

April 27, 2006

The Joint Industrial Development Authority of Wythe County, Wytheville, and Rural Retreat held a regular meeting on Thursday, April 27, 2006, at 3:00 p.m. in the Council Room of the Town Office Building located at 306 S. Main Street, Rural Retreat, Virginia.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Joseph W. Freeman, Chairman	William F. Snyder, Vice Chairman
George T. Johnstone, Treasurer	Gerald L. Brewer
Danny B. Gordon	David N. Johnson

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

David Elmore

**EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT**

None

**EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS ABSENT**

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

**DETERMINATION OF QUORUM**

Mr. Freeman called the meeting to order and determined a quorum to be present.  
Mr. Gordon offered the invocation, and Mr. Freeman led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**CITIZENS' TIME**

Mr. Freeman asked if there were any persons present who wished to address the board during citizens' time. There being none, he proceeded with the agenda.

**INTRODUCTION OF TOM ELLIOTT AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF VIRGINIA'S ACORRIDOR**

Mr. Webb introduced Tom Elliott, the new executive director of the Virginia's aCorrdior. Mr. Elliott thanked the board for allowing him to speak, and explained he is in his eighth day on the job. He offered an overview of Virginia's aCorrdior, noting the agency's role as a support group to the Joint IDA. He stated he wishes to take on an aggressive marketing approach. Mr. Webb asked Mr. Elliott if he will remain involved with the Southwest Regional Enterprise Center (SREC). Mr. Elliot replied that he will remain a member of that board and is a member of the

Crossroads Institute Board. He added that the SREC now has twelve tenants.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES - March 23, 2006 board meeting**

Mr. Gordon made a motion, seconded by Mr. Brewer, to approve the minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

### **APPROVAL OF INVOICES**

Mr. Webb discussed several checks. He noted that check # 4905, payable to Byrd's Pro Shop, is for golf balls for the Industry Appreciation Golf Tournament. Check #4906, payable to the Chamber of Commerce, is for the purchase of Chamber gift certificates to be awarded to the winners of the golf tournament. Check #4908, payable to Duke's Printing, is for the purchase of updated letterhead, business cards, and envelopes. Check #4910, payable to Hollins Exposition, is the final invoice remaining from the January job fair. Check #4917, payable to Southwest Signs, is for the refurbishing of the Fairview Industrial Park Sign. Check #4918 is for the annual membership of the Southwestern Virginia Technology Council, which Mr. Webb noted would be an agenda item later in the meeting. Mr. Brewer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Johnstone, to pay the invoices. The motion passed unanimously.

Joint IDA of Wythe County  
Check Register  
For the Period From March 24, 2006 thru April 27, 2006

<b>Check #</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Payee</b>	<b>Amount</b>
1040	4/27/06	Hodges & Campbell	345.00
4896	4/6/06	First Bank of Virginia	2,914.74
4897	4/6/06	VA Dept Of Taxation	440.48
4898	4/27/06	Alan R. Hawthorne	3,615.52
4899	4/27/06	Danielle M. Skeens	1,733.44
4900	4/27/06	Michael B. Webb	2,050.37
4901	4/27/06	Appalachian Power	73.44
4902	4/27/06	Alan Hawthorne - Reimbursement	526.31
4903	4/27/06	Anthem Southeast Dental	90.76
4904	4/27/06	Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield	1,404.32
4905	4/27/06	Byrd's Pro Shop	448.50
4906	4/27/06	Chamber of Commerce	600.00
4907	4/27/06	Companion Life Insurance Co	80.14
4908	4/27/06	Duke's Printing	289.00
4909	4/27/06	First Bank of Virginia	2,673.80
4910	4/27/06	Hollins Exposition Services	2,233.75
4911	4/27/06	Mike Webb	48.95
4912	4/27/06	Postmaster	39.00
4913	4/27/06	Robert G. Moore	1,100.00
4914	4/27/06	Sprint PCS	81.93

4915	4/27/06	Sprint	123.87
4916	4/27/06	Sprint	4.76
4917	4/27/06	Southwest Signs	1,513.50
4918	4/27/06	Southwestern Va Tech Council	100.00
4919	4/27/06	VA Dept Of Taxation	440.48
4920	4/27/06	Virginia Employment Commission	62.39
4921	4/27/06	Bankcard Services	506.24
4922	4/27/06	Wytheville Office Supply	38.37
4923	4/27/06	Xerox	431.51
4924	4/27/06	Danielle M. Skeens	25.81
4925	4/27/06	Int'l Economic Dev Council	325.00
4926	4/27/06	Town of Wytheville	170.35
4927	4/27/06	Town of Wytheville - Postage	24.96
4928	4/27/06	Fort Dearborn Life Ins Co	62.10
<b>Total</b>			<b>24,618.79</b>

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **PEPSI BOTTLING GROUP COVERAGE AS BEVERAGE WORLD PLANT OF THE YEAR**

Mr. Webb shared an article in the February 2006 issue of *Beverage World Magazine*, in which the local Pepsi Bottling Group facility was named Plant of the Year. Dr. Snyder inquired to the size of the magazine circulation, and Mr. Webb replied he would research it. Mr. Gordon made a motion, seconded by Mr. Brewer, to write Rodney Coleman of Pepsi Bottling Group a congratulatory letter. The motion passed unanimously.

### **FAIRVIEW ZONING REQUESTS AND LAND SALE STATUS**

Mr. Webb informed the board that the rezoning of the Fairview rear lots to R-3 was successful. He stated that the survey should be complete. Legal Counsel Tom Hodges can prepare closing documents once he receives the meets and bounds data from David Saliba's office. Mr. Webb explained that he is in the process of gathering signatures asking the Wytheville Planning Commission to rezone Fairview Industrial Park and some surrounding areas to M-1M.

### **STATUS OF WORKFORCE/EDUCATION COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS AND GRANT APPLICATION**

Mr. Webb informed the board that the grant application for part of the start-up funding for career coaches was denied by the Virginia Tobacco Commission. Superintendent Dr. Al Armentrout had told Dr. Hawthorne that he would not hire the third person without the proper funding. Mr. Webb stated that Dr. Hawthorne is pursuing the possibility of corporate funding.

## **2006 INDUSTRY APPRECIATION GOLF TOURNAMENT (MAY 18, 2006)**

Mr. Webb updated the board members on the tournament. Currently, there are fifteen teams and two individuals registered to play in the tournament, twenty-six hole sponsors, and sixteen reception sponsors. He informed the board that prizes for the tournament are still being collected. Mr. Gordon informed the board that staff will be talking about the tournament on the Danny G Show on May 4, 2006 at 7:00 a.m.

## **OTHER**

Mike Webb reported that the refurbishing of the Fairview sign is complete. He stated that the new material is vinyl and is very durable.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP**

Mr. Webb explained that membership fees for the Southwest Virginia Technology Council are due. The consensus of the board was to send in the fee as approved in the payment of invoices. Mr. Elliott explained this is a good membership and the Council has expositions at the Abingdon Higher Education Facility. Mr. Gordon commented the importance of keeping abreast of surrounding areas. In order to become more familiar with the Council, Mr. Gordon suggested its executive director be invited to speak at a future board meeting.

### **CO-OP AD WITH WWB CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOR BUSINESS APPRECIATION WEEK**

Mr. Webb presented the board members with a rough draft of a joint advertisement for the *Wytheville Enterprise* for the Joint IDA and the Wytheville-Wythe-Bland Chamber of Commerce, Inc. Mr. Webb informed the board that the Enterprise staff is donating the first publication on Saturday, May 13, 2006, and is providing a discount for running the ad on May 16, 2006. Mrs. Skeens informed the board the layout is subject to change, but the general information will remain the same. In addition, a joint radio advertisement will run on the Danny G. Show. Mr. Gordon made the motion, seconded by Mr. Brewer to proceed with the advertisement. The motion passed unanimously.

## **WEBSITE DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL**

Mr. Webb informed the board that Dr. Hawthorne is negotiating a proposal with Infinidev Computer Technology Solutions in Galax for the redesign of the Joint IDA website. The proposal is not completed as of this meeting. Mr. Webb commented that summer intern Laura Teed would start working on Monday, May 22, 2006, and will work on the design content. Mr. Webb remarked that digital photos will be needed for the website, and the current camera is old and obsolete. Mr. Webb requested permission to purchase a digital camera, and explained that the camera can be purchased with funds from the Virginia's Opportunities Region marketing grant.

Ms. Skeens shared her recommendation to purchase a Kodak Easyshare One Wifi Digital Camera. Dr. Johnson recommended the camera be equipped with a viewfinder. Mr. Tom Elliott added that it is good to have a camera with panoramic capabilities. Mr. Gordon made a motion, seconded by Mr. Brewer to purchase a digital camera with panoramic capabilities and a viewfinder. The motion passed unanimously.

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE FOR WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD**

Mr. Webb indicated that the Workforce Investment Board Area II wishes to hold a conference on the area's economic development. Dr. Hawthorne added that the event is probably going to be held on August 15, 2006, at Wytheville Community College in the electronic auditorium. He informed members this would be a symposium-style conference with discussion topics being the Virginia Works Project, rural entrepreneur opportunities, Wythe workforce, and University Park Research. Other areas of discussion will include job creation, unemployment rates, and economic clustering. There will be a keynote speaker, who is undetermined at this time. Dr. Snyder asked who would attend the conference, and Dr. Hawthorne answered that the audience would be selective to approximately eighty persons who will consist of people interested in workforce/economic development, employers, and training providers. Also, representatives from surrounding cities and counties will be invited. Dr. Johnson explained that the audience could be greater if the Workforce Investment Board chose to utilize the electronic auditorium's capabilities. Dr. Hawthorne reiterated this conference is in the preliminary stages and asked for endorsement from the board members to proceed with the conference. The consensus of the board was to support the Workforce Investment Board on this matter.

## **PROGRESS PARK INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATE**

Mr. Webb stated that the road is currently being graded and will soon be paved. The rail ballast is being laid on the site and discussions with Appalachian Power continue over the location of a substation. Mr. Gordon questioned the tour of the Pepsi plant on the invitation of the Amcor groundbreaking ceremony to be held on May 11, 2006. Mr. Webb clarified the correct tour would be of the PepsiCo Gatorade facility. Mr. Gordon commented on the size of the Gatorade facility and how exciting it is to have these businesses in Wythe County.

## **PROJECT UPDATES IF NEEDED (CLOSED SESSION AS PERMITTED BY VIRGINIA CODE 2.2-3711(A)(5))**

Mr. Webb and Dr. Hawthorne provided briefings on several projects.

## **OTHER**

Dr. Hawthorne updated board members on the Amcor groundbreaking ceremony to be held on Thursday, May 11, 2006, at 10:30 a.m. He informed the board of correspondences between Amcor representatives and the Joint IDA. Mr. Webb revealed that Deputy Secretary of Commerce and Trade Rick Siger will be a guest speaker, barbecue will be served, and there will

be a band performing. Mr. Webb remarked this ceremony would be similar to Gatorade's groundbreaking. Mr. Webb commented that Amcor and the Joint IDA was seeking an alternate location in the event of inclement weather. Dr. Johnson proposed using Wytheville Community College as the graduation tents will be up that morning, and offered to make the necessary arrangements.

Dr. Hawthorne addressed the progress with Gatorade's start-up. He relayed that company staff is currently working out of the college, but will soon be in their own offices. Mr. Gordon informed the board that there had been 3,400 applications received from the VEC for the 250 available jobs. Dr. Hawthorne advised that Gatorade is currently screening the applicants. He also informed the board that Gatorade managers had been utilizing the Joint IDA conference room space and video conferencing equipment.

Dr. Hawthorne apprised members of the upcoming expansion at Mid Atlantic Manufacturing and Hydraulics in Rural Retreat. Caterpillar is a major customer of the company, and they want to expand their inventory. This is a great business opportunity for Mid-Atlantic. Dr. Hawthorne is exploring assistance options with the company.

Mr. Gordon encouraged members of the board to attend the upcoming events at the Amcor groundbreaking ceremony, the Chamber Exposition, and the Industry Appreciation reception. Dr. Johnson informed the board that there would be follow-up media coverage on the six o'clock news, Channel 7, pertaining to the Southwest Regional Enterprise Center.

## **ADJOURN**

There being no other business, Mr. Freeman adjourned the meeting at 4:30 pm.

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Joseph W. Freeman, Chairman

Attest:

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Danielle M. Skeens, Secretary