

**Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center
Board of Trustees
Minutes
June 6, 2013**

Board Members/Designees Present: Senator Phillip Puckett, Senator Bill Carrico, Delegate Joe Johnson, Peter Blake (SCHEV), Ruth Blankenship, Ralph Byers (VT), Billy Cannaday (UVA), Andy Casiello (ODU, via telephone conference), Hara Charlier (VHCC), Kevin Crutchfield, Donna Henry (UVA Wise), Marcia Gilliam (Virginia Community College System), Sean McMurray, Matt O'Quinn, Clo Phillips (VI), John Rainero, Rosalind Reichard (Emory & Henry), Ruby Rogers.

Board Members/Designees Absent: Delegate Terry Kilgore, Penny Kyle (Radford), Fred Marion, Delegate Will Morefield, Delegate Joseph Yost.

Others Present: Sam Bemiss, Kevin Berry, Nancy Breeding, Duffy Carmack, Gerald Blankenship, Courtney Conner, Connie Estep, Rachel Fowlkes, Gil Graham, Elizabeth Griffin, Rebecca Harrison, Deborah Hensley, Kathy Hietala, Sandy Huguenin, David Matlock, Penny McCallum, Marcy Miller, Delegate Will Morefield, Steve Morris, Nicky Rahley, Ed Rogers, Susan Short, Eddie Sproles, Kim Stewart, Adam Tolbert, Sonia Vanhook, Jeff Webb, Alicia Young.

Call to Order

Chairman Kevin Crutchfield welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. A quorum was present. Introductions were held.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Approval of Minutes

The Chairman called for approval of the Minutes for the December 13, 2012, meeting. **They were unanimously approved upon motion by Delegate Johnson, seconded by John Rainero.**

Executive Director's Report

Dr. Rachel Fowlkes presented the Executive Director's report, highlights of which included the following topics:

Conference Services:

- Gil Graham, Manager of Scholle Packaging Corporation, gave a PowerPoint presentation on the company and its regular use of the Higher Education Center facility for company training and events.
- David Matlock, Vice President of Institutional Advancement at Virginia Highlands Community College, spoke about the Community College's use of the Higher Education Center for VHCC events, including the annual Graduation and the recent Songwriter's Festival headlined by Grammy Award winner Richard Leigh, a 1973 VHCC graduate.

William King Regional Museum Relocation Request:

- Marcy Miller, Executive Director, and Steve Morris, Board Member, of the William King Museum, presented a proposal to relocate the Museum to the Higher Education Center. Board members discussed the proposal; however, no decision was made because, as noted by Chairman Crutchfield, the proposal was merely a concept requiring further discussion.

Study in Germany – Project Completion:

- Dr. Fowlkes reported that the grants funding the International Program, under the direction of George Hiller, had come to an end. She thanked the Board for its support of the program, which had afforded numerous students and faculty from the Center's college and university partners the opportunity to study abroad.

Clean Energy R&D Construction

Kevin Berry, Superintendent with BurWil Construction, updated the Board on the Research & Development Center construction project. Remarking that the building is one of the most unique structures he has been a part of building, Mr. Berry noted that its energy-saving features will include the use of light tubes, a wind turbine that will harness sunlight and wind as free natural energy sources, and geothermal wells, among others. The project is expected to be complete by November 2013.

Clean Energy R&D Projects

Ed Rogers, Director, related the status of several current projects to the Board, including:

- *OptaFuel* – Located in Norton, Wise County, VA, the company is making great strides. It has 24 employees, many of whom are PhDs.
- *WireTough Cylinders* – Sales are steadily growing for the company's compressed natural gas (CNG) fuel tanks for CNG-powered vehicles.

Range Resources, a local company, just opened a CNG fueling station for its own vehicles as well as others at its offices in Abingdon.

- *Renew Fuels* and *Tazewell LFG Development, LLC* – The SW VA Higher Education Center Foundation and Clean Energy R&D Center recently received a \$100,000 award from the Center for Innovative Technology (CIT) for this project, entitled, "Tazewell County Renewable Natural Gas." This was the first such award for southwest Virginia.

These projects are partially funded by the Tobacco Commission.

Mr. Rogers also revealed several new projects, among them:

- *Nano Drying Technologies, LLC* – Mr. Rogers introduced Sam Bemiss, whose company is developing a technology for dewatering and selling metallurgical coal fines. The SW VA Higher Education Center Foundation secured \$2 million in funding to be invested in the company's first Virginia-based commercial facility.

Three others in the pipeline, given first-round approval for funding by the Tobacco Commission in May 2013:

- *Litesheet Solutions* (Connecticut) – An LED-lighting technology that is less expensive than and twice as efficient as the next best available LED light.
- *Excavation Alert Systems* (Charlottesville, VA) – A device for preventing excavation damage on high-pressure underground gas and liquids pipelines.
- *Paradigm of New York* – A device for removing particulate matter and reducing fuel use in diesel-powered vehicles and gensets.

Final decisions on these are expected in September 2013.

Financial Report

Duffy Carmack, Chief Financial Officer, provided the Financial Report. He informed the Board that the Center is finishing up FY12-13 right on target, and presented the proposed FY13-14 Budget. Board discussion was held.

The Chairman called for approval of the proposed FY13-14 Budget. **Upon motion by Senator Puckett and seconded by Delegate Johnson, the Board unanimously approved the proposed FY13-14 Budget.**

Mr. Carmack noted that the annual audit has just been completed, and came back with no exceptions.

Mr. Carmack also reported the status of the Higher Education Center and Higher Education Center Foundation Grants to the Board.

The complete financial reports are available in each member's Board folder.

Board Discussion

Ralph Byers, Executive Director of Government Relations at Virginia Tech, brought greetings from President Steger, who has announced his retirement. Mr. Byers also introduced Susan Short, Associate Vice President for Engagement at Virginia Tech.

Delegate Johnson noted his attendance at the Center's recent Graduate Recognition Ceremony, remarking that he was very impressed by the graduates who spoke at the ceremony.

Roz Reichard, retiring President of Emory and Henry College, commented on her service on the Center's Board, expressing her appreciation and stating that the Center has lived up to her every expectation.

Kevin Crutchfield, Chairman, reminded the Board of the next meeting date, December 12, 2013.

Closing Remarks

In closing, Chairman Crutchfield recognized Board member Sean McMurray, whose term will expire at the end of June, expressing the Board's gratitude for his service.

Senator Puckett praised Mr. McMurray's leadership as CEO of Johnston Memorial Hospital, throughout the construction of the new facility, as well as the new Cancer Center.

Delegate Johnson echoed the Senator's praise of McMurray, observing Abingdon's good fortune in having the new Cancer Center, as well as his personal appreciation of it.

Mr. McMurray responded that he feels he has been more of a beneficiary than a contributor as a member of the Center's Board of Trustees, expressing his respect for Dr. Fowlkes and her team.

Dr. Fowlkes requested that other attendees present at the meeting introduce themselves, and everyone did so.

The Chairman called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. **Upon motion by Senator Puckett and seconded by President Phillips, the meeting was adjourned.**