

## NORTHERN VIRGINIA REGIONAL COMMISSION

Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting Held Thursday, December 17, 2009

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Hon. Harry J. Parrish, II, *NVRC Chairman*  
Hon. Martin E. Nohe, *NVRC Vice Chairman*  
Hon. Redella S. Pepper, *NVRC Treasurer*  
Hon. Penelope Gross, *Legislative Committee Chairman*  
Hon. Robert W. Lazaro, Jr., *ad hoc Energy & Environmental Cmte. Chairman*  
Hon. Paul Smedberg, *Communications Committee Chairman*

*City of Manassas*  
*County of Prince William*  
*City of Alexandria*  
*County of Fairfax*  
*Town of Purcellville*  
*City of Alexandria*

### STAFF PRESENT

G. Mark Gibb  
Linda M. Tenney  
Linda Summerall  
David Schwengel  
Aimee Vosper

*Executive Director*  
*Deputy Director*  
*Executive Secretary*  
*Director, Regional Emergency Preparedness Planning*  
*Director, Environmental & Planning Services*

### GUEST

Sue Rowland

*NVRC Legislative Liaison; SR Consulting, Inc.*

CALL TO ORDER Chairman Parrish called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.

ROLL CALL The roll was called and all members present or absent were noted for the record.

FINANCIAL REPORTS Commissioner Lazaro moved approval of the financial reports for July – October 2009. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM Commissioner Gross, Legislative Committee Chairman, noted that this is a streamlined program, and it is essentially the same as what the Commission reviewed in October. The public utilities position as written incorporates the discussion from that meeting.

Commissioner Gross moved adoption of Resolution No. P10-09. The motion was seconded.

Commissioner Lazaro pointed out that at the last Commission meeting, Commissioner Nohe raised the issue of whether the dangerous weapons position should be included in the program. Ms. Rowland noted in the past the members considered it separately. Replying to Chairman Parrish, she said there is not a minority report.

Commissioner Gross noted that the Commission's legislative program gives direction to the legislative liaisons if the issue comes up during the General Assembly session.

Chairman Parrish commented that the program likely would not pass unanimously but it would be adopted by the full Commission. The members concurred.

Commissioner Lazaro requested that the record reflect that Commissioner Nohe would not vote for it. Chairman Parrish said he does not support the dangerous weapons position, adding that it goes too far.

Ms. Rowland suggested striking "[NVRC] and the Northern Virginia localities..." so the position on dangerous weapons would read, "NVRC supports state legislation to allow

local governments to prohibit..." The members concurred. Resolution No. P10-09 was adopted unanimously.

**RESOLUTION  
NO. P10-08**

**AUTHORIZATION TO APPLY FOR DOE ENERGY EFFICIENCY RETROFIT PROGRAM GRANT**

Commissioner Lazaro moved adoption of Resolution No. P10-08. The motion was seconded.

Mr. Gibb noted that this application is for the entire Northern Virginia region; it will benefit residents and business. Ms. Vosper added that staff was approached by several partners with expertise in this area to partner with them on this grant application. [Commissioner Pepper arrived.] The program deliverables include the creation of outreach/education programs and building upon the Northern Virginia jurisdictions' marketing strategies currently in place; creating data-gathering/energy-saving models; and enabling attractive financing options for retrofit and equipment services. Staff will find out if local governments are eligible for the loans to retrofit government buildings.

Replying to Commissioner Gross, Mr. Gibb said homeowners could apply for a loan up to approximately \$25,000 for services/products such as weatherization and solar and geothermal energy retrofits. Staff confirmed for Commissioner Lazaro that this loan will be available to homeowners in every tax bracket. Mr. Gibb added that the loans have a 15-year period and the grant will buy down the loan rate by one to two percent.

NVRC would perform the program and financial management, data and financial reporting, and sub-recipient monitoring. NVRC's member jurisdictions would have the opportunity to participate in the data exchange/gathering and the development and implementation of marketing strategies. NVRC will receive \$5 million over three years for program administration.

Commissioner Lazaro suggested asking the Congressional delegation for letters of support. Commissioner Gross suggested emphasizing the benefit of the region's proximity to D.C., in light of the fact that the president has emphasized regional demonstration projects. Ms. Vosper said staff has a letter of support from the state.

The motion carried unanimously. Mr. Gibb added that it will be March before staff learns if the application is successful.

**EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR'S  
REPORT**

- Mr. Gibb thanked staff for their work on the energy programs and the Commissioners for their support. Chairman Parrish and Commissioner Lazaro suggested that staff make presentations to the member governments' boards and councils. Mr. Gibb explained that he participated in Chairman Bulova's town hall meeting on energy last month and that was how he was approached by Federated Power and GE Capital to partner on the energy retrofit grant application.

- Staff distributed Resolution No. P10-10: AUTHORIZATION TO CREATE TWO NEW STAFF POSITIONS. Mr. Gibb explained staff has determined the need for two new staff position for two grant-supported programs: a Regional Director for the Northern Virginia Emergency Response System (2008 Urban Area Security Initiative grant) and the Regional BRAC Coordinator (funded by DOD's Office of Economic Adjustment).

Commissioner Lazaro moved adoption of Resolution No. P10-10. The motion was seconded.

Responding to Commissioner Gross, Mr. Gibb said the grants fund the positions, including employee benefits. [Commissioner Nohe arrived.] Ms. Tenney pointed out that under the UASI grant, a small portion of the staff position remains unfunded but it is to NVRC's benefit to fill the position. Commissioner Gross requested that the candidates be informed that these positions are grant funded and could be eliminated in the future. Both Mr. Gibb and Ms. Tenney assured her that for the past several decades, all employment offer letters have included language to this effect.

Resolution No. P10-10 was adopted unanimously.

- Mr. Gibb advised the members that Dale Medearis has a scholarship to study in Germany and has requested a seven-month sabbatical beginning in January. The Commission's employee policies have no provision for a sabbatical; does the Commission want to grant this?

Chairman Parrish asked if his position will be held open and Mr. Gibb replied if it can be done without interfering with programmatic work.

Commissioner Gross moved that seven months leave without pay be granted to Mr. Medearis. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

#### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Parrish stated that the energy planning and sustainability fact-finding trips are a great opportunity, and those who participated in the most recent one learned a great deal, adding that he appreciated having Stephan Walz, Director of the Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy, included. Additionally, a new five-year partnership agreement between NVRC and the Verband Region Stuttgart was signed.

Mr. Gibb advised the members that a presentation on the exchange will be made at the Commission's January meeting.

Mr. Gibb reported that Loudoun County has adopted its community energy plan, and Chairman York thinks there should be a regional energy plan for Northern Virginia.

Commissioner Nohe said he was most impressed with Helsinki's district heating plan, wherein 93 percent of all structures in the city receive water, heat, and air conditioning from a central utility; the buildings do not have furnaces, water heaters or air conditioners.

Commissioner Lazaro reported that the City of Purcellville's LED street light demonstration project is saving the city a lot of money.

Chairman Parrish asked Ms. Rowland for her thoughts on the upcoming legislative session. She replied that the Governor releases his biennial budget on December 18. She is concerned about funding for the Planning District Commissions, and she expects the budget will include some tax increases.

#### PERSONNEL MATTER

Commissioner Gross reported that the Executive Director's contract expires at the end of month. She met with Mr. Gibb and they propose a one-year extension. Commissioner Gross moved that the Executive Director's contract be extended for one year, with no change to the terms. The motion was seconded.

Commissioner Gross explained that in the past, the Operations Committee has performed the reviews. This is a contract extension and the committee will go back to the three-year cycle, with a spring review to avoid the May elections.

The motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT      There being no further business, Chairman Parrish adjourned the meeting at 1:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

G. Mark Gibb  
Executive Director

Approved by:

Harry J. Parrish II  
Chairman