NORTHERN VIRGINIA REGIONAL COMMISSION

Minutes of the Commission Meeting Held Thursday, April 23, 2020 – via Zoom

COMMISSIONERS
(The names of those members present are highlighted.)

Hon. Walter L. Alcorn
County of Fairfax

Hon. Victor S. Angry
County of Prince William

Hon. Andrea O. Bailey
County of Prince William

Hon. Elizabeth Bennett-Parker
City of Alexandria

Hon. Kenny A. Boddye
County of Prince William

Hon. Kelly Burk
Town of Leesburg

Hon. John T. Chapman
City of Alexandria

Hon. Matt de Ferranti
County of Arlington

Hon. Laurie A. Dirocco
Town of Vienna

Hon. Libby Garvey
County of Arlington

Hon. Penelope A. Gross
County of Fairfax

Hon. Pat Herrity
County of Fairfax

Hon. Caleb A. Kershner
County of Loudoun

Hon. Rodney L. Lusk
County of Fairfax

Hon. Lisa Merkel
Town of Herndon

Hon. David Meyer
City of Fairfax

Hon. Cydny A. Neville, NVRC Vice Chairman
Town of Dumfries

Hon. Dalia A. Palchik
County of Fairfax

Hon. Jeanette Rishell
City of Manassas Park

Hon. Kathy L. Smith, NVRC Treasurer
County of Fairfax

Hon. David Tarter, NVRC Chairman
City of Falls Church

Hon. Kristen C. Umstattd
County of Loudoun

Hon. James R. Walkinshaw
County of Fairfax

Hon. Mark Wolfe
City of Manassas

STAFF PRESENT

Robert Lazaro
Executive Director

Linda M. Tenney
Deputy Director

Gina Kesselmann-Smith
Management Analyst

Allison Doerfler
Transportation Demand Management Outreach Coordinator

Normand Goulet
Director, Environmental Services

Dale Medearis
Senior Environmental Planner

Michelle Simmons
Human Services Director

Peggy Tadej
Director, Community and Military Partnerships
CALL TO ORDER
Chairman Tarter called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL
The roll was called and all members present or absent were noted for the record.

ACTION ITEMS
Commissioner Gross moved approval of the Resolution No. P20-22 – Emergency Resolution to modify public meeting practices and procedures to address continuity of operations associated with pandemic disaster. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Merkel and carried unanimously.

Background:
Resolution authorizes the Northern Virginia Regional Commission to meet remotely via electronic means to ensure continuity of operations.

Commissioner Gross moved approval of the Resolution No. P20-23 – Resolution to call on the US Congress and the Governor of Virginia to address the immediate crisis of rent and mortgage payments through a potential moratorium and to suspend the reporting of negative credit information by credit bureaus. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Merkel and carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT
Mr. Lazaro presented his report to the Commission, which included the following:

- Working with our Local and State Government Partners
  - Twice a week conference calls with Mayors and Chairs with CAOs since March 16
  - Two conference calls with Governor and key Secretariats; commitment from Governor to have key officials on Mayors/Chairs phone calls
  - Daily updates to Mayors, Chairs, Commissioners and CAOs related to regional activities
  - Conference call with MWCOG and Local Government Attorneys organization with smaller jurisdictions regarding electronic meetings
  - Statewide conference call with other Planning District Commissions with US Senator Tim Kaine re: CARES Act
  - Conference call with Mayors and Chairs with two Deputy Secretaries of Commerce for the Commonwealth.
  - Conference call this coming Monday with VA Secretary and Deputy Secretary of Finance on VA rules related to use of CARES Act funds.

- Coordinating with their Federal Representatives
  - NoVA Mayors and Chairs had a video conference call with US Senators Warner and Kaine. Local officials expressed their support for maximum flexibility in utilizing CARES Act funding and the need for clear information on what the Act is or is not funding in Virginia.
• Communicating with the Public
  o YouTube video featuring Mayors and Chairs urging residents to follow governor stay at home order and following distancing guidelines if they must be out and wear a mask.
  o Our original demographer has put together an informative dashboard on the impact of the Coronavirus pandemic on unemployment claims and vulnerable industries in the region and across the Commonwealth.

• Sharing Regional Information
  o NVRC has created a dedicated website to sharing regional Coronavirus information:
    ▪ [https://www.coronavirus-novaregion.org/](https://www.coronavirus-novaregion.org/)

• Next Steps
  o CARES Act Flexibility
  o Reopening the Region
  o Learning from Others

• CARES Act Flexibility
  o Continue to advocate on behalf of local governments the importance of flexibility in the CARES Act funding. Cannot be just tied to reimbursable expenses for things like Personal Protective Equipment.
  o US Treasury Department guidance recently released does not allow CARES Act funds to be used to supplant lost revenue.
  o The entire NoVA Congressional delegation has been supportive of efforts to get flexibility.
  o Working with State officials with respect to guidelines of use of funds already approved for local governments in VA - $1.3 billion.

• Reopening the Region, NCR & Commonwealth
  o Coordinative effort in the National Capital Region, but in Northern Virginia as well with respect to reopening the Commonwealth and the NCR.
  o Specific ask has been made of the Governor's Office to include NoVA on any workgroup with respect to planning the reopening of the economy. CARES Act funding has been requested to assist the region in the planning.
  o Working to coordinate meeting of CAOs, Superintendents of School and Health Directors.

• Learning from Others
  o NVRC has arranged phone call with the Lord Mayor of Kiel, Germany and our colleagues in Stuttgart Region about how their localities are working to reopen their communities and local government facilities.
  o Agenda includes:
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- What is the process by which you are looking to re-open your city?
- What health metrics and benchmarks do you use to determine any safe measures for the public’s return and businesses to re-open?
- How are the plans for re-opening evaluated in your city and how are corrections or adjustments made administratively, scientifically and politically?
- What are the future steps you think Kiel might take, especially this summer on parks, swimming pools, libraries, community centers, day camps, etc.

• Continuing to Provide Services
  - Virtual staff meetings via Zoom
  - Continuity of Operations Planning for our Ryan White providers.

OTHER BUSINESS
Commissioner Umstadt brought up the need for transit funding increase.

Commissioner Boddye suggested that NVRC could push for a testing increase in the region.

Commissioner Gross brought up that there is a lot of misinformation out there. So maybe NVRC can be sort of a library of facts for the region.

ADJOURNMENT
Chairman Tarter adjourned the meeting at 8:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Robert W. Lazaro, Jr.  P. David Tarter
Executive Director  Chairman