

NORTHERN VIRGINIA REGIONAL COMMISSION

Minutes of the Commission Meeting Held Thursday, February 26, 2009

COMMISSIONERS

(The names of those members present are highlighted.)

Hon. Sharon Bulova	County of Fairfax
Hon. Joan Cross	City of Fairfax
Hon. Charlie Waddell for Hon. Steve DeBenedittis	Town of Herndon
Hon. Barbara A. Favola	County of Arlington
Hon. John Foust	County of Fairfax
Hon. Penelope A. Gross	County of Fairfax
Hon. Pat Herrity	County of Fairfax
Hon. Catherine Hudgins	County of Fairfax
Hon. Robert W. Lazaro, Jr.	Town of Purcellville
Hon. Harold Lippman	City of Falls Church
Hon. Michael C. May	County of Prince William
Hon. Stevens Miller	County of Loudoun
Hon. Suhas Naddoni	City of Manassas Park
Hon. Martin E. Nohe, NVRC Vice Chairman	County of Prince William
Hon. Harry J. Parrish II, <i>NVRC Chairman</i>	City of Manassas
Hon. Redella S. Pepper, <i>NVRC Treasurer</i>	City of Alexandria
Hon. Frank J. Principi	County of Prince William
Hon. M. Jane Seeman	Town of Vienna
Hon. Paul C. Smedberg	City of Alexandria
Hon. Linda Smyth	County of Fairfax
Hon. J. Walter Tejada	County of Arlington
Hon. Kristen C. Umstattd	Town of Leesburg
Hon. Clyde N. Washington, Jr.	Town of Dumfries
Hon. Scott K. York	County of Loudoun
vacancy	County of Fairfax

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, Information & Demographic Services</i>
Barbara Gordon	<i>Communications Director</i>
Normand Goulet	<i>Occoquan Program Manager</i>
Laura Grape	<i>Senior Environmental Planner</i>
Paul Maltagliati	<i>loaned staff, Fairfax County</i>
Dale Medearis	<i>Senior Regional Planner</i>
David Schwengel	<i>Director, Regional Emergency Preparedness Planning</i>
Michelle Simmons	<i>Director, Human Services</i>
Jim Simpson	<i>Federal Grants Monitor</i>
Debbie Spiliotopoulos	<i>Solid Waste Program Manager</i>
Aimee Vosper	<i>Director, Planning & Environmental Services</i>

GUESTS

Cindy Mester	<i>Assistant City Manager, Falls Church</i>
Raymond E. Owens	<i>Senior Economist, The Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond</i>
Sue Rowland	<i>NVRC Legislative Liaison; SR Consulting, Inc.</i>
Frank Shafroth	<i>Chief of Staff, Rep. Jim Moran</i>
Wyatt Shields	<i>City Manager, Falls Church</i>
John Tuohy	<i>Finance Director, Falls Church</i>

CALL TO ORDER Vice Chairman Nohe called the meeting to order at 7:38 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 Umstattd moved approval of the minutes of the January 22, 2009, meeting of the Commission. The motion was seconded and carried, with Commissioners Seeman and Lippman abstaining.

Commissioner Umstattd moved approval of the minutes of the February 5, 2009, legislative meeting of the Commission. The motion was seconded and carried, with Commissioners Naddoni and Lippman abstaining.

PRESENTATIONS

UPDATE ON ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

Raymond E. Owens Mr. Owens, a senior economist with the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond, gave a sobering review of the key trends in the national economy. Mr. Owens added that the Washington, D.C. MSA has not been as hard hit in job losses as other parts of the U.S.

To address the current situation, the Federal Reserve has turned to credit policy and is now buying selected risky securities, such as Bear Stearns and foreign currencies. Many of the current policies are untried.

The Federal Reserve is keeping interest rates low (0% - 0.25%) and will use all available tools to promote resumption of sustainable economic growth. It continues to purchase large quantities of agency debt and mortgage-backed securities to provide support to the mortgage and housing markets. If circumstances warrant, the Federal Reserve will purchase longer-term Treasury securities. The Federal Reserve will implement a plan to extend credit to households and small businesses.

questions & answers Commissioner Lazaro asked about foreclosures in 2009, in light of adjustable rate mortgages (ARMs) resetting. Mr. Owens replied that ARM resetting should not be a problem since current mortgage rates are low. However, he thinks foreclosures will still be prevalent during the first half of the year.

Mr. Owens confirmed for Commissioner Favola that lending institutions have tightened their standards for home mortgages, adding that the demand for mortgages has decreased.

Commissioner Umstattd inquired about foreign banks holding U.S. mortgages. Mr. Owens confirmed that several European banks, especially German banks, own a great deal of U.S. home mortgages.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT (STIMULUS BILL) FOR NORTHERN VIRGINIA

Frank Shafroth Mr. Shafroth, Chief of Staff for Rep. Jim Moran, began by saying that the stimulus bill is the largest economic assistance bill ever signed into law in the United States. Additionally, the omnibus bill (nine federal funding bills for federal FY09) passed the House yesterday and goes to the Senate; all spending under those bills will expire at midnight March 6 unless the Senate finishes and gets the President to sign the it. The omnibus bill contains a fair amount of funding for programs that directly affect local governments. Lastly, the President submitted an overview of his FY10 budget, with more details to be available in March or April.

The stimulus bill contains approximately \$15 billion in funding for cities, counties and states. Mr. Shafroth said that as of the time the President signed the bill, \$60 billion worth of bonds have been issued by state and local governments at costs of what they were before the President signed that bill. Approximately 61 percent of the stimulus bill is grants: money that will go to individuals, families, local governments. Further, a good deal of the funding the states receive will then be passed on to their local governments. Approximately 39 percent of stimulus funds is in the form of tax assistance.

Mr. Shafroth added that the government recognizes the urgency of dealing with the economy.

Mr. Shafroth stated that the stimulus bill will be the last of its kind for the foreseeable future and urged the local officials to spend their shares wisely by using it for projects of permanency.

questions & answers Commissioner Favola wondered if program criteria could be established in the stimulus bill, rather than a program/formula allocation. Mr. Shafroth agreed that was a good idea, but it's not in the bill, so jurisdictions will have to make the best of it.

Commissioner Gross called attention to the \$190,000 earmark for Whitman-Walker Clinic of Northern Virginia. Mr. Gibb advised Mr. Shafroth that this facility has been closed. It was agreed that a letter should be sent to Rep. Moran informing him of the status of Whitman-Walker's Northern Virginia facility.

Ms. Rowland asked about earmarks in the FY10 budget. Mr. Shafroth said it is five percent less than the current budget; there will be a continuous decline. He added that discretionary spending is just that. If Congress does not earmark discretionary funds then the administration will do it.

CONSENT AGENDA Commissioner Umstattd moved approval of the Consent Agenda, consisting of the items outlined below. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

- A. Financial Reports for January 2009
- B. Resolution No. P09-14: Authorization to Receive and Subcontract 2009-2010 Part A (formerly Title I) Funds for Services Under the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Treatment Modernization Act of 2006
- C. Resolution No. P09-15: Authorization to Receive and Subcontract 2009-2010 Part B (formerly Title II) Funds for Services Under the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Treatment Modernization Act of 2006

**EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR'S
REPORT**

Mr. Gibb distributed a copy of his report and reviewed updates on

- Status on Regionalizing Services — These are long-term efforts that will take time to implement. The Fire Chiefs, libraries and human services officials have been active in identifying areas of regional coordination. Staff are collecting data on regional service delivery throughout the county. A future meeting of the Chief Administrative Officers will include elected officials.
- Inova Health System will open a new AIDS facility in Arlington in late March, replacing the one that Whitman-Walker closed.
- Four Mile Run — The contract with an architectural and engineering firm is being finalized to develop designs for the tidal corridor. Additionally, Virginia Tech College of Architecture and Urban Studies has agreed to manage the competition for the pedestrian bridge design.
- Invitations have been sent for NVRC's Northern Virginia Community Energy Plan Workshop on March 25 at the German Embassy. The workshop builds on the

Commission's trips to Germany and will explore the development and implementation of the plan.

- Public school data recently released by the Virginia Dept. of Education shows net gains in Alexandria and Arlington representing larger annual numerical increases than in any of the past 30 years. Fairfax County had a smaller two-year increase, while Prince William and Loudoun had smaller increases last year compared to year before.
- Sublease information has been made available to the U.S. representative for the newly-formed Baltic Region Chamber of Commerce. The Health Systems Agency of Northern Virginia may also be interested in subleasing space.
- Laura Grape, Senior Environmental Planner, has been recognized by Fairfax County's Dept. of Public Works and Environmental Services for her participation in a multi-disciplined partnership with the department, the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District, and the Providence District Supervisor's Office pertaining to residential stormwater retrofit.
- Dale Medearis, Senior Regional Planner, had an article on alternative energy and NVRC's international regional partnership accepted for publication in the U.S. State Department's "eJournal."
- Michelle Simmons, Director of Human Services, celebrates her 25th anniversary with the Commission next week.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Vice Chairman Nohe reported that he and Mr. Gibb met with the Leesburg Town Council regarding the Commission's Charter amendment and the Council plans to ratify same.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Ms. Rowland, NVRC's Legislative Liaison, distributed copies of NVRC's 2009 Legislative Program showing the status of bills relevant to the Commission's positions. At Commissioner Gross' direction, Ms. Rowland provided highlights.

Commissioner Gross announced that the Legislative Committee will meet in a few months to start strategizing for FY 2010. Commissioners Favola, Lippman and Lazaro volunteered to serve on the committee.

Mr. Gibb reported that the Senate version of the budget eliminates NVRC's supplemental funding, which would put the agency below its 1981 funding level. He asked the members to contact Senator Colgan to restore this funding.

ADJOURNMENT There being no further business, Vice Chairman Nohe adjourned the meeting at 9:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

G. Mark Gibb
Executive Director

Approved by:

Martin E. Nohe
Vice Chairman