

MPA Board Meeting Minutes

December 12, 2018

6:30PM – 8:30PM

125 Bowden Street, Saluda, VA 23149

Meeting Goals: **LEARN:** *JobsEQ VEDP Marketing* **ACT:** *Legislative Dinner;
GO Virginia applications*

I. Call to Order – Travis Moskalski

Board Members present: Lawrence Simpkins, Travis Moskalski, Roy Gladding, Lewie Lawrence, Ashley Chriscoe, Wayne Jessie, Amy Dubois, Rob Akers

Board Members absent: Keith Hodges

Staff: Liz Povar, Beth Johnson, Dawn Mantell

II. Approval of October Minutes* – Motion was made by Ashley Chriscoe and seconded by Wayne Jessie to approve the minutes from the October meeting. Motion carried.

III. Approval of Financial Report* – Beth Johnson presented the Financial Report for November. Motion was made by Rob Akers and seconded by Ashley Chriscoe to accept the financial report as presented. Motion carried.

IV. Learning Topic – *JobsEQ Web Demo* with Kyle West of Chmura Economics – Demonstration was rescheduled to next meeting due to technical difficulties.

V. Principal Officer Update* (in packet) – No report

VI. Open Issues/Old Business

a) Committee Reports –

- i. **Investor Status*** – Travis Moskalski reported the outreach to investors has slowed down, conversations are continuing with target investors and ideas from the Board are welcome. Liz Povar presented several ideas and brought the Board's attention to the current investor status. It was the consensus of the Board to increase marketing with a video telling the story of the MPA and hosting an event inviting potential investors.
- ii. **Tourism Committee *** (in packet) – Chairman Roy Gladding reported the application for Marketing Leverage grant from Virginia Tourism Corporation has been submitted. VTC will make announcements of grant winners in January. The MPA applied for \$7500, matched 1:1 by public and private partners in the Region.
- iii. **LEDO Committee *** (in packet) – Liz Povar, reported the second annual ThanksPartners Holiday Lunch Reception held on November 15th at Rappahannock Restaurant in Richmond was well attended. All localities were represented and 42 state partner representatives were present, which was a

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27% increase from last year. The purpose of this event was relationship-building and to say thank you to our state partners for their support during the year. The LEDO team will discuss hosting this event again next year.

- iv. Workforce Committee * (in packet) – Ashley Chriscoe reported the Workforce Committee has the opportunity to partner with RCC on a specific application. Governor Northam has allocated \$5 million of federal workforce discretionary funds to support the redesign of Virginia’s Community College system. Each college will compete for funds used to rethink how they will do business and support students as well as current and future companies. Each college will receive a minimum of \$100,000 and a maximum of \$500,000. RCC will be writing a proposal that will improve its already exemplary health program and help students acquire stackable credentials. The plan, if accepted will provide many of the Middle Peninsula healthcare businesses with skilled labor and provide increased opportunities for our students to gain employment and stay in the region. RCC may ask for support from the MPA and for assistance obtaining letters of support from local businesses.
- v. Small Business Committee (in packet) – No report. Liz Povar reported there was a request from the Small Business Administration to find locations in the Middle Peninsula for workshops.
- vi. PamunkeyNet Update* (in packet) – Liz Povar provided the draft Request for Qualifications which included input from Indian tribal associations nationally that have been involved with broadband, as former leaders of state agencies (Secretary of Technology; Broadband Advisor) and members of the Advisory Committee. The Board agreed to submit the draft Request for Qualifications as presented. A Review Committee will be formed and comprised of (at least) Chief Gray, Lewie Lawrence, Former Secretary of Technology Karen Jackson, (2) members of the Advisory Committee and an MPA Board member. This Committee will be charged with reviewing and evaluating responses.
- vii. MPPAA/MPA Collaboration – Liz Povar explained how the assets of the MPPAA can assist with the Go Virginia application.

VII. New Business

- a. Legislative Dinner – Liz Povar noted that most regional development organizations host their legislators for a thank-you event during the Legislative Session. The Board decided to wait until the Legislators were out of session, possibly Summer 2019.
- b. Go Virginia applications: Site Characterization; VSGC – Liz Povar provided a draft Letter of Intent to apply for FY19 funding through GO Virginia Region 6, recommending that the MPA take advantage of the Go Virginia funds for site characterization. The Board agreed to move forward with this application. Mr. Gladding and Mr. Chriscoe volunteered to assist in the application process.
- c. Budget Request – Travis Moskalski reminded the Board the localities will be working on their budgets. The Board agreed to keep the locality investment share for FY20 the same as FY19.

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VIII. **Locality & MPPDC Updates**

- **Gloucester:** A second brewery opened on Main Street.
- **Mathews:** (2) Coffee Shops; New Pizza Restaurant.
- **Middlesex:** Oyster Festival and Christmas Parade were well attended; Cooks Corner project is moving along.
- **King and Queen:** Premier Tech announcement with Governor in attendance.
- **West Point:** Christmas on the Town with local vendors and carriage rides.
- **Tappahannock:** O'Malley Wood Pellet Mill rebuilding; Christmas Parade and a Santa Cottage; Revenue up and Expenses down.
- **Essex:** 29% increase in healthcare; New Deputy County Administrator; Hoping to fill County Administrator seat by first of the year
- **King William:** TRC Designs Christmas Ornament

IX. **Adjournment** – Motion to adjourn was made by Roy Gladding and seconded by Ashley Chriscoe. Motion carried.