

NEW RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL COMMISSION
Minutes of the Commission Meeting
held on
February 23rd, 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. H. Collins, Town of Christiansburg; Mr. T. Garrett, Town of Narrows; Mr. F. Gerald, Floyd County; Dr. H. Harvey, City of Radford; Mr. H. Johnson, Town of Christiansburg; Mr. W. Kantsios, Town of Rich Creek; Mr. C. Kiwus, Virginia Tech; Ms. H. Lesko, Town of Blacksburg; 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: Mr. L. Clevinger, Town of Pulaski; Mr. G. East, Town of Pulaski; Ms. S. Journell, Town of Pearisburg and Ms. C. Newcomb, Town of Blacksburg.

Staff Attendees: Kevin Byrd, Janet McNew, Christy Straight and Julie Phillips.

II. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes for January

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 minutes. Mr. Gerald seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

B. Approval of Treasurer's Report for January

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. Kantsios seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

III. COMMONWEALTH INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS

A. Projects (Signed-off by the staff)

1. James Hardie Sanitary Sewer Improvement Project
2. Giles Health & Family Center Vehicle Purchase
3. [17-17] Leaking Underground Storage Tank (LUST)

B. Regular Project Review

None

C. Environmental Project Review

1. Municipal Hydroelectric Project (P-1235)
(No comments from the Regional Commission)

IV. PUBLIC ADDRESS

None

V. REVIEW OF MUTUAL CONCERNS AND COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Mr. Collins announced Christiansburg High School won the state wrestling championship for the 16th year in a row. Mr. Law reported Pembroke Telephone will be celebrating its 50th anniversary this year. Ms. Lesko added Habitat for Humanity NRV will be celebrating their 30th anniversary this year and will be hosting a luncheon March 16th at the Inn at Virginia Tech. Mr. Carpenter distributed copies of the Radford University economic impact report published in December. He also announced enrollment applications are up 78% and transfer applications are up 28%. Mr. Harvey reported on the New River Watershed Roundtable meeting and discussed the desire to expand the New River Water Trail, as well as several spring clean-up events scheduled across the region in March and April.

VI. CHAIR'S REPORT

Mr. Carpenter reminded everyone nominations for the annual awards are due March 14th.

VII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Byrd provided a summary report in the Commission agenda packet. Mr. Byrd reported the Go Virginia Regional Council for our region, chaired by Ray Smoot, is in the process of populating the council. The state board will review and certify the first phase of Regional Councils during their meeting in March. Staff is wrapping up the Building Collaborative Communities project focused on Regional Tourism Models of Collaboration and explained a presentation will be made to the NRV Local Government Managers on 3/31 where next steps will be discussed. The Virginia Outdoor Lover's Expo is scheduled for April 22nd 10:00am-4:00pm at Bisset Park in Radford and 80 vendors are confirmed. The annual NRV Livability Information Exchange is scheduled for 3/2 at 2:30 in Christiansburg at the Event Center and registration is nearly full with 150 attendees. A part-time planner, Aphi Fancon, started with the Commission to support land use planning related projects. Interviews for the Smart Beginnings Coordinator position took place last week with a desire to have a candidate start by March 16th. Lastly, Mr. Byrd provided a presentation detailing survey results from a broadband survey conducted in Montgomery County, Blacksburg and Christiansburg from late October through December, 2016. Partners included the local governments, Virginia Tech, the Blacksburg Partnership and the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

None.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. Firewise Communities Overview

Ms. Lesko gave a presentation to overview the work of the New River-Highlands Resource Conservation and Development Council (NRHRC&D) as well as one of their key programs, Firewise. Ms. Lesko explained NRHRC&D is offering Firewise education program for groups, citizens and community leaders. She noted the program is available for property owners in the New River Valley and other counties in Southwest Virginia containing US National Forest owned land.

B. Setting Community Development Block Grant Priorities for 2017

Mr. Byrd explained the list of the 2017 priorities based on projects identified by communities across the region was included in the packet. He called for any comments, questions, or additional projects.

Motion: Mr. Patton moved to approve the Community Block Grant priorities for 2017. Mr. McCoy seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Carpenter called to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm.

Mike Harvey, Vice-Chair
New River Valley Regional Commission