

Crater Regional Workforce Investment Board

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Annual Board Meeting and Luncheon
December 1, 2006 – 11:30 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.
Hilton Garden Inn Southpark
800 Southpark Boulevard, Colonial Heights, VA 23834
(804) 520-0600

MEMBERS PRESENT: Joe Fleming, Chairman; Martha Dodd-Slippy, Vice Chairman; Mary Rudisill, Secretary/Treasurer; Jack Aden, Robert Mason, Karen Aylward, Lynn Wilson, Dale Temple, Marietta Salyer, Tomlinson, G. LaVern Jackson, Louise Tomlinson

NOMINATED BOARD MEMBERS: Bill Barga, Nellie Mora

ELECTED OFFICIALS PRESENT: Annie M. Mickens – Mayor of the City of Petersburg; Charlie E. Caple, Jr. – Sussex Board of Supervisors; William J. Collins, Jr. – Sussex Board of Supervisors; Dorothy E. Moody – Chairperson of Dinwiddie Board of Supervisors; Dickie King – Bermuda/Chesterfield Board of Supervisors; Kenneth B. Emerson – Hopewell (Ward 3) City Council; Jerry J. Skalsky – Prince George Board of Supervisors (District 1)

APPOINTED OFFICIALS PRESENT: Sheriff Vanessa R. Crawford of Petersburg; Mary E. Jones – Sussex County Administrator; Dr. Winston Odom – Superintendent of Hopewell School Board; Juanita Chambers – Hopewell School Board; Ronald L. Caricofe – Hopewell School Board; Avon L. Miles – Chairman of Hopewell School Board; David Whittington, Greensville County Administrator

GUEST: Daniel LeBlanc, Governor's Special Advisor for Workforce Development; Aida Pacheco, Program Specialist, Governor's Office for Workforce Development; and 28 other VIP's representing private and state businesses, along with community based organizations.

STAFF PRESENT: Levin Sullivan, Najmah Thomas, Mark Brickey, Michael Seward, Venita Barbour.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Fleming at 11:45 a.m. Chairman Fleming then introduced Levin C. Sullivan, Executive Director of CRWIB. Mr. Sullivan welcomed invited guest and then asked the Chief Elected Officials and Appointed Officials from each City and County to stand and give their name and title. (See File)

OLD BUSINESS: There was no old business to discuss.

Chairman Fleming began a presentation on the 2nd Annual Workforce Summit which took place June 16, 2006 at the Nicholas Center, John Tyler Community College. Summit's Keynote speakers was Edie Raether who spoke on "*Getting the Best: How to Hire, Empower, Energize, and Retain the Best Employees*". The Summit also included several interactive breakout sessions focusing on; *Managing Employee Turnover, Grassroots Efforts for Business, and Involvement in Education*. Mr. Fleming reported that overall, the summit was a success with about 70 participants, with a range of industries representing the public and private sector, and organizations of various sizes. There was an overwhelming positive survey results from attendees which created many positive connections between

individuals and are likely to bring about promising working relationships between their respective organizations.

Chairman Fleming then summarized the Crater Regional Workforce Investment Group “Annual Report Card” for program year (September) 2005-2006. He states that CRWIB has met, and in many cases exceeded, its performance outcomes measures in the areas for Adult, Dislocated Worker, Older Youth (19-21), Younger Youth (14-18), as required by State and Federal mandates of the Workforce Investment Act.

Next, Chairman Fleming gave a short presentation honoring Mr. David Filippi, former Board Chairman (2000 to 2005), for the incredible leadership and service he gave as Chairman of the Board during his tenure. He stated that Mr. Filippi had to take on an incredible feat of transitioning from the old JTPA Board and inventing the new WIB from its inception, to include the funding and recruitment efforts that went along with it. A plaque will be sent to Mr. Filippi recognizing his vision, inspiration and dedicated service. Mr. Filippi could not be present.

Chairman Fleming then introduced the Guest Speaker, Daniel LeBlanc. Mr. LeBlanc is Special Advisor to the Governor for Workforce Development; and has been appointed to serve on the Governor’s Economic/Workforce Development Committee who is charged with developing and implementing the Governor’s Workforce Development Strategic Plan. Prior to his recent appointment, he was former President of the Virginia AFLCIO. Then the Chairman presented Mr. LeBlanc. Mr. LaBlance thanked everyone for the invitation and went on to further thank all those present for the work they do to assist in the growth of Virginia’s economy; the services provided the customers in the business community and, the job seekers. Mr. LeBlanc mentioned the work and preparation that’s being done with BRAC at Fort Lee and, indicated that it’s not just with those who are already there in training but the many other people that are coming in. He stated that many challenges can be expected when dealing with such expansion and economy growth, such as issues associated with transportation and others. He recognized and commended all the giants (partners/stakeholders) of the communities, who were attending the WIB meeting, as they plan to meet the economic development challenges of the region and, more importantly, the stability of our workforce.

He introduced his staff, Ms. Aida Pacheco, who will be managing the pilot work his office is doing with area WIBs to design and implement a strategic approach to making one-stop centers in Virginia a “true comprehensive One Stop Centers”. He commend the work that Mr. Sullivan (Levin) has done and the information presented in the CRWIB Report Card and; also the efforts and progress made with the localities (Greensville County) and others on their commitment to the bricks and mortar that will be used in the development of the Southside Virginia Education Center in Greensville County. Mr. LeBlanc expressed his desire for seeing the Greensville Center as that true site for putting all the key workforce development players together and making it that true One Stop Comprehensive Center which will be a step toward bringing the workforce system up to speed.

Mr. LaBlance complimented the WIB on meeting the outcomes measures of its strategic plan and approaches and , stressed that the achieving of such objectives and goals by the WIB will always aid and enhance the efforts of workforce and economic development. He spoke on the Workforce Investment Act, and how it evolved from CETA, JTPA and now has evolved the entire system down to a Regional WIB approach, where the WIBs’ has the responsibility for providing services to businesses, job seekers, dislocated worker and those businesses in need of workers with a trade. He stated that the State Legislature over the years have been trying to find a way to resolve some of the disjointed programs that we have across several Cabinet Secretaries and several Agencies of the Commonwealth. A commission was formed called the “Byron Commission”, which one of the principal responsibilities

of that legislation is to have a strategic plan for Workforce across the Commonwealth, in which the Crater Region has done, and created on a statewide basis. Initially, a couple Hundred Million dollars was put into the workforce in Virginia; since then, the numbers have come in over the last 2 and ½ years at 450 million dollar, which has been earmarked for this plan. It is anticipated that together, the Department of Commerce and the Department of Education, there will be about ½ billion dollars allocated in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Mr. LeBlanc went on to say that the Federal Government mandates that we have comprehensive one stop systems within our WIB system and no customer that's business or worker, whether they are job seekers or incumbent workers, should have to shop all over town, the county or multi-county jurisdiction, because the services were not available to assist them. The Governor would like to have 16 Workforce Investment areas of the Commonwealth of the Virginia in compliance as a comprehensive one stop center as federally mandated. Also, the key components in a succesfull workforce are the education system (K-12) and on into Universities, Community Colleges and the Career Technical schools. Both private and public educational institutions need to be doing a job that is more linked to those key components of workforce development. He spoke on the need for decisions in that process to be made by the Student, Parent, and Guidance Counselor at the crucial point when a student is going into High School.

Finally, he spoke about the potential of economic development within in the region. Mr. LeBlanc stated that efforts will be made at remapping the workforce system in the Commonwealth of Virginia and aligning the WIB along those lines, with hopes of doing a better job for the whole system. He reported that as of November 28, after public hearings, after a steering committee working its way through many of the business and governmental entities, members of workforce investment boards, educators, labors and, after the cabinet members and its staff (Deputies) go through the language; he will then delivered to the Governor, the final draft document of the Governor's Workforce Development Strategic Plan. He indicated that it will probably be between December 15th and January 1, 2007 before final legislation decision is made.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Sullivan introduced Mr. David Whittington, Greensville County Administrator, who gave a briefing on the newly planned Southside Virginia Education Center (SVEC), and introduced – Resolution 07-02. The resolution is a commitment with the SVEC Board to work with all parteners to create a model comprehensive one stop system in Area 15, with immediate emphasis on the comprehensive one stop center in Greensville County; a template to be used for all comprehensive one stop centers in the Crater region.

At the closing of Mr. Whittington presentation, he asked if the Crater WIB would be willing to partner with the new initiative and develop a similar resolution committing to the partnership. Mr. Sullivan indicated his support and asked the WIB Chair if the Board would agree to the request. Chairman Fleming asks for a motion to create and adopt a similar resolution. There was a motion made by a board member to create and adopt a resolution; it was seconded and, the board unanimously accepted and approved the resolution.

ADJOURMENT: With no further business, Chairman Fleming called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion to adjourn was made and seconded.