

NEW RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL COMMISSION
Minutes of the Commission Meeting
held on
August 24th, 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. 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; Dr. H. Harvey, City of Radford; Mr. H. Johnson, Town of Christiansburg; Mr. C. Kiwus, Virginia Tech; Mr. M. Maslaney, Floyd County; Mr. R. McCoy, Giles County; Mr. K. Marshall, City of Radford; Mr. M. Patton, Town of Floyd; Ms. A. Perkins, Montgomery County; Mr. H. Showalter, Town of Christiansburg and Dr. D. Warren, Pulaski County.

ABSENT: Mr. L. Law, Giles County, Treasurer; Ms. S. Journell, Town of Pearisburg; Mr. W. Kantsios, Town of Rich Creek; Ms. H. Lesko, Town of Blacksburg; Ms. C. Newcomb, Town of Blacksburg and Mr. K. Sullivan, Virginia Tech.

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

Mr. Carpenter called for the agenda to be amended to allow item IX. A to be moved after item II.

Motion: Mr. McCoy moved to amend the agenda as stated. Mr. Harvey seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

II. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes for June

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 minutes. Dr. Harvey seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

B. Approval of Treasurer's Report for June and July

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. Garrett 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. Capitalization Grants for Clean Water & State Revolving Loan Fund
 - 2. Assistance Proposal for Superfund CORE
- C. Environmental Project Review
 - None

IV. PUBLIC ADDRESS

None

V. REVIEW OF MUTUAL CONCERNS AND COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Mr. Carpenter read the resolution adopted by the Commission in April, 2015 recognizing Mr. W. Scott Weaver as Treasurer Emeritus of the Commission as a memorial to Mr. Weaver given his recent passing.

WHEREAS, the New River Valley Regional Commission was established by the local governments within the region on September 15, 1969, and

WHEREAS, Mr. W. Scott Weaver has dutifully served the Commission since the charter was established nearly 46 years ago, and

WHEREAS, Mr. W. Scott Weaver was first appointed to the Commission as a member of the Town Council representing the Town of Christiansburg, and has subsequently served terms as a citizen representative since completing his service to the town as an elected official, and

WHEREAS, Mr. W. Scott Weaver has served 44 years as Treasurer of the Commission and two years as Chair of the Commission from 1988-1990, and

WHEREAS, the Commission has benefited greatly from his career in finance serving both Virginia Tech and Radford University, and

WHEREAS, the Commission financial position has remained strong throughout his four decades of service as Treasurer, and

WHEREAS, the Commission will remain forever grateful for the countless hours Mr. W. Scott Weaver has volunteered and represented the citizens of Christiansburg, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Commission hereby recognizes Mr. W. Scott Weaver as Treasurer Emeritus, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Mr. W. Scott Weaver's famous Treasurer Report phrase, "We are still solvent", hereby be documented, remembered and celebrated.

The resolution was adopted April 23, 2015

Mr. Carpenter also reported the students have returned to both Radford University and Virginia Tech. There is an 8% increase in the freshman class at Radford University. Lastly, he noted Governor McAuliffe will be on campus at Radford University on September 8th to announce a new Competency Based Education Program.

VI. CHAIR'S REPORT

Mr. Carpenter reported the Executive Committee met the previous week and following the meeting he and Mr. Law visited with the auditors while they were on site. He also shared the regional Mayor's and Chair's meeting is scheduled for August 25. Mr. Clevinger reported on attending the VAPDC Summer conference. He provided an overview of the presentations including the Port of Virginia and the future of autonomous vehicles.

VII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Byrd provided a summary report in the Commission agenda packet. Mr. Byrd reported the GO Virginia Region 2 Regional Council will be releasing a draft of the Economic Growth and Diversification Plan. The Southwest Virginia Cultural Heritage Foundation selected their new Executive Director, Chris Cannon. Appalachian Regional Commission grants for 2017 will be due October 18th. Smart Beginnings NRV is kicking off the Reading Hour program and volunteer recruitment is underway. The ReNew the New clean-up will take place August 26th with clean up locations in each county and the City of Radford. This month Senator Warner and other leaders in Virginia announced the Southwest Virginia Mountain Brew Trail. Planning is taking place for the 2017 staff retreat. The preliminary ARC budget appears to have a slight increase from last fiscal year and the EDA budget is not complete, although the Senate version held core programs and planning at level funding. The Radford Army Ammunition Plant will be doing air quality testing with funds from DEQ. Lastly, he noted there will be a passenger rail legislative reception at Radford University on September 20th.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

None

IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. National Weather Service (NWS/NOAA) – Blacksburg Station

This portion of the agenda was moved after item II as noted earlier.

Mr. Peter Corrigan, Senior Service Hydrologist with the National Weather Service (NWS), presented on the NWS and the activities of its Blacksburg forecast office. Mr. Corrigan gave an overview presentation of the NWS operations, including some of the community based services provided, the roles of the weather forecast offices and the roles of the National Centers including River Centers, and the National Water Center. Mr. Corrigan also explained the Weather Ready Nation Initiative and explained the NWS is looking for Weather Ready Nation Ambassadors. Details can be found on the NWS website www.weather.gov

B. NRV Hazard Mitigation Plan

Ms. Straight presented on the NRV Hazard Mitigation Plan. She explained FEMA requires every locality to maintain a hazard mitigation plan and update it every five years. Local governments in the region choose to meet FEMA's requirements through regional collaboration and submits one plan. The Commission began the update in September 2016. The Commission staff applied for grant funding and facilitated the stakeholder and community contributions to the plan.

The Commission invited representatives from participating localities as well as regional, state, and federal agencies who have expertise in hazard mitigation to join the steering committee to oversee the plan development process. Working groups met during the plan development process to more fully evaluate the data and prepare the plan details. A series of five open houses were held throughout the New River Valley to encourage citizen involvement in the plan. The plan is currently in review by VDEM and FEMA, with final adoption by localities anticipated in the last half of 2017.

C. FY18 Program of Work for the Regional Commission

Mr. Byrd explained Mr. Sharp develops this document annually along with staff to serve as a guide to the projects underway at the Commission in the upcoming fiscal year. He noted corrections to the work program were sent to staff after the packet was distributed. An updated version will be distributed electronically with the draft minutes from this meeting.

Mr. Sharp provided an overview of the FY18 work program. He highlighted three program areas that are either expanding or relatively new for the Commission, Finance Services, Smart Beginnings NRV, and Visualizing Data.

Mr. Carpenter called for approval of the FY18 Work Program with the noted corrections.

Motion: Mr. Patton moved for the approval the FY18 work program. Mr. Harvey seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Carpenter called to adjourn the meeting.

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