

**NORTHERN VIRGINIA REGIONAL COMMISSION**

**Minutes of the Commission Meeting Held Thursday, May 27, 2021 – via Zoom**

**COMMISSIONERS**

(The names of those members present are highlighted.)

<b>Hon. Walter L. Alcorn</b>	<b>County of Fairfax</b>
Hon. Victor S. Angry	County of Prince William
<b>Hon. Andrea O. Bailey</b>	<b>County of Prince William</b>
<b>Hon. Elizabeth Bennett-Parker</b>	<b>City of Alexandria</b>
<b>Hon. Kenny A. Boddye</b>	<b>County of Prince William</b>
<b>Hon. Juli E. Briskman</b>	<b>County of Loudoun</b>
Hon. Kelly Burk	Town of Leesburg
Hon. John T. Chapman	City of Alexandria
Hon. Linda J. Colbert	Town of Vienna
<b>Hon. Matt de Ferranti</b>	<b>County of Arlington</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	County of Fairfax
Hon. Rodney L. Lusk	County of Fairfax
<b>Hon. David Meyer</b>	<b>City of Fairfax</b>
<b>Hon. Cydney A. Neville, NVRC Vice Chairman</b>	<b>Town of Dumfries</b>
<b>Hon. Sheila A. Olem</b>	<b>Town of Herndon</b>
Hon. Dalia A. Palchik	County of Fairfax
<b>Hon. Jeanette Rishell</b>	<b>City of Manassas Park</b>
<b>Hon. Koran T. Saines</b>	<b>County of Loudoun</b>
<b>Hon. Kathy L. Smith, NVRC Treasurer</b>	<b>County of Fairfax</b>
<b>Hon. David Tarter, NVRC Chairman</b>	<b>City of Falls Church</b>
<b>Hon. James R. Walkinshaw</b>	<b>County of Fairfax</b>
Hon. Mark Wolfe	City of Manassas

**STAFF PRESENT**

Robert Lazaro	Executive Director
Linda M. Tenney	Deputy Director
Gina Kesselmann-Smith	Management Analyst
Normand Goulet	Environmental Services Director
Jill Kaneff	Regional Demographer
Michelle Simmons	Human Services Director
Peggy Tadej	Director, Community and Military Partnerships

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Victor Hoskins	Fairfax County Economic Development Authority
Jody Keenan	Virginia SBDC
Bob Kuhns	Mead & Hunt
John Payne	Virginia Housing
Telly Tucker	Arlington Economic Development

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Tarter called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

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

PRESENTATION

**Northern Virginia Economic Development Alliance**

In September 2019, 10 jurisdictions in Northern Virginia joined together to promote the strengths of the entire region through a strategic Economic Development Alliance (NOVA EDA). This followed the lessons learned from the successful attraction of Amazon HQ2 and the creation of the Virginia Tech and George Mason University Innovation Campuses. With the explosion of data centers and cloud computing in the region, and construction of the \$1 billion Micron microchip facility, NOVA EDA is gathering momentum to be a stronger national and international competitor for the Innovation Economy. Moreover, during the last year the NOVA Talent Initiative has begun to change how the public and private sectors work to retain, retrain, grow and attract talent. Also in the last year, working to bridge thousands of small, diverse and veteran-owned businesses through the COVID-19 pandemic became a core mission of all the organizations. NOVA EDA leaders reported on the progress, current projects and future prospects for the region. Mr. Victor Hoskins (Fairfax EDA) and Mr. Telly Tucker (Arlington Economic Development) reported to the Commission.

**Differential Privacy Update Regarding the US Census 2020**

Jill Kaneff, our Regional Demographer, updated the Commission regarding the issue of differential privacy and how that impacts the use of data from the United States Census Bureau.

ACTION ITEMS

Commissioner Gross moved approval of the Resolution No. P21-27 – Holidays observed by the Northern Virginia Regional Commission. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Boddye and carried unanimously.

Background:

Resolution confirming the holiday schedule observed by the Northern Virginia Regional Commission recognizing two new holidays - Juneteenth and Election Day.

Commissioner Gross moved approval of the Resolution No. P21-28 – Extension of Auditor Engagement. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Boddye and carried unanimously.

Background:

Resolution authorizing the extension of NVRC’s engagement with Robinson, Farmer to provide auditing services for NVRC and GO Virginia FY21 financial documents. The Commission will reissue an RFP to obtain responses for FY22 auditing services.

Commissioner Gross moved approval of the Resolution No. P21-29 – Authorization to extend an agreement for social media support services for Clean Water Partners Program. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Boddye and carried unanimously.

Background:

Resolution authorizing the extension of its contract with the Hatcher Group to provide social media support services for the Clean Water Partners Program. The Clean Water Partners program is a key

element in assisting our local governments meet their public education requirements as part of their MS4 permits.

Commissioner Gross moved approval of the Resolution No. P21-30 – Authorization to apply for and accept grant from Virginia Housing. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Boddye and carried unanimously.

Background:

Virginia Housing has created a grant program directed solely at Planning District Commissions in the Commonwealth of Virginia. NVRC has been invited to apply for a grant in the amount of \$3 million. As part of the grant NVRC will need to partner with a local organization or organizations to provide at a minimum 30 affordable housing units to be online by June 30, 2024.

Commissioner Gross moved approval of the Resolution No. P21-31 – Agreement for Clean Water Partners advertising services. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Boddye and carried unanimously.

Background:

Northern Virginia jurisdictions are required by law to comply with Municipal Separate Storm Sewer (MS4) permits, and watershed management plans stipulate public outreach and education as a required component. NVRC was tasked by local jurisdictions to coordinate a regional stormwater public education and outreach campaign. The agreement authorizes the Executive Director to sign an agreement with Effectv, formally known as Comcast Spotlight, for the advertising services for the Clean Water Partners campaign.

Commissioner Gross moved approval of the Resolution No. P21-32 – 2020 Census Differential Policy. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Boddye and carried unanimously.

Background:

Resolution authorizes the Chair of the commission to voice the region's concerns and raise awareness about the upcoming changes to decennial census data through communication with the Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia, state legislators, and U.S. legislators representing the Commonwealth of Virginia.

EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR'S  
REPORT

Mr. Lazaro presented his report to the Commission, which included the financial report for April 2021 and the following:

- Thank You Herndon Mayor Lisa Merkel
  - NVRC Chairman David Tarter was pleased to present a small thank you gift to former Herndon Mayor Lisa Merkel to thank the Mayor not only for her service to the Town, but to the Commission as well.
  - Mayor Merkel was an active supporter of the Commission and its activities.
- Change of Command Ceremony

- NVRC was pleased to attend the Change of Command Ceremony for Joint Base Myer Henderson-Hall Commander Colonel Kimberly Peeples. We presented the Commission's resolution to Colonel Peeples in honor of her service. We also met the new Base Commander Colonel David Bowling.
- Resiliency Webinars Continue
  - NVRC hosted two well attended webinars. The first was co-hosted with GMU's Schar School, the Arlington Chamber of Commerce and the Stuttgart Region Chamber on Public Private Partnerships for Sustainable Development. The second was co-hosted with MWCOG, DC Water and the City of Bottrop, Germany on Sustainable and Resilient Energy Management of Wastewater Treatment facilities. Additional resiliency webinars are being planned.
- Hybrid Meetings Start in July
  - NVRC has contracted with Zoom Rooms to provide capability to conduct hybrid meetings – in person and remote.
  - NVRC bylaws (consistent with the Code of VA) require a quorum to be present in the meeting room – a minimum of 8 Commissioners. Commissioners may participate remotely no more than three times per year. Commissioners who want to participate remotely must inform the Chair of their intent and reason for participating remotely.
  - The first hybrid meeting will take place for our July meeting.
- Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail Equity Study
  - NVRC is pleased to be able to work with our partners at the National Park Service and local governments to conduct an equity study of the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail.
  - The objective of the study is to assess the public health and community-related impacts associated with use of the trail and to provide recommendations to maximize those impacts and help justify the investment of public funds to complete and sustain the trail.
- Solarize NoVA
  - Our Spring solar campaign continues till the end of June. Very good interest and follow through on contracts.

- Upcoming Meetings
  - June – Presidents of Virginia State University and Norfolk State University
  - July – Report by Jill Kaneff of the impact of the pandemic on Minority Owned Businesses
  - August – No Meeting

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Chairman Tarter invited all Commissioners to a summer reception to be held on Wednesday, June 23 from 7 to 9PM. The reception will be held at Cherry Hill Park adjacent to Falls Church City Hall. In the event of inclement weather, the event will be held inside City Hall.

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT**

Commissioner Gross reported that the following slate of officers has been nominated for July 2021 – June 2022:

Honorable Cydny A. Neville (Town of Dumfries) – Chairman  
Honorable David Meyer (City of Fairfax) – Vice Chairman  
Honorable Kathy L. Smith (Fairfax County) – Treasurer

The vote to confirm the nominees will take place at the Commission's June meeting.

**COMMUNITY & MILITARY PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT**

Commissioner Gross reported that the listening session of the May 13 Community & Military Partnership Committee meeting was a great success.

Commissioner Gross also invited Commissioners to attend the upcoming Community and Military Partnership Meeting scheduled to be held virtually on July 8 at 10 am.

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

Commissioner Gross moved approval of the Commission meeting minutes of April 22, 2021. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bailey and carried unanimously.

**OTHER ITEMS**

Commissioner Bennett-Parker provided a quick update to the Commissioners regarding remote meeting participation. The FOIA council is currently looking at the potential need for additional flexibility for regional and advisory bodies like NVRC to be able to meet electronically outside of a declared emergency.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Tarter adjourned the meeting at 9:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Robert W. Lazaro, Jr.  
Executive Director

Approved by:

P. David Tarter  
Chairman