

NORTHERN VIRGINIA REGIONAL COMMISSION

Minutes of the Commission Meeting Held Thursday, February 28, 2002

8:00 p.m.

COMMISSIONERS

(The names of those present are highlighted)

Commissioner Hilda M. Barg	County of Prince William
Commissioner Charles J. Billand	County of Loudoun
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	City of Alexandria
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	County of Arlington
Commissioner Jay Fisette	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	Town of Purcellville
Commissioner Elaine N. McConnell	County of Fairfax
Commissioner Stuart Mendelsohn	County of Fairfax
Commissioner Charles Monroe	County of Arlington
Commissioner Michael O'Reilly	Town of Herndon
Commissioner Sally B. Ormsby	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	City of Falls Church
Commissioner Kristen C. Umstadd, NVRC Treasurer	Town of Leesburg
Commissioner Don White	County of Prince William
Commissioner Edgar S. Wilbourn, III	County of Prince William
Commissioner William R. Wren	City of Manassas Park
Commissioner Scott K. York, NVRC Vice Chairman	County of Loudoun
Vacancy (1)	City of Fairfax

STAFF PRESENT

G. Mark Gibb	Executive Director
Linda Tenney	Deputy Director
Linda Summerall	Executive Secretary
Kenneth Billingsley	Director, Demographics
David L. Bulova	Director, Environmental Services
Douglas Pickford	Director, Economic Issues and Heritage Resources
Sue Rowland	Director, Human Services
Michelle Simmons	Deputy Division Director, Human Services
James Van Zee	Director, Regional Planning Services

CALL TO ORDER Chairman Hanley called the meeting to order at 8:01 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 Connolly moved approval of the minutes of the January 24, 2002, Commission meeting. The motion was seconded. Commissioner Ludvigsen asked for clarification of amount of funding given to the Virginia Tourism Corporation (page 4 of the minutes). Staff confirmed that the correct amount is \$8 million. The corrected minutes were approved unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA Commissioner Umstattd requested that Resolution No. P02-24 be removed from the consent agenda, as a revised resolution would be brought forward. The consent agenda, consisting of the Financial Reports for January 2002, was moved, seconded, and unanimously approved.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

In addition to the monthly activities report included in the meeting package, Mr. Gibb called attention to two items. The Executive Summary of the Suburban Virginia HIV/AIDS Housing Plan was distributed to the members. AIDS Housing of Washington conducted a comprehensive needs assessment on behalf of NVRC and developed an action plan to address the housing needs of people with HIV/AIDS. Not surprisingly, the study found an inadequate supply of affordable housing to meet the needs of this special population.

Secondly, Mr. Gibb called attention to the fact that an environmental film festival being held in D.C. next month will include the Four Mile Run documentary.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Hanley reported on the Virginia Association of Planning District Commission's (VAPDC) Winter Meeting held February 13 in Richmond, noting that the meeting was both interesting and informative.

The Commission's next meeting will be at 6:30 p.m. on March 21 at NVRC. The TCC will also meet at NVRC, following the Commission's meeting.

RESOLUTION NO. P02-25

AFFIRMATION OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA REGIONAL COMMISSION'S SUPPORT FOR ENLARGED CAPACITY OF REGIONAL ASSISTED LIVING FACILITY

Commissioner Favola reported that the Commission is being asked to endorse Birmingham Green's funding application to HUD to replace the existing facility with a new, expanded facility.

Commissioner Favola moved adoption of Resolution No. P02-25. The motion was seconded and carried, with Commissioner Eisenberg requesting that his abstention be noted for the record.

RESOLUTION
NO. P02-26

AUTHORIZATION TO SUBMIT A CO-APPLICATION TO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION TO ACCEPT FUNDING TO IMPLEMENT A REGIONAL TOURISM MARKETING RECOVERY PROGRAM

Commissioner Umstattd moved Resolution No. P02-26. The motion was seconded.

Commissioner Umstattd reminded the members they had received a report on regional tourism last month. Resolution No. P02-26 concerns economic recovery assistance for regional tourism in Northern Virginia. Northern Virginia Regional Commission will act on behalf of the Northern Virginia Visitors Consortium in co-applying with seven local economic development authorities for federal funding.

Commissioner Bulova commented that this project is a good example of what Northern Virginia Regional Commission is all about: regional cooperation and coordination.

Resolution No. P02-26 was adopted unanimously

LEGISLATIVE
REPORT

Staff distributed a summary of pending legislation.

Commissioner Connolly reported that the House has replaced a sales tax referendum with a local income tax referendum. Senator Saslaw introduced a bill, dividing the one percent of the income tax as follows: one-half of one percent to local transportation; of the remaining one-half percent, that would be further divided between local education (0.0425%) and the other school districts in the rest of the state (0.0075%). The Senate Finance Committee has not yet scheduled action. Commissioner Connolly added the referendum is by jurisdiction, as long as the governing body agrees to place it on the ballot; it is not regional.

Commissioner Connolly also reported that both sides have restored FAMIS funding; the House puts the Chesapeake Bay Local Assistance Department under the Department of Conservation and Recreation and cuts its funding. A bill has been introduced requiring localities to hire laid-off state workers under certain circumstances, and should be opposed by local governments.

COMMITTEE
REPORTS
Operations

A. AUTHORIZATION TO LEASE A DIGITAL PHOTOCOPIER

Commissioner Umstattd called attention to the revised version of Resolution No. P02-24, explaining that staff was still negotiating the most favorable lease arrangement. The revision authorizes the Executive Director to negotiate and execute a lease with the company offering the most advantageous lease.

Commissioner Umstattd moved adoption of Resolution No. P02-24 as revised. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

B. Report on Public Auditor Services and Non-audit Accounting Consulting Services

Commissioner Umstattd noted that a written report from the Operations Committee had been distributed at the meeting. A copy of the findings and recommendations are attached to these minutes. Commissioner Umstattd reviewed the committee's findings and recommendations, and moved that the Commission accept the Operations Committee's report. The motion was seconded.

Commissioner Herrity moved to amend the motion by having an outside audit of NVRC's books from 1993 to the present or to the time the accounting function was separated from the auditing firm. The motion died for lack of a second.

Commissioner Herrity expressed his opposition to using the same auditor for more than three years. Commissioner Umstatted explained that the Commission typically receives only one or two responses to its Request for Proposals for annual audits, since it is not a big job nor an attractive job. Commissioner Bulova pointed out that the Operations Committee has proposed that the Commission's policy for multi-year engagements be changed to one year, with options for four additional annual renewals, subject to new conditions.

Commissioner Jenkins added that the Operations Committee deliberated for two meetings. Both a CPA and an attorney reviewed the findings and recommendations. The committee reviewed the past years and found all auditors were certified.

The Operations Committee's report on Public Auditor Services and Non-audit Accounting Consulting Services was accepted, with Commissioners Herrity and Wren voting against.

The Chairman directed staff to survey all member governments and other local governments as to their practices.

The Chairman invited interested members to obtain past audit reports from staff.

OTHER BUSINESS Commissioner Bulova reported that the Verband Region Stuttgart, NVRC's sister region agency, will visit in October 2002.

ADJOURNMENT There being no further business, Chairman Hanley adjourned the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Approved by:

G. Mark Gibb
Executive Director

Katherine K. Hanley
Chairman