

NORTHERN VIRGINIA REGIONAL COMMISSION

Minutes of the Commission Meeting Held Thursday, February 25, 2016

COMMISSIONERS

(The names of those members present are highlighted.)

Hon. Willie F. Bailey	City of Alexandria
Hon. Tony R. Buffington	County of Loudoun
Hon. Sharon Bulova	County of Fairfax
Hon. David S. Butler	Town of Leesburg
Hon. Peter Candland	County of Prince William
Hon. John C. Cook	County of Fairfax
Hon. Laurie A. Dirocco	Town of Vienna
Hon. Gerald M. Foreman II	Town of Dumfries
Hon. Kwasi Fraser	Town of Purcellville
Hon. Libby Garvey	County of Arlington
Hon. Penelope A. Gross, NVRC Chairman	County of Fairfax
Hon. Pat Herrity	County of Fairfax
Hon. Catherine Hudgins	County of Fairfax
Hon. Frank Jones	City of Manassas Park
Hon. Jeffrey C. McKay	County of Fairfax
Hon. Lisa C. Merkel	Town of Herndon
Hon. Martin E. Nohe	County of Prince William
Hon. Harry J. Parrish II	City of Manassas
Hon. Redella S. Pepper, NVRC Treasurer	City of Alexandria
Hon. Frank J. Principi	County of Prince William
Hon. Phyllis J. Randall	County of Loudoun
Hon. R. Scott Silverthorne	City of Fairfax
Hon. Kathy L. Smith	County of Fairfax
Hon. David Tarter	City of Falls Church
Hon. John Vihstadt	County of Arlington

STAFF PRESENT

G. Mark Gibb	Executive Director
Linda M. Tenney	Deputy Director
Gina Kesselmann-Smith	Executive Assistant
Normand Goulet	Senior Environmental Planner, IT Manager
Jeongmin Kim	NVRC international intern
Robert Lazaro	Director, Regional Energy Planning
Dale Medearis	Senior Environmental Planner
David Schwengel	Director, Regional Business Planning
Michelle Simmons	Director, Human Services
Peggy Tadej	No. Va. Regional BRAC Coordinator

OTHERS PRESENT

Mustafa Akpinar	Board Member ATFA
Bruce Bennett	HDML/HMTCC
Dr. William Hazel	VA Secretary of Health and Human Services
Richard Lay	Virginia Grand Source Heat Pump
Diana Meiser	Prince William County Staff
Sue Rowland	NVRC – Legislative Liaison
Dr. Reuben Varghese	Health Director, Arlington Health District
Scott York	Former Chair Loudoun County

CALL TO ORDER Chairman Gross called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW COMMISSIONERS Chairman Gross introduced new Commissioners, who did not attend the last Commission meeting:

Commissioner Bailey – City of Alexandria
Commissioner Vihstadt – Arlington County

ROLL CALL The roll was called and all members present or absent were noted for the record.

MINUTES Commissioner Merkel moved approval of the Commission meeting minutes of January 28, 2016. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Butler and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Bailey, Commissioner Bulova, Commissioner DiRocco, Commissioner Forman, Commissioner Garvey, Commissioner Hudgins and Commissioner Vihstadt abstained, as they had not attended the last Commission meeting.

PRESENTATION 1 Chairman Gross welcomed and introduced Dr. William Hazel, Virginia Secretary of Health and Human Services and Dr. Reuben Varghese, Health Director of the Arlington Health District.

Secretary Hazel and Dr. Varghese did a joint presentation and gave the Commissioners an overview of the Zika virus and updated the Commission on the current status of this virus.



(Also see handouts)

Background

- Zika virus is transmitted to people primarily through the bite of infected mosquitoes
 - Mosquito bites infected human – infected mosquito then bites another human
 - There is no animal or bird reservoir for Zika virus in the Americas
- Only 1 of 5 persons exposed to the virus gets sick. Eighty percent have no symptoms
 - Fever, rash, joint pain and conjunctivitis are most common symptoms – usually a mild illness
 - Illness lasts several days to 1 week
 - Zika virus remains in an infected person's blood for about 1 week
 - No vaccine or medications are available to prevent or treat Zika infections
- Locally-spread Zika virus disease in Brazil first confirmed in May 2015. First appearance of the virus in Western Hemisphere. Since then, outbreaks are occurring in many countries. See CDC website: <http://www.cdc.gov/zika/geo/index.html>
- Currently at risk – Anyone living in or traveling to an area with active transmission, including pregnant women

- Potential risk – Parts of US, including Virginia, have mosquitoes that could spread virus if they bite an infected person.
 - *Aedes aegypti* mosquito (Yellow fever mosquito) – primary vector for Zika virus
 - Uncommon in Virginia
 - Established populations in Gulf Coast states from Texas to Florida
 - *Aedes albopictus* mosquito (Asian tiger mosquito) – common in Virginia, but less effective vector for Zika virus
- Three (3) confirmed travel-associated cases of Zika virus disease in Virginia to date (February 18, 2016)
- Complications and other concerns with Zika virus disease being investigated
 - Risk of transmission from infected pregnant woman to fetus – newborns with small heads, small brains and other birth defects are being identified
 - Risk of neurologic condition Guillain-Barre syndrome after Zika virus disease – this form of paralysis usually is temporary
 - Rarely transmitted by blood transfusion
 - Emerging information on risk of transmission from an infected man to a woman through sexual contact

Prevention Strategies

- CDC recommended travel alert
 - Pregnant women or women trying to become pregnant are advised not to travel to Zika-affected areas
 - All travelers need to avoid mosquito bites: use repellent, wear appropriate clothing; sleep indoors with screens and AC; use bed nets
- Some blood donation agencies have requested that recent travelers to Zika-affected areas defer donating blood
- Evolving recommendations for returning travelers on prevention of sexual transmission

Virginia response to date

- Informed healthcare professionals: Commissioner has sent two Dear Colleague letters to 140,000 healthcare professionals statewide
- Enhanced disease reporting and surveillance
- Facilitating testing at CDC for Zika infection, when indicated
- State laboratory (DCLS) enhancing testing capabilities
- Developed website and media information, fact sheets, brochures, presentations
- Provided briefings:
 - Interagency – February 4
 - Cabinet – February 8
 - Local emergency managers/health directors – February 10
- Coordinating with localities/DoD Installations with mosquito control programs

- Established a multi-agency planning Task Force with VDH lead
 - First meeting scheduled this week
 - See attached Task Force membership
- Updating arboviral disease response plan for Zika threat
- Identifying potential funding streams

Future actions/gaps

Local

- Expect that local mosquito control efforts will receive more public and media attention
 - Plan now for mosquito control this mosquito season
 - Communicate about need for clean up to reduce mosquito habitats around housing
 - Do not rely on West Nile virus surveillance and control methods for Aedes mosquitoes
- Good coordination between local mosquito control and local health departments

Statewide

- Evaluate mosquito surveillance and control and plan for expanded efforts if local transmission is suspected or confirmed
- Continued public communications – unified, coordinated messages
- Real time situational awareness
- Ongoing federal, state and local coordination
- Identifying funding opportunities
- Identifying planning gaps

References

- VDH Zika Virus Fact Sheet:
<http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/epidemiology/Zika/index.htm>
- Commissioner Dear Clinician Letters:
<http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/clinicians/>
- CDC Travel Page:
<http://www.cdc.gov/zika/geo/index.html>

Questions and answers

Commissioner Foreman asked whether the mosquitos are coming in by rail, boat, aircraft or auto. Secretary Hazel explained that the travel patterns are not known to him yet, but the bigger issue is that people are going to the affected areas and get infected.

Dr. Varghese added a few key points:

- Zika virus is primarily spread through bites from Zika-infected mosquitoes.
- Latin American and Caribbean countries and territories, including Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands, have detected Zika-infected mosquitoes.
- Zika virus is not currently present in mosquitoes the continental US.
- Although Zika Virus Disease is typically mild, there have been reports of birth defects possibly associated with Zika infection. Pregnant woman should consider postponing travel to these regions to avoid Zika infection.

Dr. Varghese also explained that just a little bit of water in containers, where you cannot even see it could lead to an acre of mosquitos so now it is more important than ever to know what to do to reduce mosquito population. A mosquito needs no longer than one week to breed and standing water is the problem.

Secretary Hazel pointed out that a taskforce will be working on what to do about the Zika virus. The Virginia Department of Health (VDH) has sent information to doctors across the state. The situation is being monitored and updates will be provided as needed.

PRESENTATION 2

Chairman Gross asked Commissioner Nohe, Commissioner Tarter and Mr. Gibb to present their NOVA Delegation Blanket Drive Report.

Commissioner Nohe gave a quick recap of the situation in Turkey and emphasized that the need is going to continue to grow and that it is traumatizing. Kids are living on the streets and not only poor people are affected by this crisis. Middle class families are in a horrible situation, as well. Commissioner Nohe then said that we need to continue to help and be engaged.

Commissioner Tarter pointed out that these donations go full circle and that it is a privilege to be a part of this.

Mr. York gave a quick summary on how this blanket drive started, i.e. when the American-Turkish Friendship Association (ATFA) and a NOVA delegation went to look at refugee camps in Turkey three years ago. Mr. York commended Turkey for the great job they are doing. But there is only so much they can do to help these refugees. He concluded by thanking Mr. Akpinar for his part in this effort.

Mr. Gibb added that the refugee kids are traumatized and that the only thing they know is death and destruction.

Chairman Gross pointed out that the Blanket Drive is not a core part of NVRC, but it is a humanitarian part and we need to bring on partners for these humanitarian needs.

Commissioner Nohe added that he would like to create a working group to continue to help.

Blanket/Coat Drive Facts:

- 2015 was the 3rd year and the first to include coats
- In 2013 29,000 pounds of donations were collected
- In 2014, 39,180 pounds of donations were collected
- In 2015, 144,710 pounds of donations were collected. More than 4 times what was collected in 2013
- In 2015, 4,912 boxes were packed and shipped to Turkey
- During the entire time both Paxton and Maersk have donated their services for free; a donation that is literally worth hundreds of thousands of dollars

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Foreman moved approval of the Consent Agenda, consisting of the items outlined below. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bulova and carried unanimously.

- Resolution No. P16-13: Authorization to apply for TDM operating funding for Military installations from Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation
- Resolution No. P16-14: Authorization to apply for Veterans' Education and

Technology & Science Apprenticeship Program from the Office of Naval Research

- Resolution No. P16-15: Application for funding from Coastal Zone Management Program for regional native plant campaign
- Resolution No. P16-16: Application for funding from Coastal Zone Management Program to construct a living shoreline at Leesylvania State Park
- Resolution No. P16-17: MOU with Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation to administer funds used in construction of living shoreline at Leesylvania State Park
- Resolution No. P16-18: Authorization to apply for Bicycle Pedestrian Safety Grant with Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles

EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR'S
REPORT

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

- Solarize Spring 2016
- Sustainability Network
- Community & Military Partnerships of NOVA
- Stormwater Local Assistance Fund (SLAF)
- Ryan White Act

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Gross presented Mr. York with an appreciation award for his time on the NVRC board.

Mr. York noted that it was an honor and privilege to work with the Commission and he will miss it. He also added that NVRC is very important, as we need the regional conversation.

Commissioner Foreman stated that at NVRC all are equals and thanked Mr. York for his professionalism.

Commissioner Nohe moved approval of the Resolution No. P16-19 – Electronic Participation in Meetings. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pepper and a friendly amendment was added, i.e. to add a clause to this resolution stating that the presiding officer needed to be physically present. After a short discussion and the decision that this policy is needed as long as it is not being misused, the motion was carried unanimously.

Chairman Gross then referred to the NVRC management audit that was discussed at the Commission meeting December 10, 2015 and announced that more information regarding the status of this audit will be available in March.

Chairman Gross added that it would be a good idea for the NVRC agenda to highlight a staff member each month.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Commissioner Cook referred to the NVRC 2016 Legislative Program and he then pointed out that NVRC asked for more money, but unsuccessfully. The good news is, that there won't be any cuts.

Ms. Rowland then spoke about the Go Virginia bills and that there will be up to ten regional bodies consisting of elected officials, education sector and the private sector. All the differences and details still need to be worked out and the bills still need to go into conference.

WORKFORCE COMMITTEE REPORT	Chairman Gross announced that the next scheduled event is going to take place April 22 nd , 2016 at the NVRC office location.
GLOBAL INNOVATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT	Chairman Gross reported that the new Global Innovations Committee Chair is going to be Commissioner Tarter
ADJOURNMENT	Chairman Gross adjourned the meeting at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

G. Mark Gibb
Executive Director

Approved by:

Penelope Gross,
Chairman