

**NORTHERN VIRGINIA REGIONAL COMMISSION**

**Minutes of the Commission Meeting Held Thursday, July 24, 2003**

**COMMISSIONERS**

(The names of those present are highlighted)

**Commissioner Hilda M. Barg**  
**Commissioner Johnine P. Barnes**  
**Commissioner Charles J. Billand**  
**Commissioner Albert J. Boudreau**  
**Commissioner Melvin Bray**  
**Commissioner Sharon Bulova**  
Commissioner James C. Chesley  
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 Fisette  
Commissioner Robin Gardner  
**Commissioner Robert C. Goessman**  
**Commissioner Brenda Z. Greene**  
**Commissioner Penelope A. Gross**  
**Commissioner Katherine K. Hanley**  
**Commissioner Mark R. Herring**  
**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 Michael O'Reilly**  
**Commissioner Sally B. Ormsby**  
Commissioner Harry J. Parrish, II  
**Commissioner Redella S. Pepper**  
Commissioner Robert Rapanut  
Commissioner Lilla D. Richards  
**Commissioner Paul C. Smedberg**  
Commissioner J. Walter Tejada  
Commissioner Kristen C. Umstatt, NVRC Vice Chairman  
Commissioner Don White  
Commissioner Edgar S. Wilbourn, III  
**Commissioner William R. Wren**  
**Commissioner Scott K. York, NVRC Chairman**  
1 vacancy: County of Fairfax

**County of Prince William**  
**County of Fairfax**  
**County of Loudoun**  
**Town of Vienna**  
**Town of Dumfries**  
**County of Fairfax**  
County of Fairfax  
County of Fairfax  
**City of Fairfax**  
**County of Fairfax**  
**Town of Purcellville**  
**County of Arlington**  
**County of Arlington**  
County of Arlington  
City of Falls Church  
**City of Manassas**  
**County of Fairfax**  
**County of Fairfax**  
**County of Loudoun**  
**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  
**Town of Herndon**  
**County of Fairfax**  
City of Manassas  
**City of Alexandria**  
City of Alexandria  
County of Fairfax  
**City of Alexandria**  
County of Arlington  
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  
Stacie Balderston  
Kenneth Billingsley  
Michelle Simmons  
Tylee Smith  
James Van Zee

*Executive Director*  
*Deputy Director*  
*Executive Secretary*  
*Federal Grants Program Supervisor*  
*Director, Demographics*  
*Director, Human Services*  
*Information & Referral Program Manager*  
*Director, Regional Planning Services*

**GUESTS PRESENT**

The Honorable Charles J. Colgan  
The Honorable Harry J. Parrish

*Virginia Senate*  
*Virginia House of Delegates*

**GUESTS PRESENT, CONTINUED**

Margaret Bakko  
David Harrison  
Memory Porter  
Sue Rowland  
Margaret Vanderhye  
Lynda Williams

*Dir., Intergovernmental Affairs, Arlington County  
Connection Newspaper  
Legislative Liaison, Loudoun County  
SR Consulting, Inc.  
Northern Virginia Transportation Authority  
Executive Director, Fairfax CASA*

**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.

**PRESENTATION** *Tax Restructuring*

Chairman York welcomed state Senator Charles J. Colgan and Delegate Harry Parrish, members of the Commission on the Revision of Virginia's Tax Code. Del. Parrish co-chairs the Commission, created by Senate Joint Resolution 347 in the 2003 General Assembly session.

Del. Parrish commented that Virginia's tax code is antiquated, with the state income tax having been adopted in 1919 and the sales tax adopted in 1966. He added that the basic tax code, which is based on agriculture and manufacturing, has not changed since then and needs to be brought into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. It was noted that the last proposed tax increase was made under Governor Godwin; it passed the Senate but failed in the House; and the sales tax was last increased by one-half cent under Governor Baliles. The Tax Commission members feel the tax structure needs to be fair as well as easy to understand.

The Tax Commission is composed of ten members and two *ex officio* members — the Secretary of Finance and the Tax Commissioner. The Commission will work with five subcommittees which will address a particular area of the tax code:

- relationship between local and state governments and local taxing authority
- e-commerce
- transportation
- sales tax
- income tax

Sen. Colgan stated that the Tax Commission must be concerned about the Commonwealth's welfare, adding the need to address the car tax, which would cost \$1.3 billion if totally eliminated. Congress has frozen taxing Internet sales, but that legislation expires in November. Sen. Colgan shared his belief that the state must provide more funding to the localities, and that there will be legislation next year to overhaul the tax structure.

*questions and answers*

Commissioner Ormsby asked for elaboration on the relationship of equal taxing authority for cities and counties and equal responsibility for transportation. Commissioner Hanley explained that the cities provide a slightly larger match and receive a larger State payment for their road maintenance. Del. Parrish confirmed that cities come under the urban system rather than the primary and secondary road system.

Commissioner Favola asked that the Tax Commission consider a revenue source in lieu of the car tax, noting that this is a revenue source for localities. Sen. Colgan said since 1996,

he has introduced legislation to raise the sales tax to six percent and eliminate the car tax. That legislation died each time it was introduced.

Commissioner Barg inquired about "sin" (alcohol and tobacco) taxes. Sen. Colgan replied that Sen. Whipple introduced a bill to raise the tax on cigarettes to 60 cents but the bill failed. Responding to Commissioner Smedberg, Del. Parrish said the Commission will review sin taxes, adding that Virginia has the lowest tax in the country on tobacco products, and he believes the tax will be increased on tobacco and alcohol.

Commissioner Eisenberg commented that the public does not like government to do things **to** them but they like government to do things **for** them. In other words, the discussion of taxes must be tied to something tangible that the public can understand. Commissioner Bulova agreed, pointing out the necessity of educating the public on the numerous benefits provided by government; tell the public what they get for their taxes.

Chairman York noted how little return Loudoun County and the other jurisdictions in Northern Virginia receive on income taxes sent to Richmond. He urged the Tax Commission to look at the transfer tax, impact fees and adequate public facilities ordinance. All of these would help localities raise the revenue needed for their infrastructure. Replying to Del. Parrish, Chairman York stated that often subdivision development takes place by-right, bypassing the proffer system, whereas an impact fee to help pay for school construction could be applied to each new home built in that by-right development.

Commissioner Hanley commented on the expense of administering the car tax and noted the need for the state to pay its SOQ share, which would offset the revenue from the car tax.

Commissioner Favola urged the Tax Commission to look at mandated services that the localities must provide and what the state is paying for; there is a large gap between what localities are required to provide and what the state funds. She stated that taxes are about the quality of life. The Tax Commission should ask "How much revenue do we need to have a first class state?"

Commissioner Pepper discussed the lack of trust by the citizens regarding the failed transportation tax. It was not so much that people did not want to pay another one-half cent sales tax but the fact that people did not trust Richmond to spend the money in Northern Virginia.

Commissioner Gross commented on the dearth of funding for environmental programs, adding that the Chesapeake Bay cleanup will cost \$13 billion.

When Chairman York asked how the NVRC Commissioners can help the Tax Commission, he was told by testifying at the public hearings. The Commissioners thanked Sen. Colgan and Del. Parrish for their time.

#### MINUTES

Commissioner Wren moved approval of the minutes of the June 26, 2003, meeting of the Commission. The motion was seconded and unanimously carried.

#### ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Commissioner Hanley, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, moved election of the slate of officers as follows. The motion was seconded.

Chairman	Scott K. York (County of Loudoun)
Vice Chairman	Kristen C. Umstattd (Town of Leesburg)
Treasurer	Barbara A. Favola (County of Arlington)

Commissioner Gross moved that the slate of officers be closed. The motion was seconded and unanimously carried. The officers were elected by acclamation.

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

- A. Financial Reports for June 2003
- B. Resolution No. P04-01: Proposal to Assess Regional Dental Capacity and Determine Regional Solutions to Address Unmet Need

EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR'S  
REPORT

- A. Mr. Gibb noted that the director's monthly report was included in the meeting package. He added that Commissioners Umstadd and Jenkins were representing the Commission at the Virginia Association of Planning District Commissions' Annual Conference.
- B. A delegation of elected officials from the Verband Region Stuttgart will be in Northern Virginia October 2-6. The German Embassy is hosting a dinner for the delegation and the NVRC Commissioners will receive an invitation.
- C. Commissioner Druhan reported on the successful three-day planning charrette for Purcellville that NVRC staff organized. It was extremely well attended, with most of the business community participating. Traffic problems and development issues were discussed. Commissioner Druhan added his recommendation of the charrette process for any planning and/or zoning issue.

Commissioner Druhan thanked Mr. Gibb for his help, adding that Mr. Gibb will address the Purcellville Town Council in August on the charrette.

RESOLUTION  
NO. P04-02

RESOLUTION OPPOSING D.C. COMMUTER TAX

In reviewing Resolution No. P04-02, Chairman York called attention to the fact that 29 percent of the District of Columbia's residents work outside the city. He then moved the Resolution, which was duly seconded.

Commissioner Ormsby suggested sending the resolution to the Mayor and the D.C. Council, to which the Commissioners agreed.

Commissioner Hanley asked that the third clause be removed, referencing non-resident commuters in Northern Virginia, stating her belief that the background material does not support the Commission's position since it is not aggregated by state. Chairman York disagreed. After further discussion, Resolution No. P04-02 was adopted unanimously as amended.

COMMITTEE  
REPORTS

*Operations*

Commissioner Favola reported that the Operations Committee had met prior to the Commission meeting and discussed financial strategies. It will come as no surprise that NVRC and the other planning district commissions have been losing state funding over the past several years. The committee is looking at how much funding is needed to maintain the Commission's core services. The committee will report back to the Commission.

*Land Use*

Commissioner Holley reported that the Land Use Committee discussed the Transportation Authority's ATLAS Task Force as well as affordable housing.

*Human and*

*Community Services* Commissioner Greene reported that the National Advisory Committee on Children and Terrorism, to which she was appointed, sent its recommendations to Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson on June 12. The Human and Community Services Committee reviewed the executive summary, which basically states that the issues around children — mental health, medical, social, safety — should be reflected in planning and implementation of response plans to terrorism and other emergencies. The Internet address is [www\bt\cdc.gov\children](http://www.bt.cdc.gov/children).

**OTHER BUSINESS** Delegate Pepper introduced Commissioner Paul Smedberg, a newly elected Alexandria City Council member. The Commissioners welcomed him.

**ADJOURNMENT** There being no further business, Chairman York adjourned the meeting at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Approved by:

G. Mark Gibb  
Executive Director

Scott K. York  
Chairman