

NORTHERN VIRGINIA REGIONAL COMMISSION

Minutes of the Commission Meeting Held Thursday, May 27, 2004

COMMISSIONERS

(The names of those present are highlighted)

Commissioner Hilda M. Barg
Commissioner Johnine P. Barnes
Commissioner Melvin Bray
Commissioner Sharon Bulova
Commissioner James C. Chesley
Commissioner Gerald E. Connolly, NVRC Treasurer
Commissioner W. S. Covington, III
Commissioner Joan Cross
Commissioner Anna F. Dixon
Commissioner Joan DuBois
Commissioner William T. Druhan, Jr.
Commissioner Albert C. Eisenberg
Commissioner Barbara A. Favola, NVRC Vice Chairman
Commissioner Jay Fiset
Commissioner Robin Gardner
Commissioner Robert C. Goessman
Commissioner Brian M. Gordon
Commissioner Brenda Z. Greene
Commissioner Penelope A. Gross
Commissioner Catherine Hudgins
Commissioner David Kirkpatrick, Jr.
Commissioner Lyman Krekel
Commissioner D. Patrick Lewis
Commissioner Jesse Ludvigsen
Commissioner Elaine N. McConnell
Commissioner Natalie Mosher
Commissioner Brian Murphy
Commissioner Martin E. Nohe
Commissioner Michael O'Reilly
Commissioner Sally B. Ormsby
Commissioner Harry J. Parrish, II
Commissioner Redella S. Pepper
Commissioner James Peterbok
Commissioner Lilla D. Richards
Commissioner Paul C. Smedberg
Commissioner Linda Smyth
Commissioner Stephen J. Snow
Commissioner J. Walter Tejada
Commissioner Bruce E. Tulloch
Commissioner Kristen C. Umstadd, NVRC Chairman
Commissioner William R. Wren

County of Prince William
County of Fairfax
Town of Dumfries
County of Fairfax
County of Fairfax
County of Fairfax
County of Prince William
City of Fairfax
County of Fairfax
County of Fairfax
Town of Purcellville
County of Arlington
County of Arlington
County of Arlington
City of Falls Church
City of Manassas
County of Prince William
County of Fairfax
County of Fairfax
County of Fairfax
City of Fairfax
City of Falls Church
County of Fairfax
City of Manassas Park
County of Fairfax
City of Alexandria
County of Prince William
County of Prince William
Town of Herndon
County of Fairfax
City of Manassas
City of Alexandria
County of Loudoun
County of Fairfax
City of Alexandria
County of Fairfax
County of Loudoun
County of Arlington
County of Loudoun
Town of Leesburg
City of Manassas Park

STAFF PRESENT

G. Mark Gibb
Linda M. Tenney
Linda Summerall
Kenneth Billingsley
Doug Pickford
Michelle Simmons
James Van Zee

Executive Director
Deputy Director
Executive Secretary
Director, Demographics
Director, Environmental and Heritage Resources
Director, Human Services
Director, Regional Planning Services

GUESTS PRESENT

The Hon. Linda T. "Toddy" Puller
The Hon. Mark Sickles

Virginia Senate
Virginia House of Delegates

GUESTS PRESENT, con't.

Barry P. Steinberg, Esq.
Sue Rowland

Kutak Rock LLP
SR Consulting

CALL TO ORDER Chairman Umstattd called the meeting to order at 8:05 p.m. Since Senator Puller had not yet arrived, Chairman Umstattd said the Commission would conduct its business and then have the presentation.

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 Wren moved approval of the minutes of the April 22, 2004, meeting of the Commission. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

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

- A. Financial Reports for April 2004
- B. Resolution No. P04-23: First Amendment to the FY 2004 Annual Budget and Programs
- C. Resolution No. P04-24: Amendment of Mileage Reimbursement Rate for Use of Personal Automobiles in Connection with Commission Business
- D. Resolution No. P04-25: Annual General Adjustment for Employees of the Commission for FY 2005

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- A. In addition to the report in the meeting package, Mr. Gibb reported that the Governor has declared May as "Military Month," which coincides with activities of the Northern Virginia Visitors Consortium. Mr. Pickford reported that there are still a few tickets available at two of the three simulcast sites in Northern Virginia of the dedication of the World War II Memorial. He called attention to the World War II Heritage Trail map listing events of the 100-day celebration in Northern Virginia.
- B. Mr. Gibb reported the Purcellville Charrette received front page coverage in the Gainesville newspaper.
- C. Mr. Gibb congratulated the Commissioners who were re-elected in May: Ms. Cross, Mr. Chesley, Mr. O'Reilly, Mr. Parrish, Mr. Druhan, and Mr. Bray.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Umstattd recognized former Commissioner Bruce Holley and presented him with a certificate of appreciation for his term of service on the Commission. Mr. Holley thanked the members, noting his pleasure to have served with them, and urging them to act cohesively.

**NOMINATING
COMMITTEE
REPORT**

Commissioner Pepper, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, reported that the committee recommends the following slate of officers for election next month for Fiscal Year 2005:

Chairman	Kristen Umstatt
Vice Chairman	Barbara Favola
Treasurer	Gerald Connolly

There were no nominations from the floor.

Commissioner Hudgins moved acceptance of the slate of officers as presented. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

**RESOLUTION
NO. P04-21**

AUTHORIZATION TO SUBMIT A PROPOSAL ENTITLED "A CITIZEN'S GUIDE TO TREE PLANTING PROJECTS IN NORTHERN VIRGINIA" TO THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY

Commissioner Pepper explained that this grant will update the guides that NVRC has previously printed for three jurisdictions, creating a regional guide. The \$7,500 grant will be matched by NVRC's indirect costs.

Commissioner Pepper moved adoption of Resolution No. P04-21. The motion was seconded. In reply to questions by several members, Commissioner Pepper and Mr. Pickford noted that 2,000 brochures will be printed; the brochure will be posted on the Commission's website (www.novaregion.org) and can be downloaded.

The motion carried unanimously.

**RESOLUTION
NO. P04-22**

AUTHORIZATION TO SUBMIT A PROPOSAL ENTITLED "LOW IMPACT DEVELOPMENT HANDBOOK FOR HOMEOWNERS" TO THE FY 2004 COASTAL NONPOINT SOURCE POLLUTION CONTROL PROGRAM OF THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION

Commissioner Pepper explained that \$30,000 has been requested to print an estimated 1,000 handbooks. The required match will be covered by NVRC's indirect costs.

Commissioner Pepper moved adoption of Resolution No. P04-22. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

**COMMITTEE
REPORTS**
Legislative

Commissioner Connolly referred the members to the Final Legislative Report before them, and thanked Ms. Rowland for her work. He added that the General Assembly deserves credit for boosting funding for education.

While the budget contains a lot of funding for human services there is no new funding for transportation, which will adversely impact Northern Virginia. Additionally, the car tax is frozen at 70%, which will affect local government.

The bond houses reaffirmed the state's triple-A bond rating for three reasons: the improvement in the fiscal situation, the action taken by the General Assembly, and the capping of the car tax.

Commissioner Connolly reported that the pedestrian safety bills were killed, but some of the environmental and tourism bills supported by the Commission passed.

Ms. Rowland added that the General Assembly will take action on the budget on June 16. A revised final legislative report will be posted on the Commission's website in late June.

Human and

Community Services Commissioner Hudgins explained that the Commission appoints 25 percent of the members of the Board of Directors of the Health Systems Agency of Northern Virginia. She moved Resolution No. P04-26, reappointing Marsha Allgeier and Charles Konigsberg, MD to the Board for three-year terms. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

PRESENTATION *The Base Realignment And Closure (BRAC) Process And What It Means To Northern Virginia*

Mr. Gibb and Chairman Umstadd welcomed Virginia State Senator "Toddy" Puller, a member of the Virginia Commission on Military Bases. Senator Puller introduced Delegate Mark Sickles, the newest member of the Virginia Commission on Military Bases. Senator Puller informed the Commission that DoD leases a great deal of office space in Northern Virginia, and local elected officials cannot be complacent in the upcoming round of BRAC.

The floor was given to Barry Steinberg, an attorney with Kutak Rock LLP law firm in Washington, DC. Mr. Steinberg is a resident of Fairfax County and a retired Army JAG Colonel. He was involved with base closure activities (first started in 1988) before his retirement from the Army.

Mr. Steinberg said approximately 25 percent of the bases and leased military offices are excess infrastructure, but closing these facilities very often results in disastrous effects upon local communities. He expects 95 percent of DoD's suggested closures to be approved in the 2005 round.

The House of Representatives passed a bill to delay BRAC until 2007. The Senate rejected the bill so it goes to conference, probably late this summer. However, both parties are concerned that the next round of closures will be highly political. The decision-making process is to be made based on military value. Mr. Steinberg noted that the Pentagon, Henderson Hall and Ft. Myer in Arlington County are relatively safe from closure, as is Ft. Belvoir west of Route 1 in Fairfax County; the portion east of Rt. 1 is questionable but probably safe. The deputy undersecretary of defense in charge of BRAC has publicly questioned leased space when secure military facilities have excess capacity.

There is an enormous amount of DoD leased office space in Northern Virginia. If a significant amount of that space became vacant, the cost per square foot would be driven down, eventually affecting the tax base. If a military function is relocated out of area, the majority of employees will relocate, affecting residential real estate and the tax base.

Joint installation and cross-service are very important factors in this BRAC process. Quantico is an example of this, containing the FBI training center.

Senator Puller noted that the state has made funding available to study this process, and NVRC has received \$70,000. She added that the other regions in Virginia are more organized than Northern Virginia.

Delegate Sickles said Ft. Belvoir is growing rapidly, acquiring operations formerly housed in leased office space; 19,000 people work there every day. This affects the surrounding infrastructure.

questions and answers

Commissioner Gross commented that millions of dollars have been spent recently to retrofit much of the leased office space in Northern Virginia to make it secure.

Commissioner Connolly asked if there is a dollar target in BRAC. Mr. Steinberg said DoD looks at the break-even point of each possible closure. If the break-even point is roughly six years or less it is deemed a wise decision.

Commissioner Connolly then asked if the November election has any bearing on this issue. Mr. Steinberg said he believes it may, in that the current Secretary of Defense and his assistant are less likely to give weight to the impact on the communities, which is one criterion in the BRAC process. They are interested in how to get the maximum national security dollars out of the defense budget. The Democratic presidential candidate may be inclined to take a broader view of the financial implication, and may be inclined to look upon the defense budget as an element of the national economic security of the U.S. Mr. Steinberg stressed he is relaying what he thinks are the philosophies, not his own personal politics.

Commissioner Favola explained that Arlington County believes it can achieve the security standards expected by the federal government through unconventional ways, and has had conversations with Senator Warner asking him to try to ensure that the regulations are more goal oriented for security and less prescriptive. Mr. Steinberg replied there is no precise standard.

Commissioner Fisetta asked about the criteria that will be used. Mr. Steinberg said in the prior rounds the statute required the Secretary of Defense to promulgate the criteria; this time, Congress promulgated the criteria. There were five criteria and three special considerations which the Secretary was to take and promulgate more detailed criteria for public comment and then send to the House and Senate to accept or reject. There were over 200 public comments but there were no changes between the draft and the final criteria.

Commissioner Gordon commented on local land use encroaching on bases and suggested that NVRC think about including military facilities in land use planning and perhaps develop model legislation. Mr. Steinberg said this is being done in other jurisdictions on the state level. Delegate Sickles concurred that the military is frustrated with encroachment issues, as the military tries very hard to be a "good neighbor."

Commissioner Cross inquired about re-use of closed bases. Mr. Steinberg replied that it depends on the area and the type of base; often there are environmental issues to contend with. However, there have been successful re-uses, such as Vint Hill Farm Station in Fauquier County. Commissioner Pepper cited Cameron Station in Alexandria.

Chairman Umstadd and the Commissioners thanked Senator Puller, Delegate Sickles and Mr. Steinberg for their time on this important issue.

Commissioner Connolly moved that NVRC establish its own BRAC Committee. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously. Commissioners Pepper, Fisetta, Gross, Connolly, Nohe, and Gordon volunteered to serve on this committee.

Mr. Gibb reported that NVRC has received a \$70,000 grant from VCOMB that requires a 50 percent hard match, meaning in-kind services cannot be used. The Northern Virginia Chief Administrative Officers are aware of this and support this project. Mr. Gibb added that NVRC's BRAC Committee will need to figure out the funding; the local governments will need to come up with \$35,000 for this grant project. There will be additional state funding for BRAC in FY 2005.

OTHER BUSINESS Commissioner Gordon asked if an update on the regional juvenile gangs initiative can be on the June agenda. Commissioner Hudgins added that the Human and Community Services Committee wants very much to be involved in this effort as a committee. Commissioner Favola remarked that at the last meeting, the Commissioners directed Mr. Gibb to set up a meeting with the mayors and chairs, police chiefs and school superintendents. Mr. Gibb replied this is being worked on and a report on this subject will be made after that meeting occurs. Commissioner Gross reminded the members that COG is holding an all-day conference on this subject on September 29 at the Crystal City Marriott. Commissioner Hudgins stated her belief that human services staff need to be involved in this issue.

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

Respectfully submitted:

G. Mark Gibb
Executive Director

Approved by:

Kristen C. Umstattd
Chairman