

# NORTHERN VIRGINIA REGIONAL COMMISSION

## Minutes of the Commission Meeting Held Thursday, March 23, 2006

### 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>
<b>Commissioner Sharon Bulova</b>	<b>County of Fairfax</b>
<b>Commissioner Gerald E. Connolly, NVRC Vice Chairman</b>	<b>County of Fairfax</b>
Commissioner W. S. Covington, III	<i>County of Prince William</i>
<b>Commissioner Joan Cross</b>	<b>City of Fairfax</b>
<b>Commissioner William T. Druhan, Jr.</b>	<b>Town of Purcellville</b>
<b>Commissioner Joan DuBois</b>	<b>County of Fairfax</b>
<b>Commissioner Barbara A. Favola, NVRC Chairman</b>	<b>County of Arlington</b>
<b>Commissioner Robin Gardner</b>	<b>City of Falls Church</b>
<b>Commissioner Penelope A. Gross</b>	<b>County of Fairfax</b>
<b>Commissioner Catherine Hudgins</b>	<b>County of Fairfax</b>
Commissioner Elaine N. McConnell	<i>County of Fairfax</i>
Commissioner Martin E. Nohe	<i>County of Prince William</i>
<b>Commissioner Michael O'Reilly</b>	<b>Town of Herndon</b>
<b>Commissioner Harry J. Parrish, II, NVRC Treasurer</b>	<b>City of Manassas</b>
Commissioner Redella S. Pepper	<i>City of Alexandria</i>
Commissioner Bryan Polk	<i>City of Manassas Park</i>
<b>Commissioner M. Jane Seeman</b>	<b>Town of Vienna</b>
<b>Commissioner Paul C. Smedberg</b>	<b>City of Alexandria</b>
Commissioner Linda Smyth	<i>County of Fairfax</i>
Commissioner Stephen Snow	<i>County of Loudoun</i>
<b>Commissioner J. Walter Tejada</b>	<b>County of Arlington</b>
<b>Commissioner Bruce E. Tulloch</b>	<b>County of Loudoun</b>
<b>Commissioner Kristen C. Umstadd</b>	<b>Town of Leesburg</b>

### STAFF PRESENT

G. Mark Gibb	<i>Executive Director</i>
Linda M. Tenney	<i>Deputy Director</i>
Heather Moncrieff Shackley	<i>Executive Assistant</i>
Stacie Balderston	<i>HIV/AIDS Grants Program Manager</i>
Kenneth Billingsley	<i>Director, Demographics</i>
Barbara Gordon	<i>Director, Communications</i>
Normand Goulet	<i>Senior Environmental Planner</i>
Doug Pickford	<i>Director, Environmental and Heritage Resources</i>
David Schwengel	<i>Director, Regional Emergency Preparedness Planning</i>
Michelle Simmons	<i>Director, Human Services</i>
Nicolette Solan	<i>Federal Grants Program Analyst</i>
Debbie Spiliotopoulos	<i>Senior Environmental Planner</i>
James Van Zee	<i>Director, Regional Planning Services</i>

### GUESTS PRESENT

Phillip Bailey	<i>Northern Virginia PWA Advocate</i>
John Bender	<i>Planning Council Member</i>
Bruce Bennett	<i>Hunter Mill Road Traffic Calming Committee</i>
Daniel L. Brown	<i>Wholistic Family Agape Ministries Institute</i>
Ed Cotter	<i>Northern Virginia HIV Consortium</i>
Adrain Davis	<i>PWA</i>
Dana Fenton	<i>Prince William County</i>
Michelle Gregory	<i>Fairfax County Dept of Systems Mgmt</i>
Julia Hidalgo, ScD, MSW, MPH	<i>CEO, Positive Outcomes, Inc.</i>
David Hunn	<i>Director, Northern Virginia Workforce Board</i>
Eldon James	<i>SR Consulting</i>
JoAnne Jorgenson	<i>Fairfax Health Department</i>
Charles Konigsberg, Jr., MD, MPH	<i>Alexandria Health Department</i>
Thomas A. Mason	<i>Town of Leesburg</i>
Wade Menear	<i>Northern Virginia HIV Consortium</i>
Nathan Monell	<i>Northern Virginia AIDS Ministry</i>

**GUESTS PRESENT (Continued)**

Robert Moon  
Sue Rowland  
Ronald Scheraga  
Amy Sheldon  
Jane Woods

*Prince William Interfaith Caregivers  
SR Consulting  
PWA, Alexandria  
Northern Virginia AIDS Ministry  
SR Consulting*

CALL TO ORDER Chairman Favola called the meeting to order at 7:30 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 O'Reilly moved approval of the minutes of the January 26, 2006 and February 9, 2006 Commission Meetings. The motion was seconded and approved with Commissioner Tulloch abstaining.

SPECIAL  
PRESENTATION  
*Dr. Julia Hidalgo*

Chairman Favola introduced Julia Hidalgo, ScD, MSW, MPH. Dr. Hidalgo is a research professor with the George Washington University School of Public Health and Health Services. She also serves as the Chief Executive Officer of Positive Outcomes, Inc., an independent, national consulting firm that addresses the strategic planning, management, analytic, and technology needs of public and private sector clients.

Dr. Hidalgo presented the findings from her recent Washington AIDS Partnership-funded study of the Northern Virginia HIV/AIDS care system. A full copy of the January 2006 report, *The Northern Virginia HIV Services and Financing System: Assessing Resources to Address an Era of Constrained Funding*, was made available at the meeting.

Dr. Hidalgo gave a brief introduction to the study and its scope of work and then reviewed the findings of the study in-depth. There are over 90 recommendations in the report. Below are highlights of those findings:

- More so than other areas in the country, Northern Virginia's system of care for persons with HIV/AIDS is affected by immigration from other parts of the world and mobility or migration by HIV positive around the region from other areas of this country.
- There has been migration of people to outlying counties, many of which do not have the public health infrastructure needed. These areas are doing their best to coordinate services, but services do not always exist.
- Funding has not kept pace with the need for AIDS services. In addition, in Northern Virginia there is not the "imprint" of a large institution (such as Johns Hopkins) to help support the system.
- There is a dependent situation in which Virginia has to look to the District of Columbia (DC) for funding. Title II funding from Virginia goes primarily to pharmaceuticals, and very little remains for other needs. There is no statutory authority for funding directly to the region, making Virginia indebted to other political environments.
- There is a striking disparity between the types and amounts of care available on either side of the River in the Washington metro area. There is a significant difference between the Medicaid programs in DC and Virginia.

- Contributions toward HIV/AIDS services also vary within the Northern Virginia jurisdictions, making the types of care available to be subject to jurisdictional boundaries.
- The recent crises with two clinics in Northern Virginia, have resulted in areas of explicit rationing.
- In comparing Northern Virginia's funding situation to that in other regions, it was noted that the funding situation is similar, but in other areas there are other options for care that can be drawn on which don't exist here. For example, the Virginia Medicaid program is renowned for being "bare bones," whereas in other states the Medicaid program provides additional options.
- DC received \$2.5 million less this year than the year before in Ryan White CARE Act, Title I funds. This represents an 8% cut in funding to the Washington metro region. The cut resulted from DC's poor preparation of the Washington metro application.
- Expectation is that Northern Virginia has to "bear its fair share" of the funding cut, but Virginia's system is already a fragile one, and some service agencies are at risk of closing.
- Without additional funds, the existing system is in grave danger. The idea that funding this system would be cut is quite concerning. The cut that has been made, if it is to stand, would cause significant damage to "core" services and would totally eliminate supportive services.

Questions and Answers:

*Favola*

Is there an opportunity for DC to submit a supplemental request?

*Hidalgo*

Although the Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA) has been briefed and is very aware of the situation, they cannot reconsider a redistribution of funds. Another opportunity will be available in one year.

*Bulova*

Can we split off and apply for funds on our own?

*Hidalgo*

Virginia is formulated as a part of the DC Metropolitan Area, and by statute, that's the way the funds must be distributed. Although HRSA can remind DC that they need to plan for the entire region, not just one area, HRSA is unable to allow a "divorce." Virginia has been treated as an after-thought and not properly included in regional planning.

Motion

Commissioner Bulova made a motion that a delegation from the Northern Virginia Regional Commission meet with its Northern Virginia Delegation to the US Congress to express the Commission's concerns. A letter, addressed to the Delegation, expressing concerns may also be prepared.

Discussion

In the discussion that followed, NVRC staff was asked by Commissioner Smedberg to explain what steps have already been taken to resolve this situation. Michelle Simmons reported that the Commission has approached DC and asked to be held harmless from the funding cuts and that the amount that was cut be reinstated in Northern Virginia's allocation. Ms. Simmons further reported that Mark Gibb has written a letter to Dr. Gregg Pane, Director of the District of Columbia Department of Health, and has not yet received a

response. A copy of this letter was distributed at the table. Suggestion was made to meet with HRSA face to face to talk about a re-designation. There was some discussion about the usefulness of contacting or meeting with elected officials from DC. Feeling of the Commission was that it would be important to first meet with the Congressional Delegation as they might have additional ideas and might play a role in future meetings.

Approval

Commissioner Bulova's motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

*Avian Flu*

Commissioner Umstattd asked that the Commission consider assembling a summit or meeting on the topic of avian flu and asked for input. She raised several questions about logistics related to work, school and general public health that would need to be addressed if the virus mutates and becomes passable from human to human.

Commissioner Gross responded that at the Washington Council of Governments (COG) Public Safety Policy Committee last week, a report was given by Dr. Gregg Pane of the District of Columbia. She suggested that additional information may be obtained from Nancy Ray or Calvin Smith at COG.

Mr. Gibb noted that Barbara Gordon, NVRC's Communication Director, today attended a statewide meeting in Richmond on this issue and asked her to report. Ms. Gordon reported that the main points that came out of that meeting were the need for communication, rumor control, continuity of operations, ethics, and priority of vaccines and medications. Ms. Gordon also reported that a 15 minute DVD about the flu was distributed at today's summit and is available on the state's website.

Commissioner Gardner noted that in the City of Falls Church, staff had put together a report on community approaches to a flu epidemic. She suggested that similar reports from other jurisdictions could be gathered and shared in the Commission's forum.

Commissioner Connolly recommended *The Great Influenza* by John Barry, which is the story of the Spanish Flu in 1918. In addition, Commissioner Connolly suggested that the Commission vet some probing questions (such as those about policy, ethics, infrastructure), in advance of the briefing, for which local governments need answers. He further noted that businesses need to formulate policies to deal with this, but they are expecting some guidance from government.

Following this discussion, Chairman Favola stated that it will be placed on an upcoming Commission agenda. Commissioner Smedberg suggested that the region's Human Service Officials be asked to provide a briefing on this issue to the Commission at this meeting.

*Whitman-Walker*

Suggestion was made to constitute an *ad hoc* committee of the Commission to receive staff work about the Whitman Walker Clinic situation, along with planning for HIV/AIDS care options in Northern Virginia, and to use that body to report back to the Commission for specific needs, to keep political leaders in the loop, and to guide that effort appropriately. In response to a question about the inclusion of citizen members on this committee, it was noted that perhaps citizen experts could be appointed after the committee begins. Volunteers for this committee were Commissioners Connolly, Favola, Hudgins, Parrish, Smedberg, and Umstattd.

CONSENT  
AGENDA

Commissioner Tulloch moved approval of the Consent Agenda, consisting of the items outlined below. *It was noted that for Item C, Resolution No. P06-17, a typographical error was made in the fifth paragraph. The termination date of the lease should read December 31, 2015.* The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

A. Financial Reports from January and February 2006

- B. Resolution No. P06-16: Authorization to Submit a Technical Assistance Proposal to the Department of Environmental Quality's 2005-2006 Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program.
- C. Resolution No. P06-17: Authorization to Execute Lease Amendment for Additional Office Space.
- D. Resolution No. P06-18: Authorization to Accept Funding from the National Park Service to Provide Technical Assistance in the Development of the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail in Virginia.
- E. Resolution No. P06-19: First Amendment to the FY 2006 Annual Budget and Programs.

EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR'S  
REPORT

- A. Mark Gibb introduced David Hunn, Director of the Northern Virginia Workforce Investment Board. Mr. Hunn provided the Commission with background information on the Northern Virginia Regional Partnership which was created in 1997 as part of the Virginia Regional Competitiveness Program. Mr. Hunn was seeking from the Northern Virginia Regional Commission, as representatives of their jurisdictions, approval to terminate the Northern Virginia Regional Partnership. A memorandum, outlining the history and status of the organization as well as the recommendations for disposition of the NVRP assets was distributed to Commissioners at the table.

Chairman Favola clarified that the Commission does not have the authority to abolish the Partnership; however individuals on the Commission can go back to their own jurisdictions to recommend such action.

Motion was made by Commissioner Connolly to refer the issue to the respective jurisdictions to act. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Following the motion, it was requested that Mr. Hunn send a letter to the mayors or chairs of local jurisdictions explaining the issue and suggesting the course of action he has recommended.

- B. Mark Gibb introduced Tom Mason, Director of Engineering and Public Works from the Town of Leesburg to present information on the Know Toxics campaign that the Northern Virginia Waste Management Board, under the auspices of the Commission, will be launching in April. The purpose of the campaign is to educate business owners and property managers about their responsibilities as relates to certain "toxics," including fluorescent bulbs, rechargeable batteries, and electronic equipment. The campaign will include a kick-off to be held on Friday, April 7, 2006, as well as brochures, posters, and a website. This will be followed by programs in participating jurisdictions beginning on Earth Day, Saturday, April 22, 2006. In the future, there are plans for an awards program to recognize businesses that are setting an example for others in their management of business toxics.

Doug Pickford introduced new NVRC staff member Debbie Spiliotopoulos to the Commission. Ms. Spiliotopoulos will be working with the Northern Virginia Waste Management Board as well as on other environmental programs of the Commission.

Barbara Gordon provided the Commission with information on the plans for the April 7 press conference introducing Know Toxics. Commissioners were encouraged to participate. It was noted that this date conflicts with a Homelessness Summit in which many Commissioners plan to participate. The Know Toxics press conference will be rescheduled.

In response to this information, Commissioners Tejada and Gross stressed the need to provide materials in other languages in order to reach all in our diverse community. In addition, it was suggested that efforts be made to reach out to ethnic media during

campaigns such as this. Commissioner Gross expressed her desire to have diversity of language automatically built in to all literature of the Commission. Commissioner Tejada affirmed this desire and offered his assistance in accomplishing this goal. Commissioner Connolly suggested that members of the media that represent non-English speaking residents be invited to participate in a future meeting. Chairman Favola asked that the Commission's Communications Committee review this issue and develop a plan for the Commission to adopt.

- C. Mr. Gibb reported on the Greater Washington Board of Trade's recent Potomac Conference on the future of this region which was held February 23-24 in Chantilly, Virginia. A summary of the conference from the Washington Business Journal and the Washington Post were distributed to Commissioners at the table.

#### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Favola was recently featured on NewsChannel 8, and a video clip of the interview was made available for those who wished to view it after the Commission meeting.

#### LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Commissioner Connolly introduced the legislative report, outlining the Commission's legislative priorities and the current status of each, which had been distributed at the table. Many issues having to do with funding are tied up in a budget impasse. A special session of the Assembly is to convene on Monday March 27, 2006.

Information sheets on *FY 2007 to FY 2010 State Budget Comparison of Transportation Funding Allocation and Funding Revenue* were distributed at the table. There was a great deal of discussion on the issue of Transportation and its funding as well as some speculation on what will be eventually passed.

In answer to a question about whether amounts agreed to would be time-limited, Ms. Rowland responded that because the transportation funding is not separate legislation, it would be tied to the biennial budget and would need to be revisited every two years.

Ms. Rowland made note of the PDC funding bill. The Senate has allowed for a \$500,000 budget that would benefit this PDC (as well as Hampton Roads and Richmond).

Commissioner Connolly introduced a letter that has been prepared for Commission approval. The letter, which Commissioner Favola would sign on behalf of the Commission, expresses to the Northern Virginia Delegation of the Virginia General Assembly the Commission's support of dedicated funding for Metro and the adoption of a significant overall increase in transportation funding for all modes. Motion to approve the letter was made by Commissioner Connolly, seconded and passed unanimously.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS *Communications Committee*

Commissioner Smedberg noted that in addition to Chairman Favola being interviewed on News Channel 8, and the Know Toxics Press Conference, NVRC was mentioned in six newspaper articles over the last month, including a March 17<sup>th</sup> article in the Washington Times, as well as mention on several local government websites. Mr. Gibb noted that there was also a large article in the Washington Post Arlington/Alexandria weekly section about the Four Mile Run Restoration Project. Barbara Gordon is preparing an article about the commission that will appear in the *Virginia Review* magazine. Also, podium signs are being ordered for use during press conferences and other events.

#### *Operations Committee*

Commissioner Parrish noted that the Operations Committee is earnestly working on Mark Gibb's contract and will be reporting back on that soon. He thanked Commissioner Gross for her efforts as well as everyone's attention to the forms that were submitted.

As a result of the charter change in 2005, the bylaws need to be updated. The Operations Committee expects to propose recommendations in the following five areas: Dues Formula, Rules for Weighted Voting, Alternates, Committees for the Organization, and Conditions for Terminating Membership. Although the Operations Committee has already spoken about some of these issues, it has decided that it is going to come back to the Commission with all of the Bylaws recommendations rather than bringing things piecemeal to the Commission table.

Commissioner Parrish provided the Commission with a status report on Operations Committee bylaws discussions to-date:

Dues Formula: The new formula will most likely be based on a straight per capita assessment from all member governments. This assessment of dues is simplest and most equitable, but would result in large increases for some towns. The Operations Committee recommends that the new formula be phased in over four years.

Weighted Voting: Weighted votes should be assigned and updated annually on each July 1, using the same population figures that established the dues for the fiscal year. In addition, population increments of 25,000 should be used to determine the number of votes per jurisdiction, rounding up for any portion of the increment. The weight of each member's vote at a particular Commission meeting should be determined by the number of members present from the jurisdiction when the vote is taken. A decision to have a weighted vote would automatically defer the actual vote to the next regular meeting. Per the charter, weighted voting is required by a motion of one jurisdiction and a second by a different jurisdiction.

There was some discussion about this, the concern being that if there were issues that needed to be settled immediately, having to wait for a vote might be inconvenient. It was noted that the Committee is still working on this issue and will be addressing these concerns.

Alternates: Currently only town representatives may designate alternates. The Operations Committee has considered that any member should be able to designate an alternate who also should be an elected member from his/her jurisdiction's Board or Council. Alternates should have all the privileges of a regular member, but should identify themselves prior to the meeting starting and there should be not attendance limitations affecting the service of alternates.

Commissioner Parrish noted that the remaining bylaws sections, Committees and Conditions for Terminating Membership, will be taken up next time the Operations Committee meets. In addition, the Operations Committee would like to meet one hour prior to the next Commission meeting on April 27 to discuss Mr. Gibb's evaluation.

Commissioner Parrish thanked Mark Gibb, Linda Tenney and Linda Summerall for their help in this bylaws review process.

#### OTHER BUSINESS

Following a suggestion from Commissioner Gardner that a boundary stones report be included on the next Commission agenda, Chairman Favola noted that it was on the agenda list for future Commission meetings although it might not come up next month.

Commissioner Tejada shared information on a day laborers summit, *Building Consensus: A Forum on Regional Day Labor Issues, Part II*, which will take place at the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments on Thursday, March 30, 2006. A flyer with additional information was distributed to Commissioners at the table.

Commissioner Gross noted that the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority is undergoing a strategic planning process. She thought it would be a terrific opportunity to

have a presentation by the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority at the Commission sometime during the next two to three months. They would like to have an opportunity to talk with the Commission about their strategy.

Commissioner Gross circulated to the Commission at the table *A Side-by-Side Comparison of the Chesapeake Bay Restoration Enhancement Act of 2005 (CBREA) and Chesapeake Bay Program Reauthorization and Environmental Accountability Act of 2005*, bills that are both under consideration on Capitol Hill. She noted that in talking with NVRC's Director of Environmental and Heritage Resource programs, Doug Pickford, there are some issues in HR 4126; the language requires water quality standards to be included in clean water permits. Non-point source standards are not a requirement for permits in Virginia and could have significant impact on local governments who might be responsible for enforcement. There is going to be a hearing in early April before Congressman Charlie Taylor's subcommittee. There will also be a meeting of the Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee in May; this is an opportunity when local governments may be able to submit testimony.

ADJOURNMENT      There being no further business, Chairman Favola asked for a motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Commissioner Hudgins, seconded and approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

G. Mark Gibb  
Executive Director

Approved by:

Barbara A. Favola  
Chairman