

# Greater Sissonville Development Council Minutes | 2014

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**December 9, 2014**

## **Greater Sissonville Development Council Minutes**

Sissonville Public Library

Meeting started: 5:03 pm

Next Scheduled Meeting: **Tuesday, January 9, 2014 at 5 pm** in the Sissonville Public Library.

*Voting Members Attending:* President Johnnie Brown, Vice President Dana Ferrell, Treasurer Chad Taylor, Secretary Tom Crouser and Board Members Dr. David Santrock, Earl Scyoc, Lisa Godwin, Tom Miller and Steve Poyet.

*Not in attendance:* Danny Bragg, Jason Fields, Buck Flynn, Calvin McKinney and Kevin Shamblin.

*Guests:* Robin White; Betty Knighton; Bruce and Sue McClung, John Luoni, Kanawha County engineer and four students from Sissonville High School

The meeting was called to order at 5:03 pm by *President Johnnie Brown* who presided. A quorum was declared "*present.*"

Dr. Santrock moved Steve Poyet moved to adopt minutes from the October and November GSDC meetings.

### *Old Business*

**Betty Knighton**, director *WV Center for Civic Life* made a presentation on their "**What's Next Program?**" It was described as a program where the community "talks about the future."

"*What's Next*" specifically is a facilitated discussion among community stakeholders and is especially focused on the community's economic future. The group helps community organizations convene a series of "conversations" or meetings to bring people together to obtain answers to three questions: as a community, where are we; we do we want to go; and how do we want to get there? Knighton noted that this is a pivotal time in WV history and that there has been a groundswell of interest in economic development.

Three "conversations" are held about three weeks apart. "When we talk together as a community, then we find out how to work together in new and better ways," she said. The state group also acts as a conduit for community concerns and challenges to state legislative and government officials as well as a network to pass ideas from community to community.

It is the goal of the state group to encourage as many communities in West Virginia to have these events and involve as many community members as possible. The state group provides facilitator training and materials to support local organizers of the event.

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The state organization a non-profit and non-partisan group. Funding comes from grants from foundations such as the Greater Kanawha Valley Foundation, Benedum Foundation, the One Foundation and other similar groups. WV Public Broadcasting provides materials for the programs as well.

Among those involved in the state organization is Joe Barker, president, and board members Doug Walters, Karen Goff and Margaret O'Neil. It was also noted that former WV Supreme Court Justice Tom McHugh's term on the board recently expired. More information on the organization can be found at the organization's website, [www.WhatsNextWV.org](http://www.WhatsNextWV.org).

President Brown moved to have GSDC affiliate itself with the group and move forward with participation in the program. Tom Miller seconded. The motion was adopted unanimously.

**GSDC membership** – a discussion on establishing a membership class for the Greater Sissonville Development Council was held, the purpose of which would be to obtain more community involvement in the council's activities.

Tom Miller made a motion to appoint a committee to study the proposal and report back to the board in January with more specifics. Dr. Santrock seconded and the motion was adopted unanimously.

President Brown appointed himself, Tom Miller and Tom Crouser to the committee.

## *New Business*

**Emergency Plans** – a discussion was held regarding the public's awareness of emergency plans in the Sissonville area. Tom Miller, of the Sissonville Volunteer Fire Department reported that many plans were already in place and were available to the public at [www.kpepc.org](http://www.kpepc.org), where they can be downloaded.

**Interstate Signs** – An inquiry was made regarding the Department of Highways response to the GSDC request for improvement to Interstate signage in the Sissonville area. No response has yet been received. President Brown indicated he would follow up on the topic and report at the next meeting.

A discussion was held regarding plans to add an emergency information sign on Interstate 77 at the Edens Fork exit. Tom Miller said current plans were for the sign to be operational by January 1, 2016. The sign is designed to alert drivers heading into Charleston of emergencies.

**2015 Officers Elected** – President Brown opened the floor for the nomination of council officers for 2015. Johnnie Brown was re-elected president by acclamation. Nominations of Dana Ferrell and Tom Miller were received for the office of Vice President. A secret ballot was conducted and Dana Ferrell was re-elected. Chad Holland was re-elected Treasurer and Tom Crouser re-elected Secretary, both by acclamation

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Being no other business, Steve Poyet moved and Tom Miller seconded a motion to adjourn which was adopted unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:07 pm

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*End*