

NORTHERN VIRGINIA REGIONAL COMMISSION

Minutes of the Commission Meeting Held Thursday, July 24, 2008

COMMISSIONERS

(The names of those members present are highlighted.)

Hon. Sharon Bulova	County of Fairfax
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	County of Fairfax
Hon. Penelope A. Gross	County of Fairfax
Hon. Pat Herrity	County of Fairfax
Hon. Catherine Hudgins	County of Fairfax
Hon. Robert W. Lazaro, Jr.	Town of Purcellville
Hon. Harold Lippman	City of Falls Church
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
Hon. Frank J. Principi	County of Prince William
Hon. M. Jane Seeman	Town of Vienna
Hon. Paul C. Smedberg	City of Alexandria
Hon. Linda Smyth	County of Fairfax
Hon. J. Walter Tejada	County of Arlington
Hon. William J. Treuting, Jr.	City of Manassas Park
Hon. Kristen C. Umstatt	Town of Leesburg
Hon. Lori Waters	County of Loudoun
Hon. Fred E. Yohey, Jr.	Town of Dumfries
Hon. Scott K. York	County of Loudoun

STAFF PRESENT

G. Mark Gibb	Executive Director
Linda M. Tenney	Deputy Director
Linda Summerall	Executive Secretary
Barbara Gordon	Communications Director
Normand Goulet	Interim Director, Environmental & Planning Services
Marshall Popkin	Regional Planner
David Schwengel	Director, Regional Emergency Preparedness Planning
Michelle Simmons	Director, Human Services
Jim Simpson	Federal Grants Monitor

GUESTS

Hon. Aneesh Chopra	Secretary of Technology
Rodger Baker	President/CEO Fauquier Hospital; Chairman, No. Va. Hospital Alliance
Zachary Corrigan	Executive Director, Northern Virginia Hospital Alliance
Don Harris	Vice President, Government Affairs, Inova Health System
Sue Rowland	NVRC Legislation Liaison; SR Consulting, Inc.

CALL TO ORDER Chairman Connolly called the meeting to order at 7:36 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.

PRESENTATIONS

THE INNOVATION IMPERATIVE — ORGANIZING THE REGION FOR GLOBAL COMPETITIVENESS

Chairman Connolly introduced Aneesh Chopra, Virginia's Secretary of Technology, and welcomed him back to the Commission.

Hon. Aneesh Chopra Mr. Chopra reported that he met with the Northern Virginia county/city/town managers a few months ago on this topic.

The technology sector is still growing despite the economic downturn, and job growth in the technology sector is twice as big as growth in the overall economy; 60 percent of new jobs in Northern Virginia is in the technology sector.

Mr. Chopra noted that Dulles International Airport plays a key role in the region's (as well as the state's) global competitiveness. The airport was extremely valuable in attracting the Howard Hughes facility.

The Washington, D.C., area has the highest concentration of brain-power in the country. The area attracts the more R&D — public and private sector — than California or Massachusetts, but the D.C. area ranks 37th in its ability to churn start-ups off of that R&D activity. Companies headquartered in Virginia spend approximately \$3-\$5 on R&D for every \$1,000 in sales, whereas companies headquartered in California and Massachusetts spend \$100 per \$1,000. The companies that enter into R&D mega deals with universities are not choosing universities in Virginia or Maryland. Governor Kaine has made it a priority to reverse this trend.

The General Assembly has appropriated \$1.5 billion for capital to expand Virginia's university capacity. Mr. Chopra reported that Rolls Royce, located in Northern Virginia, put \$500 million in capital in Prince George County because the state put \$40 million into UVA and Virginia Tech to develop a research center of excellence that will help Rolls Royce build jet engines for the next 15-20 years. Rolls Royce then added \$25 million of its own money to match the state's contribution.

Mr. Chopra said none of Virginia's universities are world-class in energy R&D. An alliance of six greater-D.C. area universities — Johns Hopkins, University of Maryland, George Washington, George Mason, UVA and Virginia Tech — have formed an alliance making energy one of its key thrusts. This alliance will need to tap the resources of energy experts from around the world, and those people will use Dulles Airport. Mr. Chopra pointed out that Dulles is surrounded by hundreds of acres of undeveloped land. Around the world, universities are collaborating with smart growth planners for research centers.

The governor of Massachusetts announced a \$1 billion package to support the life sciences in the state, with one-half the funding going toward infrastructure investments. This will produce the next generation of life sciences jobs. Mr. Chopra called this a powerful investment. Johns Hopkins is leading a \$1 billion public-private partnership, the Shady Grove Life Sciences Center, on a 600-acre campus. Mr. Chopra said the same can be done around Dulles, noting that two universities own several hundred acre parcels around the airport. He suggested that Northern Virginia, the state and the area's universities collaborate to leverage the region's assets, noting the numerous corporations in the region. Mr. Chopra reported that the Rolls Royce funding was not in the state budget, but when the opportunity surfaced the General Assembly delivered and it will come through again should another such opportunity arise. Mr. Chopra asked the Commissioners to help design a product his office can sell to private industry.

questions & answers Commissioner Gross noted the Northern Virginia Community College has not been included as a player, and this is the institution that is preparing many of the future workers. Mr. Chopra agreed.

Commissioner Favola asked what areas are being funded by private investment. Mr. Chopra replied the universities have signed an MOU to identify their targets. One question is who will fund university research? Secondly, the Washington Airports Task Force has committed to put together a deal team to look at the region's privately held assets.

Commissioner Hudgins inquired about the role of the jurisdictions' economic development authorities (EDAs). Mr. Chopra said what he is talking about is a long-term strategy, and he is unsure what body takes the lead. Chairman Connolly offered that this type of cross-jurisdictional initiative with a multiplicity of resources is probably beyond the capabilities of the jurisdictions' EDAs.

Chairman Connolly pointed out that the next administration and Congress will undoubtedly be preoccupied with energy issues, so institutions, corporations and regions that are poised to receive federal funding will have the advantage, as Mr. Chopra has been saying.

Commissioner Gross stated there is a growing discussion of nuclear power but there are not many universities in the U.S. that offer this discipline, and there is a entire generation of American scientists lacking nuclear knowledge. The Governor's Commission on Climate Change *may* recommend reinstatement of nuclear science in university curriculum. Mr. Chopra said his chart shows only the energy/alternative energy fields receiving venture capital funds; however, the Tobacco Commission has committed \$8 million for a nuclear center of excellence in Lynchburg.

Chairman Connolly asked for a motion to direct the Executive Director to explore further the concepts outlined in this presentation. Commissioner Gross moved same and the motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

REGIONAL HOSPITAL PREPAREDNESS: OVERVIEW OF THE NORTHERN VIRGINIA HOSPITAL ALLIANCE

The Northern Virginia Hospital Alliance was founded in 2002 as a nonprofit. Its board of directors is comprised primarily of the CEOs of twelve hospitals, including nine in Northern Virginia plus the DeWitt Army Hospital at Fort Belvoir, and a hospital each in Fredericksburg and Fauquier County. Chairman Connolly introduced Rodger Baker, President/CEO of Fauquier Hospital and Chairman of the Northern Virginia Hospital Alliance (NVHA); Zachary Corrigan, NVHA Executive Director; and Don Harris, Vice President, Government Affairs, Inova Health System and NVHA board member.

Rodger Baker The state is divided into six health planning/service areas. Mr. Baker explained that Fauquier County lobbied the state to be included in the Northern Virginia region for hospital/emergency planning because half its population works in Northern Virginia. (Fauquier had always been associated with the Northwest region.)

Don Harris The Northern Virginia Hospital Alliance was formed mainly in response to the anthrax scare but also as a follow-up to 9/11 when it was clear there was no coordinated response in directing patients from a disaster site. The NVHA members have a mutual aid agreement to coordinate resources and manpower in response to natural or man-made disasters.

Zachary Corrigan Since its inception, NVHA has expanded its program to include participation from other disciplines such as pharmacy, materials management, respiratory therapy, etc. It has provided and improved regional coordination in the health emergency response field; and improved communications, planning, surge capacities/capabilities, decontamination capabilities, and training/education.

Funding is provided by federal grants (MMRS, ASPR and UASI). The next step is to position the program to be capable of sustainment without federal grants within five years.

questions & answers Replying to questions, Mr. Corrigan said NVHA will work with the Loudoun County Health Director on community planning for a health care pandemic. At a minimum, NVHA holds two regional exercises a year and tests its communications system weekly. The health planner in each local health department in Northern Virginia attends NVHA's monthly meetings. The District and Maryland do not have an equivalent of NVHA.

Commissioner Favola suggested that Mr. Corrigan may want to make a presentation to MWCOG. Commissioner Gross said she would raise the idea with MWCOG.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Cross moved approval of the minutes of the June 26, 2008, meeting. The motion was seconded and the minutes were approved unanimously.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- The Chief Administrative Officers (CAOs) have agreed the jurisdictions will work together to gather foreclosure data. Highlights from the July 23 state summit on foreclosures were distributed.
- BRAC: Northern Virginia needs to start working regionally on the 2011 closure rounds. The Commission directed Mr. Gibb to provide an analysis. The CAOs will also focus on BRAC at their October meeting. There will be federal funding.
- VAPDC: The Virginia Association of Planning District Commission's held its annual summer conference July 17-19 with the theme of green initiatives and economic development. NVRC Commissioner Bob Lazaro was elected to the VAPDC Board of Directors.
- Planning Directors: NVRC reconvened the region's planning directors to review progress made on the ATLAS (Alternative Transportation and Land Use Activities Strategies) Phase 2 Study. The planning directors are interested in the possible strategies as outlined within the budget constraints. The study recommendations will be received in the fall. The planning directors are also interested in continuing to meet regularly.
- NVRC staff met twice this month with Preston Bryant, Secretary of Natural Resources, regarding climate and energy planning. Senior governmental affairs staff of Virginia Dominion Power were present at the second meeting and supportive of NVRC's proposed community energy and climate plans for two Northern Virginia municipalities.
- Woodbridge Charrette: NVRC will conduct a charrette November 13-15 focusing on transportation and economic development for Woodbridge, at the request of Commissioner Principi.
- Four Mile Run Restoration: VDOT has awarded to NVRC \$400,000 in funding for a design competition of the bicycle-pedestrian bridge over Four Mile Run.

Additionally, a committee composed of staff from NVRC, Alexandria, Arlington and the Army Corps of Engineers is completing final steps to select an architectural-engineering firm to prepare alternative designs and develop bid documents for environmental and ancillary components of the restoration demonstration project. Staff distributed Resolution No. P09-01, granting the Executive Director the authority to engage the firm recommended by the selection committee and project advisors. Commissioner Favola moved adoption of Resolution No. P09-01. The motion was seconded.

Commissioner Gross asked about the cost of engagement. Commissioner Favola replied that the money comes from a federal earmark to Arlington County, and Arlington will

manage that money in cooperation with Alexandria. Members agreed unanimously to adopt Resolution No. P09-01 as amended: "THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Northern Virginia Regional Commission *in coordination with officials from Arlington and Alexandria* agrees that the Executive Director shall have discretion..."

- Commissioner Smyth reported another milestone on the Hunter Mill Road Traffic Calming Study has been passed: The study has been incorporated by reference in the Fairfax County Comprehensive Plan; now, any development coming through that corridor must look at the traffic calming study.

**CHAIRMAN'S
REPORT**

Chairman Connolly noted there was no resolution on transportation funding from the recent special session of the General Assembly, despite the efforts of local elected officials from both parties.

The legislation on foreclosures passed by the House of Representatives and is expected to be passed by the U.S. Senate. The bill includes approximately \$4 billion in CDBG funds for local and state governments to purchase foreclosed properties. Chairman Connolly added that in 2005, Fairfax County had 200 foreclosed properties; as of July 2008 there are 7,000. He noted that the problem has not yet bottomed out and thinks every jurisdiction in Virginia will be affected.

NVTA

Chairman Connolly noted this item was placed on the agenda at Commissioner Nohe's request. Northern Virginia Transportation Authority members have decided there is no longer any reason to meet monthly, though from time to time some administrative items will need to be dealt with. Replying to Commissioner Pepper's inquiry, Chairman Connolly said the office lease will need to be broken and the staff members let go.

OTHER BUSINESS

Commissioner Lippman reported the Virginia Municipal League has developed a position against dangerous weapons, which he read, adding that it will be one of VML's legislative positions for the 2009 General Assembly session.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chairman Connolly adjourned the meeting at 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Approved by:

G. Mark Gibb
Executive Director

Gerald E. Connolly
Chairman