

**NORTHERN VIRGINIA REGIONAL COMMISSION**

**Minutes of the Commission Meeting Held Thursday, June 26, 2008**

**COMMISSIONERS**

(The names of those members present are highlighted.)

<b>Hon. Sharon Bulova</b>	<b>County of Fairfax</b>
<b>Hon. Gerald E. Connolly, NVRC Chairman</b>	<b>County of Fairfax</b>
<b>Hon. Joan Cross</b>	<b>City of Fairfax</b>
<b>Hon. Steve DeBenedittis</b>	<b>Town of Herndon</b>
<b>Hon. Barbara A. Favola</b>	<b>County of Arlington</b>
Hon. John Foust	County of Fairfax
<b>Hon. Penelope A. Gross</b>	<b>County of Fairfax</b>
Hon. Pat Herrity	County of Fairfax
<b>Hon. Catherine Hudgins</b>	<b>County of Fairfax</b>
<b>Hon. Robert W. Lazaro, Jr.</b>	<b>Town of Purcellville</b>
<b>Hon. Harold Lippman</b>	<b>City of Falls Church</b>
Hon. Michael C. May	County of Prince William
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
<b>Hon. Frank J. Principi</b>	<b>County of Prince William</b>
<b>Hon. M. Jane Seeman</b>	<b>Town of Vienna</b>
<b>Hon. Paul C. Smedberg</b>	<b>City of Alexandria</b>
<b>Hon. Linda Smyth</b>	<b>County of Fairfax</b>
Hon. J. Walter Tejada	County of Arlington
<b>Hon. William J. Treuting, Jr.</b>	<b>City of Manassas Park</b>
<b>Hon. Kristen C. Umstaddt</b>	<b>Town of Leesburg</b>
Hon. Lori Waters	County of Loudoun
Hon. Fred E. Yohey, Jr.	Town of Dumfries
<b>Hon. Scott K. York</b>	<b>County of Loudoun</b>

**STAFF PRESENT**

G. Mark Gibb	Executive Director
Linda M. Tenney	Deputy Director
Linda Summerall	Executive Secretary
Ken Billingsley	Director, Information & Demographics Services
Barbara Gordon	Communications Director
Normand Goulet	Interim Director, Environmental & Planning Services
Michelle Simmons	Director, Human Services

**GUESTS**

Susan Asam	Manager, CFI International
Chris Munson	Senior Manager, Technology & Management Solutions, CFI International
Tom Biesiadny	Chief, Coordination & Funding Div., Fairfax Co. Dept. of Transportation
Sue Rowland	NVRC Legislation Liaison; SR Consulting, Inc.
Hon. Charlie Waddell	Herndon Town Council

**CALL TO ORDER** Chairman Connolly called the meeting to order at 7:30 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 York moved approval of the minutes of the May 22, 2008, meeting. The motion was seconded and the minutes were approved unanimously.

PRESENTATION

*THE POTENTIAL IMPACTS OF GLOBAL SEA LEVEL RISE ON THE MID-ATLANTIC REGION*

Chairman Connolly introduced Chris Munson, Senior Manager for Technology & Management Solutions, ICF International. ICF International is company headquartered in Fairfax County and employs over 3,000 people worldwide. Also with Mr. Munson was Susan Asam of ICF's climate change group.

*Chris Munson*

The U.S. Department of Transportation contracted with ICF for a phased study to estimate the potential impacts of sea level rise and the resulting increase in storm surge on the country's transportation infrastructure. The study is prepared at both the state and county levels. Phase I, completed in November 2007, includes Maryland, D.C., Virginia and North Carolina. Phase II, scheduled for completion in September 2008, includes New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, South Carolina, Georgia and the Atlantic coast of Florida.

The study includes eight inundation levels. Based on thermal expansion, the global sea level will rise 1.6 to 3.9 inches by 2025; this excludes future rapid dynamic changes in Greenland and Antarctic ice flow.

According to ICF's calculations, some parts of coastal Arlington and all parts of coastal Alexandria will be impacted by sea level rise, with even greater areas of those jurisdictions affected by future storm surges. In Northern Virginia and coastal Virginia, this will affect the infrastructure (roads, rail, airports, ports, bridges and tunnels, energy); populations and communities; the environment; commerce and tourism; and military installations.

In conclusion, Mr. Munson encouraged decision makers to incorporate climate change impacts into planning.

*questions & answers*

Commissioner Gross reported that the Governor's Commission on Climate Change received a LiDAR overview of the Norfolk area, which showed that City Hall would be affected by the increase in sea level and the new subway would be underwater. She added that she expects the Governor's Commission will recommend that the entire state be mapped using LiDAR, at an estimated cost of \$5 million.

In response to Commissioner Smyth's inquiry about the timeframe to incorporate sea level rise into land use and transportation planning, Ms. Asam said it's very difficult to quantify. The climate change community approaches it by managing for uncertainty and running a few scenarios. Knowing the realm of possibility, a risk management strategy is then developed.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- A. Financial Reports for May 2008
- B. Resolution No. P08-25: Extension of Auditor Engagement

CHAIRMAN'S  
REPORT

Reporting on the General Assembly's special session on transportation funding, Chairman Connolly noted the Governor's bill has been killed by the House. The Senate passed Senator Saslaw's bill.

A synopsis of HB 6055 (Hamilton) was distributed and reviewed. It was noted that the estimate of \$150 million/year estimated revenue from 25 cents per \$100 valuation

commercial property tax for Northern Virginia was erroneous on two accounts: first, some jurisdictions have already imposed this tax, so the funding is not new or additional revenue; secondly, not all jurisdictions will impose this tax, and those that have done so are using a lower rate.

The members were concerned that under HB 6055, the bulk of taxes imposed in Northern Virginia would be imposed by local governments. They were further outraged that the majority of revenue raised in Hampton Roads would be generated by allocating 30 percent of revenue growth generated by the ports to seven transportation projects in Hampton Roads. This represents a diversion of state general funds used for K-12, higher education, law enforcement, human services, prisons, etc., statewide.

Commissioner Favola moved that if the General Assembly takes the approach to shift the burden of transportation funding entirely to the jurisdictions to make up for what was lost with the Virginia Supreme Court ruling, that approach will be dead on arrival; secondly, that the General Assembly create a dedicated source of revenue for state maintenance. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously. The legislative liaisons will transmit this resolution to the Northern Virginia Delegation and the leadership.

#### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Gibb's report included updates on:

- Boundary Stones Preservation
- International Activities
- NVRC Visit to the area's First Carbon-Neutral Home
- Four Mile Run Restoration
- I&R in Transition
- NVRC and the NOVA Group

#### FY 2009 BUDGET AND WORK PROGRAM

Commissioner Gross reported that the Operations Committee had reviewed the proposed FY09 Budget and Work Program at its June 13 meeting and feels the budget is lean and prudent. She moved adoption of Resolution No. P08-26. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

#### ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Commissioner Favola moved election of the slate of officers:

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

The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

#### OTHER BUSINESS

Commissioner York requested a presentation on the member governments' transportation plans, noting the need for interconnectivity. He added that he often hears from constituents that "they can't get there from here." Members said that they hear that complaint as well and agreed they want this presentation.

Commissioner Lippman raised the issue of foreclosures, noting that Commissioner Hudgins participated in a recent regional conference on this issue. Commissioner Hudgins reported the conference addressed two components of foreclosures: 1) prevention and 2) what are the effects on the people facing foreclosure or having gone through foreclosure.

Ms. Rowland reported the state Housing Commission is also looking at this issue and wants a presentation from the Northern Virginia perspective. Ms. Rowland and Mr. Gibb will work with Commissioner Hudgins on this.

Commissioner Lazaro suggested having the GMU staff return for a follow-up on their earlier presentation on foreclosures.

Commissioner Favola suggested an update on the jurisdictions' ten-year plans to end homelessness and share best practices.

ADJOURNMENT      There being no further business, Chairman Connolly adjourned the meeting at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

G. Mark Gibb  
Executive Director

Approved by:

Gerald E. Connolly  
Chairman