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Minutes
Northampton County Take Charge
“Where Do We Want To Be?”
Wednesday, January 22, 2003
Northampton High School, Eastville
6:00pm – 8:00pm

Present: Brenda Holden, VCE; Pauline Milbourne, VCE; Jennifer Haycox, VCE; Jon Johnson, VCE; Pam Gibson, Institute for Innovative Governance; Thom Henderson, ESVA.net; John Crumb, Oyster; Reverend James E. Davis, Jr, Cape Charles; Delores Lindsay, Cape Charles; Charles Smith, DOCAG; John Nottingham, DOCAG; Leo Owens, NRCDG; Ruth Wise, NRCDG; Nancy Watson, resident; Pat Smith, Northampton County.

Gibson opened the meeting by welcoming everyone back and recognizing new participants. Following introductions, Gibson then directed attention to the flip charts of the strengths and weaknesses identified from the previous session. When she asked if there were more suggestions, discussion ensued regarding issues such as housing, farmers markets, money management, and career planning.

After the group agreed that all strengths and weaknesses had been named, Gibson passed out the power dots and instructed the group to use them as they see fit to highlight items that are of the most importance. The attached list outlines the number of dots received for each of the weaknesses. Strengths received no dots.

After the exercise was over, Gibson divided the groups by having everyone count off to “3”. Each group received a poster board of a map of Northampton County. In the exercise, participants were instructed to use the maps to visualize and draw an ideal county. Group 1 envisioned a county where everyone had jobs and money to spend, there were plenty of public parks and beaches, everyone had access to broadband Internet, every child went to school and was prepared for college or technical training, every child had two parents and lots of community involvement, there was a community center for socializing and arts, everyone recycles, and the Eastern Shore is globally recognized. Group 2 envisioned a county with museums, a reverse osmosis plant, tourist center, sailing academy, conference center & hotel, low industrial technical park, YMCA or wellness center, affordable housing, libraries, public beach access, and natural areas. Group 3 envisioned a community where all children were school-ready and there was an accountable education system, training is linked to job needs, there is more public/private

partnerships, an inclusive communications infrastructure, affordable housing, and more support for the public transportation system.

After each group had presented their maps to the others, Gibson closed the meeting by thanking everyone for attending and briefly introducing next week's topic.

The workshop was adjourned at 8:30pm.