

Chief Local Elected Officials Consortium

**Vinton Municipal Building, Vinton, VA
Wednesday, May 30, 2007**

Minutes

A. Call to Order

Board Chair **Darlene Burcham** called the meeting to order at 11 a.m.

B. Roll Call

Sherry Dean called the roll. Members present:

Darlene Burcham, City of Roanoke
David Moorman for Gerald Burgess, Botetourt County
John Chambliss for Elmer Hodge, Roanoke County
Clare Collins, City of Covington
Rick Huff, Franklin County
Forest Jones, City of Salem
John Strutner, Alleghany County

Members absent:

Richard Flora, Craig County

Staff present:

Doloris Vest, president
Sherry Dean, office administrator/accountant

Visitors present:

Wayne Flippen, Chair, Western Virginia Workforce Development Board
Harrison Scott, Mayor, City of Covington
Claytis Nicely, Chair, Alleghany County Board of Supervisors

A quorum was present.

C. Approval of Consent Agenda

Mr. Huff moved to accept the consent agenda (Minutes from the July 22, 2006 meeting).
Ms. Collins seconded. The motion was passed on a voice vote.

D. Staff Report

Ms. Vest reported on the following:

1. **Relocation of Roanoke Workforce Center:** The Commonwealth's Department of General Service is seeking to consolidate state agency locations, including the regional office of the Department of Rehabilitative Service and is interested in co-locating staff with Virginia Employment Commission staff from the Roanoke Workforce Center. In April the state officials and local workforce board staff toured the Atlantic Mutual building on Route 419 in Roanoke County; the site did not meet current workforce center needs. A second site visit, to Crossroads Mall will happen June 1. Ms. Vest stressed the state's primary objective is to reduce lease costs; developing a comprehensive one-stop is secondary. The current workforce center location at Valley View is becoming more expensive; that lease expires in 2009. As the board and center partners move toward resource sharing agreements, whereby all partners in a workforce center share the cost of building operations, it must be decided how to fairly charge the

various partners. **Mr. Flippen** noted that while the Valley View center is adequate, improvements can be made and the Board's goal is to have a much improved workforce center. **Ms. Burcham** noted the city is concerned that disadvantaged individuals have access to the workforce center but that it seems the state's general service department is more interested in the tenets needs and not the needs of the people they are serving.

2. **State Compliance Review:** The state's compliance auditor reviewed the Board's records and did not report any findings. Ms. Burcham instructed Ms. Vest to forward a copy of the state auditor's written report to the CLEO members when available.
3. The board earned a \$50,000 incentive grant for exceeding 16 and meeting the 17th performance measure. For PY2006, although the state is having issues with their computerized tracking system on performance measures, Area III is on track to be in the running for incentive dollars for this year as well.

E. Old Business

1. **Future Meeting Time, Date, Format:** It was agreed to hold future meetings the hour before the bi-monthly mayors and chairs meeting; if there is not enough meeting material for a significant agenda the meeting would be cancelled.
2. **Realignment of Virginia Workforce Areas:** Ms. Vest reported recent developments concerning realignment of local workforce areas. The Governor's Office on Workforce Development (GOWD) believes the local workforce areas are working well as configured, in part because there is not enough business involvement. Senior Advisor for Workforce Development, Danny LaBlanc, also believes that consolidation will result in reduced cost. GOWD was to have formed a steering committee to make recommendations on consolidation; however now the Virginia Workforce Council is expected to provide guidance for realignment.

One proposal uses a map created in 2005 by the Council for Virginia Futures combining workforce areas based on MSA (Metropolitan Statistical Area), labor market, economic clusters and community college structure. Certain areas seem appropriate for consolidation – Richmond (Areas 9 and 10), Northern Virginia (Areas 11 and 12) and Norfolk/Hampton Roads (Areas 15 and 16). The plan also proposes larger, more rural areas, such as combining Area 7 (Lynchburg) with part of Area 3 (Roanoke Valley and Franklin County) and the New River Valley portion of Area 2. Alleghany County and Covington, now part of Area 3, would be merged into the Shenandoah Valley WIB. This would create an expansive workforce area extending from Glenn Lynn to Appomattox. After a 30 day comment period, if the state council recommends these realignments to the governor for approval no general assembly action is required. Ms. Vest believes the state workforce area realignment will be up for public comment at the Virginia Workforce Council meeting June 25 and 26 in Danville. The WVDDB has written a letter to Mr. LeBlanc to inform him that Area III is operating well and does not need to be realigned. Workforce areas were formed voluntarily and still have legal standing but the governor is head of workforce and can determine the areas.

After discussion, the CLEO members requested that Ms. Vest contact other board executive directors in the western part of the state and develop a position paper to include information on populations, area issues, needs, etc. so that the CLEOs of these regions may be able to band together and present their case to the state against realignment.

F. New Business

1. **Board Appointments & Reappointments:** Ms. Vest presented the following nominees for consideration to fill current vacancies:
 - a. **Joseph Brinley**, JATP-International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, representing (labor union, expires 2009)
 - b. **Melody Stovall**, Self-Sufficiency Director, Roanoke Redevelopment & Housing Authority (HUD Programs, expires 2009)
 - c. **Wayne Strickland**, Executive Director, Roanoke Valley Alleghany Regional Commission (economic development/business, expires 2010)

And for reappointment

- d. **Walter Harper**, Owner/President; Harper's Plumbing Co. (business Franklin County, expires 2010)
- e. **Joyce Kessinger**, Human Resources Manager, Boxley Materials Company (business, Botetourt County, expires 2010)
- f. **Paul Paradzinski**, U.S. Forestry Service (Ret); (Craig County, expires 2010)
- g. **Richard Teaff**, President, Dabney S. Lancaster Community College (post secondary education, business, expires 2010)

Ms. Burcham asked the Consortium to fill the economic development vacancy with a staff member of the Roanoke Valley Economic Development Partnership. She reported that Partnership Executive Director Phil Sparks suggested **Robert Ledger**, the Partnership's director of business development, for the vacancy.

Forest Jones moved to appoint as board members a revised slate of nominees, substituting Mr. Ledger for Mr. Strickland. Mr. Huff seconded and the motion passed on a voice vote.

- 2. **Program Year 2007 Budget:** Ms. Vest presented an estimated budget based on the state's reported budget reductions from the federal government. The state will not issue actual allocation amounts until May 31st. Ms. Vest noted that, due to continued annual funding reductions, the Board will consider applying for local grant funds in the future. If the localities view workforce as beneficial they may want to consider funding workforce functions in the future.

G. Announcements

Next Meeting: July 2007; date to be determined

H. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at noon.

Doloris E Vest

Doloris Vest, president

June 15, 2007

Date