



Center for Rural Virginia

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January 10, 2007

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Center for Rural Virginia
501 North Second Street
Richmond, VA 23219

The Honorable Timothy M. Kaine
Governor of Virginia
State Capitol
Richmond VA 23219-3416

Attn: Virginia General Assembly Members

Dear Governor Kaine:

Attached, please find the Center for Rural Virginia's 2005 and 2006 legislative reports. The 2005 report gives an account of the Center's formative period and identifies some of the steps taken to get the organization established. In 2006, we are glad to report a significant increase in partnerships established to evaluate and plan for rural needs and opportunities. Our priority has been to be the link between government and our private-sector partners, to convene groups and develop partnerships to develop work plans and leverage resources to best meet the needs of the citizens of rural Virginia.

The Center Board of Trustees and staff are indebted to our partners across the Commonwealth who have worked with us, served as volunteers, given advice, and been instrumental in many projects now underway to improve the quality of life in rural areas. Along with our appreciation to you, we owe these agencies, organizations and individuals a sincere thank you.

"Thank you for your support of the Center during both years, and your participation made a great contribution to the success of the 2005 and 2006 Rural Summits."

We look forward to continuing to serve rural regions, and to your continued participation with the Center. Lastly, but very important, please make note on your calendar that Virginia's 2007 Rural Summit will take place in Fall and consider an invitation to serve as a key note speaker. We will have further announcements as planning takes shape.

With kindest regards,

Glen C. Sink
Executive Director

Cc: Honorable Frank M. Ruff, Jr., Chair/Board of Trustees
Joseph M. Newbill, Chair, Council for Rural Virginia Board of Directors
Board members

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Center for Rural Virginia - Activities report for 2005

Document Title

Annual Executive Summary of the Center for Rural Virginia

Author

Center for Rural Virginia

Enabling Authority - § [2.2-2720](#). The Center for Rural Virginia; purpose

The Center for Rural Virginia, hereinafter referred to as "the Center," is hereby created as an independent nonprofit local entity without political subdivision status, for the purpose of sustaining economic growth in the rural areas of the Commonwealth and lessening the burdens of government through the activities prescribed in subsection B of § [2.2-2723](#). (2004, cc. 938, 964; 2005, c. 703.)

Executive Summary of Activity and Work for 2005

In 2005, the Center for Rural Virginia was in its formative stages with a focus on establishing an organization to evaluate the needs and opportunities for rural Virginia. The Center is made up of local leaders who are committed to the communities they serve and legislators who represent rural citizens. They serve as a link between the citizens and local government to foster sustainable economic growth in rural Virginia.

The Center's goal is to generate solutions that empower local governments and the private sector to work together. What ever the issue, the Center's mission is to assemble good information, facilitate debate and build a consensus at the local level to create coordinated policy and economic action by:

- Creating partnerships that will advocate for rural focused public policies
- Fostering effective rural community leadership
- Promoting the attributes of rural Virginia
- Serving as the primary clearing house for issues of concern to rural Virginia and the entire state

Our support in dollars, ideas and votes are the key to getting the job done. The Center draws from grassroots to government across the Commonwealth and looks for outreach opportunities that will improve the quality of life for citizens in non-urban areas.

As the organization grows, we plan to have a strong cross-section of public and private supporters who are pro-actively involved in the *Revitalization of Rural Virginia*.

Scope of Work - During this formative year the Center has:

- Partnered to convene the first **Rural Leadership Conference**, an event we anticipate becoming an annual conference
- Promoted the creation of the **Secretary of Agriculture** in the Governor's Cabinet
- Collaborated on the development and implementation of an Awards Program for Rural Communities and participated and collaborated with other organizations on the conference "Charting the Course: The Role of Higher Education and Research in the Economic Revitalization of Rural Virginia"
- Collaborated on a mobile workshop offered during the International Rural Network Conference, "Innovative Place-Based Services for the Rural Economy"
- Participated with the Southern Growth Policy Board (SGPB) focus group
- began development of a Rural Agenda for the Commonwealth
- After collaborating with other organizations on defining what is "rural" Virginia, began development of a *Rural Agenda for the Commonwealth*
- Developed a strategic plan and executed a **Joint Resolution** between the Center for Rural Virginia and the **Council for Rural Virginia**
- Developed a draft *Collaborative Activities Agreement* and approved a Letter of Intent between the Center and Council with a plan to finalize the agreement in early 2006
- Achievement of 501(c)(3) tax status
- Hired an **executive director**
- Opened offices in **Richmond and Blacksburg**, Virginia

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Chapter of Title of the Code of Virginia

§ [2.2-2723](#). Powers and duties of the Board of Trustees and the Center

Board Members - Chairman: **Frank M. Ruff, Jr.**

Vice Chairman: **Randolph A. Beales**, Secretary: **Rebecca A. Davis**

Wayne Angell, Franklin County Board of Supervisors, **Randolph A. Beales**, Christian & Barton, LLP, **The Honorable Robert S. Bloxom**, Secretary of Agriculture, **Mary Rae Carter**, MRC Enterprises, **Rebecca J. Davis, Ph.D.**, Virginia College of Osteopathic Medicine, **The Honorable Allen W. Dudley**, Virginia House of Delegates, **The Honorable Emmett W. Hanger, Jr.**, Virginia State Senate, **Donna Pugh Johnson**, Virginia Agribusiness Council, **The Honorable Joseph P. Johnson, Jr.**, Virginia House of Delegates, **The Honorable Terry G. Kilgore**, Virginia House of Delegates, **The Honorable R. Steven Landes**, Virginia House of Delegates, **Mark S. Lawrence**, Carilion Health System, **Dr. Wayne Purcell**, Department of Agriculture & Applied Economics, Virginia Tech, **The Honorable Jackson E. Reasor**, Old Dominion Electric Cooperative, **Susan Rubin**, Virginia, Maryland & Delaware Association of Electric Cooperatives, **The Honorable Frank M. Ruff, Jr.**, Virginia State Senate, **Joseph L. Sheffey**, New River Community College, Pulaski County Board of Supervisors, **Steven C. Smith**, Food City Stores.

Background

A. The Board of Trustees shall have the following powers and duties:

1. Manage, control, maintain, and operate the Center;
2. Take all actions necessary to qualify the Center as exempt from taxation pursuant to § 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code and operate the Center in accordance with the provisions governing nonstock corporations as set out in Chapter 10 of Title 13.1, provided that, in the event of the dissolution of the Center, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of § 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the Commonwealth or a local government for a public purpose;
3. Establish bylaws as may be necessary for the governance and conduct of business of the Board;
4. Employ and establish the qualifications and duties, and fix salaries and compensation of staff of the Center from such funds as may be available to the Center;
5. Seek federal funds available to state rural development councils, pursuant to the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002, P.L. 107-171;
6. Seek, accept, administer, and expend gifts, grants, donations, bequests, and any other funds on behalf of the Center to support and facilitate its work;
7. Accept, administer, and expend donations, bequests, or devises of real and personal property for the endowment of the Center or for any special purpose designated by the donor that is consistent with the purposes of the Center set forth in this article;
8. Have, in addition to its other powers, all the corporate powers given to nonstock corporations by the provisions of Title 13.1. The Board shall also have the power to accept, execute, and administer any trust in which it may have an interest under the terms of the instrument creating the trust;
9. Enter into contracts with respect to the duties and responsibilities imposed upon the Center herein;
10. Report annually concerning the status, needs, and accomplishments of the Center to the Governor and the General Assembly; and
11. Perform any lawful acts necessary or appropriate to carry out the purposes of this article.

B. The Center shall have the following powers and duties:

1. Develop a broad-based constituency to advocate for the interests of rural Virginia in the formulation of the Commonwealth's public policies;
2. Coordinate and facilitate research on rural issues and analyze the effect of public policies and private sector interests on rural communities;
3. Prepare a detailed analysis of rural Virginia economies annually for submission to the Board, together with feasible and appropriate alternatives designed to sustain economic growth in rural areas of the Commonwealth;
4. Facilitate public-private investments in the infrastructure of rural Virginia;
5. Develop programs designed to train local elected officials and community leaders for effective leadership in rural communities;
6. Foster innovative strategies that promote the development and prosperity of rural communities in the Commonwealth;
7. Provide for the collection, organization, storage, and dissemination of documents, data, and other information concerning issues relevant to the needs and continuous development of Virginia's rural areas, including technical and research assistance to rural localities in the development and implementation of their strategic plans;
8. Identify potential public and private resources for the Board's consideration and review that may be used to generate additional funds to support and facilitate the Center's work and foster the development of rural communities;
9. Submit to the Board of Trustees such reports regarding the Center's work, including, but not limited to, programs, activities, policy analyses, and financial statements, as may be requested by the Board; and
10. Perform such other acts as may be necessary to accomplish the objectives of this article.

(2004, cc. 938, 964; 2005, c. 703.)