

NORTHERN VIRGINIA REGIONAL COMMISSION

Minutes of the Commission Meeting Held Thursday, December 12, 2002

COMMISSIONERS

(The names of those present are highlighted)

Commissioner Hilda M. Barg
Commissioner Charles J. Billand
Commissioner Albert J. Boudreau
Commissioner Melvin Bray
Commissioner Sharon Bulova
Commissioner James C. Chesley
Commissioner William C. Cleveland
Commissioner Gerald E. Connolly
Commissioner Joan Cross
Commissioner Anna F. Dixon
Commissioner William T. Druhan, Jr.
Commissioner Albert C. Eisenberg
Commissioner Barbara A. Favola, NVRC Treasurer
Commissioner Jay Fiset
Commissioner Robert C. Goessman
Commissioner Brenda Z. Greene
Commissioner Penelope A. Gross
Commissioner Katherine K. Hanley
Commissioner Mark R. Herring
Commissioner John F. Herrity
Commissioner Edgar B. Holley
Commissioner Catherine Hudgins
Commissioner John D. Jenkins
Commissioner David Kirkpatrick, Jr.
Commissioner Lyman Krekel
Commissioner Jesse Ludvigsen
Commissioner Elaine N. McConnell
Commissioner Stuart Mendelsohn
Commissioner Charles Monroe
Commissioner Michael O'Reilly
Commissioner Sally B. Ormsby
Commissioner Harry J. Parrish, II
Commissioner Redella S. Pepper
Commissioner Alice Keane Putman
Commissioner Robert Rapanut
Commissioner Lilla D. Richards
Commissioner Kristen C. Umstattd, NVRC Vice Chairman
Commissioner Don White
Commissioner Edgar S. Wilbourn, III
Commissioner William R. Wren
Commissioner Scott K. York, NVRC Chairman
Vacancy: 1 (Falls Church)

County of Prince William
County of Loudoun
Town of Vienna
Town of Dumfries
County of Fairfax
County of Fairfax
City of Alexandria
County of Fairfax
City of Fairfax
County of Fairfax
Town of Purcellville
County of Arlington
County of Arlington
County of Arlington
City of Manassas
County of Fairfax
County of Fairfax
County of Fairfax
County of Loudoun
County of Fairfax
County of Prince William
County of Fairfax
County of Prince William
City of Fairfax
City of Falls Church
City of Manassas Park
County of Fairfax
County of Fairfax
County of Arlington
Town of Herndon
County of Fairfax
City of Manassas
City of Alexandria
County of Fairfax
City of Alexandria
County of Fairfax
Town of Leesburg
County of Prince William
County of Prince William
City of Manassas Park
County of Loudoun

STAFF PRESENT

G. Mark Gibb
Linda M. Tenney
Linda Summerall
Doug Pickford
Michelle Simmons
James Van Zee

Executive Director
Deputy Director
Executive Secretary
Director, Environmental and Heritage Resources
Director, Human Services
Director, Regional Planning Services

GUESTS PRESENT

David Bulova
Bruce Glendening
Sue Rowland

former NVRC employee
Potomac Trail Council
SR Consulting, Inc.

CALL TO ORDER 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.

MINUTES Commissioner Favola moved approval of the minutes of the October 24, 2002, meeting of the Commission. The motion was seconded and unanimously carried.

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

- A. Financial Reports for October 2002
- B. Resolution No. P03-13: Authorization to Submit a Proposal Entitled "Blueways: Outreach on the Occoquan" to Prospective Grantors

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- A. Mr. Gibb noted that the monthly activities report was included in the meeting package, as well as an updated member roster. Mr. Gibb asked the members to carefully review their information on the roster, especially home telephone numbers and email addresses, and give any changes to Ms. Summerall.
- B. Mr. Gibb reported that David Bulova, NVRC's Director of Environmental Services, resigned last month to take a job in the private sector. Doug Pickford, NVRC's Director of Economic Issues and Heritage Resources, has assumed Mr. Bulova's responsibilities. The division has been renamed Environmental and Heritage Resources.
- C. Mr. Gibb reported that the pledge for the Pickford Scholarship Fund at George Mason University has been met ahead of schedule, due to a generous donation by the Pickford children. A scholarship will be awarded for the 2003-2004 academic year. The scholarship fund is still accepting contributions and forms are available through NVRC. Additionally, the Pickford children have requested that the name of the scholarship fund be amended to also honor their late mother, Margaret, and the Commission has honored this request.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

- A. Chairman York called for adoption of the proposed Commission meeting schedule for calendar year 2003. He noted that the Commission will not meet in January since VML and VACO will hold their joint legislative day in Richmond on January 23, 2003, the same day the Commission would normally hold its meeting.

The meeting schedule as proposed was adopted by acclamation.

- B. Commissioner York read from the report of the special master appointed by the Supreme Court concerning Virginia's use of water from the Potomac River. The special master ruled that Maryland cannot bar Virginia from drawing water from the Potomac River.

Commissioner Richards requested that the minutes of the Commission's December 12 meeting include the cover and the last two pages of the special master's report.

- C. Chairman York announced that Commissioner Alice Putman has resigned her office effective this month.

Chairman York read a certificate of appreciation for David Bulova, the Commission's former Director of Environmental Services. The members and staff gave Mr. Bulova a round of applause. Commissioner Pepper praised Mr. Bulova for his outstanding work and expertise. Commissioner Hanley commended Mr. Bulova for his ability to explain complex issues.

- D. Commissioner York introduced Bruce Glendening with the Potomac Trail Council, an alliance of community organizations and local agencies committed to the development, protection, interpretation and celebration of the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail. Its goal is to secure land and water routes in the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail corridor for public use while protecting natural settings and historic landscapes.

The Potomac Trail Council supports the efforts of local organizations working to establish a continuous 425-mile network of trails between the Chesapeake Bay and Allegheny Highlands in western Pennsylvania. It functions as a consolidated voice in support of the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail throughout the entire Trail corridor.

On behalf of the Potomac Trail Council, Mr. Glendening presented the Northern Virginia Regional Commission and Doug Pickford with its "Agency of the Year" award for 2002 for the Commission's proposal on the braided trail.

NVRC'S FY 2003
LEGISLATIVE
PLATFORM

Commissioner Connolly, Chairman of the Legislative Committee, referred members to the final draft legislative platform included in the meeting package, noting that this is the second draft circulated to members.

Commissioner Connolly explained that language was added to the position on equal taxing authority to address the Town of Vienna's concern. The language for the position on Funding for Human Services comes from the Commission's Human and Community Services Committee.

Commissioner Connolly pointed out the position on Funding for Transportation, which supports significant funding for transit in Northern Virginia, either through a reallocation of the Transportation Trust Fund or through an increase in the regional motor fuels tax from two to four percent. Commissioner Hanley added that either method would yield an extra \$20 million for Northern Virginia.

Also noted were the positions on State Support of Regional Tourism Development and the State Tobacco Sales Tax. Commissioner Hanley raised the issue that the City of Alexandria may propose an increase in its tobacco sales tax, adding that Arlington and Fairfax counties are the only two counties in Virginia that have authority to tax tobacco sales, although this is set at an extremely low amount. She offered language that opposes capping the taxing authority for cities and towns and opposes exclusion of counties from the local authority to tax tobacco sales.

Commissioner Connolly moved adoption of the Commission's 2003 Legislative Platform with the amendment offered by Commissioner Hanley. The motion was seconded.

Commissioner O'Reilly advised the members that the Herndon Town Council has concerns about the Commission's position on Equal Local Taxing Authority; hence, he cannot support the Legislative Platform. Commissioner Connolly explained this is a major position for the Virginia Association of Counties (VACO). Commissioner O'Reilly explained that the Town's concern is that if Fairfax County adopts a meals tax, it will be imposed within the Town and the funds will go to the County (according to the town attorney). The Fairfax County representatives agreed to check with the county attorney on this point and report back at the next Commission meeting.

Commissioner Connolly reported that the tobacco companies may agree to a small increase of the state sales tax on tobacco in return for a cap on the ability of cities to raise their existing tobacco taxes and the total exclusion of counties from obtaining a tobacco tax.

Commissioner Favola offered a modification to the position on Funding for Human Services: "...particularly since *those most in need are significantly affected by the critical* publicly supported human service *programs. activities will continue to be demanded by those most in need.* State budget reductions..." The members concurred.

The 2003 Legislative Platform as amended was adopted, with Commissioner O'Reilly opposed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Human and

Community Services

Commissioner Hudgins moved that the draft letter that was distributed around the table be sent to the Governor expressing the Commission's concerns about the pending conversion of the CareFirst health insurance company to for-profit status. The letter would also be sent to Virginia's Attorney General, the Northern Virginia Delegation, and Northern Virginia's Congressional delegation. The motion was seconded and unanimously carried.

CLOSED SESSION

At 8:34 p.m., Commissioner Gross moved that the Commission convene in closed session pursuant to Annotated Section 2.1-344(A)(1) of the Virginia Code for discussion and consideration of a personnel matter concerning an employment contract. The motion was seconded and unanimously carried.

OPEN SESSION

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Gross, seconded, and carried unanimously, the Commission reconvened in open session at 8:47 p.m.

Operations

Commissioner Gross moved adoption of the contract for services for G. Mark Gibb as discussed in the closed session. The motion was seconded and unanimously carried.

Commissioner Connolly moved that the Operations Committee review the Cost of Living Adjustment system, specifically looking at the methods used by Fairfax County and MWCOG, and report back to the Commission. The motion was seconded and unanimously carried.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chairman York adjourned the meeting at 8:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Approved by:

G. Mark Gibb
Executive Director

Scott K. York
Chairman