

## NORTHERN VIRGINIA REGIONAL COMMISSION

Minutes of the Commission Meeting Held Thursday, October 24, 2013

### COMMISSIONERS

(The names of those members present are highlighted.)

**Hon. David Snyder** for Hon. Nader Baroukh  
**Hon. Sharon Bulova**  
Hon. Peter Candland  
**Hon. Janet Clarke**  
Hon. John C. Cook  
Hon. Jay Fisette  
**Hon. Gerald M. Foreman II**  
**Hon. Libby Garvey**  
**Hon. Penelope A. Gross, NVRC Vice Chairman**  
Hon. Pat Herrity  
Hon. Catherine Hudgins  
Hon. Frank Jones  
**Hon. Robert W. Lazaro, Jr., NVRC Chairman**  
**Hon. Fernando "Marty" Martinez**  
**Hon. Jeffrey C. McKay**  
**Hon. Lisa C. Merkel**  
**Hon. Martin E. Nohe**  
Hon. Harry J. Parrish II  
**Hon. Redella S. Pepper, NVRC Treasurer**  
**Hon. Frank J. Principi**  
Hon. M. Jane Seeman  
**Hon. R. Scott Silverthorne** (departed 8:42 p.m.)  
**Hon. Paul C. Smedberg**  
Hon. Linda Smyth  
**Hon. Scott K. York**

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

### STAFF PRESENT

G. Mark Gibb  
Linda M. Tenney  
Linda Summerall  
Ken Billingsley  
Julie Riddle  
David Schwengel  
Michelle Simmons  
Peggy Tadej  
Stephen Walz

*Executive Director*  
*Deputy Director*  
*Executive Secretary*  
*Director, Demographics & Information Services*  
*HOPWA Contract Monitor & Resource Specialist*  
*Director, Regional Business Planning*  
*Director, Human Services*  
*No. Va. Regional BRAC Coordinator*  
*Director, Regional Energy Planning*

### OTHERS PRESENT

Bruce Bennett  
Kate Boyle  
Bill Leighty  
Tim Payne  
Sue Rowland  
Bill Boshier  
Lane Ramsey  
Patricia Sullivan  
Robert Whitfield  
Oh Soon Kang  
Terry Wolters  
Joe Montano  
Jim Egenrieder  
Jill Palermo  
Kibum Kim

*Hunter Mill Traffic Calming Committee*  
*Fairfax Co. legislative staff*  
*Managing Principal, DecideSmart, LLC*  
*Principal, Nelson\Nygaard Consulting Associates*  
*NVRC Legislative Liaison; SR Consulting, Inc.*  
*Managing Principal, DecideSmart, LLC*  
*Managing Principal, DecideSmart, LLC*  
*Reporter, The Washington Post*  
*Dulles Corridor Users Group*  
*Goyong City, South Korea*  
*NVTC – Education & Workforce Committee*  
*Office of U.S. Senator Tim Kaine*  
*NVCC/ NVTC*  
*Reporter, Prince William Today*  
*Senior Fellow, Gyeonggi Province, South Korea*

- CALL TO ORDER** Chairman Lazaro called the meeting to order at 7:30 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 July 25, 2013, Commission meeting and the September 26, 2013, Executive Committee. The motion was seconded and unanimously carried.
- COMMUTER FERRY MARKET ANALYSIS** Chairman Lazaro welcomed *Tim Payne*, Principal with Nelson\Nygaard, a national transportation planning consulting firm. Mr. Payne has over 30 years of experience as a transit practitioner, including eight years with the Washington State Ferries division of the state department of transportation. He heads Nelson\Nygaard's Seattle office.
- Mr. Payne reviewed the project's process and timelines, noting the final report and presentations are slightly behind schedule but will conclude this year, and provided a summary of ferry activity in other places.
- Interviews with the stakeholders revealed opportunities (transportation a basic necessity to grow the region's economy; numerous waterfront developments; Potomac bridges are aging and/or at capacity in peak times), constraints (much of the waterfront is controlled by the military or National Park Service; landside access and intermodal connections don't exist; ferries are not part of the public perception), and policy issues (funding; public officials focused on many other transportation needs; who has accountability if public money is used).
- The study started with 260 different terminal combinations. After the initial assessment of market and terminal locations, 13 of 26 terminals were eliminated and the corridors reduced to 67. The corridors were then evaluated based on market size and travel time savings. Six areas were identified for study, with a telephone household survey conducted:
- SE and SW Washington, DC
  - Alexandria
  - Eastern Prince William County
  - National Airport/Crystal City
  - Southern Maryland
  - National Harbor
- Based on time and demand, three corridors were identified as having sustainable markets:
- Old Town Alexandria to/from SW and SE Washington, DC
  - National Airport to SW and SE Washington, DC
  - Alexandria to Joint Base Anacostia/Bolling
- The Woodbridge/Potomac Shores route to SE/SW DC could operate but currently would not have enough riders to sustain the operation.
- The survey found that people commuting by car are more likely to try a ferry than those who commute by an existing transit mode.
- Steps to Implementation:
- Complete the current study – make presentations to stakeholders and publish final report in early November
  - Assemble roll out/implementation plan
  - Create funding stream

- Lead agency to conduct environmental studies
- Funding/construction for facility and connectivity gaps at potential terminal sites
- Funding for start up of service

*questions & answers*

Commissioner McKay expressed disappointment that Ft. Belvoir is not participating. Mr. Payne said the staff and command participated significantly in the study, but the cost of opening and operating a new access point to the installation is significant. He added that approximately eight percent of the Ft. Belvoir workers live in Alexandria, southern Maryland and Prince William.

Commissioner Principi commended Mr. Payne for his work, adding that the FTA, MARAD and VDOT are interested in this project.

Commissioner Bulova voiced support for ferry transit and her hope that in time the local leaders can persuade Ft. Belvoir to participate. She asked if the study assumes a fare subsidy and was told that private operators should be able to run the service without one but they can't pay for the terminal infrastructure.

Mr. Payne confirmed the study assumes the small ferries are the size of Alexandria's water taxis, adding that the Potomac Riverboat Company has been a very active and helpful stakeholder throughout this study.

Mr. Payne confirmed for Commissioner Gross that occasionally ice and debris in the river will be an issue for the ferries, but ice has not been an issue the past four years; debris will cause the ferries to slow down.

MWAA has been very supportive of the ferry concept and has offered landing at National Airport's south end and making the employee shuttle bus available to the ferry riders so they can easily access Metro.

FINDINGS FROM  
COMMISSION  
BOARD RETREAT

Chairman Lazaro welcomed *Bill Leighty*, Managing Principal, DecideSmart, LLC consultants. Mr. Leighty served as Chief of Staff for governors Tim Kaine and Mark Warner, as well as seven years as Director of the Virginia Retirement System. In turn, Mr. Leighty introduced his colleagues, Lane Ramsey and Bill Boshier.

The law that governs the creation and use of the regional planning organizations provides that local governments may cooperatively do anything that they have the individual power to do, except tax and issue debt. This broad reaching capability provides NVRC with the capability of doing virtually anything the member jurisdictions wish to do.

Mr. Leighty pointed out that NVRC is composed entirely of local elected officials, giving it an elevated stature within the leadership of state government policy circles. He stated that the Northern Virginia local elected officials represent more citizens than the state and Congressional representatives, and their names are known in Richmond.

From the exercises conducted at the retreat, it was concluded that the participating Commissioners feel NVRC's greatest value is as an idea-driven organization rather than a project-driven organization. Further discussions yielded that NVRC's greatest contribution is creating a "safe" collegial and collaborative forum for sharing ideas, creating new ideas, and educating the members on emerging trends facing governmental organizations in the region. NVRC is the leader in idea generation for the region. Given the complexity and diversity of the makeup of the Northern Virginia region, this "safe" forum is highly valued. Mr. Leighty commented that he has worked with many regions and Northern Virginia's local elected officials work extremely well with each other.

In moving forward, the retreat participants identified three issues to focus on: Workforce Development, Energy Planning, and Transportation (broader coordination of existing

organizations without duplicating their work). Further, the Commissioners and Executive Director should work to further define ways for NVRC to be “the voice of Northern Virginia”:

- Communicate to clearly identified stakeholders in the region and outside of the region
- Establish a mechanism for further discussion of regional branding and where appropriate include the NVRC position as a shared vision coming from all of the localities, thereby maximizing the power of the message
- Educate the rest of the state on the role Northern Virginia plays in the Commonwealth’s future, including conditions, needs and opportunities

Commissioner Clarke followed up on Workforce Development, informing the members that she now holds the position of Workforce Development Manager for Northern Virginia Community College. She distributed a proposal for NVRC to provide both coordination and legislative leadership, explaining that the region’s future prosperity depends on a skilled workforce. The region currently faces a deficit of technologically skilled workers — the energy field, cyber security, etc. — as well as bi/multi-lingual ability.

She noted that while all the public school systems have STEM it is not across the board and does not address certain baseline skill sets needed in the business community and government. Commissioner Clarke asked the members their thoughts on forming a subcommittee.

*questions & answers* Commissioner comments revolved around workforce development and the need to involve the business community and the colleges. Commissioner Gross suggested forming a task force rather than a subcommittee; she and Commissioners Garvey, Clarke, Martinez, Foreman, Gross, Nohe and Lazaro volunteered to serve.

**CONSENT AGENDA** Commissioner York moved approval of the Consent Agenda, consisting of the items outlined below. The motion was seconded and carried, with Chairman Lazaro abstaining.

- A. Financial Reports for June and July 2013
- B. Resolution No. P14-07: Authorization to Accept and Subcontract Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS (HOPWA) 2013-2014 Funds in Suburban Virginia
- C. Resolution No. P14-08: Authorization to Request Additional Local Support to Address Anticipated Shortages in the Supply of Suburban Virginia AIDS Medications
- D. Resolution No. P14-09: Authorization to Request Additional Ryan White Part A Support to Address Anticipated Shortages in the Supply of Suburban Virginia AIDS Medications
- E. Resolution No. P14-06: Authorization to Apply for Funding from USDOT Federal Transit Administration’s Passenger Ferry Grant Program
- F. Resolution No. P14-10: NVRC Support for VDOT Commuter Ferry Pilot Program

**EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR’S  
REPORT**

Printed copies of the report were distributed:

- NVRC Office Lease – Shared Space
- Virginia Transportation 6-Year Improvement Program
- Affordable Care Act
- Dulles Airport Development
- NVRC Energy Strategy
- International Investment in Virginia
- NVRC International Learning
- Environmental Programs
- Coordination and Outreach
- Commission Staff News & Meetings: Mr. Gibb introduced Julie Riddle, HOPWA

Contract Monitor/Resources Specialist

CHAIRMAN'S  
REPORT

Chairman Lazaro reported he invited NVRC's Ken Billingsley to make a presentation on Northern Virginia's workforce and demographics to the Loudoun County Economic Development Commission. As a result of that presentation, Mr. Billingsley presented to Northern Virginia Chief Administrative Officers (county/city/town executives/managers). The Chairman suggested the Commissioners invite Mr. Billingsley to speak to their governing bodies and/or commissions.

Chairman Lazaro announced he appointed Commissioner Cook to chair the Legislative Committee.

PRELIMINARY  
FY15 BUDGET

Mr. Gibb noted the per capita member dues rate remains unchanged, with staff working to restore some of the state funding. The preliminary budget will be sent to the member jurisdictions so they can prepare their FY 2015 budgets. The FY15 budget will be finalized and brought back to the Commission in June for adoption.

Commissioner Pepper moved adoption of Resolution No. P14-11, authorizing transmittal of the Commission's Preliminary FY15 Budget to its member jurisdictions. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously. Mr. Gibb confirmed that workforce development is already included in the budget under the category "Regional Economic Vitality Planning."

DRAFT 2014  
LEGISLATIVE  
PROGRAM

A draft legislative program was distributed. Ms. Rowland said she will work with members to include a position on workforce development. Commissioner Cook will convene the Legislative Committee within the next few weeks and a revised, final version will be distributed before the December 12 Commission meeting. Ms. Rowland invited the members to contact her with any concerns or suggestions.

BRAC COMMITTEE  
REPORT

Commissioner McKay reported the next meeting is November 21. The new public-public partnerships were discussed at the last meeting. These are military bases that are partnering with local jurisdictions to provide services or resources. The military wants to get out of the business of doing the types of things that involve infrastructure, human services, recreation, all the types of things local government specializes in. California is the model, having already implemented some of these. This is an emerging opportunity for the region to work better with its military partners.

NVTA REPORT

Commissioner Nohe reported the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority prevailed in its bond validation suit at the circuit court level. He does not think there will be an appeal.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Lazaro adjourned the meeting at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

G. Mark Gibb  
Executive Director

Approved by:

Robert W. Lazaro, Jr.  
Chairman