

## **CHARTER AGREEMENT OF THE RAPPAHANNOCK-RAPIDAN REGIONAL COMMISSION**

This Charter Agreement to organize a Planning District Commission made this 1st day of January 1971, by and between the undersigned governmental subdivisions as authorized by the Virginia Area Development Act (Title 15.1, Chapter 34, Sections 15.1-1400, et seq., Code of Virginia (1950), as amended:

NOW THEREFORE it is agreed that:

### **ARTICLE I**

#### **Name, Location, Authority, Purpose**

- SECTION 1. The name of the organization shall be the Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission herein-after called the "COMMISSION".
- SECTION 2. The principal office of the COMMISSION shall be in Culpeper, Virginia. The location of the principal office may be changed by the concurrence of two-thirds of the COMMISSION members present at a regular meeting, provided that the clerk of the governing body of each member governmental subdivision has been notified of the contemplated relocation in writing at least thirty days before such meeting.
- SECTION 3. The COMMISSION shall be a public body corporate and politic with all the powers and duties granted to it by the Virginia Area Development Act.
- SECTION 4. The purpose of the COMMISSION shall be to promote the orderly and efficient development of the physical, social and economic elements of the planning District by planning and encouraging and assisting governmental subdivisions to plan for the future.

### **ARTICLE II**

#### **Membership**

- SECTION 1. COMMISSION members shall be appointed by the respective governing bodies of those political subdivisions which are parties to this Charter Agreement provided, however that at least a majority of the COMMISSION'S members shall be elected officials of the governing bodies of the governmental subdivisions within the planning district with each participating county, city and town of more than 3,500 population having ~~at least one representative and the other members being qualified voters and residents of the District, who hold no office elected by the people.~~ **two representatives.** In the event that any jurisdiction of less than 3,500 in population successfully petitions the COMMISSION for membership, such jurisdiction shall be entitled to one representative who

shall be an elected official. Any petition for membership shall be acted upon within 90 days of receipt by the COMMISSION.

SECTION 2. Governmental subdivisions which are parties to this Charter Agreement shall appoint members to the COMMISSION on the following basis:

~~Each governmental subdivision of more than 3,500 in population which is a party to this charter agreement shall appoint two members to the COMMISSION. at least one of whom shall be an elected member of the governing body and the other citizen who holds no office elected by the people. In addition each jurisdiction of more than 3,500 in population shall appoint a "floater" member who shall be an elected official and shall serve a two year term. There shall be only one "floater" member on the COMMISSION at any time and no jurisdiction may succeed itself or have a second "floater" member until all other participating jurisdictions have had a representative occupying this position. The alphabetical order of member governmental subdivisions shall determine the order of appointment of the "floater" member from each governmental subdivision. At least one appointed member from each governmental subdivision shall be an elected member of the governing body. The second appointed member from each governmental subdivision may be an elected member, planning commission member, citizen, appointed staff member, or other suitable representative as determined by the governmental subdivision.~~

SECTION 3. Vacancies on the COMMISSION shall be filled for the unexpired term in the same manner as the original appointment was made.

SECTION 4. Any member of the COMMISSION shall be eligible for reappointment but may be removed for cause by the governing body which appointed him.

### **ARTICLE III Terms of Office and Voting Rights**

SECTION 1. The terms of office of COMMISSION members who are also **elected** members of governing bodies shall be coincident with their elected terms of office or such shorter terms as their governing bodies shall determine. ~~The terms of office of the citizen members shall be four years.~~ **The terms of office for those COMMISSION members who are not also elected members of governing bodies shall be determined by their governing bodies, but shall not be for less than one year.**

SECTION 2. Each member of the COMMISSION shall have one equal vote in all matters before the COMMISSION.

## **ARTICLE IV**

### **Officers**

- SECTION 1. Officers of the COMMISSION shall consist of a Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Treasurer who shall be elected by the membership of the COMMISSION.
- SECTION 2. The Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and Treasurer shall be elected for terms of one year or until their successors are elected.
- SECTION 3. COMMISSION officers shall be eligible for re-election, but may succeed themselves one time only.
- SECTION 4. The COMMISSION shall appoint an Executive Director who shall be an employee of the COMMISSION and shall serve at the pleasure of a majority of the membership.

## **ARTICLE V**

### **Addition or Withdrawal of Members**

- SECTION 1. Any governmental subdivision within Planning District Number 9 which is not a party to this Charter Agreement at the effective date thereof may thereafter join the COMMISSION provided that such governmental subdivision is eligible for membership and that it adopts and executes this Agreement.
- SECTION 2. Any governmental subdivision may withdraw from the COMMISSION by submitting to the COMMISSION in writing, at least 90 days before the end of the COMMISSION'S then current fiscal year, a notice of intent to withdraw. Such withdrawal shall not become effective until the COMMISSION'S fiscal year has ended.

## **ARTICLE VI**

### **Appointment of an Executive Committee and Adoption of By-laws**

- SECTION 1. The COMMISSION may designate an Executive Committee and delegate to it such powers as the COMMISSION may determine, provided that these powers are not inconsistent with provisions of the Virginia Area Development Act.

SECTION 2. The COMMISSION may adopt By-laws and such other rules as it deems necessary to govern its operations.

**ARTICLE VII**  
**Meetings**

SECTION 1. The COMMISSION shall hold regular meetings on a schedule which will be determined by the membership.

SECTION 2. Meetings of the COMMISSION shall be open to the public, however, the COMMISSION may hold executive meetings.

**ARTICLE VIII**  
**Amendments**

SECTION 1. This Charter Agreement may be amended, supplemented or superseded only after concurring resolutions have been adopted by the governing bodies of two-thirds of the member governmental subdivisions.

SECTION 2. All proposed amendments shall be submitted to the COMMISSION for its review and comment to the member governmental subdivisions.

**ARTICLE IX**  
**Date of Organization**

SECTION 1. The organization of the Rappahannock-Rapidan Planning District Commission shall be effective on the 1st day of January, 1971, or at such time after this date when the Charter Agreement has been adopted and signed by the governmental subdivision whose population when added to the aggregate population of those who have already been adopted and signed the Charter Agreement embraces the majority of the population within Planning District Number 9.

Effective Date: August 10, 2000