

**NORTHERN VIRGINIA REGIONAL COMMISSION**

**Minutes of the Commission Meeting Held Thursday, September 27, 2018**

**COMMISSIONERS**

(The names of those members present are highlighted.)

Hon. Marc T. Aveni	<i>City of Manassas</i>
Hon. Willie F. Bailey	<i>City of Alexandria</i>
Hon. Sharon Bulova	<i>County of Fairfax</i>
Hon. Kelly Burk	<i>Town of Leesburg</i>
Hon. Peter Candland	<i>County of Prince William</i>
<b>Hon. John C. Cook, NVRC Treasurer</b>	<b>County of Fairfax</b>
<b>Hon. Laurie A. Dirocco, NVRC Chairman</b>	<b>Town of Vienna</b>
<b>Hon. Libby Garvey</b>	<b>County of Arlington</b>
<b>Hon. Penelope A. Gross</b>	<b>County of Fairfax</b>
Hon. Pat Herrity	<i>County of Fairfax</i>
Hon. Geary Higgins	<i>County of Loudoun</i>
Hon. Catherine Hudgins	<i>County of Fairfax</i>
Hon. Jeffrey C. McKay	<i>County of Fairfax</i>
<b>Hon. David Meyer</b>	<b>City of Fairfax</b>
<b>Hon. Cydny A. Neville</b>	<i>Town of Dumfries</i>
Hon. Martin E. Nohe	<i>County of Prince William</i>
Hon. Sheila Olem	<i>Town of Herndon</i>
Hon. Redella S. Pepper	<i>City of Alexandria</i>
<b>Hon. Frank J. Principi</b>	<b>County of Prince William</b>
Hon. Phyllis J. Randall	<i>County of Loudoun</i>
<b>Hon. Jeanette Rishell</b>	<b>City of Manassas Park</b>
<b>Hon. Kathy L. Smith</b>	<b>County of Fairfax</b>
Hon. David Tarter, NVRC Vice-Chairman	<i>City of Falls Church</i>
Hon. John Vihstadt	<i>County of Arlington</i>

**STAFF PRESENT**

Robert Lazaro	<i>Executive Director</i>
Linda M. Tenney	<i>Deputy Director</i>
Gina Kesselmann-Smith	<i>Management Analyst</i>
Normand Goulet	<i>Director, Division of Planning and Environmental Services</i>
Peggy Tadej	<i>Director, Community and Military Partnerships</i>

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Susan Hafeli	<i>Virginia Energy Procurement Government Association</i>
Tim Payne	<i>Nelson Nygaard</i>
Zoe Vitter	<i>PWC BOCS</i>
Ellen Volo	<i>Fairfax County Government Relations</i>

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman DiRocco called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present.

**ROLL CALL**

The roll was called and all members present or absent were noted for the record.

**DISCUSSION AND PRESENTATIONS**

**Ferry Study**

Commissioners received a presentation from Tim Payne of Nelson Nygaard on the results of the study undertaken to examine the environmental impacts of a proposed commuter ferry service from Woodbridge, Virginia to Washington, D.C.

Commissioner Cook asked about the reliability of such ferry service. Mr. Payne said that mechanically, these boats are very reliable. But the weather and drifting issue is a different story. There might be a need to strengthen the current boat design to accommodate these needs. The availability of an immediate alternative in case of a temporary suspension of service (weather or mechanical issues) is also being thought of. But if there is a navigational issue due to ice or drifting, this can be preannounced, so people can plan accordingly.

At the end of the Ferry Study presentation, Chairman DiRocco presented Commissioner Principi with an award from the Greater Washington Region Clean Cities Coalition for his leadership in support of a Potomac Commuter Fast Ferry in the region.

**LED Street Light Agreement**

Susan Hafeli, Chairman of the Virginia Energy Procurement Government Association, presented to the Commission the results of the LED Street Light agreement reached with Dominion Energy.

**ACTION ITEMS**

Commissioner Gross moved approval of the Resolution No. P19-02 – Resolution expressing support for the Dominion Energy offshore wind turbine pilot project and authorizing the Executive Director to submit a letter in support of the project to the State Corporation Commission. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Rishell and carried unanimously.

**Background:**

Dominion Energy has submitted a proposal to the State Corporation Commission (SCC) to construct two offshore wind turbines off the coast of Virginia Beach. The City of Virginia Beach has adopted a resolution in support of the project. There are currently no utility scale projects on land and off shore wind turbines in the Commonwealth.

Commissioner Neville moved approval of the Resolution No. P19-03 – Resolution approving the meeting calendar for the Commission for 2019 (subject to change). The motion was seconded by Commissioner Gross and carried unanimously.

**Background:**

The resolution establishes the meeting dates for the commission for 2019. Executive Committee meetings will be held on the same date.

Commissioner Principi moved approval of the Resolution No. P19-04 – Authorization to accept funding from the National Park Service to provide technical assistance in the development of the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail in Virginia. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Neville and carried unanimously.

Background:

The Commission has had a long relationship with the National Park Service providing services to the NPS regarding trail alignments, missing trail links, etc. We anticipate receiving approval from the NPS of our latest contract. The resolution authorizes the Executive Director to sign the agreement.

Commissioner Neville moved approval of the Resolution No. P19-05 – Authorization to accept bicycle pedestrian safety grant funding from the Virginia department of Motor Vehicles. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Garvey and carried unanimously.

Background:

The Commission has since 2005 accepted funds from the commonwealth of Virginia to provide pedestrian and bicyclist safety funds. The resolution permits the Executive Director to accept such funds.

Commissioner Principi suggested a revision to funding (from \$ 500,000.00 to \$ 2,000,000.00) and moved approval of the Resolution No. P19-06 – Authorization to apply for funding from the United States Department of Transportation, Maritime Administration (MARAD), America’s Marine Highway Program. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Rishell and carried unanimously.

Background:

In 2014 funding was received from the Federal Transit Administration from the Ferry Boat program and has since received funding to conduct an Infrastructure Gap Analysis and completion of NEPA documentation for development of a new commuter ferry service on the Potomac River. The resolution authorizes the Executive Director to apply for \$2,000,000.00 in funding to support ferry boat linkages between Woodbridge and Joint Base Anacostia/Bolling.

Mr. Lazaro presented his report to the Commission, which included the financial report for July and August 2018 and the following:

- Protecting our Streams, Rivers and Chesapeake Bay
  - NVRC coordinated training sessions for our local partners and the 14 PDCs in the Chesapeake watershed on Phase 3 of the Watershed Implementation Plan as part of the Chesapeake Bay program. The Commonwealth requested NVRC to lead this effort.
- Working with our Federal Partners
  - NVRC staff was pleased to meet with our National Park

EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR'S  
REPORT

Service and Prince William County trail partners to review existing and proposed NVRC projects for the Heritage Trail.

- The group toured Rippon Lodge, the Neabsco boardwalk (under construction), the Leesylvania living shoreline project and the proposed site for the Powell's Creek crossing.
- Putting a Spotlight on the Ryan White Program
  - Pleased that our 25+ year partnership with Inova's Juniper program helping PLWA live healthy lives was highlighted in a video shared via YouTube.
- Training in Charlottesville
  - NVRC's Human Services staff visited Charlottesville to provide training to local Ryan White vendors in the Charlottesville and Albemarle area.
  - Special thanks to our colleagues at the Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission for providing the space to us at no cost.
- Shoreline Restoration and Resiliency
  - NVRC's shoreline restoration project and resiliency planning efforts were highlighted in the Coastal Zone Management magazine published by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality.
  - NVRC is pleased to work with our local government partners and others on these important projects.
- Supporting Local Jobs
  - A recent report by the business organization, Advanced Energy Economy, reveals that more than 40% of the advanced energy jobs in Virginia are located in Northern Virginia.
  - Campaigns such as Solarize NoVA and promotion of the weatherization program in our region help support those efforts.
  - 62% of employers indicated they have a difficult time recruiting qualified personnel.
- Know Toxics Web Site
  - Our Know Toxics web site was updated by our summer intern. The program is overseen by Debbie Spiliotopoulos of NVRC staff as part of our Waste Board responsibilities. The site provides important information for the safe and environmentally responsible disposal of common hazardous wastes.
- Solarize NoVA Update

- The Spring campaign for Solarize NoVA resulted in 56 contracts in excess of 400 kW of new solar. The contract value is \$1,133,724. The campaign in total has resulted in more than 1.9 MW of solar with a contract value in excess of \$5.89 million.
- Our Fall campaign has already kicked off with our local government partners in Loudoun County and the Town of Leesburg.
- Energy Forum
  - NVRC was pleased to participate in energy forum at the FFX County Government Center to talk about strategies available to local governments to deploy solar and energy efficiency to save taxpayer's dollars and protect environment.
- Impact of Weatherization Projects
  - NVRC is pleased to partner with the Local Energy Alliance Program on the weatherization program for income eligible families and senior citizens.
  - LEAP also works with Community Housing Partners in the region. For 2016 and 2017 the following has been achieved:
    - Number of Families Assisted: 2689
    - Annual kWh Savings: 1,157,305
    - Annual \$ Value of kWh Savings: \$127,305
    - Annual Gallons of Water Saved: 4,309,408
    - Annual Tons of CO2 Offset: 949 Tons
- Elected Leaders Summit
  - NVRC was pleased to co-sponsor with the Alexandria, Arlington, Loudoun, Northern Virginia and Prince William Chambers of Commerce an elected leaders summit. Topics discussed included: Amazon HQ2, Transportation, Metro, Affordable Housing and the Proffer Legislation among other topics. Chairman DiRocco represented NVRC at the event.
- Community & Military Partnership Committee
  - NVRC's Community/Military Partnership Committee was pleased to welcome the new Commanders for Fort Belvoir, Marine Corps Base Quantico and Joint Base Myer/Henderson Hall. The well attended meeting focused on the development of the Cyber Training and Education Roadmap as the result of the conference sponsored by NVRC and others in June.
- Commuter Ferry Meeting

- Interested parties received a briefing from NelsonNygaard on the Infrastructure Gap Analysis of a potential commuter ferry service.
- Upcoming Meeting Agenda Items
  - **October**
    - Audit results
    - Preliminary FY 2020 Budget for adoption
    - Community Foundation for Northern Virginia presentation
  - **November**
    - Dr. J. Stephen Jones, CEO, Inova Health System
  - **December**
    - No meeting

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Chairman DiRocco reported that starting next month the Commission will receive monthly financial reports from the Go Virginia group. The Commission will also receive updates on the Go Virginia projects.

**MINUTES**

Commissioner Gross moved approval of the Commission meeting minutes of July 26, 2018. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Garvey and carried. Commissioner Neville abstained.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Commissioner Gross reported on the Community & Military Partnership Meeting that took place on September 20, 2018.

The top three topics included:

1. Update on Cyber Roadmap for Cyber Training & Education
2. Community Partnership from the Air Force perspective
3. Welcome to three new base commanders

Commissioner Gross also invited Commissioners to attend the next Community and Military Partnership meeting on November 15, 2018 from 10 am to Noon at the NVRC office location.

Commissioner Garvey brought to the Commission's attention the upcoming tax bill situation and the effect it will have due to the additional cost. She also suggested to think about a possible analysis of some sort to be better prepared for what is to come in terms of financial challenges.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman DiRocco adjourned the meeting at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Robert W. Lazaro, Jr.  
Executive Director

Approved by:

Laurie A. DiRocco  
Chairman