

Virginia Rural Center
Minutes for Council for Rural Virginia Board of Directors Meeting

December 5, 2013 @ 10:00 a.m.

1) **CALL TO ORDER:** Senator Hanger

2) **ROLL CALL:** Nannette Thompson

Present: Ibbie Hedrick (for Lieutenant Governor Bill Bolling), Jim Cheng, Senator Hanger, Steve Landes, Dr. Keith Miller, Dale Moore, Senator Ruff, Richard Settle, Bill Tucker, Morgan Wright, Greg White, Bryan David, Basil Gooden, Gary Keener, Neal Menefee, John Meade, Christy Morton, Bill Murray, Ward Stevens, Robin Sullenberger, Nannette Thompson, Brian Warner

3) **Governor-Elect McAuliffe Transition Team Update:** Bill Murray, Transition Director

4) **Approval of Minutes:** Senator Hanger

- Vote taken. No oppositions. Accepted.

5) **Budget Review:** Christy Morton

1. Quarterly P&L – ([click here for handouts](#)) Center and Council reports separate so that you can see the breakdown. Center account is for salaries and Council account for operating expenses.
2. Summit P&L – See handout
3. Six Month Forecast – See handout

Senator Hanger noted that Glen is still on payroll through General Assembly to help Christy with the transition into the Executive Director position. Council has opportunities to bring in funds through the Summit, sponsorships and Rural Caucus Dinner. Key is the States funding. In-kind donations greatly appreciated. May need a committee to look at audit procedures/internal controls for transition and going forward, guidelines for travel, etc.

Grants- Tobacco Commission \$50k awarded Sept. 1 for one year for Strategic Plans, Drawdown from the State April 1 (DHCD) and sponsorships from the Dinner.

6) **Summit Report:** Ward Stevens

The room was asked for feedback from the past Summit:

1. Need appropriate high level officials to speak with us.
2. Disappointed that the candidates were not in attendance. Need proactive topics on the agenda.
3. Venue plays a roll.
4. Get the message out sooner, had attendance issues. Reach out to community college Presidents involved, (14 out of the 23 serve rural areas).
5. Two day conference may be too much time away from their business for common entrepreneurs, maybe go to a one day.

6. Performance expectations, models, best practices and celebrating successes. Have awards.

7) Structure and Guidelines: Christy Morton

1. Has transferred financials to QuickBooks.
 2. We do not have Liability insurance for Board and staff. Around \$2000.00. Should really consider. When looking at Board appointments large companies look for that. John Meade to assist review and purchase of policy.
 3. Website design about halfway there. Nannette is working on this.
 4. For future consideration: consolidation of Boards, structure, policy committee (very beneficial), guidelines for operating procedures.
- **Vote & Approval of having Liability Insurance for the Board and staff:** Vote taken. No oppositions. Accepted.

8) Board Appointments for 2014:

Taking recommendations for Board appointments to Christy by January 5, 2014. Need to be mindful of the diversity found in rural areas. We have 2 Boards due to funding. Need to re-establish terms and may need to maintain both Board entities.

9) Executive Director Presentation: Christy Morton ([click here for the PowerPoint](#))

- Findings from Meetings with Board Members
- Current Projects
- Future Funding Options

10) Policy and Legislative Positions: Senator Hanger ([click here for handout](#))

- **Economic Development and Job Creation**

1. Support increasing the Center for Rural Virginia board by one slot designated it for the current Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry.

Motion made Steve Landes. Robin Sullenberger seconded. Unanimous approval. Accepted.

2. Does not touch much on the extractive Industry. Add Natural Resources development.
3. Seafood falls under agriculture

- **Education and Workforce**

1. Core Values for early childhood education (pre-K not included) and is where development starts.
2. Streamline "workforce".
3. Financing and tools available for entrepreneurs (continue to support).
4. Capital access.

5. Adopt 2014 State Policy Positions handout as working document.

Motion made by Neal Menefee. Ward Stevens seconded. Unanimous approval. Accepted.

11) **Rural Caucus Meetings and Dinner**: Senator Ruff

12) **Other Business**:

➤ Next meeting: Council Board of Directors February 5, 2014.

13) **MOTION ON TABLE TO ADJOURN**: Meeting Adjourned.