

NORTHERN VIRGINIA REGIONAL COMMISSION

Minutes of the Commission Meeting Held Thursday, May 28, 2009

COMMISSIONERS

(The names of those members present are highlighted.)

Hon. Sharon Bulova	County of Fairfax
Hon. John C. Cook	County of Fairfax
Hon. Joan Cross	City of Fairfax
Hon. Charlie Waddell for 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. Stevens Miller	County of Loudoun
Hon. Suhas Naddoni	City of Manassas Park
Hon. Martin E. Nohe, NVRC Vice Chairman	County of Prince William
Hon. Harry J. Parrish II, NVRC Chairman	City of Manassas
Hon. Redella S. Pepper, NVRC Treasurer	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. Kristen C. Umstatt	Town of Leesburg
Hon. Clyde N. Washington, 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
Ken Billingsley	Director, Information & Demographic Services
Barbara Gordon	Communications Director
David Schwengel	Director, Regional Emergency Preparedness Planning
Michelle Simmons	Director, Human Services
Debbie Spiliotopoulos	Solid Waste Program Manager
Aimee Vosper	Director, Environmental & Planning Services

GUESTS

Paul DesJardins	Dir., Community Planning & Services, MWCOG
Stuart Freudberg	Dir., Environmental Programs, MWCOG
John Larson	President, New Life Energy, LLC
James Massa	Massa Green Enterprises
John Mataya	Regional Planner, MWCOG
Dave Robertson	Executive Director, Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments

CALL TO ORDER Chairman Parrish called the meeting to order at 8:01 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.

Chairman Parrish welcomed John Cook, a new member of the Commission representing Fairfax County.

APPROVAL OF
MINUTES

The minutes of the April 23, 2009, meeting of the Commission were moved, seconded and approved, with Commissioner Lippman and Mr. Waddell abstaining.

PRESENTATIONS

BIOFUEL TROLLEY

Chairman Parrish introduced the two speakers. John Larson is President of New Life Energy, LLC of Leesburg. Mr. Larson has over 20 years experience of management, sales and consulting experience in the information technology business. New Life Energy produces solutions for making local government and nonprofit organizations energy independent through the use and innovation of alternative energy solutions. James Massa is with Massa Green Enterprises in Sterling, which specializes in converting diesel-fueled vehicles to run on vegetable oil. Mr. Massa retired a few years ago after a 25-year career in the high tech industry.

Chairman Parrish turned the floor over to Commissioner Umstattd, who had arranged for this presentation. Commissioner Umstattd said the Town Council was very impressed with this technology, which is being used to run the Leesburg Trolley. The pair have worked with the Germans who frequently use this technology.

John Larson

Mr. Larson explained he is working with Virginia Regional Transit, which owns and operates the trolley for the Town of Leesburg. Mr. Larson specializes in filtering the used vegetable oil fuel while Mr. Massa specializes in the engine conversion. Mr. Larson collects the used cooking oil from local restaurants, refines it and sells it to Massa Green Enterprises. As a partnership, they focus on economical, local, alternative energy solutions for transportation.

James Massa

Mr. Massa said that running a diesel engine on vegetable oil has been around since the diesel engine was invented, although it was not economical at that time. Today, waste vegetable oil is economical. Massa Green Enterprises has converted several hundred diesel cars, buses, semis, and trolleys.

Running the Leesburg Trolley on used vegetable oil is a six-month pilot project started on January 19, 2009. It currently has 50,000 miles running mostly on the oil; it uses two to five gallons of diesel for every 25 gallons of waste vegetable oil.

The speakers focused on the economics of their technology, noting that use of a converted vehicle pays for itself over a short period (six to 18 months, depending on the fuel economy of the vehicle). Collecting waste oil from restaurants and using it saves local governments' money, as the restaurants don't surreptitiously dump the oil and grease into the waste stream. Further, there are no sulfur emissions.

questions & answers

Mr. Massa clarified that the vehicle essentially becomes a hybrid: when first started, the motor runs on diesel, switches to the vegetable oil, and ends on diesel. New Life Energy, LLC charges \$2.65/gallon for vegetable oil; Massa Green Enterprises can deliver vegetable oil to individuals. Mr. Massa said his company's supply is more than adequate to meet current demand. He added that farmers in Europe raise virgin stock. An estimated 600,000 cars in Germany run on vegetable oil.

Commissioner Lazaro asked if Virginia Regional Transit plans to expand mass transit fueled by vegetable oil to other jurisdictions. Mr. Larson replied it is still a pilot project and the results will need to be analyzed by Virginia Regional Transit. Mr. Massa added that the agency seems very pleased with the results so far.

[Contact information for the speakers: John Larson, john@nl-energy.com; James Massa, james.massa@gogme.com.]

GREATER WASHINGTON 2050 SURVEY: PRIORITIES FOR A GROWING REGION

Chairman Parrish introduced Dave Robertson, Executive Director of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOG). Accompanying Mr. Robertson were Paul DesJardin, Director, Community Planning & Services; Stuart Freudberg, Director, Environmental Programs; and John Mataya, Regional Planner.

Dave Robertson

Mr. Robertson explained that the idea for looking 40 years into the future came out of MWCOG's 50th anniversary last year. Sharon Bulova chaired the Greater Washington 2050 Coalition, comprised of members of the business, nonprofit and public sectors. Based on the survey results and existing regional policy, the Greater Washington 2050 Coalition will propose regional goals for public discussion, with the aim of balancing growth, improving the quality of life, and maintaining the region's vibrant economy.

Survey Findings:

- Residents in the D.C. region feels engaged and connected to the region as a whole.
Nearly three-quarters of survey respondents have a "strong feeling of connection" to the metropolitan region as a whole. Nearly all residents actively seek information about happenings in the region through TV, radio, newspapers or online.
- Residents appreciate the region as vibrant, diverse, and interesting.
The following attributes received the highest marks: a community that respects people of all backgrounds, interesting arts and cultural opportunities, recreational opportunities for people of all ages, enough parks and open space, and a clean environment.
- Several shortcomings — respondents thought the region does not do enough to: help people in need, ensure all have access to health care and good jobs, provide affordable housing, and plan for growth and development.
- Residents support more regional solutions, particularly priorities such as housing and the economy.
- While traffic is a leading irritant it is not where the public would place the most effort over the long-term.
The survey concludes that while traffic is a pressing, long-term problem, the respondents identified a number of other pressing priorities needing greater attention.
- Residents have a clear set of long-term priorities for the future, led by quality schools and safe neighborhoods.
Good jobs for everyone who wants one, better access to health care, more help for people who are in need, fostering a cleaner environment, making housing more affordable, and better planning for growth and development are the other long-term priorities for the future.

questions & answers Replying to Commissioner Gross' inquiry, Mr. Robertson explained that the study was done in two parts. Phase one consisted of focus group discussions in December 2008 conducted by an independent research firm. Phase two was a randomly conducted telephone survey of 1,313 adults over ten days in February 2009.

Commissioner Nohe pointed out that the study asked about better transportation choices, not if more transportation is or will be needed.

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

- A. Financial Reports for April 2009
- B. Resolution No. P09-24: Extension of Auditor Engagement
- C. Resolution No. P09-25: Authorization to Apply for U.S. EPA Grant to Undertake a Food Waste Composting Feasibility Study and Pilot Design for Northern Virginia

EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR'S
REPORT

Mr. Gibb distributed a copy of his report and reviewed updates on:

- 2009 *Quick Guide* — Ten complimentary copies were made available to members along with information on distribution to the member jurisdictions.
- Community Energy Planning (CEP) — NVRC staff and Loudoun County staff facilitated a two-day planning workshop. The final product will include a report of recommendations and conclusions and an outline for an energy efficiency and conservation block grant application by Loudoun County to the U.S. EPA in late June. Funding for the planning workshop was provided by the Commonwealth and Virginia Dominion Power. Replying to Commissioner Hundgins' inquiry, Mr. Gibb confirmed that a neighborhood, such as Tyson's Corner, would be eligible for grant funding for a CEP.
- NVRC hosted a regional East Coast Greenways Forum earlier in the month.
- Purcellville has placed 1,271 acres adjacent to the Appalachian Trail in the largest conservation/open space easement in Loudoun County — the first by a municipality in the county. The county now has 24,117 acres in easements with the Virginia Outdoor Foundation, ranking 6th in the state.
- Clean Water Partners has begun its spring 2009 campaign to reduce pollution that reaches local creeks and waters and eventually the Chesapeake Bay. Besides PSAs on radio stations, this year the campaign is placing ads on Google, Yahoo, Facebook, and MySpace. The campaign's website (www.onlyrain.org) now includes behavior-specific web pages, an events calendar, and an e-newsletter sign-up.
- Information on additional funding recommendations for Ryan White Part A and Part B awards was distributed. Awards to service providers will be announced June 4.
- The Virginia Association of Planning District Commissions (VAPDC) will hold its annual summer conference in Virginia Beach July 30-August 1. Featured topics will include the economy, energy, and transportation, and the gubernatorial candidates are tentatively scheduled as the luncheon keynote speakers. Commissioners were encouraged to attend.
- International Best Practices dialogues continue, with Chairman Parrish, Mr. Gibb and an one NVRC staff attending the METREX conference in Paris as guests of the French embassy. Additionally, Mr. Gibb attended meetings in D.C. with the German Ambassador and the Mayor of Stuttgart.

CHAIRMAN'S
REPORT

Chairman Parrish commented how impressed he was by a new business district on the outskirts of Paris called La Défense, filled with large, modern office buildings, apartments and retail interspersed with modern art and statues, parks and sports facilities. It is accessible by metro. He added it would be worth a trip by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors in connection with the redevelopment of Tyson's Corner.

**NOMINATING
COMMITTEE
REPORT**

Commissioner Umstadd, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, reported that the committee unanimously recommends the following slate of officers:

Harry J. Parrish II	Chairman
Martin E. Nohe	Vice Chairman
Redella S. "Del" Pepper	Treasurer

Chairman Parrish called for nominations from the floor. Hearing none, Commissioner Favola moved that the nominations be closed. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously. Chairman Parrish reminded the members that the election will be held at the Commission's June 25 meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS Commissioner Pepper, Chairman of the Operations Committee, reported that the Committee met before the Commission meeting and endorses Resolution No. P09-26: Authorization to Accept Additional UASI Funds to Reimburse Localities for Extra Personnel Costs Associated With a Mass Casualty Exercise. She moved adoption of the resolution. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Gross, Chairman of the Legislative Committee, reported the committee will meet at 6:30 p.m. on June 25 (the night of the Commission meeting) to start developing the Commission's 2010 Legislative Platform. A draft platform will be reviewed at Commission's October 22 meeting.

Commissioner York commented that the local residential tax rates used in the Dwoskin report on the credit crisis were not accurate because they did not take into account that Prince William County assesses its residents a separate fee for fire and rescue services, effectively lowering its tax rate. Mr. Gibb said he has already spoken with Mr. Dwoskin about this and it is being corrected in the report.

ADJOURNMENT There being no further business, Chairman Parrish adjourned the meeting at 9:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

G. Mark Gibb
Executive Director

Approved by:

Harry J. Parrish II
Chairman