

NORTHERN VIRGINIA REGIONAL COMMISSION

Minutes of the Commission Meeting Held Thursday, December 11, 2014

COMMISSIONERS

(The names of those members present are highlighted.)

Hon. Sharon Bulova	County of Fairfax
Hon. David S. Butler	Town of Leesburg
Hon. Peter Candland	County of Prince William
Hon. Janet Clarke	County of Loudoun
Hon. John C. Cook	County of Fairfax
Hon. Laurie A. Dirocco	Town of Vienna
Hon. Jay Fisette	County of Arlington
Hon. Gerald M. Foreman II	Town of Dumfries
Hon. Libby Garvey	County of Arlington
Hon. Penelope A. Gross, NVRC Chairman	County of Fairfax
Hon. Pat Herrity	County of Fairfax
Hon. Catherine Hudgins	County of Fairfax
Hon. Frank Jones	City of Manassas Park
Hon. Joan Lehr	Town of Purcellville
Hon. Jeffrey C. McKay	County of Fairfax
Hon. Lisa C. Merkel-alternate Vice Mayor Jennifer Baker	Town of Herndon
Hon. Martin E. Nohe	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. R. Scott Silverthorne	City of Fairfax
Hon. Paul C. Smedberg	City of Alexandria
Hon. Linda Smyth	County of Fairfax
Hon. David Tarter	City of Falls Church
Hon. Scott K. York	County of Loudoun

STAFF PRESENT

G. Mark Gibb	Executive Director
Linda M. Tenney	Deputy Director
Gina Kesselmann-Smith	Executive Assistant
Ken Billingsley	Director, Demographics & Information Services
Normand Goulet	Senior Environmental Planner, IT Manager
David Schwengel	Director, Regional Business Planning
Michelle Simmons	Director, Human Services
Debbie Spiliotopoulos	Senior Environmental Planner
Peggy Tadej	No. Va. Regional BRAC Coordinator
Aimee Vosper	Director, Planning and Environmental Services

OTHERS PRESENT

Katie Boyle	Fairfax Co. Legislative Staff
Steve Waltz	Director, Department of Environmental Programs at Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
Sue Rowland	NVRC – Legislative Liaison
Jane Woods	NVRC – Legislative Liaison
Deborah Johnson	Dominion Manager-Regional
Bob McGuire	Dominion Manager of Electric Transmission Projects
Carolyn Moss	Dominion Managing Director, Mid-Atlantic
Stephanie Harrington	Dominion Electric Transmission Projects Marketing Manager

CALL TO ORDER Chairman Gross called the meeting to order at 7:50 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 Upon a motion made and duly seconded, the minutes of the Commission meeting of October 23, 2014 were approved unanimously.

DOMINION PRESENTATION Chairman Gross introduced and welcomed the speaker Robert Blue, President of Dominion Virginia Power.

Mr. Blue went through the slides that were provided to the Commissioners.

- Slide 2: He first pointed out, that the most important thing is safety. (top priority)
- Slide 3: The speaker described the way electricity is being generated from 2007 – 2020. He talked about how energy is being created, that a lot of energy is generated from nuclear power, that there is more gas power coming and the coal % is going down and units are being retired. He also mentioned that natural gas is being added, that there is less coal dependency and as a conclusion less pollution. (We are getting more nuclear less coal dependent.)
- Slide 4: Mr. Blue pointed out that Dominion is among the lowest for CO2 emissions for the largest U.S. power producers.
- Slide 5: In this slide Mr. Blue showed the Commissioners the typical residential bill -> He emphasized, that his company is very competitive, and the prices are below the average of regions like D.C. region, East Coast and Virginia average.
- Slide 6: This slide describes the “Unique service territory” of Dominion Virginia Power; Dominion has the highest projected peak load growth rate in PJM (Regional Transmission Organization, that Dominion is a member of), because the economy of this area is healthy. Northern Virginia has data center growth, which uses a substantial amount of electricity. Dominion Virginia Power also serves The Pentagon, CIA etc., which are high tech sectors, so called “Data Centers”, for which 100% quality is required.
- Slide 7: Mr. Blue explained that certain forces are driving the infrastructure need. Economic growth, balancing power generation with demand and aging grid assets all need to be calculated in. He also pointed out that the first 500KV loop in the Free World was build 50 years ago by Dominion.
- Slide 8: “Dominion Electric Transmission” -> Northern Virginia operates primarily with 230kV.
- Mr. Blue then introduced his staff: Bob McGuire (Director of Electric Transmission Projects), Deborah Johnson (Manager - Regional State and Local Affairs), Carolyn Moss (Managing Director, Mid-Atlantic State and Local Affairs) and Stephanie Harrington (Electric Transmission Projects Marketing Manager)
- Slide 9, 10: Mr. Blue showed the different projects of Dominion Virginia Power where rebuilding is necessary, and that they will for example take down some existing over head infrastructure and build underground lines. The speaker then said, he understands that it is an impact on everyone in those communities, but that projects are done, when the load demands it, as there is overload in the grid in some areas. He also mentioned that throughout all these projects there is communication with the community, and that before a public discussion is started about any projects, there will be talks with officials first, answering questions, etc. But Mr. Blue also emphasized that they have an obligation to serve the load.

questions and answers

Chairman Gross asked what the total dollar investment is. Mr. Blue said, that he doesn't have a number for specific projects, but it is a minimum of 1 billion dollars.

Commissioner Foreman complimented Deborah and staff from the Dominion Virginia Power and said that the local governments "never felt like [they] were alone" throughout the Derecho storm. Chairman Gross added that Deborah and Carolyn are extraordinarily responsive.

Commissioner Fisetta asked the speaker's opinion on the industry leaders that perhaps Northern Virginia could learn from in the county: "What are we not doing that we should be doing?" Mr. Blue responded that EPA knows best, and that states that first come to mind are California and Vermont. They are at the top energy efficiency list. He also said that an incentive is important, like utility energy conservation programs. He pointed out that Virginia has a limited approach on this matter. He also noted that states with better energy conservation often have much higher energy rates. He recommended that perhaps building code changes and more efficient designs could help with greater energy efficiency.

Commissioner Garvey asked if much power was lost in the transmission process, and was told as the technology and equipment are getting better, it is now about 3% – 4 %. But Mr. McGuire (staff of Dominion) mentioned, that they are trying to minimize the loss.

Commissioner Butler asked if the growth in renewables is really at only 3% and added that it is not high enough. Mr. Blue commented by saying, that we will see this percentage go up as Dominion Virginia Power is looking at additional renewable generation to raise this percentage. He also mentioned that solar is included in their Resource Plan and offshore wind generation is being thought of (not done yet).

Commissioner Clarke asked to explain the scope of the data centers as energy users / about the equivalent of a Data Center power draw in residential power draw. Mr. Blue said that a data center can compare to ca. 40,000 homes and that these data centers use electricity 100% of the time. In some areas the need for this level of energy requires entire new lines, which causes challenges.

Chairman Gross mentioned that Dominion Virginia Power has an outage map on their website and asked how to access it. Mr. Blue said there is a link on their website, that takes you directly to the outage map and that they will email the Commissioners the link. Chairman Gross added that this outage map is done in real time, which is great.

CONSENT AGENDA Commissioner Gross called for approval of the Consent Agenda, consisting of the items outlined below. The motion was seconded and carried with Commissioner Clarke recusing herself from Resolution No. P15-09.

- Resolution No. P15-08: Renewal of the agreement between Verband Region Stuttgart and NVRC
- Resolution No. P15-09: Memorandum of Understanding with NOVA Community College
- Resolution No. P15-10: Memorandum of Understanding with Ft. Belvoir and Marine Corps Base Quantico

EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR'S
REPORT

Printed copies of the report were distributed:

- Blanket Drive
- Solarize NOVA
- Northern Virginia Sustainability Network
- Fairfax Charrette

- Four Mile Run Restoration Program
- NVRC/Belvoir/Quantico Commuter Centers Statistics
- Update: Virginia FACT Fund Grant

Commissioner Silverthorne commented on the Fairfax Charrette, which took place from November 6 to November 8, 2014. He said, that he initially had to be convinced by NVRC to host this charrette, as he thought it would be hard to get people engaged. But he was surprised by the outcome. Everyone was involved and engaged, students, George Mason University, citizen, most of the city council. The puzzle is being slowly put together now and Commissioner Silverthorne also thanked NVRC for making this Fairfax Charrette possible.

Mr. Gibb pointed out that there is a video on the City of Fairfax website that can be viewed as a summary of that particular charrette.

Then Mr. Billingsley (staff of NVRC) presented his report “Virginia Federal Action Contingency (FACT) Fund Study”, which was included in the meeting’s handouts.

Commissioner Fisetta asked how should the localities use this data and take advantage of it. Mr. Billingsley answered that this is the 1st time that this kind of data is being gathered. Once it is a yearly process, we will be able to see better, how our policies should react.

Commissioner Fisetta also brought to the meeting’s attention, that this data can be used to alter the image of Northern Virginia in Richmond. This data might help in presenting Northern Virginia in a light, that Richmond has never seen (in terms of economic development, advocacy).

Mr. Gibb mentioned, that NVRC received the FACT Fund grant from the state. The state also wants to see what the impact of federal funding is in Northern Virginia.

Chairman Gross added, that this data is helpful to track the trends as we have more years of data.

CHAIRMAN’S
REPORT

Chairman Gross mentioned that local government day in Richmond is on February 5, 2015, and that the Commission meeting calendar will be posted on the 2015 Agendas.

Another issue Chairman Gross brought to the Commission’s attention was the work with the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (MWAA). Advocacy for balance between Dulles and National Airports will need to be coordinated during the FAA reauthorization process.

LEGISLATIVE
REPORT

Commissioner Cook, Legislative Committee Chairman, presented and moved approval of the resolution No. P15-11. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Foreman and unanimously carried.

WORKFORCE
COMMITTEE
REPORT

Chairman Gross commented that a lot of work has been done, schools and businesses were brought together in the committee meeting November 20, 2014. This meeting was very successful, recommendations were made and there is a willingness to work together. There is a tremendous interest from schools. Every school system was represented in the meeting of November 20, 2014.

Chairman Gross also brought to the Commission’s attention, that there are policy challenges at the school level, but not just from the financial perspective, but also the mind set and she pointed out that a Regional Workforce Summit is being worked on. It is supposed to happen around mid – March.

The Chairman also mentioned, that the Workforce task force will be meeting on a regular basis in 2015, as well, and that this taskforce will follow in the direction that the State has already laid out.

Commissioner Cook mentioned that new measurements are needed for schools, as there are different needs now.

Commissioner Clarke pointed out that there is a big disconnection, e.g. math is a huge problem at the moment.

Chairman Gross told the Commission that there won't just be NVRC at the summit, but also corporate and small businesses and the State. The outcome should be good jobs and good training for kids.

Commissioner Hudgins emphasized, that starting early (pre-K) is the key.

COMMUNITY &
MILITARY
PARTNERSHIP
COMMITTEE
REPORT

Commissioner McKay referred to the report by Ken Billingsley mentioned above.

NOVAREGION
FOUNDATION
REPORT

Commissioner Garvey explained to the Commissioners that a Novaregion Foundation is being set up at the moment. There will be an organizational meeting soon. The application process / establishing of foundation is in the works and the initial board will be coming back to the Commission later this year to ask for several additions to the board, as it is a small group at the moment.

OTHER BUSINESS

Commissioner Foreman pointed out, that towns don't have a vote on NVTA. He suggested, that NVRC needs to be represented in NVTA and that one should look at the make-up of NVTA from NVRC's point of view. He also mentioned, that a follow up on this matter is necessary.

Mr. Gibb brought to the Commission's attention, that Congressmen are asking if they can come to the Commission's meetings (Beyer, Connolly, Comstock). Scheduling is under way.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Gross adjourned the meeting at 9:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

G. Mark Gibb
Executive Director

Approved by:

Penelope Gross,
Chairman