

NEWS RELEASE

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Dinwiddie Supervisor Elected Crater Planning District Commission Chair

Dinwiddie Supervisor Doretha Moody was elected Chairman of the Crater Planning District Commission for F.Y. 2010-2011 at the Commission's quarterly meeting on June 29. Her term became effective July 1. Serving with Ms. Moody will be Dorothy Jaeckle, a member of the Chesterfield County Board of Supervisors, who will serve as Vice-Chairman; and Timothy Cotman, Sr., Chairman of the Charles City County Board of Supervisors, who will serve as Treasurer.

Ms. Moody previously served as the Commission's vice-chairman and treasurer. She also currently serves on the Tri-Cities Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), which administers the transportation planning function for the District's urbanized area. She was elected to the Dinwiddie County Board of Supervisors representing Election District 4 in November 2003. She has represented Dinwiddie County on the Crater Commission since August, 2006.

Ms. Jaeckle was elevated from the position of treasurer to vice-chairman. She was elected to the Chesterfield County Board of Supervisors in November, 2007, as representative of the Bermuda District. Her appointment to the Crater Commission commenced in January, 2008, and she also represents the County on the MPO.

Tim Cotman has represented Election District III on the Charles City County Board of Supervisors since January, 1998. He was appointed to the Commission and its Executive Committee in September, 2007.

The Commission recognized and thanked Annie M. Mickens, Mayor of the City of Petersburg, for her two years of service as Commission chairman. Mayor Mickens will remain on the Commission and Executive Committee and continue to serve as MPO Chair.

Also at the June meeting, the Commission adopted its fiscal year 2010-2011 budget and work program. This work program continues the Commission's overall theme of local assistance and support, with a major emphasis upon developing and implementing programs/activities to improve the Planning District's economic base and overall quality of life.

The Crater Planning District is an Economic Development District, so designated by the U. S. Economic Development Administration (EDA). On June 30, the Commission submitted its *Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Annual Report-2010*, the one-year follow up to its Five-Year CEDS document adopted last year. The Crater CEDS is focused upon establishing a foundation for sustainable growth built upon innovation and regional collaboration. The vision statement for the District, as articulated in the CEDS is:

The Crater District is recognized as an excellent location in which to invest, live, work, learn and raise a family. It offers an innovative, highly-skilled and motivated workforce. The District's fully serviced sites and buildings, with technologically advanced infrastructure, result in higher wage employment opportunities, innovative products and processes and increased private investment. Visitors are attracted to its natural beauty, rich history and cultural enrichment opportunities, which support the District's excellent quality of life.

The document sets out four focus areas: an expanded use of technology, strengthening the workforce, improving the underlying infrastructure and strengthening and expanding the entrepreneurial and small business base,

The Five-Year CEDS and the 2010 CEDS Annual Report are available on the Commission's web site, www.craterpdc.org.

The BRAC-directed expansion at Fort Lee is well underway and certainly an economic driver for the District. The construction projects completed or underway on post exceed \$1 billion. Consultants working with the Commission and localities surrounding Fort Lee are currently wrapping up work on the *Fort Lee Growth Management Plan-Phase II*, which focused upon the impacts associated with Fort Lee's expansion on the region's health care system, social/community services organizations, as well as on meeting the child care needs. The Phase I Plan, completed in 2008 looked at transportation, housing and education impacts.

A significant PDC initiative in 2010-2011 will be development of the Virginia Logistics Research Center in collaboration with Virginia State and Longwood Universities, Fort Lee and Defense Supply Center Richmond and the Virginia Economic Development Partnership. It will be a high-technology research and development center with modeling and simulation as a core technological capability that will be designed,

staffed and equipped to support Fort Lee's mission, as well as the region's growing transportation/warehousing/distribution (TWD) sectors.

A wide array of services are available to small businesses and entrepreneurs through the Crater Planning District Commission. **The Crater Development Company** administers two small business loan programs: SBA's '504' Program and a Revolving Loan Fund, working cooperatively with banks throughout the region. **The Crater Small Business Development Center of Longwood University** is co-located with the Commission and provides individual counseling and a wide variety of seminars/workshops on topics related to starting and operating a small business. **The Procurement Technical Assistance Center** continues to be very active as small businesses seek opportunities to market their goods/services to local, state or federal government. The center has over 1,300 businesses on its construction/construction-related database to which information is sent regularly regarding government construction projects. The Center provides individual counseling, bid-matching and a variety of seminars/workshops on government contracting and the steps that a business must take to become certified to bid on government contracts. Information about all of these small business services is also available on the Commission's web site – www.craterpdc.org.