

**Virginia Rural Center**  
**Minutes for Council for Rural Virginia Board of Directors Meeting**  
**Piedmont Virginia Community College, Charlottesville, Virginia**

**December 15, 2015 @ 10:00 a.m.**

1) **CALL TO ORDER:** Emmett Hanger (Introductions) and agenda adopted.

2) **ROLL CALL:** Nannette Thompson

**Present:** Emmett Hanger, Katie Frazier, Frank Ruff, Morgan Wright, Greg White, Basil Gooden, Shannon Fedors, Edwin Jones, Robin Sullenberger, Dee Walton, Carrie Chenery, Katie Frazier, Dickie Bell, Bill Tucker, Jay Poole, Ed Scott, John Meade, Lacy Ward, Cassidy Rasnick, Christy Morton, Nannette Thompson

3) **Approval of Minutes:** October 6, 2015 Council minutes approved and accepted.

4) **Presentations and Reports:**

- **Financial/Budget Review** – As of July 1 both Center and Council on same accounting calendar
  1. Quarterly P&L – See handout
  2. Quarterly Forecast – See handout

There was a discussion regarding hard money versus soft money, and the need to create overflow funds through grants. Target profit for the Summit should be \$40k - \$50k. It was suggested that the Board make calls to solicit sponsorships. Develop a matrix available with previous years sponsors and make this an annual process. Reach out to other similar organizations to let them know what we do.

Develop a draft budget for approval starting July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016. Continue to approve and reassess in March for next fiscal year. Motion made to approve as is and move forward. Approved with the amendment to reassess in March.

- **Executive Director Presentation:** Christy Morton
  1. 2015 Completed Projects/Reports
    - a. **Tobacco Commission Report** – Report submitted in April. Executive summary handed out and is on the website. Christy to meet with Executive Director to discuss their strategic planning and reimbursement.
    - b. **USDA Agricultural Development Boards Final Guide** – Steven Versen's idea to promote agricultural economic development. Partnered with VAFAIRS and Matson Consulting, surveys sent to take a look at national and local ADB's. Three regional workshops will be held in February on Fridays in the Valley and Southern Virginia to invite a variety of folks from each region for a one-day workshop on "how to" start an ADB.
    - c. **2014-2015 Annual Report** – Who we are what we do, runs July 2014 – June 2015.
  2. Ongoing Projects
    - a. **USDA ADB Workshops** – notes above
    - b. **Joint Commission on Health Care Project** – First meeting in late spring. Took a look at rural healthcare and factors that go into it or lack thereof to include education, insurance and employment rate. Other factors: tele-

medicine and controlled substances. Getting back on track to continue this project. Will have this report ready for October 2016.

- c. **Research Partnership with USDA** – How do we get more general research and sharing of information in rural areas? USDA Annual report coming out in a couple of weeks. What are long term needs and is there information already out?
  - d. **Leadership Development Program** – Meeting at UVA, but willing to partner with other universities. Leadership development programs are needed and hard to come by. There are great programs out there but not specifically for rural areas. Board discussed exploring programs already in place.
  - e. **Other USDA Partnership Projects** – We are talking to USDA about other projects we can do for them. Welcome the opportunity to work in rural areas.
3. 2016 General Assembly Session & Legislative Initiatives
- a. **Regional Economic Development – GO Virginia**
  - b. **Infrastructure – Broadband** – Continue to work on this. Broadband is now stand alone. Infrastructure is roads, pipelines, etc.
  - c. **Agriculture – Food Deserts** – Budget amendment being proposed.
  - d. **Healthcare – Graduate Medical Education**
  - e. **Education & Workforce**

5) **New Business:**

- 1. 2016 Rural Caucus Reception & Dinner
- 2. 2016 Rural Caucus Meetings
- 3. 2016 Meeting Schedule and Locations
- 4. 2016 Rural Summit Locations – Location recommendations. Natural Bridge, Hotel Roanoke?

• **Other New Business:**

6) **Old Business**

- 1. Officers & Directors Liability Insurance – Contingent on whether we need. Table until March. Contact Ibbie @ AG's office for further clarification.

7) **MOTION ON TABLE TO ADJOURN:** Meeting Adjourned at 12:23pm