

JOINT INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Minutes of Meeting

June 23, 2011

The Joint Industrial Development Authority of Wythe County, Wytheville, and Rural Retreat held a regular meeting on Thursday, June 23, 2011, at 3:00 p.m. in the Council Room of the Wytheville Municipal Building at 150 East Monroe Street, Wytheville, Virginia..

MEMBERS PRESENT

William F. Snyder, Chairman
Tom Jones
Dana Pack

Dave Elmore, Vice Chairman
Linda DiYorio
Jennifer Atwell

MEMBERS ABSENT

Foy Patton

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT

None

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS ABSENT

R. Cellell Dalton, Wythe County Administrator
C. Wayne Sutherland, Jr., Wytheville Town Manager
Raymond E. Matney, Rural Retreat Town Manager

DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

Chairman Snyder called the meeting to order and determined a quorum to be present. Chairman Snyder offered the invocation, and Vice Chairman Elmore led the Pledge of Allegiance.

CITIZENS' TIME

Chairman Snyder welcomed Wythe "Bucky" Sharitz and Andrew Rosenberger from the Virginia Tech Conservation Management Institute to the meeting. He asked if there were any persons present who would like to address the Board during citizens' time. There being none, Chairman Snyder proceeded with the meeting.

ANDREW ROSENBERGER, VIRGINIA TECH CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE

Andy Rosenberger from the Outreach and Education Division of the Conservation Management Institute at Virginia Tech gave a presentation to the Board on the “Return of the Quail” to Virginia. The “Return of the Quail” program focuses on restoring quail back to the population numbers from the 1970's. The Commonwealth of Virginia has seen a 75% decline in the quail population in the past 40 years.

Mr. Rosenberger has researched Progress Park and found that there are several areas that would be suitable to serve as quail habitats. He proposed to the Board that they consider constructing a habitat in Progress Park. The habitat would be funded by a Outreach and Education Division grant and would be maintained by a current habitat provider in the area.

Chairman Snyder suggested that Mr. Rosenberger consider Progress Park and Fairview Industrial Park as there are several areas not suitable for industry in both. Chairman Snyder asked the Board what their ideas were regarding the habitat and if they did or did not support the concept. Mr. Elmore stated that he would like to see the quail habitats constructed to allow the quail populations to increase in Wythe County.

Dr. Hawthorne suggested that if the Board was interested, he would work with Mr. Rosenberger on the concept and bring the recommendation back to the Board at a future date.

Chairman Snyder asked if there were any questions or concerns regarding the prospective habitat and if there was a motion to allow Dr. Hawthorne to work with Mr. Rosenberger on the concept. Mr. Elmore made a motion, seconded by Mr. Jones, to allow Dr. Hawthorne to work with Mr. Rosenberger on the quail habitat concept. With no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES—May 26, 2011

Chairman Snyder asked if there were any questions regarding the minutes of the May 26, 2011, meeting. There being none, Chairman Snyder asked for a motion to approve the May 2011 minutes as presented. Mr. Jones made a motion, seconded by Mr. Pack, to approve the minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF INVOICES

Chairman Snyder asked if there were questions regarding the invoices for June 2011. Dr. Hawthorne explained that check #6381 reflects the 95% payment for expenses for the months of April and May in the second quarter to Evatran for the TICRC R&D grant. He noted that this method of payment had been previously approved by the Board. Chairman Snyder added that since check #6395 was issued to Branch Highways he assumes they are currently working on Lot 24. Dr. Hawthorne explained that Branch Highways issued a monthly invoice that includes project management, erosion control, designs for the new storm water management facility, and various other items even though they were not doing large-scale excavation during that time. He added that he could distribute a copy of the detailed monthly invoice to the Board at each meeting for their review if they so desired. Mr. Jones asked if the charges were on a monthly basis. Dr. Hawthorne answered that they were.

Chairman Snyder asked if there were any further questions or discussions and asked if there was a motion to approve the invoices from June 2011. Mr. Elmore made a motion, seconded by Ms. DiYorio, to approve the invoices as presented. With no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

**Joint IDA of Wythe County
Check Register
For the Period From May 27, 2011 through June 23, 2011**

Check #	Date	Payee	Amount
6381	6/6/11	Evatran, LLC	166,800.15
6382	6/23/11	Alan R. Hawthorne	4,568.59
6383	6/23/11	David L. Elmore	212.29
6384	6/23/11	Dana R. Pack	212.29
6385	6/23/11	Foy W. Patton	212.29
6386	6/23/11	Jennifer W. Atwell	212.29
6387	6/23/11	Linda DiYorio	212.29
6388	6/23/11	Tom Jones	212.29
6389	6/23/11	Virginia M. Goodwin	1,641.50
6390	6/23/11	William F. Snyder	212.29
6391	6/23/11	Appalachian Power	73.73
6392	6/23/11	Alan Hawthorne - Reimbursement	799.67
6393	6/23/11	Anthem Southeast Dental	59.12
6394	6/23/11	Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield	1,035.92
6395	6/23/11	Branch Highways, Inc.	36,109.50
6396	6/23/11	CenturyLink	126.24
6397	6/23/11	Chamber of Commerce	50.00
6398	6/23/11	Mellon Trust of New England, NA	588.00
6399	6/23/11	Principal Life Insurance Co.	133.11
6400	6/23/11	Robert G. Moore	1,100.00
6401	6/23/11	Sprint PCS	72.85
6402	6/23/11	Virginia Goodwin-Reimbursement	54.18
6403	6/23/11	Va Municipal League Group	2,698.00
6404	6/23/11	Wytheville Office Supply	99.72
6405	6/23/11	Xerox	28.29
Total			\$217,524.60

OLD BUSINESS

LOT 24 UPDATE

Dr. Hawthorne reported on the status of the activity on Lot 24. He stated that the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and the Army Corp of Engineer's (ACE) permit application is at the public comment stage which will end on July 7. Dr. Hawthorne does not anticipate any negative comments, if there are none, the permit should be issued soon after the July 7 ending date. Construction on the storm water management facility on the southeast portion of Lot 24 is currently being done.

The next progress meeting with Branch Highways, Inc. (BHI) regarding the onsite work will be on July 6 at 9:00 a.m. at the site trailer. The progress meeting regarding offsite work will immediately follow at 10:00 a.m. in the same location.

Chairman Snyder stated that he was concerned with the progress of Lot 24 and would personally like the work to move faster. He feels that there has been more time lost than wanted and that a company was hired to assist with getting the proper permits from DEQ and USACE in place, but that it was now July and work is still delayed. Chairman Snyder asked is there was anything that the Board could do to make sure that the permits are issued as soon as the public comment stage is complete. He feels that six months of construction time has been lost thus causing funds to be incorrectly used by letting the process become stretched out. Chairman Snyder stated that he feels that Branch Highways should have completed this permitting in a more timely manner and that they need to know that impacts the progress of the project. He felt that the Joint IDA should let them know that they should compensation for the loss, not necessarily in cash funds, but in their speed with the completion of work.

Dr. Hawthorne pointed out that the fault of the delay in issuing the permit was due to the federal agencies wanting to include the remaining sites in Progress Park in the permit thus eliminating the need to issue additional permits in the future. Also, the Army Corp of Engineers shares in the responsibility of the delay due to multiple changes in project managers in the middle of the process. He feels that Branch Highways, Inc., is not at fault for the delays and that they have continuously worked with the state and federal agencies to assist in moving the process along. They have managed to continue work on the storm water management facility and on other areas of the site. He added that BHI will be able to continue with grading and should be able to move approximately one million cubic yards of dirt with a three crew operation this year instead of the two crew operation as was the case last year.

VEDA MEMBERSHIP MEETING IN WYTHEVILLE

Dr. Hawthorne reported on the Virginia Economic Developers Association membership meeting and luncheon held at the Wytheville Meeting Center on June 9. There were approximately 70 members in attendance. The agenda included the “Panel Discussion: Innovation in Entrepreneurship, Manufacturing, and Energy Development.” Individuals participating in the discussion were Jim Flowers, VT Knowledge Works; Paul Bolesta, GENEDGE Alliance; Ed Rogers, Southwest Virginia Clean Energy R&D Center. Additional meeting topics included presentations on “New State Initiatives to Support the Innovation Economy” given by speaker Carrie Cantrell, Deputy Secretary of the Virginia Department of Commerce and Trade; and “Innovative Energy Solution—The Volvo Example”, given by Marcus Thompson, Inspiration Manager at Volvo.

Dr. Hawthorne mentioned that following the meeting approximately 20 members enjoyed a tour of the Pepsi manufacturing facility. He thanked Sally Morgan, Smyth County’s Director of Community Development, and Stephen Bear, Wythe County’s Assistant Administrator, for arranging and providing transportation to and from the Pepsi facility. Many positive comments regarding the plant tour were received.

Dr. Hawthorne commented on the outstanding job that Sally Morgan did in organizing the meeting. He added that the members were impressed with the Wytheville facilities, made positive comments on the food provided by Log House Restaurant, and enjoyed their visit.

Chairman Snyder added that he attended the meeting. He thanked Dr. Hawthorne and Tom Elliott, Executive Director of Virginia's aCorridor, for extending an invitation for him to attend. Chairman Snyder enjoyed the meeting and felt that he learned many new and exciting ideas, one being alternative fueling. He feels that Wytheville and Wythe County would be a prime candidate to become the alternative fueling location for Western Virginia. He suggested that once the part-time research assistant position is filled at the Joint IDA office, that the individual research what is needed for Wytheville and Wythe County to become the fueling station for the various alternative fuels. Chairman Snyder stated that becoming a fueling station would provide many opportunities for our area, such as an increase in lodging, meals, and tourism.

Chairman Snyder noted that it was a good meeting, with a delicious lunch, and that he heard many positive comments regarding the facility.

WYTHE-JAPAN NATURAL DISASTER FUND-RAISER

Dr. Hawthorne reported on the "Neighbors Helping Neighbors Around the World" fund-raiser supporting the relief efforts for the earthquake victims in Japan. He noted that several months ago he was approached by Rusty Jones of Jones, Adams, and Delp regarding the Joint IDA and other Wythe County manufacturers efforts in assisting with the relief. Spiller Elementary School partnered with Jones, Adams, and Delp to sponsor a coin collecting competition between the various classes at the school. The winning class raised over \$1,700 and wrote letters to children in Japan. Overall, the project raised around \$2,140 and Jones, Adams, and Delp matched the funds to bring the amount to approximately \$4,300. The winning class was treated to a pizza party at Somic America and enjoyed a tour of the facility following lunch. Dr. Hawthorne was invited to attend the party. He noted that he had an enjoyable time eating lunch and spending time with the children and their teacher.

OTHER

VEDP Consultant report - Dr. Hawthorne reported that on July 15 he will be receiving the presentation results from Virginia Economic Development Partnership's (VEDP) consultant John Rhodes' May visit. He noted that he expects that there should be several positive comments in the report to build off of regarding Progress Park and Lot 24 .

Board appreciation for golf tournament - The Board expressed their gratitude to Virginia Goodwin by presenting her with a thank-you card, a \$50 Wytheville-Wythe-Bland Chamber of Commerce gift certificate, and an extra day of vacation for the work she did coordinating the 2011 Industry Appreciation Golf Tournament. Ms. Goodwin thanked the Board for their recognition and gratitude.

NEW BUSINESS

VEDP ALLIES MEETING

Dr. Hawthorne reported on the Virginia Economic Development Partnership (VEDP) Allies Meeting held at Virginia Tech on June 10. This year's agenda included a welcome and VEDP update by Jeff Anderson, President and CEO of VEDP. Liz Povar, Director of Business

Development, spoke about VEDA operations, and Jerry Giles, Managing Director of Technology, Energy and Corporate Services talked about VEDP's Life Science Strategy. Meade Anderson, who filled in for Rick Weeks, Chief Deputy Director of the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, gave an update on the Brownfields Grant Funding. The Virginia Tech Research Centers Panel, and how they tie in with industry, was led by John Provo, Director of the Virginia Tech Office of Economic Development.

Dr. Hawthorne added that the Virginia Economic Development Partnership is in the process of filling staff positions that were vacated due to retirements. He noted that it will take time to get to know and identify the various new staff members.

GOVERNOR'S SOUTHERN GROWTH POLICIES BOARD CONFERENCE—OUR HISTORY, OUR FUTURE: MANUFACTURING IN THE SOUTH

Dr. Hawthorne talked briefly about the Governor's Southern Growth Policies Board Conference held in Roanoke on June 16 and 17. The Governor's of Mississippi, Tennessee, and North Carolina were in attendance along with Virginia Governor Bob McDonnell who is serving as this year's chairman.

The focus of the conference was manufacturing with emphasis on workforce development. There were panel discussions held highlighting Manufacturing in the New Global Economy, Industry-Led Research Consortia, Competitive Infrastructure-Technology, Transportation and Logistics, and Preparing our Rural Communities for Manufacturing Competitiveness.

The Virginia Food & Wine Reception and Innovator Awards Ceremony was hosted by the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, and the Virginia Wine Board.

FY 2011-2012 BUDGET

The revised FY 2011-2012 budget was distributed to the Board prior to the meeting. Dr. Hawthorne stated that the changes made were associated with updating insurance costs. Chairman Snyder asked if the Wythe County Board of Supervisors had approved the budget. Dr. Hawthorne replied that they had. Ms. Atwell asked about the lodging increase. Dr. Hawthorne stated that the increase had prior approval from the Board to fund Economic Development training for the Associate Director and that he left it as approved and did not make an adjustment from the original request.

Chairman Snyder asked if there were further questions or concerns regarding the revised FY 2011-2012 budget and if there was a motion to approve the budget as presented. Ms. DiYorio made a motion, seconded by Mr. Pack, to approve the FY 2011-2012 revised budget as presented. With no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

PROJECT UPDATES

Dr. Hawthorne stated that there are no significant changes in projects, but that he is currently working on a project that may require heavy water usage and is waiting on a reply regarding waste water demand. He will keep the Board apprised of any changes as they occur.

OTHER

Virginia dignitaries visit - Dr. Hawthorne reported that Mary Rae Carter, Virginia's Deputy Secretary of Commerce and Trade for Rural Economic Development, Jim Cheng, Virginia's Secretary of Commerce and Trade, and Jim Duffy, Virginia's Secretary of Technology toured Progress Park and Lot 24 earlier this month. The group also visited the Evatran facility, as well as some of their field test stations located around Wytheville. The meeting/visit provided an opportunity to discuss the Lot 24 project and Evatran's accomplishments.

Virginia Department of Education Career and Technical Education Ceremony - Dr. Hawthorne spoke briefly about the Virginia Department of Education's Career and Technical Education Ceremony that he attended on June 16 in Richmond. Carroll County High School, along with two other schools, received the 2011 Governor's CTE Exemplary Standards Award for their Building Trades Program. The dual-credit program is for students who plan to pursue careers in masonry, carpentry, plumbing and electrical trades. Students have the opportunity to earn several industry credentials and prepare for contractor, tradesman, and journeyman exams.

Marion Senior High School and Marion Primary School in Smyth County received a regional group award for their project "It's All about My Community and Me!" This project involved second-grade students and high school business students working together to write, illustrate, and publish original storybooks to donate to the Smyth County Department of Social Services Santa's Elves program. The local county pediatricians were so impressed with the authors that they requested these materials be included in their Reach Out and Read program that donates new books to the area children.

ADJOURN

There being no other business, Chairman Snyder adjourned the meeting at 4:55 p. m.

William F. Snyder, Chairman

Attest:

Virginia M. Goodwin, Secretary