

NORTHERN VIRGINIA REGIONAL COMMISSION

Minutes of the Commission Meeting Held Thursday, July 23, 2009

COMMISSIONERS

(The names of those members present are highlighted.)

Hon. Sharon Bulova	County of Fairfax
Hon. John C. Cook	County of Fairfax
Hon. Joan Cross	City of Fairfax
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, NVRC Chairman	City of Manassas
Hon. Redella S. Pepper, NVRC Treasurer	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. Umstatt	Town of Leesburg
Hon. Clyde N. Washington, Jr.	Town of Dumfries
Hon. Scott K. York	County of Loudoun

STAFF PRESENT

G. Mark Gibb	Executive Director
Linda M. Tenney	Deputy Director
Linda Summerall	Executive Secretary
Ken Billingsley	Director, Information & Demographic Services
Normand Goulet	Sr. Environmental Planner
David Schwengel	Director, Regional Emergency Preparedness Planning
Heather Shackley	Website Administrator
Aimee Vosper	Director, Environmental & Planning Services

GUESTS

Bruce Bennett	Hunter Mill DL
Katie Boyle	Fairfax County legislative staff
Hon. Dana Kaufman	Special Assistant to the President for Community Outreach, NVCC
Sue Rowland	NVRC Legislative Liaison; SR Consulting, Inc.
Dan Scandling	Chief of Staff, Hon. Frank Wolf
Hon. Frank Wolf	U.S. House of Representatives (Virginia, 10 th District)

CALL TO ORDER Chairman Parrish called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present.

ROLL CALL APPROVAL OF The roll was called and all members present or absent were noted for the record.

MINUTES

Commissioner Umstattd moved approval of the minutes of the June 25, 2009, meeting of the Commission. The motion was seconded and unanimously carried.

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

Resolution No. P10-01: Authorization to Apply for Grant to Update the Northern Virginia Portion of the Map of the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail System

EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR'S
REPORT

Mr. Gibb pointed out distributed material: an article in *The Washington Post* about the new HIV clinic in Arlington; a flyer on an Alzheimer's rally, of which NVRC is a co-sponsor; and a copy of his report, including information on:

- Census Bureau has requested NVRC's help in identifying where non-English speaking households are likely to be encountered in Northern Virginia when the 2010 Census begins. This should result in a more accurate count for the region.
- Clean Water Partners — This year's spring campaign included both radio ads and, for the first time, social networking and other web-based media. Among the key findings is that online advertising is much cheaper than radio ads but also much slower; it is possible to determine which visits to the Clean Water Partners' website are directly related to the online ads; and online ads with the words "tips" and "coupons" dramatically outperform other ads.

Commissioner Favola asked that social media be discussed at a future Commission meeting.

- State Stormwater Management Permit Regulations Update — New draft regulations would completely overhaul existing state stormwater regulations; local government concerns were reviewed. Adoption of the final regulations is slated for September; the State Soil and Water Conservation Board's open public comment period ends August 11.
- Loudoun Community Energy Planning — Garforth International, LLC led Loudoun County in a week-long series of meetings with the public, elected officials and the business community that included gathering primary energy and greenhouse gas information and analyzing two "scale" projects for potential inclusion in the county's energy plan.
- Comprehensive Gang Assessment — Staff recently completed a summary report from its earlier comprehensive regional gang assessment prepared for the Northern Virginia Regional Gang Task Force. The summary report is being reviewed by the Chiefs of Police of the 15 jurisdiction members of the Task Force. It is expected that the Task Force will release the summary in late September.
- No. Va. Emergency Response System Exercise will occur Sept. 26 and will include the Northern Virginia Hospital Alliance and the local health departments in addition to the public safety and other local agencies.
- Health Dept. Directors will meet with the CAOs in September regarding pandemic flu preparations.
- No. Va. Fire & Rescue Website developed and maintained by NVRC under direction of the Fire Chiefs Committee. Training material and other informational items are posted on this website.

CHAIRMAN'S

REPORT

Chairman Parrish publicly thanked and acknowledged Commissioner Pepper for chairing the Commission meeting last month.

Chairman Parrish pointed out the July 21 letter to the DOD Office of Economic Adjustment, sent as a result of last month's Commission meeting. Commissioners Bulova and Favola stated their support for a Northern Virginia Regional BRAC Coordinator. Mr. Gibb reported that Commissioner Principi also supports this position. Mr. Gibb suggested letters of support for this position from the local jurisdictions be sent to OEA. Commissioner Favola said she will also contact Congressman Moran.

PRESENTATION

Local – Federal Update

Chairman Parrish welcomed Rep. Frank Wolf, Congressman for Virginia's 10th Congressional District.

Hon. Frank Wolf

Rep. Wolf noted he had just come from voting on the transportation appropriations bill; \$150 million was allocated for Metro and \$85 million for rail to Dulles.

Last week a bill was reported out to increase funding for Lyme disease prevention and treatment; CDC and NIH will be involved.

A bill was passed last week to continue funding of the Juvenile Gang Task Forces in Northern Virginia and the Shenandoah Valley. Rep. Wolf stated that the Mexican gangs have operations in most of the large metropolitan areas. Funding has been added for the suburban Maryland area to create a task force to work in tandem with Virginia's. The FBI, DEA, ATF and the Marshal's service are included in these task forces. An FBI report states that Northern Virginia leads the country in effective gang prevention.

Rep. Wolf opened the floor to questions.

*questions &
answers*

Commissioner Bulova described Fairfax County's Road Dawg program, which is very successful at having middle school teachers identify at-risk children for gang involvement. The children spend one week being mentored by police and parks personnel.

Commissioner Favola asked the Congressman for his thoughts on passages of health care insurance. He said he would have given the legislation a better chance of passage a week or two ago. The differences are not really between the Republicans and Democrats, rather, the surtax bothers a good deal of legislators. He hopes the bill will have bi-partisan support; without it, Rep. Wolf fears it will be a very divisive issue. He added that more time for review of the proposed legislation could be helpful.

Commissioner Umstattd commented on a recent hostage situation in Leesburg and the tremendous amount of cooperation among local, state and federal law enforcement.

Rep. Wolf reported that the FBI is giving the Northern Virginia Gang Task Force free space in its new field headquarters in Manassas. Rep. Wolf added he has established at the national level a gang intelligence tracking center, located in Crystal City, which will work with the Northern Virginia Gang Task Force.

Replying to Commissioner Foust's inquiry, Rep. Wolf said there are no plans to date to obtain federal funding for the second phase of rail to Dulles. The highway bill contains \$75 million for Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) in Northern Virginia, funding for VRE but no funding for light rail. There is a proposal to dedicate a lane on K Street in the District for BRT.

Chairman Parrish noted that the Commonwealth's revenue outlook is not good and asked the Congressman for his thoughts on the stimulus program. Rep. Wolf is of the opinion the country is coming into some really tough times, but Virginia is better positioned than many states. He added that he and Rep. Cooper have co-sponsored a bill to establish a bi-

partisan study commission to review the federal revenue, spending programs and tax policy; look at greater investments in infrastructure, science and math, etc.; and agree on a proposal to send to Congress. He added that the country has \$56 trillion of unfunded liabilities and \$11.5 trillion of debt (large portions of which are held by the Chinese and the Saudis). Moody's has stated the country will lose its AAA bond rating in 2012. He added that he has recommended that the General Assembly also create a bi-partisan commission to look at Virginia's infrastructure. He does not think there will be a second federal stimulus bill.

Commissioner Lazaro stated that, from a local government viewpoint, the procurement process for stimulus funds is very cumbersome, too costly and time-consuming.

OTHER BUSINESS • Commissioner Lazaro reported that Commissioner York wanted to bring to the Commission's attention the proposed PATH electric transmission line that would run from West Virginia through Loudoun to Maryland and benefits the Northeast. Loudoun and Leesburg are opposed to this line.

Commissioner Lazaro moved that the Commission send a letter or a resolution to the State Corporation Commission (SCC) in opposition to the PATH line. The motion was seconded. Commissioner Lazaro added that while Dominion is a financial partner it is not a beneficiary, and there is no benefit to Virginia residents. Commissioner Bulova asked for the opportunity for the Commissioners to be briefed on the proposal before taking a position. Commissioner Lazaro replied the hearing is set for the first week of August.

Replying to Commissioner Umstatt, Commissioner Lazaro said the Governor has written to the SCC chairman requesting that an SCC member — not just a hearing officer — attend the public hearing. Commissioner Umstatt moved that the Commission write to the SCC requesting that one or more SCC members attend the public hearing in Loudoun, which is the Governor's position. The motion was seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Foust requested that before NVRC's Executive Committee takes a position on the line and writes to the SCC that staff find out if the SCC keeps the record open after the public hearing so that the full Commission can take a position. The Chairman concurred.

• Commissioner Lazaro reported that at the recent meeting with the Governor, he [Lazaro] raised the issue of the creation of an independent office of consumer advocate within state government that would be involved with power transmission lines; he will raise it with NVRC's Legislative Committee. The Governor will look into this. Commissioner Bulova said Fairfax County has a consumer affairs office and the Commission may want to look at a regional office. Commissioner Lazaro replied it is extremely expensive to litigate these cases.

• Resolution No. P10-02 Authorization to Enter into Agreements to Develop a Community Energy Plan for Prince William County was distributed. Commissioner Favola moved adoption. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT There being no further business, Chairman Parrish adjourned the meeting at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:
G. Mark Gibb
Executive Director

Approved by:
Harry J. Parrish II
Chairman