

## NORTHERN VIRGINIA REGIONAL COMMISSION

### Minutes of the Commission Meeting Held Thursday, February 24, 2011

#### 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>
Hon. Joan Cross	City of Fairfax
Hon. Steve DeBenedittis	Town of Herndon
<b>Hon. Barbara A. Favola</b>	<b>County of Arlington</b>
<b>Hon. Jay Fiset</b>	<b>County of Arlington</b>
Hon. Robin Gardner	City of Falls Church
<b>Hon. Penelope A. Gross</b>	<b>County of Fairfax</b>
Hon. Pat Herrity	County of Fairfax
Hon. Catherine Hudgins	County of Fairfax
Hon. Robert W. Lazaro, Jr.	Town of Purcellville
Hon. Michael C. May	County of Prince William
Hon. Jeffrey C. McKay	County of Fairfax
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>
Hon. Redella S. Pepper, <i>NVRC Treasurer</i>	City of Alexandria
<b>Hon. Frank J. Principi</b>	<b>County of Prince William</b>
<b>Hon. Kenneth "Ken" Reid</b>	<b>Town of Leesburg</b>
<b>Hon. M. Jane Seeman</b>	<b>Town of Vienna</b>
Hon. Paul C. Smedberg	City of Alexandria
Hon. Linda Smyth	County of Fairfax
<b>Hon. Nancy West</b>	<b>Town of Dumfries</b>
<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>
Linda Summerall	<i>Executive Secretary</i>
Ken Billingsley	<i>Director, Demographics</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>
Peggy Tadej	<i>No. Va. Regional BRAC Coordinator</i>
Aimee Vosper	<i>Director, Environmental &amp; Planning Services</i>

#### OTHERS PRESENT

Jim Corcoran	<i>Fairfax Chamber of Commerce</i>
Hon. Gerald Connolly	<i>U.S. House of Representatives (11<sup>th</sup> Dist.)</i>
Hon. Andrea McGimsey	<i>Loudoun Co. Board of Supervisors</i>
Sue Rowland	<i>NVRC Legislative Liaison; SR Consulting, Inc.</i>
Li Sanghua	<i>Deputy Director, American Affairs Div., Chinese People's Assn. for Friendship with Foreign Countries</i>
Xin Shen	<i>Director, American Affairs Div., Chinese People's Assn. for Friendship with Foreign Countries</i>
Paul Vogelgang	<i>KDCP Productions</i>
Jim Zumwalt	<i>City Manager, City of Manassas Park</i>

CALL TO ORDER Chairman Parrish called the meeting to order at 7:35 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 Parrish welcomed Jay Fiset of the Arlington County Board. Commissioner Fiset is actually returning to the Commission, having previously served from 1998-2004.

Fairfax County Supervisor Jeff McKay has also been appointed to the Commission but was unable to attend tonight's meeting.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner York moved approval of the minutes of the Commission's October 28, 2010, meeting. The motion was seconded and carried, with Commissioners Reid and Fiset abstaining.

Commissioner York moved approval of the minutes of the February 3, 2011, meeting. The motion was seconded and unanimously carried.

#### EXPANDING RELATIONSHIPS IN CHINA FOR LOCAL GOV'Ts.

Commissioner Favola reported that last spring she and Mr. Gibb were invited to the Asian Pacific Economic Council's conference in Langfang, China. They were able to spend some time in Beijing for discussions on developing regional relationships. The trip was arranged with the assistance of The Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries.

#### *Xin Shen*

Mr. Shen, Director of U.S. Affairs with The Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, introduced Ms. Li Sanghua, his deputy director. Mr. Shen is familiar with the U.S., having lived in Arlington while serving in the Chinese Embassy here from 2006-2009.

The Friendship Association, a nonprofit supported by the government and international corporations, was founded in 1954 and is headquartered in Beijing. It has relations with over 500 organizations in 100 countries. The Friendship Association oversees the sister city program for China. It also has regular exchanges with U.S. local governments through organizations such as NACO, the Council on State Governments, the National Governors Association, among others.

The China-U.S. Governors Forum will be the first in a series held during the National Governors Association's conference in Utah this summer. The purpose of the forum is to have regular exchanges with broad participation on a variety of topics, such as education, health, and culture, with concrete results.

Mr. Shen reported that China is growing very quickly and has an urbanization and suburban development drive, and the government is anxious to learn from the experience of U.S. cities and counties.

*questions & answers* Several Commissioners reported on their trips to China, and Fairfax County has a formal relationship with the city of Harbin.

Commissioner Fiset asked about energy. Mr. Shen said the country is committed to reducing its energy use by 20 percent. Energy sources are diversified: hydro power stations, wind and solar. Mr. Shen added that China is the world's largest solar panel producer.

Commenting on high-speed rail, Mr. Shen said it is difficult to construct and the rail lines are not profitable. However, he thinks it is important to focus on the benefits that cities served by high-speed rail receive — look at the economic returns. Rep. Connolly concurred, noting it has taken 47 years to finally start building rail to Dulles International Airport; it is crucial that the U.S. find ways to finance and facilitate its transportation infrastructure.

Rep. Connolly said the United States and China have a very important, very complex relationship, noting there are a lot more opportunities for common ground with China than issues that separate us. He added that China and the United States are inextricably linked through China's holding of U.S. debt: It is in both countries' interest that the U.S. economy prospers. Rep. Connolly stated his support for ongoing dialogue at the local-regional level.

Commissioner Favola talked about the philanthropic sector, suggesting that China may want to think about this as it goes through changes. Mr. Shen confirmed it is under consideration.

Chairman Parrish thanked the guests for attending and introducing the possibility for friendships and relationships at the local levels between the two countries.

**FEDERAL UPDATE** At Chairman Parrish's invitation, Rep. Connolly reported that almost 600 amendments have been filed to the Continuing Resolution (CR). The process has been very open: everyone had the opportunity to file an amendment and to speak to that amendment. The CR greatly impacts local government: funding for CDBG, aide to homeless veterans, WIC, HUD, Head Start, food stamps was slashed. The \$150 million annual contribution for Metro capital investment — a ten-year commitment — was eliminated. EPA was virtually gutted: its ability to regulate clean air, clean water, even soot were defunded. One Virginia Congressman had a bill that would have ended all federal TMDL regulations in the Chesapeake Bay; he believes it did not pass.

In reply to Commissioner Reid's inquiry, Rep. Connolly said he supports TMDLs and plans to introduce a bill providing \$1.5 billion to local governments to help meet new standards for urban/suburban stormwater runoff.

At this point in time Rep. Connolly thinks the probability of a government shutdown is likely.

**NO. VA. REGIONAL  
ENERGY PLAN**

A. Report on Energy Planning in Arlington, Fairfax and Loudoun

*Loudoun*

Hon. Andrea McGimsey, Loudoun County Board of Supervisors, reported that Loudoun County has taken a leadership role on energy issues, having started its community energy plan last year with NVRC's assistance. After seven meetings in one year it was decided to do retrofits to the six largest government buildings in the county. The county invested \$1 million in this project and made back \$292,000 in savings the first year and estimates its investment should be made back in three years.

The county also has a "green business challenge" in partnership with the Loudoun County Chamber of Commerce, wherein businesses compete with each other to see how green they are. The challenge was enthusiastically embraced. AOL won the challenge with a 26 percent savings in energy costs.

Supervisor McGimsey reported that the Claude Moore Foundation is undertaking an energy plan for a large mixed-use community (Moorefield Station) at the last stop on Metro's Silver Line (slated for completion in 2016). The community will also use innovative water management (e.g., toilets will use grey water).

*Arlington*

Commissioner Fissette said Arlington also used NVRC and the consultant team that assisted Loudoun County, adding it was useful to learn from Loudoun's experience. Arlington's goal was to reduce the county government's energy use. Once that worked, the county created a county energy and sustainability task force last year, which has been meeting once a month and will hold its last meeting in March. The task force is comprised mostly of the biggest employers and property owners and includes entities such as WMATA, the Airports Authority and the Pentagon.

The task force has three goals:

- economic competitiveness
- reliable and affordable energy supply
- environmental sustainability

A report containing goals and the strategy to reach those goals will be presented in May to the County Board for adoption. The strategies look at building efficiency, transportation, district energy, and renewable energy. Commissioner Fissette estimates 18 months to implement the plan.

*Fairfax County*

Commissioner Bulova reported Fairfax County is starting with a private sector energy task force, the composition of which is similar to Arlington's; the first meeting was held today. The task force will focus on redevelopment areas, such as Tyson's Corner, Springfield, Richmond Highway Corridor, among others. Leo Schefer (President, Washington Airports Task Force) will chair the task force.

A total of four meetings will be held. The task force will study Loudoun's and Arlington's plans as well as European examples. It will decide what mechanism can be used to continue energy planning, what scale projects can be pursued, and how to streamline the process of building in energy efficiency.

The task force hopes to present its report to the Board of Supervisors in June or July.

Commissioner Bulova added that the task force representative from Virginia Dominion Power asked how this would tie in with the region. Commissioner Bulova was able to point out NVRC's involvement and the role the Commission can play.

B. Proposed NVRC Energy and Sustainability Task Force

Commissioner Favola noted the document defines NVRC's role and moved adoption. The motion was seconded. Commissioner Bulova suggested amending the first sentence to "...Task Force is charged with *coordinating the development of* strategies that promote..." Commissioner Favola accepted the amendment.

Commissioner Reid inquired why Metro was not included and was told the intent is to keep participation at a reasonable level. Commissioner Fissette added that liaisons would be able to attend meetings. The Commissioners agreed to add Metro as a participant.

The Energy and Sustainability Task Force was unanimously adopted as amended.

CONSENT AGENDA Commissioner York moved approval of the Consent Agenda, consisting of the items outlined below. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

- A. Financial reports for January 2011
- B. Resolution No. P11-22: Authorization to Sign a Letter of Agreement for Social Marketing Services
- C. Resolution No. P11-23: NVRC Participation in the U.S.-China EcoPartnerships Program

EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR'S  
REPORT

Mr. Gibb distributed a copy of his report containing updates on:

- Northern Virginia on Frontlines of Demographic Transformation
- NVRC Helps Local Governments Address Chesapeake Bay Pollution
- BRAC
- Commuter Ferry in Northern Virginia

- NVRC Maps Out Northern Virginia's Green Infrastructure
- Northern Virginia Community College
- AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP)
- NVRC Launches E-Newsletter

A copy of "The Virginia Watershed Implementation Plan and Stormwater Management Regulations," presented by a consultant to the Leesburg Town Council on February 22, was distributed courtesy of Commissioner Reid, who stated it will cost the town \$33 million to implement. The Commissioners clarified for him that the Planning District Commissions are involved in the state's impact analysis. Mr. Gibb pointed out that his report contains information on this issue. In fact, NVRC is taking the lead in the development of the next phase of implementation for Northern Virginia because of its unique understanding of the region and its active participation in all aspects of the Chesapeake Bay pollution reduction process.

Commissioner Gross reported the Local Government Advisory Council for the Chesapeake Bay has five new members representing Virginia, and she is now the only representative from a large urban area on that body. There had previously been three representatives from Northern Virginia.

#### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Parrish reported that a bill requiring abortion clinics be regulated as hospitals was adopted.

Information from the 2010 Census for Northern Virginia was distributed. Staff will make a report at next month's meeting.

#### LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Commissioner Gross pointed out the updated legislative program had been distributed, adding a Senate budget amendment would provide NVRC with an additional \$19,819 in FY12. At this time, this item remains before the Budget Conferees. She thanked the members for contacting their state representatives about this.

Two bills remain out of the Governor's transportation plan.

Ms. Rowland reported the General Assembly session is scheduled to finish on February 26 but an extension is likely. The two chambers agree on the revenue portion of the budget but not the expenditures.

Commissioner Gross reported the bill on alternative septic systems has been killed.

The Governor recommends reducing some of the CSA funding, which would have required local governments to come up with the money. The Senate restored it. The House version makes it worse for localities by placing a number of people currently served by Medicaid under CSA, resulting in localities contributing to the funding.

Commissioner Gross said the status of the line of duty act is still undecided.

Commissioner Gross also reported that as a result of a federal investigation, the state will be moving most of the intellectually challenged clients from the training centers to community based services, which will be a huge challenge for localities to pay for.

ADJOURNMENT      There being no further business, Chairman Parrish adjourned the meeting at 9:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:  
G. Mark Gibb  
Executive Director

Approved by:  
Harry J. Parrish II  
Chairman