

NEW RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL COMMISSION
Minutes of the Commission Meeting
held on
February 22, 2018
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; Ms. S. Anderson, Town of Blacksburg; Mr. C. Bopp, Pulaski County; Mr. L. Clevinger, Town of Pulaski; Mr. J. Coleman, Floyd County; Mr. H. Collins, Town of Christiansburg; Ms. A. Covey, New River Community College; Mr. G. East, Town of Pulaski; Mr. T. Garrett, Town of Narrows; Mr. S. Fijalkowski, Montgomery County; Ms. S. Journell, Town of Pearisburg; Mr. H. Johnson, Town of Christiansburg; Mr. W. Kantsios, Town of Rich Creek; Mr. C. Kiwus, Virginia Tech; Mr. M. Maslaney, Floyd County; Mr. K. Marshall, City of Radford; Mr. M. Patton, Town of Floyd; Mr. H. Showalter, Town of Christiansburg; Dr. D. Warren, Pulaski County and Ms. C. Woodring, Virginia Tech.

ABSENT: Dr. H. Harvey, City of Radford; Ms. H. Lesko, Town of Blacksburg and Mr. R. McCoy, Giles County.

Staff Attendees: Kevin Byrd, Anna Harbom, Janet McNew, 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: Ms. Woodring moved for the approval of the minutes. Mr. Marshall seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

B. Approval of Treasurer's Reports for January

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

Motion: Mr. Johnson moved for the approval of the Treasurer's Report. Dr. Warren seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

III. COMMONWEALTH INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS

A. Projects (Signed-off by the staff)

1. NRV Commerce Park Site Work and Road Improvement Project
2. Virginia Tech Holden Hall Renovations

- 3. Submittal of Rural Business Development Grant for the Old School Food Center at Prices Fork
- B. Regular Project Review
 - None
- C. Environmental Project Review
 - 1. VADEQ VPDES IP eReporting Solution Project Grant

IV. PUBLIC ADDRESS

None

V. REVIEW OF MUTUAL CONCERNS AND COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Mr. Bopp reported Coltrane Welding in Pulaski will be closing on March 2, 2018.

VI. CHAIR'S REPORT

Mr. Carpenter reported the date and venue are set for the 2018 Regional Commission Annual Dinner. The event will be held Tuesday, May 15th at Sinkland Farm in Montgomery County. A save the date announcement will be coming out in the coming weeks. The nominations for the annual awards will be open until March 13th. A local artist will be creating the award for this year's recipients.

VII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Byrd provided a summary report in the Commission agenda packet. He reported the Regional Commission staff prepared a GO Virginia Region 2 application (submitted by Roanoke SBDC) on behalf of the local governments in the region to support expansion of the Small Business Development Center services to include a full-time staff position in the NRV. The GO Virginia Regional Council met in February and advanced two NRV projects: First, grading at the NRV Commerce Park for a prospective industry, and second, a project that spans all three PDC geographies in Region 2 for a workforce initiative to deliver incumbent worker training and marketing of in-demand jobs. This project was approved contingent upon securing an additional \$60,000 in local government matching funds.

NRV Rail 2020 will host a regional meeting on April 26th at the Aquatic Center in Christiansburg. The NRV Rail 2020 leadership group is also planning a meeting with the recently appointed Secretary of Transportation, Shanon Valentine, for early March. The President's infrastructure plan appears to focus on attracting local and state government investment as well as private investment in certain project areas. There will be a rural program focus with discretion given to Governors and State Directors for USDA-Rural Development.

The 2018 NRV Livability Initiative Information Exchange is scheduled for March 1st 2:30-5:00 at the German Club at Virginia Tech. There will be a lightning round of presenters across the region highlighting projects followed by a panel of leaders creating/supporting change in their communities. Jessica Barrett will be joining the Regional Commission staff as Finance Technician on March 1st. She comes to us from Bland County Schools having served as their Finance Director and is a CPA. The Regional Commission is in the process of filling two positions, Data Systems

Manager/GIS (Zach Swick) and Smart Beginnings NRV Coordinator (Anna Harbom). Both have done a remarkable job advancing their roles at the Commission and have provided enough notice for us to smoothly transition their positions this spring. The Commission office received a fresh coat of paint this month. A sincere thanks to Pulaski County for arranging the work and doing a great job!

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

None

IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. Smart Beginnings NRV Update

Ms. Harbom gave a presentation on the progress of Smart Beginnings NRV since the Commission became fiscal agent/lead agency in January 2017. Major milestones include reconfiguration of the Leadership Council, hiring a Program Coordinator, building the network of partners, relaunching Reading Hour, and securing funds for a regional Early Childhood Needs Assessment. She then provided an overview of the needs assessment that will be conducted through December of this year. Ms. Harbom also shared a need for reading hour volunteers this spring. Anyone interested can contact her for locations and days of the week available.

B. Setting Community Development Block Grant Priorities for 2018

Mr. Byrd explained each year the Regional Commission is asked by the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development to submit a list of anticipated local projects for Community Development Block Grant competitive grants within the region. The suggested 2018 priorities are based on projects listed in the packet with input from local governments across the region.

Motion: Mr. Patton moved for the approval of the Community Development Block Grant Priorities for 2018. Dr. Warren seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Carpenter called to adjourn the meeting.

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