

# NORTHERN VIRGINIA REGIONAL COMMISSION

## Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting Held Wednesday, August 6, 2014

### COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Hon. Penelope A. Gross, *Chairman*  
Hon. Lisa C. Merkel, *Vice Chairman*  
Hon. Redella S. Pepper, *NVRC Treasurer*

*County of Fairfax*  
*Town of Herndon*  
*City of Alexandria*

### STAFF PRESENT

G. Mark Gibb  
Linda M. Tenney  
Michelle Simmons

*Executive Director*  
*Deputy Director*  
*Director, Human Services*

### OTHERS PRESENT

Cynthia Adams

*Executive Director, Local Energy Alliance Program (LEAP)*

CALL TO ORDER Chairman Gross called the meeting to order at 12:31 p.m.

PRESENTATION: Mark Gibb introduced Cynthia Adams. Ms. Adams is Executive Director of LEAP, the  
SOLARIZE NOVA entity with whom NVRC has paired to organize residential energy audits. Solarize NOVA is a new program being created to facilitate installation of solar energy equipment on homes in the region. The program features a free home energy check-up and on-site solar assessment designed to help residents decide if installing solar energy features to offset a portion of household electric costs will work for them. Solarize programs already exist in Blacksburg and Charlottesville. LEAP proposes to do a 6-month pilot program focused on a few northern Virginia neighborhoods, followed by a two year program in which residential solar energy applications would be available to a larger number of neighborhoods. Homeowners who choose to be a part of the project would have access to installation contractors (selected through a LEAP request for proposals process), discounts on equipment and installation, as well as financing from BB&T Bank or a PowerSaver loan (U.S. DOE).

A big part of the success of Solarize projects is in getting the word out to interested residents. Mark Gibb suggested NVRC's member local governments could help with this. Local government participation would also lend credibility to effort. Ms. Adams mentioned LEAP already has memoranda of understanding in place with the City of Alexandria and Arlington County, as well as areas in Central Virginia and the Eastern Shore. These agreements have featured messaging about the program from the local governments to residents. The Solarize program will use a multi-channel marketing push that involves social media as well as traditional media.

In response to a question about the aesthetics of the latest solar panel technology, Ms. Adams indicated panels look much like they have historically, usually dark blue or black with dark framing available to help them blend into roofs. One manufacturer has integrated panels into roofing materials, as an option for homeowners who interested in replacing the whole roof. Chairman Gross asked Mr. Gibb to organize a presentation at a future Commission meeting on this project to include pictures of Solarize installations.

RESOLUTION: Commissioners reviewed resolution P15-1. Ms. Tenney responded to a question that  
AUTHORIZATION NVRC had been encouraged by DEQ to apply for one of the grants, and on another there  
TO SUBMIT THREE was not anticipated to be many applicants. The motion to approve resolution P15-1 was  
GRANT duly moved and seconded; it passed unanimously.  
PROPOSALS

RESOLUTION: Mr. Gibb introduced the proposed Commission FY2015 budget for consideration by the  
SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

APPROVAL OF THE  
FY 2015 ANNUAL  
BUDGET

Executive Committee. He indicated the Executive Committee is being asked to take action on the budget, as the July Commission meeting, when the item normally would have been considered was not held due to lack of a quorum. The per capita contribution rates stay the same as last year, but items underwritten by the budget may have changed somewhat to accommodate changing project requirements and staff vacancies. Resolution P15-2 was duly moved and seconded; it passed unanimously.

It was further agreed that Mr. Gibb would prepare, and Chairman Gross would review, a short explanatory piece detailing the timing of the Executive Committee's budget action and highlights of the budget. This information would be circulated to Commissioners well ahead of the next meeting at which time the Commission would be asked to ratify the Committee's action.

Staff responded to a question about Fairfax County's financial participation in the Regional Energy Strategy. In response to another question, Mr. Gibb indicated the Commission anticipates a \$50,000 to \$100,000 deficit this year. Unobligated balances may help address this situation. Commissioners discussed the effects of a change in the per capita formula and decided no change in per capita contribution would be proposed.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Gibb raised the issue that the bylaws identify the immediate past chair as a member of the Executive Committee. Former Commissioner Lazaro's new non-elected status leaves the Commission without an immediate past chair eligible to participate in the Executive Committee. Commissioners agreed this was a minor issue and the Executive Committee would continue to function appropriately with current members.

Update on the NVRC's move: Routine build out delays suggest NVRC will begin to occupy its new space starting in early October. As such, the September meeting of the Commission will be the last in NVRC's current space. October will be the Commission's inaugural meeting in the new meeting space at 3040 Williams Drive.

Members indicated the Military-Civilian Alliance/BRAC meeting was very well attended. Workplace activities, although they ran long, caught the attention of a number of military participants.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Gross adjourned the meeting at 1:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

G. Mark Gibb  
Executive Director

Approved by:

Penelope A. Gross  
Chairman