

NORTHERN VIRGINIA REGIONAL COMMISSION

Minutes of the Commission Meeting Held Thursday, April 25, 2002

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	<i>Town of Dumfries</i>
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	<i>County of Arlington</i>
Commissioner Barbara A. Favola	County of Arlington
Commissioner Jay Fisette	<i>County of Arlington</i>
Commissioner Robert C. Goessman	City of Manassas
Commissioner Brenda Z. Greene	<i>County of Fairfax</i>
Commissioner Penelope A. Gross	County of Fairfax
Commissioner Katherine K. Hanley, NVRC Chairman	<i>County of Fairfax</i>
Commissioner Mark R. Herring	<i>County of Loudoun</i>
Commissioner John F. Herrity	County of Fairfax
Commissioner Edgar B. Holley	County of Prince William
Commissioner Catherine Hudgins	<i>County of Fairfax</i>
Commissioner John D. Jenkins	<i>County of Prince William</i>
Commissioner David Kirkpatrick, Jr.	<i>City of Fairfax</i>
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	<i>County of Arlington</i>
Commissioner Michael O'Reilly	<i>Town of Herndon</i>
Commissioner Sally B. Ormsby	County of Fairfax
Commissioner Harry J. Parrish, II	<i>City of Manassas</i>
Commissioner Redella S. Pepper	<i>City of Alexandria</i>
Commissioner Alice Keane Putman	County of Fairfax
Commissioner R. Scott Silverthorne	<i>City of Fairfax</i>
Commissioner Robert Rapanut	City of Alexandria
Commissioner Lilla D. Richards	County of Fairfax
Commissioner Steven A. Rogers	City of Falls Church
Commissioner Kristen C. Umstattd, NVRC Treasurer	<i>Town of Leesburg</i>
Commissioner Don White	<i>County of Prince William</i>
Commissioner Edgar S. Wilbourn, III	<i>County of Prince William</i>
Commissioner William R. Wren	City of Manassas Park
Commissioner Scott K. York, NVRC Vice Chairman	County of Loudoun

STAFF PRESENT

G. Mark Gibb	<i>Executive Director</i>
Linda Tenney	<i>Deputy Director</i>
Linda Summerall	<i>Executive Secretary</i>
Kenneth Billingsley	<i>Director, Demographics</i>
David L. Bulova	<i>Director, Environmental Services</i>
Katherine Mull	<i>Environmental Planner</i>
Douglas Pickford	<i>Director, Economic Issues and Heritage Resources</i>
Michelle Simmons	<i>Acting Director, Human Services</i>
James Van Zee	<i>Director, Regional Planning Services</i>

GUESTS PRESENT

The Honorable J. Chapman Petersen
Michael Leventhal

*House of Delegates
Historic Preservation Coordinator, Arlington County /
Nation's Capital Boundary Stones Cmte.
former NVRC employee
Falls Church Historical Cmsn./ Nation's Capital Boundary Stones Cmte.*

Sue Rowland
Ric Terman

CALL TO ORDER Vice Chairman York called the meeting to order at 8:00 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.

PRESENTATION Former Local Government (and NVRC) Officials' Perspective on the 2002 General Assembly Session

Hon. Chap Petersen The Honorable Chap Petersen (D), House of Delegates (District 37) commented on how nice it was to be at this table again. He added that Delegate Tom Rust asked him to convey his regrets that he was unable to be here tonight, as Delegate Rust was on his way to a meeting out of town.

Delegate Petersen commented on the differences between state and local government. He noted he would first address issues from the veto session.

- Sales Tax Referendum — If passed by the voters in Northern Virginia, one-half percent will be dedicated for transportation. The project list was amended by the Governor to include more funding for Metro and VRE. Bonds will be issued by the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority. Delegate Petersen went on to say he thinks the proposal that will go to the voters in November is a good one. The money will be kept in Northern Virginia, and he encouraged the elected officials to talk to their constituents about this referendum.

- Tipping Fee — This was proposed as an amendment to a bill regarding landfills. A state fee of \$5/ton would be charged in addition to the local fee. Virginia's landfill fees tend to be lower than any other Eastern state. The money would be used for environmental programs. Delegate Petersen said he supported the amendment because "it is a better solution than what we have right now." The bill was killed in the Senate. He believes this will be an issue in the 2003 session of the General Assembly.

- Tax Reform — Delegate Petersen stated the need for diversifying the local tax base. He added that tax reform will not be accomplished through a referendum. Delegate Petersen went on to say the composite index, used to measure the ability to pay, is flawed, citing aid to education. His two budget amendments to the Appropriations Committee have been carried over. He believes the state income tax rate needs to be raised.

After comments from the members, Vice Chairman York thanked Delegate Petersen for his time.

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

A. Financial Reports for March 2002

B. Resolution No. P02-27: Authorization to Upgrade Software for the Northern Virginia Information and Referral Network

EXECUTIVE

DIRECTOR'S
REPORT

- A. Mr. Gibb pointed out that the monthly activities report was included in the meeting package.
- B. Mr. Gibb introduced Ric Terman, a resident of Falls Church, who has been active for many years in the preservation of the original Washington, D. C., Boundary Stones.

Mr. Terman reviewed the history behind this project, noting that in 1994, at the invitation of the Northern Virginia Planning District Commission (now Northern Virginia Regional Commission), 16 nominees from four Northern Virginia jurisdictions and other concerned organizations participated in the Northern Virginia Boundary Stones Committee. While this committee recognizes that, in Virginia, the stones belong to the owners of the land on which they sit, it believes that ownership and/or easement for all sites in Virginia should be acquired by the Northern Virginia Conservation Trust, with possible transfer to the National Park Service.

The Northern Virginia Boundary Stones Committee will continue to work with the four local governments involved with the boundary stones. The committee will come back to NVRC in the near future to request that the Commission consider possible implementation of interpretive signs for the stones, a comprehensive brochure, and a traveling educational exhibit.

The Commissioners thanked Mr. Terman for his time.

- C. Mr. Gibb reported that the three-day Reston Charrette, held earlier in the month, was very successful, with approximately 180 people in attendance. The recommendations are posted on NVRC's website (www.novaregion.org).
- D. Mr. Gibb distributed storm drainage markers and door hangers that are part of NVRC's Four Mile Run program. The markers will be affixed to the storm drains, replacing the stencils. Volunteers will distribute the door hangers to the neighborhoods in the Four Mile Run Watershed.
- E. Mr. Gibb noted the information staff had distributed on tourism, adding that NVRC staff has been active in staffing the Northern Virginia Visitors Consortium (NVVC). NVVC submitted a grant application for \$400,000 to the Virginia Tourism Corporation and was informed earlier this week that the application will not be funded.

Mr. Pickford informed the Commissioners that the NVVC submitted a similar application in 2002, which was not funded. The NVVC subsequently spent a great deal of time and effort in meeting with the state tourism staff and the grant administrator on ways to improve future grant applications. Mr. Pickford reported that in the past three years, \$14 million have been distributed; of that, Northern Virginia received \$204,000.

Forty-three percent of tourism spending in Virginia occurs in Northern Virginia, and Northern Virginia's tourism generates more than 39% of all travel related tax revenues in the Commonwealth (\$255 million in 2000).

Commissioner Connolly moved that the Commission send a letter to the Governor, copying the Northern Virginia Delegation, pointing out the blatant prejudice against Northern Virginia. The motion was seconded. Commissioner Bulova asked that the letter also point out the fact that Northern Virginia's tourism industry suffered greatly from the aftereffects of September 11th, much more so than other parts of the state. The motion as amended was unanimously carried.

- F. Mr. Gibb announced that Michelle Simmons has been appointed Acting Director for the Human Services Division. Ms. Simmons has been with the Commission for 18 years.

**CHAIRMAN'S
REPORT**

Vice Chairman York announced that Chairman Hanley has appointed the Nominating Committee and Commissioner Bulova has agreed to chair that committee.

**LEGISLATIVE
REPORT**

Commissioner Connolly noted that a final report had been distributed around the table.

In light of the lack of adequate funding from Richmond, Commissioner Rogers raised the merit of the member jurisdictions picking one project for which local governments have borne increasing costs and informing the state that it is now a state responsibility and not a local government responsibility. Commissioner Connolly replied he shared Commissioner Rogers' frustration, and he pointed out the need to both protect the localities' interests and engage the General Assembly and administration on issues important to this region. Commissioner Connolly added that the first action is educating the Northern Virginia Delegation, which is divided; the Delegation needs to be better informed about decisions they are about to make [in Richmond] that will have an impact on the local governments.

Commissioner Bulova added that the Fairfax County attorney is looking into the issue of adequacy, as every jurisdiction in the state feels it does not receive adequate state funding. Vice Chairman York stressed the importance of educating the citizens on the inadequacy of state funding.

**OTHER
BUSINESS**

Commissioner Herry again raised the issue of public accountability for NVRC and stated that most of his concerns have been met, except for the back audit. Commissioner Herry stated that he is running for the position of Chairman of the Fairfax County Board and when elected, he will not support funding for NVRC until that back audit is done. He requested that the Operations Committee reconsider its recommendation not to re-audit NVRC's financial records since 1993.

Commissioner Goessman asked if Commissioner Herry had any evidence to support his statement and voiced his opinion that this was unnecessary.

ADJOURNMENT There being no further business, Vice Chairman York adjourned the meeting at 9:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Approved by:

G. Mark Gibb
Executive Director

Scott K. York
Vice Chairman