

NORTHERN VIRGINIA REGIONAL COMMISSION

Minutes of the Commission Meeting Held Thursday, June 27, 2013

COMMISSIONERS

(The names of those members present are highlighted.)

Hon. David Snyder for Hon. Nader Baroukh	City of Falls Church
Hon. Sharon Bulova	County of Fairfax
Hon. Peter Candland	County of Prince William
Hon. Janet Clarke	County of Loudoun
Hon. John C. Cook	County of Fairfax
Hon. Jay Fissette	County of Arlington
Hon. Gerald M. Foreman II	Town of Dumfries
Hon. Libby Garvey	County of Arlington
Hon. Penelope A. Gross	County of Fairfax
Hon. Pat Herrity	County of Fairfax
Hon. Catherine Hudgins	County of Fairfax
Hon. Frank Jones	City of Manassas Park
Hon. Robert W. Lazaro, Jr., NVRC Vice Chairman	Town of Purcellville
Hon. David Butler for Hon. Fernando "Marty" Martinez	Town of Leesburg
Hon. Jeffrey C. McKay	County of Fairfax
Hon. Lisa C. Merkel	Town of Herndon
Hon. Martin E. Nohe, NVRC Chairman	County of Prince William
Hon. Harry J. Parrish II	City of Manassas
Hon. Redella S. Pepper, NVRC Treasurer	City of Alexandria
Hon. Frank J. Principi	County of Prince William
Hon. M. Jane Seeman	Town of Vienna
Hon. R. Scott Silverthorne	City of Fairfax
Hon. Paul C. Smedberg	City of Alexandria
Hon. Linda Smyth	County of Fairfax
Hon. Scott K. York	County of Loudoun

STAFF PRESENT

G. Mark Gibb	Executive Director
Linda M. Tenney	Deputy Director
Linda Summerall	Executive Secretary
Dale Medearis	Sr. Environmental Planner
David Schwengel	Director, Regional Business Planning
Michelle Simmons	Director, Human Services
Aimee Vosper	Director, Environmental & Planning Services
Stephen Walz	Director, Regional Energy Planning

OTHERS PRESENT

Kenneth D. Barker	V.P.-Customer Solutions & Energy Conservation, Dominion Virginia Power
Bruce Bennett	Hunter Mill Traffic Calming Committee
Kate Boyle	Fairfax Co. legislative staff
Deborah Tompkins Johnson	Virginia Dominion Power – Government Affairs
Carolyn Moss	Virginia Dominion Power – State & Local Affairs
Charles Penn	Dominion – Media & Community Relations
Sue Rowland	NVRC Legislative Liaison; SR Consulting, Inc.
Stewart Schwartz	Coalition for Smarter Growth
Brandon Stites	Director-AMI & Energy Conservation, Dominion Virginia Power
Rob Whitfield	Dulles Corridor Users Group

CALL TO ORDER Chairman Nohe called the meeting to order at 7:35 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.

MINUTES Commissioner York moved approval of the minutes of the May 23, 2013, Commission meeting. The motion was seconded and unanimously carried.

DOMINION VIRGINIA POWER'S ADVANCED METERING PROJECT Chairman Nohe welcomed Kenneth D. Barker, Vice President-Customer Solutions and Energy Conservation. Mr. Barker joined Virginia Power in 1978 and has held numerous management positions with the company and assumed his current position in 2010. He holds a bachelor's in electrical engineering from Old Dominion University and is a registered professional engineer in Virginia and North Carolina.

Kenneth D. Barker Mr. Barker explained Dominion's commitment to its customers include providing reasonable, competitive rates, delivering reliable electric service, and being responsive and offering innovative energy solutions to meet customers' energy needs economically.

He explained the smart grid: a lot of advanced metering infrastructure, generators, transmission lines, substations, a lot of analytics are built in; the last piece that is not connected, from an intelligence standpoint, is the customer and how they use the product. Currently, electric meters are usually read once a month by a van driving by the house or building. Advance metering or smart grid looks at how the customer uses electricity and ties back into the grid. It presents lots of optionality for new rates and creates customer savings.

Advanced metering reports the customer's usage, peak demand, and voltage level as well as offer different rates based on usage patterns. The meter will also report power outages to Dominion and the company can dispatch a repair crew without the customer having to report the outage. Advance metering also provides remote turn on/turn off from the utility.

Smart pricing plans, aka dynamic rates, let the customer control their usage, such as a lower rate for using a dryer at night. Different rate structures can be programmed into the meter per the customer's choice. The average customer that uses dynamic rates saves ten percent, while some save 20-30 percent.

Dominion Virginia Power has been deploying the smart grid for five or six years with small demonstration pilots in Charlottesville, Blue Ridge, Williamsburg and Falls Church. Approximately 200,000 meters will be installed inside the Beltway in Northern Virginia between May 2013 – 2014. The utility does not yet have State Corporation Commission approval for full deployment statewide; it will seek that approval next summer.

Using focus groups, Dominion discovered that the majority of customers are open to smart meters. The strongest concern was privacy. Mr. Barker explained the company is not interested in and will not know what the electricity is being used for. Dominion is only interested in the time of day/night of usage and having meters report outages and restorations.

Before installation, customers will receive a postcard that smart meters are being installed and a door hanger will be left after installation. Initially, customers will a no cost opt-out option. To date, of the 18,000 customers in the pilot programs, about 25 have declined to have a smart meter installed.

questions & answers Commissioner York asked when smart meters will be installed in Loudoun County. Mr. Barker said the next phase will be after SCC full approval – 2015.

Commissioner Lazaro asked if consumers will be able to log-on to see their real time use. Mr. Barker confirmed. Mr. Stites (also with Dominion) added that the meter gives 30-minute readings.

Commissioner Garvey asked if advance metering would slow the need for power plant construction. Yes, if the voltage can be cut three percent system wide it would delay construction by a couple of years or more. She also asked if the utility is looking at district energy. Mr. Barker said yes, but not only must the economics work but district energy must be approved by the regulators.

Commissioner Gross asked how many employees would lose their jobs from smart meters. Mr. Barker said most employee reductions occurred a decade ago. The few van drivers currently reading meters can be retrained.

Mr. Snyder asked how much rates will be reduced. Mr. Barker said their current rates run a little over CPI and don't include fuel, which is a pass-through. Smart metering helps customers control their usage and makes the utility much more efficient. Mr. Snyder asked if the utility has the ability to ration power, to move power around. Mr. Barker said no, the utility is obligated to provide full power at all times to all customers. He also confirmed that Dominion uses advanced metering only to look at customers' overall usage patterns. Mr. Snyder then asked about the system's redundancy. Mr. Barker said the system has been tested via its pilot programs for the past five to six years and the technology actually allows the utility to be more redundant; the meters alert the utility when more redundancy is needed or switching is necessary. There have been no issues. Mr. Snyder suggested Dominion provide a future presentation on its environmental commitment.

Commissioner Smyth asked exactly how much advance notice customers will receive and was told two to three weeks. A Dominion technician will knock at the door before accessing the meter, take two to three minutes to change the meter, then hang a door tag letting the customer know their meter was changed.

Commissioner McKay asked if advanced metering will help communities that have periodic brownouts, and will it help them if they are not in the 2013-14 area. Mr. Barker said it would not directly change their infrastructure but new intelligence on the loading cycles should be acquired. Commissioner McKay also inquired how advanced metering opt-out for new, large rental developments will be handled, especially before tenants move in. Mr. Barker replied they are individual accounts so the tenant has the option to opt out.

Mr. Gibb noted this technology has been available in lots of communities for many years – why has Dominion waited so long? Mr. Barker explained the rates were very high in places, such as California, that did it earlier. Virginia is a low rate state for electricity; Dominion was not sure smart pricing plans would change customer behavior and wanted to be sure this would be worthwhile.

The Commissioners thanked the Dominion representatives for their continuing follow-up and excellent communication with the local elected officials.

CONSENT AGENDA Commissioner York moved approval of the Consent Agenda, consisting of the items outlined below. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

- A. Financial Reports for May 2013
- B. Resolution No. P13-119: Extension of Auditor Engagement
- C. Resolution No. P13-20: Authorization to Submit Proposal for a Regional Conservation Landscape Plan to Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program

EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR'S
REPORT

Printed copies of the report were distributed:

- George Mason University – NVRC Cooperative Work
- NOVA Regional Community, Military and Federal Facilities Alliance
- Commuter Ferry Analysis
- Real-Time Ridesharing
- Association of Defense Communities
- Medicaid Expansion in Virginia
- Northern Virginia Training Center
- Demographics
- Dulles Airport Summit
- NVRC Energy Strategy
- Occoquan Watershed
- Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail
- Coastal Program
- Derecho – One Year Later
- Deficient Highway Bridges
- NVRC No. Va. News Clips

Commissioner Principi believes the commuter ferry analysis will show the ferry as a viable option if other components such as parking and after hours and weekend usage for tourism are included. He added that this is the third such study since 2000. [Commissioner Foreman departed and Commissioner Silverthorne departed after the report on demographics.]

Commissioner Lazaro reported on the Association of Defense Communities, since he represented NVRC as a speaker. He raised the issue of how NVRC can help those departing the military transition to the civilian work force.

Mr. Gibb also reported that staff is still working to get the Weldon Cooper Center to correct its methodology on population projections, since their projection of slowing growth for Northern Virginia is wrong.

Mr. Gibb distributed copies of *A New Day: HIV-Positive Consumers as Partners in the Quality of Their Healthcare*, edited by NVRC's Michelle Simmons. The report chronicles the first ever systemic attempt begun last year in the metropolitan D.C. area (and perhaps nationally), to use persons experiencing the disease firsthand to teach their peers what constitutes good HIV/AIDS care, how to talk to service providers about one's care, and the skills to be able to participate with service providers in efforts to improve care systems.

Responding to Commissioner's Gross's observation that Atlanta uses a walking trail to combat obesity and diabetes. Ms. Vosper replied that currently the health benefits of the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail have not been promoted, but the concept is worthwhile.

CHAIRMAN'S
REPORT

Chairman Nohe reported the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) has held town hall open houses in almost every jurisdiction, the last being held tonight in Arlington, which completes the public comment period for this round on projects for funding consideration. Forty-nine proposed projects have been honed down to 33 which will be further refined. The final list of projects will have a July 24 public hearing.

Legal staff were directed to start the process on the bond validation suit.

Commissioner York reported the organizational working group will recommend to the full body of NVTA that it lease space at NVRC on an interim basis at no cost.

Commissioner Garvey asked about administrative funding. Chairman Nohe explained that legally the 70% revenue cannot be used for administration. NVTA already has some

available funds. The Northern Virginia Chief Administrative Officers were asked to develop proposals to cover NVTA's administrative costs. Commissioner York added that NVTA members feel they should spend only a minimal amount until after the bond validation suit.

Responding to Commissioner Gross, Chairman Nohe said NVTA members anticipate hiring an interim director. Commissioner York added that the bond counsel will also be an expenditure. Chairman Nohe noted funds to NVTA would probably not be available until sometime in September. Commissioner McKay asked why the agency wouldn't wait until after the bond validation to hire the director and was told that the work is being done by the jurisdictions' staff and there needs to be a independent point person managing the processes. Chairman Nohe invited the members to forward their constituents' questions to him.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Commissioner York moved election of the slate of officers:

Chairman	Robert W. Lazaro, Jr.	(Town of Purcellville)
Vice Chairman	Penelope Gross	(Fairfax County)
Treasurer	Redella Pepper	(City of Alexandria)

The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS

On behalf of the Commissioners and staff, Mr. Gibb presented Chairman Nohe with a framed certificate of appreciation/photo montage for serving two years as Chairman.

Commissioner Gross moved adoption of Resolution No. P13-21: Authorization to Apply for OEA Funds for Community Planning Assistance and economic Diversification in Response to Reductions in DOD Spending. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Commissioner York introduced Resolution No. P13-22: Day to Serve, noting that a day of community service was established last year and the Governor has officially set aside the period of September 15-29 for this activity. Commissioner York moved adoption of Resolution No. P13-22. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Nohe adjourned the meeting at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

G. Mark Gibb
Executive Director

Approved by:

Martin E. Nohe
Chairman