

NORTHERN VIRGINIA REGIONAL COMMISSION

Minutes of the Commission Meeting Held Thursday, October 27, 2005

COMMISSIONERS

(The names of those present are highlighted)

Commissioner Hilda M. Barg	<i>County of Prince William</i>
Commissioner Melvin Bray	<i>Town of Dumfries</i>
Commissioner Sharon Bulova	<i>County of Fairfax</i>
Commissioner Gerald E. Connolly, NVRC Vice Chairman	<i>County of Fairfax</i>
Commissioner W. S. Covington, III	<i>County of Prince William</i>
Commissioner Joan Cross	<i>City of Fairfax</i>
Commissioner William T. Druhan, Jr.	<i>Town of Purcellville</i>
Commissioner Joan DuBois	<i>County of Fairfax</i>
Commissioner Barbara A. Favola, NVRC Chairman	<i>County of Arlington</i>
Commissioner Robin Gardner	<i>City of Falls Church</i>
Commissioner Penelope A. Gross	<i>County of Fairfax</i>
Commissioner Catherine Hudgins	<i>County of Fairfax</i>
Commissioner Elaine N. McConnell	<i>County of Fairfax</i>
Commissioner Martin E. Nohe	<i>County of Prince William</i>
Commissioner Michael O'Reilly	<i>Town of Herndon</i>
Commissioner Harry J. Parrish, II, NVRC Treasurer	<i>City of Manassas</i>
Commissioner Bryan Polk	<i>City of Manassas Park</i>
Commissioner Redella S. Pepper	<i>City of Alexandria</i>
Commissioner M. Jane Seeman	<i>Town of Vienna</i>
Commissioner Paul C. Smedberg	<i>City of Alexandria</i>
Commissioner Linda Smyth	<i>County of Fairfax</i>
Commissioner J. Walter Tejada	<i>County of Arlington</i>
Commissioner Bruce E. Tulloch	<i>County of Loudoun</i>
Commissioner Kristen C. Umstatt	<i>Town of Leesburg</i>
Commissioner Lori Waters	<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>
Kenneth Billingsley	<i>Director, Demographics</i>
Barbara Gordon	<i>Communications Director</i>
Doug Pickford	<i>Director, Environmental and Heritage Resources</i>
David Schwengel	<i>Regional Emergency Preparedness Planning Director</i>
Michelle Simmons	<i>Director, Human Services</i>
James Van Zee	<i>Director, Regional Planning Services</i>

GUESTS PRESENT

Pete Giesen	<i>legislative consultant</i>
Boris Palmer	<i>member, Baden-Wurttemberg (state) Parliament, Germany</i>
Sue Rowland	<i>Principal, SR Consulting</i>

CALL TO ORDER Chairman Favola called the meeting to order at 7:40 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.

MINUTES Commissioner Tulloch moved approval of the minutes of the September 22, 2005, meeting. The motion was seconded and carried, with Commissioners Hudgins and Nohe abstaining.

HURRICANE
KATRINA

Chairman Favola welcomed Craig Gerhart, County Executive for Prince William County. Mr. Gerhart led a Northern Virginia regional task force to assist the city of New Orleans with administrative and logistical matters after Hurricane Katrina. Chairman Favola also welcomed Rob Stalzer, Deputy County Executive for Fairfax County, who led a successor team upon Mr. Gerhart's return.

Craig Gerhart

Mr. Gerhart reported that prior to the Northern Virginia task force's deployment to New Orleans, a team from North Carolina, assisted by Arlington County employees, was deployed to operate New Orleans' emergency operations center (EOC).

Mr. Gerhart explained that shortly after Hurricane Katrina, the chief administrative officers of the five major Northern Virginia jurisdictions decided to mobilize a regional team for deployment within 72 hours. Mr. Gerhart led a 24-member Northern Virginia emergency operations center management team to New Orleans. This task force worked with New Orleans city staff, which he described as very committed and dedicated workers.

Task Force Accomplishments:

- Established links between city and state EOCs
- Continued dewatering efforts
- Intensified collection of debris and trash
- Expedited efforts at recovering water and sewer service
- Regularized public safety services
- Installed a new integrated 911 system
- Established medical clinics
- Established food and water distribution sites
- Established a supply warehouse
- Established a media center
- Began critical incident stress assistance to first responders
- Connected Red Cross client assistance efforts with city employees and their families

Lessons Learned:

- Maintain local control of policy making
- Connection between decision makers and EOC operations is essential
- Unified command matters
- Emergency management, training and exercise is vital and must include state and federal partners
- Flexibility is key
- Northern Virginia's regional emphasis is paying dividends

Rob Stalzer

Mr. Stalzer commented that being part of this task force was a very exhilarating and powerful professional experience. He thanked the elected officials for their support.

He noted that the Northern Virginia task force members developed relationships and trust with both city and federal employees, and they improved their own emergency management skills. Mr. Stalzer emphasized that experience matters: It is important for employees to not only receive training but also activation before an emergency, not during one.

Additionally, communications — with the public, with the press, and within local government departments — is an absolutely essential function.

*questions and
answers*

On behalf of the members of the Northern Virginia Regional Commission, Commissioner Connolly told Messrs. Gerhart and Stalzer the Commissioners are very proud of them. He added that New Orleans is an example of what happens when investment in local government is not made.

Commissioner Gross mentioned that the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors recently received an extensive briefing on emergency planning by the county executive. After tonight's presentation, she feels even more confident that the Northern Virginia region is prepared to handle any emergency, commenting on the region's abundance of intra-operability.

Commissioners also discussed the need to nurture first responders during emergencies as well as the need for animal-friendly emergency shelters.

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

- A. June Financial Reports
- B. Resolution No. P06-07: Authorization to Submit a Funding Request to the Commonwealth Transportation Board for Development of a "Guide to Safe Bicycling and Walking in Virginia"

**EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR'S
REPORT**

- A. Mr. Gibb reported that the Governor's regional BRAC Working Group held its second meeting at the NVRC office immediately before the Commission meeting.
- B. Mr. Gibb introduced and welcomed Boris Palmer, a member of the Baden-Wurtemberg state Parliament in Germany. Mr. Palmer is visiting the U.S. at the invitation of the U.S. Ambassador to Germany, with assistance from the German Marshall Fund. He is interested in learning more about the Commission's partnership with the Verband Region Stuttgart.
- C. Mr. Gibb reported on his weeklong trip to six cities in Germany, at the invitation of the U.S. Ambassador to Germany, to discuss the Commission's sister partnership with the Verband Region Stuttgart. Additionally, the city of Aachen, which has a sister city relationship with Arlington County, is forming a regional council and wants to enter into a dialog with NVRC. The Verband Region Stuttgart will send a delegation of staff and elected officials to NVRC in the spring to discuss tourism, economic development, transportation and the environment.

**CHAIRMAN'S
REPORT**

- A. Chairman Favola announced that Commissioner Connolly received the AHOME Preservation Award for his leadership, courage and innovation in preserving affordable housing in the Fairfax-Falls Church area. Commissioner Connolly added that the entire Fairfax County Board of Supervisors deserves recognition for supporting his "One Penny for Housing" program.
- B. Chairman Favola also congratulated Commissioner O'Reilly, who is being honored on November 1 with a Public Policy Leadership Award. The Center for Nonprofit Advancement presents its Phyllis Campbell Newsome Public Policy Leadership award to public officials demonstrating exceptional work in our communities.
- C. The current committee roster will be emailed to the Commissioners, who are asked to let the secretary know if there are any changes.

PRELIMINARY
FY 2007 BUDGET
AND PROGRAMS

Mr. Gibb reported that this is the third year of the Commission's three-year fiscal restoration plan, bringing the per capita dues rate to 50 cents. Commissioner Bulova moved adoption of Resolution No. P06-09. The motion was seconded and carried, with Commissioners Connolly and Smedberg abstaining.

Replying to Commissioner Gross's inquiry, Mr. Gibb said the four unfilled positions will remain vacant until additional funding is secured. Chairman Favola reminded the members that the dues per capita rate had not been increased for 17 years and the state contribution has been diminishing. Commissioner Bulova inquired about funding for staffing the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority. Mr. Gibb reported that state funding for the past two fiscal years was just received. A budget amendment needs to go forward for this new biennium budget to secure funding for Fiscal Years 2006 and 2007. Commissioner Connolly confirmed this funding request is included in the Commission's Legislative Platform.

LETTER ON
FEDERAL
RESPONSIBILITY
FOR
IMMIGRATION

A revised draft letter was distributed. Commissioner Gross moved adoption of the revised draft. The motion was seconded. Commissioner Tejada spoke in favor of the revised draft. Commissioner Connolly moved deletion of the last sentence in the second to last paragraph, substituting "Those are and should remain federal responsibilities." The motion was seconded. The letter as amended carried with Commissioner Nohe abstaining.

WHITMAN-WALKER
CLINIC

A revised proposed plan of action was distributed. Mr. Gibb explained this is a dual plan to both monitor Whitman-Walker Clinic's finances and operation and assess its service delivery for the Northern Virginia region. The four-person advisory council will report back to the governing bodies of Alexandria, Arlington and Fairfax County and NVRC on Whitman-Walker's progress and activities.

Commissioner Connolly endorsed this approach but said the Commission needs to focus on Whitman-Walker's ill-advised decision to cease delivery of services to part of the region. He believes that a local elected official from Northern Virginia should be appointed to Whitman-Walker's Board of Directors.

Ms. Simmons reported that both the D.C. HIV/AIDS Office and HRSA support Northern Virginia's exploration of other AIDS services providers to provide services in lieu of Whitman-Walker Clinic of Northern Virginia.

DRAFT
LEGISLATIVE
PLATFORM

Staff distributed a draft platform. Commissioner Connolly reported the Legislative Committee had met twice. The draft platform for the 2006 General Assembly is similar to last year's. The position on transportation funding is the same regional position adopted by the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority. There are two new positions on condominium conversions and a new position on Urban/Suburban BMP Cost Share and Tax Credit Program.

Commissioner Tulloch advised the members that December 8 is the date for pre-filing by the General Assembly members. Since the Commission does not meet before then, he moved approval of the 2006 Legislative Platform so the jurisdictions' legislative liaisons can move these items forward. The motion was seconded.

At Commissioner Nohe's request, the members agreed to delete the phrase "...that previously had this authority" under the position on Photo Red. The 2006 Legislative Platform as amended was unanimously adopted.

**OTHER
BUSINESS**

- A. Commissioner Smedberg, Communication Committee Chairman, announced that staff is redesigning the NVRC website. Photos of all Commissioners will be posted on the website. The website will highlight the work of the staff and the resources available. Additionally, NVRC lapel pins will be designed and distributed to members.

- B. Commissioner Tejada reminded the members of MWCOG's November 17 forum for public officials on day laborer issues.

- C. Commissioner O'Reilly announced that Herndon is dedicating its new police station. Part of this new building is leased to the Fairfax County Public Schools and to the regional gang task force.

ADJOURNMENT There being no further business, Chairman Favola adjourned the meeting at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

G. Mark Gibb
Executive Director

Approved by:

Barbara A. Favola
Chairman