

NORTHERN VIRGINIA REGIONAL COMMISSION

Minutes of the Commission Meeting Held Thursday, May 22, 2003

COMMISSIONERS

(The names of those present are highlighted)

Commissioner Hilda M. Barg
Commissioner Johnine P. Barnes
Commissioner Charles J. Billand
Commissioner Albert J. Boudreau
Commissioner Melvin Bray
Commissioner Sharon Bulova
Commissioner James C. Chesley
Commissioner William C. Cleveland
Commissioner Gerald E. Connolly
Commissioner Joan Cross
Commissioner Anna F. Dixon
Commissioner William T. Druhan, Jr.
Commissioner Albert C. Eisenberg
Commissioner Barbara A. Favola, NVRC Treasurer
Commissioner Jay Fiset
Commissioner Robin Gardner
Commissioner Robert C. Goessman
Commissioner Brenda Z. Greene
Commissioner Penelope A. Gross
Commissioner Katherine K. Hanley
Commissioner Mark R. Herring
Commissioner John F. Herrity
Commissioner Edgar B. Holley
Commissioner Catherine Hudgins
Commissioner John D. Jenkins
Commissioner David Kirkpatrick, Jr.
Commissioner Lyman Krekel
Commissioner Jesse Ludvigsen
Commissioner Elaine N. McConnell
Commissioner Stuart Mendelsohn
Commissioner Michael O'Reilly
Commissioner Sally B. Ormsby
Commissioner Harry J. Parrish, II
Commissioner Redella S. Pepper
Commissioner Robert Rapanut
Commissioner Lilla D. Richards
Commissioner J. Walter Tejada
Commissioner Kristen C. Umstattd, NVRC Vice Chairman
Commissioner Don White
Commissioner Edgar S. Wilbourn, III
Commissioner William R. Wren
Commissioner Scott K. York, NVRC Chairman

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

STAFF PRESENT

Linda M. Tenney
Linda Summerall
Kenneth Billingsley
Normand Goulet
Doug Pickford
Michelle Simmons
James Van Zee

Deputy Director
Executive Secretary
Director, Demographics
Sr. Environmental Planner/Info. Systems Mgmt. Analyst
Director, Environmental and Heritage Resources
Director, Human Services
Director, Regional Planning Services

GUESTS PRESENT

Tom Barrett
Michael F. Byrne

Director of National Capital Region Coordination for Emergency Response,
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

President, Thomas F. Barrett, Inc.
SR Consulting, Inc.

Sue Rowland

CALL TO ORDER Chairman York called the meeting to order at 8:04 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.

Chairman York reported that Mr. Gibb is speaking at a best management practices seminar in Lithuania. He was invited to speak by the U.S. Embassy in Copenhagen, Denmark, and the embassy is funding this trip.

Chairman York also noted the attendance of Robin Gardner, the Commission's newly-appointed elected representative for the City of Falls Church. He asked Commissioner Krekel to introduce Commissioner Gardner.

MINUTES Commissioner Greene moved approval of the minutes of the April 24, 2003, meeting of the Commission. The motion was seconded and unanimously carried.

PRESENTATION *Coordination of Homeland Security in the National Capital Area*

Chairman York welcomed Michael Byrne, the Director of National Capital Region Coordination for Emergency Response with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. After retiring from 20 years on the New York Fire Department, Mr. Byrne joined FEMA. He helped direct the Federal government's response to the September 11 attacks at the World Trade Center. Mr. Byrne joined the Office of Homeland Security as Senior Director for Response and Recovery in October 2001. On March 9, 2003, he became the department's first Director of National Capital Region Coordination for Emergency Response.

Michael F. Byrne Mr. Byrne commented that his job is unique, as there are no other regional directors in the Department of Homeland Security. He noted the complexity of the metropolitan D.C. area, naming the numerous agencies responsible for security, and how this complexity requires coordination. In citing all the agencies involved in the recent "tractor man" incident in the reflecting pool on the Mall, Mr. Byrne stated that the metro area is also an incredibly resource rich area as well as collegial. If complexity is managed and coordinated correctly, it can build redundancy and support. There is no single source of failure when there is a system as complex as the capital area.

Mr. Byrne is responsible for assessing the readiness of the metro area. He is also an advocate for the region and will support it, and he praised the local jurisdictions for their cooperation and support for coordinated security. He has recently met with the local jurisdictions' emergency response personnel to begin an assessment process. The data entry portion began this week (to be completed by June 6), and Mr. Byrne was pleased with the local staff's preparation. The data will be analyzed in June against certain scenarios and looking at vulnerable areas to decide what to work on first.

Federal regulations mandate that 80 percent of the block grant funding each state receives must reach the local level. Each jurisdiction will receive funding based on a formula developed by the state. The Federal government used a base plus per capita formula to

develop the state grants. The FY03 funding will be received shortly. The capital area received some additional funding of approximately \$60 million for regional purposes.

Mr. Byrne added he has good relationships with the state homeland security advisors in the capital area.

Both the FY 2004 funding and the Urban Area Security Initiative application require an assessment. Mr. Byrne stressed that the law mandates that his office complete an assessment. His project team will put together a product it thinks identifies the priorities based on the assessment data the jurisdictions are providing. That will be vetted at a regional meeting. The second level of review is to produce the strategy by which the capital area will proceed with the urban area funding. Regional bodies then will be invited to review and comment on this document, which then goes to the action project management stage. This should be done by the end of July.

Mr. Byrne views utilizing the proper funding source for the right projects as the challenge to the region, as there are funds from various agencies such as TSA, Justice, HHS, in addition to funding from Homeland Security.

questions and answers

Commissioner Krekel thanked the staff for arranging for Mr. Byrne to speak to the Commission. He noted NVRC's excellent track record of administering regional grants, and added that NVRC could help coordinate the emergency responders. Commissioner Krekel said he would like to pursue how NVRC can support Mr. Byrne in his mission. Mr. Byrne replied he would like the Commission to review his department's products.

Commissioner Gross noted that the track record of getting federally-designated funds from the state is not good. Mr. Byrne said it is his job to make sure the region gets its fair share.

Commissioner Greene asked that the needs of children be addressed in developing security and response plans, and the educators and health care providers need to be brought into the development process.

Commissioner Bulova requested that Mr. Byrne's office look into coordinating rail passenger evacuation, since VRE uses the rails owned by CSX and Norfolk-Southern, which place different priorities on use of their facilities.

Mr. Byrne confirmed Commissioner Hanley's understanding of the two funding sources: one is for the national capital area and does not go through the states; the other goes to the states, with 80 percent designated for localities. Commissioner Hanley commented on regional cooperation in sharing large-scale, sophisticated systems and equipment. Mr. Byrne said flexibility is allowed, and he believes there are ways the funding can be used for equipment.

Commissioner Connolly stressed the member jurisdictions' fiscal concerns. He illustrated those concerns through the federal tourism grants after the September 11 attacks, pointing out that Northern Virginia, which had been attacked, was not awarded this funding by the state, which instead awarded the tourism grants to other parts of Virginia. Commissioner Greene added that Northern Virginia experiences this treatment with the Ryan White CARE Act grant program, where Title II funding to the region may be reduced because Northern Virginia also has Title I funds. Mr. Byrne replied he is advocating that the regulations contain a non-substitution clause pertaining to funding.

Commissioners agreed they would like quarterly updates from Mr. Byrne, who accepted this invitation.

Chairman York concluded by informing Mr. Byrne and the members that Lt. Governor Hager spoke at the fall VACO conference; while he talked about this money going to protect the areas most at-threat, it was clear that the first-round money would go to every jurisdiction, regardless of the likelihood of experiencing terrorist attacks. The Northern Virginia Regional Commission would like to ensure that Northern Virginia, a high-threat area, receives the funding it needs to protect its residents from terrorist attacks.

The Commissioners thanked Mr. Byrne and gave him a hearty round of applause.

CONSENT AGENDA Commissioner Ormsby moved adoption of the consent agenda, consisting of the items outlined below. The motion was seconded and unanimously carried.

- A. Financial Reports for April 2003
- B. Resolution No. P03-22: Authorization to Submit a Proposal to the Fairfax County Water Authority
- C. Resolution No. P03-24: FY 2004 Annual General Adjustment

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- A. Ms. Tenney noted that the director's monthly report was included in the meeting package. She then called the Commissioners' attention to the 2003 edition of the Spanish-language *Quick Guide* that had been distributed. This publication is currently being distributed to the member governments and community agencies.
- B. Ms. Tenney pointed out that the Commissioners also had before them a draft of the *Northern Virginia Data Book – 5th Edition*. She asked the members to review it and contact staff if there were questions, since staff will seek permission to publish at the June meeting. Ms. Tenney turned the floor over to Ken Billingsley, editor of the *Data Book*.

Mr. Billingsley, commenting that most of the members are familiar with this book, gave a brief description, noting the historical context. The charts and graphs will be placed on the Commission's website.

In reply to Commissioner Pepper's question, Ms. Tenney said the Commissioners will receive a copy of the printed *Data Book* and member governments will be offered a reduced sales price. She added that the cost of publication must first be determined before staff can decide the number of complimentary copies. Commissioner Connolly asked for a report on distribution at the next meeting.

- C. Commissioner Bulova advised the members that NVRC's sister region, the Verband Region Stuttgart, Germany, tentatively plans to send a delegation to Northern Virginia October 2-7. The delegation will have eleven elected officials and four staff. Commissioner Bulova reported that the delegation is interested in economic development and NVRC staff is developing the itinerary. She briefly reviewed the NVRC delegation's visit to Germany in 2000.
- D. Ms. Tenney pointed out a newspaper article on the Purcellville Charrette, adding that Commissioner Druhan will report on the charrette next month.
- E. Commissioner Umstadd reported that the Virginia Association of Planning District Commissions (VAPDC) will hold its Annual Summer Conference in Virginia Beach July 24-26. Water planning, tax reform, homeland security, and workforce planning are some of the sessions available at the conference. A workshop on community facilitation is also on the agenda.

CHAIRMAN'S
REPORT

- A. Chairman York announced that he has asked Commissioner Hanley to chair this year's Nominating Committee. She has agreed and will present the committee's report at next month's meeting. Elections will be held at the beginning of the July Commission meeting.

- B. Chairman York read a certificate of appreciation to Ken Billingsley, NVRC's Director of Demographics, in acknowledgment of Mr. Billingsley's 25 years of employment with the Commission.

RESOLUTION
NO. P03-23

REDESIGN OF EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT PLAN

Commissioner Favola reported that the Operations Committee had been reviewing the retirement plan and proposed changes for a long time. A consultant was engaged and different types of plans had been reviewed and discussed at length. The defined contribution plan recommended by the committee allows for flexibility, portability, and employee satisfaction.

Commissioner Gross moved that Resolution No. P03-23 be adopted. The motion was seconded.

Ms. Tenney called the members' attention to the revisions staff distributed. She noted that no current employee will be disadvantaged by the change. The new plan will cost the Commission slightly less than the current plan. Commissioner Krekel asked if there was staff input in designing the new plan. Ms. Tenney replied affirmatively, adding that that employee suggestions had been incorporated into the plan, and the employees are enthusiastic.

Resolution No. P03-23 was unanimously carried.

LEGISLATIVE
REPORT

Commissioner Connolly noted that a summary final report of the 2003 legislative package had been distributed.

COMMITTEE
REPORTS

Regional Resources Resolution No. P03-25: AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO TASK ORDER THREE FOR MODEL DEVELOPMENT SERVICES WITH THE OCCOQUAN WATERSHED MONITORING LABORATORY

Staff distributed copies of the resolution, which Commissioner Pepper explained the Regional Resources Committee had discussed prior to the Commission meeting and recommends for adoption. The resolution authorizes continuing engagement of the Occoquan Watershed Monitoring Lab to continue overseeing ongoing development of the Occoquan Model for FY 2004.

Commissioner Pepper moved Resolution No. P03-25. The motion was seconded and unanimously carried.

Human and

Community Services Commissioner Hudgins apprised the members that the governor of Maryland signed legislation changing the board structure of CareFirst. Additionally, an injunction has been filed by the national Blue Cross Blue Shield organization to remove CareFirst as an affiliate.

In reply to Commissioner Favola's inquiry, Ms. Simmons said the D.C. insurance commissioner does not agree with actions taken in Maryland and threatens to sever the relationship that brought Delaware, Maryland and Blue Cross of the National Capital Area together. She added that the CareFirst Watch group, on which Dr. Connally represents the Commission, has written a letter to the D.C. Council stating that the D.C. insurance commissioner's position is not in the best interest of the subscribers to the plan, and they encourage the Council to encourage the commissioner not to sell the plan to first buyer that presents itself.

ADJOURNMENT There being no further business, Chairman York adjourned the meeting at 9:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Approved by:

G. Mark Gibb
Executive Director

Scott K. York
Chairman