

NORTHERN VIRGINIA REGIONAL COMMISSION

Minutes of the Commission Meeting Held Thursday, May 28, 2015

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 A. Dirocco
Hon. Jay Fiset
Hon. Gerald M. Foreman II
Hon. Libby Garvey
Hon. Penelope A. Gross, NVRC Chairman
Hon. Pat Herrity
Hon. Catherine Hudgins
Hon. Frank Jones
Hon. Kwasi Fraser
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 Tenney
Gina Kesselmann-Smith
Ken Billingsley
Normand Goulet
Jeongmin Kim
Robert Lazaro
Dale Medearis
David Schwengel
Peggy Tadej

Executive Director
Deputy Director
Executive Assistant
Director, Demographics and Information
Senior Environmental Planner, IT Manager
NVRC international intern
Director, Regional Energy Planning
Senior Environmental Planner
Director, Regional Business Planning
No. Va. Regional BRAC Coordinator

OTHERS PRESENT

Paul Jaenichen
Bruce Bennett
Lauren Brand
Scott Davies
Alan Gray
John Kennedy
Mike Lake
Rich Roisman
Sue Rowland
Steve Shaffer

Maritime Administrator
HMDL/HMTCC
MARAD
MARAD
Metromarine Holdings
MARAD
Fairfax County DOT
MWCOG
NVRC – Legislative Liaison
MARAD

CALL TO ORDER Chairman Gross called the meeting to order at 7:35 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 Butler moved approval of the Commission meeting minutes of April 23, 2015. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Clarke and carried unanimously.

PRESENTATION Chairman Gross introduced and welcomed the Maritime Administrator Paul Jaenichen, who is presenting NVRC with the “America’s Marine Highway Leadership Award”, in recognition of NVRC’s leadership role in the designation and advancement of the Potomac River Commuter Ferry Project.

Mr. Jaenichen started out by introducing the people that accompanied him to this meeting: Lauren Brand, Scott Davies, John Kennedy and Steve Shaffer. These people are the brain trust behind some of the remarks being made.

Mr Jaenichen then relayed Department of Transportation Secretary Foxx’s message, who would like to extend his apologies for not being able to attend this Commission meeting.

He then proceeded with the problem of traffic congestion. He is glad for an organization like NVRC that understands that waterways provide opportunities to help. Over the last few years there are several places around the country where ferries became a great solution for transportation purposes. Primarily because they see it as an opportunity to minimize congestion, especially in places where there are aging bridges, etc. Cities like New York, Seattle, San Francisco, Boston and Baltimore have ferries and these ferries provide reliable service. It is also greener and it is connecting communities, and businesses in those communities. It is safe, it is reliable and if you have well integrated services you can enhance the lives of people who need to get around in a metropolitan area. It doesn’t only attract businesses, but also tourists. Not a lot of people have an opportunity to ride ferries in the cities and towns they are from. So when they have this opportunity, they will. So the ferry project is the next logical step. It is the right thing to do. The key is to have that interconnected capability to be able to move people up and around, as well as to have reliability and consistency. He also added that he is aware of all the challenges to come, but the people that he brought with him tonight are there to help. That is the team that has the capability to help overcome those challenges. They can help run interference, they can do some facilitation, etc.

Mr. Jaenichen also commented on the Grow America Act, a \$478 billion, six year transportation bill proposed by the Obama Administration, that provides increased transportation investment and stable funding for our nation’s highways, bridges, transit, and rail systems, our infrastructure.

Mr. Jaenichen also spoke about a program called the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery, or TIGER Discretionary Grant program, that provides a unique opportunity for the DOT to invest in road, rail, transit and port projects that promise to achieve national objectives. Since 2009, Congress has dedicated more than \$4.1 billion for six rounds of TIGER to fund projects that have a significant impact on the nation, a region, or a metropolitan area.

All this will help communities keep pace with our expanding economy, our growing population, and the traveling needs of the public.

Then Mr. Jaenichen brought up that there are not that many opportunities for a city like this to have a new transit or a new type of transportation system. Not very many opportunities present themselves. And this area has the water asset to be able to make that happen. And most importantly, “you cannot wear the water out”.

Mr. Jaenichen then presented NVRC with the “America’s Marine Highway Leadership Award”, in recognition of NVRC’s leadership role in the designation and advancement of the Potomac River Commuter Ferry Project.

Questions and answers Commissioner Butler asked if there is an indication for a route. Mr. Jaenichen said that there could be stops at Woodbridge, Bolling Air Force Base, Anacostia area and Arlington and more. There is a lot of opportunity here. What needs to be considered is parking, pedestrians, bikes, other transit modes, etc. He also added that he used to commute by ferry and he enjoyed it.

Commissioner Butler also asked if it is going to be a passenger only ferry, which was confirmed.

Commissioner Tarter asked what kind of subsidies will be required, as he assumes that ferry ticket prices won't be able to cover it. Mr. Jaenichen referred to Commissioner Principi, who responded that it depends on location. According to the market analysis some would be covered by fare price, some wouldn't. For the close-in commutes no government subsidies will be required. Further out in Prince William County for example, that is a different story and a subsidy is required. Ticket prices close-in would be 10 to 12 dollars based on a 20 min. trip frequency one way. Further out in Prince William County it would be more like a 15 to 20 dollar ride one way. Commissioner Principi also added that MARAD has been a "breath of fresh air", bringing all this wonderful help. The Navy is involved, as well as the local, state and federal government and the academics, who are looking at it and studying it. It has been a very long road. He himself has been involved for the past 8 years and he believes that it will happen.

Mr. Jaenichen added that most federal employees have an opportunity to get subsidies in the form of a metro card that will allow you to commute back and forth, if you don't want to commute by car.

Commissioner Foreman brought up that the ferry would be a viable option for him, since he comes from Dumfries and works at the Coast Guard, that is now located at the former St. Elizabeth's campus and is now also the home of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). When the Coast Guard moved in to the DHS campus, it created a 20 min. delay on the road. There were no road improvements and limited parking. And there will be an additional 14,000 people moving into DHS, which will cause even more congestion on the roads. NVRC is currently working with the Homeland Security personnel on the ferry project to alleviate congestion on I 95, 495 and 295.

Chairman Gross added that it is important to get the right people at the table, then things can get done quickly.

Mr. Gibb outlined that the ferry project is now feasible.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Silverthorne moved approval of the Consent Agenda, consisting of the items outlined below. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Butler and carried unanimously.

- **Resolution No. P15-29:** Extension of auditor engagement
- **Resolution No. P15-30:** Funding application to restore shoreline at Leesylvania State Park

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Printed copies of the report were distributed and Mr. Gibb went through the slides:

- Metrex – "Lombardia Spring Conference 2015"
- Four Mile Run Ground Breaking
- Japanese Delegation at NVRC
- Solarize Campaign Update
- Solarize Community Challenge
- Solar PV Map for Northern Virginia – Dumfries Pilot
- Know Toxics Training
- Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety
- Northern Virginia Regional Native Plant Campaign – Plant NoVA Natives
- Community, Military & Federal Facility Partnership
- M-495 Potomac River Commuter Ferry

Chairman Gross then asked Mr. Lazaro to present the Solar Radiation Map that NVRC staff was working on.

Once you click on a property in this map, you can see the total roof area, the usable roof area, the percent usable, the system size in kW and the projected annual savings.

Mr. Lazaro also added that since this takes a lot of computer hours, NVRC is working in a partnership with GMU on green roofs and solar.

Mr. Lazaro concluded with adding that Mr. Shafi Khan (NVRC staff) has done a fabulous job on this project.

CHAIRMAN'S
REPORT

Chairman Gross informed the Commissioners that Commissioner York is not able to attend NVRC this evening, because he is being honored as the "Loudoun County Citizen of the Year" by the Loudoun County Chamber of Commerce.

Chairman Gross also announced that NVRC received an email today from the National Association of Regional Councils ("NARC") requesting support for their international professional fellows program. This program will provide fellowship opportunities for individuals to promote international partnerships. With no objections, Chairman Gross was permitted to sign this letter giving full support and endorsement of the ICMA, NARC and National Civic League's Professional Fellows On-Demand Program

Chairman Gross then added that Ms. Byrum, who is NVRC's personnel attorney, is expected to complete her report by June 15. Therefore NVRC should have this by the next Commission meeting.

LEGISLATIVE
REPORT

Commissioner Cook, Legislative Committee Chairman, who suggested during the last Commission meeting (April 23, 2015) that the Commission should send a letter to the Governor, was not present. But the NVRC legislative liaison, Ms. Sue Rowland, who worked on this letter with Commissioner Cook, was present and received feedback on this letter, which addressed the level of state funding for NVRC. There were no objections as a whole; however Commissioner Clarke did mention that the word "conversation" should be replaced by "collaboration". Other than that the draft letter was approved.

WORKFORCE
COMMITTEE
REPORT

Chairman Gross told the Commissioners that people are interested in workforce. She then asked Bob Lazaro (NVRC staff) if he had any further information. Mr. Lazaro informed the Commission that there was a very successful phone conversation earlier today with the outcome that Secretary Jones and the Governor will both participate in the fall round table. This will also bring people and press to this event.

Commissioner Clarke asked if the Task Force Committee should be reconvened.

Chairman Gross answered that the Task Force Committee will reconvene in late June.

COMMUNITY &
MILITARY
PARTNERSHIP
COMMITTEE
REPORT

Commissioner McKay, Chairman of the Community & Military Partnership Committee, was not present. But Chairman Gross reported on his behalf that there is going to be a Military Partnership meeting June 11 from 10 am to 12 pm at NVRC.

Mr. Gibb added that this is always a very lively and important meeting and that the Commissioners are welcome to attend.

APPOINTMENT OF
NOMINATION
COMMITTEE

Chairman Gross appointed the Nominating Committee as follows:

Commissioner Nohe
Commissioner Parrish
Commissioner McKay
Commissioner Foreman
Commissioner York
Commissioner Bulova
Commissioner Cook
Commissioner Nohe is appointed to serve as Chairman.

NVTA REPORT

Commissioner Nohe reported that 7 out of NVTA's standard project agreements were adopted and that FY 14 is completely underway.

OTHER BUSINESS

Commissioner Bulova moved approval of the Resolution No. P15-31, Authorization to sign MOU with George C. Marshall International Center. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Butler and carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Gross adjourned the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

G. Mark Gibb
Executive Director

Approved by:

Penelope Gross,
Chairman