

NORTHERN VIRGINIA REGIONAL COMMISSION

Minutes of the Commission Meeting Held Thursday, April 27, 2023

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. Tyrone Brown

Hon. Kelly Burk

Hon. John T. Chapman, NVRC Chairman

Hon. Linda J. Colbert

Hon. Matt de Ferranti

Hon. Libby Garvey

Hon. Alyia Gaskins

Hon. Sylvia Glass

Hon. Penelope A. Gross

Hon. Pat Herrity

Hon. Rodney L. Lusk

Hon. Sheila A. Olem, NVRC Vice Chairwoman

Hon. Dalia A. Palchik

Hon. Catherine Read

Hon. Jeanette Rishell

Hon. Koran T. Saines

Hon. Kathy L. Smith, NVRC Treasurer¹

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

Town of Dumfries

Town of Leesburg

City of Alexandria

Town of Vienna

County of Arlington

County of Arlington

City of Alexandria

County of Loudoun

County of Fairfax

County of Fairfax

County of Fairfax

Town of Herndon

County of Fairfax

City 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-Smith²

Normand Goulet³

Chris Landgraf

Rebecca Murphy

Michelle Simmons

Tylee Smith⁴

Executive Director

Deputy Director

Management Analyst

Environmental Services Director

Military Installation Resiliency Project Manager

Resources Program Manager

Human Services Director

Senior Human Services Planner

OTHERS

Steve Cooper

Tangela Innis⁵

Dana Kauffman

Jay Mainiwaer

Steve Partridge

Exeleration

Town of Dumfries

NVCC

Arlington Talent Program

NVCC

¹ Joined virtually – with Chairman's approval

² Joined virtually

³ Joined virtually

⁴ Joined virtually

⁵ Joined virtually

- CALL TO ORDER** Chairman Chapman called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m.
- ROLL CALL** The roll was called, and all members present or absent were noted for the record.
- PRESENTATION**
- Workforce Update from the Northern Virginia Community College**
- Commissioners received an update from the VP of Workforce for the Northern Virginia Community College, Mr. Steve Partridge, on the numerous workforce initiatives NVCC is undertaking in the region.
- Launching Engineering Careers with Work-based Learning**
- Commissioners received a presentation from Steve Cooper, the CEO of Exeleration whose firm is working with the Arlington County Department of Economic Development. The demand for skilled Technologists is the challenge of our day. Meanwhile, new engineering careers are stifled by entry-level jobs that require 1-3 years of experience and four-year degrees.
- ACTION ITEMS**
- Commissioner Gross moved approval of the Resolution No. P23-25– Authorization to accept congressionally directed spending funds for Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail Counter Project. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.
- Background:
- The Northern Virginia Regional Commission (NVRC) provides coordination for the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail (PHNST) in Northern Virginia through a Cooperative Agreement P21AC12147-00 with the National Park Service. The need for trail use data has been identified as a need. The resolution authorizes the Executive Director on behalf of the Commission to accept Federal funds for such needs.
- Commissioner Gross moved approval of the Resolution No. P23-26 – Authorization to accept congressionally directed spending funds for Leesylvania State Park Living Shoreline Phase II Project. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.
- Background:
- In 2016, the Northern Virginia Regional Commission (NVRC) partnered with Prince William County, VIMS, Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, Dominion Energy, and Leesylvania State Park to protect and stabilize a section of the park’s shoreline along the Potomac River against ongoing erosion and habitat degradation using living shoreline practices. The project was able to stabilize 800 linear feet of shoreline as well as enhance riparian buffer habitat and restore tidal-inlet marsh and beach habitat. NVRC proposes to continue these partnerships for the design and construction of a living shoreline along a second section of the park’s riverbank to further restore riparian vegetation, improve water quality for the Potomac River, and create habitat for aquatic and terrestrial species. The resolution authorizes the

Executive Director on behalf of the Commission to accept Federal funds for this project.

Commissioner Gross moved approval of the Resolution No. P23-27 – Authorizing the extension of the contract for the purpose of providing audit services. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Background:

The Commission authorized the hiring of Robinson, Farmer to provide auditing services to the Commission. The contract permits the extension of the contract in one-year increments. The Executive Director is recommending that Robinson, Farmer be engaged for an additional year to provide such services.

Commissioner Gross moved approval of the Resolution No. P23-28 – Resolution authorizing NVRC to participate in PFAS education efforts. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

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

- Shape of the Region Conference
 - Michelle Simmons, Jill Kaneff and Tim Agar of our team attended the Shape of the Region Conference sponsored by the Community Foundation for Northern Virginia. Chairman John Chapman attended the event on behalf of the Commissioners.
 - NVRC has been a participating partner with several community organizations in support of the events sponsored by the Foundation.
- Protecting our Waterways
 - Rebecca Murphy our Coastal Program Manager authored a brochure on swimming pool drainage tips and guidelines to help homeowners protect local waterways and wildlife.
 - The flyer can be found on our Clean Waters Partners web site for download.
- Regional Collaboration
 - With many thanks to our colleagues in Arlington County for recognizing the work we do with them and our regional local government partners in the fight against climate change.
 - The County issued a report outlining their efforts in a number of areas.
- Waxpool Apartments Update
 - This is one of the affordable housing projects supported by the Commission through a grant received from

Virginia Housing. Planned completion is Fall 2023. In total more than 300 new affordable housing units will have been created as a result of the grant.

- Groveton Habitat for Humanity Project
 - This is one of the affordable housing projects supported by the Commission through a grant received from Virginia Housing. Planned completion is Summer 2023. The Groveton project will create three new homes. In total more than 300 new affordable housing units will have been created as a result of the grant.

- Earthquake Relief
 - Food deliveries being made in Hatay, Turkey from funds raised by the regional effort in Northern Virginia.
 - \$21,600 has been raised to help families.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Chapman reported that he attended the Shape of the Region event on behalf of the Commissioners. He also mentioned that he attended a reception at the German Embassy celebrating the relationship between Northern Virginia and the Stuttgart Region in Germany.

COMMUNITY & MILITARY PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

Commissioner Gross invited everyone to attend the next Community and Military Partnership meeting on May 18, 2023, 10am-3pm in person. The agenda will include 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 – 10:50 AM MILITARY INSTALLATION RESILIENCY REVIEW FINAL UPDATE

- Andrea Sweigart, Principal, AECOM
- Christopher Landgraf, NVRC

10:50 – 11:20 MILITARY BASE COMMANDER RESPONSE TO MIRR AND CONCURRENCE

- 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

11:20 – 11:30 AM TOTAL MILITARY COMMUNITY ALLIANCE (TMCA) WORKFORCE UPDATE

- Mike Batt, Vice President, Talent Fairfax County Economic Development Authority

11:30 – 11:45 AM DEI and EXECUTIVE ORDER 9981 RESOLUTION

- Aimee Stoddard, EveryMind and Dr. Will Rowe, NVRC

11.45 – 11:55 ENGAGEMENTS WITH NORTHERN VIRGINIA STAKEHOLDERS

- Charlie Perham, Matrix Design Group, Inc.

11:55 – 12:00 PM ACTION ITEMS & PROPOSED SCHEDULE

12:00 – 12:30 PM NETWORKING

12:30 – 1:00 PM LUNCH provided by Matrix

1:00 – 1:30 PM COMMUNITY SWOT ANALYSIS WITH ELECTED OFFICIALS

1:30 – 3:00 COMMUNITY SWOT ANALYSIS WITH COMMUNITY AND COUNTY PERSONNEL

Commissioner Gross also provided an update on the Total Military Community Alliance (TMCA)

- Second meeting of the Total Military Community Alliance (TMCA) with 68 in attendance (in-person and virtual)
- Focused on private sector strategies for recruiting and retaining military and veteran talent.
- ~127,000 open positions in Northern Virginia that need to be filled.
- Tom Downs, Director of Specialty Recruiting at Booz Allen Hamilton provided an overview.
 - About 30% or 10,000 employees at Booz Allen are military-affiliated employees
 - 900+ employees are military spouses in the firm today.
 - The firm plans to hire about 10,000 new employees this year.
- Karl Dillinger, Talent Acquisition Manager at Inova Health System, provided an overview.
- Ryan Eden, Veteran Employment Program Manager at Prism Inc. provided an overview of Prism's recruiting and retention programs and practices.
- Ashton McLaughlin, CEO of BLKTEK, LLC provided a summary of his experience transitioning from the Air Force into his current role and described several aspects of recruiting and retention with his company.
- After the large and small business presentations, several participants as well as TMCA co-leads underscored important roles the TMCA can play going forward. These include:

- Bringing the workforce and employment ecosystem together to make all parties aware of each other's efforts and best practices.
- Making connections among organizations, programs, and parties
- Assisting in finding solutions to hiring and retention challenges
- Gathering and reporting on impediments that need to be addressed in the region.
- Installation TAP Offices
 - Parisa Fetherson, Director of Personal & Professional Development Programs at Marine Corps Base Quantico (MCBQ)
 - Charles Freeman, Transition Services Specialist at Fort Belvoir
 - Sherry Kuiper, Public Affairs Officer, JBM-HH
- TMCA Actions
 - Continue to address actions from the February 21 meeting of the TMCA and the March 16 meeting of the CMFFP.
 - Continue efforts to create a robust make-the-match model, inclusive of the intern portal action as well as all organizations and candidates on the supply side and employers on the demand side.
 - Build out a military and veteran's segment on workinnorthernvirginia.com to give visibility of all job openings.
 - Karl Dillinger, Talent Acquisition Manager at Inova Health System will coordinate with parties that offered to assist with Inova recruiting processes. Parties include Supervisor Penny Gross; Ed Dupass with the Virginia Employment Commission; and one other participant.
 - Parisa Fetherson at MCBQ would appreciate feedback from employers when a hire is made.
 - Hold a Federal Agency panel at the 13 June meeting of the TMCA to include DHS, CISA, DOL, and VA

Remaining Schedule for 2023 is as follows:

- 20 July
- 21 September
- 16 November

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Commissioner Gross moved approval of the Commission meeting minutes of March 23, 2023. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Chapman adjourned the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Approved by:

Robert W. Lazaro, Jr.
Executive Director

John T. Chapman
Chairman