

# NORTHERN VIRGINIA REGIONAL COMMISSION

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

## COMMISSIONERS

(The names of those members present are highlighted.)

<b>Hon. Sharon Bulova</b>	<b>County of Fairfax</b>
<b>Hon. Joan Cross</b>	<b>City of Fairfax</b>
<b>Hon. Steve DeBenedittis</b>	<b>Town of Herndon</b>
Hon. Barbara A. Favola	County of Arlington
<b>Hon. John Foust</b>	<b>County of Fairfax</b>
<b>Hon. Penelope A. Gross</b>	<b>County of Fairfax</b>
Hon. Pat Herrity	County of Fairfax
<b>Hon. Catherine Hudgins</b>	<b>County of Fairfax</b>
Hon. Robert W. Lazaro, Jr.	Town of Purcellville
Hon. Harold Lippman	City of Falls Church
Hon. Michael C. May	County of Prince William
<b>Hon. Stevens Miller</b>	<b>County of Loudoun</b>
Hon. Suhas Naddoni	City of Manassas Park
Hon. Martin E. Nohe, <i>NVRC Vice Chairman</i>	County of Prince William
<b>Hon. Harry J. Parrish II, NVRC Chairman</b>	<b>City of Manassas</b>
Hon. Redella S. Pepper, <i>NVRC Treasurer</i>	<b>City of Alexandria</b>
Hon. Frank J. Principi	County of Prince William
<b>Hon. M. Jane Seeman</b>	<b>Town of Vienna</b>
Hon. Paul C. Smedberg	City of Alexandria
Hon. Linda Smyth	County of Fairfax
Hon. J. Walter Tejada	County of Arlington
<b>Hon. Kristen C. Umstatt</b>	<b>Town of Leesburg</b>
<b>Hon. Clyde N. Washington, Jr.</b>	<b>Town of Dumfries</b>
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 &amp; Demographic Services</i>
Barbara Gordon	<i>Communications Director</i>
Normand Goulet	<i>Occoquan Program Manager</i>
Laura Grape	<i>Senior Environmental Planner</i>
Dale Medearis	<i>Senior Environmental Planner</i>
David Schwengel	<i>Director, Regional Emergency Preparedness Planning</i>
Heather Shackley	<i>Website Administrator</i>
Michelle Simmons	<i>Director, Human Services</i>
Aimee Vosper	<i>Director, Environmental &amp; Planning Services</i>

## GUESTS

Karen Berube	<i>Director, Inova Juniper Program</i>
Hon. Gerald E. Connolly	<i>U.S. House of Representatives</i>
Carol Loftur-Thun	<i>Executive Director, CrisisLink</i>
Anne Reiger	<i>Vice President, Community Safety Net Programs, Inova Health System</i>
Reuben Varghese, MD, MPH	<i>Health Director, Arlington County</i>
Hon. Jane Woods	<i>Driftwoods Consulting</i>

CALL TO ORDER Chairman Parrish called the meeting to order at 7:43 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 February 26, 2009, meeting of the Commission. The motion was seconded and unanimously carried.

#### PRESENTATIONS

*Carol Loftur-Thun* *IMPLICATIONS OF CRISISLINK CALL TRENDS FOR THE REGION'S SAFETY NET*

Ms. Loftur-Thun, Executive Director of CrisisLink, the metro D.C. area's call center dedicated to crisis prevention, intervention and response and the 2-1-1 health and human services information center for Northern Virginia, reported on the rise in calls received by CrisisLink regarding anxiety, depression and suicide resulting from the current economic downturn. Nationally, suicides track with the unemployment rate.

Additionally, suicide calls from youth have risen over the past five years, with calls increasing from ninth and tenth graders. In Fairfax County, talk and/or thoughts of suicide among youth are higher than among youth nationally. Suicide is the third leading cause of death for youth.

Ms. Loftur-Thun reported that CrisisLink estimates it saved the region over \$4 million in ambulance, police, 9-1-1, and hospital and treatment costs in FY 2008, as well as leveraging \$500,000 in donated services, space and goods. Through its advocacy, CrisisLink received a state funding increase of \$72,000 in FY 2009 for 2-1-1 in Northern Virginia and level funding for FY 2010. She asked the Commissioners to consider supporting regional, cost-sharing approaches for access to human services through CrisisLink.

*questions & answers* Chairman Parrish asked how the public is made aware of CrisisLink. CrisisLink distributes wallet-sized cards to the jurisdictions' social services departments and to the high schools; uses key words in Internet search engines; media exposure; and development of a new logo targeted to youth.

Replying to another question, Ms. Loftur-Thun said CrisisLink workers answering 2-1-1 calls provide a minimum of three referrals per need and most calls receive follow-up.

Commissioner Cross asked how non-English calls are handled. Both the crisis hotline and 2-1-1 calls have access to the AT&T language line — 100 different languages and the 2-1-1 line has a Spanish-language specialist.

Commissioner Seeman requested information that the Town of Vienna could use in its newsletter and new resident welcome package to alert its residents of CrisisLink's services.

#### *Hon. Gerald Connolly* *UPDATE ON STIMULUS FUNDING*

Rep. Connolly began with an overview of the administration's economic plan, noting that TARP (Troubled Asset Relief Program) funds were released in two stages: first under the Bush administration as cash infusion to the financial and insurance institutions, and again under the Obama administration to automakers and auto parts suppliers as well as banks. Rep. Connolly added that legislation requiring transparency and accountability for use of TARP funds in connection with the second phase release of funds passed the House but

not the Senate. Without that legislation, Rep. Connolly said he felt it necessary to vote against the second phase release of TARP funds. Sec. Geithner is talking about creating a troubled asset bank, which was used by the U.S. during the 1990 savings and loan crisis. Rep. Connolly reported that Sweden also used a troubled asset bank, which eventually made money for the Swedish government.

The second major economic piece is the \$797 billion stimulus bill. This legislation pumps a lot of money into school districts; Fairfax County will receive approximately \$50 million directly, with additional money coming through the state formulas. The Commonwealth of Virginia will receive at least \$800 million in transportation infrastructure funds. Rep. Connolly added that the stimulus bill is an earmark-free bill. This bill will create at least 9,000 jobs in his district; the 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Districts will not be far behind. The stimulus bill also provides for investment in green technology and includes more federal funding for Medicaid.

The third bill passed by the new administration is the omnibus bill which continues funding the federal government for federal FY09. It provides funds for transportation, CDBG, the COPS program, SCHIP health insurance for children, among others. This bill is loaded with earmarks including funding for rail to Dulles (among others in the 11<sup>th</sup> Congressional District).

The federal budget will be the next piece of the economic plan, at approximately \$3.6 trillion. It will build on the investments funded under the stimulus bill and contains big, bold initiatives. The final bill will be SAFETEA-LU, a six-year reauthorization for roads, bridges and transit over and above the funding from the stimulus and omnibus bills.

Rep. Connolly talked about the three bills he has introduced:

- Requires U.S. DOT to study extensions of rail down I-95 into Prince William County and along I-66 to Gainesville, and circumferential rail on the Beltway. The bill is co-sponsored by Rep. Moran.
- Extension of HOV lane exception for hybrid vehicles through 2012.
- Revival of the municipal bond market funding.

*questions & answers* Commissioner Hudgins urged that Congress consider flexibility in accessing transit funds. Rep. Connolly agreed.

Commissioner Gross reported that the National EPA Advisory Committee, on which she serves, is concerned that energy cap-and-trade may reward "bad actors." Rep. Connolly said a panel of economists generally agreed that cap-and-trade is far superior to a carbon tax, adding that Norway found after it imposed a carbon tax that its carbon emissions went up, so it is switching to a cap-and-trade system. He reminded the members that the U.S. has used cap-and-trade for fluorocarbons and acid rain. Rep. Connolly acknowledged that this program will not be easy to administer.

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 February 2009
- B. Resolution No. P09-16: Authorization to Accept Funding from the Commonwealth of Virginia to Support a Regional Pet Shelter Capability
- C. Resolution No. P09-17: Authorization to Sign Extension of Agreement for Media Buying Services
- D. Resolution No. P09-18: Authorization to Submit a Technical Assistance Proposal to Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program

- E. Resolution No. P09-19: Authorization to Submit Grant Proposal to the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program to Research Sustainable Shoreline Community Management in Northern Virginia
- F. Resolution No. P09-20: Authorization to Submit Grant Proposal to the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program to Develop the Northern Virginia Conservation Corridor Plan

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Gibb announced that Inova Health System will open a new AIDS clinic in Arlington next month. He introduced Karen Berube, Director of the Inova Juniper Program, and Anne Reiger, Vice President for Inova's Community Safety Net Programs. Ms. Berube noted that Inova operates AIDS clinics in all parts of Northern Virginia, having opened a clinic in Manassas last year, with additional clinics in Dumfries, Mount Vernon, Springfield, Herndon and Reston. The Arlington clinic will be a full-service, "one-stop" clinic for HIV/AIDS patients.

Dr. Reuben Varghese, Health Director for Arlington County, added that the Northern Virginia health directors have been working with Michelle Simmons, NVRC's Director of Human Services, to transition Whitman-Walker's Northern Virginia clients to other service providers. Additionally, Whitman-Walker's Northern Virginia staff have been working with the health directors on the transition, and the nurse and eligibility worker from Whitman-Walker Northern Virginia have been hired by Inova for its Arlington clinic. Ms. Simmons acknowledged Inova, Loudoun and Alexandria Health Departments, and FAHASS in Fredericksburg for taking these clients.

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

- NVRC's Northern Virginia Community Energy Plan Workshop was held March 25 at the German Embassy. The workshop builds on the Commission delegation's trips to Germany and explored the development and implementation of the plan. Community Energy Plans integrate energy-efficient buildings and housing, generation and distribution of renewable energy, as well as development of mixed and compact land uses that are built around transit centers and have short- and long-term energy efficiency and greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets.

Commissioner Bulova reported that she had attended the morning session and was extremely impressed, and believes this plan could be applied to the planning for redevelopment of Tyson's Corner and other areas in Fairfax County. Chairman Parrish noted that lower energy costs will improve competitiveness, both for companies and nations.

- NVRC hosted a passive housing seminar earlier in the month for 40 architects, planners and "green" building officials and the potential for developing passive housing in Northern Virginia.
- Comparative information on proposed local budgets for FY10 is posted on the Commission's website at [www.novaregion.org/budget](http://www.novaregion.org/budget).
- Update on Regionalizing Services — The Northern Virginia Human Service Officials (HSOs) believe collaboration can help improve services in the community and maximize state funding for services under the Comprehensive Services Act (CSA). The HSOs presented their ideas to the local CSA policy making bodies at the March 11 Northern Virginia CSA Forum.

At their March 19 meeting, the Northern Virginia Chief Administrative Officers received a report from the jurisdictions' library directors that will be presented to the Commission in April.

- The Census Bureau has requested NVRC's assistance with its planning for conducting the 2010 Census in Northern Virginia. NVRC staff will create a series of jurisdictional maps, with accompanying statistical information, showing where new population growth has taken place in the past decade.
- Staff released a new map of the Occoquan area showing updated land use analysis.

- Four Mile Run open house will be held April 2 to review and comment on draft design guidelines from the restoration master plan.
- The Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail charrette has been postponed to the fall.

Staff distributed Resolution No. P09-21, Authorization to Submit a Grant Proposal to the National Endowment for the Arts to Enhance the Four Mile Run Stream Restoration Demonstration Project. The Arlington Public Art Program staff requested NVRC's collaboration on this project. If awarded, NVRC will manage the \$40,000 grant to support engagement of an environmental artist — D.I.R.T. Studios — to develop a public art/design element in conjunction with the Four Mile Run Restoration Project. Arlington County will provide the \$40,000 match. Commissioner Gross moved adoption of Resolution No. P09-21. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

**CHAIRMAN'S  
REPORT**

Chairman Parrish distributed copies of the Mayors and Chairs' March 25 letter to the Governor regarding transportation funding for Northern Virginia from the stimulus funds.

**LEGISLATIVE  
REPORT**

A final legislative report was distributed. Commissioner Gross, Legislative Committee Chairman, reported that NVRC's supplemental funding was saved, although somewhat reduced. She moved that the Commission send a thank you letter to Senator Colgan. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

It was pointed out that the legislation prohibiting smoking in restaurants, unless a section is structurally separated and contains a separate ventilation system, does not take effect until December 1.

Commissioner Gross reported that two Northern Virginia Delegates, Eisenberg and Shannon, are not running for re-election. The Commission needs to start planning soon for its 2010 legislative program as well as educating its delegation members.

**ADJOURNMENT**      There being no further business, Chairman Parrish adjourned the meeting at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

G. Mark Gibb  
Executive Director

Approved by:

Harry J. Parrish II  
Chairman