

NEW RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL COMMISSION
Minutes of the Commission Meeting
held on
September 22nd, 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. 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; Mr. H. Johnson, Town of Christiansburg; Ms. S. Journell, Town of Pearisburg; Mr. W. Kantsios, Town of Rich Creek; Ms. H. Lesko, Town of Blacksburg; 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; and Dr. D. Warren, Pulaski County.

ABSENT: Mr. C. Bopp, Pulaski County; Mr. R. McCoy, Giles County; Ms. C. Newcomb, Town of Blacksburg; Mr. K. Sullivan, Virginia Tech, and Mr. J. Soileau, Virginia Tech.

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

II. CONSENT AGENDA

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

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

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

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

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

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

III. COMMONWEALTH INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS

- A. Projects (Signed-off by the staff)
 - 1. FY2017 Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Program- Safe Drinking Water Act
- B. Regular Project Review
 - None
- C. Environmental Project Review
 - 1. Pulaski County Sewer Improvements Project

2. Montgomery County Water Improvements Project

IV. PUBLIC ADDRESS

None

V. REVIEW OF MUTUAL CONCERNS AND COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Mr. Carpenter reported Radford University held a ribbon cutting for the College of Humanities and Behavioral Sciences building. Mr. Collins announced there was a ribbon cutting for the Wilderness Trail in Christiansburg, as well as the Holiday Inn. Dr. Warren announced the Pulaski County PSA is moving to a new building in Dublin and will be having a ribbon cutting on October 3rd. Mr. Garrett shared a new restaurant, Momma Donnas, is opening in Narrows in the old Anna's building. Lastly, Mr. Patton reported Mr. Byrd and Mr. Sharp gave a presentation to Floyd Town Council last week on an update to their Town Park Master Plan. He noted the Commission staff does a great job helping the localities take on projects they may not have the resources to complete.

VI. CHAIR'S REPORT

Mr. Carpenter welcomed Mr. Hil Johnson to the Commission, Christiansburg's new citizen representative. Mr. Carpenter noted he attended the NRV Economic Development Alliance annual dinner and noted how the Commission is involved with so many regional projects. He reported the executive committee met the week previous and discussed forthcoming policy changes associated with the Fair Labor Standards Act. The policy changes will come before the Commission at the November meeting.

VII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Byrd provided a summary report in the Commission agenda packet. Mr. Byrd reported he met with his counterparts in Roanoke and Lynchburg to discuss submitting a joint letter of intent for the three PDC Executive Directors to serve as conveners for the new Regional Council for GO Virginia. Mr. Carpenter noted the current map of the regions is consistent with the momentum of the economic development landscape. Mr. Byrd explained there will be a joint local government managers meeting with the New River Valley, Roanoke and Lynchburg regions in November. He explained the Town of Pulaski selected the Commission to serve as grant administrator for their downtown revitalization planning grant. Also, Giles County kicked-off their planning grant project that will support Pearisburg, Rich Creek and Glen Lyn to conduct similar visioning exercises to Pembroke and Narrows. Mr. Byrd explained the Commission will serve as fiscal agent and host agency for Smart Beginnings NRV and noted the project is scheduled to start in January 2017. The Census data training at the NRV Business Center originally scheduled for September was rescheduled for October 28th. Lastly, Mr. Byrd reported the staff will be participating in an all-day retreat at Mountain Lake on September 29th to revisit and update the internal strategic plan started last year.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

None.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. Jefferson National Forest Management Overview

Dan McKeague, District Ranger with the US Forest Service, gave a presentation outlining the management of the Jefferson National Forest. He explained the forest service's mission and noted the Jefferson National Forest is a conservation agency which is distinctly different from a preservation mission. Mr. McKeague explained there are upcoming projects which include natural resource management and recreation collaboration where the Forest Service will be working with localities. Mr. Law asked what the management priorities are at different areas within the Jefferson National Forest. Mr. McKeague explained each area is managed differently, some with partners. He noted an upcoming recreation collaboration project will kick-off in the spring with a desire to help to disperse use to areas not visited as frequently. Mr. Law asked if the natural gas pipeline is planned to go through the Jefferson National Forest. Mr. McKeague explained it is planned to go through approximately 4 miles of the forest. Mr. Law asked if there is a long range plan for the Cascades. Mr. McKeague explained it will be part of the recreation collaboration project which is important since the previous weekend there were approximately 4,000 visitors to that site alone. Mr. Law noted the high visitation is good; however, there are impacts to public services, particularly local government rescue resources since the Forest Service is not equipped, and those factors should be taken into account in the upcoming planning effort.

B. ReNew the New Debrief

Mr. Gottfredson gave a presentation explaining the process of the ReNew the New expansion. He outlined how the organization began in Giles County and how it became a regional project. Mr. Gottfredson gave an overview of the 2016 event and explained the next steps planned for future events. Lastly, he showed a video created at the event, which can be found on the Commission's You Tube channel.

C. FY16 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Consumer Version

Mr. Byrd overviewed the FY16 CEDS Consumer Version included in the packet and asked for any comments.

D. FY16 NRVRC Annual Report

Mr. Byrd overviewed the FY16 Annual Report included in the packet highlighting all the projects and programs delivered by the Commission and asked for any comments.

Mr. Carpenter called to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 pm.

L. Joe Carpenter, Chair
New River Valley Regional Commission