

NORTHERN VIRGINIA REGIONAL COMMISSION

Minutes of the Commission Meeting Held Thursday, April 22, 2010

COMMISSIONERS

(The names of those members present are highlighted.)

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

STAFF PRESENT

G. Mark Gibb	<i>Executive Director</i>
Linda M. Tenney	<i>Deputy Director</i>
Linda Summerall	<i>Executive Secretary</i>
Ken Billingsley	<i>Director, Information & Demographic Services</i>
Sayedul Choudhury	<i>Sr. Water Resources Engineer</i>
Normand Goulet	<i>Sr. Environmental Planner</i>
David Schwengel	<i>Director, Regional Emergency Preparedness Planning</i>
Michelle Simmons	<i>Director, Human Services</i>
Jeff Stern	<i>Regional Director, No. Va. Emergency Response System</i>
Aimee Vosper	<i>Director, Environmental & Planning Services</i>

OTHERS PRESENT

Bruce Bennett	<i>Hunter Mill Road Traffic Calming Cmte.</i>
Katie Boyle	<i>Fairfax Co. Legislative Services</i>
Doug Koelemay	<i>Northern Virginia Representative, CTB</i>
Bill Leighty	<i>Consultant and Lobbyist</i>
Sue Rowland	<i>NVRC Legislative Liaison; SR Consulting, Inc.</i>

CALL TO ORDER Vice Chairman Nohe called the meeting to order at 7:43 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 Bulova moved approval of the minutes of the March 25, 2010, meeting of the Commission. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

PRESENTATIONS

A.

THE THREE Cs OF FUTURE GOVERNMENT: COLLABORATION, COOPERATION, AND COLLOCATION

Vice Chairman Nohe welcomed William H. "Bill" Leighty, former chief of staff to Governors Kaine and Warner. Prior to that position, Mr. Leighty served as director of the Virginia Retirement System. He is now a consultant and registered lobbyist.

Bill Leighty

Mr. Leighty provided an overview of enterprise efficiency and effectiveness, tying this into government structure at both the state and local levels.

Mr. Leighty stated that while citizens are demanding less government they are expecting more results; this impacts most on local government. The less cooperation in a region the more power the state government wields. He also explained that the U.S. government is structurally fragmented by design (federal, state and local governments). Government is schizophrenic by nature because it is required to both control and to provide customer service. [Commissioners Pepper and Gross arrived.]

Opportunities for operational collocation, such as localities using the state's negotiated, very favorable utilities rates, were discussed.

questions & answers

Commissioner Hudgins commented that sometimes the physical infrastructure defines the services provided by government. Mr. Leighty replied that government does not do a good job of looking at its services from the perspective of its citizens.

[Commissioner Smedberg departed.]

B.

TRANSPORTATION — PAVED WITH GOOD INTENTIONS

Vice Chairman Nohe welcomed J. Douglas Koelemay, the Northern Virginia representative to the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB).

Doug Koelemay

State revenue is declining and the funding dedicated to transportation is also declining; construction funding is being shifted to maintenance. The sustainability of the six-year plan is in doubt. It is likely that the state will no longer have the funds needed to meet the federal match, so federal transportation funds will be forfeited.

Mr. Koelemay urged the elected officials to act regionally. While Northern Virginia has been innovative it needs to lead in both the state and the greater D.C. region; Northern Virginia should set its own transportation priorities, focusing on regional connectivity.

He added that, in making decisions about spending transportation funding, we should view people as consumers of a service, and find out what is valuable to them. Instead of asking how much something costs, we should ask what people would pay for, in order to get the most important things done.

questions & answers

Vice Chairman Nohe stated that from these two presentations, one key observation springs to mind: Northern Virginia must speak with one voice; when the region speaks with one voice it is impossible for the legislators to say "no" because there is nothing else they can say "yes" to. He offered HB 3202 as an example of what happens when the Northern Virginia Delegation is not united.

Commissioner Gross wondered if the CTB shouldn't be the leader. Mr. Koelemay replied that local leaders should do a rigorous assessment of what is worth doing, the cost, and the payoff regionally. Secondly, there should be consideration given to the potential for swapping certain state and local responsibilities as well as revenue streams, and how we might frame a case for the state to allow Northern Virginia to do a trial, or a pilot process. Perhaps the state could use its frustration over the size, complexity and demand of Northern Virginia's problems to "turn us loose" to try out our own solutions — which we should be prepared with some to try.

Following up, Commissioner Gross asked if Mr. Koelemay is saying the local or regional leadership must provide advocacy or must provide funding. Mr. Koelemay replied resources that come from rigorous assessment of that value proposition — what the leaders feel is really worth doing — then how much does it cost and what is the payoff for the jurisdiction or region; and secondly, what is the swap of state and local government responsibilities as well as revenue streams. How should Northern Virginia frame such a strong case that the state will allow it to do a trial pilot program?

Mr. Leighty added that if the state is moving to core transportation planning, who defines "core" — the CTB or the Northern Virginia leadership? What if Northern Virginia asked the state for the region's share of transportation funds, regardless of revenue streams, and said "we decide what the core priorities are." Mr. Koelemay said the region could present its plan to the state and request permission to implement it.

Commissioner Bulova noted that the hot lanes will be opening around the same time as the first segment of rail to Dulles opens, and the region needs to look at these two major projects and revisit its planning and thinking because the hot lanes are a game changer and will provide a different method of being able to build roads.

Commissioner Cook observed it is up to Northern Virginia to provide the state with the incentive to let the region experiment. Mr. Koelemay concurred that the system is broken. It is crucial to view the big picture, the end result.

Commissioner Hudgins noted that the state's transportation system has been dominated by roads. In Northern Virginia, the value is in the land and development, and it will not be satisfied by road capacity, it will have to be through put for people and goods. So how do we make this change when most of the funding sources are for the infrastructure aspect and not the operational, and the capacity needed for transit requires local governments to look to the state for the infrastructure? How do we program ourselves at a time when we are opening up to take greater responsibility to increase operation? Our capacity for the alternative to roads is miniscule versus what we have put on the table with land development.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Commissioner Pepper moved approval of the Financial Reports for February 2010. The motion was seconded and unanimously carried.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Gibb distributed a copy of his report:

- NVRC's sponsorship (in collaboration with Federated Power, GE, the community college, Virginia Tech and BB&T) of a federal energy grant project was not funded.
- NVRC will receive an additional \$106,000 for AIDS services under the Ryan White Part A 2010-11 grant cycle as a result of a successful application.
- The state is cutting in half its funding from a federal grant of the Northern Virginia Emergency Response System in order to fund state emergency response positions and projects.
- Copies of the Bicycle Pedestrian Guide, a collaborative project headed by NVRC staff, were distributed.

- The Commission will not meet on May 27; if needed, the Executive Committee will meet that day. Nor will the Commission meet on June 24 since its retreat will be held on June 19.

**CHAIRMAN'S
REPORT**

- Vice Chairman Nohe reported that the Commission's retreat will be held June 19 at the Center for the Arts at the Candy Factory in old town Manassas.
- Chairman Parrish has appointed Commissioner York to chair this year's Nominating Committee. Members of the Executive Committee excluding officers serve on the committee.
- Vice Chairman Nohe reported that Senator Colgan's advice on pursuing additional state funding for NVRC was unsuccessful, and the NVRC leadership was unable to directly engage the governor. Senator Colgan now suggests approaching the governor to move NVRC's second year (FY12) identified funding into FY11. The NVRC leadership plans to discuss the funding with the governor's staff. Vice Chairman Nohe stated the Commissioners have time to make their decision.

Vice Chairman Nohe added that Mr. Gibb worked very hard for restoration of funding for the planning district commissions and in particular for NVRC.

NVRC FUNDING

Mr. Gibb distributed his report, which outlines what NVRC does for the state. Due to the late hour, Mr. Gibb did not review the report, which may be done at the retreat.

Commissioner Gross pointed out that the current administration is very focused on regions as opposed to individual jurisdictions.

Commissioner Pepper stressed the importance of emphasizing the amount of funding that would be forfeited if NVRC does not bring its programs to the region.

OTHER BUSINESS

Commissioner Gross called attention to the final legislative report distributed by staff.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Vice Chairman Nohe adjourned the meeting at 9:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

G. Mark Gibb
Executive Director

Approved by:

Harry J. Parrish II
Chairman