

NORTHERN VIRGINIA REGIONAL COMMISSION

Minutes of the Commission Meeting Held Thursday, May 25, 2006

COMMISSIONERS

(The names of those present are highlighted)

Commissioner Hilda M. Barg

Commissioner Melvin Bray

Commissioner Sharon Bulova

Commissioner Gerald E. Connolly, NVRC Vice Chairman

Commissioner W. S. Covington, III

Commissioner Joan Cross

Commissioner William T. Druhan, Jr.

Commissioner Joan DuBois

Commissioner Barbara A. Favola, NVRC 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, NVRC Treasurer

Commissioner Bryan Polk

Commissioner Redella S. Pepper

Commissioner M. Jane Seeman

Commissioner Paul C. Smedberg

Commissioner Linda Smyth

Commissioner Stephen Snow

Commissioner J. Walter Tejada

Commissioner Bruce E. Tulloch

Commissioner Kristen C. Umstatt

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 Loudoun

County of Arlington

County of Loudoun

Town of Leesburg

STAFF PRESENT

G. Mark Gibb

Linda M. Tenney

Linda Summerall

Kenneth Billingsley

Barbara Gordon

Doug Pickford

David Schwengle

Michelle Simmons

James Van Zee

Executive Director

Deputy Director

Executive Secretary

Director, Demographics

Communications Director

Director, Environmental and Heritage Resources

Regional Emergency Services Planning Director

Director, Human Services

Director, Regional Planning Services

GUESTS PRESENT

Mary Beth Michos

Reuben K. Varghese, MD, MPH

Juergen Ludwig

Dirk Vallee

Bruce Bennett

Eldon James

Charles Konigsberg, Jr., MD, MPH

Sue Rowland

Fire Chief, Prince William County

Health Director, Arlington County

Verband Region Stuttgart

Verband Region Stuttgart

Hunter Mill Road Traffic Calming Committee

Legislative Consultant

Health Director, City of Alexandria

Principal, SR Consulting

CALL TO ORDER Chairman Favola called the meeting to order at 7:35 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 Parrish moved approval of the minutes of the March 23, 2006, meeting. The motion was seconded and carried with Commissioners Nohe and Smyth abstaining.

CHAIRMAN'S
REPORT

A. Chairman Favola reported that the Potomac Conference is envisioning the metropolitan region 20 years from now and asked the Commissioners to think about how Northern Virginia should grow as a region. She asked if the members think a Northern Virginia subcommittee should be established to weigh in on the process.

Commissioner Gross explained she is one of the MWCOG members that sits on the steering committee (composed of members of the business and nonprofits communities and well as some MWCOG members). The steering committee is trying to establish a process to engage the larger group of stakeholders; a report will be made to MWCOG this summer. She suggested waiting until the fall to form a Northern Virginia subcommittee.

Commissioner Hudgins commented that it would not necessarily be duplicative for NVRC to start thinking about its region. Commissioner Snow concurred. Chairman Favola suggested that Mr. Gibb follow this issue and report back to the Commission.

Commissioner Barg suggested a presentation on this topic at a fall Commission meeting.

B. Chairman Favola congratulated the members who won re-election in the recent city and town elections.

Commissioner Druhan reported he chose not to run for re-election and that he has enjoyed representing Purcellville on the Commission.

PRESENTATION

Pandemic Influenza (A Global Outbreak of Influenza A) and Northern Virginia

Chairman Favola welcomed Dr. Reuben K. Varghese and Chief Mary Beth Michos.

Dr. Varghese currently serves as the Health Director for Arlington County. He received his MD from Brown University and a Masters in Public Health from Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health. Dr. Varghese began his career as an internist with an HMO before working for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Chief Michos is Prince William County's Fire Chief. She began her career as a critical care nurse before being hired by the Montgomery County (Maryland) Dept. of Fire and Rescue Services, progressing up the ranks over 21 years. Chief Michos serves on numerous professional boards and has received several awards, including a fellowship to the Harvard Kennedy School of Government and the 1999 President's Award from the International Association of Fire Chiefs for being a role model as the first woman chief of a metropolitan fire department.

Dr. Varghese

Dr. Varghese explained that seasonal, avian (bird) and pandemic influenza are different. Currently, there is no pandemic. He reviewed how flu spreads, its symptoms, complications, and prevention and treatment options.

Dr. Varghese likened pandemic flu to Hurricane Katrina but added that government and business can prepare for continuity of operations.

Pandemic Planning Assumptions

- Ability of the virus to spread rapidly worldwide
- People may be asymptomatic while infectious
- Simultaneous or near-simultaneous outbreaks will limit the ability of any jurisdiction to provide mutual aid
- Enormous demands on the health care system
- Delays and shortages in available vaccines and antiviral drugs
- Potential disruption of national and community critical infrastructure (e.g., transportation, commerce, utilities and public safety)

Government and businesses need to prepare for ten percent staff absenteeism on any given day during a pandemic outbreak and realize that other businesses they rely on are facing the same massive absentee rates. Public health officials project potentially high absentee rates of 30-50 percent over three to four months, with pandemic flu potentially striking in waves that last several months at a time over a sustained period.

Chief Michos

Chief Michos reported that planning for pandemic flu began nearly a year ago, with Northern Virginia's fire and rescue departments planning for a 30 percent or higher rate of staff absences.

Planning assumptions

- Increased exposure because of the nature of work
- Increased workload
- Behavioral health issues
- Workers compensation issues

Workforce preparation

- Vaccination and antiviral distribution – responders and families
- Employee training and station preparedness
- Staffing plans for levels of absenteeism – sustainment
- Utilizing those who return to work, post illness
- Family preparedness

Emergency response

- Call screening and dispatch protocols – work closely with the health care community; health care community will establish directive for who will be transported and where (hospital, fever centers, etc.)
- Home care units
- Isolation and quarantine
- Cache of PPE and vendor availability

Coordination

- Need for regional approach in protocol development
- Need for stockpiling supplies, PPE, food, etc.
- Enhanced health care system coordination – health departments, hospitals, medical community and out of hospital EMS
- Public information to educate the public regarding expectations
- While we focus on the living we may be faced with “what to do with the dead?”

questions and answers

Commissioner Tejada assured the speakers and the members that the Northern Virginia Public Information Officers are involved in pandemic flu planning, adding that NVRC's Communications Committee will take on this issue as well.

Commissioner Connolly reported that there are three Regional Incidence Command Systems (RICS) in place in the metropolitan area, providing plenty of redundancy. He added that the jurisdictions should have telework plans.

Commissioner Bulova stated the need for one generic message on emergency planning. Commissioner Barg agreed, suggesting that a flyer could be added to water or electric bills.

Commissioner Snow stated the need to include churches and service club organizations in emergency planning.

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

- A. March and April 2006 Financial Reports
- B. Resolution No. P06-20: Appreciation to Fairfax County Staff for Assisting NVRC with Total Compensation Review Project
- C. Resolution No. P06-21: Authorization to Contract for the Development of a Low Impact Development (LID) Supplement to the *Northern Virginia BMP Handbook*
- D. Resolution No. P06-22: Extension of Auditor Engagement
- E. Resolution No. P06-23: Annual General Adjustment for Employees of the Commission for FY 2007
- F. Resolution No. P06-24: Amendment of Mileage Reimbursement Rate for Use of Personal Automobiles in Connection with Commission Business

EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR'S
REPORT

- A. Mr. Gibb called attention to the two resolutions laid before the Commissioners for application for CARE Act funding for 2006-2007 under Title I and Title II. Mr. Gibb reported that staff has been assured that DC AHPP, which receives the Title I funding from HRSA for the metropolitan region, will fund suburban Virginia at the same amount as last year. Mr. Gibb explained that he will sign the agreement only if he receives this assurance in writing from DC AHPP.

Commissioner Barg moved approval of Resolutions No. P06-26 and P07-27. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.
- B. Mr. Gibb reported on the well-attended citizens briefing held last night, May 24, on the Hunter Mill Road Traffic Calming Study, wherein the citizens agreed to support a non-traditional traffic calming approach of roundabouts.
- C. The Virginia Association of Planning District Commissions (VAPDC) will hold its Annual Summer Conference July 20-22 in Virginia Beach. Commissioner Bruce Tulloch will be elected President. Contact Mr. Gibb for registration forms or go to VAPDC's website, www.vapdc.org.
- D. NVRC staff is working with Northern Virginia's water suppliers to develop a regional water plan, per new state requirements.
- E. Mr. Gibb passed around the award NVRC received from the EPA for the film on low impact development.

APPOINTMENT
OF NOMINATING
COMMITTEE

Chairman Favola appointed Commissioner Umstadd to serve as chairman of this year's *ad hoc* Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee will report its slate of officers to the Commission at its June 22 meeting.

PROPOSED
AMENDMENTS
TO BYLAWS

Commissioner Parrish, Chairman of the Operations Committee, reported that a complete set of the draft amended bylaws for discussion purposes only was included in the meeting package. He thanked the Operations Committee members — Commissioners Bulova, Gross, O'Reilly and Tulloch and NVRC Chairman Favola — and NVRC staff for their diligence on this project over the past several months. The draft amended bylaws will come before the Commission at its June 22 meeting for adoption.

COMMITTEE
REPORTS
Legislation

Commissioner Connolly, Chairman of the Legislative Committee, distributed the committee's report. Transportation funding was discussed, and Commissioner Connolly confirmed for Chairman Favola that under Rep. Davis' legislation, every year the metropolitan region fails to provide dedicated funding for WMATA, the region loses the federal match. Commissioner Connolly moved that the Commission reaffirm its position on transportation by letter to the Northern Virginia Delegation, committee chairs, and the Governor. The motion was seconded and carried with Commissioner Snow opposed.

Also distributed was a report that Virginia's Department of Social Services notified localities on May 9 that federal Child Care and Development Funds (CCDF) will be reduced for subsidized child care. A minimum of \$14 million will be lost in Northern Virginia, affecting over 2,000 children. Commissioner Connolly moved that the Commission send a letter to the Governor urging a solution to this problem. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Snow inquired if it is the Commission's custom to vote on material distributed at the meeting. Commissioner Connolly explained it is, as the Legislative Committee acts in real time, and the information presented at the meeting had been received yesterday. Chairman Favola added that the Commission has not taken new positions, as these are the Commission's positions in its 2006 Legislative Program; tonight's votes simply reaffirmed those positions.

Communications

Commissioner Tejada gave the committee report:

- Chairman Favola was interviewed on NewsChannel 8 earlier in the month regarding NVRC's "KNOW Toxics" program.
- NVRC has been mentioned in eight newspaper stories in the past two months, including the Four Mile Run Restoration Project ribbon cutting, the "KNOW Toxics" program, and the Hunter Mill Road Traffic Calming Study.
- James Van Zee, NVRC's Director of Regional Planning, was a guest on Delegate Ken Plum's cable TV show to talk about transportation funding.
- Katherine Mull, one of NVRC's environmental planners, will be heard on four Clear Channel radio stations on May 28 discussing the Northern Virginia water pollution prevention campaign.

OTHER BUSINESS

Chairman Favola welcomed and introduced staff representatives from the Verband Region Stuttgart, NVRC's sister region in Germany. Dr. Dirk Valle is Director of Planning and Implementation, an elected position, and Dr. Juergen Ludwig is Director of European Affairs and Projects.

Commissioner Bulova commented on the sister region partnership and exchange of best practices, noting that the two agencies are currently exploring ways to further their collaboration.

ADJOURNMENT There being no further business, Chairman Favola adjourned the meeting at 9:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Approved by:

G. Mark Gibb
Executive Director

Barbara A. Favola
Chairman