

NORTHERN VIRGINIA REGIONAL COMMISSION

Minutes of the Commission Meeting Held Thursday, March 24, 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	County of Fairfax
Commissioner Gerald E. Connolly, NVRC Treasurer	County of Fairfax
Commissioner W. S. Covington, III	<i>County of Prince William</i>
Commissioner Joan Cross	City of Fairfax
Commissioner William T. Druhan, Jr.	<i>Town of Purcellville</i>
Commissioner Joan DuBois	<i>County of Fairfax</i>
Commissioner Barbara A. Favola, NVRC Vice 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	County of Fairfax
Commissioner Elaine N. McConnell	<i>County of Fairfax</i>
Commissioner Martin E. Nohe	County of Prince William
Commissioner Michael O'Reilly	Town of Herndon
Commissioner Harry J. Parrish, II	City of Manassas
Commissioner Bryan Polk	City of Manassas Park
Commissioner Redella S. Pepper	City of Alexandria
Commissioner Jane Seeman	<i>Town of Vienna</i>
Commissioner Paul C. Smedberg	<i>City of Alexandria</i>
Commissioner Linda Smyth	County of Fairfax
Commissioner J. Walter Tejada	County of Arlington
Commissioner Bruce E. Tulloch	<i>County of Loudoun</i>
Commissioner Kristen C. Umstattd, NVRC Chairman	Town of Leesburg
Commissioner Lori Waters	<i>County of Loudoun</i>

STAFF PRESENT

Linda M. Tenney	<i>Deputy Director</i>
Linda Summerall	<i>Executive Secretary</i>
Kenneth Billingsley	<i>Director, Demographics</i>
Normand Goulet	<i>Sr. Environmental Planner/ Information Systems Mgmt. Analyst</i>
Katherine Mull	<i>Senior Environmental Planner</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

Bruce and Jody Bennett	<i>Residents of Vienna</i>
Anton "Tony" Gardner	<i>Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service, Univ. of Virginia</i>
Jessica Marfut	<i>Recipient of Pickford Memorial Scholarship and Graduate Student at George Mason University</i>
Sue Rowland	<i>SR Consulting, Inc.</i>
Eldon James	<i>SR Consulting, Inc.</i>

CALL TO ORDER Chairman Umstattd called the meeting to order at 7:35 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 Connolly moved approval of the minutes of the January 27, 2005 and February 26, 2005 meetings. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

PICKFORD MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Chairman Umstattd noted that the Commission established a scholarship at George Mason University in memory of Jim Pickford, a long-time former member and past chairman.

Chairman Umstattd turned the floor over to Jessica Marfurt, one of the Pickford Scholarship recipients for the past two years. Ms. Marfurt is in her final semester of an MPA program with a concentration in Environmental Science and Policy. During the fall semester, she worked as an intern at the Council on Environmental Quality at the White House, and this winter she has been working as a cooperative education student at the Environmental Protection Agency. Ms. Marfurt has received an employment offer pending graduation with the Government Accountability Office and is a semifinalist for the Presidential Management Fellow program; she is waiting to hear from the Forest Service and the Department of Interior. Ms. Marfurt thanked the Commissioners for the scholarship, noting it has allowed her to live in Northern Virginia (a high-cost housing area) while pursuing her degree.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Connolly moved approval of the consent agenda, consisting of the items outlined below. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

- A. Financial Reports for December 2004 and January and February 2005
- B. Resolution No. P05-16: Authorization to Submit a Technical Assistance Proposal to the Department of Environmental Quality's 2005-2006 Coastal Resources Management Program
- C. Resolution No. P05-17: Authorization to Apply for, Receive, and Subcontract 2005-2006 Title I Funds for Services Under the Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency (CARE) Act of 1990, As Amended
- D. Resolution No. P05-18: Authorization to Apply for, Receive, and Subcontract Title II Funds for 2005-2006 for Services Under the Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency (CARE) Act of 1990, As Amended for Services to Eligible Persons with HIV/AIDS
- E. Resolution No. P05-19: SPONSORSHIP OF APPLICATIONS TO THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR TRANSPORTATION PLANNING GRANTS UNDER THE STATE TRANSPORTATION PILOT PROGRAM

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- A. Chairman Umstattd reported that Mr. Gibb had a family emergency and Ms. Tenney would fill in for him tonight.

B. Ms. Tenney pointed out the new "program highlights" in lieu of the monthly activities report, and the members provided positive feedback. In reply to Commissioner Connolly's concern that the demographics comparing Northern Virginia's close-in suburbs to its outer-ring suburbs did not include Fairfax County, Mr. Billingsley explained that the data presented in the report were selected specifically to demonstrate the contrast between inner and outer suburbs. Since Fairfax County is geographically positioned so that it has characteristics of both, it was not included in illustrating the issue being described. Mr. Billingsley indicated that the same type of data is available for all the counties and cities in Northern Virginia, and he would be glad to supply it.

C. At the invitation of Ms. Tenney, Mr. Pickford and Ms. Mull reported that the DVD on low impact development (LID) has been shown in several arenas, including the annual Environmental Film Festival, and EPA has distributed it to its regional offices. NVRC has received funding from EPA's Chesapeake Bay Program through Virginia's Department of Conservation and Recreation and will distribute the DVD to the Northern Virginia Boards and Councils and the jurisdictions' planning commissions.

Commissioner Hudgins pointed out that developers and homeowner associations in Reston have incorporated low impact development for the past 30-40 years, so LID longevity should be stressed.

D. Following up on the highlight on funding for the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail, Mr. Pickford reported that the Commission's resolution had been transmitted to the Northern Virginia Congressional Delegation. Additionally, Mr. Pickford has been meeting with and educating the Senators' staff on this project.

E. Resolution No. P05-20: POSITION REGARDING CONGRESSIONAL RESTORATION OF FUNDING TO THE U.S. COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Ms. Tenney called attention to Resolution No. P20-05 on the table, asking authorization to request the Northern Virginia Congressional Delegation to support restoring funding for the U.S. Coastal Zone Management Program to last year's amount. Virginia's Coastal Zone Management Program implementation funds have been capped at \$2 million for the state since 1989. Taking inflation into account, this is equivalent to a 75% cut in operating funds.

Commissioner O'Reilly moved adoption of Resolution No. P05-20. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

F. Ms. Tenney reminded the members that NVRC staff has administered the federally-funded Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS (HOPWA) grant in Northern Virginia for 13 years. The funding comes from the Dept. of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) through the District of Columbia for the metropolitan Washington region; in turn, D.C. passes the Northern Virginia portion to NVRC to administer. Staff has experienced chronic problems with D.C. in processing contract documents and payments. To date, NVRC does not yet have the Intergovernmental Agreement from D.C. for Year 13, which began in January. Ms. Tenney warned the Commissioners there could be service interruptions for the 100 people receiving housing under this program, and Commissioners may hear from the service providers and/or their constituents about this.

Ms. Simmons confirmed she has vigorously pursued the missing Intergovernmental Agreement for six months to no avail. Ms. Tenney added that Mr. Gibb met on February 9 with the Director of D.C. HAA and the Co-chair of the HIV Planning Council.

Commissioner Hudgins moved that the Commission send a letter to D.C. Mayor Williams. The motion was seconded. Ms. Rowland was recognized and suggested the letter also reference problems with untimely payments under the CARE Act contract, and members concurred. They also agreed that the Congressional Delegation should be copied on the letter. Further, if there is no action within two weeks, NVRC should send another letter

directly to the Congressional Delegation. The motion as amended carried unanimously. Commissioner Cross suggested encouraging Congress to amend the legislation so Northern Virginia's funding portion goes directly to NVRC.

It was further agreed that copies of the letters be sent to all Commissioners. Commissioner Hudgins volunteered that she and Commissioner Tejada could raise this issue at the next meeting of MWCOG's Human Services Committee.

2005 LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY

Commissioner Connolly, Chairman of NVRC's Legislative Committee, reported that financially, Northern Virginia fared reasonably well, with a little extra education funding.

Regarding Del. Lingamfelter's bill on land use proffers, Fairfax County will ask the Governor to modify the bill to allow up to ten years to use or lose the proffers. He encouraged the Commissioners to urge a one-year extension of the photo red legislation. The telecom bills were put aside.

Ms. Rowland reported that \$250,000 has been earmarked for a new building for the District Home; NVRC requested \$2 million. Fifty million dollars has been earmarked for natural resources.

FOLLOW-UP TO STRATEGIC PLANNING

Mr. Gardner opened the discussion by recapping both the process and the outcome of the Commission's February 26 retreat in Leesburg. He recalled that some of the questions remaining at the end of the meeting were: Should the Commission hold a press conference; have a meeting with the Northern Virginia delegation to the General Assembly; have a communications committee (and make the meeting with the delegation part of a larger communications plan); take up specific issues from the "top ten" list; change the Commission's structure, operations, and/or relationship with its staff?

Members agreed that the majority of the "top ten" regional issues identified at the strategic planning session are tied to revenue issues and local government authority, and that these two topics should be the focus of a meeting with the Northern Virginia delegation to the General Assembly. They further agreed to invite the delegation to the April 28 Commission meeting, and to have a committee – including Commissioner Connolly as Chair of the Legislative Committee, NVRC Chair Kristen Umstattd, and legislative consultant Sue Rowland – prepare an agenda and a strategy for the meeting. It was agreed that the entire Northern Virginia delegation should be invited, but that Commissioners would be asked to make targeted personal follow-up calls. Commissioner O'Reilly suggesting including the "top ten" list with the invitation to the Delegation.

Commissioner Connolly proposed that NVRC staff undertake a study of unfunded state mandates on local governments in the region. Commissioner Parrish suggested including partially funded promises as well (i.e., the car tax, education Standards of Quality, "599" funding). Commissioner Nohe added it also should include items that are not actually mandates, but are deficiently funded by the state. It was agreed staff would prepare for the next meeting a précis for the study, addressing definitional issues and an achievable and meaningful scope. The Commission's intent to complete the study would be communicated to members of the Northern Virginia delegation to the General Assembly at the April Commission meeting; findings would be expected by the Commission in the fall.

Members agreed to continuing their "visioning" at the May meeting, with Mr. Gardner suggesting that this be done early in the meeting.

Commissioner Connolly requested that the May meeting focus on only two items, and that the second item be an a staff briefing on demographic shifts in the region. He commended staff for an excellent presentation on this topic at a recent Fairfax Committee of 100

meeting. It was agreed that the report should place some emphasis on age and ethnicity characteristics of the region's population.

Commissioner Bulova hoped that future Commission meetings would be planned to provide quarterly opportunities for members to share information on specific issues, such as how they are dealing with residential crowding or day labor. Members concurred that this is desirable, and recalled that the consensus at the February retreat was to have issues announced sufficiently in advance to permit local staff preparation of briefing material.

Mr. Gardner closed the discussion by acknowledging the progress the Commission has made during its past two meetings, but recognized that the Commission has much yet to do, particularly on deciding issues about what structure and staffing will be most effective in helping the reconstituted Commission achieve its potential.

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES

Chairman Umstattd appointed the Executive Committee, which is required and prescribed in the Bylaws. She explained that this Committee includes, at minimum, the officers and one elected official from each jurisdiction. Her appointments rely on the officers to serve also as their jurisdictions' representatives. For the three member governments where there is more than one appointee to the Commission and none is an officer of the Commission, the Commissioner with the longest tenure on the Commission is appointed to the Executive Committee. The Committee therefore is composed of Commissioners Umstattd, Favola, Connolly, Tulloch, Barg, Pepper, Cross, Gardner, Parrish, Polk, Bray, O'Reilly, Druhan and Seeman.

Members commented that the new Executive Committee probably doesn't need fourteen members and recommended that this provision of the Bylaws be reviewed.

Chairman Umstattd appointed Commissioners O'Reilly, Parrish, Tulloch, Bulova and Gross to the Operations Committee. These appointments continue the service of Commissioners who previously were members of the Operations Committee and adds representation for a second county and a city. The Bylaws specify that the Treasurer (Commissioner Connolly) chairs the Operations Committee and that five to eight other members are to serve. Commissioner O'Reilly moved that the Operations Committee review the Bylaws. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Chairman Umstattd reported that Commissioner Favola volunteered to chair a new committee — Communications. Commissioners Smedberg, DuBois, Cross and Tejada also volunteered to serve.

Chairman Umstattd reappointed members to the Legislative Committee and added new members, as follows: Commissioners Connolly (Chair), Hudgins, Smyth, Nohe, O'Reilly, Pepper, Gardner, Seeman. The Chair also will invite a representative from Loudoun County to join the committee.

OTHER BUSINESS

Replying to Commission Pepper's inquiry about the lease, Ms. Tenney said there have been significant issues to negotiate in the pending lease agreement, but that a satisfactory result is expected. She added that the current landlord has offered cash for NVRC to vacate on time, or would allow holding over for a short time with no increase in rent. To keep all options open, terms for remaining in the current space also are being discussed.

Commissioner Connolly reported that the federal government is proposing a \$2 billion cut in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding and transferring the program to the Commerce Department. It was agreed that a letter opposing the change and signifying the Commission's support for preserving the integrity of the CDBG program should be sent to the Northern Virginia Congressional delegation as soon as possible.

ADJOURNMENT There being no further business, Chairman Umstattd adjourned the meeting at 9:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

G. Mark Gibb
Executive Director

Approved by:

Kristen Umstattd
Chairman