

# NORTHERN VIRGINIA REGIONAL COMMISSION

Minutes of the Commission Meeting Held Thursday, September 26, 2019

## COMMISSIONERS

(The names of those members present are highlighted.)

**Hon. Victor S. Angry**  
**Hon. Elizabeth Bennett-Parker**  
Hon. Sharon Bulova  
Hon. Kelly Burk  
**Hon. John T. Chapman**  
**Hon. John C. Cook**  
Hon. Matt de Ferranti  
Hon. Laurie A. Dirocco  
**Hon. Libby Garvey**  
**Hon. Penelope A. Gross**  
Hon. Pat Herrity  
**Hon. Geary Higgins**  
Hon. Catherine Hudgins  
Hon. Jeffrey C. McKay  
Hon. Lisa Merkel  
**Hon. David Meyer**  
**Hon. Cydney A. Neville, NVRC Vice Chairman**  
Hon. Martin E. Nohe  
Hon. Frank J. Principi  
Hon. Phyllis J. Randall  
**Hon. Jeanette Rishell**  
**Hon. Kathy L. Smith, NVRC Treasurer**  
**Hon. David Tarter, NVRC Chairman**  
**Hon. Mark Wolfe**

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

## STAFF PRESENT

Robert Lazaro  
Linda M. Tenney  
Gina Kesselmann-Smith  
Normand Goulet  
Jill Kaneff  
Dale Medearis  
Corey Miles

*Executive Director*  
*Deputy Director*  
*Management Analyst*  
*Director, Environmental Services*  
*Demographer*  
*Senior Regional Planner*  
*Senior Environmental Program Manager*

## OTHERS PRESENT

Sue Rowland  
Ellen Volo

*GoVirginia*  
*Fairfax County Government Relations*

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Tarter called the meeting to order at 7:30 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.

**DISCUSSION AND PRESENTATIONS**

**Resiliency Planning**

NVRC has a long history of more than fifty years working on coastal resilience. Initiatives have included development of shoreline management plans, studies to investigate the impact of sea level rise on the region's tidal shorelines, development of a living shoreline demonstration project, and most recently the formation and coordination of the Northern Virginia Climate Resiliency Team. This presentation provided an overview of activities and outcomes over the past three years that have been carried out by NVRC staff in cooperation with the Northern Virginia Climate Resiliency Team and how this information can be used by local jurisdictions to support regional infrastructure resilience planning.

**ACTION ITEMS**

Commissioner Gross moved approval of the Resolution No. P20-01 – A resolution of the Commission expressing its support for an increase in the pilot solar Power Purchase Agreement cap from 50MW to a minimum of 500MW and increase in project size from 1 MW to 3 MW. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Neville and carried unanimously.

**Background:**

The General Assembly passed into law in 2013 legislation that created a solar power purchase agreement (PPA) pilot program with an aggregate cap of 50MW in the Dominion Energy service territory. As of June 2019, there were 20MW of proposed projects with approximately 30MW remaining before the cap is reached. Fairfax County issued an RFP earlier in 2019 for solar PPA projects that if adopted would represent some 30 to 40MW of new solar PPA projects therefore exceeding the cap in the Dominion Energy service territory. The purpose of the resolution is to express the Commission's official support for increasing the cap on solar PPAs from 50MW to a minimum of 500MW and recommends the cap on individual projects from 1MW to 3MW.

Commissioner Gross moved approval of the Resolution No. P20-02 – Authorization to develop a competitive solicitation for Fair Housing services. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Neville and carried unanimously.

**Background:**

Since 1997 the Northern Virginia Regional Commission has procured the services of vendors for Fair Housing testing and related services. The expiring contract resulting from Resolution 14-31 has enabled several Northern Virginia localities to purchase fair housing rental and sales testing,

as well as analysis of impediments to fair housing. The resolution authorizes the Executive Director to evaluate proposals received in response to the solicitation in accordance with the Virginia Public Procurement Act, and to negotiate and execute one or more requirements contracts for the provision of fair housing testing and related services from offerors deemed acceptable.

Commissioner Gross moved approval of the Resolution No. P20-03 – Authorization to accept and subcontract housing opportunities for persons with AIDS (HOPWA) 2019-2020 Funds in Suburban Virginia. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Neville and carried unanimously.

Background:

The Commission authorizes the Executive Director or his designee to accept approximately \$2,400,000 in HOPWA 2019-2020 funds initially for the grant period October 1, 2019 through September 30, 2020, as well as any additional HOPWA funds that may be identified by DC HAHSTA. The proposed award for suburban Virginia represents near level funding.

Commissioner Gross moved approval of the Resolution No. P20-04 – Authorization to create one new position to staff a transportation demand management grant. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Neville and carried unanimously.

Background:

The Northern Virginia Regional Commission has submitted a grant proposal to the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission to provide a Transportation Demand Management program along the I95 corridor to the military bases in the region. This action was approved by the NVRC Board by Resolution 19-29. The bases generate more than 100,000 single occupancy vehicle trips daily. As only the Commission can create positions that are not adopted in the Fiscal Year Annual Budget and Program, this request creates the position of Commuter Outreach Specialist to provide services in anticipation of the grant's approval. If the grant is not received the position will not be filled. The position will also expire should the grant not be extended after the initial one-year period.

Commissioner Gross moved approval of the Resolution No. P20-05 – Authorization for Executive Director to enter into agreements for the purpose of implementing the DMV Highway Safety Grant. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Neville and carried unanimously.

Background:

Since 2005 the Northern Virginia Regional Commission has operated the Share VA Roads bicyclist, pedestrian and motorist safety program. NVRC has been awarded \$137,588 by the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles in Highway Safety grant funds. The resolution authorizes the Executive Director to enter into agreements with various local organizations to implement the program.

Commissioner Gross moved approval of the Resolution No. P20-06 – Education and promotion of integrated solid waste management and product stewardship. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Neville and carried unanimously.

Background:

Waste managers from the fourteen solid waste planning units in Northern Virginia through the Northern Virginia Waste Management Board (NVWMB) have met since 1989 to review and coordinate on issues of regional concern. The Department of Environmental Quality looks to the NVWMB for expertise and innovation on solid waste management. The resolution recognizes the role of the Waste Management Board and that NVRC staff, with waste management board members assistance, provide materials and technical assistance to local and state legislative staff on solid waste issues currently affecting the region and commonwealth.

Commissioner XXGross moved approval of the Resolution No. P20-07 – Authorization of endorsement for the Commonwealth of Virginia to establish the Community Military Partnership Grant Program. The motion was seconded by Commissioner XXNeville and carried unanimously.

Background:

The Defense Community Infrastructure Program (DCIP) received a major boost from Senate appropriators for \$75 million in funding for the new initiative. The U.S. Conference of Mayors has endorsed the DCIP funding in Congress as well as other Regional Councils in the Commonwealth proposing the establishment of a Community Military Partnership Grant program for \$10 million in the Governor’s budget submission. The grant program would support local infrastructure projects that improve the readiness and value of military installations in Virginia and benefit the communities that host these bases.

EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR’S  
REPORT

Mr. Lazaro presented his report to the Commission, which included the financial report for July and August 2019 and the following:

- LED Street Light Smart Cities Components
  - NVRC and local government staffs met with Dominion Energy regarding next steps with respect to LED streetlight Smart Cities components. Components will require Dominion Energy to install smart meters system-side. The company will be going to the SCC for permission to install the meters.
- Solarize NoVA Update
  - The Solarize NoVA campaign has now exceeded 2.9 MW of solar and contract values in excess of \$8.5 million. The resulting solar is more than 5% of the net metered solar in the Commonwealth of Virginia.
  - The Spring Solarize campaign was our most successful campaign to date. Many thanks to all our local government partners who helped promote this program.

- Energy Efficiency
  - From 2016 to date 4,935 families assisted. With the following annual savings:
    - 2,872,703 kWh
    - 7,074,684 gallons of water
    - \$315,997 in electricity savings
    - 2,239 tons of CO2 offset
  
- SolSmart Gold
  - NVRC congratulates our colleagues in Fairfax County on being the first municipality in Virginia to achieve SolSmart gold designation. Six of the nine permitting localities in the region have achieved some level of SolSmart designation.
  - NVRC is proud to have been the second region in the nation to achieve SolSmart gold designation.
  
- Our New Role with the Ryan White Program
  - NVRC was pleased to host a statewide consumer housing conference in collaboration with the Virginia Department of Health.
  - This program is the result of our new relationship with the state in providing statewide leadership sharing NVRC's expertise in housing for people living with HIV and other related work.
  
- Convening the Region
  - NVRC was pleased to host the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation as they reach out to local government partners and others related to Conserve Virginia 2.0.
  
- Norm Goulet Honored
  - Norm Goulet, NVRC's Director of Environmental Services, was honored by Virginia Water Environment for his contributions in the field of stormwater management. Norm is an acknowledged expert in his field who has worked with and share his expertise with colleagues around the entire Commonwealth.
  
- Tech Talent Pipeline Launched
  - Governor Northam held a Workforce Listening Session at Chantilly High School followed by the launching of the Tech Talent Pipeline that has been piloted by the Northern Virginia Community College as part of a Go Virginia grant. The Commission had received a preview of the project earlier this year.

- Clean Energy Summit
  - NVRC was pleased to attend the inaugural Clean Energy Summit in Richmond. NVRC led a panel on local government innovation regarding energy. More than 450 people were in attendance.
  - Governor Northam made a major announcement by issuing an Executive Order setting a goal of 100% carbon free electricity generation by 2050.
- Sharing Safety Information
  - NVRC was pleased to partner with the Inova Fairfax Trauma Center to provide information regarding pedestrian and bike safety.
  - NVRC was happy to provide safety guides and share information related to pedestrian accident data.
- Rain Garden Workshop
  - NVRC had a full house at our free rain garden workshop hosted by Sully District Supervisor Kathy Smith.
  - We appreciate the opportunity to bring this information to help our residents plant gardens that help reduce stormwater runoff which protects local streams and ultimately the Chesapeake Bay.
- Upcoming Schedule
  - **October**
    - MWAA CEO Jack Potter re: Economic Impact of Airports
    - Northern Virginia Economic Development Alliance
    - Presentation of Audit for review and approval
    - Presentation of Preliminary FY21 Budget for review and approval
  - **December**
    - Dominion Energy – Carbon Pricing/Renewables
- Clean Energy Summit
  - NVRC was pleased to attend the inaugural Clean Energy Summit in Richmond. NVRC led a panel on local government innovation regarding energy. More than 450 people were in attendance.
  - Governor Northam made a major announcement by issuing an Executive Order setting a goal of 100% carbon free electricity generation by 2050.
    - Thanking our departing Commission members

Mr. Lazaro also followed up on the July 2019 meeting regarding the economic development collaboration and introduced the new NVRC demographer, Jill Kaneff.

#### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Tarter asked Commissioners what topics should be on the 2020 meeting agendas.

Commissioner Angry suggested to have a presentation on solar projects and what possibilities are available in this field.

Commissioner Gross mentioned that (affordable) housing should be discussed, as well, particularly how all the jurisdictions can achieve their goals and how all this can be financed.

Commissioner Garvey added that another subject for an upcoming Commission meeting could be what projects the different jurisdictions have undertaken that became a big success and what projects the jurisdictions are particularly proud of.

Chairman Tarter also informed the Commission that the City of Falls Church will hold a reception for all NVRC Commissioners and staff at the Falls Church City Hall at 7pm on Wednesday, October 23.

#### GO VIRGINIA REPORT

Mr. Lazaro and Sue Rowland referred to the Go Virginia report that was distributed prior to the meeting.

#### MINUTES

Commissioner Gross moved approval of the Commission meeting minutes of July 25, 2019. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Neville and carried. Commissioner Smith, Commissioner Bennett-Parker, Commissioner Angry, Commissioner Wolfe and Commissioner Higgins abstained.

#### OTHER BUSINESS

Commissioner Gross briefed the Commissioners on what was discussed at the Community and Military Partnership meeting on September 19, 2019.

Commissioner Gross also invited Commissioners to attend the next Community and Military Partnership meeting on November 7, 2019 from 10 am to Noon at the NVRC office location.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Tarter adjourned the meeting at 8:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Robert W. Lazaro, Jr.  
Executive Director

Approved by:

David Tarter  
Chairman