

## NORTHERN VIRGINIA REGIONAL COMMISSION

Minutes of the Commission Meeting Held Thursday, March 23, 2023

### COMMISSIONERS

(The names of those members present are highlighted.)

Hon. Walter L. Alcorn	<i>County of Fairfax</i>
Hon. Victor S. Angry	<i>County of Prince William</i>
Hon. Andrea O. Bailey	<i>County of Prince William</i>
<b>Hon. Kenny A. Boddye</b>	<b><i>County of Prince William</i></b>
Hon. Tyrone Brown	<i>Town of Dumfries</i>
Hon. Kelly Burk	<i>Town of Leesburg</i>
<b>Hon. John T. Chapman, NVRC Chairman<sup>1</sup></b>	<b><i>City of Alexandria</i></b>
<b>Hon. Linda J. Colbert</b>	<b><i>Town of Vienna</i></b>
<b>Hon. Matt de Ferranti</b>	<b><i>County of Arlington</i></b>
<b>Hon. Libby Garvey</b>	<b><i>County of Arlington</i></b>
Hon. Alyia Gaskins	<i>City of Alexandria</i>
<b>Hon. Sylvia Glass</b>	<b><i>County of Loudoun</i></b>
<b>Hon. Penelope A. Gross</b>	<b><i>County of Fairfax</i></b>
Hon. Pat Herrity	<i>County of Fairfax</i>
Hon. Rodney L. Lusk	<i>County of Fairfax</i>
Hon. Sheila A. Olem, <i>NVRC Vice Chairwoman – Alternate</i>	<b><i>Town of Herndon</i></b>
<b><i>Councilmember Danielle Scherff</i></b>	
Hon. Dalia A. Palchik	<i>County of Fairfax</i>
<b>Hon. Catherine Read</b>	<b><i>City of Fairfax</i></b>
<b>Hon. Jeanette Rishell</b>	<b><i>City of Manassas Park</i></b>
Hon. Koran T. Saines	<i>County of Loudoun</i>
<b>Hon. Kathy L. Smith, NVRC Treasurer</b>	<b><i>County of Fairfax</i></b>
<b>Hon. David Tarter</b>	<b><i>City of Falls Church</i></b>
Hon. James R. Walkinshaw	<i>County of Fairfax</i>
<b>Hon. Mark Wolfe</b>	<b><i>City of Manassas</i></b>

### STAFF PRESENT

Robert Lazaro	<i>Executive Director</i>
Linda M. Tenney	<i>Deputy Director</i>
Gina Kesselmann-Smith <sup>2</sup>	<i>Management Analyst</i>
Normand Goulet	<i>Environmental Services Director</i>
Chris Landgraf <sup>3</sup>	<i>Military Installation Resiliency Project Manager</i>
Rebecca Murphy <sup>4</sup>	<i>Resources Program Manager</i>
Peggy Tadej <sup>5</sup>	<i>Community and Military Partnerships Director</i>

### OTHERS

Samer Beidas	<i>Prince William Service Authority</i>
Ben Eldridge	<i>Cambridge</i>
Jamie Bain Hedges	<i>Fairfax Water</i>
Great Prelewicz	<i>Fairfax Water</i>

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<sup>1</sup> Joined virtually

<sup>2</sup> Joined virtually

<sup>3</sup> Joined virtually

<sup>4</sup> Joined virtually

<sup>5</sup> Joined virtually

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Chapman called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

PRESENTATION

**Planning for and Protection the Region's Drinking Water Sources**

Fairfax Water produces treated drinking water for over two million residents of Northern Virginia. Commissioners received a presentation on efforts to increase water supply and emerging issues in water supply protection from Ms. Jamie Bain Hedges, General Manager of Fairfax Water.

ACTION ITEMS

Commissioner Boddie moved approval of the Resolution No. P23-19-- Resolution Authorizing The Executive Director To Sign A Lease Extension Agreement For NVRC Offices And To Engage The Services Of Outside Legal Counsel. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Background:

NVRC with the assistance of a commercial real estate broker has been negotiating with the landlord to extend the lease on NVRC offices for a period of eight years. The current lease expires in 2025. NVRC has reached an agreement with the landlord that will result in a savings to the organization equivalent to ten months of free rent. The resolution authorizes the Executive Director to sign an lease extension only after coming to the successful conclusion of achieving a sublease agreement with the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority which is a subtenant. The resolution also authorizes the Executive Director to engage the services of outside legal counsel for the purposes of lease review and sub-lease documentation.

Commissioner Gross moved approval of the Resolution No. P23-20 -- Authorization to Engage George Mason University on Work Study Student for Waste Management Program. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Background:

NVRC coordinates the activities of the Northern Virginia Waste Management Board. NVRC has been requested by the Board to execute an agreement with George Mason University for a graduate student to work with the Waste Management Board. The student receives a stipend from GMU (George Mason University) and there is no budget impact to NVRC.

Commissioner Gross moved approval of the Resolution No. P23-21 -- Authorization to Engage AEM To Complete a Flood Early Warning System Desktop Evaluation. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Background:

The Northern Virginia Regional Commission received \$11,250 from the Community Flood Preparedness Fund to complete a Flood Prevention

and Protection Study to assess the status of rain gauge networks in Northern Virginia. AEM provides flood risk management solutions, products, and is the sole servicer of individually owned municipal precipitation networks. AEM submitted a proposal to complete a review of existing rain and stream gauges and evaluate existing radar coverage in the region, summarizing findings in a technical memorandum. The resolution authorizes the Executive Director to sign the agreement with AEM.

Commissioner Gross moved approval of the Resolution No. P23-22 – Authorization To Submit A Stormwater Maintenance Grant Proposal To The National Fish And Wildlife Foundation’s Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Background:

There is an opportunity to update the resource published in 2007 “Maintaining Stormwater Systems: A Guidebook for Private Owners and Operators in Northern Virginia” to support our local governments in the education and outreach for stormwater system maintenance. The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation has grant funding available through the Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund for projects within the Chesapeake Bay watershed that promote voluntary, community-based efforts to protect and restore the Chesapeake Bay and its tributary rivers and streams. NVRC has worked in conjunction with Northern Virginia local government staff in the development of a proposal to bring up to date the sixteen-year-old stormwater maintenance guidebook. The resolution authorizes the Executive Director to apply for a grant not to exceed \$75,000 from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation in support of updating a stormwater maintenance guidebook to support private owners and operators in maintaining stormwater systems to improve water quality in Northern Virginia.

Commissioner Gross moved approval of the Resolution No. P23-23 – Authorization To Submit A Freshwater Mussel Grant Proposal To The National Fish And Wildlife Foundation’s Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Background:

The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality has listed approximately 250 miles of streams in Northern Virginia as impaired in 2018. Mussels function as ecosystem engineers by filtering and cleaning vast volumes of water. Each adult freshwater mussel can filter up to 10 gallons of water a day. The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation has grant funding available through the Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund to protect and restore water quality, species, and habitats in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. NVRC has worked in conjunction with Prince William County staff and U.S Fish and Wildlife Service staff in the development of a proposal. The resolution authorizes the Executive Director to apply for a grant not to exceed \$200,000 from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation in support of leveraging freshwater mussels to improve water quality in Prince William County.

Commissioner Gross moved approval of the Resolution No. P23-24 – Executive Director Review and Compensation The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Background:

The employment agreement for the Executive Director requires that his performance be reviewed on an annual basis and his compensation adjusted accordingly.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S  
REPORT

Mr. Lazaro presented his report to the Commission, which included the financial report for February 2023 and the following:

- Military Installation Resilience Review
  - The DRAFT report of the MIRR document was distributed to our regional partners and final comments were received no later than March 17. The 600+ page document provides significant detail as to identified projects, impact, etc.
  - All members of our local Congressional delegation have been briefed on the projects identified in the MIRR.
  - The final report will be presented to the Commission in May.
- Congratulations Dr. Will Rowe
  - Congratulations to Dr. Will Rowe for being named a Defense Community Champion by American Defense Communities. We are grateful to Will for all his volunteer efforts assisting the Commission work with the military, veterans and military spouses.
  - Last year Peggy Tadej of our team was recognized.
- Solarized Dashboard Updated
  - Nora Jackson of our team updated our Solarize NoVA dashboard to include all of the projects that were contracted for in 2022 which was our best year ever with 172 contracts signed for solar.
  - Our 2023 campaign will kick off this Summer. With many thanks to our local government partners for their avid support of this important project.
- Helping the Victims of the Earthquake
  - NVRC is pleased to coordinate a regional relief effort to assist the victims of the earthquake in Turkey and Syria.
- Association of Defense Communities National Summit
  - Northern Virginia Regional Commission participates in the Association of Defense Communities National Summit in Crystal City, Virginia to gain knowledge for

expanded community-military partnerships and communicate regional successes.

- Regional and Trans-Atlantic Cooperation
  - NVRC was pleased to work with the Virginia Climate Center at GMU, the University of Stuttgart and the Verband Region Stuttgart to explore opportunities for further collaboration on climate and sustainability related policies and projects.
  - Grateful to the GMU team for hosting the delegation for two days and to MWAA for briefing the delegation on their sustainability plan and its ongoing implementation.
- Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail Corridor Analysis Report Released
  - NVRC is excited to share the release of its 2022 Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail (PHNST) Corridor Analysis. The 2022 Corridor Analysis provides a comprehensive assessment of the PHNST network in Northern Virginia, including the status of trail connectivity and gaps, amenities, accessibility, and other important features for PHNST use and management. Notably, the project builds off of findings from NVRC's 2022 Health, Social Equity and Economic Impact Study, which highlighted the range of benefits that a completed PHNST network could have for Northern Virginia.
- Virginia is for Green Roof Lovers
  - NVRC's green roof application has been selected to be presented at the ESRI summer conference. We believe it is the only kind of its application in the country.
  - Congratulations to Nora Jackson of our team on leading this project on behalf of the Commission.
- Planning District Commissions in Washington, D.C.
  - NVRC's Executive Director joined with colleagues from Planning Districts around the Commonwealth to meet with Congressional staff to update them on the activities of the Planning Districts. NVRC highlighted its work with the region's military through our Military Installation Resilience Review project.
- Water Supply Planning
  - Was pleased to attend a Washington Post event on the important subject of water supply. Fascinating listening to U.S. Senator John Hickenlooper on the challenges in the far West in getting the states to cooperate. Grateful our team at NVRC works cooperatively with our regional water suppliers and local water suppliers

on a number of issues including updating the region's water resource plan.

#### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Chapman encouraged Commissioners to use their communication channels to help the Executive Director and staff to show the local communities what has been done on their behalf/for them and to continue to push the great work that has been done at NVRC.

#### COMMUNITY & MILITARY PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

Commissioner Gross reported that the most recent Community and Military Partnership meeting that took place on March 16, 2023, was once again a great success. The agenda included the following:

- 10:00 - 10:10 AM WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS
  - Co-Chairs Penny Gross, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and Victor Angry, Prince William County Board of Supervisors
  - NVRC Champion Award – Dr. William D. Rowe, Jr.
- 10:10 – 10:20 AM MILITARY INSTALLATION RESILIENCY REVIEW PROJECT UPDATE
  - Christopher Landgraf, NVRC
- 10:20 – 10:25 AM WORKFORCE UPDATE – First Transitioning Military, Military Spouse, and Veteran's Community Alliance
  - Mike Batts, VP Fairfax County Economic Development Authority
- 10:25 - 10:30 AM DEI UPDATE
  - Aimee Stoddard, Everymind
- 10:30 – 10:45 REGIONAL FAIR HOUSING PLAN
  - Hilary S. Chapman, Housing Program Manager, Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
- 10:45 – 11:15 MILITARY BASE COMMANDER RESPONSE ON BALANCING THE MISSION REQUIREMENTS AND IMPACT ON DEVELOPMENT
  - COL. Joseph Messina, Garrison Commander Fort Belvoir
  - COL. David Bowling, Base Commander, Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall
  - Col. Michael L. Brooks, Commanding Officer, MCI National Capital Region Marine Corps Base Quantico
  - Colonel, Joerg Drania, GS
- 11:15 – 11:45 AM COUNTY HOUSING POLICIES
  - Mr. Tom Fleetwood, HCD Dir. Housing and Community Development, Fairfax County
  - Mr. Richard Tucker, Housing Arlington Coordinator, Arlington County

- Joan S. Duckett, Director Office of Housing and Community Development, Prince William County
- 11:45 – 11:55 AM DISCUSSION ON AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND IMPACTS ON MILITARY
- 11:55 – 12:00 PM ACTION ITEMS AND PROPOSED SCHEDULE
  - Co-chairs
- ACTION ITEMS
  - COL Messina requested that military job openings on USAJobs be included on the WorkinNorthernvirginia.org website. As an example, Fort Belvoir needs childcare and security officers to work at the gates. Also include links to IC community jobs if possible.
  - Co-Chair Gross requested that metrics reporting on transitioning military be included at May and September CMFFP meetings.
  - Supervisor Lusk requested that metrics include a comparison between departing military salaries and starting private sector salaries and total compensation (if available).
  - Invite Maureen Sintich, DNP, MBA, RN, WHNP-BC, NEA-BC who serves as Inova's Chief Nurse Executive (CNE) and Executive Vice President to speak at the next TMCA meeting to cover what hospitals are doing to employ veterans and how to improve access to mental health for the military and their families.
  - Invite Terri Feely, Inova's Chief People Officer, to the next TCMA meeting to address what Inova is doing to recruit veterans for healthcare employment
  - Include a military health representative at the State level on the DEI Working Group to look at increasing access to mental health care for the military and their families
  - In May, prepare a Proclamation for the NVRC Board for passage specific to EO 9981, 9980, and the 75th anniversary of the Women's Armed Services Integration Act
  - Follow-up on Protective Class for Military to better understand what that means.
  - Dr. Rowe recommended creating a resource for the military to navigate the regional housing market
  - Provide and update on the Virginia Assembly bills related to military and veterans at the next CMFFP meeting
  - Invite First Lady to address Child Care and Workforce issues
  - Provide an update on Ad-Hoc committee efforts to recognize the 75th anniversary of Executive Order 9981

Further updates included:

- ADC Conference held in Crystal City on March 6, 7, and 8, 2023 themed "One Community"

- NVRC Champion Award to Dr. William D. Rowe, Jr. for his contributions to Northern Virginia and ADC
- NVRC receives Champion for two years in a row
- Senator Kaine was ADC guest speaker and spent time with the Northern Virginia delegation

Remaining Schedule for 2023 is as follows:

- 18 May – Theme: MIRR & Workforce
- 20 July
- 21 September
- 16 November

Commissioner Gross invited everyone to attend the next Community and Military Partnership meeting on May 18, 2023, 10am-12pm in person/hybrid.

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

Commissioner Gross moved approval of the Commission meeting minutes of February 23, 2023. The motion was seconded and carried. Commissioner Rishell abstained.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Chapman adjourned the meeting at 8:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Approved by:

Robert W. Lazaro, Jr.  
Executive Director

John T. Chapman  
Chairman