

NORTHERN VIRGINIA REGIONAL COMMISSION

Minutes of the Commission Meeting Held Thursday, October 23, 2014

COMMISSIONERS

(The names of those members present are highlighted.)

Hon. Sharon Bulova

Hon. David S. Butler

Hon. Peter Candland

Hon. Janet Clarke

Hon. John C. Cook

Hon. Laurie A. Dirocco

Hon. Jay Fisetto

Hon. Gerald M. Foreman II

Hon. Libby Garvey

Hon. Penelope A. Gross, NVRC Chairman

Hon. Pat Herrity

Hon. Catherine Hudgins

Hon. Frank Jones

Hon. Joan Lehr

Hon. Jeffrey C. McKay

Hon. Lisa C. Merkel-alternate Vice Mayor Jennifer Baker

Hon. Martin E. Nohe

Hon. Harry J. Parrish II

Hon. Redella S. Pepper, NVRC Treasurer

Hon. Frank J. Principi

Hon. R. Scott Silverthorne

Hon. Paul C. Smedberg

Hon. Linda Smyth

Hon. David Tarter

Hon. Scott K. York

County of Fairfax

Town of Leesburg

County of Prince William

County of Loudoun

County of Fairfax

Town of Vienna

County of Arlington

Town of Dumfries

County of Arlington

County of Fairfax

County of Fairfax

County of Fairfax

City of Manassas Park

Town of Purcellville

County of Fairfax

Town of Herndon

County of Prince William

City of Manassas

City of Alexandria

County of Prince William

City of Fairfax

City of Alexandria

County of Fairfax

City of Falls Church

County of Loudoun

STAFF PRESENT

G. Mark Gibb

Linda M. Tenney

Gina Kesselmann-Smith

Ken Billingsley

Dale Medearis

Robert Lazaro

David Schwengel

Michelle Simmons

Debbie Spiliotopoulos

Peggy Tadej

Aimee Vosper

Executive Director

Deputy Director

Executive Assistant

Director, Demographics & Information Services

Sr. Environmental Planner

Director of Regional Energy Planning

Director, Regional Business Planning

Director, Human Services

Senior Environmental Planner

No. Va. Regional BRAC Coordinator

Director, Planning and Environmental Services

OTHERS PRESENT

Bruce Bennett

Jennifer W. Siciliano

Sue Rowland

Dr. William A. Hazel, Jr.

Brian Moran (via polycom)

Dr. Loring Flint

Dr. Reuben Varghese

David Brickley

Hunter Mill Traffic Calming Committee

Inova Health System

NVRC – Legislative Liaison

Virginia Secretary of Health and Human Services

Virginia Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security

Inova Health System's Chief Medical Officer

Health Director, Arlington Health District

President & CEO of the September 11th National Memorial Trail Alliance

- CALL TO ORDER** Chairman Gross called the meeting to order at 7:31 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.
- "EBOLA PREPAREDNESS"** Chairman Gross introduced and welcomed the four speakers: Dr. William A. Hazel, Jr, Virginia Secretary of Health and Human Services; Dr. Reuben Varghese, Health Director, Arlington Health District; Dr. Loring Flint, Inova Health System's Chief Medical Officer; and Mr. Brian Moran, Virginia Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security (joined the meeting by phone).
Dr. Hazel and Dr. Varghese did a joint presentation. Dr. Hazel mentioned that with a population of 20,000,000 people in West Africa, an estimate of 10000 people were infected in West Africa and 5.000 died. So far there is no treatment for this virus, but only supportive care. There is no vaccination available yet. He also mentioned that Virginia has a "unified command structure". There is constant communication between the different branches (Morning reports, etc.). And he pointed out, that there is no spread of the Ebola virus in our region (Virginia).
Then Dr. Varghese went through the hand outs provided, and explained amongst other things the definitions for a "Symptomatic Traveler" and an "Asymptomatic Traveler", which geographical areas were affected as of October 3, 2014, and explained the infection control steps.
Dr. Hazel brought to our attention that there is a monitory watch of the military personnel, which returns from the West African regions – a "21-day-drill". He further explained the screening process at the Washington Dulles Airport: Level 1-> Customs and Border Control; Level 2 -> Cost Guard; Level 3 -> CDC.
Dr. Varghese followed by going into further detail regarding disease investigation, counter measure implementation and HR/Occupational Health issues.
Dr. Hazel also reported that there are no problems with the protective equipment of first responders, doctors, nurses, etc. in our region. And Dr. Varghese emphasized, that Ebola is " not so easy to catch". Furthermore, he explained the difference between hand sanitizers and soap and water. The latter he prefers, as it removes the germs off the hands, whereas the hand sanitizers kill the germs, but do not remove them.
At the end of Dr. Hazel's and Dr. Varghese's joint presentation, Dr. Hazel pointed out that there is still no federal funding for these Ebola preparations.
The next speaker was Dr. Flint, who spoke about the Screening process and the testing and pointed out that "isolation is the key". He also explained, that there is a checklist implemented and that there are 3 shifts working around the clock. Moreover, he mentioned that a decommissioned ICU was recommissioned and secured for Ebola cases. Further the waste management situation was explained. Dr. Hazel brought to the meeting's attention, that the cost for waste management a day is \$150,000. And there is a special license needed to be able to dispose of such waste. Dr. Flint also explained, that in order to be cleared of the virus, the 21-day quarantine is sufficient.
Mr. Moran was the next speaker, who joined the meeting via phone. He as well mentioned that Virginia has an established command center. He described the Ebola situation as a "health crisis" and the key to fighting this is communication and sharing information.
- questions and answers* Commissioner Bulova asked the speakers where the waste is being disposed of now and are there special procedures for it. Dr. Flint explained that the waste is being disposed of in triple red bags" and then transported. Dr. Varghese pointed out that special companies (private companies) take care of it and that this waste is being taken to a certified location. Commissioner Garvey asked where the Ebola virus is coming from. Dr. Flint elaborated that it comes from a bat.
Commissioner York asked how long this virus could survive outside of a body. The speakers said around 2 hours.

Furthermore, Commissioner York mentioned sewer concerns. The take-away was that the Ebola virus degrades very quickly and there is a greater risk of exposure to E-coli virus and Hepatitis virus in untreated sewage.

“EXPLORE THE
SEPTEMBER 11
NATIONAL
MEMORIAL TRAIL”

Chairman Gross introduced and welcomed Mr. David Brickley, President and CEO of the September 11 National Memorial Trail Alliance, and a member of the Prince William County Trails and Blueways Council. Mr. Brickley is a former Director of the Virginia Department of Natural Resources and legislative representative in Northern Virginia. He is also a former director of the East Coast Greenways council.

Mr. Brickley referred to the handouts and showed slides on the 9-11 Memorial Trail, and 1,100 trail system that links the Pentagon, the World Trade Center memorial in New York, and the Flight 93 memorial in Shanksville, Pennsylvania. In addition to being a tribute to those that perished and heroic first responders on September 11, 2001, the trail serves as a symbol of resiliency and character of the communities in which the victims and their families lived and worked.

The September 11 trail is a historic trail that connects, and makes use of existing trails to promote trail development and provide long range connections between these historic sites. Mr. Brickley also pointed out, that this trail is planned in a way that promotes patriotism though certain sights and signs along the way. In Northern Virginia and the District of Columbia, the trail makes use of the East Coast Greenway, the Mount Vernon Trail, the C&O Historic Trail, and the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail, connecting in western Maryland with the Great Allegheny Passage on to the Flight 93 memorial. Making use of the C&O Canal, the trail offers an off road hiking or biking experience using the Potomac Heritage National Scenic trail into Pennsylvania. The trail further provides connections in Maryland, Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and New York with off road and on road routes using the East Coast Greenway. The exact route is still being determined, particularly for the section of trail stretching east from Shanksville, Pennsylvania to New York City. The planning of the trail is based on the use of existing trails and greenways wherever possible.

Mr. Brickley requested a resolution in support of the 9-11 Memorial trail and its trailhead in Northern Virginia at the Pentagon in Arlington, making use of the existing Mount Vernon and Potomac Heritage trails in Northern Virginia.

UPDATE ON THE
PRESS
CONFERENCE:
NORTHERN
VIRGINIA BLANKET
DRIVE FOR
SYRIAN
REFUGEES,
OCTOBER 29,
2014, FAIRFAX
COUNTY
GOVERNMENT
CENTER

Mr. Gibb gave the Commission an update on the Press Conference, hosted by Commissioner Bulova, regarding the blanket drive. He said, that blankets are being collected and that there is a website created specifically for this and all jurisdictions are present. Commissioner Bulova asked for spreading the information regarding the blanket drive (location, etc.), so that people can deliver blankets. She also mentioned that it is a “no-budget-effort”, and reminded the Commission that last year, upon learning that the refugees needed blankets, almost 18,000 blankets were collected and Paxton Van Lines donated transportation to the Port of Virginia where Maersk shipping line loaded them into containers and shipped them free of charge to Turkey for distribution. Commissioner Gross added that this year it is a much shorter time frame, but these blankets are desperately needed, as the temperatures are dropping. Commissioner Bulova also asked to share the Blanket Drive info on Facebook.

EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR'S
REPORT

Printed copies of the report were distributed:

- Energy - Solarize
- Blanket Drive
- NVRC at Fort Belvoir Community Breakfast
- Public Partnerships
- Coastal Tech Assistance Program

- Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail MOA
- Virginia Outdoors Plan
- Bicycle Pedestrian Safety Grant
- City of Fairfax / GMU Charrette
- New Offices of the NVRC

Mr. Gibb moved approval of the Resolution No. P15-07 regarding the authorization for the executive director to secure consultant services for the city of Fairfax/George Mason University Charrette. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pepper and unanimously carried.

Mr. Gibb then welcomed the new Executive Assistant, Gina Kesselmann-Smith. He also brought to the meeting's attention that Commissioner Gross received the National Public Official of the Year Award from the Water Environment Federation.

CHAIRMAN'S
REPORT

Commissioner Gross mentioned the "County government day" on the 5th of February 2015 and the 2015 World Police & Fire Games. The resolution No. P15-06 was elaborated by Commissioner Bulova, who also moved for proclaiming full support for these Games. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pepper and was unanimously carried.

LEGISLATIVE
REPORT

Commissioner Cook, Legislative Committee Chairman, went through the 2015 Legislative Program handouts, which were distributed prior to the meeting.

WORKFORCE
COMMITTEE
REPORT

Commissioner Gross referred to the 1-pager in the packet that was distributed prior to the meeting and commented that a lot of work has been done, but now all of it has to come together and that a high level discussion is needed. Commissioner Gross also mentioned that schools and businesses need to be brought together, and hopefully this can be arranged for the CAO meeting November 20, 2014. Then a direction might become visible soon for the next decade or more.

NVTA REPORT

Commissioner Nohe provided an update on HB5010, which amends the Commonwealth Budget to address reduced revenue projections. There was great concern the amendment would trigger the legislative "kill switch" on HB2313, so the Governor requested a new amendment from the General Assembly. The most recent revision generated new concerns, which appear to be getting resolved. Action on HB5010 or more current legislative action will not occur until after November 4th.

FY 2016
PRELIMINARY
BUDGET

Commissioner Pepper presented the resolution No. P15-05. She commented that the general dues contributions remain at the same per capita rate as the last fiscal year and that this preliminary budget report is needed for a tentative view/outlook of what the various budget offices need to allow money for. Commissioner Pepper moved approval of this resolution. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bulova and carried unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Gross adjourned the meeting at 9:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

G. Mark Gibb
Executive Director

Approved by:

Penelope Gross,
Chairman