

NORTHERN VIRGINIA REGIONAL COMMISSION

Minutes of the Commission Meeting Held Thursday, December 10, 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 Fisette

Hon. Gerald M. Foreman II

Hon. Kwasi Fraser

Hon. Libby Garvey

Hon. Penelope A. Gross, NVRC Chairman

Hon. Pat Herrity

Hon. Catherine Hudgins

Hon. Frank Jones

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

Town of Purcellville

County of Arlington

County of Fairfax

County of Fairfax

County of Fairfax

City of Manassas Park

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

Gina Kesselmann-Smith

Normand Goulet

Jeongmin Kim

Robert Lazaro

Dale Medearis

David Schwengel

Peggy Tadej

Executive Director

Deputy Director

Executive Assistant

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

Katie Boyle

James W. Dyke

Bill Leighty

Sue Rowland

Robert Whitfield

Fairfax County staff

McGuireWoods Consulting

Managing Principal of "DecideSmart"

NVRC – Legislative Liaison

Fairfax County Taxpayers Alliance

- CALL TO ORDER** Chairman Gross called the meeting to order at 8:10 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 Pepper moved approval of the Commission meeting minutes of November 12, 2015. The motion was seconded by Commissioner DiRocco and carried unanimously.
- Commissioner Bulova, Commissioner Merkel and Commissioner Fissette abstained, as they had not attended the last Commission meeting.
- PRESENTATION** Chairman Gross welcomed and introduced Bill Leighty, the Managing Principal of “DecideSmart”.
- Mr. Leighty talked about the “Go Virginia” initiative and went through hand outs, that were distributed earlier.
- The Go Virginia initiative was started by a group of businessman who were concerned about the state of the Virginia economy. They realized that with the post-sequestration budget reductions, etc., Virginia’s economy has not improved as quickly as the other economies around the country. Virginia is ranked 48th out of the 50 states in terms of the strength of recovery nationally. So something needed to be done to revive the Virginia economy.
- The Go Virginia initiative is working to restore Virginia’s position of economic leadership by growing and diversifying the state’s economy. Its focus is the creation of state financial incentives, technical support, and other assistance that will encourage collaboration on private-sector growth and job creation by business, education, and government in each region.
- The initiative is based on three main points:
- Virginia urgently needs strong private-sector growth and job creation. Federal cutbacks have exposed the over-dependence on public-sector jobs.
 - To grow and diversify our economy, business, education, and government must collaborate effectively in each region.
 - State government must be a catalyst and partner. State government must provide incentives for strategic, job-focused collaboration in each region of the Commonwealth.
- Go Virginia has identified five ways that state-funded incentives can have a significant positive impact on private-sector growth:
- Innovation. The State can promote innovation and growth in each region through start-up grant support for projects that promise substantial economic impact, leverage significant local, private, and other investment, and reflect regional cooperation on industry sector growth, alignment of education and training programs with employer demand, entrepreneurship, and other private sector-focused growth strategies.
 - Investment. The State can encourage cooperation rather than competition among localities in the recruitment of new business investment and jobs to each region by returning a portion of the state tax revenues generated by projects to regions where localities share economic development-related

costs and revenues.

- Improvement. The State can provide financial incentives for efficiency-enhancing and cost-saving collaboration between and among local governments, school divisions, and higher education institutions, thereby improving performance, reducing pressures to increase the size and cost of government, and freeing up tax dollars for opportunity-focused initiatives in education, job training, and economic development.
- Invention. The State can encourage inventions and discoveries that lead to commercially viable products and services by providing matching-fund support for labs, equipment, and other research-related needs, thereby leveraging private and other R&D investments and generating economic benefits for the region.
- Infrastructure. The State can invest in capital projects of regional or broader significance that will produce strong returns in private-sector growth, diversification, and job creation through improved education and job-skills training, research, business site development, communications, and other vital infrastructure.

Go Virginia supports a voluntary, incentive-based approach as the best way to encourage regional cooperation on private-sector growth. To fund state incentives, the coalition favors use of growth revenues, re-purposed dollars, and efficiency savings. State funding should also leverage private, local, and other investment. Go Virginia proposes no new taxes, mandates, layers of government, or changes in local authority. Their focus is creating more opportunity for Virginians through private-sector growth in each region.

Mr. Leighty also told the Commissioners that the Go Virginia working group (chaired by McGuireWoods) has been drafting legislation. There will be 5 bills, including the budget, which will be introduced in the coming legislative session. The size of the Go Virginia initiative will be determined December 17, 2015 at the Governor's budget announcement. It is expected, that the program will get funded in the Governor's initiative budget.

Mr. Leighty concluded with saying that it is a great opportunity for the region. The Go Virginia Grant Program will provide an infusion of funds to this region into whatever is needed to keep the economy going.

Questions and answers

Commissioner Garvey asked if there was a model for Go Virginia. Mr. Leighty replied by saying that a lot was looked at and analyzed as far as what works and what doesn't work.

Mr. Leighty asked the Commission if it would agree to have the Chairman sign the Coalition Commitment letter.

Commissioner Cook pointed out that the Commissioners didn't even get a chance to look at this letter and it was unknown what the legislation would look like.

Chairman Gross read the Commitment letter out loud and pointed out that this commitment letter matches up well with the work that was done on workforce development.

Commissioner Fisette made a motion to support this commitment letter and this motion was seconded by Commissioner Nohe. As a friendly amendment of that motion Commissioner Cook asked for the Commission meeting minutes to reflect that NVRC is not committed to any of the legislation by signing this letter. The motion then was carried unanimously and Chairman Gross signed the letter.

Chairman Gross asked how many commitment letters like this were signed. Mr. Leighty said that approx. 80% of all the PDCs in VA have signed up.

Commissioner Smedberg asked who maintained the sign-up list. Mr. Leighty said that this is being handled by McGuireWoods Consulting.

EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR'S
REPORT

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

- Solarize Campaign Recap
- Blanket/Coat Drive
- Global Innovations
- Four Mile Run Project
- Community & Military Partnerships of NOVA
- Residential Rain Gardens – Beautifying Your Yard for Clean Water
- Latest Public School Enrollment Figures
- School Demographic Trends

Commissioner Bulova also mentioned the Urban Crescent Meeting that is taking place December 11, 2015, in Fredericksburg, VA. The aim of this meeting is to address the need for additional educational funding. Commissioner Hudgins added that this is a very important effort and that this has been too long of a discussion without results.

Chairman Gross asked if there is going to be a record of this discussion. Commissioner Bulova said she would double check on the arrangements and will make sure it is captured.

Chairman Gross also pointed out that funding for public education is a real priority of the Governor of Virginia, as well.

Commissioner Merkel asked what the takeaways are going to be. Commissioner Bulova explained that everyone will have a chance to weigh in. One of the takeaways will be a letter to the Governor of Virginia and to members of the General Assembly signed by everybody, i.e. Mayors, Chairs, Superintendents, Chambers, etc. So it should be quiet a long signature list.

Commissioner Garvey pointed out that funding for public education hasn't gone up since 2008, which makes it hard to compete with the rest of the world.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Gross reported that there were two Commissioners who were leaving the Commission. But as Commissioner Clarke and Commissioner York were absent, the formal Commissioner recognition didn't take place.

The "electronic participation in meetings" discussion was moved to the January meeting.

Chairman Gross then added that the Commission meeting packet also included the 2016 Commission Meeting Calendar.

NVRC BUDGET

Commissioner Pepper pointed out that the Operations Committee reviewed the budget material and in order to make ends meet an increase from 53 cents to 60 cents per capita is necessary to match the loss of money from the State. Since NVRC suffered from a 70% funding cut, it has become tougher and tougher to keep NVRC's programs going.

Commissioner Pepper also said that the Operations Committee took a vote on this budget material, especially the increase of contributions, and the turn out was a unanimous vote of approval. So the Operations Committee recommended approving

the NVRC preliminary budget for FY17.

Chairman Gross clarified that the Resolution No. P16-06 (revised) was not to approve the budget, but that the preliminary budget be transmitted to the member governments to provide background for the dues request.

Mr. Gibb referred to the list of NVRC accomplishments over the past two years.

Chairman Gross also pointed out that the budget resolution P16-06 includes a statement for replenishing reserves.

The Commission members then had a discussion regarding the Executive Director's proposed budget.

Commissioner Pepper moved approval of the Resolution P16-06 and Commissioner Fisette seconded it and added a friendly amendment, i.e. that a performance and management audit be conducted and completed by June 30, 2016. The motion was then carried unanimously.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Commissioner Cook referred to the 2016 Legislative Program that was in the meeting packet. There was a discussion on electronic legal ads. Right now the towns are required to pay newspapers that do not serve their towns to publish their ads. Some towns don't have a newspaper. So in these circumstances towns in the counties of Fairfax, Loudoun and Prince William should be allowed to publish legal notices on the locality's website.

Commissioner Merkel moved a motion to approve the resolution P16-07 (Adoption and Transmittal of the NVRC 2016 Legislative Program). The motion was seconded by Commissioner DiRocco and carried unanimously.

WORKFORCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Chairman Gross explained that the scheduled meeting with the Chamber of Commerce had to be canceled and the next scheduled event should take place January 21st, 2016.

NVTA REPORT

Commissioner Nohe reported that citizens can post comments on the website www.nvtatransaction.org now and tell NVTA about all the transportation problems they have.

OTHER BUSINESS

Commissioner Fisette moved approval of the following resolutions:

- **Resolution No. P16-08:** June 30 Drinking Water & Wastewater Professionals Appreciation Day
- **Resolution No. P16-09:** Native Plant Social Marketing Proposal
- **Resolution No. P16-10:** Dominion Power Discharge Permit

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Nohe and carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Gross adjourned the meeting at 10:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

G. Mark Gibb
Executive Director

Approved by:

Penelope Gross,
Chairman