

NORTHERN VIRGINIA REGIONAL COMMISSION

Minutes of the Commission Meeting Held Thursday, January 24, 2002

8:00 p.m.

COMMISSIONERS

(The names of those present are highlighted)

Commissioner Hilda M. Barg	<i>County of Prince William</i>
Commissioner Charles J. Billand	<i>County of Loudoun</i>
Commissioner Albert J. Boudreau	Town of Vienna
Commissioner Christopher K. Brown	Town of Dumfries
Commissioner Sharon Bulova	County of Fairfax
Commissioner James C. Chesley	County of Fairfax
Commissioner William C. Cleveland	<i>City of Alexandria</i>
Commissioner Gerald E. Connolly	County of Fairfax
Commissioner Anna F. Dixon	County of Fairfax
Commissioner Albert C. Eisenberg	County of Arlington
Commissioner Barbara A. Favola	<i>County of Arlington</i>
Commissioner Jay Fiset (arrived 8:09 p.m.)	County of Arlington
Commissioner Robert C. Goessman	City of Manassas
Commissioner Brenda Z. Greene	County of Fairfax
Commissioner Penelope A. Gross	County of Fairfax
Commissioner Katherine K. Hanley, NVRC Chairman	County of Fairfax
Commissioner Mark R. Herring	County of Loudoun
Commissioner John F. Herrity	County of Fairfax
Commissioner Edgar B. Holley	County of Prince William
Commissioner Catherine Hudgins	County of Fairfax
Commissioner John D. Jenkins	County of Prince William
Commissioner Lyman Krekel	City of Falls Church
Commissioner Jesse Ludvigsen	City of Manassas Park
Commissioner John D. Marsh	<i>Town of Purcellville</i>
Commissioner Elaine N. McConnell	<i>County of Fairfax</i>
Commissioner Stuart Mendelsohn	<i>County of Fairfax</i>
Commissioner Charles Monroe (arrived 8:06 p.m.)	County of Arlington
Commissioner Michael O'Reilly	Town of Herndon
Commissioner Sally B. Ormsby (departed 8:03 p.m.)	County of Fairfax
Commissioner Harry J. Parrish, II	City of Manassas
Commissioner Redella S. Pepper	City of Alexandria
Commissioner Alice Keane Putman	County of Fairfax
Commissioner R. Scott Silverthorne	City of Fairfax
Commissioner Robert Rapanut	City of Alexandria
Commissioner Lilla D. Richards	County of Fairfax
Commissioner Steven A. Rogers	<i>City of Falls Church</i>
Commissioner Kristen C. Umstattd, NVRC Treasurer	Town of Leesburg
Commissioner Don White	<i>County of Prince William</i>
Commissioner Edgar S. Wilbourn, III	County of Prince William
Commissioner William R. Wren	City of Manassas Park
Commissioner Scott K. York, NVRC Vice Chairman	<i>County of Loudoun</i>
Vacancy (1)	<i>City of Fairfax</i>

STAFF PRESENT

G. Mark Gibb	<i>Executive Director</i>
Linda Tenney	<i>Deputy Director</i>
Linda Summerall	<i>Executive Secretary</i>
David L. Bulova	<i>Director, Environmental Services</i>
Normand Goulet	<i>Sr. Environmental Planner/Info. Systems Mgmt. Analyst</i>
Douglas Pickford	<i>Director, Economic Issues and Heritage Resources</i>
Sue Rowland	<i>Director, Human Services</i>
Michelle Simmons	<i>Deputy Division Director, Human Services</i>
James Van Zee	<i>Director, Regional Planning Services</i>

GUESTS PRESENT

Hon. Ruth Griggs
M. Hyatt Nolan
Rich Olin
Jim Sydnor

*Prince William Board of County Supervisors
Fairfax resident
Virginia Dept. of Environmental Quality
Virginia Dept. of Environmental Quality*

CALL TO ORDER Chairman Hanley called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m.

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

Chairman Hanley recognized the Commission's two newest members: Michael O'Reilly representing the Town of Herndon and R. Scott Silverthorne representing the City of Fairfax. This is Commissioner Silverthorne's second term on NVRC, having left the Commission in 1994.

Chairman Hanley also acknowledged Ruth Griggs, member of the Prince William Board of County Supervisors.

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

MINUTES A motion was made and seconded to the minutes of the November 29, 2001, Commission meeting. The minutes were approved unanimously.

PRESENTATION *Remote Vehicle Emissions Testing System (aka "Smog Dogs")*

Chairman Hanley introduced James E. Sydnor, Director of the Office of Long Range Environmental Planning, Division of Environmental Enhancement, of the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). Mr. Sydnor represents DEQ on the Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee regarding the development of local and regional air quality plans and is involved in the design and development of programs for mobile source emissions. In turn, Mr. Sydnor introduced Rich Olin, the engineer for the Remote Vehicle Emissions Testing System.

Jim Sydnor Mr. Sydnor explained that Northern Virginia will be the pilot site for the Remote Sensing Device (RSD) study, designed to determine the feasibility and cost effectiveness of a comprehensive RSD program. The pilot will also evaluate potential increased emissions reduction credits, evaluate the effectiveness of Virginia's emissions inspection and maintenance program, and assess fleet characteristics and emissions.

The RSD uses an infrared/ultraviolet light beam across a traffic lane (preferably a single lane, most likely an off-ramp) to measure the concentration of exhaust gas pollutants relative to carbon dioxide and vehicle speed and acceleration (can measure up to 55-60 mph but 25-35 mph is ideal). A digital snapshot of the vehicle's license plate is then taken (DMV will provide the make, model, model year, fuel type, body type, and engine size, and the jurisdiction in which the vehicle is registered — local, out of area but within Virginia, or out of state).

The RSD pilot study will be conducted at 66 sites in Northern Virginia from March through November 2002. A smaller study will also be conducted in the Richmond area. The site locations will be coordinated with VDOT in order to minimize traffic interruptions.

The report is due February 2003. It is hoped that the RSD study can identify "clean" emissions vehicles and those vehicles can then be exempt from biannual emissions inspections. It is also hoped that identification of high emissions vehicles will result in repairs and therefore cleaner air. The program should also result in identification of fraudulent registrations and identification of out-of-area regular commuters.

questions and answers

Mr. Sydnor confirmed for Chairman Hanley that the RSD program will provide data on which vehicles in a taxi cab fleet may need to be replaced.

In reply to Commissioner Krekel's question, Mr. Sydnor said the RSD has no impact on drivers, other than the fact that a driver may slow down if he/she spots the device.

Commissioner Holley asked where single lane roads could be found. Mr. Sydnor replied that approximately 140-150 have been located throughout Northern Virginia. Mr. Sydnor added that on-ramps will also be used.

Asked by Commissioner Parrish if DEQ supports HB 570, Mr. Sydnor replied "generally, yes." HB 570 provides for financial assistance to low-income owners of failing vehicles for repairs. When asked what the cost of that assistance would be, Mr. Sydnor answered the cost is unknown, but any such program developed would take cost into account.

Commissioner Boudreau asked why the pilot will test only cars and not trucks and buses. Mr. Sydnor replied that in order to test trucks and buses, the beam would have to be set at a much higher height. He added that he is not aware of any effective program to measure the pollutants from diesel fuel exhaust.

On behalf of the Commission, Chairman Hanley thanked Messrs. Sydnor and Olin for their informative presentation.

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

- A. Financial Reports for November and December 2001
- B. Resolution No. P02-21: Authorization to Hire GIS Program Manager Through Technical Recruiting Firm
- C. Resolution No. P02-22: Authorization for the Executive Director to Enter into Contract for Model Development Services with the Occoquan Watershed Monitoring Laboratory
- D. Resolution No. P02-23: Resolution Calling for the Secretary of Natural Resources to Commence Tributary Strategy Planning for the Potomac River Basin and to Form a Potomac Tributary Strategy Steering Committee

EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR'S
REPORT

*2002 Quick
Guide*

Mr. Gibb called attention to the newly published *2002 Quick Guide to Human Services*. A complimentary copy had been placed at each Commissioner's place. Complimentary copies are being distributed to local member governments and their school systems.

*Home Guide
to
Emergency
Preparedness*

Mr. Gibb reported that the brochures, distributed in mid-December, were well received by the public. He received numerous phone calls and emails complimenting the brochure. NVRC has also received several requests from out-of-state governments requesting permission to use some of the information contained in the brochure.

The brochure is also available in six foreign languages and can be found on eight local government websites, including NVRC (WWW.NOVAREGION.ORG). Commissioner Gross added that she takes the foreign language versions to community meetings where they are very well received.

*Northern
Virginia
Tourism*

Mr. Gibb turned the floor over to Mr. Pickford, the NVRC staff representative on the Northern Virginia Visitors Consortium (NVVC). Mr. Pickford explained that the NVCC consists of the local jurisdictions' tourism offices; NVRC has been a member for five years. NVCC's latest tourism brochures were distributed.

The local tourism industry saw drastic cuts between September and November 2001. Although tourism was somewhat improved in December 2001 and January 2002, business travel is still depressed; hotel revenues for the metropolitan region are still down approximately 39%, three times the vacancy rate nationally.

Mr. Pickford reviewed tourism recovery initiatives aimed at Northern Virginia and the metropolitan D.C. area:

- Emergency 2:1 Matching Grant — The Commonwealth has contributed \$25,000 towards marketing to group and student tour markets.
- Governor's Task Force on Economic Recovery — Governor Gilmore requested \$3.16 billion in federal assistance; \$8 million of that has gone to the Virginia Tourism Corporation; Northern Virginia is expected to receive \$500,000 for tourism marketing.
- Northern Virginia Economic Development Recovery Grants — The federal government has allocated \$2 million to local economic development authorities. Some portion (possibly as much as 50%) may be used for regional tourism marketing.
- Greater Washington Initiative — An estimated \$17 million effort for tourism marketing in the metropolitan D.C. area. Funding already secured includes: \$1 million allocated by the District; \$1 million by the Washington Convention & Tourism Corporation; \$1.7 million corporate; and \$2.5 million in-kind (NBC West Wing promotions).

It was noted that the bulk of Virginia's tourism funding since September 11 has gone to other areas of the state: Virginia Beach, Richmond, Charlottesville, Williamsburg. New York state has provided \$45 million for New York City's tourism promotion since September 11.

*Tapping
Technology*

Mr. Gibb reported that NVRC has received a \$56,000 grant from the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice for NVRC's planned Tapping Technology program. However, it will cost \$125,000 to run this program. Staff is in discussions with the U.S. Department of Justice for the balance. NVRC has 90 days in which to accept the state grant.

CHAIRMAN'S
REPORT

Chairman Hanley called attention to the Commission's proposed meeting schedule for calendar year 2002. She noted that she expects to be in TCC meetings on March 21 and therefore unable to chair the Commission's meeting in March.

LEGISLATIVE
REPORT

Ms. Rowland informed the members that legislation (SB 610) has been introduced in the General Assembly to create a pilot project at NVRC to develop a standardized Geographic Information System (GIS) model to prepare databases facilitating modeling to predict the path of airborne pathogens, dust, asbestos clouds or other elements that may threaten health in residential and work place environments. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) will provide the funding. Commissioner Connolly moved support of SB 610 with the understanding that NVRC provides no funding for the pilot program. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Two bills (HB 1212 and HB 1299) have been introduced proposing to remove local discretion over the definition and siting of manufactured housing. Commissioner Connolly moved that NVRC go on record opposing HB 1212. The motion was seconded and unanimously carried.

Staff provided an overview of NVRC's Legislative Tracking Report on the website.

COMMITTEE
REPORTS
*Regional
Resources*

Commissioner Pepper reported that the committee met prior to the Commission meeting and discussed the recent court decision on flow control (United Haulers v. Oneida Herkimer). The U.S. Supreme Court announced it will not review a federal appeals court decision that flow control ordinances, enacted by two New York counties, do not discriminate against interstate commerce.

The Regional Resources Committee is also following legislation on tree canopy and conservation. SB 484 was killed and will become a study.

Land Use

Commissioner Holley reported that the committee is reviewing the feasibility of holding small land use workshops throughout the region, in lieu of a conference.

Operations

Commissioner Umstattd reported that the Committee extensively discussed the Commission's auditing and accounting services at its meeting last week, and decided to keep this issue in committee for another month. She invited interested Commissioners to attend the next Operations Committee meeting on February 22.

OTHER BUSINESS
*VAPDC Winter
Meeting*

Commissioner Umstattd, President of the Virginia Association of Planning District Commissions (VAPDC), invited the Commissioners to attend VAPDC's Winter Meeting in Richmond on February 13. Secretaries Schewel and Murphy, Mr. Hager and Lt. Governor Kaine are the speakers.

Reston Charrette

Commissioner Hudgins announced that a charrette on rail design for Reston will be held in her district this spring. She has asked NVRC to assist with the charrette.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chairman Hanley adjourned the meeting at 9:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Approved by:

G. Mark Gibb
Executive Director

Katherine K. Hanley
Chairman