

NORTHERN VIRGINIA REGIONAL COMMISSION

Minutes of the Commission Meeting Held Thursday, March 24, 2022

COMMISSIONERS

(The names of those members present are highlighted.)

Hon. Walter L. Alcorn
Hon. Victor S. Angry
Hon. Andrea O. Bailey
Hon. Kenny A. Boddye
Hon. Juli E. Briskman
Hon. Kelly Burk
Hon. John T. Chapman
Hon. Linda J. Colbert
Hon. Matt de Ferranti
Hon. Libby Garvey
Hon. Alyia Gaskins
Hon. Penelope A. Gross
Hon. Pat Herrity
Hon. Rodney L. Lusk
Hon. David Meyer, NVRC Vice Chairman
Hon. Cydney A. Neville, NVRC Chairwoman
Hon. Sheila A. Olem
Hon. Dalia A. Palchik
Hon. Jeanette Rishell
Hon. Koran T. Saines
Hon. Kathy L. Smith, NVRC Treasurer
Hon. David Tarter
Hon. James R. Walkinshaw
Hon. Mark Wolfe

County of Fairfax
County of Prince William
County of Prince William
County of Prince William
County of Loudoun
Town of Leesburg
City of Alexandria
Town of Vienna
County of Arlington
County of Arlington
City of Alexandria
County of Fairfax
County of Fairfax
County of Fairfax
City of Fairfax
Town of Dumfries
Town of Herndon
County of Fairfax
City of Manassas Park
County of Loudoun
County of Fairfax
City of Falls Church
County of Fairfax
City of Manassas

STAFF PRESENT

Robert Lazaro
Linda M. Tenney
Gina Kesselmann-Smith¹
Normand Goulet
Jill Kaneff²
Christopher Landgraf³
Michelle Simmons
Debbie Spiliotopoulos⁴
Peggy Tadej

Executive Director
Deputy Director
Management Analyst
Environmental Services Director
Regional Demographer
Military Installation Resiliency Project Manager
Human Services Director
Solid Waste Program Planner
Director of Community and Military Partnerships

OTHERS PRESENT

William Hazel
Elizabeth Hughes
Teresa Rowe
William Rowe

Claude Moore Charitable Foundation
Community Foundation
Virginia Hospital Center
Booz Allen Hamilton

¹ Joined virtually

² Joined virtually

³ Joined virtually

⁴ Joined virtually

CALL TO ORDER Chairwoman Neville called the meeting to order at 7:41 p.m.

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

PRESENTATION **Recognizing Dr. William D. Rowe, Jr.**

Dr. William D. Rowe, Jr has recently retired from Booz Allen Hamilton. Dr. Rowe has been an active participant in the Commission's Community/Military/Federal Facility Partnership volunteering innumerable hours regarding a wide range of issues including cyber security, cyber workforce and diversity, equity and inclusion.

Mental Health Needs in Northern Virginia

Elizabeth Hughes presented findings from the Community Foundation's recently released report, "Finding our Way Back to Mental Health." She quantified the current level of mental health need across Northern Virginia, with an eye toward demographic and socioeconomic groups experiencing heightened levels of anxiety and depression. She then presented national data on common barriers to receiving treatment, describing the relevance of each barrier to Northern Virginia, and concluded with recommendations on how the broader community can work together to deliver better care. She provided a printed copy of the new report to each Commissioner.

Building a Health and Human Resources Workforce

Dr. William Hazel discussed issues related to the health and human resources workforce shortages. He offered a perspective formed by the work of the Claude Moore Charitable Foundation's work to grow a health care workforce that is modelled after the Commonwealth's "Tech Talent Pipeline". An essential element is employer engagement which in the case of human service, public health, and behavioral health must fall to local government. Dr. Hazel is the Senior Deputy Executive Director at the Claude Moore Charitable Foundation. Dr. Hazel served eight years as the Virginia Secretary of Health and Human Services.

ACTION ITEMS Commissioner Gross moved approval of the Resolution No. P22-22– Authorization to Extend an Agreement for Clean Water Partners Advertising Services. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Background:

Northern Virginia jurisdictions are required by law to comply with Municipal Separate Storm Sewer (MS4) permits, and watershed management plans that stipulate public outreach and education as a required component, with behavior change as the goal in support of meeting water quality standards. NVRC coordinates a regional stormwater public education and outreach campaign known as "Only

Rain Down the Storm Drain". Effectv. manages advertising for the cable networks in the area including Cox, Comcast, Direct TV, Verizon FIOS, Dish Network, Atlantic Broadband, and several other smaller networks in our area. Resolution authorizes Executive Director to sign a one-year extension through March 31, 2023.

Commissioner Gross moved approval of the Resolution No. P22-23 - Authorization to Extend an Agreement for Social Media Support Services for Clean Water Partners Program. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Background:

Local governments and two drinking water authorities that contribute to the campaign have named themselves the Northern Virginia Clean Water Partners and annually pool outreach funds to take advantage of the reach and impact of multi-media advertising. The Hatcher Group's social media campaign has been satisfactory, and they are willing to continue their work for another year with the same scope and price as their current engagement. It is in NVRC's best interest to continue the engagement as a sole source procurement for one more year beginning July 1, 2022.

Commissioner Gross moved approval of the Resolution No. P22-24 - Authorization to return Reception Position to Regular Employee Status and Amend Pay Grade. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Background:

The currently assigned receptionist from an employment agency has worked full-time for the Commission since March 2019, proving to be capable and reliable. The Executive Director recommends continuing the incumbent's employment as a regular (not contract) employee, revising the position assignment from Grade 3 to Grade 1, at an effective hourly rate of \$14.70 (\$30,576 annualized), and including all fringe benefits as are available to full-time regular employees. There is no fiscal impact to the Commission.

Commissioner Gross moved approval of the Resolution No. P22-25 - Authorization to Submit a Hydrologic Study Proposal to the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Background:

The Four Mile Run watershed is one of the most heavily urbanized drainage systems in Northern Virginia. Inland flooding due to extreme rainfall is increasing with warming temperatures. Evaluating long-term rainfall-runoff dynamics in the watershed would provide insight into the effectiveness of past management actions and help inform future management actions. The Northern Virginia Regional Commission has over a 20-year history coordinating the Four Mile Run Watershed Program. The resolution authorizes the Executive Director to apply for a grant not to exceed \$95,000 from the Department of Conservation And Recreation in support of furthering a hydrologic study in Four Mile Run watershed.

Commissioner Gross moved approval of the Resolution No. P22-26 - 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 Prince William County Department of Public Works has invested significant time and money into stream corridor restoration to improve the hydrologic and geomorphic functions of local streams that have become degraded. To leverage the investments that Prince William County has made, there is an opportunity to enhance biodiversity and help to improve water quality by reintroducing native freshwater mussels to restored streams. 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. The resolution authorizes the Executive Director to apply and accept 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. P22-27 - Resolution to pursue and accept grants and technical assistance to improve Potomac heritage trail connectivity to communities and parks in Northern Virginia. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Background:

NVRC has identified additional task activities related to the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail in Northern Virginia, including completing signatures and associated signing ceremony for the renewed Memorandum of Understanding at George Washington's Mount Vernon, conducting geospatial analysis of trail data with demographic and heal opportunity information and transit, facilitating a workshop on transportation and pedestrian impacts of a recent NPS feasibility assessment, and supporting Virginia DCR and trail managers with a health and economic benefits assessment of trails and linear parks for the Northern Virginia PHNST network. The resolution authorizes NVRC pursue grant applications and technical assistance programs for up to \$110,000 with National Park Foundation, National Park Service, and other resources for grants and technical assistance to augment work with the National Park Service on the Potomac Heritage Trail such as the NPF Capacity Building grant.

Commissioner Gross moved approval of the Resolution No. P22-28 - Authorization to Receive Funds from the Virginia Department of Health to Perform Various Technical Assistance Activities in Support of HIV/AIDS Care and Prevention. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Background:

The Virginia Department of Health (VDH) has contracted with NVRC for the past 30 years to receive and subcontract funds for HIV services in Suburban Virginia. VDH staff has received and approved a budget and work plan prepared by NVRC staff that articulates a variety of proposed projects. The Resolution authorizes the Executive Director to execute

such agreements and amendments with VDH as may be necessary to accomplish NVRC HIV-related activities for the 2022-2021 grant year.

Commissioner Gross moved approval of the Resolution No. P22-29 - Resolution in Support of the Regional Blanket and Coat Drive for Refugees From Ukraine Fleeing Russian Violence. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Background:

The Northern Virginia Regional Commission has in the past worked with its local government partners and others to collect blankets and coats to assist Syrian refugees who fled their homeland for Turkey. The invasion of Ukraine by Russia has produced violence and more than 2 million refugees. The resolution expresses its support for a regional effort to collect new coats, blankets, socks and gloves for the refugees from Ukraine.

Commissioner Smith moved approval of the Resolution No. P22-30 – Executive Director Review and Compensation based on the recommendations provided by the Executive Committee. 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 2022 and the following:

- Working with our Local Government Partners
 - Nora Jackson our Resiliency Planner presented to Alexandria's Energy and Climate Change Task Force on our regional efforts.
- Resiliency Webinars
 - NVRC is pleased to continue to partner with higher education institutions in the region to provide webinars of interest on subject matters of critical concern in the region. Two webinars have already taken place with subject matters related to energy efficient data centers and habitat protection.
- Sharing our Sustainability Efforts
 - NVRC was pleased to participate in a sustainability webinar sponsored by the Committee for Dulles. The Executive Director shared examples of the good work being undertaken by our local governments to address issues of sustainability.
- Affordable Housing Project

- NVRC was pleased to attend the ribbon cutting for a new Habitat for Humanity house in Round Hill (Loudoun County) for the Pierre family. The house was one of the projects supported by the affordable housing grant received by NVRC from Virginia Housing.
- Supporting Our Veterans and Military Spouses
 - NVRC is pleased to partner with our local government colleagues, Fort Belvoir and others to promote the Veteran & Military Spouse Career Fair which will be held at the spectacular National Museum of the United States Army on May 11 and a virtual career fair on May 12.
- Solarize NoVA Kicks of April 1
 - NVRC's highly successful program with our local government partners and the Local Energy Alliance Program (LEAP) kicks off on April 1. Sign-ups are already being taken on their web site: solarizeNoVA.org
- Military Installation Resilience Review (MIRR)
 - NVRC led two days of meetings related to our MIRR project with our local government partners and military installations. This is part of a grant received from the Federal government.
- Hosting Delegation from Germany
 - NVRC was pleased to host a delegation from the German State of Hessen. The three visitors were from the State Legislature. Thankful to our colleagues from NVTA who briefed them on E-Mobility issues in NoVA. The delegation travelled to the US as part of a study tour organized by the Konrad Adenauer Foundation (CDU).
 - The City of Frankfurt is the major city in the State.
- Regional Donation Campaign
 - The region announced on March 23 a collective effort to receive donations of new/gently used coats, new blankets, new pairs of sweat socks/heavy socks and new pairs of gloves. The campaign will run through April 15. In 2013 nearly 14 tons of donations were received to assist the Syrian refugees in Turkey.
 - helpukrainenova.org
- Congratulations to Peggy Tadej
 - NVRC is proud that Peggy Tadej of our team was recognized as a Defense Community Champion by the

Association of Defense Communities. Many thanks to our Co-Chairs of our Community/Military/Federal Facilities Partnership, the Honorable Penny Gross and the Honorable Victor Angry, and to the entire Commission for their support of this important program.

CHAIRWOMAN'S REPORT

Chairwoman Neville provided an update on building a presence for HBCUs and the actions of the NSU/VSU Special Committee. A fieldtrip is scheduled to visit Virginia State University on April 4, 2022.

COMMUNITY & MILITARY PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

Commissioner Gross reported that the March 17 Community and Military Partnership meeting was a great success.

The agenda included the following:

- 10:00 - 10:05 AM Welcome and Introductions - Co-Chairs Penny Gross, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and Victor Angry, Prince William County Board of Supervisors
- 10:05 – 10:45 AM Military Installation Resiliency Review Project -MIRR Consultant, AECOM; Virtual Room Demo; Project Status (Kickoff, Scope, Timeline)
- 10:45 - 11:00 AM Military Base Commander and Elected Officials Response to MIRR
 - COL Michael L. Brooks, Commanding Officer, NCI NCR, Marine Corps Base Quantico
 - Deputy CDR LTC Mark Paolicelli, JBM-HH
 - COL Joshua SeGraves, Garris Commander Fort Belvoir
- 11:00 – 11:05 AM Jason Pak, Deputy Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs at Commonwealth of Virginia
- 11:05 – 11:15 AM NOVA Workforce Update
 - Career Fair for Veterans, Military Personnel, and Military Spouses -- November 4 and May 11/12 at Fort Belvoir
 - Military Website: <https://workinnorthernvirginia.com/>
 - Home-based Training for Military Spouses
- 11:15 – 11:30 AM Discussion of Innovation Center
 - Supervisor Rodney Lusk, Lee District Supervisor, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors
- 11:30 - 11:50 AM Critical Conversations on DEI & Community Partnerships
 - BG Terrence Adams, Military Deputy Director of Concepts and Strategy Air Force Futures
- 11:50AM – 11:55 AM Northern Virginia Awards from Association of Defense Communities; ADC Panel
 - ADC Nomination as a Great American Defense Community (Video) and Defense Community Champion
 - Participation in the DEI Panel at ADC National Defense Community Summit with Blue Star Families
- Action Items and Proposed Schedule
 - Co-Chairs

Commissioner Angry reported that Northern Virginia was recognized twice by the American Defense Community (ADC):

- ADC recognized Northern Virginia as a 2022 Great American Defense Community. Initial recognition at the March 7-9, 2022,

National Defense Community Summit. Additional recognition throughout the year to include at the Installation Innovation Forum in Phoenix October 31—November 2, 2022. USAA is the official sponsor of the Great American Defense Communities program.

- ADC recognized Peggy Tadej as a Defense Community Champion for helping bring a DOD region together to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion awareness.

Commissioner Gross concluded by inviting everyone to attend the next Community and Military Partnership meeting on May 19, 2022, 10am-12pm.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Commissioner Gross moved approval of the Commission meeting minutes of February 24, 2022. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairwoman Neville adjourned the meeting at 9:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Approved by:

Robert W. Lazaro, Jr.
Executive Director

Cydny A. Neville
Chairwoman