

**NORTHERN VIRGINIA REGIONAL COMMISSION**

**Minutes of the Commission Meeting Held Thursday, September 26, 2002**

**COMMISSIONERS**

(The names of those present are highlighted)

Commissioner Hilda M. Barg	<i>County of Prince William</i>
Commissioner Charles J. Billand	<i>County of Loudoun</i>
<b>Commissioner Albert J. Boudreau</b>	<b>Town of Vienna</b>
Commissioner Melvin Bray	<i>Town of Dumfries</i>
<b>Commissioner Sharon Bulova</b>	<b>County of Fairfax</b>
<b>Commissioner James C. Chesley</b>	<b>County of Fairfax</b>
Commissioner William C. Cleveland	<i>City of Alexandria</i>
Commissioner Gerald E. Connolly	<i>County of Fairfax</i>
<b>Commissioner Joan Cross</b>	<b>City of Fairfax</b>
<b>Commissioner Anna F. Dixon</b>	<b>County of Fairfax</b>
Commissioner William T. Druhan, Jr.	<i>Town of Purcellville</i>
Commissioner Albert C. Eisenberg	<i>County of Arlington</i>
<b>Commissioner Barbara A. Favola, NVRC Treasurer</b>	<b>County of Arlington</b>
Commissioner Jay Fiset	<i>County of Arlington</i>
Commissioner Robert C. Goessman	<i>City of Manassas</i>
<b>Commissioner Brenda Z. Greene</b>	<b>County of Fairfax</b>
<b>Commissioner Penelope A. Gross</b>	<b>County of Fairfax</b>
<b>Commissioner Katherine K. Hanley</b>	<b>County of Fairfax</b>
<b>Commissioner Mark R. Herring</b>	<b>County of Loudoun</b>
Commissioner John F. Herrity	<i>County of Fairfax</i>
Commissioner Edgar B. Holley	<i>County of Prince William</i>
<b>Commissioner Catherine Hudgins</b>	<b>County of Fairfax</b>
<b>Commissioner John D. Jenkins</b>	<b>County of Prince William</b>
<b>Commissioner David Kirkpatrick, Jr.</b>	<b>City of Fairfax</b>
<b>Commissioner Lyman Krekel</b>	<b>City of Falls Church</b>
Commissioner Jesse Ludvigsen	<i>City of Manassas Park</i>
Commissioner Elaine N. McConnell	<i>County of Fairfax</i>
Commissioner Stuart Mendelsohn	<i>County of Fairfax</i>
<b>Commissioner Charles Monroe</b>	<b>County of Arlington</b>
<b>Commissioner Michael O'Reilly</b>	<b>Town of Herndon</b>
Commissioner Sally B. Ormsby	<i>County of Fairfax</i>
Commissioner Harry J. Parrish, II	<i>City of Manassas</i>
Commissioner Redella S. Pepper	<i>City of Alexandria</i>
<b>Commissioner Alice Keane Putman</b>	<b>County of Fairfax</b>
Commissioner Robert Rapanut	<i>City of Alexandria</i>
Commissioner Lilla D. Richards	<i>County of Fairfax</i>
<b>Commissioner Kristen C. Umstattd, NVRC Vice Chairman</b>	<b>Town of Leesburg</b>
Commissioner Don White	<i>County of Prince William</i>
Commissioner Edgar S. Wilbourn, III	<i>County of Prince William</i>
Commissioner William R. Wren	<i>City of Manassas Park</i>
Commissioner Scott K. York, NVRC Chairman	<i>County of Loudoun</i>
Vacancy: 1 (Falls Church)	

**STAFF PRESENT**

G. Mark Gibb	<i>Executive Director</i>
Linda Summerall	<i>Executive Secretary</i>
Kenneth Billingsley	<i>Director, Demographics</i>
David L. Bulova	<i>Director, Environmental Services</i>
Michelle Simmons	<i>Director, Human Services</i>
James Van Zee	<i>Director, Regional Planning Services</i>

**GUESTS PRESENT**

Edward Plaughter  
Jim Schwartz  
Brian Bannon  
Dana Fenton

*Chief, Arlington County Fire Department*  
*Assistant Chief, Arlington County Fire Department*  
*resident, Fairfax County*  
*Prince William County*

- CALL TO ORDER** Vice Chairman Umstattd called the meeting to order at 8:05 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.
- MINUTES** Commissioner Greene moved approval of the minutes of the July 25, 2002, meeting of the Commission. The motion was seconded and unanimously carried.
- PRESENTATION** *Aftermath of September 11: Lessons Learned...Next Steps*
- Vice Chairman Umstattd turned the introductions over to Commissioner Favola of Arlington County. Commissioner Favola reported that Chief Ed Plaughter has been Arlington's fire chief for nine years, having joined the county after 24 years with the Fairfax County Fire Department. Both Chief Plaughter and Assistant Chief Jim Schwartz have been actively involved in planning the regional consolidated emergency response.
- Chief Ed Plaughter* Chief Plaughter thanked the Commissioners for allowing him and Assistant Chief Schwartz to make this presentation. He informed the members that the Northern Virginia fire chiefs have been working collectively on a regional emergency response long before the September 11 terrorist attack.
- Chief Plaughter emphasized that it is the local governments that are the first responders in emergency situations. It is critical to be able to utilize all the resources in the region: local, state and federal. He reviewed the local response to the attack on the Pentagon, noting that the Arlington County Fire Department was at the Pentagon for ten days. Arlington County requested and received a Justice Department Grant for an "after action" report. The report can viewed on the county's website.
- Extended operations at any large-scale incident, such as September 11, require experienced command-level personnel to assist in the supervision of operations and the identification and marshaling of resources necessary to successfully mitigate the event. The Northern Virginia fire chiefs have developed the Virginia Mobile Incident Support Team (MIST), which would provide an incident commander with clearly defined resources through the provision of experienced personnel trained, credentialed and experienced in logistics, planning, finance, and operations. The MIST proposal was submitted to the Virginia Office of Commonwealth Preparedness on September 26. Chief Plaughter asked the Commission for its support of this proposal.
- questions and answers* Commissioner Hanley commended the Arlington County Fire Department for its action and leadership at the Pentagon.
- Commissioner Gross asked if the District and/or Maryland are also preparing a MIST, and if there would be a greater Washington coordination. Chief Plaughter replied that for the present, the focus is only on Northern Virginia until the liability issues are resolved. Historically, Maryland and the District have deferred to Northern Virginia to take the lead.

Assistant Chief Schwartz explained that MIST will cover all emergencies and include law enforcement and EMS personnel as partners. The fire chiefs have 90 days to submit a funding request once the concept is approved. An estimated \$2.5 million will cover the first year.

Commissioner Favola moved that NVRC endorse the Northern Virginia fire chiefs' MIST proposal, and that staff send a letter to the Office of Commonwealth Preparedness outlining what is needed. The motion was seconded.

Assistant Chief Schwartz replied affirmatively to Commissioner Chesley's inquiry if Northern Virginia could handle more than one incident on the scale of the Pentagon attack, adding that it is a question of response time to the second, third, and possibly fourth incident.

The motion was unanimously carried. The Commissioners thanked the chiefs for their time and gave them a hearty round of applause.

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

- A. Financial Reports for July and August 2002
- B. Resolution No. P03-04: Authorization to Create One Staff Position and Abolish Five Vacant Positions
- C. Resolution No. P03-05: Authorization to Submit a Proposal Entitled "Press Leadership on the Potomac" to the Department of Conservation and Recreation
- D. Resolution No. P03-07: Authorization to Submit a Proposal Entitled "Blueways: Outreach on the Ocean" to the Department of Conservation and Recreation
- E. Resolution No. P03-08: Authorization to Submit a Proposal to the Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund Advisory Committee

**EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR'S  
REPORT**

Mr. Gibb reported that the Northern Virginia Home Guide to Emergency Preparedness will be updated and reprinted at the request of the chief administrative officers, who have already budgeted for this project. The public information officers again will assist NVRC .

**CHAIRMAN'S  
REPORT**

Vice Chairman Umstatted reminded the members to complete and return their survey, if they have not yet done so.

**RESOLUTION  
NO. P03-06**

*Transmittal of the Preliminary FY 2004 Budget and Programs to Member Governments*

Commissioner Favola, Chairman of the Operations Committee, pointed out that the member per capita dues rate remains the same; any change in dues amount is due to a population increase.

Commissioner Favola moved adoption of Resolution No. P03-06. The motion was seconded and unanimously carried.

RESOLUTION  
NO. P03-01

*NVRC Selection of Appointee to the Board of Directors of the Health Systems Agency of Northern Virginia*

Commissioner Hudgins, Chairman of the Human and Community Services Committee, reported that the committee received applications from several qualified people, and the committee interviewed three applicants. The committee recommends appointment of Teklemariam Ayele, MD, MPH. Dr. Ayele is the Manager of Health Services Programs for the Ethiopian Community Development Council.

Commissioner Hudgins moved adoption of Resolution No. P03-01. The motion was seconded and unanimously carried.

RESOLUTION  
NO. P03-09

*Resolution Supporting the Northern Virginia Transportation Referendum*

Commissioner Jenkins, patron of Resolution No. P03-09, reported that the Operations Committee has reviewed and endorsed the resolution. He then moved adoption of Resolution No. P03-09. The motion was seconded.

Commissioner Gross reported that the Land Use Committee also endorses this resolution.

Commissioner Boudreau stated his belief that a referendum should let the people decide, adding he thought it presumptuous to tell voters how to decide.

Commissioner Herring offered a substitute motion: "The Northern Virginia Regional Commission urges the citizens of Northern Virginia to become informed about the Northern Virginia transportation referendum and exercise their right to vote on November 5, 2002." The motion was seconded. Commissioner Herring reported that the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors was presented with a resolution to oppose the transportation referendum and the Board adopted a similar substitute resolution instead. Commissioner Herring added he felt he needed to represent the Board's position at NVRC. Further, he does not believe NVRC's position, whether for or against, will have any effect on the voters.

Commissioner Bulova stated her belief that elected officials and bodies such as NVRC have a responsibility to help educate the voters and that a funding stream for transportation is needed. Further, citizens look to their elected officials for guidance, and silence can sometimes say a lot; it means there is really not a commitment by people in a leadership role.

Commissioner Greene concurred with Commissioner Bulova, adding that NVRC is one more voice to be heard from.

Commissioner Favola concurred with Commissioners Bulova and Greene. She stated she does not view the substitute motion as a substitute, adding that both resolutions could be adopted.

Commissioner Hudgins stated her view on the importance of informing the citizens of the role of elected leaders and the challenges they faced under the old environment, as well the opportunities provided by the transportation referendum. She added that she does not think the substitute motion is the correct way to go.

Vice Chairman Umstattd said that having heard these opinions, she rules that Commissioner Herring's motion is not a substitute motion but would encourage him to bring it back after the vote on the main motion.

Commissioner Jenkins pointed out that NVRC is a regional body and should therefore take a position supporting its local governments.

Commissioner Herring requested that his motion be considered as a substitute. Commissioners Boudreau, Krekel and Cross said their votes on these two motions would reflect their councils' positions. The motion failed.

Resolution No. P03-09 passed with 2 opposed and Commissioner Herring abstaining.

ADJOURNMENT There being no further business, Vice Chairman Umstattd adjourned the meeting at 8:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Approved by:

G. Mark Gibb  
Executive Director

Scott K. York  
Chairman