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**Networked Future Task Force**

**Meeting Minutes**

*Wednesday, January 14, 2004*

*8:30am – 10:30am*

*Northampton County Extension Office*

Networked Future Task Force Members Present: (8) Brenda Holden, VCE; Sarah Gromow, E.S. SBDC; Rose Rulon, E.S. Chamber; Barbara Schwenk, E.S. Economic Development; Jeff Gayle, VECTEC; Judy Nordstrom-Bono (For Mary Walker), ESCC; Thom Henderson, ESVA.net; Jennifer Hayox, VCE

Accomack TLT Members Present: (6) Betty Parks, VEC; Cynthia Wallop, ELC; Pauline Milbourne, VCE; Carla Woods, VCE; Eric Banks, Agape Center; Iris Smith, Retired Educator

Northampton TLT Members Present: (2) Fred Biesinger, Town of Cheriton; James E. Davis, Jr., Town of Cape Charles

The meeting was called to order shortly after 8:30am. Mr. Mathew Mathai, Director of the Blacksburg Electronic Village (BEV), initiated a conference call that also included Jaime Shetrone, Technical Coordinator for BEV. After introductions, the items under Section III of the agenda, Group Backgrounds and Updates, were presented. Corresponding handouts are included in the meeting packet. Following the Group Backgrounds and Updates, discussion ensued concerning distinctions between the programs.

Under Section IV: Merging Groups, attendees voted unanimously to merge the groups together. In the future, both the Accomack TLT and the Northampton TLT will be represented by the Networked Future Task Force, and all TLT members will be invited to join.

Under Section V: Activities & Projects, Mathai explained that, should the group choose to adopt the Eastern Shore Virginia Portal as their community website, the websites designed by TOP would simply contain a description of the project, activities of the TLT, and a link to the Portal. He also explained that, since the Portal already offers four of the six community website services provided, TOP can still supply the remaining two services; Incubator Accounts and Technology Assessment. Therefore, the Eastern Shore Virginia Portal will be adopted as the community website.

Discussion followed about the Virtual Business Incubator & Community Connections Accounts (VBI/CC), and their benefits to the community. Information is included in the meeting packet. The group chose the domain name “esvp.bev.net” for the incubator accounts. VECTEC will discuss the technicalities with BEV.

Hayox then gave an update on the recent educational programs & forums, and asked for suggestions for future events. Schwenk suggested a forum on Broadband Internet Connections. Mathai expanded on this, saying that the Portal could include a separate page about Internet connections and tips.

Holden then discussed the Technology Assessment to be conducted by John Nichols of BEV. Mathai elaborated on this endeavor, stating that Mr. Nichols will be meeting with people on the Shore in the near future. He also said that the data generated by the Technology Assessment will answer the questions presented in the Broadband Survey as well. Gayle questioned how the data will be compiled, and asked if it could be stored in a database. Schwenk asked about whether it would be possible to maneuver the data to answer questions not specified in the assessment, and she also explained the formation of the Eastern Shore of Virginia Regional Partnership’s Broadband Initiative, a group that will research local demand for Broadband to generate interest from providers.

**The next meeting of the Networked Future Task Force will be on Tuesday, February 17, 2004, from 8:30am to 10:30am, at the Eastern Shore of Virginia Chamber of Commerce in Melfa. Any correspondence to the Task Force can be sent to [nftf@esva.net](mailto:nftf@esva.net). (Thanks Thom!)**

Meeting Adjourned at approximately 10:30am.