

NORTHERN VIRGINIA REGIONAL COMMISSION

Minutes of the Commission Meeting Held Thursday, February 23, 2012

COMMISSIONERS

(The names of those members present are highlighted.)

Hon. Sharon Bulova (departed 8:02 p.m.)	<i>County of Fairfax</i>
Hon. Peter Candland	<i>County of Prince William</i>
Hon. Janet Clarke	<i>County of Arlington</i>
Hon. John C. Cook	<i>County of Fairfax</i>
Hon. Steve DeBenedittis	<i>Town of Herndon</i>
Hon. Jay Fissette	<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>NVRC Vice Chairman</i>	<i>Town of Purcellville</i>
Hon. Fernando "Marty" Martinez	<i>Town of Leesburg</i>
Hon. Jeffrey C. McKay	<i>County of Fairfax</i>
Hon. Suhas Naddoni	<i>City of Manassas Park</i>
Hon. Martin E. Nohe, NVRC Chairman	<i>County of Prince William</i>
Hon. Harry J. Parrish II	<i>City of Manassas</i>
Hon. Redella S. Pepper, NVRC Treasurer (departed 7:50 p.m.)	<i>City of Alexandria</i>
Hon. Frank J. Principi	<i>County of Prince William</i>
Hon. M. Jane Seeman	<i>Town of Vienna</i>
Hon. R. Scott Silverthorne	<i>City of Fairfax</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>
vacancy	<i>County of Arlington</i>

STAFF PRESENT

G. Mark Gibb	<i>Executive Director</i>
Linda M. Tenney	<i>Deputy Director</i>
Linda Summerall	<i>Executive Secretary</i>
Normand Goulet	<i>Sr. Environmental Planner</i>
David Schwengel	<i>Director, Regional Business Planning</i>
Michelle Simmons	<i>Director, Human Services</i>
Peggy Tadej	<i>No. Va. Regional BRAC Coordinator</i>
Aimee Vosper	<i>Director, Environmental & Planning Services</i>
Stephen Walz	<i>Director, Regional Energy Planning</i>

OTHERS PRESENT

Julie Bolthouse	<i>Piedmont Environmental Council</i>
Chris Gay	<i>Parson Brinckerhoff</i>
Joe Gorney	<i>Loudoun Co. Planning Dept.</i>
Mike Nardolilli	<i>Northern Virginia Conservation Trust</i>

CALL TO ORDER Chairman Nohe called the meeting to order at 7:41 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 York moved approval of the minutes of the January 26, 2012, Commission meeting. The motion was seconded and unanimously carried.

Commissioner DeBenedittis moved approval of the minutes of the February 9, 2012, Commission meeting held in Richmond in conjunction with "Lobby Day." The motion was seconded and unanimously carried.

OPERATIONS
COMMITTEE
REPORT

A. Nonprofit Affiliate

In order to accommodate Operations Committee Chairman Pepper, who had to depart for another commitment, Chairman Nohe agreed to hear the committee's report.

Commissioner Pepper informed the members that the committee met prior to the Commission meeting and discussed the possibility of establishing a nonprofit affiliate of the Commission. She distributed Resolution No. P12-24 which would allow the Executive Director to enter into an agreement on a *pro bono* basis with the law firm of Compton & Duling, P.C. to assist NVRC in evaluating whether and how to achieve a nonprofit status for an affiliate organization.

Mr. Gibb added that the committee would report back to the Commission with a recommendation on whether or not to move forward with this idea. Commissioner Bulova expressed her support, adding that many of the local governments' libraries and parks have nonprofit foundations that can accept monetary donations; this could bring funding to NVRC that it is not now eligible for due to its government status.

Commissioner Bulova moved approval of Resolution No. P12-24. The motion was seconded.

Commissioner Smyth stated there are limits on how the money can be used and she would like to hear from the attorneys on this. Commissioner Bulova reported that other planning district commissions in Virginia have these nonprofit affiliates. Commissioner Pepper added that the Operations Committee plans to meet with the attorney to discuss the concerns raised at tonight's meetings.

Resolution No. P12-24 was unanimously adopted.

B. Ryan White Resolutions

Resolutions Nos. P12-22 and P12-23 to receive and subcontract 2012-2013 funds for the Ryan White Part A and Part B programs were distributed. Commissioner Bulova moved adoption of the resolutions, pointing out that the Commission has administered this program for Northern Virginia since its inception in 1991. The motion was seconded and unanimously carried. (Commissioner Pepper departed.)

CONSERVATION
CORRIDORS

Chairman Nohe introduced Laura Grape, a Sr. Environmental Planner with NVRC. Laura has been with NVRC for over five years and works on stormwater, coastal and Chesapeake Bay, and clean water programs.

Laura Grape

Ms. Grape noted that the Assessment Report had been placed on the table. The significant population growth forecast for the next few decades means the region will also experience some pressure on its natural resources. In turn, an opportunity exists to encourage the

expected growth in a manner that takes advantage of the economic, regulatory, public health, and environmental benefits that the region's natural areas provide, while also improving connections, and avoiding potential land use-based conflicts.

NVRC's Conservation Corridor Planning in Northern Virginia project is a regional effort to help area governments and their constituents assess the region's natural assets for potential integration into civic planning toolkits. The Assessment Report, developed with support for an advisory group with representatives from local governments and conservation organizations, contains maps and strategies for regional collaboration for strategic planning purposes and features a base map of forested cores and connecting corridors, a map of supporting recreation and cultural heritage, and a map of green infrastructure to maintain and protect stream health.

The report describes the abundant benefits that the region's tree canopy and green infrastructure provide. For example, three-quarters of Northern Virginia's land area drains into public water supply intakes. Underground aquifers and community wells supply drinking water to areas not connected to public water systems. Land uses in the watersheds directly affect the quality and quantity of available local and regional drinking water. Stormwater management, agricultural best management practices, wetlands restoration, and public outreach and educations are some of the ways the region can maintain the quality of its public water supplies, helping ensure the long-term health of our communities.

Forest cover reduces surface temperatures, keeping cities cooler and more livable. It also removes air pollutants resulting in saving money and saves in stormwater management costs, both of which are significant as the region strives to meet attainment standards for air quality and requirements through the Chesapeake Bay TMDL. From a public health perspective, studies have also shown that living close to green areas appears to reduce ADHD symptoms in children.

Additionally, studies have shown that preserving open space helps attract companies with good jobs. A study by the National Association of Realtors found that 57 percent of respondents are more likely to purchase a home near green space and 50 percent are willing to pay ten percent more for a home located near a park or other protected area.

The Conservation Corridors Planning in Northern Virginia project's Assessment Report is an advisory document for local consideration. Regional implementation includes the establishment of a working group to continue work on refining the assessment to finer scales and to engage and work with interested parties in voluntary stewardship opportunities to maintain the assets on their properties.

NVRC's project partners include the Northern Virginia Conservation Trust, the Green Infrastructure Center and SKEO Solutions. The Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program, NOAA, the Virginia Department of Forestry, and the U.S. Forest Service provided the funding for this project. (Commissioner Bulova departed.)

questions & answers Commissioner York commented that Loudoun County spent two years discussing conservation opportunities for clean water, buffers and corridors, which did not pass in the county. Ms. Grape replied that Loudoun County staff sat on the project's advisory group and that the report takes into consideration the previous efforts that occurred in the county. She noted that the report is intended to be advisory in nature and respects local autonomy and private property rights. Refinement of the assessment and additional efforts at a local level are voluntary and will be dependent upon the interests of the region's jurisdictions.

Commissioner Smyth asked what the next steps are. Ms. Grape replied reaching out to and educating landowners, civic and homeowner associations on stewardship practices

and continuing coordination through a working group of interested parties to focus on the regional priorities.

The chairman recognized Mike Nardolilli of the Northern Virginia Conservation Trust who commented that the Trust endorses the Assessment Report, which serves as a roadmap to working with landowners to have their land designated voluntarily as a "safe harbor," which provides both state and federal tax benefits.

Mr. Gibb stated that the report highlights the need to protect the region's headwaters, particularly the Occoquan headwater.

CONSENT AGENDA Mr. Gibb asked that the resolution adopting the Conservation Corridors Planning report be removed since the report had not been mailed in advance to the members. The resolution will be placed on the March meeting 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 September – December 2011

C. Resolution No. P12-21: Authorization to Submit Grant to Department of Motor Vehicles for Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety

EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR'S
REPORT

Mr. Gibb distributed a copy of his report on:

- Vocational Training/NVCC
NVRC staff, in partnership with the Ebert Foundation, NVCC, VW North America and REHAU will participate in a one-week peer-to-peer exchange in Germany next month to study that country's pioneering vocation training systems and the potential transfer of lessons to the community college (NVCC).
- Mid-Atlantic APA Conference
NVRC will host the 8th Annual Mid-Atlantic American Planning Association Roundtable
- Residential Energy Efficiency
This program is open to all Northern Virginia homeowners and landlords. NVRC staff are available to make presentations. Recruitment of additional banks and credit unions is underway.
- Regional Energy Strategy — Providing Technical Support to Local Groups
- Northern Virginia Training Center
The local CSB directors are preparing an assessment of what the closure means to each locality and will brief the Commission at its March meeting.
- May Visit from German Delegation
- In Memory — Brenda Zanger Greene
Long-time former citizen member Brenda Greene passed away earlier this month. During her tenure on the Commission, she paved the way for the region to receive more than \$70 million in federal funding for HIV/AIDS services and housing.

CHAIRMAN'S
REPORT

Chairman Nohe introduced his colleague, Peter Candland, who replaces Michael May on the Commission. Mr. Candland represents the Gainesville District on the Prince William Board of County Supervisors.

Chairman Nohe commented that the Alexandria EMT that was recently killed in the line of duty demonstrates what the Commission does — fostering interjurisdictional cooperation — the EMT was a resident of Prince William County working for the Alexandria Fire Department and responding to an accident in Arlington County. Chairman Nohe said the intra-operability agreements among the jurisdictions are in large part due to what happens

at this table. Commissioner Gross added that firefighters from the other Northern Virginia jurisdictions manned Alexandria's fire stations while those employees attended the funeral.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

BRAC

Mr. Gibb reported the committee met last week. Rep. Moran's aides gave their perspectives on Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta's request that Congress undo sequestration and approve BRAC rounds in 2013 and 2015. It is unlikely that a 2013 round of BRAC will take place since the 2005 round has not been completed. However, a 2015 round is likely.

The Defense Health Headquarters will move to its new site on Rt. 50 in Falls Church, bringing 3,050 employees. NVRC staff will reach out to this office to involve the employees in its dynamic ride share pilot program.

Stan Scott, Executive Director of the Virginia National Defense Industrial Association (VNDIA), confirmed that VNDIA will be disbanded as part of the Governor's proposals, despite NVRC's support for the organization.

Commissioner Gross commented that attending the BRAC Committee meetings has been very helpful, providing insight into how the military thinks and pursues its objectives.

Legislative

Sue Rowland, NVRC's Legislative Liaison, joined the meeting via telephone from Richmond.

Commissioner Gross pointed out the updated legislative platform. She reported that neither the House nor Senate reports contained additional funding for the planning district commissions.

Not much is coming out of transportation policy funding. Additional funding for Metro's new silver line is not in the House or Senate budgets. However, SB 3 and HB 2, Rail to Dulles projects, are encouraging.

Commissioner Gross reported that the eminent domain bills are moving forward, and it appears there is little we can do to slow them down or stop them. Although the chambers of commerce are now actively involved it may be too late. It appears there will be a constitutional amendment on the ballot this fall.

HB 129, which Commissioner Fissette brought to the Commission's attention last month, removes hurdles for local government installation of solar panels. It is her understanding that the bill passed in the House unanimously but is opposed by the power companies and is expected to face stiff opposition in the Senate committee.

For litter control, both the House and the Senate have restored the reductions.

Recalling the Commission's previous discussion of the Interstate Commission on the Potomac Rive Basin (ICPRB), Commissioner Gross noted the budget does not include funds for the state's membership dues. However, the bill has been amended so that membership in ICPRB will continue.

Commissioner York asked about the language amending the Dulles Rail bills that prohibit state funding to be used if there is a Project Labor Agreement (PLA). Ms. Rowland said discussions in both chambers are occurring.

Commissioner Gross reported that in speaking with one of the delegates representing Fairfax County she was told it would be helpful for the jurisdictions to make known their top

two or three concerns earlier in the session. She commented to the Commissioners that she is unsure this is possible since new issues often arise during the session.

ADJOURNMENT There being no further business, Chairman Nohe adjourned the meeting at 8:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

G. Mark Gibb
Executive Director

Approved by:

Martin E. Nohe
Chairman