



Central Virginia Planning
District Commission
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Lynchburg, VA 24504
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**Central Virginia Planning District
Commission Regular Meeting Minutes – Final
March 19, 2026 @ 5:00 PM
Meeting Location: CVPDC Offices
828 Main Street, 12th Floor
Lynchburg, VA 24504**

Members Present:

Wynter Benda, City of Lynchburg
Jeremy Bryant, Amherst County
Michael Campbell, Town of Appomattox
Richard Conner, Town of Appomattox, Vice-Chairman
Robert Hiss, Bedford County
Tom Lawton, Campbell County
Frank Rogers, Campbell County
Gary Shanaberger, Town of Altavista
John Sharp, Bedford County
John Spencer, Appomattox County (Proxy, Susan Adams)
Dwayne Tuggle, Town of Amherst, Chairman

Members Joining Virtually:

Curt Diemer, City of Lynchburg
Sara McGuffin, Town of Amherst, Treasurer

Staff Present:

Alec Brebner
Sandy Dobyns

Others Present:

Rob Mann, American Electric Power

Others Present Virtually:

Zach Hipes, Robinson, Farmer, Cox Associates

1. Welcome and Introduction of New Members

Chairman Dwayne Tuggle called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. and welcomed the board and guests. He announced that the Amherst County Board of Supervisors appointed Chris Adams to succeed Drew Wade as their local elected representative.

2. Consideration of Requests for Electronic Participation

Richard Conner moved to approve electronic participation. John Spencer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Frank Rogers joined the meeting at 5:02 p.m.

3. Meeting Minutes: Regular Meeting, January 15, 2026

Richard Conner moved to approve the January 15, 2026, minutes as presented. Robert Hiss seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Tom Lawton joined the meeting at 5:05 p.m.

Sara McGuffin joined the meeting virtually at 5:06 p.m.

4. Fiscal Year 2025 Financial Statements

Zach Hipes of Robinson, Farmer, Cox Associates presented the FY25 audit report and governance letter. He stated that the report contains an unmodified or clean opinion on the financial statements.

Frank Rogers moved to accept the auditor's report as presented. Jeremy Bryant seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Organizational Reports

Special guest Rob Mann with American Electric Power (AEP) shared that Virginia's electricity demand is projected to double by 2035. Valley Link, a collaboration among Dominion Energy, FirstEnergy, and Transource, plans to address this gap with a new 115-mile 765-kilovolt electric transmission line that will serve as the backbone of a reliable, capable grid. The project is projected to cost between \$1 and \$2 billion. It began with community meetings in March, with more planned for May. Referring to common concerns, Mann stressed that each customer is paying their fair share of costs. He also explained the voluntary easement acquisition process for the required 200-foot-wide right-of-way.

John Sharp questioned investing in transmission rather than power generation, given Virginia's immense supply-demand gap. Mann explained that generation is limited by environmental regulation, but that Dominion Energy and AEP have both proposed local modular reactor plants. AEP's proposed Campbell County plant would produce comparable wattage to a coal plant after a 10-year regulatory process. However, the new transmission line is still required for a reliable, capable system.

a) Financial Report

Dobyns presented the July 2025 to February 2026 financial report. She noted the

-236.162.00 figure in the profit and loss statement “pass through grant revenues” line as part of an Appomattox County program that PDC staff is helping manage.

b) GO Virginia Report

Alec Brebner provided a summary of GO Virginia Region 2 projects. He highlighted the CVCC Career and Technical Education (CTE) program, for which the CVPDC posted a local match. The program is credited with creating 3,500 jobs. He also highlighted the CVCC Appomattox welding program. The CVPDC is administering \$883,000 in grants to install welding equipment in an Appomattox County facility to support CVCC’s welding program. He invited all to attend an open house in April.

Brebner also highlighted the AM2 Initiative, a joint effort led by the New River Valley PDC, Virginia Tech, and Danville’s Institute for Advanced Learning and Research. The \$40 million project would promote 3D printing in GO Virginia Regions 2 and 3. Brebner reported writing a letter of support after discussion with Chairman Tuggle. CVCC may be invited to contribute to curriculum development but will not receive grant funding or equipment. Several commissioners expressed concern that the Central Virginia region was not included in the application process or the award recipients.

c) Executive Director’s Report

Brebner reported that the Central Virginia Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) is underway with consultants Short Elliott Hendrickson (SEH). Local government staff can expect SEH to schedule meetings in late April.

Brebner reported an upcoming meeting with SEH civil engineers, local government leaders, and water suppliers to gather baseline data for the regional water supply plan due to the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality by October 2029.

Brebner noted the upcoming executive committee meeting on April 9th. The committee will review the work plan and budget for recommendation to the full commission. Commissioners are welcome to submit projects for consideration.

Brebner reported that the Long-Range Transportation Plan, Urban Planning Work Program, and Rural Transportation Planning Work Program are underway.

Following up on the November 2025 discussion, Brebner reported that localities part of funded Transportation Authorities are better positioned for VDOT awards due to available matching funds. Some Authorities negotiate for a portion of the state gas tax. This would be difficult to implement locally. Others increase sales tax to fund a landmark regional project. Commissioners expressed interest in working together and receiving VDOT funding though reluctance to consider a tax.

Richard Conner left the meeting at 6:12 p.m.

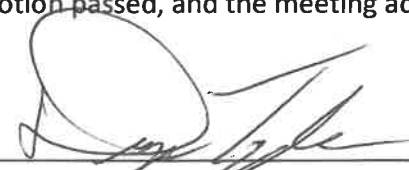
6. Other Business and Regional Roundtable

Tuggle noted that he had recently met with elected officials in DC.

7. Adjournment

Dwayne Tuggle moved to adjourn the meeting. John Sharp seconded the motion. The motion passed, and the meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

X



Signature attest

5-21-26
Date