

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

**March 31, 2015 @ 10:00am**

- **CALL TO ORDER:** The Honorable Emmett Hanger Jr. (Introductions) and agenda adopted.
- **ROLL CALL:** Nannette Thompson

**Present:** Ward Stevens, Bryan David, Gary Keener, Oliver McBride, Robin Sullenberger, Bill Tucker, Brian Warner, Christy Morton, Nannette Thompson

- **Approval of Minutes:** November 18, 2014 Center minutes approved and accepted. Add Oliver McBride to attendee list.

- **Presentations and Reports:**

- **Financial/Budget Review**

- 1. Quarterly P&L – See handout
    - 2. Quarterly Forecast – See handout

- **Executive Director Presentation:** Christy Morton

- 1. **2015 General Assembly Session**

- a. Update on Legislation
      - b. Rural Caucus Meetings
      - c. Rural Caucus Reception and Dinner

- 2. **Research Institutions –What other states are doing**

- Morgan Wright asked why in-house person? Should there be someone else to analyze the data? Please state any recommendations at next meeting. Katie Frazier, how is data analysis utilized in other states. Pennsylvania has offered to come to Richmond to help and share information. Need to gather ideas and note gaps to build into the research.

- Follow-up with Brian Warner

- 3. **Update on 2015 Projects and Initiatives**

- a. Tobacco Commission Grant Project
        - Finishing in next few weeks. Frank Ruff noted that final report is due May 20.
      - b. Joint Commission on Healthcare Project
        - The final report is due to the JCHC in October.
      - c. USDA Agricultural Development Boards Grant Project
        - Survey results are in. There is a call tomorrow for next steps and how we will be evaluating the results.
      - d. The Virginia Association of Counties received the approval to move forward with the RUConnected Broadband Initiative.

- e. The Partners for Rural America will be meeting August 16-19 at the Stonewall Jackson, hosted by the Virginia Rural Center. We will be doing a tour of the valley. More information, agenda and invite to come. Jay Poole asked the role of the board? Can a Center/Council Board meeting be planned in conjunction with this event?
- f. 2015 Rural Summit
  - Event date October 5-6. Location thoughts: Lynchburg, Charlottesville, Richmond, Abingdon. A Board meeting will be held in Staunton so no need for one at the Summit.
- g. Rural Caucus Regional Meetings
  - Thoughts? Valley-Southside-Middle Peninsula; Far Southwest Virginia. Bill Tucker suggested Devils Backbone. Ron Jefferson may have an available facility. Robin Sullenberger suggested focus on cohesive overall approach.

- **New Business:**

- **2015-2016 Fiscal Year Budget Proposals** (*Board Action Required*): Accepted and Approved
- **2015-2016 Meeting Schedule and Locations:**
- **Other Old Business:** Mary Rae Carter stated that an outstanding job was done for the 2014 Summit.

- **Old Business**

- Center and Council Bylaws Revisions (*Board Action Required*) Motion to adopt proposed revisions to the Bylaws. Motion accepted and affirmed.
- Collaborative Services Agreement Revisions (*Board Action Required*) Shared office space site. Add Virginia Rural Center as umbrella for Partnership. Motion to approve changes. Motion accepted and affirmed. Bill Tucker suggested not to let 3 years lapse before Bylaws and Collaborative Services Agreement be reviewed and updated as needed. Motion to accept review accepted and affirmed.
- Council Member Elections (*Board Action Required*) Voting done on all nominations. No discussion or corrections. Motion made to accept all nominations and affirmed. Ron Jefferson suggested scouting out in the far Southwest Virginia to fill the one open Board position.
- Treasurer Check Signing Authority (*Board Action Required*) Motion made to add John Meade, Council Treasurer as a signatory for check signing. No discussion. Motion carries.
- Liability Insurance (*Board Action Required*) Discussion of need for both Boards. Quotes at \$1200-\$1500 each, about \$3000 per year. Defer action to hear from Neal Menefee. Premiums may be based on budget or size of organization.
- Other New Business

- **MOTION ON TABLE TO ADJOURN:** Meeting Adjourned 11:55am. Lunch was served and those that were able to stick around did so and kept some of the meeting conversations going. Thank you all for your patience and consideration with the technical issues encountered during this meeting.