

NORTHERN VIRGINIA REGIONAL COMMISSION

Minutes of the Commission Meeting Held Thursday, May 22, 2008

COMMISSIONERS

(The names of those members present are highlighted.)

Hon. Sharon Bulova	<i>County of Fairfax</i>
Hon. Gerald E. Connolly, NVRC Chairman	County of Fairfax
Hon. Joan Cross	City of Fairfax
Hon. Steve DeBenedittis	Town of Herndon
Hon. Barbara A. Favola	County of Arlington
Hon. John Foust	<i>County of Fairfax</i>
Hon. Penelope A. Gross	County of Fairfax
Hon. Pat Herrity	<i>County of Fairfax</i>
Hon. Catherine Hudgins	<i>County of Fairfax</i>
Hon. Robert W. Lazaro, Jr.	<i>Town of Purcellville</i>
Hon. Harold Lippman	City of Falls Church
Hon. Michael C. May	<i>County of Prince William</i>
Hon. Martin E. Nohe, NVRC Treasurer	County of Prince William
Hon. Harry J. Parrish, II, NVRC Vice Chairman	City of Manassas
Hon. Redella S. Pepper	City of Alexandria
Hon. Frank J. Principi	<i>County of Prince William</i>
Hon. M. Jane Seeman	Town of Vienna
Hon. Paul C. Smedberg	City of Alexandria
Hon. Linda Smyth	County of Fairfax
Hon. J. Walter Tejada	<i>County of Arlington</i>
Hon. William J. Treuting, Jr.	<i>City of Manassas Park</i>
Hon. Kristen C. Umstadd	Town of Leesburg
Hon. Lori Waters	<i>County of Loudoun</i>
Hon. Fred E. Yohey, Jr.	<i>Town of Dumfries</i>
Hon. Scott K. York	<i>County of Loudoun</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>
Normand Goulet	<i>Interim Director, Environmental & Planning Services</i>
Laura Grape	<i>Coastal Resources Program Manager</i>
Michelle Simmons	<i>Director, Human Services</i>
Debbie Spiliotopoulos	<i>Solid Waste Program Manager</i>

GUESTS

Hon. L. Preston Bryant, Jr.	<i>Secretary of Natural Resources, and Chairman, Governor's Commission on Climate Change</i>
Hon. Jane Woods	<i>George Mason University, No. Va. Regional Health Information Organization</i>

CALL TO ORDER Chairman Connolly called the meeting to order at 7:37 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 Gross moved approval of the minutes of the April 24, 2008, meeting. The motion was seconded and the minutes were approved unanimously.

PRESENTATIONS

CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

*Hon. L. Preston
Bryant, Jr.*

Secretary Bryant explained he was here tonight in his role as Chairman of the Governor's Commission on Climate Change (CCC), which was established by Executive Order 59. The work plan calls for eight meetings to be held in Richmond and at universities around the Commonwealth. The meetings began this past February; four have been held to date. Each meeting includes a commission roundtable (members appointed from state and local governments; the building, manufacturing, development and transportation industries; and scientists, economists and meteorologists) and a public comment period.

The CCC began with the observation from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) that global warming is unequivocal. Executive Order 59 directs the CCC to prepare a Climate Change Action Plan for Virginia that identifies additional steps the Commonwealth must take to achieve the goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 30 percent by 2025. Secretary Bryant added that given the practical and political realities in Virginia, it will not be easy to achieve this goal, but it is doable. The plan is due December 15, 2008.

Additional information can be found at www.deq.virginia.gov/info/climatechange.html.

questions & answers Commissioner Gross, a CCC member, stated that one of the most interesting briefings the CCC has received concerned potential rise in sea level in the Tidewater region. She added she thought it would cost \$5 million to model the entire state.

Commissioner Favola asked Secretary Bryant if he expects the state will reach its goal more through regulatory actions or through incentives. He said if the utilities adopt the conservation measures mandated by the SCC, one-half of the goal will be met. He added there will also be an educational campaign directed toward the public.

Replying to Commissioner Smedberg's inquiry about air pollution from the Mirant power plant, Secretary Bryant said if a power plant meets the applicable state and local air laws it cannot be turned down for an operating permit under state law, and Mirant is held to the same standards.

Secretary Bryant went on to say that the Wise County facility meets all the laws and regulations. Chairman Connolly observed that the coal-fired power plant proposed for Wise County appears to be primarily economically based; further, it offsets efforts to reduce the carbon footprint. Secretary Bryant noted that Northern Virginia is meeting its ozone standard and will through 2018. The Dominion plant in Fluvanna County will be converted to gas, which will improve pollution.

Commissioner Umstattd asked if the CCC will develop a list of actions local jurisdictions can take under existing enabling legislation, and secondly what about state requirements for local wastewater facilities. Secretary Bryant replied the CCC will take up the Dillon Rule at its June meeting. Secretary Bryant added he is not aware that wastewater treatment plants have been singled out as major emission sources. Commissioner Gross added it would more likely be driven by the Chesapeake Bay Act.

Commissioner Nohe cautioned that while people are committed to a concept, they often do not do what they say they believe in.

NORTHERN VIRGINIA REGIONAL HEALTH INFORMATION ORGANIZATION

Hon. Jane Woods The mission of the Northern Virginia Regional Health Information Organization (NoVa RHIO) is to improve the health status and health care of those who live and work in Northern Virginia by facilitating the availability of accurate and timely electronic medical records when needed for health maintenance and treatment.

Electronic medical records will improve the safety and efficiency of medical care, as they will be able to be accessed by hospitals, physicians, pharmacists, labs and emergency medical technicians.

NoVa RHIO participants include the area's largest hospitals, physicians and clinics, labs and pharmacies, patient advocate organizations, healthcare consumers and caregivers, and safety net organizations. Ms. Woods added that the medical information can be put on a USB drive for patients to take with them on travel.

questions & answers Chairman Connolly reported that it is estimated that accessible electronic medical records would save \$19 million per year nation-wide. This is a critical pilot project.

Ms. Woods explained that the organization is looking initially for foundational funding and then will transition to a business model.

CONSENT AGENDA Commissioner Gross moved approval of the Consent Agenda, consisting of Resolution No. P08-24: **AUTHORIZATION TO ACCEPT FUNDING FOR DEMOGRAPHICS ANALYSIS OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA'S FUTURE WORKFORCE.** The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A copy of Mr. Gibb's report was distributed. Highlights included:

- Northern Virginia Emergency Response System (MMRS) tabletop exercise held last week;
- NVRC and Delegate Ken Plum welcomed elected officials and others from the Environmental Committee, State Parliament of Baden-Wurttemberg, Germany, who were touring the U.S. to study environmental policies, legislation, environmental protection, climate protection, water management and emission controls. Delegate Plum briefed the committee on the Governor's Commission on Climate Change and NVRC's work in this area.
- Commissioner Gross, also a member of MWCOG, briefed the MWCOG board on last month's U.S.-European Conference of Metropolitan Regional Councils. Mr. Gibb was also present to answer questions. Commissioners were given a draft copy of the conference proceedings summary.
- Willow Oaks at Birmingham Green — this newly built, state-of the art residential facility replaces the old (ca. 1927), dormitory-style District Home. Mr. Gibb and Ms. Simmons toured the new facility and were extremely impressed with it. Mr. Gibb urged the Commissioners to tour the facility.
- Medicaid comparison — identification of other resources that could pay for care for people with HIV/AIDS (PWAs) is a part of the annual Ryan White planning process. The disparity in coverage between Virginia and DC Medicaid is dramatic, as shown by the following chart:

	<u>Northern Virginia</u>	<u>DC</u>
Total Medicaid Recipients w/ HIV/AIDS	434	1,965
Medicaid Expenditures for PWAs	\$1,386,938	\$55,242,402
<i>Cost Per Person Assisted</i>	<i>\$3,196</i>	<i>\$28,113</i>
Total Part A Award	\$4,082,414	\$13,646,376
Medicaid Expenditures as % of Part A Award	34%	437%

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Connolly noted the General Assembly will hold a special session addressing transportation funding on June 23. He reviewed the Governor's plan, adding that the Governor felt that increasing the gasoline tax is not politically viable.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Commissioner Favola, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, reported that the committee unanimously agreed on the following slate of candidates for election at the Commission's next meeting on June 26:

Chairman	Gerald Connolly
Vice Chairman	Harry J. "Hal" Parrish, II
Treasurer	Martin Nohe

Chairman Connolly asked if there were any nominations from the floor. Hearing none, he moved adoption of the slate of candidates as presented. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

BYLAWS AMENDMENT

Commissioner Nohe recalled for the members that this small change regarding appointment of members came from the Operations Committee and was presented to the Commission last month for review. He moved adoption of Resolution No. P08-23. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS
Operations

Commissioner Nohe reported the committee met immediately prior to the Commission meeting and reviewed the financial reports for April, which staff distributed. At the committee's recommendation, the Commission accepted the reports.

Commissioner Nohe also reported two points of information. The committee is recommending a one percent market adjustment to the pay plan and salaries for FY09. The Commission will receive the budget next month for adoption. Secondly, the committee recommends the Commission hold a strategic planning session early in the first quarter of 2009.

Communications

Commissioner Smedberg reported that *The Washington Post* "Extra" sections carried a story about the "Only Rain Down the Drain" storm drain education campaign to prevent water pollution.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chairman Connolly adjourned the meeting at 9:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

G. Mark Gibb
 Executive Director

Approved by:

Gerald E. Connolly
 Chairman