

**NORTHERN VIRGINIA REGIONAL COMMISSION**

**Minutes of the Commission Meeting Held Thursday, January 25, 2007**

**COMMISSIONERS**

(The names of those present are highlighted)

**Commissioner Hilda M. Barg**  
**Commissioner Sharon Bulova**  
Commissioner Gerald E. Connolly, NVRC Vice Chairman  
Commissioner W. S. Covington, III  
**Commissioner Joan Cross**  
**Commissioner Steve DeBenedittis**  
**Commissioner Joan DuBois**  
**Commissioner Barbara A. Favola, NVRC Chairman**  
**Commissioner Penelope A. Gross**  
**Commissioner Catherine Hudgins**  
Commissioner Robert W. Lazaro, Jr.  
**Commissioner Harold Lippman**  
Commissioner Elaine N. McConnell  
Commissioner Martin E. Nohe  
**Commissioner Harry J. Parrish, II, NVRC Treasurer**  
**Commissioner Redella S. Pepper**  
**Commissioner M. Jane Seeman**  
**Commissioner Paul C. Smedberg**  
**Commissioner Linda Smyth**  
Commissioner Stephen Snow  
**Commissioner J. Walter Tejada**  
**Commissioner William J. Treuting, Jr.**  
**Commissioner Bruce E. Tulloch**  
Commissioner Kristen C. Umstatt  
**Commissioner Fred E. Yohey, Jr.**

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

**STAFF PRESENT**

G. Mark Gibb  
Linda M. Tenney  
Linda Summerall  
Ken Billingsley  
Barbara Gordon  
Matt Handy  
Doug Pickford  
David Schwengel  
Michelle Simmons  
James Van Zee

*Executive Director*  
*Deputy Director*  
*Executive Secretary*  
*Director, Demographics*  
*Communications Director*  
*GIS Analyst*  
*Director, Environmental and Heritage Resources*  
*Regional Emergency Services Planning Director*  
*Director, Human Services*  
*Director, Regional Planning Services*

**GUESTS PRESENT**

Bruce Bennett  
Gail Bohan  
Zachary Corrigan  
Kevin Harlen  
Elmer May  
Dave Rohr  
Jim Schwartz

*Hunter Mill Road Traffic Calming Committee*  
*City of Fairfax IT Dept.*  
*Northern Virginia Hospital Alliance*  
*Northern Virginia Hospital Alliance*  
*Arlington Co. Fire Dept.*  
*Fairfax Co. Fire & Rescue*  
*Fire Chief, Arlington Co.*

**CALL TO ORDER** Chairman Favola called the meeting to order at 7:32 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.

APPROVAL OF  
MINUTES

Chairman Favola requested deletion of the first sentence of Tom Geib's presentation. Commissioner Tulloch moved approval of the minutes of the December 14, 2006, meeting as amended. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

PRESENTATION

Overview of the Northern Virginia Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS)

Chairman Favola introduced Jim Schwartz, Arlington County's Fire Chief, who is leading the Northern Virginia Metropolitan Medical Response System.

*Jim Schwartz*

A Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS) is a locally organized, trained and equipped emergency response system developed to manage the human health consequences of a terrorist incident involving the use of weapons of mass destruction (chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and/or explosives capable of creating mass casualties). MMRS uses a unified, integrated and coordinated approach to handling a mass casualty incident by fire fighters, police, hospital and public health officials, and emergency first responders. The federal government created MMRS after the 1995 sarin nerve gas attack in the Tokyo subway.

MMRS creates a region-wide, coordinated system capable of sustained response at the local level for 24-48 hours before the arrival of federal assistance. It supports a response to a chemical-radiological-nuclear explosive event involving 1,000 victims and/or a biological event involving 10,000 victims and includes training, equipment, pharmaceuticals and the movement of patients.

While 124 cities have developed MMRS's, Northern Virginia's is one of the first regional systems. Northern Virginia's MMRS is funded through a \$2.9 million Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) grant. Participants include Arlington County with the City of Falls Church, Fairfax County with the City of Fairfax, the City of Alexandria, Loudoun County, Prince William County with the Cities of Manassas and Manassas Park, and the Northern Virginia Hospital Alliance.

NVRC provides administrative support to the MMRS steering committee. The committee will submit an application for federal funding to sustain the program.

*questions and  
answers*

Replying to Commissioner Gross's and Smedberg's inquiries, Chief Schwartz explained that neither D.C. nor suburban Maryland have completed their MMRS. However, Northern Virginia, suburban Maryland and D.C. have a mutual aide compact. Additionally, a mass casualty incident on the Metro in Northern Virginia or at the two airports would be covered under the Northern Virginia MMRS.

Commissioner Pepper asked who or what will trigger an MMRS response. Chief Schwartz explained that all of the participants are trained to recognize the indicators. He added that Northern Virginia has the most highly developed system of automatic aide, and the jurisdictions have access to state resources through the statewide mutual aide system.

Commissioner Barg asked if Ft. Belvoir and Quantico are involved. Chief Schwartz said Ft. Meyer and Ft. Belvoir fire departments participate in the automatic aide pact and Ft. Belvoir's DeWitt Army Hospital is part of the Northern Virginia Hospital Alliance. The Governor's Assistant for Commonwealth Preparedness wants to expand the program to include Stafford and Fauquier Counties, and Quantico could be included in that effort.

Commissioner Treuting asked if the jurisdictions are competing for the same funds. Chief Schwartz confirmed they are eligible to submit funding applications, but the Northern Virginia Chief Administrative Officers have agreed to use the regional approach.

The Commissioners thanked Chief Schwartz for his concise presentation on this important program, and they thanked his colleagues for their support.

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

- A. Financial Reports for November and December 2006
- B. Resolution No. P07-13: First Amendment to the FY 2007 Budget
- C. Resolution No. P07-14: Authorization to Enter into a Standard Project Administration Agreement with the Virginia Department of Transportation to Administer Funds for the Construction of the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail
- D. Resolution No. P07-15: Authorization to Accept a Grant to Conduct Phase II of the Northern Virginia Regional Gang Assessment

Responding to Commissioner Smedberg's inquiry about the merging of the Whitman-Walker Clinic with the Free Clinic of Washington, Mr. Gibb said Whitman-Walker will continue to operate its Arlington facility.

Replying to Commission Tejada, Mr. Gibb said the Commission will receive a presentation on the juvenile gang study in the near future.

Replying to Commissioner Cross's inquiry about a budget surplus, Mr. Gibb said the Commission's cash reserves are kept in interest-bearing accounts and can be carried over to the next fiscal year.

#### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Gibb's report, in printed PowerPoint format, was distributed. He reviewed highlights on:

- Regional Water Supply — 18 of the 23 incorporated municipalities have approved the enabling resolutions, and the remaining five jurisdictions are expected to participate.
- 2-1-1 Human Services Information & Referral — The Virginia DSS prime contractor for 2-1-1 recently met with local human services officials in Northern Virginia and toured a Fairfax County office in Bailey's Crossroads where some of the county's I&R calls are answered. The contractor now has a better understanding of the challenges faced by Northern Virginia's I&R system.
- Ryan White Funding — NVRC staff recently met with representatives from the federal, D.C., Maryland and West Virginia governments to discuss the lack of service parity for persons with HIV/AIDS served by Ryan White funds, and there was agreement to work on potential changes to the funding formula, with revisions to HRSA this summer.
- International Regional Council Meeting — Funding commitments for a spring 2008 conference in Northern Virginia are forthcoming from the German Marshall Fund, an Italian foundation and local area banks.

#### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Favola reminded the members of their February 1 meeting in Richmond in conjunction with VML/VACo Day. Senator Mark Herring and Delegate Tom Rust are scheduled to brief the Commissioners on developments in the General Assembly.

COMMITTEE  
REPORTS

*Communications* Commissioner Smedberg reported that in addition to press releases, the Virginia Review magazine has published a three-page article on NVRC's Northern Virginia Trails Guide. Additionally, staff expects to release the website RFP within the next week.

Commissioner Smedberg moved Resolution No. P07-16: Authorization to Sign a Letter of Agreement for Media Buying Services, which would continue the radio spots for clean storm drains. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

*Operations* Commissioner Parrish reported the Operations Committee is meeting regularly and has a new member, Commissioner Seeman. He thanked the committee members for their work on the Executive Director's employment contract, and reported that the committee took up the issue of Family and Medical Leave for Commission employees.

LEGISLATIVE  
PROGRAM

Mr. Gibb reported that the budget amendment for the three urban Planning District Commissions is being discussed tonight. Mr. Gibb then reviewed the patronage and status of bills pertaining to the Commission's priorities.

Commissioner Smedberg raised the issue of a proposal for the elimination of the air quality board, as well as two other boards that regulate trash and water; there would be no citizen participation. Commissioner Pepper added that the proposal would transfer the power of control to the Dept. of Environmental Quality. Staff will report on the status of the bill to the Commission at its February 1 meeting.

Chairman Favola asked the members for their thoughts on a joint press conference with NVTC and NVTA, backing Senator Whipple's transportation bill. The Commissioners discussed the transportation bills. It was agreed it may be better to reiterate support for the Commission's principles on transportation, rather than singling out specific bills. Members agreed the localities do not want responsibility for the secondary road system without state funding. Commissioner Tulloch moved that staff consult with NVTC and NVTA regarding common principles on transportation and a joint press conference. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT There being no further business, Chairman Favola adjourned the meeting at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

G. Mark Gibb  
Executive Director

Approved by:

Barbara A. Favola  
Chairman