

NEW RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL COMMISSION
Minutes of the Commission Meeting
held on
October 27th, 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. T. Garrett, Town of Narrows; Mr. F. Gerald, Floyd County; Dr. H. Harvey, City of Radford; Ms. S. Journell, Town of Pearisburg; Mr. W. Kantsios, Town of Rich Creek; Mr. M. Maslaney, Floyd County; Mr. K. Sullivan, Virginia Tech; Mr. J. Soileau, Virginia Tech, and Dr. D. Warren, Pulaski County.

ABSENT: Mr. G. East, Town of Pulaski; Mr. H. Johnson, Town of Christiansburg; Ms. H. Lesko, Town of Blacksburg; Mr. K. Marshall, City of Radford; Mr. R. McCoy, Giles County; Ms. C. Newcomb, Town of Blacksburg; Ms. A. Perkins, Montgomery County; Mr. M. Patton, Town of Floyd, and Mr. H. Showalter, Town of Christiansburg.

Staff Attendees: Kevin Byrd, Janet McNew, Jennifer Wilsie and Julie Phillips.

II. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes for September

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. Kantsios seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

B. Approval of Treasurer's Report for September

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

Motion: Mr. Sullivan moved for the approval of the Treasurer's Report. Ms. Journell 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

1. Mountain Valley Pipeline Draft Environmental Impact Statement Review

Mr. Byrd provided an overview of the Commission's role in the environmental review process based on the memo provided in the packet. Mr. Byrd noted all the items the Commission asked for inclusion in the environmental impact statement were addressed in the full report, aside from the manufacturer's location for the pipe, which would not typically be included in such a report. Following Commission discussion, Mr. Harvey asked for the response to include the Commission supports any comments from member localities.

2. Virginia Tech O'Shaughnessy Hall expansion
No comments from the Commission.

IV. PUBLIC ADDRESS

None

V. REVIEW OF MUTUAL CONCERNS AND COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Mr. Bopp reported Pulaski County hired a new county administrator, Mr. Jonathan Sweet from Grayson County, who will start in mid-January. Mr. Bopp also shared the Ratcliffe museum has commemorative bricks to be placed in the community garden available for purchase as a fundraiser to support the museum. Mr. Carpenter reported Radford University had an inauguration ceremony for the new president, Dr. Brian Hemphill. The university is also planning a \$34.0 million renovation to Reed and Curie Halls which will allow for more science and cyber defense studies programs to be offered by the university.

VI. CHAIR'S REPORT

Mr. Carpenter reported the executive committee met earlier in the month and discussed the per capita dues which is on the agenda for the Commission. He also appointed Dr. Harvey to serve on the Smart Beginnings NRV Leadership Council to represent the Commission.

VII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Byrd provided a summary report in the Commission agenda packet. Mr. Byrd reported the GO Virginia Statewide board held their first meeting and voted to send the proposed map (developed by VAPDC) out for a 30-day public comment period. Mr. Byrd explained there will be a joint local government managers meeting with the New River Valley, Roanoke and Lynchburg regions in November. In partnership with the towns of Blacksburg and Christiansburg, Montgomery County and the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce, the Commission launched a broadband user survey in mid-October. Mr. Byrd reported the concept for next year's ReNew the New event will be centralized registration, then decentralized clean-up activities so all four counties and the city can host activities. The SWVA Outdoor Expo will be held April 22nd in Bisset Park. He noted Commission staff is the lead coordinating entity as a joint tourism project, and called for discussion about potential vendors in the region to contact. Mr. Sullivan asked about the intended audience for the event and the market range. Mr. Byrd explained the public is the intended audience and all of Southwest Virginia is the market range. Dr. Warren suggested Mother Earth news be contacted. Mr. Garrett asked if there will be spots available for towns and local chambers of commerce. Mr. Byrd explained there will be spots for both at no cost and there will also be a range of sponsorship packages available for entities that would like an increased level of exposure. Mr. Byrd reported the

staff held a retreat at Mountain Lake reviewing successes of our internal committees and developing focus areas for FY17. The next Mayors and Chairs meeting will be held December 2nd. Also on December 2nd there will be a New River Watershed Roundtable meeting to discuss the role of the roundtable going forward. Mr. Byrd will be attending a VAPDC meeting with key State Agency Heads in Richmond on November 9th. Due to the federal Fair Standards Labor Act, an update to the personnel manual will be included in the November mailout. Giles County was awarded POWER funds to be used for boat ramp development and a river center. Lastly, the Commission was selected as a winner of the NADO photo contest for the second year in a row.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

None.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. Prices Fork Elementary School Reuse Project (Housing + Local Food)
Ms. Wilsie gave a presentation explaining the Prices Fork Elementary School Reuse project. She outlined the partners involved, project components (housing and economic development), and project's timeline including the three phases planned. Lastly, Ms. Wilsie explained the breakdown of the numerous funding sources for the project.

B. FY18 Per Capita Assessment Rate
Mr. Byrd explained the proposed assessment rate for FY18 is \$1.29 which is unchanged from FY17. Based on the Commission's recommendation from last year, the Commission is using the 2015 population estimates for FY18 rather than waiting until 2020 for updated population figures. Utilizing 2015 population estimates should provide incremental adjustments rather than larger adjustments that may follow using the decennial Census (10-years).

Motion: Dr. Warren moved to approve the assessment rate for FY18 at \$1.29. Mr. Harvey seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

C. Set November Commission Meeting Date
Mr. Byrd explained the November meeting date falls on Thanksgiving and traditionally is moved to the third Thursday.

Motion: Mr. Kantsios made a motion to move the November meeting to November 17, 2016. Mr. Collins seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Carpenter called to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 pm.

L. Joe Carpenter, Chair
New River Valley Regional Commission