

COUNTY CONNECTIONS

The Newsletter of the
Virginia Association of Counties

November 15, 2008



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Accomack County's Donald Hart elected VACo president



The membership of the Virginia Association of Counties elected Accomack County Supervisor Donald L. Hart, Jr., as 2008-2009 president during VACo's 74th Annual Conference in Bath County. Hart and other newly elected officers started their terms at the association's Annual Business Meeting on Nov. 11.

Hart becomes the second consecutive educator to be named VACo president, following Rockingham

County Supervisor William B. Kyger, Jr. He is also the second Accomack County representative to ascend to the presidency. Accomack County Supervisor Clifton D. Marsh served as president from 1982-83.

"I am truly humbled and honored that you have elected me president," Hart said during his acceptance speech. "I will bring a part of Accomack County, which is the most eastern in the Commonwealth, to all the counties I

visit. But I want you to know, I will also carry a part of your county back with me."

Hart, 53, was elected to the Accomack County Board of Supervisors in 1979 and has served as chairman three times and vice chair four times.

"Don is enthusiastic about serving

Hart
Continued on page 9

Many memorable moments at the 2008 Annual Conference

By Larry Land
lland@vaco.org

The final numbers are in and the results are good.

Over 1,000 people attended VACo's 2008 annual conference and 367 of them were county officials. There were 263 representatives from businesses, state agencies and other organizations who staffed the booths in the exhibit halls. A total of 30 individuals participated as either keynote speakers during the general sessions, or as presenters in the workshops. Another 216 people attended either as guests or spouses.

To all those who attended, we extend two words: Thank You! You participated in another successful Annual Conference hosted by the Virginia Association of Counties.

For the benefit of VACo's members unable to attend, most of the speeches and power point presentations from the conference break-out sessions are available on our Web site at: www.vaco.org.

This is where you can find, for example, Gov. Tim Kaine describing Virginia's finance and budgetary picture as one of "significant uncertainty." In the conference's opening session he told county officials how forecasters serving his administration "don't know how deep" the current economic downturn will be, nor do they know "how long it's going to last."

At our Web site you can also watch Don Stapley, president of the National Association of Counties characterizing the extent of the global economic ailments as "unique in our history" and how it appears to be "a very different animal" from past recessions.

He told conference attendees that the economic downturn is causing his home county (Maricopa County in Arizona) to have a \$58 million revenue shortfall. He praised NACo's services collectively as an important resource that can help counties across the country survive difficult economic conditions. He specifically cited such



Gov. Timothy M. Kaine (above) shakes hands with Amelia County administrator Thomas E. Harris as Fairfax County supervisor Gerald W. Hyland applauds. The governor has visited the VACo Annual Conference each year he's been in office. House Speaker William J. Howell (below) became one of the few House Speakers to address the Annual Conference. Howell credited VACo's conference theme as "the desire of Virginians for new ideas, reforms and progress."



Conference

Continued on page 10

VACo membership adopts 2009 Legislative Program

By Mike Edwards
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The membership adopted VACo's 2009 Legislative Program during the annual business meeting on Nov. 11 in Bath County.

This year's program includes several recommendations intended to assist counties with existing mandates and the forthcoming state budget reductions. (please see "VACo adopts legislative strategies to address the state's \$2.5 billion funding shortfall" on Page 4)

The annual program guides the VACo staff, leadership and membership during the 2009 legislative year. The adopted document is posted on VACo's Web site.

In addition to key perennial recommendations, the adopted document includes several important new policies. Highlights and excerpts from VACo's 2009 Legislative Program:

Unfunded Mandates: VACo opposes unfunded mandates by the Commonwealth... [W]hen legislation with a cost to localities is passed by the General Assembly, the cost should be borne by the state and the legislation should contain a sunset clause providing that the mandate is not binding on localities until funding by the Commonwealth is provided...

Land Use/Growth Management

Tools: Authority to plan and regulate land use should remain with local governing bodies and VACo opposes any legislation to weaken that authority. Furthermore, the General Assembly should grant localities the tools necessary to adequately meet citizens' increasing transportation, education, public safety and other vital public infrastructure needs that are driven by new development...

Education Funding: VACo supports full state funding for public education (including the SOQ, targeted incentive programs, capital and maintenance

support, and teacher salaries). Full state funding should be achieved without reduction to other parts of the federal and state public education budgets or to the other core services.



Energy Efficiency: VACo strongly endorses aggressive initiatives among all levels of government to reduce dependence upon foreign sources of energy, to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, and to improve energy efficiency...

Comprehensive Services Act: VACo supports additional state funding in the "CSA Pool" as local governments comply with additional mandated policy initiatives for children at risk of foster care and/or custody relinquishment. .. [To] ensure the delivery of quality services and adequate follow-up, localities must have the flexibility to use state funding for direct and indirect costs associated with growing case loads of children already eligible for services and for the newly defined categories of children.

Deployment of Broadband Internet Services: VACo urges the Commonwealth to assist communities throughout Virginia in providing connectivity or universal access to broadband Internet services... [U]niversal access throughout the state will enhance economic growth.

Transportation Funding: [V]ACo ... urges the Governor of Virginia and the Virginia General Assembly to enact a significant transportation funding

package to include dedicated, new, significant and recurring annual revenues to address the Commonwealth's documented transportation infrastructure needs. New revenues should include, but not be limited, to gas tax revenues.

Dedicated, new, significant and recurring annual revenues are required to eliminate the road maintenance shortfall; increase funding directed to interstate and primary highways, urban and secondary roads, and transit projects;[and] guard against the transfer of general funds to transportation...

VACo's process for the development and adoption of annual legislative program:

1. Spring regional meetings: in even number years VACo members are invited to attend regional meetings to identify and discuss key statewide legislative and policy issues.
2. Three Resolutions Committee meetings: the committee oversees the development of the annual Legislative Program. The meetings occur in the spring after the regional meetings, early fall, and during the annual conference in November. The committee receives regular legislative updates, via conference call, during the regular legislative session in the winter.
3. Steering Committees meet at least twice: late summer and November during the annual conference. The Steering Committees develop their policy sections in the annual Legislative Program.
4. The membership is asked to adopt the new legislative program during the annual business meeting. The meeting occurs on the last day of the annual conference in November.

VACo adopts legislative strategies to address the state's \$2.5 billion funding shortfall

By Mike Edwards
medwards@vaco.org

VACo's adopted 2009 Legislative Program includes a series of recommendations intended to assist counties in addressing the forthcoming state budget reductions.

The recommendations are outlined in the new policy position regarding State and Local Fiscal Sustainability and were drafted by a special VACo committee appointed in August by William B. Kyger of Rockingham County, VACo's 2007-2008 President. The Finance and Resolutions Committees, as well as the membership, approved the special committee's suggested policy position during the annual conference.

The recommendations range from the pragmatic (urging the state to rely on its reserve fund to prevent greater budget cuts) to the ambitious (authorizing counties equal tax authority).

The Commonwealth and its local governments face difficult and unique budget challenges. In addition to addressing decreasing local revenues, county governments also are preparing to manage the consequences of significant state budget reductions.

The state is facing a \$2.5 billion revenue shortfall in FY 2009 and FY 2010. Many experts suggest the shortfall will grow between now and the end of the 2009 regular session.

In the coming months local governments will consider and enact draconian budget actions. Specific budget reductions will impact a wide array of core government services, including but not limited to, public education and public safety. In addition to absorbing significant reductions, many local governments may increase property taxes to help ensure the continuation of vital public services.

The adopted recommendations included in the 2009 policy statement regarding State and Local Fiscal Sustainability:



The VACo Board of Directors, among many issues, discussed a new budget policy position recommended by a special committee.

* VACo supports the state's budgeting two withdrawals from the Revenue Stabilization Fund ("Rainy Day Fund"): One in FY 2009 and an additional withdrawal in FY 2010. Concurrent withdrawals will help to offset state budget reductions.

* VACo supports legislative efforts to revisit state tax reductions and to increase state general tax revenues. Since the late 1990s the state has enacted more than \$1.8 billion in biennial tax reductions. The additional state revenues resulting from such measures will help to i) protect adequate funding for the core government services including K-12 public education, and ii) offset state budget reductions.

* VACo opposes the enactment of new unfunded state mandates. (Please see the reference to the adopted policy statement regarding unfunded mandates in "VACo Membership adopts 2009 Legislative Program; platform establishes policy direction" on Page 3.)

* VACo reaffirms its support for the enactment of equal taxing authority. Counties should be enabled, like cities and towns, to institute specific taxes. The new revenue will help to i) protect adequate funding for the core government services including K-12 public education, and ii) reduce county

dependence on property taxes.

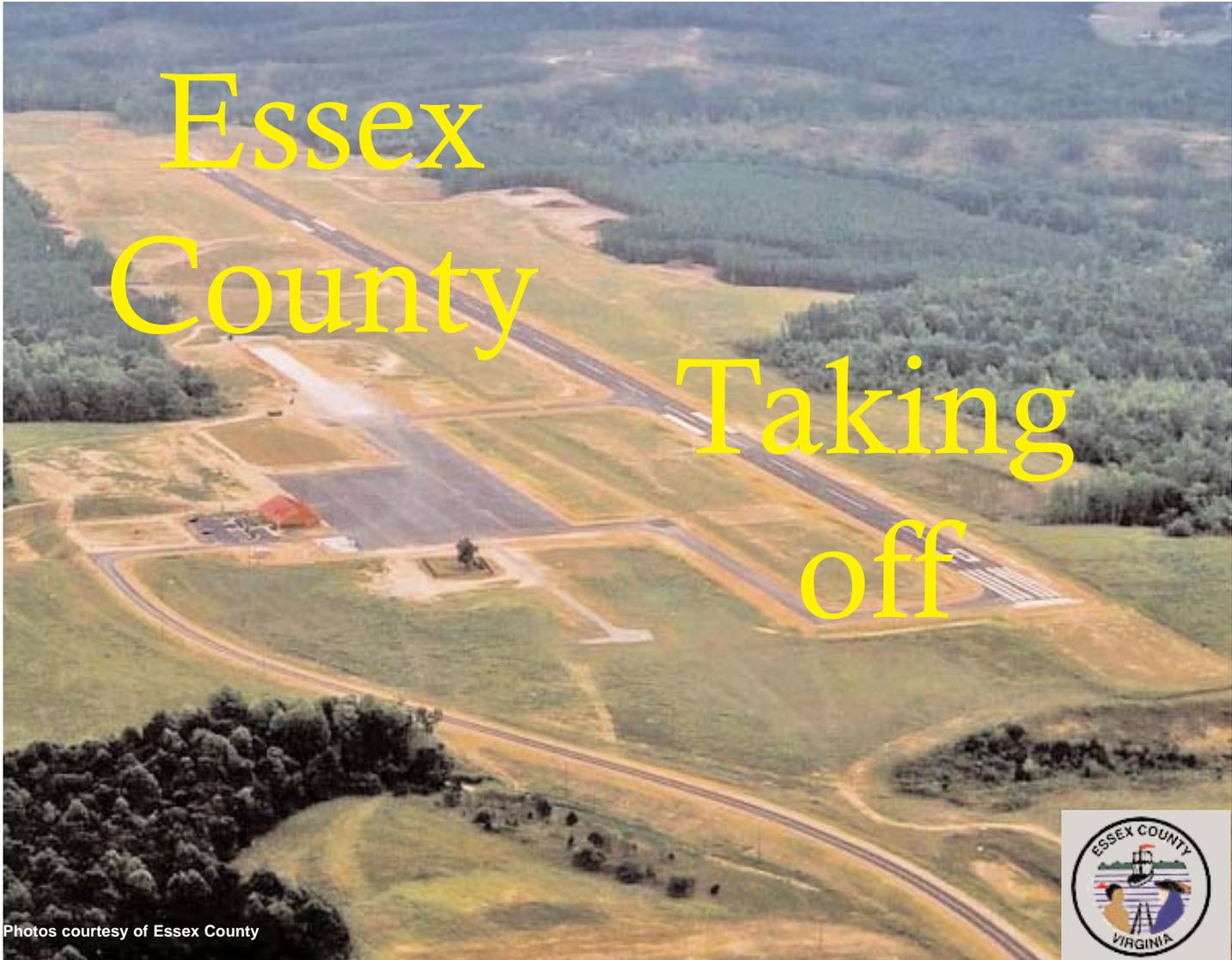
The statement also reserves the right of VACo to seek an additional 0.5 percent local option sales and use tax for counties and cities. The new local revenues will help to i) protect adequate funding for the core government services including K-12 public education, ii) reduce county dependence on property taxes, and iii) offset forthcoming state budget reductions. The document cautions that such local authority should be considered "[I]f appropriate to a particular jurisdiction."

President Kyger appointed the special committee in August after the Finance Steering Committee recommended the establishment of a group to help the VACo Board of Directors address the impact of the anticipated state budget shortfall on local governments.

J. Michael Hobert of Clarke County chaired the Finance Steering Committee as well as the special committee.

A little less than 50 percent of the state's general fund--comprised of general state tax revenues--is appropriated to local governments. The bulk of this funding is required for mandated services including K-12 public education (74 percent of all local aid).

Essex County Taking off



Photos courtesy of Essex County



Linwood E. Wadsworth knows aviation and when he talks about the Tappahannock-Essex County Airport (XSA), he does so from a different perspective.

“Yes, I’ve taken off and landed there several times,” said Wadsworth, who was chairman of the Tappahannock-Essex County Airport Authority and has 25 years experience as a pilot. “It’s comparable with any community airport in the Commonwealth. It has good approaches, it’s plenty long enough and has ample parking. It’s very nice.”

XSA, which opened September 2007, might be the last new airport



Airport

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An aerial view of the Tappahannock-Essex County Airport. Note the tin red roof that covers the terminal building. The spacious airport is home to 18 single-engine and 4 multi-engine planes. The airport can accommodate small planes as well as jets like the one shown above.



VACo welcomes its new Board members

VACo's Board of Directors comprises of 24 elected officials representing 13 regions of the state. The terms are on a two-year cycle and the number of directors, per region, is based on the population of that specific region.

This year, representatives were selected in regions 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11 and 12.

Newly elected board members include:

- Region 2:** Judy S. Lyttle, Surry County
- Region 3:** Patricia S. O'Bannon, Henrico County
- Region 5:** Connie Brennan, Nelson County
- Region 6:** J. Michael Hobert, Clarke County
- Region 7:** James B. Howard, King George
- Region 8:** J. Walter Tejada, Arlington County
- Region 8:** Gerry W. Hyland, Fairfax County
- Region 8:** Scott K. York, Loudoun County
- Region 8:** Sharon S. Bulova, Fairfax County
- Region 10:** Hugh T. Pendleton, Jr., Campbell County
- Region 11:** Richard Flora, Roanoke County
- Region 12:** Danny C. McDaniel, Wythe County

**VACo would like to thank everyone who sent
in their conference evaluation forms. We appreciate your input.**

Congratulations



Representatives of the 12 counties that won a 2008 VACo Achievement Award proudly gather for a group photo. For the first time in the program's six-year history, no county won more than one award and an environmental category was added. VACo congratulates all the winners and hopes every county will enter the program in 2009.

TO THE WINNERS



Andrew Casolini Dal Bo, principal engineer, and Ronald Reekes, business development/project manager, smile after learning that WENDEL had won the free vendor booth for 2009. The WENDEL Companies improve communities. The firm plans, designs and builds the places and spaces people need to live, learn, work and play.



The Virginia Cooperative Extension and the Virginia Association of Counties recognized the third class of County Supervisor Certification Program graduates during the Annual Conference.

Graduates of the 18-month certification program include:

- (from left to right)
- David Hutchins, Carroll County
- Tony Carter, Warren County
- Kate Berger, Pittsylvania County
- (not pictured)
- Sharon Barocelli, Shenandoah County
- Paul Milde, Stafford County

The County Supervisor Certification Program was created in response to VACo members requesting more in-depth knowledge about government operations.

Changes to TDR statutes receive tentative approval

By Ted McCormack
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The Joint Subcommittee Studying Transfer of Development Rights (HJR 195/2008) met on Nov. 17 to review a series of recommendations that would significantly revise the current transfer of development rights (TDR) statute.

According to Del. Matt Lohr of Rockingham County, chairman of the joint subcommittee, the proposed amendments were put forward in response to some of the comments received at prior meetings and to extend statewide some of the TDR provisions authorized only to Albemarle County by the 2008 General Assembly (HB 991).

Two changes reviewed by the subcommittee members seek to correct some major issues with the 2006 TDR statute – the “banking” of purchased development rights and the vesting of development rights.

The proposed legislation, however, does not create a separate development rights “bank” as in other states, but allows such rights to be severed from a sending property and attached by the purchaser to a receiving property at some future date. Under existing law, the severing and attachment of development rights must occur simultaneously. With respect to the second issue, the new amendments align the vested right provisions in the TDR statutes with the general vesting statute found in §15.2-2307, Code of Virginia.

Also proposed for addition to current law is the requirement that the total number of development rights to be severed from sending areas must be equal to the total number of rights permitted in receiving areas. In addition, a streamlined review process is required that allows the planning commission’s agent to review and approve TDR applications that meet the requirements of the local program.

Several new permissive provisions of TDR ordinances that may give increased flexibility to local programs will be authorized if the recommendations receive final legislative approval.

These include:

- *Development rights may be retired or extinguished.
- *Development rights may be used in lieu of proffers under certain circumstances.
- *Development rights from “stale zoning (i.e., existing zoned or subdivided property) may be sold.
- *Property owners may request designation as either a sending or receiving area.
- *Owners of development rights may apply for real estate tax abatement for 25 years and retire those rights at the end of the period.
- *Development rights may be used for either increased residential density or increased business square footage.
- *Property from which the development rights have been sold may be used for agricultural production or the generation of renewable energy (e.g., energy derived from sunlight, wind, falling water, sustainable biomass, etc. but not from coal, oil, natural gas or nuclear power).

Other recommendations address the question of the taxation of development rights. After such rights are severed and before they are attached to a receiving parcel, they are to be considered as taxable real estate interest in the same manner as mineral rights.

During the public comment period that followed discussion of the proposed legislation, one speaker cautioned that because the TDR concept is not generally understood by the General Assembly, any alteration of the existing statute may face an uncertain future during the 2009 Session. In addition, VACo staff thanked the joint subcommittee for their efforts to clarify the existing TDR statute, but reiterated that without a broad infrastructure impact fee, most localities will be reluctant to adopt a TDR program.

At the close of the meeting, the subcommittee members tentatively approved the recommendations as amended during the discussion. Further, Chairman Lohr invited local governments and other interested parties to review the proposed changes and offer appropriate comment as soon as possible so that the legislation can be finalized.



Commission on Climate Change to release final report soon

By Larry Land
lland@vaco.org



Less than one month remains before the Governor's Commission on Climate Change is scheduled to release its final recommendation.

At its most recent meeting on Nov. 13, Commission members spent nearly eight hours focusing on the findings and recommendations likely to appear in its final report.

Altogether, nearly 100 findings are being evaluated by the Commission. Many of them will have impacts upon local government.

Here are a few of them:

"Local governments are on the front lines of many climate change adaptation approaches and may not have the authorities needed to put those in place. The General Assembly should, with the assistance of the Virginia Municipal League and the Virginia Association of Counties, undertake a review of authorities of local governments and enact any enabling authority that is needed."

"The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality should amend the comprehensive water supply planning regulations to require that localities or regional planning units assess the potential impacts of climate change of existing or proposed water supplies."

"The General Assembly should require local governments whose jurisdictions encompass Virginia's shoreline to develop integrated shoreline management

plans in coordination with the Virginia Marine Resources Commission."

"The General Assembly should provide funding for the Virginia Geographic Information Network to acquire LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) data for the coastal zone, which will cost approximately \$6 million, and the resulting data should be made publicly available."

"The Secretary of Natural Resources should lead an inter-agency and inter-governmental effort to develop a Sea level Rise Adaptation strategy. The Sea Level Rise Adaptation Strategy should encompass a full range of policies, programs and initiatives that will be required to adapt in the areas of natural resources, economy and infrastructure, and any other area impacted by sea level rise."

"Based on the revised floodplain maps accounting for sea-level rise, increasing storm surge and flooding from more

intense rainfall events, the State Corporation Commission should work with the insurance industry and other partners as necessary to develop an analysis of the areas most vulnerable to insurance losses due to increased storm activities and inundation."

"Local governments in the coastal area of Virginia should include projected climate change impacts in all planning efforts, including local government comprehensive plans and land use plans. Local governments should revise zoning and permitting ordinances to require projected climate change impacts to be addressed in order to minimize threats to life, property, and public infrastructure and to ensure consistency with state and local climate change adaptation plans."

(State agencies and local governments should develop climate change adaptation plans for critical infrastructure for which they are responsible.)

All findings will again be reviewed at the Commission's next meeting at 10 a.m. on Dec. 4 in House Room D of the General Assembly Building in Richmond. The Commission's final report with findings and recommendations is due to be released by Dec. 15.

Additional information is available at www.deq.state.va.us/info/climate-change.html.

Hart

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the state and intends to reach out and visit every region of Virginia," VACo Executive Director James D. Campbell said. "He has a good understanding of the challenges localities face today and has a balanced view of the issues. VACo strongly values his contributions."

Besides his work as an educator

and supervisor, Hart also volunteers as a fireman and works with the Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission.

Hart earned an undergraduate degree from Virginia Commonwealth University and his masters in education and guidance from the University of Maryland Eastern Shore.

He is married and has four children and one grandchild.

2008/2009 VACo Executive Committee

President: Donald L. Hart, Jr, Accomack County

President-Elect: Phillip A. Bradshaw, Isle of Wight County

First VP: Robert R. Adkins, Wise County

Second VP: Barbara A. Favola, Arlington County

Secretary-Treasurer: Catherine M. Hudgins, Fairfax County

Immediate Past President: William B. Kyger, Jr., Rockingham County

Conference

Continued from page 2

helpful initiatives as NACo's U.S. Communities Cooperative Purchasing Agreement and its Prescription Drug Discount Program.

With the specter of difficult economic conditions now challenging Virginia's counties, those who participated in the planning of the event never lost sight of this one very important purpose for VACo's 2008 Annual Conference: To inspire among county officials from all regions of Virginia a continuing desire to share ideas about how in the future they will provide services in the most creative, innovative and efficient ways possible.

The significance of this objective was underscored in the opening session by House Speaker William J. Howell when he portrayed this year's conference theme ("Counties Poised for Change") as VACo's recognition of "the desire of Virginians for new ideas, reforms and progress."

His point was subsequently reinforced by Ed McMahon of the Urban Land Institute who declared that we are entering into a "new paradigm" that will demand major innovations in the development of infrastructure, the design of new communities and the restoration of aging neighborhoods.

In the Tuesday morning general session, McMahon's visionary insights and the passion behind his words earned him a standing ovation.

The conference break-out sessions featured valuable opportunities for county officials to learn about how they can improve energy efficiency in local government operations, take advantage of emerging trends in public safety, work more effectively with their respective representatives in the General Assembly, launch a "green buildings" program, work to improve water quality, benefit from advancements in information technology, and effectively plan for their own retirement.

There were also workshops that focused in greater detail on the state/local budget situation, and the coordination of land use and



Del. Phil A. Hamilton (left), Sen. Edward R. Houck (center) and Del. Chris S. Jones were among members of the General Assembly to participate in the Annual Conference's concurrent sessions.

transportation policies. Many workshop participants were key members of the General Assembly, including Delegates Phil A. Hamilton, Chris S. Jones, John M. O'Bannon, Bob H. Brink, Joe T. May, and Terry G. Kilgore; and Senators Edward R. Houck, William C. Wampler, and Frank M. Ruff, Jr.

In addition to being a keynote speaker, Speaker Howell participated in several other meetings that were part of VACo's Annual Conference.

Aside from informing and inspiring, one chief purpose of the annual conference was to approve the Association's 2009 legislative agenda.

This year's Legislative Program reflects VACo's continuing commitment to protect "state and local fiscal stability, which will enable the state to provide core services that are critical to the long-term vitality of Virginia."

As "priority" items on its 2009 legislative agenda, VACo's full membership once again adopted positions supporting the current moratorium on city annexations, deployment of broadband internet services in underserved areas, stability in financing Virginia's transportation system, and opposing unfunded mandates. (For more details, VACo's 2009 Legislative Program is posted on VACo's Web site.)

Newly elected VACo president, Donald Hart brought the Conference to its conclusion with a plea for unity. Virginia's counties, he said "are strong

when all 95 of us stand together." He also told county officials he looks forward to working closely with them over the next year as they address the daunting budget challenges.

Once again, we want to thank all who contributed to the success of this year's conference either by participating as an exhibitor, speaker, moderator, or presenter in our break-out sessions.

Appreciation also needs to be extended to Robert R. Adkins of the Wise County Board of Supervisors and other members of the 2008 Conference Planning Committee. Adkins chaired the committee. Adkins, VACo First Vice President, chaired the committee.

We also need to thank all who participated as sponsors for specific conference events: Most specifically UnitedHealthCare, Dominion, SunTrust Bank, Northrop Grumman, Moseley Architects, Forensic Analysis, Wiley Wilson, VACoRP, Troutman Sanders Strategies, and Robinson, Farmer, Cox Associates.

One final word about VACo's Annual conference: Each year when we plan a conference there's always a goal to out-do what we accomplished the previous year. Please share with us any thoughts or suggestions you may have on matters we should consider as we plan for the next Annual Conference scheduled for Nov. 8-10, 2009 at the Homestead. Please submit your comments to Larry Land at lland@vaco.org.



Colleagues and friends reunite to celebrate the grand opening of the Tappahannock-Essex Airport in September 2007.

Pictured from left to right. Randall Burdette, director, Virginia Department of Aviation; Monte Gladding, Tappahannock mayor; Terry J. Page, manager, Washington Airports District Office, FAA; Sen. Ryan McDougle, 4th Senatorial District; Gordon M. Birkett, Tappahannock-Essex County Airport Authority; Linda E. Lumpkin, assistant Essex County administrator; Linwood E. Wadsworth, chairman, Tappahannock-Essex County Airport Authority; Edwin E. "Bud" Smith, Jr., chairman, Essex County Board of Supervisors; Roger Oberndorf, chairman, Virginia Aviation Board.

Airport

Continued from page 5

constructed in Virginia for a long time. In fact, some are predicting no new airport will be built in the Commonwealth for the next 50 years.

"It's not easy to build an airport," said Linda Lumpkin, Deputy County Administrator and economic development director. "This one took 20 years, but it's worth the wait."

XSA is spectacular and has been hailed as an architectural beauty. The airport offers fuel service and currently houses 18 single-engine and 4 multi-engine aircrafts. The runway spans 4,400 feet and in excellent condition.

"The airport has been accommodating good-sized corporate jets with ease," Wadsworth said.

It was 1987 when the Federal Aviation Administration approached Essex County officials with a plan to build an airport. Apparently, Essex County was a prime location on the FAA sky grid.

The original estimate was \$5 million with the FAA funding 95 percent while the Virginia Department of Aviation and the local community sharing the remaining 5 percent of the costs.

"We knew back then, 20 years ago,

that this airport would give us an advantage," Lumpkin said. "We knew we could not miss out on this opportunity."

Because of inflation and other economic factors, the final price tag was \$13 million.

"Without the vision, support, and upfront funding of the Essex County Board of Supervisors," Lumpkin said, "and the encouragement and cooperation of the Virginia Department of Aviation and the FAA, this futuristic project would still not be a reality but merely a dream in the hearts and minds of local visionaries."

Lumpkin was instrumental in the design of the terminal. She spent many days off traveling the region to gather ideas.

"I visited almost every airport that was within three or four hours drive of Essex County," Lumpkin said. "I just wanted to see what theirs looked like. I wanted ours to be special, unique, and something our citizens would be so very proud of."

One of Lumpkin's personal touches is the red tin roof, which gives the airport a distinct look.

"I believe that no other airport that I visited looks as beautiful as ours," Lumpkin said. "It is the best and most beautiful I have seen."

The airport is a regional facility with big plans for the future. Lumpkin

said that the county wants to develop the 400-500 acres around the new airport to accommodate aviation-related businesses.

Wadsworth is also excited about the economic impact of XSA.

"The average person may not see the advantage right away," Wadsworth said. "But time will prove it to be one of Essex County's most important assets."

Wadsworth believes that the XSA runway will be the "on and off ramp to the world."

"This is what you want for economic growth," Wadsworth said. "When corporations look at your area, you want them to see that they have the option of aviation. Many business people do not travel by train or buses. They fly."

A little more than a year ago, everyone who has worked on the XSA project was invited to the grand opening event. More than 400 people showed up. It was an emotional day as colleagues and former co-workers celebrated a project that took 20 years to complete.

"It was a great day," Lumpkin said. "We all went through periods where we thought it wasn't going to be built, then it was, then it wasn't, until finally it was built. There have been so many people who contributed to the project so it was wonderful for everyone to see their hard work pay off."

VACo Committee Interest Form

VACo is looking for county supervisors and chief administrative officers interested in serving on the association's steering and operational committees. The steering committees consider proposals from member counties for inclusion in VACo's annual legislative program. They also provide direction to the VACo staff on policy issues arising from legislative and state agency studies. Steering committee members are selected from each of VACo's 13 regions. Committees also include several members appointed at-large. The operational and ad hoc committees are responsible for helping direct the staff in the activities, programs and functions of VACo.

Attendance will be expected of committee members at the VACo Annual Meeting, and at least two other committee meetings during the year. VACo asks that committee members or the counties they represent assume responsibility for travel arrangements and costs associated with attending committee meetings. Committee appointments are made each year by the president of VACo. **If you are interested in being considered for an appointment, complete this form and return it by December 15, 2008, to VACo, 1001 E. Broad St., Suite LL 20, Richmond, VA 23219-1928, fax (804) 788-0083.**

County officials that currently serve on a committee need to submit this form by December 15 to be reappointed to a committee in 2009.

name _____

title _____ county _____

address _____

phone number _____ e-mail _____

Please indicate your first, second and third choices:

STEERING COMMITTEES

- Environment and Agriculture
- Finance
- Education
- Administration of Government
- Health and Human Services
- Community Development and Planning
- Telecommunications and Utilities
- Transportation

OPERATIONAL COMMITTEES

- Nominating
- Budget
- Conference Planning

Description of Steering Committees are on the back.

Steering Committees

Administration of Government: This committee covers general issues not falling within categories addressed by other steering committees. Administration of Government will also address issues pertaining to law enforcement, corrections, fire and emergency services.

Community Development & Planning: Land use planning, economic development, infrastructure, growth management

Education: Educational issues

Environment & Agriculture: Environment, agriculture, public works activities affected by environmental laws and regulations

Finance: Appropriations and taxation

Health and Human Services: Social services, health, welfare and "at-risk" youth and crime prevention

Telecommunications/Utilities: Telecommunications, non-environmental issues relating to utilities (e.g. electric utilities deregulation)

Transportation: Transportation issues

Operational Committees

Budget Committee: Establishes a budget format and a budget that directs resources to the top priorities set by the membership to allow the association to achieve its goals

Conference Planning Committee: VACo's conference planning committee helps assure that the annual meeting provides members with valuable information for planning and implementing new ideas and technologies and serves as a focal point for imparting information about legislative issues.

Nominating Committee: This committee meets before the annual business meeting and prepares a slate of officers to present to the attending membership.

Employment Opportunities

Employment ads are edited due to space considerations.

To view the full versions, visit www.vaco.org and click the man at the typewriter on the right rail of the page.

Senior Planner/Town of Leesburg

Salary Range: \$55,390-\$92,969 DOQ

Closing Date: Dec. 19

This is responsible senior-level professional work in the Department of Planning and Zoning performing a variety of planning, analytical and research functions, including reviews of land development applications for rezonings, special exceptions and comprehensive amendments.

TO APPLY: See www.leesburgva.gov or request an application from the HR Dept. at 703-737-7177. Mail application to: Town of Leesburg, HR Dept., 25 W. Market St., P. O. Box 88, Leesburg, VA 20178. Applications may be faxed to the HR Dept. at 703-737-7190.

Resumes may be submitted as supplemental only.

Director of Capital Projects Management/Town of Leesburg

Salary Range: \$83,673-\$140,440 plus excellent benefits

Closing Date: Jan. 16, 2009 at 5 p.m. Required: Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering; minimum of eight to ten years exp. in capital projects design and construction work with a government office/consulting firm including supervisory/managerial exp. OR equivalent combination of education and exp.

TO APPLY: See www.leesburgva.gov or request an application from the HR Dept. at 703-737-7177. Mail application and resume in confidence to: 25 W. Market St., P. O. Box 88, Leesburg, VA 20178. Applications may be faxed to the HR Dept. at 703-737-7190.

Resumes may be submitted as supplemental only.

Events/Fair Coordinator

Parks & Recreation

Salary \$32,912-\$41,141

Isle of Wight County seeks an Events/

Fair Coordinator to work with the Parks & Recreation Department on special events planning. This position is responsible for creating, managing, and marketing community events through the Parks & Recreation Department.

Position open until filled.

Interested candidates should submit an application and resume to: Human Resources, P.O. Box 80, Isle of Wight, VA 23397. Visit our Web site at www.iwus.net or call 757-365-6263.

Executive Director/Onslow County Water & Sewer Authority (ONWASA)

Jacksonville, NC (county pop. 170,000) Located on the Atlantic Ocean in southeastern North Carolina, ONWASA serves 40,000 water customers and 4,000 sewer customers.

Principal challenge is to increase the number of sewer connections. Seeking a talented leader who is a customer and business-oriented manager with strong utility experience in a similarly sized utility. Salary range: \$90,000 to \$140,000 DOQ. Resumes should be e-mailed to Recruit26@cb-asso.com by Dec. 2. Details at www.cb-asso.com under "Active Recruitments."

Government Relations Officer/The Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority

Reference: 081065 Union Code NRP
Salary Range: \$80,120 - \$120,237
FLSA Exempt

Opening Date: Oct. 28

Qualifications: Graduation from an accredited college or university with a Bachelor's Degree in Government, Political Science, Law, Engineering, City Planning, Communications, Environmental Science. A minimum of eight (8) years of progressively responsible experience in government and/or government relations work.

Please apply before: Nov. 28

The Metro career site can be directly accessed via careers.wmata.com/psp/careers/EMPLOYEE/HRMS/c/ROLE_APPLICATIONER_APPLICATION_HOME.GBL?NAVSTACK=Clear

Building Official/City of Portsmouth

SALARY RANGE: \$71,996-\$97,195

Bachelor's Degree in Engineering Technology, Construction Management, Physics or Math; 3 to 5 years progressively responsible work experience in building inspection, engineering, construction or a related field; or any related experience which provides the required knowledge skills and abilities. Must be able to obtain certification, or become a building official within six months. Submit City of Portsmouth application and resume to City of Portsmouth, Department of Human Resource Management, 801 Crawford Street, Portsmouth, VA 23704. www.portsmouthva.gov. Open Until Filled.

Environmental Codes Compliance Officer/King and Queen County

BS in Environmental Science or related field with a minimum of two years experience and DCR E&S certification required within six months of hire. Salary: DOQ with excellent benefits.

Please send letter of interest, resume and three professional references (no emails, faxes, or phone calls, please) to: Thomas J. Swartzwelder, Esq. County Attorney
11817 Canon Blvd., Suite 408
Newport News, VA 23606
Position is open until filled.

Director of Utilities/Gloucester County

(Please note revised qualifications)
Salary: DOQ/DOE + excellent benefits package.

Gloucester County is a rural community of 35,000+ residents centrally located on the Eastern Seaboard with easy access to the Chesapeake Bay, Virginia's Historic Triangle, and major cities. Visit us online at www.gloucester-va.info to review complete job description and download employment application. Position is open until filled. To apply submit Gloucester County

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Employment

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application with cover letter and resume to Gloucester County Human Resources, 6467 Main St., Gloucester VA 23061.

Executive Director/Pittsylvania County

Start date is by end of year 2008
Responsibilities and qualifications: Supervise day to day activities of Service Authority, conduct engineering studies necessary to support the operation, and justify future distribution of additional facilities.
Salary is negotiable based on individual qualifications and prior experience. Serious and interested persons should send a complete resume to the Address below by Nov. 28:
B. Gene Atkinson
1012 Countryside Drive
Ringgold, VA 24586

Economic Development Director/Prince George County

Bachelor's degree in business administration, marketing, public administration, economics, economic development, or related field required; Master's Degree in related field is desirable. Extensive professional experience in economic development, preferably in local, state, or regional government. Pre-employment physical/drug testing and criminal background check, to include fingerprinting, required. For more details, complete job description, and to apply online, please visit the County's Web site at www.princegeorgeva.org. For additional information, call 804-722-8669. Open until filled.

Director of Tourism/Town of Appomattox

SALARY: DOQ/DOE (+) benefits.
Responsible for planning, organizing, directing, developing and implementing short and long range goals and strategies to promote the Town area as a travel destination, to provide positive impressions and experiences for area visitors and to raise awareness of and

coordinate community hospitality efforts. Town application required. Call 434-352-8268, e-mail fguill@appomattoxva.gov. Submit application, along with resume and cover letter to: David T. Garrett, Jr., Town Manager, P. O. Box 705, Appomattox, VA. Open until filled.

Director of Finance/Hanover County

Bachelor's degree in finance, accounting or related field, supplemented by 8 years of progressively responsible experience, 3 of which in a supervisory capacity. Local government experience is preferred. Master's Degree, CPA or CGFO desired. Ability to deal effectively with department heads, staff, officials, and the public required. Salary range \$98,424-\$132,875 plus excellent benefits. For more information or to apply for this position, please visit our career site at www.hanovercountyjobs.com (804)365-6075, (TDD# 365-6140)

County Engineer/Louisa County

If you have a Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering from a four-year college or university, enjoy working in a fast paced, challenging environment and want to be part of a County that is experiencing unprecedented growth, please visit our Web site at www.louisacounty.com for complete details or call 540-967-0401. The position will remain open until filled. Salary commensurate with experience.

County Administrator/King & Queen County

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
The successful candidate will be a capable manager and supervisor, with a proven track record of progressively responsible experience in state or local government. Applicants for the position must undergo a thorough background investigation including a pre-employment drug screen and a criminal background check. To apply, mail resumes (no emails, faxes, or phone calls, please) to:
Thomas J. Swartzwelder, Esq.
County Attorney

11817 Canon Boulevard, Suite 408
Newport News, VA 23606
Do not submit a photograph with your resume.

Public Works Engineer/Gloucester County

In this position, you will be part of our top notch Engineering Division in a growing community that offers challenging and rewarding opportunities to provide construction project oversight and management services and assistance for County projects. Salary \$47,872/yr or higher DOQ. With an excellent, benefit package. Open Until Filled. Details along with an application for employment may be obtained online at www.gloucesterva.info. Gloucester County Human Resource Department 6467 Main St. Gloucester, VA 23061. 804-693-5690.

Plans Examiner/Isle of Wight County

\$36,862-\$46,000
Requires a Bachelors Degree or equivalent, and 3-5 years of related experience. Must possess, or be able to obtain within 18 months of employment, state certifications as a One and Two Family Combination Inspector, Building Plan Review, Electrical Plan Review, Mechanical Plan Review, and Plumbing Plan Review. Position is open until filled. Interested candidates should submit an application and resume to: HR, P.O. Box 80, Isle of Wight, VA 23397. Visit our Web site at www.iwus.net or call 757-365-6263.

Engineer II/York County

Base salary \$51,887 or higher commensurate with experience, qualifications; excellent benefits. A York County application is required and may be obtained from the Human Resources Office, 120 Alexander Hamilton Boulevard, Second Floor, Yorktown, VA; from the County's Web site www.yorkcounty.gov; or by calling 757-890-3690. Hearing impaired only call TDD 757-890-3300. Applications will be accepted until position is filled.



1001 E. Broad St., Suite LL 20
Richmond, VA 23219

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VACo exists to support county officials and to effectively represent, promote and protect the interests of counties to better serve the people of Virginia.

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County Connections is a semimonthly publication.

Editor: Gage Harter
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