

NEW RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL COMMISSION
Minutes of the Commission Meeting
held on
April 27th, 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. 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. 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: Mr. G. East, Town of Pulaski; Mr. H. Johnson, Town of Christiansburg; Ms. H. Lesko, Town of Blacksburg and Ms. C. Newcomb, Town of Blacksburg.

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

II. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes for March

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. Patton seconded the motion.
Action: Motion carried unanimously.

B. Approval of Treasurer's Report for March

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

Motion: Mr. Patton 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)

None

B. Regular Project Review

1. Prevention of Significant Deterioration issued by DEQ, Volvo Plant
No comments from the Commission.

C. Environmental Project Review

1. Virginia Tech Chiller Plant Improvements
No comments from the Commission.

IV. PUBLIC ADDRESS

None

V. REVIEW OF MUTUAL CONCERNS AND COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Mr. Patton reported Dr. Pat Huber was selected to become the next President of New River Community College. Mr. Maslaney reported the Tour de Floyd will be held May 20th, a cycling event in Floyd celebrating its 10th year. Mr. Showalter thanked everyone for the support they have shown the Town of Christiansburg during the past month. Mr. Law reported Pemtel received a \$1.8 million grant to expand broadband services in the central portion of Giles County. Dr. Warren reported Phoenix Packaging in Dublin announced a 145-job expansion with \$48 million private investment.

VI. CHAIR'S REPORT

Mr. Carpenter reported Mr. Garrett agreed to serve as the Commissioner representative on the Nominating Committee alongside the Chair and Treasurer per the Commission bylaws. The committee will bring a slate of officers at the May meeting followed by voting on the officers at the June meeting. Mr. Carpenter noted the Executive Committee met the previous week and discussed plans for the annual dinner and began the Executive Director annual performance evaluation process.

VII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Byrd provided a summary report in the Commission agenda packet. Mr. Byrd reported the Go Virginia Regional Council will hold a meeting at the New River Valley Business Center on June 29th. A study is scheduled to be released this summer regarding I-73 in Virginia championed by Senator Bill Stanley. The route through the NRV includes I-81 and US Route 460. The Virginia Outdoor Lovers Expo was held April 22 at Bisset park with between 1,500-2,000 people in attendance. The Local Government Planning Commissioner Training was held April 20th with 40 people in attendance. The Commission contracted with a firm to prepare a wage analysis for employees. Results are scheduled to be back in time for building the FY18 agency budget. The Commission helped facilitate a broadband meeting in Montgomery County to share the survey results. There were 13 internet service providers in attendance. The most recent local government managers meeting included discussions about implementing drug court/day report programs throughout the NRV. Mr. Byrd will continue to research this topic and has a meeting set up with James Pritchett, the new Executive Director at New River Valley Community Services, who administers some of these programs with local government partners. Mr. Byrd noted he will be traveling to DC next week as Treasurer of the National Association of Development Organizations executive committee for a series of Hill visits and gave an overview of his meeting schedule. Lastly, he introduced Aphi Fancon, a regional planner who started with the Commission in February. She is currently working on the Town of Pulaski Zoning Ordinance and the Giles County Comprehensive Plan.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

None.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

- A. **The NRV Regional Commission Role in Convening the Region**
Ms. Wilsie gave a presentation overviewing the role of the Commission as a regional convener and facilitator. Ms. Wilsie gave several examples of ongoing meetings or groups that the Commission facilitates and a more detailed look at the collaboration involved with the Prices Fork School Reuse Project.

- B. **Regional Tourism Models of Collaboration**
Mr. Jones gave a presentation overviewing the strengths and target markets identified by each of the five local government destination marketing organization's (DMOs) tourism offices. Mr. Byrd overviewed the budgets for all five DMOs, their revenue sources and capacity to collaborate. The presentation concluded with details on four models of collaboration the region could pursue which included the pros, cons and costs for each model of collaboration. The models included informal collaboration (current model supported by Commission resources), cost-shared staff position, regional DMO, and a Convention and Visitor's Bureau.

Following the presentation, the Commissioners discussed which models made the most sense to pursue given where the communities are with their tourism programs. There was consensus to support revisiting the cost-shared staff position earlier in the local government budget cycle for FY19 so those who want to participate can plan for the expense. Until then, the Commission will continue to support the DMOs in the informal collaboration model whereas the Commission offers staff time to coordinate projects and meetings.

- C. **Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Update**
Due to time limitations, this presentation was held for a later meeting.
- D. **Update on Commission Annual Dinner for 2017**
Mr. Byrd reported the reservations are coming in for the annual dinner and mobile workshop events. He then gave a rundown of the plans for the event.

Mr. Carpenter called to adjourn the meeting.

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