

NORTHERN VIRGINIA REGIONAL COMMISSION

Minutes of the Commission Meeting Held Thursday, November 12, 2015

COMMISSIONERS

(The names of those members present are highlighted.)

Hon. Sharon Bulova	<i>County of Fairfax</i>
Hon. David S. Butler	<i>Town of Leesburg</i>
Hon. Peter Candland	<i>County of Prince William</i>
Hon. Janet Clarke	<i>County of Loudoun</i>
Hon. John C. Cook	<i>County of Fairfax</i>
Hon. Laurie A. Dirocco	<i>Town of Vienna</i>
Hon. Jay Fissette	<i>County of Arlington</i>
Hon. Gerald M. Foreman II	<i>Town of Dumfries</i>
Hon. Kwasi Fraser	<i>Town of Purcellville</i>
Hon. Libby Garvey	<i>County of Arlington</i>
Hon. Penelope A. Gross, NVRC Chairman	<i>County of Fairfax</i>
Hon. Pat Herrity	<i>County of Fairfax</i>
Hon. Catherine Hudgins	<i>County of Fairfax</i>
Hon. Frank Jones	<i>City of Manassas Park</i>
Hon. Jeffrey C. McKay	<i>County of Fairfax</i>
Hon. Lisa C. Merkel	<i>Town of Herndon</i>
Hon. Martin E. Nohe	<i>County of Prince William</i>
Hon. Harry J. Parrish II	<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. 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. David Tarter	<i>City of Falls Church</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>
Gina Kesselmann-Smith	<i>Executive Assistant</i>
Ken Billingsley	<i>Director, Demographics and Information</i>
Normand Goulet	<i>Senior Environmental Planner, IT Manager</i>
Robert Lazaro	<i>Director, Regional Energy Planning</i>
Dale Medearis	<i>Senior 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>

OTHERS PRESENT

Katie Boyle	<i>Fairfax County staff</i>
Sue Rowland	<i>NVRC – Legislative Liaison</i>

- CALL TO ORDER Chairman Gross called the meeting to order at 7:48 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.
- MINUTES Commissioner York moved approval of the Commission meeting minutes of September 24, 2015. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Garvey and carried unanimously.
- Commissioner Dirocco and Commissioner Jones abstained, as they didn't attend the last Commission meeting.
- PRESENTATION Chairman Gross asked Ken Billingsley (NVRC staff) to present his report on "Federal Procurement Spending".
- The report examines Federal procurement from 2010 through 2014 and is based upon an analysis of more than 1.17 million Federal procurement transactions that were recorded from October 1, 2010 to September 30, 2014 (a 5-year period).
- Key findings of the report indicate:
- If Northern Virginia were a State it would rank second in the nation, behind only California, in the amount of Federal procurement dollars it has received over the past five years. The other geographical portion of Virginia collectively would have ranked 7th in the nation.
 - Federal procurement spending in Virginia grew from \$21.2 billion in 2000 to \$54.9 billion in 2008. Each year the base amount increased, and in six of eight years grew by double-digit percentage increases, reaching a historic peak in 2011 when the amount topped \$60 billion.
 - Federal procurement spending abruptly shot downward from \$60.1 billion in 2011 to \$51.1 billion in 2013, a 21% decrease in two years time, before rebounding in 2014 with a 2% increase.
 - When the reductions in Federal procurement occurred, almost 90% of the \$9 billion decrease from 2011 to 2014 resulted from reductions in defense spending.
 - Northern Virginia absorbed 76% of the procurement reductions, while Hampton Roads absorbed 11%.
 - Over the period of the study Northern Virginia received \$219 billion or 75% of every procurement dollar spent in the Commonwealth.
 - Approximately 90% (equivalent to \$261 billion) of Federal procurement spending in Virginia occurs in ten jurisdictions. In rank order, based on obligated contract award amounts, they are: Fairfax County, Arlington County, City of Newport News, City of Norfolk, Loudoun County, Prince William County, City of Alexandria, Virginia Beach and the Cities of Portsmouth and Hampton.

Mr. Billingsley concluded with saying that it is in Northern Virginia where the presence of the Federal Government has and will continue to have its greatest impact on the

economy and the budget of the State.

Questions and answers Commissioner Garvey expressed reservations whether this report should be public. And if the Northern Virginia Regional Commission publicizes it, this should be done with caution.

Commissioner York asked for a link or an electronic copy of this report to share with his board, staff, etc. He also expressed concerns about sharing these findings. The question might come up, why so much money is going into Northern Virginia.

Commissioner Jones commented that this report shows that Sequestration would have a dramatic effect on this region. The numbers in this report are proof of it.

Commissioner Fraser asked if there was a strategy for economic diversity in place to not depend on federal money. Chairman Gross affirmed that this strategy exists to withstand future storms. She also added that this report works right into the workforce strategy that is currently being developed.

Commissioner Garvey brought up concerns whether there is a way to show that the Federal Government is getting good value for their money and if it weren't spending this money in Northern Virginia, the results wouldn't be as good.

Chairman Gross commented that this report is enlightening and the next step is going to be to circulate it among the Commission members. This report can also be used for the workforce development.

Mr. Gibb added that this report was funded through the Commonwealth of Virginia (FACT Fund) and so it will be going to the Governor's office. This report has statewide implications.

EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR'S
REPORT

Printed copies of the report were distributed and Mr. Gibb went through the slides:

- Solarize Campaign Recap
- Blanket/Coat Drive Kick Off
- Blanket/Coat Drive Kick Off Media Coverage
- Plant NoVA Natives Leadership Training
- International Program
- Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trails Summit
- JBM-HH/Arlington County Partnership
- Community, Military & Federal Facility Partnership

Mr. Gibb then added that on October 30, 2015 members of the NovaRegion Foundation's Board of Directors held their organizational meeting via conference call. The Bylaws were approved and Officers were elected. Commissioner Garvey will act as initial Foundation Board President. Commissioner Jones will act as initial Foundation Board Treasurer and Mr. Gibb will serve as Secretary. An IRS Employer Identification Number (EIN) has been obtained, which is required before the 501c3 application can be submitted. And the Board agreed to meet after the first of the year to review the proposed 501c3 application and discuss recruitment of additional board members.

Mr. Gibb also mentioned the Urban Crescent Meeting that is taking place December 11, 2015, in Fredericksburg, VA and invited all the Commissioners again referring to the initial invitation letter. Since 2009, the Commonwealth has reduced its share of funding for public education by approximately \$1 billion. State funding on a per pupil inflation adjusted basis has decreased from \$4,275 per pupil in 2009 to \$3,655 per pupil in 2015. This reduction in state funding has caused challenges for local

governments who are significantly limited in their ability to raise revenue as they struggle with reductions in local revenues and a challenging economic climate. Government, school and business leaders have come together to spearhead a conversation regarding the inadequacy of state K-12 public education funding, with the goal of garnering support to petition the 2016 General Assembly and Governor with a request to ensure adequate and appropriate state K-12 funding that reflects the true costs of providing a high quality public education. Over 120 elected officials, school superintendents, school board members and business leaders have committed to attend this important event to shape the future of education in the Commonwealth.

NVRC BUDGET

For the first time in four years, the Executive Director has proposed a 7 cent increase in member government annual contributions as a key element in NVRC's preliminary budget for the upcoming fiscal year. The 60 cents will still be the second lowest rate though out all the Planning District Commissions in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Although the preliminary budget originally was docketed for action at this Commission meeting, this has been postponed to the next meeting, on December 10. Chairman Gross asked the Commissioners to please review this budget and confer with their board or council colleagues and their managers.

Commissioner Fraser asked if NVRC is selling its publications. Mr. Gibb responded by saying that electronic communications make it tough. Chairman Gross added that this current report on Federal Procurement Spending cannot be sold as it is funded by the state.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Gross reported that she was at the Virginia Association of Counties (VACO) meeting and the VACO education funding is a big issue. The plan is to increase funding for K - 12. She also spoke to the Governor of Virginia who agrees that there needs to be more funding. His budget will be out mid December. At the moment there is no specific information yet as far as where this money will come from.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Commissioner Cook referred to the 2016 Legislative Program Draft that was in the meeting packet and asked the Commissioners to review this draft and send back any changes or suggestions before December 1, 2015.

WORKFORCE
COMMITTEE REPORT

Chairman Gross referred to the Harmony Crew report that was distributed and added that there will be another meeting scheduled for early December.

NVTA REPORT

Commissioner Nohe reported that NVTA is moving their monthly meetings to every 2nd Thursday of the month.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Gross adjourned the meeting at 9:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

G. Mark Gibb
Executive Director

Approved by:

Penelope Gross,
Chairman