Commission.

29 Corridor Study: Charles Rasnick, VDOT's project manager for the Route 29 Corridor study, presented the Commission with a handout that provided background information on the study and plans to develop three tiers of recommendations. He noted that while several different segments of the corridor had been examined in the past, this was the first study to focus on the entire corridor. He outlined plans to develop a short-term (10-year) action plan to address safety issues and recommend improvements in transit/rail/freight and congestion mitigation. He also said development of local access management plans would be part of this step. Next, interim (10 to 20 years) recommendations would build on the short-term action plan. This may include a requirement that localities amend their comprehensive plans to limit access points to the corridor. Finally, a blueprint for the corridor would be a multimodal vision plan to build on common concerns and provide additional capacity along the corridor. Joe Springer with Parsons distributed a project timeline. He noted that this study was not a highly-technical study, but was intended to focus on getting conversations going among communities along the corridor. Presently, the project is conducting a listening tour and plans to conduct regional meetings with the public starting in February. Four larger forums are being planned for March, where preliminary recommendations will be presented. Following additional examination over the summer, final recommendations are expected to be ready in September. The team hopes to secure resolutions of support for the study from localities along Rt. 29 at that time, and then present its report to the Commonwealth Transportation Board in November. Commissioners raised various questions about previous Rt. 29 studies, rail/freight traffic, access management/alternative networks and the budget for the study project.

Financial Reports: Don Reed reviewed financial reports for the quarter ending September 30, 2008. He noted revenue over expenditures for the quarter in excess of \$21,000 and stated he expects that figure to total between \$35,000 and \$50,000 by the end of the second quarter. He pointed out several areas where there low billable hours were contributing to the shortfall and noted expenses related to the annual audit and the executive director search. He also noted several areas where pass-through funding was declining. Commissioners raised several questions about the current fiscal year budget, which will be addressed to the Acting Executive Director at a future time. **On a motion by Charles Allbaugh, seconded by David Brown, the Commission accepted the financial reports,** with Fitzgerald Barnes abstaining.

Executive Director Search: The Commission Chair indicated that the Selection Commission was still in discussion with the top candidates and that they expected to have more information to relay in the next week or so.

Other Business: Given that the first Thursday in January is New Year's Day, the Commission agreed to hold its January meeting on the second Thursday of the month, which is January 8.

Adjournment: There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.