

MEETING SUMMARY
Commission on Local Government
FIS Task Force
September 30, 2013 at 10:00 AM
The Virginia Housing Center
Henrico Room 2
4224 Cox Road
Glen Allen, Virginia

Present

David Blount
Vivian Calkins-McGettigan
Thomas Foley
James McReynolds

Present via Teleconference

Ross Mugler

Not Present

Alan Albert
Beverly Cameron
Kathleen Guzi
Penny Hodge
Chris Morrill

Others

Mary Ann Curtin, Chesterfield County
Kent Dickey, Department of Education
Mary Jo Fields, Virginia Municipal League
Steven Jenkins, City of Chesapeake
Erik Johnston, Virginia Association of Counties
Neal Menkes, Virginia Municipal League
Jim Regimbal, Fiscal Analytics, Ltd.

IT Solution Update/Additional Assistance

- Estimate for development of the web application is \$28,000-34,000 for 8-10 weeks of development
 - Estimate does not include any costs for roll-out or maintenance
- Goal is to eliminate the duplication of effort by CLG staff to create a FIS
- Report should include a description of the time consuming nature of the current process
- Task force believes that additional resources will be necessary to adequately manage its proposal in the final report
- For the report, it should be explained that the task force looked for the least costly option to provide additional assistance to CLG during session

Department of Education

- DOE typically has a business day or less to respond to DPB with bill analysis
- DOE tries to include local impact in bill analysis when they can
- DOE maintains a monthly meeting with the State Superintendents and stays in constant contact with them during General Assembly session
 - Meetings during session can last 3 hours or longer
- VASBO is another key group during session that will contact the DOE Budget staff
- DOE posts bills under analysis to its website
- Local finance directors and professional groups are likely the keys to getting good fiscal analysis to CLG
- Education policy decisions do not always match the priorities of local budget offices

Subject Areas – Additional Discussion

- Additional professional organizations
 - Local Government
 - Virginia Local Government Management Association
 - Public Works?
 - General Laws
 - Virginia Local Government Management Association
 - Sheriffs Association
 - Virginia Local Government Attorneys
 - CLG will rely on task force members to help solicit assistance from professional organizations
 - Professional organizations will be asked to provide general impact to localities in its analysis for the FIS
- Selection of local volunteers
 - VACo and VML will continue to assist CLG with the solicitation of local volunteers for local fiscal impact as it has in the past
- Flexibility of subject areas

- It should be made clear that volunteers are allowed to solicit whatever help they need in order to complete their analysis
- Local government volunteers could be allowed to contribute an analysis on a bill that isn't necessarily within their subject areas

Pre-session General Assembly Meeting – VACo/VML

- Legislative liaisons could present bills with significant impact to localities at the meeting
- CLG could gather information from this meeting
- Bills could be forwarded to subject areas for analysis ahead of General Assembly to save time
- CLG will forward this section of the report to VACo and VML to proofread before publication

Letter from the Governor's Task Force for Local Government Mandate Review

- Letter was dated September 10, 2013 and received by CLG for distribution on September 24, 2013
- The task force will indicate its support for measures that give more time to the FIS process in its report
 - This support will be separate from the specific recommendations of the task force related to the FIS process

Review of Proposed Timeline and Flowchart

- The data flow from Subject Areas to CLG needs to be edited to include the organizational analysis that will be provided by professional organizations
- Local administrators need to be copied on all bill assignments to local government volunteers

Other Business

- Does the report need to include a sample FIS?
- CLG needs to follow-up with DPB and TAX regarding the statutory language proposal
- CLG needs to put a report outline together to forward to the task force before the next meeting

Future Meetings

- The next meeting will be on October 28, 2013 in Richmond
- The October meeting will primarily be focused on the report
- The task force does not believe that there is a need for another conference call