

## Video Taping of HRMPO Meetings

At the request of the MPO Board, we contacted the region's public access channels. To date we've had conversations with approximately two-thirds of them. However, the conversations we have had have provided us with an overview of the remote video capabilities throughout the region.

- 1) All expressed a willingness to participate in the regional endeavor. All recognized the need for such a program and expressed interest and desire to run the meetings on their channels, if/when available.
- 2) At most, five local channels are capable of travelling to the Regional Board Room to tape the meetings. However, all but two would require hiring of temporary personnel to perform the work and/or borrow/rent equipment.
- 3) All expressed a need to consult with supervisor before final commitment.
- 4) All expressed current resources and workloads would also have to be restructured according to supervisors.
- 5) Only one channel has indicated a willingness to do the work gratis, but only if they were not the sole source and if directed to do so by supervisors. The rest deferred to supervisors and indicated the current economic environment threatened current staffing and abilities for an already busy docket of video services work. Location and travel expense, as well as location unknowns were cited as reasons.
- 6) Most offered alternatives such as cost sharing, including financial assistance (if approved from supervisors) for one locality that is equipped and close to the location. Another suggestion, other jurisdictions could provide personnel to perform the tasks using equipment from a closer jurisdiction.
- 7) Most mentioned this endeavor would be a perfect topic and task for discussion at the ad hoc Association of the Region's Municipal Cable Channel Operators (HR Teams). A joint effort to cover events and meetings of regional importance has been discussed within this group, but hasn't moved forward as limited resources have precluded any channel from absorbing such work. The next meeting of the HR Teams group is tentatively scheduled for March 24 at Newport News' channel facility.
- 8) Another issue mentioned was, if the task was rotated among the communities, the potential exists for disparity in the production and final deliverable as a result of different equipment and procedures.
- 9) Finally, recent history from the HRTA meetings has shown that the city of Chesapeake's channel is capable and can produce such meetings. The HRTA meetings were produced at a cost of approximately \$2,500 per meeting. That figure would need to be revisited to ensure accuracy for any increases in expenses. It should be noted that Chesapeake did not commit to this effort nor provide updated cost estimate.

### **Staff Recommendations**

Based on the above information, staff does not recommend rotating among localities. It would appear that the cities of Chesapeake and Virginia Beach are the only cities capable of providing mobile equipment and human resources on a monthly basis throughout the year. However, Virginia Beach expressed concern about availability to perform such services. Staff recommends the Board resume negotiations with the city of Chesapeake with regard to videotaping the HRMPO meetings.