

**NORTHERN VIRGINIA REGIONAL COMMISSION**

**Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting  
Wednesday, December 17, 2008**

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

(The names of those members present are highlighted.)

**Hon. Gerald E. Connolly, NVRC Chairman**  
**Hon. Barbara A. Favola, Immediate Past Chairman**  
Hon. Robert W. Lazaro, Jr., *ad hoc* Energy Cmte. Chairman  
**Hon. Martin E. Nohe, NVRC Treasurer**  
**Hon. Harry J. "Hal" Parrish, II, NVRC Vice Chairman**  
**Hon. Paul C. Smedberg, Communications Cmte. Chairman**

**County of Fairfax**  
**County of Arlington**  
*Town of Purcellville*  
**County of Prince William**  
**City of Manassas**  
**City of Alexandria**

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT**

Hon. Penelope A. Gross  
Hon. Pat Herrity  
Hon. Harold Lippman  
Hon. Kristen C. Umstatted

*County of Fairfax*  
*County of Fairfax*  
*City of Falls Church*  
*Town of Leesburg*

**STAFF PRESENT**

G. Mark Gibb  
Linda M. Tenney  
Linda Summerall  
Ken Billingsley  
Barbara Gordon  
David Schwengel  
Heather Shackley  
Michelle Simmons  
Tylee Smith  
Aimee Vosper

*Executive Director*  
*Deputy Director*  
*Executive Secretary*  
*Director, Information & Demographic Services*  
*Communications Director*  
*Director, Regional Emergency Preparedness Planning*  
*Executive Assistant*  
*Director, Human Services*  
*I&R Program Manager*  
*Director, Planning & Environmental Services*

**GUESTS**

Paul Maltagliati  
Sue Rowland

*Fairfax County staff*  
*NVRC Legislation Liaison; SR Consulting, Inc.*

**CALL TO ORDER** Chairman Connolly called the meeting to order at 12:20 p.m.

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

- A. Financial Reports for September and October 2008
- B. Resolution No. P09-08: Authorization to Apply For, Accept and Subcontract Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS (HOPWA) Grant Year 17 Funds in Suburban Virginia
- C. Resolution No. P09-09: FY 2008 Audited Statements
- D. Resolution No. P09-10: Authorization to Apply For and Accept Funding From DOD Office of Economic Adjustment to Support a Regional Effort Related to the 2005 BRAC Process

DRAFT  
LEGISLATIVE  
PLATFORM

Chairman Connolly reported that Fairfax County's legislative platform was presented to the Fairfax state delegation yesterday, December 16. The majority of positions in the platform center around the deteriorating fiscal situation and its impact on localities. He stressed the importance of asking the General Assembly for more freedom to enact local legislation, for a loosening of state mandates, adding that the climate in Richmond could be receptive to these requests. Chairman Connolly said it is also important for the jurisdictions to press the General Assembly not to give up on transportation, adding that at the December 16 meeting with the Fairfax County delegation, Delegate Rust indicated there is a \$600 million transportation bill.

Responding to Commissioner Smedberg's inquiry, Chairman Connolly said the localities can achieve this by working regionally and through VML and VACo. He cautioned that this must be done in a structured way or the state will dump its responsibility for transportation on the localities.

Ms. Rowland distributed a copy of the Governor's news release addressing the budget shortfall.

Replying to Chairman Connolly's inquiry, Ms. Rowland said the Governor's FY 2010 budget will cut school positions that are not in the actual classroom: for every four in-classroom positions there can be only one non-classroom/ administrative position with funding shared between the locality and the state.

Commissioner Smedberg raised the issue whether localities will be able to directly access federal funding without going through the state. It may be worthwhile to develop a policy statement. Chairman Connolly concurred. [Commissioner Favola arrived.] Chairman Connolly added that the localities should urge Congress to make sure money flows to localities rather than going to the state.

Ms. Rowland reported that the Planning District Commissions' (PDCs) funding was reduced in the fall. For FY 2010, there will be an approximate cut of 9.1%. The new funds that NVRC received last year as a separate line, not part of the base funding, are also cut by 9.1%, for a total loss in funding of approximately \$42,000. Ms. Rowland added that the PDCs may be eligible to tap into the Governor's productivity improvement fund. [Commissioner Nohe arrived.]

Chairman Connolly recommended that the Commission share its position on BRAC with its Congressional representatives, stating that the federal government needs to help impacted localities when it expands or opens a new military facility as well as when it closes a facility.

Staff was directed to "tighten up" the CSA position, perhaps by using bullets or putting the information into an attached white paper.

Discussing the position on foreclosures, Commissioner Nohe pointed out that local government wants tools and options to deal with foreclosures, not state legislation that ends up creating more mandates for local government. Members agreed also to request that the state ask the federal government for additional funding as part of the stimulus package that can be used on the local level to offset the effects of foreclosures.

Commissioner Gross moved adoption of the legislative platform as amended. The motion was seconded. Commissioners Parrish, Nohe and Umstattd indicated reservation on the position on dangerous weapons. The motion carried.

NVRC OFFICERS

Chairman Connolly announced he will resign from office effective January 2, 2009. He appointed Commissioner Umstattd to chair the Nominating Committee.

**EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR'S  
REPORT**

Mr. Gibb announced that MWCOG has recognized NVRC with its annual regional partner award for taking the lead in sponsoring the first U.S.-European Metropolitan Regions conference this past spring.

Mr. Gibb also announced that Barbara Gordon, NVRC's Communications Director, is resigning to work as Public Information Officer for the City of Falls Church. However, NVRC and the City of Falls Church have agreed on a job sharing arrangement, whereby Ms. Gordon may work up to 20 percent of the week for NVRC, with NVRC paying that portion of her salary. The Commissioners expressed support for this arrangement.

The Northern Virginia Chief Administrative Officers Committee is looking into areas and programs that can be done regionally to affect a cost savings. At their direction, the jurisdictions' budget directors met at NVRC last month to review this issue. Some programs mentioned include library administration, parks and recreation, and cooperative purchasing of employee health benefits. NVRC staff is also working on a baseline of current regional programs.

Mr. Gibb distributed a draft white paper on protection of headwaters. Mr. Gibb recommended that a technical steering committee be formed with representatives from local jurisdictions and water authorities to review the draft white paper. The Commission expressed support for the draft report and the recommendation.

Whitman-Walker Clinic is closing its Northern Virginia facility effective March 31, 2009. Approximately 150 clients will be impacted. NVRC staff have contacted the local health department directors. Chairman Connolly stated this does not bode well for regional relations. Ms. Simmons explained that as a nonprofit organization, the Whitman-Walker board decided it needs to scale back, since donations have dried up. She added that seven agencies have applied for funding for the next round of Ryan White grants. The members agreed that a letter from the Chairman expressing the Commission's consternation at this turn of events should be sent.

On behalf of the Commission, Mr. Gibb presented Chairman Connolly with a Resolution of tribute.

**CHAIRMAN'S  
REPORT**

Chairman Connolly spoke of the Commission's transformation to a body of all-elected officials and the positive impact that has had.

He invited the members to attend his Congressional swearing-in ceremony and open house on January 6.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Commissioner Gross reported that Al Boudreau, a former Commissioner, passed away last month.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Chairman Connolly adjourned the meeting at 1:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

G. Mark Gibb  
Executive Director

Approved by:

Gerald E. Connolly  
Chairman