

NORTHERN VIRGINIA REGIONAL COMMISSION

Minutes of the Commission Meeting Held Thursday, January 27, 2005

COMMISSIONERS

(The names of those present are highlighted)

Commissioner Hilda M. Barg	<i>County of Prince William</i>
Commissioner Melvin Bray	<i>Town of Dumfries</i>
Commissioner Sharon Bulova	<i>County of Fairfax</i>
Commissioner Gerald E. Connolly, NVRC Treasurer	<i>County of Fairfax</i>
Commissioner W. S. Covington, III	<i>County of Prince William</i>
Commissioner Joan Cross	<i>City of Fairfax</i>
Commissioner William T. Druhan, Jr.	<i>Town of Purcellville</i>
Commissioner Joan DuBois	<i>County of Fairfax</i>
Commissioner Barbara A. Favola, NVRC Vice Chairman	<i>County of Arlington</i>
Commissioner Robin Gardner	<i>City of Falls Church</i>
Commissioner Penelope A. Gross	<i>County of Fairfax</i>
Commissioner Catherine Hudgins	<i>County of Fairfax</i>
Commissioner Elaine N. McConnell	<i>County of Fairfax</i>
Commissioner Martin E. Nohe	<i>County of Prince William</i>
Commissioner Michael O'Reilly	<i>Town of Herndon</i>
Commissioner Harry J. Parrish, II	<i>City of Manassas</i>
Commissioner Bryan Polk	<i>City of Manassas Park</i>
Commissioner Redella S. Pepper	<i>City of Alexandria</i>
Commissioner Jane Seeman	<i>Town of Vienna</i>
Commissioner Paul C. Smedberg	<i>City of Alexandria</i>
Commissioner Linda Smyth	<i>County of Fairfax</i>
Commissioner J. Walter Tejada	<i>County of Arlington</i>
Commissioner Bruce E. Tulloch	<i>County of Loudoun</i>
Commissioner Kristen C. Umstattd, NVRC Chairman	<i>Town of Leesburg</i>
Commissioner Lori Waters	<i>County of Loudoun</i>

STAFF PRESENT

G. Mark Gibb	<i>Executive Director</i>
Linda M. Tenney	<i>Deputy Director</i>
Linda Summerall	<i>Executive Secretary</i>
Kenneth Billingsley	<i>Director, Demographics</i>
Coralie Miller	<i>Human Services Planner</i>
Katherine Mull	<i>Senior Environmental Planner</i>
Doug Pickford	<i>Director, Environmental and Heritage Resources</i>
Michelle Simmons	<i>Director, Human Services</i>
James Van Zee	<i>Director, Regional Planning Services</i>

GUESTS PRESENT

Hon. James Chesley	<i>Former Commissioner</i>
Robert Goessman	<i>Former Commissioner</i>
Brenda Z. Greene	<i>Former Commissioner</i>
Eldon James	<i>Legislative Consultant</i>

CALL TO ORDER Chairman Umstattd called the meeting to order at 8:05 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 The minutes of the July 27, 2004, meeting of the Commission were moved by Commissioner Tulloch, seconded and carried unanimously. The minutes of the

December 16, 2004, Executive Committee were moved by Commissioner Bulova, seconded and carried with Commissioner Barg abstaining.

RECOGNITION OF
OUTGOING
MEMBERS

On behalf of the Commissioners, Chairman Umstattd thanked the outgoing Commissioners for their service and dedication. She presented each former member with a certificate of appreciation, while recalling the various issues they had worked on and the contributions they made.

CONSENT
AGENDA

The consent agenda, consisting of the items outlined below, was moved, seconded and carried unanimously.

- A. Financial Reports for November 2004
- B. NVRC Appointment to the Board of Directors of the Health Systems Agency of Northern Virginia
- C. Authorization to Accept Funding from the National Park Service to Provide Technical Assistance in the Development of Management Policies for the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail in Virginia

EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR'S
REPORT

- A. In addition to the report in the meeting package, Mr. Gibb reported that Arlington County Board Chairman Jay Fissette had requested distribution of the "Reality Check" conference information (placed on the table) and urged that Commission members attend this event.
- B. Mr. Gibb read a letter just received from VDOT concerning a new, state-wide competitive transportation planning grant covering four categories: planning for special transportation needs of unique sectors of the community; local transportation planning for alternative modes; linking transportation and land use; and prioritizations of local or regional transportation plan recommendations. The grant is available only to regional entities. While no match is required, local contributions are encouraged.
- C. The Chief Administrative Officers met earlier in the day and received ICMA's manager credentialing material and instructions.
- D. The Northern Virginia Transportation Authority recommends that NVRC assist with the Hunter Mill Road traffic calming project. The General Assembly has allocated \$75,000 for this project.
- E. Mr. Gibb reported that the military has 9.5 million square feet of leased office space in Northern Virginia (nearly 54,000 employees), almost six times as much as reported this past fall. Mr. Gibb recently met with Senator Warner's staff about the upcoming base relocation and closure (BRAC) round, and they confirmed the higher figure. Consequently, Dr. Stephen Fuller has agreed to update his earlier report on the economic impact of the military/ DoD presence in Northern Virginia, using the revised figure. NVRC will present this report to the Virginia Commission on Military Bases in April.

Commissioner Favola stated that the Commission's position should be that Northern Virginia can meet building security standards in a non-prescriptive manner. She hopes the Commission's focus would not be only on the economics of possible changes in leased space. Mr. Gibb assured Commissioner Favola that this would be done, but the economic ramifications will also be shared with the Congressional Delegation.

Mr. Van Zee reported on building design and security, adding that DoD's and GSA's standards are somewhat different, with GSA's standards being more performance-based. Mr. Gibb confirmed for Commissioner Smedburg that several Northern Virginia jurisdictions besides Arlington have leased military office space, including Alexandria and Fairfax County, with some facilities in Prince William and Loudoun. Commissioner Favola stated that decisions and standards have been adopted internally in DoD but not formally adopted.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Two dates have been identified for the Strategic Planning session and the members agreed on February 26, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Chairman Umstattd offered meeting space in Leesburg and Commissioner Gardner offered space at the Falls Church City Hall. More information confirming the date, time and location, as well as the agenda, will be forthcoming.

Each jurisdiction should be prepared to briefly describe its most challenging issues.

UPDATE ON REGIONAL PRE-DISASTER MITIGATION PLAN

Mr. Van Zee recapped the purpose of this regional initiative, which NVRC staff, local jurisdictional staff, and the consultant PBS&J have worked on for the past year: develop a detailed and comprehensive multi-jurisdictional plan as a prerequisite for funding under the federal Pre-Disaster and Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. When the Northern Virginia jurisdictions have adopted this plan, they will be eligible also for additional FEMA funding if a natural disaster is declared.

A significant finding from this exercise is that the region's flood maps need to be updated. NVRC will explore the possibility of receiving federal funding for this project. Replying to Commissioner Barg's inquiry, Mr. Van Zee said the flood maps are updated incrementally, usually in five or ten year increments.

Replying to Commissioner Gross's inquiry about construction debris disposal after a disaster, Mr. Van Zee said the project work group discussed this issue and Fairfax County has added debris disposal to its disaster mitigation strategies in the draft plan. Mr. Pickford added that the Northern Virginia Waste Management Board is addressing this issue and MWCOG has received a grant for analysis.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Mr. James reported there is an approximate \$1 billion state surplus. However, with this type of budget surplus, the constitution mandates a set-aside for the rainy day fund, a "super deposit," a ten percent set-aside for the water quality improvement fund, and several smaller items, such as a match for the FEMA funds for Hurricane Isabel, resulting in approximately \$300 million remaining.

Mr. James said the phase out of the food tax will be implemented. On the other hand, he thinks the phase out of the car tax will fail.

Further, it is very likely that all of the insurance premium proceeds will be moved into transportation. The House is strongly in favor of putting transportation funds into a lock box. However, the Senate is adamant that transportation not be put in direct competition with public safety, education and other general fund supported areas.

questions and answers

Commissioner Bulova asked about the earmarks for VRE and Metro. Mr. James replied that it is too early in the process to know whether they are in trouble. Commissioner Gross asked about funding for the Chesapeake Bay and was told that while more lawmakers are supportive of cleanup funding new taxes for same would not passed.

Replying to another inquiry, Mr. James said he does not believe the General Assembly will adopt a cap on property tax rates.

Commissioner Tejada asked about the numerous anti-immigrant bills. Mr. James said compromise language is being worked on for many of these bills. Mr. Tejada pointed out that many of the bills would require local government staff training on immigration skills and the localities would bear these costs. Mr. James said he will check with Ms. Rowland on that.

OTHER
BUSINESS

Staff distributed three resolutions for consideration and adoption.

- A. Resolution No. P05-13: PROCUREMENT OF PROFESSIONAL ASSISTANCE IN UPDATING NVRC EMPLOYEE TOTAL COMPENSATION

Mr. Gibb reported that in May 2001, the Operations Committee and the Commission agreed that NVRC's employee compensation package needed to be professionally reviewed for currency and competitiveness in comparison to member governments, and that member jurisdictions' personnel officers should be consulted for advice and assistance in completing the study. This past December, Mr. Gibb requested expressions of interest from member governments' personnel departments for this study. Replies were received from six member governments, with Fairfax County being the only member government that could undertake the project in the desired time frame.

Commissioner Gross moved adoption of Resolution No. P05-13. The motion was seconded and unanimously carried.

- B. Resolution No. P05-14: ENDORSEMENT OF A CONGRESSIONAL APPROPRIATION TO ASSIST WITH THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE POTOMAC HERITAGE NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL IN NORTHERN VIRGINIA

Commissioner Gross reported that Commissioner Hudgins asked that she carry this resolution forward in her place. Commissioner Gross moved adoption of Resolution No. P05-14. The motion was seconded and unanimously carried.

- C. Resolution No. P05-15: AUTHORIZATION TO SIGN LETTER OF INTENT AND ENTER NEGOTIATIONS FOR LEASE OF OFFICE SPACE

Mr. Gibb recapped that the current office building has been sold and the individual offices are being re-sold as office condos. The resolution allows the Executive Director to sign a non-binding letter of intent to negotiate for office space in Merrifield, which was the best offer received. Execution of a lease agreement will require further action by the Commission.

Commissioner Pepper moved approval of Resolution No. P05-15. The motion was seconded and unanimously carried.

ADJOURNMENT There being no further business, Chairman Umstattd adjourned the meeting at 9:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

G. Mark Gibb
Executive Director

Approved by:

Kristen Umstattd
Chairman