

## NORTHERN VIRGINIA REGIONAL COMMISSION

### Minutes of the Commission Meeting Held Thursday, September 27, 2007

#### COMMISSIONERS

(The names of those members present are highlighted.)

Hon. Hilda M. Barg	<i>County of Prince William</i>
<b>Hon. Sharon Bulova</b>	<b><i>County of Fairfax</i></b>
<b>Hon. Gerald E. Connolly, NVRC Chairman</b>	<b><i>County of Fairfax</i></b>
Hon. W. S. Covington, III	<i>County of Prince William</i>
<b>Hon. Joan Cross</b>	<b><i>City of Fairfax</i></b>
<b>Hon. Steve DeBenedittis</b>	<b><i>Town of Herndon</i></b>
Hon. Joan DuBois	<i>County of Fairfax</i>
Hon. Barbara A. Favola	<i>County of Arlington</i>
<b>Hon. Penelope A. Gross</b>	<b><i>County of Fairfax</i></b>
<b>Hon. Catherine Hudgins</b>	<b><i>County of Fairfax</i></b>
<b>Hon. Robert W. Lazaro, Jr.</b>	<b><i>Town of Purcellville</i></b>
<b>Hon. Harold Lippman</b>	<b><i>City of Falls Church</i></b>
Hon. Elaine N. McConnell	<i>County of Fairfax</i>
<b>Hon. Martin E. Nohe, NVRC Treasurer</b>	<b><i>County of Prince William</i></b>
Hon. Harry J. Parrish, II, NVRC Vice Chairman	<i>City of Manassas</i>
<b>Hon. Redella S. Pepper</b>	<b><i>City of Alexandria</i></b>
<b>Hon. M. Jane Seeman</b>	<b><i>Town of Vienna</i></b>
<b>Hon. Paul C. Smedberg</b>	<b><i>City of Alexandria</i></b>
<b>Hon. Linda Smyth</b>	<b><i>County of Fairfax</i></b>
Hon. Stephen Snow	<i>County of Loudoun</i>
<b>Hon. J. Walter Tejada</b>	<b><i>County of Arlington</i></b>
Hon. William J. Treuting, Jr.	<i>City of Manassas Park</i>
<b>Hon. Bruce E. Tulloch</b>	<b><i>County of Loudoun</i></b>
Hon. Kristen C. Umstatt	<i>Town of Leesburg</i>
Hon. Fred E. Yohey, Jr.	<i>Town of Dumfries</i>

#### STAFF PRESENT

G. Mark Gibb	<i>Executive Director</i>
Linda M. Tenney	<i>Deputy Director</i>
Linda Summerall	<i>Executive Secretary</i>
Barbara Gordon	<i>Communications Director</i>
Doug Pickford	<i>Director, Environmental and Heritage Resources</i>
Michelle Simmons	<i>Director, Human Services</i>

CALL TO ORDER Chairman Connolly called the meeting to order at 7:33 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.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES Commissioner Cross moved approval of the minutes of the July 26, 2007, meeting. The motion was seconded. Commissioner Smyth noted she did not attend the July meeting and asked that the minutes be corrected. The minutes as amended were approved unanimously.

PRESENTATION      *VIRGINIA'S ENERGY PLAN*

Chairman Connolly introduced Stephen Walz, Senior Advisor to the Governor for Energy Policy. Mr. Walz has worked on energy issues in Virginia government since 1980, managing the Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy's energy conservation and efficiency programs and directing Virginia's Energy Office. He has 30 years of experience with energy efficiency, renewable energy development, coal and mineral mining, gas and oil development, and low-income weatherization and fuel assistance services. Mr. Walz will chair the Governor's Energy Policy Advisory Council and continue to lead development of the Virginia Energy Plan.

*Stephen Walz*

The legislation was enacted in 2006, setting out twelve broad policy statements and policy objectives for energy management. Mr. Walz added that he believes for the first time in Virginia statute economic justice considerations are included, stressing that development needs to be in a way that does not impose a disproportionately adverse effect on minority or economically disadvantaged communities.

Commissioner Nohe noted the challenge of economic justice, and who gets to be the arbiter of economic justice. Mr. Walz replied that if a company brings jobs into an economically disadvantaged community, that factor must be weighed against environmental considerations. He added this is very difficult and will be a challenge. As the state is promoting energy development in particular, it needs to be done in a way that is compatible with existing land uses, should not be clustered only in low-income areas, and must be respectful of the built and social environments.

The plan sets out four broad goals:

- ◆ Increase energy independence, with an emphasis on conservation and clean fuel technologies by:
  - reducing the rate of growth of energy use of 40%
  - increasing Virginia's indigenous energy production by 20%;
- ◆ Expand consumer energy education to overcome barriers to implementing energy-efficiency and conservation actions;
- ◆ Reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 30% by 2025, bringing emissions back to 2000 levels; and
- ◆ Capitalize on economic development opportunities through business expansion and increased research and development in areas of strength, including alternate transportation fuels, nuclear technology, coastal energy production, and carbon capture and storage.

Four strategic areas for R&D in Virginia have been identified: alternative fuels development, nuclear technologies, coastal energy research (e.g., turning algae into biodiesel; wind power), and carbon capturing storage.

Mr. Walz added that there are three state contracts open to localities:

- ◆ natural gas purchase (contact [thomas.thompson@dmme.virginia.gov](mailto:thomas.thompson@dmme.virginia.gov))
- ◆ procurement
- ◆ curtailment service provider — this company will work with the state to reduce its peak energy use.

*questions & answers*

Chairman Connolly explained that Northern Virginia elected officials are concerned with the propagation of coal-fired plants in Southwest, since Northern Virginia is a non-attainment area. The pollution from those plants has economic consequences to the citizens in Northern Virginia. Mr. Walz replied that the plant is being built in conjunction with substantial amount of investment by the utilities in reducing emissions from their coal-fired power plants, adding that coal underpins the economy in Southwest and must be taken into consideration. Chairman Connolly pointed out that it is inherently unfair to Northern Virginians and puts no incentive on the people generating the pollution to do anything about it. Mr. Walz said emission levels from the plant will be very low.

Discussion and questions ensued about alternative energy sources, the one-week tax holiday on energy star appliances, telework, the need for consumer education and materials in foreign languages, and the need to look at cafe standards for automobiles.

CONSENT AGENDA Commissioner Tulloch moved approval of the Consent Agenda, consisting of the items outlined below. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

- A. Financial Reports for July and August 2007
- B. Resolution No. P08-06: Authorization to Receive and Subcontract 2007-2008 Minority AIDS Initiative Funds Under the Ryan White Treatment Modernization Act of 2006 for Services to People Living With HIV/AIDS
- C. Resolution No. P08-08: Support for Governor Kaine's Energy Plan to Serve as a Blueprint for Meeting the Commonwealth's Future Energy Needs
- D. Resolution No. P08-09: Authorization to Pursue Cool Counties and Cool Schools Climate Stabilization Initiatives
- E. Resolution No. P08-10: Authorization to Submit Comments to the State Corporation Commission on Virginia Dominion Power's Application to Create Energy Conservation Pilot Programs in Virginia

#### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Gibb distributed a copy of his report. Highlights include:

- NVRC coordinated a successful charrette in mid-September for the Town of Dumfries.
- NVRC staff made presentations in numerous water-related workshops in Northern Virginia.
- NVRC is coordinating production of two DVDs about the Metropolitan Medical Response System in Northern Virginia — one for training first responders and the other for the public. Chairman Connolly requested that the Commission preview the DVDs before their release.
- A briefing book providing an overview of the Commission's programs was distributed. This was originally prepared for Chairman Connolly's meeting with senior staff in July.

Resolution No. P08-11, Authorization To Contract With HNTB To Complete Phase II Of The ATLAS Study, was distributed. Mr. Gibb noted that the Operations Committee approved the resolution. Commissioner Tulloch moved adoption. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Mr. Gibb reported that the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority is no longer using NVRC's services for administration, and requests that the Memorandum of Understanding among VDOT, NVTA and NVRC be amended accordingly, with the annual \$50,000 in planning funds going directly to NVTA so it can continue functioning. Commissioner Nohe moved adoption. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Mr. Gibb also reported he had received an email from Neil Pierce concerning "Vision Zero," no more traffic deaths. This concept originated in Sweden and has been tremendously successful in reducing traffic fatalities through tough seat belt laws, helmet laws, and replacing red lights with traffic circles.

Commissioner Smedberg informed the members he had been to Sweden recently and seen many of the innovative programs they are doing. One that impressed him is that in a town of 200,000 residents, the local, regional and school buses are powered by methane from the dump.

**NVRC PAY PLAN** Commissioner Nohe thanked Deborah Babcock-Daley, a Fairfax County employee, for her work on this project. He noted this is a comprehensive revision of NVRC's pay plan, with the key piece being that it is market pay-based and ensures equity with local government staff in the metropolitan region. Chairman Connolly pointed out that the plan does not include a cost of living increase.

Commissioner Nohe moved adoption of Resolution No. P08-04. The motion was seconded. Responding to Commissioner Hudgins' inquiry, Ms. Babcock-Daley said she created a pay structure by evaluating the duties of the positions; changed some policies to align them more closely with Fairfax County; and instituted 0-5% merit increases up to the midpoint of the position's salary range and 0-3% on the backend of the scale in accordance with best practices, which has more acceleration with a bigger learning curve in the first half of the salary range, and reduces that in the back half to keep most employees aligned at mid-point. The motion carried unanimously.

**FY09 PRELIMINARY BUDGET**

Commissioner Nohe noted this is a working document that will be transmitted to member jurisdictional staff for preparation of jurisdictional budgets. The preliminary budget could be subject to tremendous change or very little change over the next several months. There is no change in the per capita dues rate.

Commissioner Nohe moved adoption of Resolution No. P08-07. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

**COOL COUNTIES COOL SCHOOLS**

Commissioner Lazaro moved adoption of Resolution No. P08-09, authorizing the Executive Director to explore opportunities with NVRC's local member governments and school boards to institute climate stabilization initiatives to reduce regional greenhouse gas emissions. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Chairman Connolly added that this initiative will help to set a good example for the school children.

Commissioner Seeman mentioned there is a grant called Safe Roads to Schools, where schools can apply for funding for marking routes to school, building sidewalks, etc.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

*Communications*

Commissioner Smedberg reported that the committee suggests that material distributed at Commission meetings be emailed to members not in attendance.

Staff have met with CivicPlus, the company redesigning the Commission's website. Commissioner Smedberg reminded members to review their bio's on their jurisdictions' websites to be sure NVRC membership is included, and asked that all member jurisdictions' websites include a link to NVRC's website.

*ad hoc Energy*

Commissioner Lazaro reported the committee will have some items for the Commission's legislative platform.

Commissioner Lazaro also requested that the Commission's October meeting agenda include an item of NVRC serving as NVTA's planning advisory committee.

*Legislative*

Chairman Connolly reported that the committee will meet on October 17 to prepare a draft FY08 Legislative Platform for the Commission's October 25 meeting.

*60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*

Commissioner Pepper reported that a contract for the luncheon on December 7 has been signed with the Waterford At Fair Oaks. The governor is the keynote speaker. Commissioner Tulloch added that sponsors are paying for the event, and the budget is

limited. The committee and staff looked at venues that are both centrally located and affordable.

ADJOURNMENT There being no further business, Chairman Connolly adjourned the meeting at 9:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Approved by:

G. Mark Gibb  
Executive Director

Gerald Connolly  
Chairman