

NORTHERN VIRGINIA REGIONAL COMMISSION

Minutes of the Commission Meeting Held Thursday, April 28, 2005

COMMISSIONERS

(The names of those present are highlighted)

Commissioner Hilda M. Barg

Commissioner Melvin Bray

Commissioner Sharon Bulova

Commissioner Gerald E. Connolly, NVRC Treasurer

Commissioner W. S. Covington, III

Commissioner Joan Cross

Commissioner William T. Druhan, Jr.

Commissioner Joan DuBois

Commissioner Barbara A. Favola, NVRC Vice Chairman

Commissioner Robin Gardner

Commissioner Penelope A. Gross

Commissioner Catherine Hudgins

Commissioner Elaine N. McConnell

Commissioner Martin E. Nohe

Commissioner Michael O'Reilly

Commissioner Harry J. Parrish, II

Commissioner Bryan Polk

Commissioner Redella S. Pepper

Commissioner M. Jane Seeman

Commissioner Paul C. Smedberg

Commissioner Linda Smyth

Commissioner J. Walter Tejada

Commissioner Bruce E. Tulloch

Commissioner Kristen C. Umstattd, NVRC Chairman

Commissioner Lori Waters

County of Prince William

Town of Dumfries

County of Fairfax

County of Fairfax

County of Prince William

City of Fairfax

Town of Purcellville

County of Fairfax

County of Arlington

City of Falls Church

County of Fairfax

County of Fairfax

County of Fairfax

County of Prince William

Town of Herndon

City of Manassas

City of Manassas Park

City of Alexandria

Town of Vienna

City of Alexandria

County of Fairfax

County of Arlington

County of Loudoun

Town of Leesburg

County of Loudoun

STAFF PRESENT

G. Mark Gibb

Linda M. Tenney

Linda Summerall

Kenneth Billingsley

Normand Goulet

Bill Hicks

Katherine Mull

Doug Pickford

David Schwengel

Heather Shackley

Michelle Simmons

James Van Zee

Executive Director

Deputy Director

Executive Secretary

Director, Demographics

Sr. Environmental Planner/ Information Systems Mgmt. Analyst

Senior Environmental Planner

Senior Environmental Planner

Director, Environmental and Heritage Resources

Regional Emergency Preparedness Planning Director

Executive Assistant

Director, Human Services

Director, Regional Planning Services

GUESTS PRESENT

Hon. Kristen J. Amundson

Hon. William C. Mims

Hon. Linda T. "Toddy" Puller

Hon. Thomas Davis Rust

Hon. James M. Scott

Hon. Vivian E. Watts

Pat Carroll

Bernie Caton

Dana Fenton

Eldon James

Sue Mittereder

Sue Rowland

Memory Porter

Wyatt Shields

Diana Sun

Virginia House of Delegates, Dist. 44

Virginia Senate, Dist. 33

Virginia Senate, Dist. 36

Virginia House of Delegates, Dist. 86

Virginia House of Delegates, Dist. 53

Virginia House of Delegates, Dist. 39

Dir., Intergovernmental Relations, Arlington County

Legislative Director, City of Alexandria

Dir., Legislative Affairs, Prince William County

Legislative Consultant

Legislative Liaison, Fairfax County

SR Consulting, Inc.

Legislative Liaison, Loudoun County

Assistant City Manager, Falls Church

Dir., Communications & Public Affairs, Arlington County

CALL TO ORDER Chairman Umstattd called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Introductions were made around the table.

DIALOGUE WITH
NORTHERN
VIRGINIA
DELEGATION

Chairman Umstattd reported that the Northern Virginia Regional Commission recently reorganized as a regional body composed solely of local elected officials. The Commission held a strategic planning session in February and identified ten broad areas of priorities, which they will discuss with the Delegation members as well as how to work together in Richmond.

Chairman Umstattd called attention to the posters, identifying the types of programs NVRC manages and is involved in (water quality, federal funding for AIDS services, affordable housing and homelessness, demographics, etc.).

Chairman Umstattd then gave the floor to Commissioner Connolly, the Commission's Treasurer and Chairman of the Legislative Committee.

Commissioner Connolly noted that the members of the Commission represent the same people as the members of the Northern Virginia Delegation to the General Assembly. Commissioner Connolly commented on the divide in the Northern Virginia Delegation, asking how the local elected officials and Delegation members can bridge the dichotomy on several issues. Commissioner Connolly added that the Commissioners want to build a partnership with the Delegation, pointing out that NVRC is the only body of elected officials covering Northern Virginia.

Senator Puller expressed disappointment that more Delegation members were not present.

Senator Mims suggested looking at functional areas — such as housing/ affordable housing or gangs or transportation — and the Delegation members' committee assignments, and holding a session with those members. Commissioners agreed this is a good idea.

Discussion ensued on the two bills on proffers and one prohibiting services to undocumented immigrants, with local officials saying they were not consulted on these bills, which affect local government. The Delegation members pointed out the short timeframe of the sessions (45 days every other year, with 60 days considered the "long" session), and explained that the session moves extremely quickly and the working days are long. It was noted that during the 45-day session, state legislators are often in a reactive mode rather than a pro-active one; it is a structural problem.

Senator Puller pointed out that members of the Northern Virginia Delegation spend a good deal of time talking with the localities' legislative liaisons and thus feel they are communicating with local government through the liaisons. Other Delegation members pointed out that they rarely see or hear from local elected officials except on Lobby Day.

Delegate Rust discussed the need to educate state legislators on the responsibilities of local government. Everyone at the meeting agreed on the need to educate residents on the workings and responsibilities of local government and elected officials versus state government and legislators.

Commissioner Barg offered that NVRC should distribute its annual Legislative Platform earlier.

The Commissioners agreed that the dialogue was very helpful and thanked the Delegation members for meeting with them.

After a short break, Chairman Umstattd called the meeting to order at 9:00 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 Pepper moved approval of the minutes of the March 24, 2005, meeting. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Barg moved approval of the consent agenda, consisting of the Financial Reports for March 2005. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- A. Mr. Gibb reported that NVRC staff will assist with a charrette on the Lake Anne section of Reston in the fall, along with the Hunter Mill/ Dulles Toll Road.
- B. The Virginia Association of Planning District Commissions (VAPDC) will hold its annual summer conference July 20-23 in Virginia Beach.
- C. Mr. Gibb distributed information on a proposed symposium between Virginia Tech and the University of Stuttgart that expands on NVRC's partnership with the Verband Region Stuttgart.
- D. Copies of NVRC's latest publication, *Quick Guide 2005*, were distributed.
- E. DoD will officially release its Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) recommendations on May 16, although the unofficial recommendations may be available on May 13. It is not expected that there will be a significant impact on bases in Northern Virginia but local officials are concerned about DoD's leased office space in the area.

Mr. Van Zee briefed the members on a report he made at a State meeting on BRAC in Fredericksburg.

Mr. Gibb introduced resolution No. P05-22, authorizing a contract extension with PBS&J not to exceed \$25,000 to gather additional data, to develop and prioritize alternatives for addressing facility security issues, and to complete additional planning work critical to the justification for retention and possible expansion of defense missions in Northern Virginia. Commissioner Tulloch moved adoption of Resolution No. P05-22. The motion was seconded and unanimously carried.

- F. Mr. Gibb pointed out the posters on five of NVRC's regional priorities, adding that Fairfax County GIS graciously printed the posters since NVRC's plotter wasn't working. He also pointed out the booklet "Working Together For Northern Virginia's Future," and encouraged the members to share this with their colleagues. Mr. Gibb also invited the legislative liaisons to take a copy.
- G. Mr. Gibb reported that Four Mile Run is the most popular component of NVRC's website. NVRC has managed the flood control program for 25 years in conjunction with the U.S. Corps of Army Engineers.

Mr. Hicks, NVRC's Four Mile Run Program Manager, reviewed the proposed redevelopment plan for the lower portion of Four Mile Run (between Arlington and Alexandria), adding that a master plan will be presented to the local elected officials in the spring of 2006.

**CHAIRMAN'S
REPORT**

Chairman Umstattd announced that Commissioner Tulloch has agreed to serve on the Legislative Committee.

Chairman Umstattd appointed the following members to the Nominating Committee: Commissioners Barg, Bulova, Bray, Cross, Druhan, Gardner, O'Reilly, Parrish, Pepper, Polk, Seeman, Tejada, and Tulloch, with Commissioner Bulova as committee chair.

**COMMUNICATIONS
COMMITTEE**

Commissioner Favola, Chairman of NVRC's Communications Committee, pointed out the draft communications plan contained in the meeting package. The draft plan was written by Diana Sun, Arlington County's Director of Communications & Public Affairs. Noting it was too late in the evening to show the PowerPoint program, Commissioner Favola asked the members to contact her or Mr. Gibb with proposed changes.

Committee members include Commissioners Cross, DuBois, Smedberg, Tejada, and Tulloch. Additional members are welcome.

NVRC LEASE

Commissioner Tulloch moved adoption of Resolution No. P05-21, authorizing the Executive Director to sign a ten-year lease for office space at 3060 Williams Drive, Fairfax. The motion was seconded and unanimously carried.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chairman Umstattd adjourned the meeting at 9:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

G. Mark Gibb
Executive Director

Approved by:

Kristen Umstattd
Chairman