

Northumberland County Planning Commission
August 15, 2019
Minutes

The regular monthly meeting of the Northumberland County Planning Commission was held on August 15, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. in the New Courthouse at Heathsville, VA with the following attendance:

Chris Cralle	Present	Garfield Parker	Absent
Vivian Diggs	Present	Albert Penley, Jr.	Present
Alfred Fisher	Present	Wellington Shirley, Jr.	Present
Ed King	Present	Heidi Wilkins-Corey	Present
Patrick O'Brien	Present	Charles Williams	Absent
Richard Haynie	Present		

Others in attendance:
Stuart McKenzie (County Planner)

RE: CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Fisher.

Ed King gave the invocation.

Alfred Fisher led the Commission in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

RE: AGENDA

Chairman Fisher asked if there is a motion to approve the agenda, Mr. O'Brien made the motion and Albert Penley seconded. All members voted for the motion, and none against. Details on the vote are below:

Chris Cralle	Aye	Garfield Parker	Absent
Vivian Diggs	Aye	Albert Penley, Jr.	Aye
Alfred Fisher	Aye	Wellington Shirley, Jr.	Aye
Ed King	Aye	Heidi Wilkins-Corey	Aye
Patrick O'Brien	Aye	Charles Williams	Absent
Richard Haynie	Aye		

RE: MINUTES- June 20, 2019

With a motion from Patrick O'Brien, seconded by Mr. Penley, and approved by all, the June 20, 2019 minutes were approved. The vote was as follows:

Chris Cralle	Aye	Garfield Parker	Absent
Vivian Diggs	Aye	Albert Penley, Jr.	Aye
Alfred Fisher	Aye	Wellington Shirley, Jr.	Aye
Ed King	Aye	Heidi Wilkins-Corey	Aye
Patrick O'Brien	Aye	Charles Williams	Absent
Richard Haynie	Aye		

RE: COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

There were no commissioner's comments

RE: STAFF MEMBERS' COMMENTS

There were no staff member comments.

RE: CITIZENS' COMMENTS

There were no citizen's comments

RE: PUBLIC HEARINGS

There were no public hearings.

RE: WORK SESSION ITEMS

There were no Work Session Items scheduled

RE: DISCUSSION ITEMS

Mr. Jerry W. Davis from the Northern Neck Chesapeake Bay Public Access Authority (NNCBPAA), began his presentation about the organization and stated that the Authority was authorized by the Virginia General Assembly in 2005, and officially formed in 2006 with the Northumberland, Lancaster and Westmoreland Counties joining the NNCBPAA. Richmond County, initially, did not participate, but did eventually join the Authority. Then Delegate Wittman was able to secure \$75,000 in funding from the General Assembly for both the Middle Peninsula Chesapeake Bay Access Authority as well as the NNCBPAA to further the mission of expanding public water access. The members of the board of the NNCBPAA, of which two are appointed by each county's Board of Supervisors, voted to give the NNPDC \$7,500 for administration costs and then divided the remaining funding equally between the three member counties of the NNCBPAA, which was \$22,500 for each county. One of the first tasks the NNCBPAA undertook was an inventory of existing water access sites, and created a web page that shows the location of those access sites in the Northern Neck. Member counties used their NNCBPAA funds on public access projects in their jurisdictions, Westmoreland County rebuilt Bonham's Landing on Bonum's Creek, Lancaster County used the money to lease and prepare plans for a boat landing at Ashley Cove that never came to fruition.

Congressman Wittman informed the local governments and the NNCBPAA that the days of getting federal earmarks to dredge channels is over, and the localities will, in the future, have to find ways to fund the dredging local creeks themselves. Congressman Wittman, to help localities understand the funding needed, obtained federal funding for a Shallow Water Dredging Study on local Northern Neck Creeks. The federal money required local match funding, so each of the three member counties paid \$7,143 from their NNCBPAA fund for the Dredging Study. The NNCBPAA partnered with the Baltimore and Norfolk Office of the Army Corps of Engineers (ACE) to complete the study. ACE staff looked a past dredging project intervals and future dredging needs, and came up with cost estimates for each federally maintained creek channel in the Northern Neck. In addition, ACE staff tried to pair neighboring creeks that needed dredging, as a large part of the cost of dredging is mobilization of the dredging equipment to the location as well as demobilization. Finally, the Dredging Study looked at how to fund dredging, of which of Special Tax Districts, and Capital Improvement Funds were considered, noting that the funding would have to be paid for by the county, as the Congress is not going to fund dredging. Mr. Davis noted that Richmond County was not included in the Dredging Study, as they were not members of the NNCBPAA at the time. Chairman Fisher stated he would like to see the Northern Neck Shallow Draft Dredging Study, and staff indicated he would bring copies of the study for members at the next Planning Commission meeting.

Mr. Davis continued, stating that the other three counties have expended all of the funds in their NNCBPAA account, while Northumberland is the only county with funds remaining. Mr. Davis stated that the NNCBPAA has \$18,537.85 of Northumberland County funds for public access projects. Mr. Davis noted that there was a Northumberland County citizen that willed funds from his estate after he deceased to the NNCBPAA, and the authority took the position that since he was a Northumberland County citizen, the funds should go into the Northumberland County fund of the NNCBPAA. The total amount was \$3,185.80. Mr. Davis noted that the two representatives on the NNCBPAA board that represent the county are County Administrator Luttrell Tadlock and County Planner Stuart McKenzie, with Mr. Tadlock being the Chairman of the NNCBPAA. Mr. Davis explained that the NNCBPAA does not have a regular meeting schedule, but meet when business needs to be conducted. About three years ago, the NNCBPAA received a donated property in Lancaster County on Windmill Point Road, for public access, and it took advantage of state and federal tax credits, which is a little more complicated, as the deed of trust and the donation documents have to be specifically worded to qualify for the tax credits. In addition, the donation, due to the tax credit is in perpetuity, therefore the NNCBPAA cannot sell the property and must keep it for use for its intended purpose, public water access forever. Mr. Davis continued that the NNCBPAA received another donation of three parcels, again in Lancaster County, on Corrotoman By the Bay subdivision. One property owner owned all three properties, she wanted to donate for public access purposes, but did not intend on pursuing the tax credits. The NNCBPAA accepted the property knowing there was not any public water access available at the sites, but that in the future, the NNCBPAA could sell of those properties to fund the purchase or improvement of public water access facilities in other areas of the county.

Mr. Davis referred to the handout he had distributed and noted that the NNCBPAA does promote that they are able to receive donations to further public water access, by this handout and on the NNCBPAA website. The NNCBPAA handout goes into detail on the tax credit programs that citizens can take advantage of and provides examples of the financial incentives potentially available to those who donate land to the NNCBPAA. Mr. Davis concluded his summary and asked if there were any questions. Mr. McKenzie asked if the donated Lancaster County land was sold, would the proceeds then be credited to Lancaster County's section of the NNCBPAA fund? Mr. Davis answered in the affirmative. Mr. McKenzie added that the Northumberland County citizen that donated the remains of his estate to the NNCBPAA was Charles Fears, who was the person to catch the first fish off the Great Wicomico Fishing Pier, minutes after the grand opening. Mr. O'Brien asked Mr. Davis if there were any Northumberland County properties that the NNCBPAA held, and he replied no, only Lancaster County parcels are held by the NNCBPAA. Mr. Penley asked if the NNCBPAA could sell properties it acquires, and Mr. Davis stated that if no tax credits are involved, they can sell a property, but if it involves tax credits, the State Department of Taxation requires that the NNCBPAA cannot sell the property now or into the future, thus in perpetuity. Chairman Fisher asked when the Dredging Study was completed, and Mr. Davis did not recall, and asked Mr. McKenzie if he remembered. Mr. McKenzie stated he believed it to be sometime around 2010. Chairman Fisher asked if the Commission could get a copy of the Dredging Study, and staff indicated yes, that would be no problem. Mr. McKenzie summarized the report that the amount of money needed to dredge existing federal channels was a boatload of money that is out of any counties budget. Mr. McKenzie noted that the study tried to pair creeks with similar dredge cycles and sediment sizes to reduce the cost for mobilization and demobilization of the dredging equipment. Mr. Fisher asked if that study looks at all the creeks in Northumberland County, and Mr. McKenzie replied that no, it only looks at Federally maintained channels in Northumberland County. Mr. McKenzie noted that down in the middle Peninsula, the Coast Guard has been removing channel markers because they do not have funds to maintain the federal channels, and at least we haven't had that happen in Northumberland County. Mr. McKenzie added that that did happen in Greenvale Creek in Lancaster County recently, though. Mr. Cralle asked when were the federal channels in Northumberland County dredged. Mr. Fisher stated that Cranes Creek was dredged in 1951, and they hadn't been dredged it for 30 years. Mr. Fisher asked if the Northumberland County property near Dameron's Marsh has any legal restrictions on selling the property? Mr. McKenzie noted that was donated when Kenny Eades was the County Administrator, and he doesn't think there are any encumbrances on the property and it could be sold. Board of Supervisors liaison Mr. Haynie stated he did not remember anything that would preclude the county from selling the property. Mr. Fisher noted that Mr. Davis knows how important canoeing and kayaking are to this region's tourism, which Mr. Davis replied yes. Mr. McKenzie added that the NNPDC, with partial funding from the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program in past years created four canoe/kayak water trails in Northumberland County through past technical assistance grants. Mr. McKenzie also noted that those trails and others in coastal Virginia are on a new interactive website, vawatertrails.org. Mr. Cralle asked about the donated parcels in the subdivision in Lancaster County, if the NNCBPAA keeps the grass mowed. Mr. Davis stated that fortunately, the property is still in native vegetation, so no maintenance is needed. Mr. Fisher asked if there is any donated property in Northumberland County? Mr. Davis stated no, but that there may be a potential site in Westmoreland County that

interest has been expressed. Ms. Wilkins-Corey asked Mr. Davis if the NNCBPAA has developed the site in Windmill Point into a public water access site? Mr. Davis stated the NNCBPAA has not done anything to the property, but the site is suited for a wildlife watching venue, or possible a kayak launch. Mr. McKenzie added a large portion of the property is wetlands. Ms. Wilkins-Corey, can you refuse a land donation? Mr. Davis stated that once a property comes in for a donation, then he takes it to the NNCBPAA Board, and they look to the individual county representatives for their approval of the donation, so yes, we can refuse a donation, if that is what the individual county members want. Mr. Davis noted that the property does come off the county tax rolls, and other entities are also preserving land, so the county does want a say in whether accepting it or not. Chairman Fisher asked if someone donated land the NNCBPAA, is the land owned by the County or the State. Mr. Davis replied it is owned by the NNCBPAA, which is a political entity created by the Virginia General Assembly. Chairman Fisher asked that the NNCBPAA could create their own rules with regards to the public water access sites that they own. Mr. Davis stated, yes, within Virginia state law. Chairman Fisher asked who owns Dameron Marsh, Mr. McKenzie stated Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation. Mr. Fisher asked if that was a state entity, and staff indicated that it was owned by the State. Mr. Fisher asked is that why they have all those crazy rules there? Mr. McKenzie stated that Dameron Marsh is a Natural Area Preserve (NAP), and that the primary purpose for a NAP is to protect the natural species and habitat in those areas, and if you don't impact those natural resources then public recreation can be allowed as a secondary purpose. Mr. Cralle asked Mr. Davis if the other counties have similar amounts of funding in the NNCBPAA, and Mr. Davis replied that Northumberland County is the only county that has funds available, the other counties expended their funding. Mr. Penley asked how Northumberland County can access the NNCBPAA funds, would the Board of Supervisor's have to request it? Mr. Davis stated the request would have to go to the NNCBPAA Board, and the two Northumberland County representatives would have to approve that the project was for public water access, and he would assume they would vote to obtain the funds necessary. Mr. O'Brien asked if the county needed some funds to buy a waterfront parcel for public access, the NNCBPAA funds could be used to help purchase that parcel, but if the landowner wanted tax credits they would likely have to donate to the NNCBPAA first. Mr. Davis said yes, funding could be used for land acquisition or for any water access studies as well. Chairman Fisher noted that we do not need any more studies. Mr. McKenzie added that the NNCBPAA cannot take on any project in any of its members counties without that County's Board of Supervisor's approval. Mr. Penley stated that the Commission has been looking at ways to increase public water access in Northumberland County, because it has a positive impact on tourism in the county. Mr. Fisher noted that your criteria for public water access, is it boating ramps, fishing piers, kayak and canoe launches, Mr. Davis said all the above. Citizen Allain asked if the NNCBPAA funds could be used for parking at a public water access site, and Mr. Davis said yes, if it is improving an existing water access site. Chairman Fisher asked if Northumberland County getting interest on the NNCBPAA fund balance, and Mr. Davis said no, it is in the NNPDC general fund and is not accruing interest.

Mr. Davis then began discussing the Callao Revitalization Project, informing those present that Callao had completed a Planning Grant two years ago, and that the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) awards a Downtown

Revitalization Grant Award of \$700,00 to implement the activities identified in the Planning Grant. The grant will deal with physical blight and economic blight (commercial space vacancies), in Callao, a little more than 50% commercial space was vacant. Grant money is set aside for façade improvements, streetscape and lighting improvements and loans for businesses in the project area. As of now, there are four properties that have been approved for façade improvements, the NNPDC provides architectural design services for business interested in façade improvement. One new business will be opening up, the Callao Brewery, located there because of the revitalization effort. The Callao Brewery has accessed some of the loan funds and a façade grant. The four businesses that have approved façade improvement are the Callao Supermarket, Nino's Pizza, Callao Coffeehouse, and the Bicycle Shop. The downtown revitalization project boundary extends to the bike shop on the North, down South along 360 until the Callao Building Supply. Streetscape improvements include replacing sections of sidewalk, which was important to the committee, improving and adding crosswalks, landscaping, sidewalk furniture, street lighting (19 poles), to make sure the business district is a safe environment to get out of your car and shop. Mr. Davis stated that the NNPDC has done similar downtown revitalization projects in Montross, in Colonial Beach and are currently working with Warsaw to help improve the local business districts. Mr. Davis stated that there will be murals established in Callao, and they are working with a metal sculpture to create art pieces to display in Callao to be funded by the grant. Mr. Davis noted that Callao is unique in that it is not a town, and may be the first downtown revitalization project funded by DHCD that is not in a town. The Callao Downtown Association has taken the place of a town council to promote the downtown district and care for the streetscape improvements that will eventually need maintenance and upkeep. Marketing statewide as well as regional marketing will hopefully raise the awareness of Callao as a place to do business. Mr. O'Brien asked when the two-year grant period ends, and Mr. Davis stated all work will be completed by the end of 2020. Mr. Davis stated that Bay Aging installed a bus shelter in Nino's parking lot, next to the post office. There will also be some landscape improvements in Nino's parking lot as well. Mr. Davis asked if there were any questions. There were none.

Mr. Fisher noted he wanted to ask another public water access question, asking Mr. Davis if the Northumberland BOS did not decide to use the NNCBPAA funding in ten or fifteen years, the money would still be available at that time. Mr. Davis stated yes, the money is safe and secure until Northumberland County requests it. Mr. McKenzie asks if the Northumberland County fund is liquid, meaning if the county wanted the money tomorrow, you could write a check for it? Mr. Davis said absolutely, give me a days' notice. Citizen Allain asked if there are any counties that need to have creeks dredged? Mr. Davis stated he knows two counties that have expressed interest in dredging creeks. Staff indicated that in Northumberland County, Cranes Creek and the Little Wicomico River are likely the first creeks that may need to be dredged. Mr. Davis noted that the General Assembly created a fund for shallow dredging last year but there is not much money in it. Mr. McKenzie noted that the dredging grant fund was applied to by six Middle Peninsula Counties, and that the money was not used for actual dredging, but instead for the preliminary environmental studies to get the permits necessary for dredging. Mr. Cralle asked how deep is the average dredging project, and Mr. McKenzie stated that it depends on the channel, there is a federal channel maintenance depth assigned to each channel, and they allow you +/- 1 foot leeway in depth when dredging.

Chairman Fisher thanked Mr. Davis for the informative presentation and Mr. Davis responded in kind.

Chairman Fisher asked staff about the possibility of the county creating a canoe/kayak launching area under the Rt. 200 bridge, adjacent to the Great Wicomico Fishing Pier, would the State lease that land to the county? Mr. Fisher, expanding on his premise, was wondering if VDOT would allow the use, if we required vehicles to park in the Fishing Pier parking lot and only use the site for launching and retrieving of car top boats. Mr. McKenzie stated that VDOT gets antsy anytime you get near their infrastructure, due to the perceived increased possibility of terrorist attacks on highway infrastructure. Mr. Fisher stated that we should ask, and it's a nice piece of land that is not being used, and the worst they could say no. Mr. McKenzie noted that the roadbed is in place, the shoreline is gravelly and a gentle slope, there would be very little we needed to do to get the site ready to use, cut the vegetation and maybe add a little gravel. Mr. McKenzie stated he would contact VDOT and see what they say.

Chairman Fisher noted that Broadband Internet Access is an issue in the county and we hear about the problems getting and keeping broadband access almost every day. The Planning Commission purpose is to look out for the environmental, economic and social well-being of the people of this county. Broadband access is very limited here, a lot of what we do have is insufficient, people that live down in the 'necks suffer, while people along the main highway have great internet service and connections. Mr. Fisher stated that Mr. O'Brien is well informed regarding broadband and has put together a preliminary white paper on broadband access for the Commission to discuss. Mr. Fisher implored the members to take the paper home, read it, discuss it with your family, your neighbors and maybe we can keep this county from being left behind regarding broadband internet access. Mr. Fisher noted that Lancaster County is working on this issue as well. Mr. Fisher stated that there are so many people that work from home using a computer, even though their office is in the big city.

Mr. O'Brien stated that there is a lot going on with regards to internet access in the region, two weeks ago, he learned that the Northern Neck Electric Co-Op (NNEC) created a web based feasibility survey of coupling internet access with the existing power network to serve Co-Op members. On page two of the white paper, there is a link to the survey address, he noted. Mr. O'Brien stated he wrote the white paper on behest of the Chairman, and tried to make the document as non-technical as he could. Mr. O'Brien stated what is going on is new technology becoming cheaper and more affordable like when the first hand-held calculators came out they were expensive at first, but in a few years they became very affordable. Mr. O'Brien stated we are on the cusp of that new technology with 5G internet access, as it is a game changer and could be a game changer in this county, if we get on it. Mr. O'Brien asked if everyone knows what "buffering" is? He continued, it is basically data constipation, you have to get rid of the data backlog before the system can advance. The real radical advance of 5G broadband is that you do not have the buffering problem, with speed going up a factor of 10 to 100 times. He continued, that permits really powerful wireless transmission systems, and oddly enough, Northumberland County is a perfect place for some of the low megahertz distribution systems. Today to get connected with broadband by a cable, Mr. O'Brien knows several

people that have been given quotes of thousands of dollars to get connected, and that price is obviously not practical. Mr. O'Brien continued to say that today, there are 5G transmitters based on a phone pole near your house that cover a distance of 6 miles. Since the speed of a network is determined, in part, by the number of users, then with the low population density we have here in the Northumberland County, the quality of service should be faster than any 4G internet service we have now. This speed would allow internet streaming. Perhaps we could persuade NNEC to start a pilot project in Northumberland County and install some of these 5G transmitters, that way, if you live within 6 miles of a road, you can get broadband service. Mr. O'Brien stated that there is another aspect going on simultaneously, that is the National First Responder Network, which also uses 5G. There is a possibility for installation of a second data network to be installed the same time the First Responder Network is installed, and that would drastically lower the cost of the second data network. Perhaps we can convince the NNEC to partner and create a pilot project with a second network when the First Responder Network is installed. Mr. O'Brien noted that this may help the NNEC customers, but the county would have to have other options available to help serve broadband internet to Dominion Energy customers. Mr. McKenzie added that he can provide a map that shows the area of the county served by Northern Neck Electric Co-Operative, and by default, shows Dominion Energy service area as well. Mr. McKenzie stated that Dominion came in and cherry-picked the main roads, Route 360 and Route 200 as well Reedville and left the rest of the county for the Co-Op, so most of the waterfront is served by NNEC. Mr. McKenzie stated he would provide a map of the electric company service areas at the next meeting.

Mr. O'Brien stated that Lancaster County's Broadband Authority is undertaking surveys, which he feels is a colossal waste of time, everyone knows we need better internet access, we need to move forward with implementation. Mr. Fisher asked a question about current cell phone technology, it is supposed to have a four mile range, but due to the topography and other factors here in the county sometimes you can only get a two mile range. Mr. Fisher asks are they same problems going to affect 5G technology? Mr. O'Brien said that 5G should be not be as affected from these factors as currently cell phone technology is. Mr. Penley stated he read in the paper that Mr. Tomlin is going to set up a Broadband Authority in Northumberland as soon as he wins the election. Mr. O'Brien asked if he could be allowed to finish. Mr. O'Brien stated he did not like the term Authority, it makes it sound like an entity and not the county Board of Supervisor's.

Mr. Haynie stated the Board of Supervisors is doing everything they can to bring internet providers into the County, but it is not easy. Mr. Haynie is not sure about whether the county will form an Authority, but if it helps, then he would be all for it. He continued, the Board is willing to put taxpayers dollars to help benefit the citizens, but they have to make sure they are making good investments that actually help expand the quality and coverage of broadband in the county. Mr. McKenzie stated that Mr. Tadlock wanted him to inform the Commission that he has been attending Congressman Wittman's Broadband meetings, and that the county has partnered with several subdivisions to apply to the Virginia Telecommunication Initiative (VATI) grant program. The subdivisions came to the county and said we have money, can you help us get internet installed in our subdivisions. Through this grant program the county is maximizing the amount of leverage funds while spending very little taxpayer money. Staff indicated that Mr.

Tadlock also want the commission to know that the county is creating standard criteria for accepting VATI applications from subdivision for internet connectivity in the future, and the reason the subdivisions were first is because they approached the county with cash for part of the local match for the grant. In addition, Atlantic Broadband has done feasibility studies in these subdivisions, and they have to have those studies completed to see if it is economically feasible to expand into these new areas. It is a three way partnership with the County, the subdivisions and Atlantic Broadband all putting money to the VATI grant application. Staff noted that this year the Board of Supervisors put \$25,000 toward increasing broadband access and with this VATI application they are only using \$5,000, so that leaves \$20,000 for other initiatives to help increase internet access in the county. This is the first time the county put money to increase internet access. Chairman Fisher asked what about the citizens of Northumberland that don't live in a subdivision? Mr. McKenzie stated that \$5,000 is a small portion of the total county budget, and the county is, if the grant is approved, expanding internet service coverage within the jurisdiction, so a little progress is better than no progress, right? The county is partnering with Atlantic Broadband, and that company was formed to make a profit. If it doesn't make a profit, then Atlantic Broadband will not engage in that project. In addition, the county may partner with another internet service provider, but the bottom line is that these companies are not going to expand into areas where the citizens can't afford to pay for the service, so there will likely be some areas that may not be served into the future. Mr. O'Brien stated he has a problem with the exorbitant connection costs that Atlantic Broadband charges, he added that 5G does not have a connection cost.

Citizen Allain, who explained he is an engineer, disagreed with Mr. O'Brien's characterization of the possibility of 5G technology, citing that San Francisco abandoned 5G technology after they found out they needed a much denser network of transmitters to achieve the speeds promised. Mr. Allain also contended that 5G at low megahertz will not give the bandwidth needed for broadband services, so 5G has some kinks to be worked out until 5G is a viable solution. The number of transmitters needed would be uneconomically high. Mr. Cralle asked if Atlantic Broadband provides a map of where they are expanding each year to the county? Staff stated he did not think that was the case. Mr. Haynie stated that the Board asked Atlantic Broadband to report to the Board annually to inform them of expansion possibilities. If Atlantic Broadband will not make money, then they are not going to install the cable. Mr. Haynie stated we are making progress, and you have to start somewhere. Mr. McKenzie stated that this discussion is not new, twenty years ago, the "last mile" problem has existed for a long time, but at that time they were talking about cable television service, not broadband internet. The 'last mile' is always going to be a challenge.

Chairman Fisher asked about the Northumberland County Library WiFi hotspot, does the county support that? Staff indicated that the county provides indirect financial support to the library, but did initiate that effort. Mr. Fisher stated that perhaps the county can invest in creating some more of these hotspots, in the lower part of the county, so parents can drive to the hotspot so their kid can complete their homework with a reliable internet connection. Mr. Cralle asked why Atlantic Broadband can't install a wireless transmitter at the end of the cable to help serve those near the "last mile"? Staff agreed, at each terminus you could have a wireless transmitter to capture a few more customers, however, there are no easy answers. Mr. Haynie stated the population is spread out in the

county. Staff stated that the county has ribbons of population along our coast, and a dispersed population in the interior of the county, and higher populations along the highway corridor, which are already covered with good internet service. Chairman Fisher indicated that the Commission will continue to discuss what can be done to expand internet service in the county at future meetings.

RE: PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no comments from the public.

RE: PUBLIC HEARING

There were no public hearings at this meeting.

RE: ADJOURNMENT

With a motion from Mr. King, seconded by Mr. Penley, and approved by all, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm. The vote was as follows:

Chris Cralle	Aye	Garfield Parker	Absent
Vivian Diggs	Aye	Albert Penley, Jr.	Aye
Alfred Fisher	Aye	Wellington Shirley, Jr.	Aye
Ed King	Aye	Heidi Wilkins-Corey	Aye
Patrick O'Brien	Aye	Charles Williams	Absent
Richard Haynie	Aye		