

**NORTHERN VIRGINIA REGIONAL COMMISSION**

**Minutes of the Commission Meeting Held Thursday, March 27, 2014**

**COMMISSIONERS**

(The names of those members present are highlighted.)

**Hon. Sharon Bulova**  
**Hon. Peter Candland**  
**Hon. Janet Clarke**  
**Hon. John C. Cook**  
Hon. Jay Fiset  
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. R. Scott Silverthorne**  
Hon. Paul C. Smedberg  
Hon. Linda Smyth  
**Hon. David Tarter**  
**Hon. Scott K. York**  
vacancy

**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  
**City of Fairfax**  
City of Alexandria  
County of Fairfax  
**City of Falls Church**  
**County of Loudoun**  
Town of Vienna

**STAFF PRESENT**

G. Mark Gibb  
Linda M. Tenney  
Linda Summerall  
Tim Agar  
Ken Billingsley  
Dale Medearis  
David Schwengel  
Michelle Simmons  
Peggy Tadej  
Aimee Vosper

*Executive Director*  
*Deputy Director*  
*Executive Secretary*  
*Federal Grants Contract Monitor*  
*Director, Demographics & Information Services*  
*Sr. Environmental Planner*  
*Director, Regional Business Planning*  
*Director, Human Services*  
*No. Va. Regional BRAC Coordinator*  
*Director, Planning and Environmental Services*

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Bruce Bennett  
Kate Boyle  
Val Carter  
Jim Ferguson  
Jan Reitman  
Craig Friedmann  
Dan Macpherson  
Vincent Delpont

*Hunter Mill Traffic Calming Committee*  
*Fairfax Co. legislative staff*  
*NVRC Ryan White Insurance Project*  
*Legal Services of No. Va.*  
*Legal Services of No. Va.*  
*Legal Services of No. Va.*  
*AARP*  
*Counselor for Ecology, Energy and Climate Change, Embassy of France*

- CALL TO ORDER**      Chairman Lazaro called the meeting to order at 7:34 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 Bulova moved approval of the minutes of the Commission meeting of

February 27, 2014. The motion was seconded and carried, with Commissioners Nohe and Silverthorne abstaining.

REPUBLIC OF  
FRANCE AND  
COMMONWEALTH  
OF VIRGINIA  
SUSTAINABLE  
GROWTH  
AGREEMENT

Chairman Lazaro welcomed Vincent Delporte, Counselor for Ecology, Energy and Climate Change with the Embassy of France.

Mr. Delporte noted he has a four-year posting in Washington, and has been here with his family for two and one-half years.

Copies of the Joint Declaration to “Support Economic Development, and the Exchange and Application of Mutually Beneficial Sustainable Urban Infrastructure, Transportation, Applied Science, Energy and Climate Technologies and Policies” that was signed two weeks ago were distributed.

In addition to the exchange of science best practices, this agreement will also stimulate economic development. Mr. Delporte stated there is more investment from Europe in the U.S. than U.S. investment in China. Between 2009 and 2013, France’s investment in Virginia was over \$570 million, making French businesses the second-largest global investor in the Commonwealth.

To assist in the exchange of best practices, the embassy will place two interns at NVRC for a five-month assignment, beginning in April. The possibility of organizing a conference will be explored. The interns will summarize their work in a report.

*questions and  
answers*

Commissioner Gross asked Mr. Delporte to elaborate on water management. He explained this includes water quality and looking at private companies for a management partnership. France has a large coast and coastal erosion. Brittany has a large dead zone caused by algae blooms. Being good stewards to the environment also bolsters the fishing industry.

Mr. Gibb thanked the embassy for its work and for hosting the joint declaration signing ceremony. He mentioned the various partnerships NVRC has with different regions in France, and NVRC looks forward to an expanded relationship with the embassy.

AT THE  
CROSSROADS OF  
MARKETPLACE  
HEALTH  
INSURANCE AND  
THE RYAN WHITE  
PROGRAM:  
LESSONS  
LEARNED FROM  
NVRC’S 2-MONTH  
INSURANCE  
ENROLLMENT  
PROGRAM

Michelle Simmons, NVRC’s Director of Human Services, reported NVRC has administered the Ryan White AIDS grants in Northern Virginia (later expanded to suburban Virginia) for 24 years. Approximately \$100 million has flowed through this project over those years.

Ryan White focuses on improving the health and wellbeing of individuals with HIV/AIDS while reducing the spread of the disease. Accessible HIV treatment is important as a preventive measure as people with HIV/AIDS who are on AIDS pharmaceuticals are less likely to infect others. This funding has enabled our local service delivery partners to reduce transmission of the disease, including preventing babies born to HIV-positive mothers from also converting to an HIV-positive status.

With wider availability of health insurance coverage for a population that once was “uninsurable,” NVRC in cooperation with Virginia Department of Health, Legal Services of Northern Virginia, and the Ryan White service provider network, has been working to enroll clients into health insurance.

Insurance is a comprehensive and cost effective alternative to annual HIV treatment costs that average \$20,000 per person.

The four insurance enrollment specialists working on this project – Val Carter, Craig Friedmann, Monu Harnal, and Jan Reitman – each shared a vignette of their experience helping Ryan White clients sign-up for health insurance.

In response to a question from Chairman Lazaro, Ms. Simmons indicated about 523 or 61% of estimated eligible Ryan White clients had signed up for health insurance through

one of the various health insurance enrollment initiatives in the region.

Chairman Lazaro asked Ms. Simmons to provide the Commission with a follow-up in six months.

Mr. Gibb thanked the insurance enrollers for their work.

EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR'S  
REPORT

Printed copies of the report were distributed:

- Workforce Task Force
- No. Va. Regional Community, Military and Federal Facilities Alliance
- Ryan White/ Affordable Care Act
- Demographics
- Airport Summit
- Home Performance with Energy Star Program
- Meeting with Northern Virginia Conservation Trust
- Award Received from Virginia International University
- Know Toxics Seminar
- Long Range Planning Strategies with DEQ
- NVRC on the Move

WORKFORCE  
DEVELOPMENT  
TASK FORCE  
REPORT

The Task Force met with the representatives from public school systems and the local colleges on March 26. Commissioner Gross commented that this was the first time all of the Northern Virginia local school systems met together. Chairman Lazaro reported he was struck by the fact that the STEM classes often have a smaller class size than the "regular" classes, which increases the cost of STEM classes and puts them at risk of being cut for budgetary purposes.

Chairman Lazaro said the task force will meet again in April and he has invited Sens. Warner and Kaine to attend.

Commissioner Clarke reported the Commission could consider being the unifier on workforce development issues. Commissioner Gross's take-away from the session is the need to integrate k-12 education with the community college and the four-year colleges. Commissioner Nohe was struck by the need to invest more in the existing teaching force. Chairman Lazaro was intrigued by the suggestion of the Prince William representatives for the creation of a regional workforce academy.

Chairman Lazaro also reported that Germany invests heavily in workforce development. An NVRC contingent discussed this with the German embassy and its wants to see a Northern Virginia pilot program.

LEGISLATIVE  
COMMITTEE  
REPORT

Ms. Rowland reported the General Assembly did not complete the budget due to a disagreement over Medicaid expansion. The House's budget was introduced in the special session. The Senate's budget will be heard by the Senate Finance Committee on April 1. The Senate will return on April 7.

Chairman Lazaro asked about additional funding for NVRC. Ms. Rowland said the agency is flat-funded in both budgets. Governor McDonnell's cut of \$70,000 for the PDCs has been restored but no additional funding for NVRC or the PDCs as a whole is included.

Ms. Rowland confirmed for Commissioner Gross that the ICRB funding is in the budget.

NOVAREGION  
FOUNDATION  
REPORT

Chairman Lazaro appointed the following to serve on the board of the Novaregion Foundation: Merni Fitzgerald (a former NVRC Chair), and Commissioners Libby Garvey Frank Jones, Lisa Merkel, and himself.

OTHER BUSINESS

A.

Resolution No. P14-25: Authorization to Submit a Technical Assistance Grant Proposal to Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program

- B. Resolution No. P1-16: Authorization to Submit a Letter of Support for the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program Funding

Commissioner Nohe moved adoption of Resolutions No. 14-25 and 14-26. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Chairman Lazaro presented Linda Summerall, Executive Secretary, with a certificate of appreciation on her retirement. Ms. Summerall thanked the Commissioners and her colleagues for their good wishes, adding how much she has enjoyed working at NVRC.

ADJOURNMENT Chairman Lazaro adjourned the meeting at 8:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

G. Mark Gibb  
Executive Director

Approved by:

Robert W. Lazaro, Jr.  
Chairman