

## NORTHERN VIRGINIA REGIONAL COMMISSION

Minutes of the Commission Meeting Held Thursday, January 28, 2010

### COMMISSIONERS

(The names of those members present are highlighted.)

<b>Hon. Sharon Bulova</b>	<b>County of Fairfax</b>
<b>Hon. John C. Cook</b>	<b>County of Fairfax</b>
<b>Hon. Joan Cross</b>	<b>City of Fairfax</b>
<b>Hon. Steve DeBenedittis</b>	<b>Town of Herndon</b>
<b>Hon. Barbara A. Favola</b>	<b>County of Arlington</b>
Hon. John Foust	County of Fairfax
<b>Hon. Penelope A. Gross</b>	<b>County of Fairfax</b>
Hon. Pat Herrity	County of Fairfax
<b>Hon. Catherine Hudgins</b>	<b>County of Fairfax</b>
<b>Hon. Robert W. Lazaro, Jr.</b>	<b>Town of Purcellville</b>
<b>Hon. Harold Lippman</b>	<b>City of Falls Church</b>
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, <i>NVRC Vice Chairman</i>	County of Prince William
<b>Hon. Harry J. Parrish II, NVRC Chairman</b>	<b>City of Manassas</b>
<b>Hon. Redella S. Pepper, NVRC Treasurer</b>	<b>City of Alexandria</b>
<b>Hon. Frank J. Principi</b>	<b>County of Prince William</b>
<b>Hon. M. Jane Seeman</b>	<b>Town of Vienna</b>
<b>Hon. Paul C. Smedberg</b>	<b>City of Alexandria</b>
<b>Hon. Linda Smyth</b>	<b>County of Fairfax</b>
<b>Hon. J. Walter Tejada</b>	<b>County of Arlington</b>
Hon. Kristen C. Umstatt	Town of Leesburg
Hon. Clyde N. Washington, Jr.	Town of Dumfries
<b>Hon. Scott K. York</b>	<b>County of Loudoun</b>

### STAFF PRESENT

G. Mark Gibb	<i>Executive Director</i>
Linda M. Tenney	<i>Deputy Director</i>
Heather Shackley	<i>Recording Secretary/ Website Administrator</i>
Ken Billingsley	<i>Director, Information &amp; Demographic Services</i>
Normand Goulet	<i>Sr. Environmental Planner</i>
Laura Grape	<i>Sr. Environmental Planner</i>
Samantha Kinzer	<i>Regional Planner</i>
David Schwengel	<i>Director, Regional Emergency Preparedness Planning</i>
Debbie Spiliotopoulos	<i>Sr. Environmental Planner</i>
Michelle Simmons	<i>Director, Human Services</i>
Aimee Vosper	<i>Director, Environmental &amp; Planning Services</i>

### GUESTS

Bruce Bennett	<i>Hunter Mill Road Traffic Calming Committee</i>
Eldon James (by phone)	<i>Legislative Consultant</i>
Sue Rowland (by phone)	<i>NVRC Legislative Liaison; SR Consulting, Inc.</i>
Hon. Charlie Waddell	<i>Herndon Town Council</i>
Hon. Jane Woods (by phone)	<i>Driftwoods Consulting</i>

CALL TO ORDER Chairman Parrish 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 Commissioner Favola moved approval of the minutes of the October 22, 2009, meeting of the Commission and the minutes of the December 17, 2009, meeting of the Executive Committee. The motion was seconded and approved with Commissioner Lippman abstaining.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT Commissioner Gross, Legislative Committee Chairman, noted that an NVRC 2010 Legislative Program Status Report was on the table and that Legislative Consultants Sue Rowland, Jane Woods and Eldon James were joining the meeting by telephone. Commissioner Gross asked Ms. Rowland to review the package with the Commission, highlighting various bills of interest. Lengthy discussion ensued regarding the following proposed legislation:

**SB 413** Eliminates the requirement that every three years a census of all school-age persons residing within each school division take place. Also eliminates all related requirements regarding appointment and compensation of persons taking census, agents, and census results. The bill also amends the procedure regarding sales and use tax distribution to localities so that distribution is based on the average daily membership of the school division rather than the school-age population of a school division.

Ms. Rowland explained the possible effects of this bill. There are 97 “gainers” and 40 “losers,” and Northern Virginia is among the biggest losers, with the top localities that stand to lose being Fairfax, Loudoun and Prince William Counties. Total loss from Northern Virginia would be more than \$120 million. Commissioner Gross asked that Commissioners around the table comment on this proposed legislation.

The following points were raised during this roundtable discussion:

- Although the current formula is not advantageous to Northern Virginia, it has been relied upon;
- Fairfax is making the opposition to this legislation a major priority and is looking into legal recourse;
- Other jurisdictions outside of Northern Virginia would also be impacted, including Stafford, Fauquier, Frederick, Spotsylvania, Clark, Bristol and Culpeper, so there may be lots of support in opposition to this bill;
- This bill proposes to save \$30 million in the state budget while Northern Virginia would lose \$120 million as a result;
- Jurisdictions did not expect the budget total would remain the same, but changing the index was completely unexpected;
- Focus of opposition efforts should be on the Governor;
- It is uncertain, at this point, whether this would be a permanent or temporary change;
- This bill equates a school division of a large size with that of a small size.

Several suggestions were made as to how to voice opposition:

- VACo conference call on January 29, 2010, (tomorrow) and would like to ask that they take a position to honor this year’s numbers in the Local Composite Index (LCI). It was felt that this falls within existing VACo priorities;
- VML should be approached as well;

- Commissioner York sent an email to his constituents, asking them to contact the Governor about this issue. He asked other Commission members to do the same with their constituents;
- There may be an opportunity to speak with the Governor and the Secretary of Education as both will be at Falls Church High School on Wednesday, February 3;
- The Governor is also coming to Loudoun County for a chamber luncheon, and Commissioner York is working to have an opportunity to talk with the Governor at that time.

These follow-up points were made:

- Chairman Parrish noted that the Governor was invited to be here at tonight's meeting;
- Mr. Gibb added that he had received a call from the Governor's scheduler saying he'd like to come up and talk with the Commission about education and transportation, and it is hoped that this may be scheduled soon;
- Commissioner Favola asked Ms. Rowland to send her talking points in preparation for the VACo conference call tomorrow;
- Commissioner York will email a copy of the Mayors and Chairs letter to the Governor to NVRC staff for distribution to Commission members;
- Ms. Rowland said she would send a fiscal analysis to Mr. Gibb to forward to the Commission.

*VML/VACo Letter*

Copies of a letter from the Executive Directors of VML and VACo were placed on the table. This letter, addressed to Speaker of the House William J. Howell, requested that all legislation that negatively affects local revenues be held until an overall budget strategy is developed. The letter included a partial listing of the bills in the House that negatively affect local revenues or place new responsibilities on local governments.

Commissioner Gross thanked the legislative consultants for their time and efforts. Commissioner Gross further noted that Ms. Rowland will provide an updated status report prior to VML/VACo Day on February 11. It was noted that VML/VACo Day is of great benefit and all were encouraged to attend.

Chairman Parrish thanked Commissioner Gross, Ms. Rowland, Ms. Woods, and Mr. James.

CONSENT AGENDA Commissioner Bulova moved approval of the Consent Agenda, consisting of the Financial Reports for November 2009. The motion was seconded and unanimously carried.

RESOLUTION  
NO. P10-11

ESTABLISHMENT OF SMALL PURCHASES POLICY

Mr. Gibb explained that this resolution establishes a written small purchase policy for the Commission. This policy is consistent with member governments' policies and the Virginia Public Procurement Act and will allow the Commission to establish small purchase procedures without competitive bids or competitive negotiation for single or term contracts, provided the aggregate or sum of all phases is not expected to exceed \$50,000.

Commissioner York moved adoption of Resolution No. P10-11. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION  
NO. P10-12

SUPPORT OF NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION LAND CONSERVATION ACT

Mr. Gibb explained that this resolution authorizes the Chairman to send a letter to Rep. Jim Moran in support of H.R. 2986 which would establish U.S. Department of Interior grants to assist in the acquisition of land for use as parks, open space, and green space corridors linking public lands, as well as for regional planning that supports these purposes.

Commissioner Gross moved adoption of Resolution No. P10-12. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR'S  
REPORT

Mr. Gibb distributed a copy of his report, which included updates on:

- State Budget Amendment impacting NVRC
- Purcellville/Loudoun Charrette
- Regional Comprehensive Services Act
- Energy Efficiency Retrofit Program Grant
- Upcoming Dates—February 2010
- 2009 Community Energy Planning Mission Presentation
- Northern Virginia Waste Management Survey

The following are highlights of his presentation:

- **State Budget Amendment impacting NVRC.** Mr. Gibb called attention to a chart prepared by NVRC staff (placed on the table), showing local and state funding for NVRC from 1978 to 2011. The budget introduced by Governor Kaine reduces the base appropriation for all PDCs by 15% and eliminates the supplemental appropriations to four PDCs, including NVRC. NVRC's appropriation would drop 47%. Senator Colgan has introduced a budget amendment that would restore \$150,000 of NVRC's potential loss, providing an appropriation of \$372,774. Mr. Gibb asked for jurisdictional support of this budget amendment.
  - Commissioner Bulova made a motion that a letter signed by the Chairman supporting Senator Colgan's budget amendment be sent to the members of the Northern Virginia Delegation and the Appropriations and Finance Committees. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.
  - Commissioner York will coordinate the preparation of a similar letter from the Mayors and Chairs Committee.
- **Energy Efficiency Retrofit Program Grant.** Mr. Gibb noted that this proposal was approved by the Executive Committee in December and, if awarded, would provide \$61.3 million for achieving greater energy efficiency in area buildings, both residential and commercial. Partners in this proposal include General Electric, BB&T Bank, Federated Power, Northern Virginia Community College and Virginia Tech. This proposal has also received support from the State. Mr. Gibb further noted that training would be provided through the community college system. Staff anticipates that a decision will be made next month.
  - In response to a question from Commissioner Gross, Mr. Gibb replied that this is not a program where the local jurisdictions would be required to be loan servicers; the arrangements would be private.
  - Commissioner Favola added that NVRC would be the recipient of funding that would go to the banks to write down interest on loans they approve. NVRC's responsibility would be to market the program.
  - In response to a question from Commissioner Favola about whether this money would be available to local governments for public buildings, Ms. Vosper replied staff is awaiting an answer for this question.
- **2009 Community Energy Planning Mission Presentation.** Mr. Gibb noted that last month, Loudoun County adopted the first energy plan that was modeled on what has been learned from our European friends. Mr. Gibb then asked Aimee Vosper, the Commission's Director of Environmental and Planning Services, to provide the Commission with a presentation about the community energy planning mission trip to Finland and Germany last month. Copies of the presentation, along with other trip materials, were made available in the lobby outside the conference room. Ms. Vosper noted that a full trip report, including a photo CD, will be given to Commission members next week.

- In response to a question from Commissioner Principi about the amount of wind power used, Mr. Gibb replied that 47% of power is renewable energy. Ms. Vosper will research this statistic for wind alone.
- Commissioner Favola suggested that NVRC staff offer to make this presentation to boards and councils in the region. Doing this would help give NVRC some recognition in the region.
- Commissioner Bulova noted that Fairfax County has a commission focused on economic recovery. This might be a good presentation to make at that level. This commission is comprised of board members as well as staff.
- **Northern Virginia Waste Management Survey.** Mr. Gibb noted that a copy of the *Executive Summary for the Survey of Public Waste Services in the Washington Metropolitan Region* was placed on the table. The full report, as well as copies of the most recent NVironment newsletter, was made available in the lobby.

#### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Parrish introduced the topic of a Commission strategic planning retreat. In response to a request from the Chairman, Commissioner York explained some of the impetus for such a retreat, which would serve to answer questions and discuss topics such as:

- What do we do visibly as an organization?
- Where are we going as an organization?
- How do we address the regional difficulty of finding individuals willing to fill vacant seats on the various regional boards?
- How do we consolidate ourselves regionally?

There was much discussion on this issue, with the consensus in support of such a retreat. Similar comments made by several Commission members included:

- NVRC provides a unique opportunity for its members, especially to discuss topics that are not the focus of other bodies;
- Connections made at the Commission are "priceless";
- Following the reorganization in 2005, it may be time to set next steps;
- There is an overlap with a number of regional groups and ways to be more efficient should be discussed;
- Discussion should include a vision of what we are seeking, who is our audience, and what is our purpose; need to sort out the commonalities we are seeking and not just who represents us;
- The retreat should include information about the past including what the impediments have been;
- The retreat should consider where NVRC has been effective, what flexibility exists within our bylaws, and that we have lawyers present in an advisory capacity;
- Discussion on what other PDCs do for their strategic planning.

Chairman Parrish noted that there seemed to be great support for a strategic planning retreat; staff will work towards that end and report back to the Commission.

#### RESOLUTION NO. P10-13

#### AUTHORIZATION TO SIGN A LETTER OF AGREEMENT FOR SOCIAL MARKETING SERVICES

Mr. Gibb explained that this resolution authorizes the Executive Director to execute a sole source letter of agreement with Water Words that Work, LLC for social marketing services in support of the 2010 Northern Virginia Clean Water Partners Regional Stormwater Education Campaign for an amount not to exceed \$55,000.

Commissioner Cook moved adoption of Resolution No. P10-13. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT      There being no further business, Chairman Parrish adjourned the meeting at 9:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

G. Mark Gibb  
Executive Director

Approved by:

Harry J. Parrish II  
Chairman