

Virginia Rural Center
Minutes for Council for Rural Virginia Board of Directors Meeting
Hot Springs, VA

October 6, 2015 @ 2:15 p.m.

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

2) **ROLL CALL:** Nannette Thompson

Present: Emmett Hanger, Katie Frazier, Ron Jefferson, Frank Ruff, Morgan Wright, Greg White, Ward Stevens, Basil Gooden, Sharon Johnson, Edwin Jones, Gail Moody, Robin Sullenberger, Dee Walton, Brian Warner, Carlyle Wimbish, Connie Long, Christy Morton, Nannette Thompson; Guests: Keith Hodges and Matt Underwood

3) **Approval of Minutes:** March 31, 2015 Council minutes approved and accepted. Minutes will be sent out prior to the meeting for review.

4) **Presentations and Reports:**

- **Financial/Budget Review**

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

- **Executive Director Presentation:** Christy Morton

1. 2015 Projects and Initiatives

- a. **Joint Commission on Healthcare Project:** Meeting in April went very well. Per Chairman O'Bannon, project extended to give more time for continued meetings and recommendations to 2016. There will be a focus on access to rural healthcare and the factors that have an effect.
- b. **USDA Agricultural Development Boards Grant Project** –The Virginia Rural Center has partnered with USDA to develop a guide to form or reinvigorate an agricultural development board. Report completed, scheduling three regional workshops in January and February.
- c. **Research Partnership** – USDA has created a research data and policy unit that is willing to partner with the Virginia Rural Center to focus on getting timely dynamic information for rural Virginia.
- d. **Leadership Development Program** – Designed to grow leaders in Rural Virginia. Need to reach different parts of the state and regions. Make the groups diverse. There are high costs and commitment needed. Should consider offering scholarships. This idea is in the development stages.

- **2015 Rural Summit & 2016 Planning:**

1. Reach out to our contacts and include private sector. Need more local interaction with counties to seek out business people. Lean on the economic development sector and promote growth. Include workforce investment boards. Invite/share with anyone in your email contacts you think may have an interest or something to offer. Decide what works and what does not. Focus on what would attract large industry. Have these types of talks when government officials are here. Help businesses get through their struggles.

2. To target specific people, offer a one-day business rate? Make the first day “business” and the second day “internal government”.
3. Summit performance discussion at the December meeting.
4. At the December meeting pick a date for the Summit and stick with it. Narrow down a location for the 2016 Summit.

5) **New Business:**

- **2015 -2016 Meeting Schedule and Locations:**

1. Need a December meeting date. Doodle poll for 2nd or 3rd week will be sent out to the Board.
2. Create 2016 meeting schedule (Board action required)

- **Other New Business:**

6) **Old Business**

7) **MOTION ON TABLE TO ADJOURN:** Meeting Adjourned 3:21pm