

NORTHERN VIRGINIA REGIONAL COMMISSION

Minutes of the Commission Meeting Held Thursday, June 23, 2011

COMMISSIONERS

(The names of those members present are highlighted.)

Hon. Sharon Bulova	<i>County of Fairfax</i>
Hon. John C. Cook	<i>County of Fairfax</i>
Hon. Joan Cross	<i>City of Fairfax</i>
Hon. Steve DeBenedittis	<i>Town of Herndon</i>
Hon. Barbara A. Favola	<i>County of Arlington</i>
Hon. Jay Fiset	<i>County of Arlington</i>
Hon. Robin Gardner	<i>City of Falls Church</i>
Hon. Penelope A. Gross	<i>County of Fairfax</i>
Hon. Pat Herrity	<i>County of Fairfax</i>
Hon. Catherine Hudgins	<i>County of Fairfax</i>
Hon. Robert W. Lazaro, Jr.	<i>Town of Purcellville</i>
Hon. Michael C. May	<i>County of Prince William</i>
Hon. Jeffrey C. McKay	<i>County of Fairfax</i>
Hon. Suhas Naddoni	<i>City of Manassas Park</i>
Hon. Martin E. Nohe, NVRC Vice Chairman	<i>County of Prince William</i>
Hon. Harry J. Parrish II, NVRC Chairman	<i>City of Manassas</i>
Hon. Redella S. Pepper, NVRC Treasurer	<i>City of Alexandria</i>
Hon. Frank J. Principi	<i>County of Prince William</i>
Hon. Kenneth "Ken" Reid	<i>Town of Leesburg</i>
Hon. M. Jane Seeman	<i>Town of Vienna</i>
Hon. Paul C. Smedberg	<i>City of Alexandria</i>
Hon. Linda Smyth	<i>County of Fairfax</i>
Hon. Nancy West	<i>Town of Dumfries</i>
Hon. Scott K. York	<i>County of Loudoun</i>

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 & Information Services</i>
David Schwengel	<i>Director, Regional Emergency Preparedness Planning</i>
Michelle Simmons	<i>Director, Human Services</i>
Peggy Tadej	<i>No. Va. Regional BRAC Coordinator</i>
Heather Shackley	<i>Website Administrator</i>
Aimee Vosper	<i>Director, Environmental & Planning Services</i>
Stephen Walz	<i>Director, Regional Energy Planning</i>

OTHERS PRESENT

Bruce Bennett	<i>Hunter Mill Defense League</i>
Kate Boyle	<i>Fairfax County staff</i>
Roger Diedrich	<i>Sierra Club</i>
Sue Rowland	<i>NVRC Legislative Liaison; SR Consulting, Inc.</i>
Jim Zumwalt	<i>City Manager, City of Manassas Park</i>

CALL TO ORDER Chairman Parrish called the meeting to order at 7:36 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.

APPROVAL OF
MINUTES

Commissioner Lazaro moved approval of the minutes of the May 26, 2011, meeting. The motion was seconded and carried with Commissioner Nohe abstaining.

COMMUTER BOAT
MARKET ANALYSIS

Mr. Gibb reported that a market analysis performed in 2009 generated little interest. However, due to BRAC, a commuter boat is now viewed as a viable transportation approach, generating tremendous interest. The cost of the market analysis is \$350,000.

Frank Principi

Commissioner Principi explained the 2009 technical feasibility study was performed by VDOT and identified possible origins. He stressed the importance of making this a national capital region effort: the military, federal agencies, GMU (and hopefully University of Maryland), private sector (boat operators), and Virginia and Maryland local governments. Commissioner Principi added that D.C. Councilman Phil Mendelsohn has committed the DDOT director's involvement and indicated the Council may be amenable to making a financial contribution towards the market analysis.

The market analysis is expected to provide the stakeholder committee with the information needed to make well-informed planning, policy and budgetary decisions regarding the future of commuter boat transportation in the region. Commuter boat service is intended to supplement, not compete with, existing transit services, including VRE and local and long-distance bus service.

The stakeholder committee has talked with six vendors about a market analysis and has verbal agreements for the \$350,000, with VDOT committed to provide 25 percent of the study's cost.

To date, seven grants for various transportation efforts under BRAC have been submitted; three have been rejected while the others are under review.

Commissioner Principi noted there are currently two water taxi companies but that is different from passenger ferries. The ferries offer an evacuation means and that is of interest to the military and also fits into a FEMA concept. He confirmed that bicycles would be allowed on the ferries. It is also a goal to be able to use MetroChecks on the ferry.

questions & answers Replying to Chairman Parrish's inquiry, Commissioner Principi said the market analysis will show the locations of the highest demands for service.

Commissioner Principi confirmed for Commissioner Hudgins that WMATA has been invited to join the ferry stakeholders committee but has yet to participate. Mr. Gibb added that MWCOCG has been involved.

Chairman Parrish commended Commissioner Principi for the progress he has made.

CONSENT AGENDA Commissioner Lazaro moved approval of the Consent Agenda, consisting of the items outlined below. The motion was seconded.

- A. Resolution No. P11-41: Authorization to Submit a Grant Proposal for Electric Vehicle Planning and Charging Infrastructure
- B. Resolution No. P11-42: Extension of Auditor Engagement
- C. Resolution No. P11-43: Authorization to Apply for Funding for the Joint HUD and EPA Capacity Building for Sustainable Communities Program

Concerning Resolution No. P11-43, Commissioner Fisetta wanted to know if NVRC was in competition with MWCOCG. Mr. Gibb said this is a new grant. Commissioner Gross does not believe MWCOCG is applying. This grant fits very well with NVRC's water planning.

Staff assured Commissioner Fisetta that NVRC's match may be in-kind; further, the agency may partner with one of the universities, which can go towards the match.

The Consent Agenda was approved unanimously.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Kenneth Billingsley, NVRC's Director of Demographics and Information Services, provided a brief update on the 2010 Census, focusing on the explosive growth of minorities in Northern Virginia. The day will soon arrive when there will be no majority racial and ethnic group in Northern Virginia. This trend is also reflected in the region's public school systems, with 168 different languages spoken by Northern Virginia's school children.

Mr. Gibb distributed a copy of his report on:

- Recognizing Our Region's Treasured Landscapes
- NVRC and METREX
- Penny Gross Elected Senior Vice President of the National Assn. of Regional Councils (NARC)
- Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail Corridor Analysis
- Watershed Implementation Plan Update

Vice Chairman Nohe, who serves as Chairman of the Virginia Association of Planning District Commissions, reported VAPDC will hold its annual summer conference July 28-30 in Virginia Beach and is working to secure Virginia's Secretary of Health and Human Resources to discuss health care reform in Virginia.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Commissioner Gross moved election of the slate of officers:

Martin E. Nohe (Prince William County)	Chairman
Robert W. Lazaro, Jr. (Town of Purcellville)	Vice Chairman
Redella S. Pepper (City of Alexandria)	Treasurer

The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

ENERGY STRATEGY

Mr. Gibb distributed an updated work program, pointing out that the Commission had approved the changes last month. NVRC staff is working with the jurisdictions' staffs. He added that it is time to revitalize the committee and asked for volunteers.

Replying to Commissioner Gross, Mr. Gibb said Virginia Power and Washington Gas have committed funding, staff has applied for grants, and funding from the jurisdictions is expected. Commissioner Gross expressed concern that the jurisdictions' budgets have already been set. Mr. Gibb assured her that discussions had been held with the jurisdictions' staffs and minimal funding has been budgeted; the work has already been approved in some of the local budgets. He added that the program budget will be brought back to the Commission. Commissioner Lazaro suggested discussing the program with Reha.

NORTHERN VIRGINIA BRAC

Commissioner Nohe, committee chairman, reported the committee performed a transit gap analysis. Using that information, Commissioner McKay had WMATA introduce a resolution adding \$624,000 for express bus service from the Springfield-Franconia Metro station to Fort Belvoir.

Additionally, DOD's Office of Economic Adjustment wants to fund an extension of the Regional BRAC Coordinator position and program for a full year (July 2011- June 2012).

Commissioner Hudgins added that the WMATA resolution was qualifying in that direct services will start in September, with revenue coming from possibly Fairfax County or someplace else, with the expectation that the revenue will come to cover that route; the other is a place holder for a new service contingent upon the funding coming. She pointed out that WMATA's budget remained the same and expressed surprise that this had not previously come up. Mr. Gibb said the BRAC Committee was also surprised that such an obvious gap existed. There was a meeting a Supervisor McKay's office earlier in the week where this was discussed; it had never been discussed until the BRAC Committee meetings. It proved to him why BRAC is a regional issue.

Commissioner Gross stated that WMATA was present at these meetings and told the committee they need to ask for what they want. She added that the participation of the base commanders on the committee has been extremely valuable, noting that they are interested in the greater community, not just their military base.

Commissioner Nohe moved adopted of Resolution No. P11-44: Grant Application to Office of Economic Adjustment for Northern Virginia BRAC Coordinator Position July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012, which formalizes the Commission's request and acceptance of the grant funding. The motion was seconded.

Mr. Gibb clarified for Commissioner Principi that while OEA has indicated it will fund this position it has requested a formal resolution from the Commission.

The motion carried unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS Vice Chairman Nohe noted that Chairman Parrish is the longest serving chairman, having served two full terms plus the uncompleted portion of former Chairman Connolly's term, and presented Chairman Parrish with a certificate of appreciation and gift on behalf of the Commission. Chairman Parrish thanked the members and staff, who gave him a hearty round of applause.

ADJOURNMENT There being no further business, Chairman Parrish adjourned the meeting at 9:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

G. Mark Gibb
Executive Director

Approved by:

Harry J. Parrish II
Chairman