

NORTHERN VIRGINIA REGIONAL COMMISSION

Minutes of the Commission Meeting Held Thursday, January 28, 2016

COMMISSIONERS

(The names of those members present are highlighted.)

Hon. Willie F. Bailey	<i>City of Alexandria</i>
Hon. Tony R. Buffington	County of Loudoun
Hon. Sharon Bulova	<i>County of Fairfax</i>
Hon. David S. Butler	Town of Leesburg
Hon. Peter Candland	<i>County of Prince William</i>
Hon. John C. Cook	County of Fairfax
Hon. Laurie A. Dirocco	<i>Town of Vienna</i>
Hon. Gerald M. Foreman II	<i>Town of Dumfries</i>
Hon. Kwasi Fraser	<i>Town of Purcellville</i>
Hon. Libby Garvey	<i>County of Arlington</i>
Hon. Penelope A. Gross, NVRC Chairman	County of Fairfax
Hon. Pat Herrity	<i>County of Fairfax</i>
Hon. Catherine Hudgins	<i>County of Fairfax</i>
Hon. Frank Jones	<i>City of Manassas Park</i>
Hon. Jeffrey C. McKay	County of Fairfax
Hon. Lisa C. Merkel	Town of Herndon
Hon. Martin E. Nohe	County of Prince William
Hon. Harry J. Parrish II	<i>City of Manassas</i>
Hon. Redella S. Pepper, NVRC Treasurer	City of Alexandria
Hon. Frank J. Principi	County of Prince William
Hon. Phyllis J. Randall	<i>County of Loudoun</i>
Hon. R. Scott Silverthorne	City of Fairfax
Hon. Kathy L. Smith	County of Fairfax
Hon. David Tarter	City of Falls Church
Hon. John Vihstadt	<i>County of Arlington</i>

STAFF PRESENT

G. Mark Gibb	<i>Executive Director</i>
Linda M. Tenney	<i>Deputy Director</i>
Gina Kesselmann-Smith	<i>Executive Assistant</i>
Ken Billingsley	<i>Director, Demographics and Information</i>
Normand Goulet	<i>Senior Environmental Planner, IT Manager</i>
Dale Medearis	<i>Senior Environmental Planner</i>
David Schwengel	<i>Director, Regional Business Planning</i>
Michelle Simmons	<i>Director, Human Services</i>
Peggy Tadej	<i>No. Va. Regional BRAC Coordinator</i>

OTHERS PRESENT

Dana Kauffman	<i>Northern Virginia Community College</i>
Mike Longhi	<i>NVTA</i>
Diana Meiser	<i>Prince William County Staff</i>
Sue Rowland – by phone	<i>NVRC – Legislative Liaison</i>
Scott Ralls	<i>Northern Virginia Community College</i>

- 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.
- INTRODUCTION OF NEW COMMISSIONERS** Chairman Gross introduced new Commissioners:
Commissioner Bailey – City of Alexandria
Commissioner Buffington – Loudoun County – present
Commissioner Randall – Loudoun County
Commissioner Smith – Fairfax County – present
Commissioner Vihstadt – Arlington County
- ROLL CALL** The roll was called and all members present or absent were noted for the record.
- MINUTES** Commissioner Merkel moved approval of the Commission meeting minutes of December 10, 2015. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pepper and carried unanimously.
- Commissioner Butler, Commissioner Buffington, Commissioner Silverthorne, Commissioner McKay, Commissioner Principi, Commissioner Tarter and Commissioner Smith abstained, as they had not attended the last Commission meeting.
- PRESENTATION** Chairman Gross welcomed and introduced Dr. Scott Ralls, President of the Northern Virginia Community College.
- Dr. Ralls thanked NVRC on behalf of the Northern Virginia Community College, as the fact that this school is 11th largest college in the country.
- He emphasized four key points regarding economic and workforce development:
1. Partnership – We need to work together. Having a regional strategy is important.
 2. Places – e.g., a new workforce center – a 55,000 square foot facility was just built in Prince William County for workforce training to support employers.
 3. People – This metro region has a great pool of people
 4. Programs – Help is needed here – See handouts, which were distributed during the Commission meeting. Right now there is a proposal in the Governor’s budget, that will open the door in a way that we had not had in community colleges to greatly strengthen our workforce development efforts. Dr. Ralls then spoke about how workforce credentials can boost economic development and promote meaningful job attainment. There are 1.5 million jobs that need to be filled between now and 2022. A majority of these jobs (50% - 65%) will require a workforce credential or skill other than a traditional four-year degree. Employers are focusing on workers who demonstrate their skills through national standardized credentials and certifications. Virginia businesses struggled to fill more than 175,000 middle skill jobs last year due to a lack of skilled workers. Virginia’s current funding formula for higher education excludes short-term training. This is a structural problem that undermines our ability to sustain a vibrant middle class. Dr. Ralls then compared Virginia to North Carolina. The latter spent \$91 million to support short-term workforce training at their community colleges last year. South

Carolina, West Virginia, Kentucky and Maryland invest in this training. Virginia spent less than \$6 million on these programs in the last fiscal year. So Virginia is falling behind. The solution is an innovative, performance-based plan to promote credential completion and boost Virginia's workforce competitiveness. The earlier mentioned proposal would put \$25 million into an initiative to fund community colleges for credential programs that would lead to certifications and to high demand jobs. This is an area of opportunity.



(Also see handouts)

- **Program Focus**

- *Skills Attainment:* Virginia employers cannot find enough qualified candidates to fill vacancies in middle class jobs.
 - Funds will pay for instruction, classroom space and all other expenses needed to build out these programs.
 - Community colleges paid for completion of short-term workforce training programs and credential completion in high-demand fields.
 - "High-demand fields" are defined as occupations in which there is an acute shortage of skilled workers to fill job vacancies, or for which the regional demand for skilled workers outpaces the supply.
 - Regional business and industry representatives will lead the identification of occupations and their associated credentials and jobs.
- *Interest and Awareness:* Too few Virginians pursue these programs because they are not aware of the opportunities.
 - Funds will be used to help generate interest in credentials.
 - Technology-enabled solution will specifically target veterans.
- *Leveraging Outside Assistance:*
 - Creation of a customized workforce training fund that matches private resources on a one-to-one basis.
 - Designed to provide a solution when a local employer, or economic development prospect, agrees to fund part of a credentials program.
 - Could further leverage \$2 million in federal funds.

- **Return on Investment**

- Investment will produce 10,500 high-demand credentials.
- People obtaining credentials will significantly increase their salaries – thus increasing state income taxes.
- The state will realize an estimated five-year NET increase of \$50-\$75 million from increased personal income tax revenue.

Questions and answers

Commissioner Buffington asked if the mentioned \$25 million would be in addition to the \$5 million that are already dedicated, which Dr. Ralls affirmed.

Chairman Gross pointed out that businesses say they have jobs available for people with technical skills, and that 4-year degrees are not necessary.

Chairman Gross also emphasized the importance of partnerships, e.g. between Inova

and Northern Virginia Community College.

Commissioner McKay said, that a strategy needs to be put in place regarding support for the possible \$25 million budget amendment.

Commissioner Nohe added that if new money is available for the mentioned workforce program, that the money be used in places where we are best equipped to do something with it.

Commissioner Cook brought up the importance of workforce development in regards to getting people to the self-sufficient level.

Dr. Ralls then added that wise investments are needed now.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- Resolution No. P16-11: Authorization to receive and subcontract 2016-2017 Part A funds for services under the Ryan White HIV/Aids Treatment Extension Act of 2009
- Resolution No. P16-12: Authorization to receive and subcontract 2016-2017 Part B funds for services under the Ryan White HIV/Aids Treatment Extension Act of 2009

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

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

- Solarize Campaign Recap
- Pedestrian / Bike Fatalities & Accidents – NVRC map release
- Adopt-A-Hydrant
- Blanket / Coat Drive
- Community & Military Partnerships of NOVA
- DRPT TDM Operating Assistance Funding (FY 2017)
- NoVaRegion Foundation

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Gross announced that there is an opportunity for electronic participation in meetings. But a policy needs to be developed. So she referred to the material in the meeting packet and asked the Commissioners to review it, so that this can be discussed at the next Commission meeting – February 25, 2016.

Chairman Gross then reported that the Workforce Symposium that was scheduled to take place January 21st, 2016, had to be canceled due to a bad weather situation. The event will be rescheduled.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Commissioner Cook referred to the Go Virginia info packet that was distributed during the Commission meeting. Ms. Rowland then went through the handouts and explained that the budget is still in discussion.

Regarding the possible workforce budget amendments Ms. Rowland noted that currently there is a lot of stripping of any new proposals going on and that we need to continue the conversation with the liaisons.

COMMUNITY &

Commissioner McKay referred to the Executive Director's report and announced that

MILITARY PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT the next Community & Military Partnership Meeting is scheduled for March 10, 2016 at 10 am. Philip Grone, former Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Installations and Environment, will be speaking about "The Base of the Future" at this meeting.

NVTA REPORT Commissioner Nohe reported that Commissioner Silverthorne is the new Vice Chair of NVTA.

ADJOURNMENT Chairman Gross adjourned the meeting at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

G. Mark Gibb
Executive Director

Approved by:

Penelope Gross,
Chairman