

NEW RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL COMMISSION
Minutes of the Commission Meeting
held on
June 23, 2016
6:00 p.m. – New River Valley Business Center, Fairlawn

I. CALL TO ORDER

PRESENT: Mr. K. Sullivan, Chair, Virginia Tech; Mr. J. Carpenter, Radford University, Vice-Chair; Mr. L. Law, Giles County, Treasurer; Mr. C. Bopp, Pulaski County; Mr. T. Garrett, Town of Narrows; Mr. F. Gerald, Floyd County; Dr. H. Harvey, City of Radford; Mr. M. Harvey, Montgomery County; Mr. W. Kantsios, Town of Rich Creek; Mr. R. McCoy, Giles County; Ms. A. Perkins, Montgomery County; Mr. J. Soileau, Virginia Tech; Mr. M. Turk, City of Radford, and Dr. D. Warren, Pulaski County.

ABSENT: Mr. L. Clevinger, Town of Pulaski; Mr. G. East, Town of Pulaski; Ms. S. Journell, Town of Pearisburg; Ms. H. Lesko, Town of Blacksburg; Mr. M. Maslaney, Floyd County; Ms. C. Newcomb, Town of Blacksburg; Mr. M. Patton, Town of Floyd; Mr. H. Showalter, Town of Christiansburg; Mr. M. Sutphin, Town of Blacksburg and Mr. S. Weaver, Town of Christiansburg.

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

II. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes for May

Mr. Sullivan called for approval of the consent agenda item if there were no questions or changes.

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

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

B. Approval of Treasurer's Report for May

Mr. Sullivan called for approval of the consent agenda item if there were no questions or changes.

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

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

III. COMMONWEALTH INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS

A. Projects (Signed-off by the staff)

1. Application to EDA for FY16-17 Planning Assistance

B. Regular Project Review

None

C. Environmental Project Review

1. Environmental Assessment for the Town of Rich Creek Water Systems Improvements

Mr. Sullivan called for approval of the environmental review.

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

Action: Motion carried unanimously

2. Reissuance of VPDES permit, Lhoist North America of Virginia Inc. – Kimballton

Mr. Law asked if the water was being pumped from an active mine and how it is monitored for pollutants such as diesel from the pumps. Mr. McCoy explained the mine is not active.

Mr. Sullivan called for approval of the environmental review with the comment that active monitoring needs to take place and there needs to be a plan to contain any pollutants in the event pollutants are detected.

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

Action: Motion carried unanimously

IV. PUBLIC ADDRESS

None.

V. REVIEW OF MUTUAL CONCERNS AND COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Mr. Carpenter thanked the region for the support shown to Radford University while hosting the Boy's State program. He also noted in the next month Radford University will be transitioning to the new president, Dr. Brian Hemphill.

VI. CHAIR'S REPORT

Mr. Sullivan reported the NRV Mayors and Chairs meeting was well attended and the group discussed the potential for a regional drug court and day report program for non-violent offenders. The local government fiscal impact for prisoners is substantial and regional coordination of certain programs may help decrease costs. Mr. Byrd will coordinate a regional meeting to explore this concept further with local governments that are interested. Mr. Sullivan announced the Town of Christiansburg will have two new representatives on the Commission in the next fiscal year, Mr. Hil Johnson will be a citizen representative replacing Mr. Scott Weaver and Mr. Harry Collins will serve in the rotating elected official role for a two-year term. Mr. Michael Sutphin from Blacksburg Town Council completes his appointment as rotating elected official at the end of June.

VII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Byrd provided a summary report in the Commission agenda packet. Mr. Byrd reported the Virginia Main Street program is hosting their Downtowns Intersection conference July 11-13 in Staunton and several communities in the region will be sending representatives. Mr. Byrd explained the NRV Passenger Rail project was selected to move forward with a Rail Modeling Study in the Commonwealth Transportation Board budget; however, the project is not scheduled to take place until FY19. He noted communities considering submitting transportation projects for 2016 House Bill 2 prioritization should begin working on applications and explained the Commission

staff is available for assistance. Mr. Byrd reported the ReNew the New Steering Committee will hold a scouting meeting on the river July 28th to prepare for the August 27th clean up event. He also noted the event has already reached its goal for 300+ volunteers. Surplus items discussed in the May meeting were listed on govdeals.com. The van was sold, but the hydraulic hand pumps did not reach the minimum reserve. The Commission was asked by statewide partners to serve as lead applicant/fiscal agent for an Agritourism Economic Impact Study for Virginia and noted this is a direct result of previous staff performance on grant management with the funding agency. Mr. Byrd shared an invitation to attend the White House Rural Council meeting on June 30th in Abingdon with the focus on prescription drug abuse. Lastly, he noted the Governor's office announced the Prices Fork School Reuse project will receive \$2.5million in funds through a pilot program, Vibrant Communities Initiative.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

None.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Smart Beginnings New River Valley Transition Presentation
John Neel, Kristi Snyder, and Jessica Wirgau gave a presentation on the Smart Beginnings NRV program. They explained the program purpose, services provided, and the transition expected in the next two years. Smart Beginnings NRV is currently operated through the Virginia Tech Institute for Policy and Governance. They are currently seeking a fiscal agent as well as back office support. By way of a transition study conducted by the Virginia Early Childhood Foundation, several interviewees identified the Regional Commission as a good fit for Smart Beginnings NRV. Following the presentation, discussion included particular expectations of the Commission and capacity to assist.

Mr. Sullivan explained the presentation was for information purposes. Mr. Byrd will bring more details to the Commission as he continues to work with the Smart Beginnings NRV Transition Team to determine whether the Commission is an appropriate fit.

- B. Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Project Package and Report
Mr. Byrd explained the full CEDS document was included in the packet and Mr. O'Brien is available for any questions.

Discussion: Mr. Sullivan asked if every planning district is required to submit a CEDS document annually. Mr. Byrd explained only planning district regions that are designated Economic Development Districts by the US Economic Development Administration are required to submit the CEDS. Mr. Harvey suggested getting more detail on employment data in next year's report could help clarify state employee/education sector status, particularly those working on university campuses.

Motion: Mr. Harvey moved to approve the CEDS. Dr. Warren seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

C. Commission Officers for FY17

Mr. Sullivan announced the following slate of officers for FY17, Chair, Joe Carpenter-Radford University; Vice-Chair, Michael Harvey-Montgomery County; Treasurer, Leon Law-Giles County; and Member at Large, Charles Bopp-Pulaski County. Mr. Sullivan called for any nominations from the floor and receiving none, the floor was closed for nominations.

Motion: Dr. Warren moved to approve the slate of officers for FY17. Mr. Turk seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

D. July Commission Meeting

Mr. Byrd explained the July meeting is typically cancelled because it conflicts with the VAPDC Summer Conference.

Motion: Mr. McCoy moved to cancel the July meeting. Mr. Bopp seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Sullivan called to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Joe Carpenter, Chair
New River Valley Regional Commission