

NEW RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL COMMISSION
Minutes of the Commission Meeting
held on
March 23rd, 2017
6:00 p.m. – New River Valley Business Center, Fairlawn

I. CALL TO ORDER

PRESENT: Mr. M. Harvey, Vice-Chair, Montgomery County; Mr. L. Law, Giles County, Treasurer; 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; Ms. S. Journell, Town of Pearisburg; 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; Mr. H. Showalter, Town of Christiansburg and Dr. D. Warren, Pulaski County.

ABSENT: Mr. J. Carpenter, Radford University, Chair; Mr. C. Bopp, Pulaski County; Mr. L. Clevinger, Town of Pulaski; Mr. G. East, Town of Pulaski; Ms. H. Lesko, Town of Blacksburg and Ms. C. Newcomb, Town of Blacksburg; Ms. A. Perkins, Montgomery County and Mr. K. Sullivan, Virginia Tech.

Staff Attendees: Kevin Byrd, Janet McNew, Elijah Sharp, Michael Gottfredson and Julie Phillips.

II. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes for February

Mr. Harvey 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. Collins seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

B. Approval of Treasurer's Report for February

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

Motion: Mr. Law moved for the approval of the Treasurer's Report. Mr. Johnson 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. RFAAP Proposed Construction of an Energetic Waste Incinerator & Containment Waste Processor
No comments from the Commission.

IV. PUBLIC ADDRESS

None

V. REVIEW OF MUTUAL CONCERNS AND COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Dr. Harvey reported there was an editorial in the Roanoke Times discussing the federal budget that she suggests everyone read. Mr. Marshall noted the Virginia Outdoor Lovers expo will be held April 22 at Bisset park and encouraged everyone to come out.

VI. CHAIR'S REPORT

Mr. Harvey reported the New River Roundtable met and discussed the expansion of both Renew the New and the New River water trail. He also noted the annual dinner is scheduled for May 17th at Doe Creek.

VII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Byrd provided a summary report in the Commission agenda packet. Mr. Byrd reported the Go Virginia Regional Council was populated and certified by the state board. He explained staff will be submitting three Community Development Block Grants by the end of March for the Towns of Pulaski, Pembroke and Narrows. Mr. Byrd reported the NRV Passenger Rail regional stakeholder group met and received updates from leaders in Roanoke regarding implementation progress along with updates from Christiansburg on their potential site for a station location. Mr. Byrd explained staff will present the Regional Tourism Models of Collaboration to the NRV Local Government Managers on 3/31 where next steps will be discussed. He noted the NRV Livability Information Exchange was held at the Event Center and was at full capacity with 150 people in attendance. Mr. Byrd reported the Commission has two new employees, Aphi Fancon was hired as a regional planner and Anna Harbom was hired as the Smart Beginnings Coordinator. Lastly he reported President Trump's budget was released on March 16th and includes substantial cuts and elimination of programs important to the region and the Commission, he explained he will continue to report to the Commission and noted the final budget will be available in May.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

None.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Virginia Tech Transportation Institute Overview/I-81 Corridor Coalition

Mr. Alden provided an overview of the I-81 Corridor Coalition and its mission to improve system reliability and create the "Corridor of the Future" as well as current research and expansion activities at the Virginia Tech Transportation Institute.

B. Rural Transportation Work Program for FY18

Mr. Sharp explained the Virginia Department of Transportation allocates funding each year to the Regional Commission to deliver transportation planning assistance for non-urbanized areas outside the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) boundaries. Mr. Sharp gave a brief presentation covering the proposed work program.

Motion: Mr. Patton moved to approve the Rural Transportation Work Program for FY18. Mr. McCoy seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

C. Commission Awards Program for 2017 Annual Dinner

Mr. Byrd explained the nominee information was included in the packet. The Commission then voted for the award recipients. The Commission voted to award Chris McKlarney as Champion of the Valley, Woody Crenshaw as Citizen of the Valley, and Bill Shelton, DHCD as Friend of the Valley. Mr. Byrd will be contacting the award recipients for recognition at the annual dinner event.

Mr. Harvey called to adjourn the meeting.

L. J. Carpenter, Chair
New River Valley Regional Commission