

NEW RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL COMMISSION
Minutes of the Commission Meeting
held on
August 25, 2016
6:00 p.m. – New River Valley Business Center, Fairlawn

I. CALL TO ORDER

PRESENT: Mr. J. Carpenter, Radford University, Chair; Mr. M. Harvey, Vice-Chair, Montgomery County; Mr. L. Law, Giles County, Treasurer; Mr. C. Bopp, Pulaski County; Mr. L. Clevinger, Town of Pulaski; Mr. H. Collins, Town of Christiansburg; Mr. G. East, Town of Pulaski; Mr. T. Garrett, Town of Narrows; Mr. F. Gerald, Floyd County; Dr. H. Harvey, City of Radford; Ms. H. Lesko, Town of Blacksburg; Mr. R. McCoy, Giles County; Mr. K. Marshall, City of Radford; Mr. M. Maslaney, Floyd County; Ms. A. Perkins, Montgomery County; Mr. M. Patton, Town of Floyd; Mr. H. Showalter, Town of Christiansburg; Mr. K. Sullivan, Virginia Tech; and Dr. D. Warren, Pulaski County.

ABSENT: Mr. H. Johnson, Town of Christiansburg; Ms. S. Journell, Town of Pearisburg; Mr. W. Kantsios, Town of Rich Creek; Ms. C. Newcomb, Town of Blacksburg, and Mr. J. Soileau, Virginia Tech.

Staff Attendees: Kevin Byrd, James Jones, Eli Sharp, Christy Straight and Julie Phillips.

II. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes for June

Mr. Carpenter 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. McCoy seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

B. Approval of Treasurer's Report for June

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

Motion: Mr. McCoy moved for the approval of the Treasurer's Report. Mr. Sullivan seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

III. COMMONWEALTH INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS

A. Projects (Signed-off by the staff)

None

B. Regular Project Review

None

C. Environmental Project Review

None

IV. PUBLIC ADDRESS

None

V. REVIEW OF MUTUAL CONCERNS AND COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Mr. McCoy announced the ReNew the New river cleanup will be held August 27th and a record number of volunteers is anticipated. Mr. Showalter reported the Town of Christiansburg will be hosting several festivals and also explained the Town is in the process of purchasing land for a rail station, showing their commitment to the NRV Rail 2020 project. Ms. Lesko shared the Dialogue on Race will take place this weekend in Blacksburg at Nellies Cave Park. Mr. Collins reported the Town of Christiansburg will be hosting Touch a Truck event at the NRV Mall this weekend. Mr. Bopp reported there was a cruise-in held last month at the Ratcliff Museum in Pulaski which helped raise awareness for the museum in town. Mr. Carpenter shared Radford University's president, Dr. Hemphill, hosted a meeting to reach out to the business community and announced the University will be updating their strategic plan.

VI. CHAIR'S REPORT

Mr. Carpenter reported the Executive Committee met in July although there was not a full Commission meeting. That meeting focused on goals for the coming fiscal year. The Executive Committee also met in August. Mr. Carpenter and Mr. Law met with the auditors during their field work review of FY15-16. Mr. Carpenter thanked Mr. Sullivan for his service as Chair the past two years and presented him with a plaque.

VII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Byrd provided a summary report in the Commission agenda packet. Mr. Byrd reported the GO Virginia state-level board was announced and explained a workgroup was established to develop the program guidelines. He noted the current map draft includes NRV in a region with Roanoke and Lynchburg. Mr. Byrd reported Pembroke and Narrows held downtown revitalization design workshops and noted Glen Lyn, Pearisburg, and Rich Creek recently received grant funds for downtown revitalization. Mr. Byrd thanked Radford University for hosting the NRV Rail 2020 reception. Mr. Byrd noted the ReNew the New river cleanup will be held Saturday. Lastly, the new commission member orientation was held recently for the two new representatives from the Town of Christiansburg.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

None.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Smart Beginnings New River Valley Transition Presentation
Kristi Snyder and Jessica Wirgau gave a presentation on the Smart Beginnings NRV program. They overviewed content in the board packet which included the anticipated budget, job description for board members and a fundraising plan.

Motion: Mr. Carpenter moved to approve the New River Valley Regional Commission serving as the fiscal agent and host agency for Smart Beginnings New River Valley. Mr. McCoy seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

B. FY 17 Regional Commission Work Program

Mr. Byrd explained the FY17 Work Program was included in the packet. Mr. Sharp develops this document annually along with staff to serve as a guide to the projects underway at the Commission in the upcoming fiscal year.

Motion: Dr. Warren moved to approve the FY17 Work Program. Ms. Lesko seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

C. NRV Data Dashboard

Mr. Jones gave a presentation on the NRV Data Dashboard. He explained the NRV Data Book was a hard copy document produced every two years in the past and the data dashboard will serve as an online data repository for the public going forward. Mr. Jones walked through an example of how to use the online dashboard and how filtering can be applied. Mr. Sullivan asked where the data comes from and how new users will learn to access the information. Mr. Jones explained each dashboard contains a link to the original data source. Also, Commission staff is planning a workshop to show how to use the features of the NRV Data Dashboard. Staff will also research a video tutorial to place on the website.

Mr. Carpenter called to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 pm.

L. Joe Carpenter, Chair
New River Valley Regional Commission