

NEW RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL COMMISSION
Minutes of the Commission Meeting
held on
January 26th, 2017
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; Mr. W. Kantsios, Town of Rich Creek; Mr. C. Kiwus, Virginia Tech; Mr. K. Marshall, City of Radford; Mr. M. Maslaney, Floyd County; Mr. R. McCoy, Giles County; Mr. M. Patton, Town of Floyd; Ms. A. Perkins, Montgomery County, Mr. H. Showalter, Town of Christiansburg; Mr. K. Sullivan, Virginia Tech and Dr. D. Warren, Pulaski County.

ABSENT: Dr. H. Harvey, City of Radford; Mr. H. Johnson, Town of Christiansburg; Ms. S. Journell, Town of Pearisburg; Ms. H. Lesko, Town of Blacksburg and Ms. C. Newcomb, Town of Blacksburg.

Staff Attendees: Kevin Byrd, James Jones, Janet McNew, Elijah Sharp, Patrick O'Brien, Jennifer Wilsie and Julie Phillips.

II. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes for November

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 minutes. Mr. Patton seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

B. Approval of Treasurer's Report for November and December

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 Treasurer's Report. Mr. McCoy seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

III. COMMONWEALTH INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS

A. Projects (Signed-off by the staff)

1. Pearisburg Sewer System Improvements Project
2. Reissuance of VPDES Permit No. VA0052850 NRV Regional Water Authority WTP
3. NRV Community Services Vehicle Purchase
4. NRV Senior Services Vehicle Purchase

B. Regular Project Review

None

C. Environmental Project Review

1. FY2017-319H Non Point Source Implementation Grant

The consensus of board was to include a comment stating that funding is desired for the Watershed Roundtables in the Southern Rivers areas (non-Chesapeake Bay).

IV. PUBLIC ADDRESS

None

V. REVIEW OF MUTUAL CONCERNS AND COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Mr. Carpenter explained Radford University released an Economic Impact report recently which was prepared by the New River Valley Regional Commission along with the Roanoke Valley Alleghany Regional Commission. Mr. Bopp noted the building previously owned by the Fine Arts Center of the New River Valley in Pulaski was purchased by David Hagan and will be renovated/rebuilt. Mr. Showalter shared the Town of Christiansburg is currently discussing establishing an arts incubator to be located downtown. Mr. McCoy reported Giles County received a POWER implementation grant and as a part of the project is working with the Commission on a River Center.

VI. CHAIR'S REPORT

Mr. Carpenter reported a GO Virginia meeting was held in December by the state board representatives, Nancy Agee and Haywood Fralin, in Roanoke. The purpose of the meeting was to introduce the program to leaders across the three PDC regions. At the meeting, it was announced that Ray Smoot will serve as Chair of the Regional Council. Based on discussion at the November Commission meeting, Mr. Carpenter shared the Commission will be issuing a RFP to perform a compensation study for employees of the Commission. Mr. Harvey reported the December Mayor and Chairs meeting was well attended and noted the group discussed issues the rescue squads are facing across the region. Mr. Harvey also reported on the New River Watershed Roundtable meeting held on December 2nd and shared many project ideas generated during the meeting. Mr. Sullivan added there were discussions about expanding the New River Water Trail beyond Giles County into other communities in the region. Mr. Harvey noted the next New River Watershed Roundtable meeting will be February 22, at the NRV Business Center.

VII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Byrd provided a summary report in the Commission agenda packet. Mr. Byrd reported the broadband survey in Montgomery County, Blacksburg and Christiansburg has received nearly 2,000 responses and presentations to local governments and the Chamber will take place in February. Following those presentations the Commission will work with the communities and the Chamber to hold a meeting with the internet service providers to share the data from the survey. Mr. Byrd explained HB-2108 Broadband Deployment Act was introduced in the General Assembly and noted the bill limits local government role in internet service delivery. He reported Community Development Block Grant applications are due in March and the Commission is working with Pembroke, Narrows and the Town of Pulaski on substantial downtown improvement grant applications. Mr. Byrd reported the Smart Beginnings NRV Coordinator position should be

filled by March 1st. Lastly, he reported the GO Virginia Statewide board met in December to overview the GO Virginia program with leaders in private sector, higher education, economic development and public sector. Also, Virginia Tech Office of Economic Development will be assisting the Regional Council with populating the rest of the council and distributed an email soliciting names for consideration. The Commission discussed how best to follow up on the call for names and decided to circulate the nomination form to our members and advised Commissioners to contact Kevin Byrd by February 2nd if they would like to be nominated.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

None.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. New River Valley Economic Development Alliance Targeted Industries Study

Mr. Jewell gave an overview of the NRV Economic Development Alliance. Mr. Jewell explained the Alliance is a regional economic development organization. They are a non-profit public-private partnership with 26 board members from both the public and private sectors. The Alliance covers the same footprint as the Commission serving Floyd, Giles, Montgomery, and Pulaski Counties and the City of Radford. Mr. Jewell gave examples of some of the companies who have invested in the NRV and shared some of the ways the NRV is marketed to attract businesses. He explained the targeted industries study was used to identify the top three to five industries that should be focused on for the NRV. In broad categories, the industries identified are food processing and agriculture, advanced manufacturing, and unmanned systems.

B. Prices Fork School Reuse – Deed Restriction for Community Kitchen

Ms. Wilsie explained the Commission is the Appalachian Regional Commission grant recipient for the project and therefore is responsible for the deed restriction. She noted this is a standard document, but generally it is a two-party agreement between the owner and ARC. The proposed document is a three-party agreement between the owner, the Commission, and ARC. She explained the Executive Committee has reviewed the document and worked to draft terms that hold the owner ultimately responsible for the financial liability.

Motion: Mr. Patton moved to authorize the Commission to execute the agreement with the terms listed. Mr. McCoy seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

C. Regional Commission Awards – Review Criteria and Process

Mr. Byrd explained the award criteria and previous award recipients were included in the packet and called for any questions or comments.

Mr. Sullivan suggested the award, Champion of the Valley, be rephrased to elected or appointed officials. The consensus of the board was to include appointed officials in the award criteria.

Mr. Carpenter called to adjourn the meeting.
The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 pm.

L. Joe Carpenter, Chair
New River Valley Regional Commission