

**NEW RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL COMMISSION**  
**Minutes of the Commission Meeting**  
**held on**  
**April 28, 2016**  
**6:00 p.m. – New River Valley Business Center, Fairlawn**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

**PRESENT:** Mr. J. Carpenter, Radford University, Vice-Chair; Mr. L. Law, Giles County, Treasurer; Mr. C. Bopp, Pulaski County; Mr. G. East, Town of Pulaski; Mr. T. Garrett, Town of Narrows; Mr. F. Gerald, Floyd County; Dr. H. Harvey, City of Radford; Mr. M. Harvey, Montgomery County; Ms. S. Journell, Town of Pearisburg; Ms. H. Lesko, Town of Blacksburg; Mr. M. Maslaney, Floyd County; Mr. R. McCoy, Giles County; Ms. C. Newcomb, Town of Blacksburg; Mr. M. Patton, Town of Floyd; Mr. H. Showalter, Town of Christiansburg; Mr. J. Soileau, Virginia Tech Mr. M. Sutphin, Town of Blacksburg; Mr. M. Turk, City of Radford, and Dr. D. Warren, Pulaski County.

**ABSENT:** Mr. L. Clevinger, Town of Pulaski; Mr. W. Kantsios, Town of Rich Creek; Ms. A. Perkins, Montgomery County; Mr. K. Sullivan, Chair, Virginia Tech; and Mr. S. Weaver, Town of Christiansburg.

Staff Attendees: Kevin Byrd, Janet McNew, Patrick O'Brien, Jennifer Wilsie, Michael Gottfredson and Julie Phillips.

**II. CONSENT AGENDA**

A. Approval of Minutes for March  
Mr. Carpenter called for approval of the consent agenda item if there were no questions or changes.

Motion: Mr. Patton moved for the approval of the minutes. Mr. McCoy seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried, one abstention; Mr. Gerald.

B. Approval of Treasurer's Report for March  
Mr. Carpenter called for approval of the consent agenda item if there were no questions or changes.

Motion: Mr. Law moved for the approval of the Treasurer's Report. Ms. Lesko seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

**III. COMMONWEALTH INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS**

A. Projects (Signed-off by the staff)  
1. Eggleston Water Extension CDBG Application

B. Regular Project Review  
1. Virginia Tech – Rector Field House Renovations  
Mr. Carpenter called for approval of the regular project review.

Motion: Mr. Bopp moved for the approval of the environmental review. Ms. Newcomb seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously

C. Environmental Project Review

1. Defense Environmental Restoration Program (Arsenal groundwater monitoring)  
Mr. Carpenter called for approval of the environmental review.

Motion: Mr. Patton moved for the approval of the environmental review. Mr. Garrett seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously

2. FY2016 Nonpoint Source Implementation Grant Application (DEQ)

Mr. Carpenter called for approval of the environmental review.

Motion: Mr. Harvey moved for the approval of the environmental review. Mr. Bopp seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously

**IV. PUBLIC ADDRESS**

None.

**V. REVIEW OF MUTUAL CONCERNS AND COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS**

Mr. Carpenter reported the Radford University College of Business and Economics was dedicated to President Penelope Kyle on April 22nd. He also shared President Kyle was honored to receive the Citizen of the Valley award from the Regional Commission. Saturday May 7<sup>th</sup> will be Radford University's commencement ceremony and July 1<sup>st</sup> Dr. Brian Hemphill will become the new President of Radford University. Mr. Harvey reported the ReNew the New luncheon was well attended and had coverage from several local media outlets. Mr. Garrett announced April 30<sup>th</sup> will be kid's fishing day in the Town of Narrows. Ms. Lesko reported she attended a fundraiser for the Women's Resource Center and was very impressed with the support for the event. She also shared ICAT day at Virginia Tech is scheduled for May 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Moss Center for the Arts and it will be a showcase of student projects.

**VI. CHAIR'S REPORT**

Mr. Carpenter reported Mr. Sullivan had a prior commitment that would delay his arrival; however, he sent his appointments for the nominating committee for FY17 officers. The bylaws call for the chair, treasurer and a commissioner at-large to comprise the nominating committee. The Committee will be; Mr. Sullivan as Chair, Mr. Law as Treasurer, and Mr. Clevinger as Member-at-Large.

**VII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Byrd provided a summary report in the Commission agenda packet. Mr. Byrd reported the Commission is partnering with Beans and Rice to evaluate the region's entrepreneurial ecosystem and engage partners to identify strategies to support entrepreneurial activity. Mr. Byrd explained the Commission and project team was recently awarded \$500,000 from the Appalachian Regional Commission for a portion of the Prices Fork School Reuse project and explained the team also submitted a grant application to the Department of Housing and Community Development-Vibrant Communities Initiative for additional funding. The 2016 General Assembly approved legislation for GO Virginia to establish Regional Councils. State funding for projects was not

approved in 2016 and will be reviewed in the 2017 session. Mr. Byrd explained the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) selected the NRV Passenger Rail Study for an Excellence in Rural Transportation Award. Mr. Byrd reported the annual Local Government Planning Commissioner Training was attended by over 40 people representing Planning Commissions, Board of Supervisors, Town Councils and staff. Lastly, Mr. Byrd noted staff is researching cloud-based file server options following a recent IT glitch.

## **VIII. OLD BUSINESS**

### **A. Annual Dinner Event Update**

Mr. Byrd reported the annual dinner will be held May 11<sup>th</sup> at the Draper Mercantile. He noted the planning is going well and reminded the Commission to RSVP if they have not done so already.

## **IX. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) 2016 Update**

Patrick O'Brien gave an overview of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). He explained the goals, objectives, strategies, and the project ranking criteria. He gave examples of the projects already on the ground, such as the Route 460/Southgate Drive interchange project, commercial kitchens in local projects (Floyd, Prices Fork), downtown redevelopment projects in several localities, New River Resource Authority landfill methane project, and the development of a regional data dashboard.

### **B. POWER Program Overview**

Mr. Byrd explained the POWER program (Partnerships for Opportunity and Workforce and Economic Revitalization) a multi-agency initiative that targets federal resources to help communities and regions that have been affected by job losses in coal mining, coal power plant operations, and coal-related supply chain industries due to the changing economics of America's energy production. Mr. Byrd defined the process for submitting an application and explained Giles County has been awarded planning funds to develop a River Center Action Plan which will help connect the five towns to the river users. Lastly, Mr. Byrd explained the next steps for the river center planning process as well as a potential Cluster Development study for Unmanned Systems/IT/Advanced Manufacturing through the POWER program.

### **C. Dispense Surplus Property**

Mr. Byrd explained the Commission's oldest fleet vehicle recently experienced a flat tire due to dry rot and other tires are presenting the same condition. The vehicle has over 142,000 miles. Based on the miles driven, it does not seem worthwhile to invest money into this vehicle. Over the next several months the Commission staff will review mileage logs to determine whether a third vehicle is needed in the fleet.

The Commission owns two hydraulic hand pumps which were purchased for a tire shredder program that no longer operates. He explained if the Commission moves forward to surplus the property the staff will work with GovDeals.com to make them available for purchase.

Motion: Mr. Bopp moved to approve dispensing the surplus property. Ms. Newcomb seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 pm.

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Kevin Sullivan, Chair  
New River Valley Regional Commission