

NORTHERN VIRGINIA REGIONAL COMMISSION

Minutes of the Commission Meeting Held Thursday, May 22, 2014

COMMISSIONERS

(The names of those members present are highlighted.)

Hon. Sharon Bulova
Hon. David S. Butler
Hon. Peter Candland
Hon. Janet Clarke
Hon. John C. Cook
Hon. Laurie DiRocco
Hon. Jay Fiset
Hon. Gerald M. Foreman II
Hon. Libby Garvey (by polycom)
Hon. Penelope A. Gross, NVRC Vice Chairman
Hon. Pat Herrity
Hon. Catherine Hudgins
Hon. Frank Jones
Hon. Robert W. Lazaro, Jr., NVRC Chairman
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

County of Fairfax
Town of Leesburg
County of Prince William
County of Loudoun
County of Fairfax
Town of Vienna
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
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

STAFF PRESENT

G. Mark Gibb
Linda M. Tenney
Ken Billingsley
David Schwengel
Peggy Tadej
Aimee Vosper

Executive Director
Deputy Director
Director, Demographics & Information Services
Director, Regional Business Planning
No. Va. Regional BRAC Coordinator
Director, Planning and Environmental Services

OTHERS PRESENT

Claudia Arto
Ken Barker
Bruce Bennett
Valerie Cury
Scot C. Hathaway
Deborah T. Johnson
Carolyn V. Moss
Phillip M. Sandino
Chet Wade
Stephen Walz

Fairfax County
Dominion Distribution & Customer Service
Hunter Mill Traffic Calming Committee
Blue Ridge Leader and Loudoun Today
Dominion – NoVa Regional Director
Dominion State & Local Affairs
Dominion State & Local Affairs
Dominion – NoVa Regional Director
Dominion Corporate Communications
Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments

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.

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

MINUTES Commissioner York moved approval of the minutes of the Commission meeting of April 24, 2014. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Nohe and carried unanimously.

DOMINION Chairman Lazaro welcomed Mr. Scot Hathaway, Dominion Virginia Power Vice President of Transmission; and Mr. Ken Barker, Dominion Virginia Power Vice President Customer SOLUTIONS AND ENERGY CONSERVATION.

VIRGINIA POWER: Mr. Barker addressed the topic of strategic undergrounding of lines, pointing out that SUBSTATION about 20% – or 4,000 miles – of distribution lines seem to be the most outage-prone SECURITY AND during storms. Focusing on undergrounding these lines would cut restoration time during UNDERGROUNDING major events in half. New legislation signed by Governor McAuliffe on March 7, allows DISTRIBUTION utilities to spend up to 5% of their distribution rate base per year to bury existing LINES overhead lines. For Dominion Virginia Power, this translates into about \$180 million per year, which would cover about 350 miles per year.

Dominion Virginia Power’s plan would require approval of the Virginia State Corporation Commission. Filing is expected to be done in November, and the hearing then would be in April 2015.

Most of the work would be on tap lines that go into homes, not on the major overhead lines. There are 12,000 of these line segments, in known locations. Selection of lines for undergrounding will be data-driven, and prioritized by the frequency of outages and duration of restoration efforts required over time. Every jurisdiction will be affected.

The cost of this effort could add 50¢ to \$1.00 per customer per month. After 10 years, it would amount to about \$2 billion overall, probably in the range of \$4-5 per customer per month. It will be a cost increase, but the project will have a significant impact on customers in terms of restoration times. Unlike typical restoration approaches, this will not place the highest priority on the largest blocs of customers, it will focus on where interruptions occur repeatedly, no matter how many customers are there. While outages will still occur, hardening the most vulnerable lines will improve service for customers as a whole.

Issues: Dominion doesn’t have underground easements – only overhead easements. These will need to be negotiated. The project also will need to work with joint use of facilities, and will require encouraging others (e.g., Verizon) to go underground too.

Commissioner York: Will everyone affected by surcharge? Mr. Barker: All customers will be affected except large, commercial, industrial users..

Commissioner York: Once this project is done, will main lines get undergrounded? Mr. Barker: Not everything needs to be undergrounded. There is no commitment yet on undergrounding main lines.

Commissioner Smyth: Outages in the Providence district usually are related to trees on main lines, not on homeowners’ lines. Mr. Barker: There will be a difference the priorities for selecting the lines to underground. Recovery and restoration priorities typically have been for critical infrastructure, such as hospitals, on the first day of recovery, main circuits on the second day. Neighborhoods receiving attention on 7th or 8th day, usually generate the most criticism.

Commissioner McKay: Will chronic brownouts be part of the “outage” definition? Mr. Barker: Anywhere trees go down on tap lines, if service is required, the lines will be

included.

Commissioner McKay: There will be consideration for the number of events vs. the duration of outage. Mr. Barker: Yes.

Chairman Lazaro: What if neighbors disagree on supporting undergrounding or not? Mr Barker: Dominion will work with homeowners and homeowners associations. If it is not possible to reach agreement, Dominion will have to move on.

Commissioner Clarke: Some lines undergrounded have needed to connect with other, above-ground lines and this has resulted in more poles. Mr. Barker: This will not be done.

Mr. Hathaway addressed resiliency and security of Dominion's transmission system. These qualities are factored into the design of Dominion Virginia Power substations. There are approximately 460 substations, grouped into different risk levels and secured with different physical protection packages. But recent events have changed the focus, and the risk paradigm.

Anticipating natural or man-made threats, facility design considerations include prevention, detection and event management, and recovery. Newer countermeasures address physical security issues, such as more effective barriers, lighting, ballistic protection, and use of technology such as thermal imaging.

The existing System Operations Center dates back to the 1980s and is being assessed for vulnerability. Considerations for replacing it include location, design and performance requirements. The budget is \$80-\$105 million, with a projected completion date of 2017.

Commissioner Bulova said the 2017 completion date seems ambitious. Mr. Hathaway replied that that completion date is for the new System Operations Center. The substation reinforcements likely to take 5-7 years, possibly longer.

CONSENT AGENDA Resolution No. P14-29: Authorization to Apply for Employee Transportation Coordinator (ETC) Funding from the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation.

Commissioner York moved approval of the items on the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Clarke and carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR'S
REPORT

Printed copies of the report were distributed, reporting on the following:

- Northern Virginia Community, Military and Federal Facilities Alliance
- Upcoming Charrette
- Airport Initiative
- Northern Virginia Clean Water Partners
- NVRC Updates: Solar Workgroup; Office Move
- National Rankings Report Coming Next Month
- International Learning: Transatlantic Urban Climate Dialogue; Latvian Joint Declaration; Metrex Conference – Commissioner Gross address

Commissioner Gross commented on her experience in Germany, including discussions at the Metrex Conference on wind power, and on the role of trust in collaborative relationships among jurisdictions; visiting a region outside Leipzig where twenty-two lakes had been created from former coal mines; observing the ubiquity of solar power; stopping at an unusual white asparagus festival; and learning about the massive Stuttgart 21 project that includes trains, subways and trams. Officials from Germany who were present at the Metrex conference are planning an exchange visit to Northern Virginia in August.

CHAIRMAN'S
REPORT

Chairman Lazaro reported on two outstanding meetings he attended on May 1 with several other Commissioners. First, they visited the White House with staff from Vice President Biden's governmental affairs office. Vice President Biden is heading a task force on workforce training, with a report expected in July. Commissioners were able to impress on the staff the inability for governmental entities like NVRC to receive federal grants for workforce studies, thus "missing the boat" on having a impact in a very critical area.

The second meeting was with Senators Warner and Kaine, both of whom had served as Virginia governors who were involved in workforce issues. They were very supportive about making legislative changes that would allow NVRC and similar groups to receive federal grants to address the issue regionally.

Other meetings included two with area Workforce Investment Boards (WIBs), with staff from the Governor's Workforce Council participating by telephone. The Governor's office intends to support regional approaches to addressing workforce issues. Secretary Jones has invited NVRC to submit a proposal for a regional portal that would facilitate information sharing, to brand Northern Virginia a little differently from the way it is now, and to work on a regional workforce plan, including information already available from the Workforce Investment Boards. Some keys will be approaching this not as a social services issue, but as an economic development issue, and fostering trust among the interested parties.

Commissioner Gross moved adoption of Resolution No. P14-30 and the motion was seconded by Commissioner Clarke. Commissioner Gross observed that many services focus on the employee, while NVRC will seek more about the employers as well.

Commissioner Clarke commented that the timing of visiting the White House was timed perfectly for input into Vice President Biden's report. Senators Kaine and Warner will be looking at the twenty-four pieces of legislation that are related to workforce development, to effect improvements in workforce development efforts.

Both Commissioners Gross and Clarke spoke of the need to reassure the WIBs that NVRC hopes to support both businesses and employees connecting with the WIBs for the services they provide.

Commissioner Garvey added that NVRC's effort is not envisioned as a short-term one. She asked Chairman Lazaro to elaborate. He said that NVRC's Work Force Task Force should be widened, and that the WIBs and key sectors of the business community be encouraged to participate fully. With the Governor and the federal government going in the direction of taking a regional approach to workforce issues, NVRC seems to be "in the right place at the right time" to make something happen.

Commissioner York asked what the proposed grant would be used for. Mr. Gibb and Chairman Lazaro indicated that it would cover necessary staffing and development of the portal.

Resolution P14-30 passed unanimously.

NOVAREGION
FOUNDATION
REPORT

Chairman Lazaro said there would be a meeting in June on this, and a report would be made at the June Commission meeting.

LEGISLATIVE
COMMITTEE
REPORT

Commissioner Cook said there was no report. He added that the June Commission meeting would be a couple of days before shut-down, if a state budget is not adopted by then. The Commission may want to consider whether or not to develop a resolution. Commissioner Bulova suggested drafting something that urges the General Assembly to reach a resolution and to spell out some of the effects the failure to adopt a state budget is having, and could have, on local governments.

Commissioner Smyth reported that VACo agreed to ask the General Assembly to pass a budget and then VACo would supply guidance on what local governments would need to do if not passed, though no such guidance seems to have been forthcoming so far.

Commissioner Bulova said that NVRC might have some statement to share with members of our delegation, spelling out some of the impacts that not adopting a budget is already having on our jurisdictions – or would have, if a budget is not completed.

NVTA REPORT

Commissioner Nohe reported that Monica Backmon had been hired as the permanent Executive Director. She had chaired the Jurisdictional and Agency Coordinating Committee prior to being selected Executive Director. In the next few weeks VDOT is expected to supply a report on a project evaluation model for the projects for which NVTA is considering funding. Because the report will not be ready until June, the June NVTA meeting is canceled. The date of the July meeting has not yet been set.

NOMINATING
COMMITTEE
REPORT

Commissioner Nohe, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, presented the Committee's recommendation for the following slate of officers:

Chairman: Current Vice Chairman Penny Gross (Fairfax County)
Vice Chairman: Lisa Merkel (Town of Herndon)
Treasurer: Current Treasurer Del Pepper (Alexandria)

Commissioner Nohe moved acceptance of the slate of officers. The motion was seconded by Commissioners Foreman and York. No further nominations were made from the floor. Commissioner Nohe added to the motion that nominations be closed. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

APPRECIATION

Commissioner Nohe announced that Chairman Lazaro would be unable to attend the upcoming meeting in June, so on behalf of the Commission, he expressed appreciation for the Chairman's service as a Commissioner and as an officer of the Commission.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted:

G. Mark Gibb
Executive Director

Approved by:

Robert W. Lazaro, Jr.
Chairman