

NORTHERN VIRGINIA REGIONAL COMMISSION

Minutes of the Commission Meeting Held Thursday, September 25, 2003

COMMISSIONERS

(The names of those present are highlighted)

Commissioner Hilda M. Barg	<i>County of Prince William</i>
Commissioner Johnine P. Barnes	<i>County of Fairfax</i>
Commissioner Charles J. Billand	<i>County of Loudoun</i>
Commissioner Albert J. Boudreau	Town of Vienna
Commissioner Melvin Bray	<i>Town of Dumfries</i>
Commissioner Sharon Bulova	County of Fairfax
Commissioner James C. Chesley	<i>County of Fairfax</i>
Commissioner Gerald E. Connolly	<i>County of Fairfax</i>
Commissioner Joan Cross	<i>City of Fairfax</i>
Commissioner Anna F. Dixon	County of Fairfax
Commissioner William T. Druhan, Jr.	<i>Town of Purcellville</i>
Commissioner Albert C. Eisenberg	<i>County of Arlington</i>
Commissioner Barbara A. Favola, NVRC Treasurer	<i>County of Arlington</i>
Commissioner Jay Fisette	County of Arlington
Commissioner Robin Gardner	<i>City of Falls Church</i>
Commissioner Robert C. Goessman	<i>City of Manassas</i>
Commissioner Brenda Z. Greene	County of Fairfax
Commissioner Penelope A. Gross	County of Fairfax
Commissioner Katherine K. Hanley	<i>County of Fairfax</i>
Commissioner Mark R. Herring	<i>County of Loudoun</i>
Commissioner Edgar B. Holley	<i>County of Prince William</i>
Commissioner Catherine Hudgins	County of Fairfax
Commissioner John D. Jenkins	<i>County of Prince William</i>
Commissioner David Kirkpatrick, Jr.	<i>City of Fairfax</i>
Commissioner Lyman Krekel	<i>City of Falls Church</i>
Commissioner D. Patrick Lewis	County of Fairfax
Commissioner Jesse Ludvigsen	City of Manassas Park
Commissioner Elaine N. McConnell	<i>County of Fairfax</i>
Commissioner Stuart Mendelsohn	<i>County of Fairfax</i>
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 Robert Rapanut	<i>City of Alexandria</i>
Commissioner Lilla D. Richards	County of Fairfax
Commissioner Paul C. Smedberg	City of Alexandria
Commissioner J. Walter Tejada	<i>County of Arlington</i>
Commissioner Kristen C. Umstattd, NVRC Vice Chairman	Town of Leesburg
Commissioner Don White	<i>County of Prince William</i>
Commissioner Edgar S. Wilbourn, III	<i>County of Prince William</i>
Commissioner William R. Wren	<i>City of Manassas Park</i>
Commissioner Scott K. York, NVRC Chairman	<i>County of Loudoun</i>

STAFF PRESENT

G. Mark Gibb	<i>Executive Director</i>
Linda M. Tenney	<i>Deputy Director</i>
Linda Summerall	<i>Executive Secretary</i>
Kenneth Billingsley	<i>Director, Demographics</i>
Normand Goulet	<i>Sr. Environmental Planner/Information Systems Mgmt. Analyst</i>
Katherine Mull	<i>Sr. Environmental Planner</i>
Doug Pickford	<i>Director, Environmental and Heritage Resources</i>
Michelle Simmons	<i>Director, Human Services</i>
James Van Zee	<i>Director, Regional Planning Services</i>

GUESTS PRESENT

Michael Byrne	<i>Director of Nat'l. Capital Region Coordination for Emergency Response, U.S. Department of Homeland Security</i>
Cindi Causey	<i>Northern Virginia Area Coordinator, Virginia Dept. of Emergency Response</i>
Thomas Costello	<i>Federal Coordinating Officer, Federal Emergency Management Agency</i>
Sue Rowland	<i>SR Consulting</i>

CALL TO ORDER Vice Chairman Umstatted called the meeting to order at 8:05 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 Ormsby moved approval of the minutes of the July 24, 2003, meeting of the Commission. The motion was seconded. Commissioner Greene noted the misspelling of former Governor Baliles' name and requested a minor change under her report. The minutes as amended were unanimously approved.

PRESENTATIONS *Update on Coordination of Homeland Security in the National Capital Area*

Michael Byrne Mr. Byrne last spoke to the Commission in May, wherein he reported on the Urban Area Security Initiative. Since that time, the assessment was completed in a record 60 days, with much of the credit going to local government staff. The information from the assessment was used to identify requirements and needs. DHS then looked at the national strategy of homeland security, a statewide template document produced by the Homeland Security Advisory Council, and the eight commitments of action agreed to by the heads of government of the D.C. region. Projects were then developed from this review.

The grant requires an urban area working group and DHS asked MWCOG to take on this role. Mr. Byrne met with the local governments' Chief Administrative Officers to review the projects that fall into four broad areas: planning, training, exercises, and equipment. He added that the subcommittees working on individual projects have taken "ownership" of them.

DHS is establishing a timeline and measurement device for each project. Mr. Byrne said he would keep the Commissioners apprised of these projects.

questions and answers

Commissioner Fisetto asked if Mr. Byrne feels there is buy-in by all of the Chief Administrative Officers in terms of the use of the funds. Mr. Byrne concurred. Commissioner Fisetto then asked Mr. Byrne to address the issue of some local feeling that the local voice has not been heard by DHS as much as it should. Mr. Byrne said this has been thoroughly discussed, and his office is making sure that all parties are heard.

Mr. Byrne went on to say that the reimbursement grant, totaling \$60 million, is split between two streams, \$18 million and \$42 million, with the \$42 million being the Federal FY 2003 Supplemental; when the supplemental was released, a provision stated that up to 25 percent can be used for reimbursement for costs incurred (such as overtime expenses). After discussions, several locals have suggested that the money be used for another building capability, and DHS is considering this request.

Information on Recovery from Hurricane Isabel

Thomas Costello Mr. Costello thanked the Commissioners for the opportunity to address them. He introduced Cindi Causey, Northern Virginia Area Coordinator, Virginia Department of Emergency Management. Mr. Costello represents the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) federal coordinating officer for the response part in Virginia. He spoke briefly on FEMA's operation response and recovery plan for Hurricane Isabel. Ninety-nine jurisdictions in Virginia have been declared disasters.

FEMA is working to meet the citizens' immediate needs (water, ice, and generators for critical facilities). Disaster field offices will be set up throughout the state for longer-term recovery efforts.

The President declared the disaster on September 18. Citizens have 60 days from that date to register with FEMA in the event they want to file a claim; they will be contacted by an inspector within seven to ten days. He believes this money is tax-free.

Local governments may file claims with FEMA for overtime paid for debris clearance. Mr. Costello urged the elected officials to be sure their jurisdictions follow their regular procedures if this work is contracted out.

Mr. Costello also asked the Commissioners to urge the business community to contact the Small Business Administration (SBA) about loans. Homeowners may be eligible for loans through the SBA as well.

questions and answers

Commissioner Ormsby inquired about residents who have homeowners' insurance filing claims with FEMA. Mr. Costello replied that often the insurance policies don't cover flooding or lodging expenses.

Replying to Commissioner Gross, Mr. Costello said FEMA will not reimburse a jurisdiction for the cost of waiving dumping fees for residents.

Mr. Costello confirmed for Commissioner Richards that FEMA can provide informational fliers in different languages. The Commissioners suggested several foreign languages prevalent in Northern Virginia.

Members discussed the need for better educating the public on the kinds of food and equipment to buy to prepare for emergencies, despite numerous publications and attempts to publicize this information by the local jurisdictions in cooperation with NVRC. [Information is posted on NVRC's website, www.novaregion.org, the local governments' websites, and FEMA's website, www.fema.gov.]

Ms. Causey invited the members to contact her at 703-583-3999 for assistance. She added that there will be one or two disaster recovery centers in Northern Virginia where the public can meet with representatives to discuss their situations. The SBA is currently in the Lee Center in Alexandria, and a FEMA representative is there as well.

The members thanked the guests for sharing this information.

CONSENT AGENDA Commissioner Pepper requested that the two resolutions be considered separately, as the Regional Resources Committee has removed the phrase "Commission staff recommends" and the funding amounts have changed slightly.

The consent agenda, consisting of the July 2003 financial reports, was moved, seconded and unanimously carried.

RESOLUTION

NO. P04-03

AUTHORIZATION TO SUBMIT A PROPOSAL TO THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION

Commissioner Pepper explained that the purpose of this grant-funded project is to prevent nonpoint source pollution by furthering the use of low impact development techniques in order to meet the state's commitments in the Chesapeake 2000 Bay Agreement. If NVRC's request is funded, staff will incorporate low impact development into the *Northern Virginia BMP Handbooks*; produce a 20-minute digital film about low impact development for use by elected officials and citizens' groups; and design of a low impact development urban infill demonstration project at Tinner Hill, an African-American heritage site, in Falls Church. Ms. Mull provided background information on Tinner Hill.

Commissioner Pepper moved adoption of Resolution No. P04-03. The motion was seconded and unanimously carried.

RESOLUTION
NO. P04-04

AUTHORIZATION TO SUBMIT A PROPOSAL TO THE VIRGINIA DIVISION OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES CHESAPEAKE BAY RESTORATION FUND

Commissioner Pepper explained that this authorizes NVRC to apply to a different funding source to finance the low impact development film in the event it is not funded by DCR.

Commissioner Pepper moved adoption of Resolution No. P04-04. The motion was seconded and unanimously carried.

EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR'S
REPORT

- A. Mr. Gibb reported that in addition to his report in the meeting package, he has received a letter from the Department of Housing and Community Development stating it is required by law to review the boundaries of all planning district commissions after each Census.
- 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 reception for the delegation. Mr. Gibb urged the Commissioners to attend this event. The itinerary for the delegation's visit was distributed.
- C. Mr. Gibb reported on his cultural exchange to Lithuania earlier in the month. He was the guest of the city of Panevezys to help celebrate its 500th anniversary. The U.S. Embassy in Lithuania and the city funded the trip. In reply to a question, Mr. Gibb said Lithuania's standard of living is very poor, with an average income of \$300-400/month in the capital. However, Lithuania has joined the European Community and is experiencing some economic success.
- D. Commissioner Ludvigsen asked if the Census software programs shared with Fairfax County are available to the other member jurisdictions. Mr. Billingsley, NVRC's demographer, explained the numerous Census releases and how they can be used. Some of the localities do not have the programming capability to use this data, and some of the data is available only for jurisdictions having a minimum population of 100,000.

**CHAIRMAN'S
REPORT**

Commissioner Umstadd welcomed and introduced two new Commissioners, Natalie Mosher, a citizen representative for the City of Alexandria; and D. Patrick Lewis, a citizen representative for Fairfax County.

Commissioner Mosher informed the members that she served as a county commissioner in Ohio and is looking to be involved in the community now that she is living in Alexandria. She currently works with the Volunteers of America, a non-profit.

Commissioner Lewis is an attorney interested in environmental issues as well as developmental disabilities. He added he has lived in several Northern Virginia jurisdictions.

**LEGISLATIVE
UPDATE**

Ms. Rowland called attention to the list of items for consideration, adding that the Legislative Committee will be working on this through late fall, since the Governor will not reveal his tax restructuring recommendations until after the election, and the state commission reviewing this issue will be working through December.

NVRC's preliminary 2004 legislative platform will be distributed to the Commissioners for their comments. A final version will be presented for adoption at the Commission's December 11 meeting.

Commissioner Greene reported that the Human and Community Services Committee was informed at its meeting this evening about reduced state funding for the Health Systems Agency by that agency's representative, John Rixse.

Commissioner Fisetle suggested adding a position on land use.

**COMMITTEE
REPORTS**

Human and

Community Services

Commissioner Hudgins reported on a change with potential far-reaching consequences for funding and service continuity to persons with HIV/AIDS (PWAs) in suburban Virginia. The current Metropolitan Washington Health Services Planning Council Chair has replaced the Northern Virginia HIV Consortium, the body that has always advised the Planning Council on Ryan White CARE Act Title I service and funding priorities for Virginia, with a loosely configured group of HIV consumers. The Human and Community Services Committee believes this action is unfounded, will not work in the best interest of Ryan White Title I consumers in Virginia, and has the potential for service disruption among a very fragile population.

Commissioner Hudgins moved that the Commission formalize the HIV Consortium's role by sending a letter to D.C. Mayor Anthony Williams requesting that he designate it as the primary organization for contributing Virginia planning information into the D.C. Planning Council's processes. The motion was seconded. Commissioner Fisetle voiced his support of the motion, pointing out that the Northern Virginia HIV Consortium has been a national model. The motion carried unanimously.

Operations

Commissioner Bulova reported that the committee develops a preliminary budget in the fall for the upcoming fiscal year. This year committee is not yet ready to do that. NVRC's state funding has decreased over the past several years and the agency has relied increasingly on grants. Staff positions have been held vacant, while the member per capita dues rate has held steady for the past 14 years. The agency no longer has enough resources to continue all of its programs. The committee members want the Commission to be aware of this situation, and the committee will report next month.

Regional Resources

Commissioner Pepper asked the members if they would be interested in having a representative from the Fairfax County Water Authority as the guest speaker next month to

discuss what happened during Hurricane Isabel. The members agreed, and it was suggested that invitation to speak be sent to the Authority's chairman of the board.

ADJOURNMENT There being no further business, Commissioner Umstattd adjourned the meeting at 9:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Approved by:

G. Mark Gibb
Executive Director

Kristen C. Umstattd
Vice Chairman