

NEW RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL COMMISSION
Minutes of the Commission Meeting
held on
March 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; Mr. C. Bopp, Pulaski County; Mr. J. Coleman, Floyd County; Mr. H. Collins, Town of Christiansburg; Mr. G. East, Town of Pulaski; Mr. T. Garrett, Town of Narrows; Mr. S. Fijalkowski, Montgomery County; Dr. H. Harvey, City of Radford; 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: Ms. S. Anderson, Town of Blacksburg; Mr. L. Clevinger, Town of Pulaski; Ms. A. Covey, New River Community College; Ms. H. Lesko, Town of Blacksburg and Mr. R. McCoy, Giles County.

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

II. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes for February

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. Mr. Collins seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

B. Approval of Treasurer's Reports for February

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

Motion: Mr. Kantsios moved for the approval of the Treasurer's Report. Mr. Collins 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
- None

IV. PUBLIC ADDRESS

None

V. REVIEW OF MUTUAL CONCERNS AND COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Mr. Garrett reported Anna's Restaurant in Narrows recently reopened. Mr. Law reported the trees have been cut in Giles County that are in the Mountain Valley Pipeline project area. Mr. Carpenter reported Radford University's Men's Basketball team had their first NCAA tournament victory and the Highlander mascot was the top ranked mascot in the 2018 NCAA tournament. Mr. Carpenter also noted the appearance in the NCAA tournament was the equivalent of \$43 million in advertising.

VI. CHAIR'S REPORT

Mr. Carpenter reported the executive committee met and discussed the awards process. With the high number of nominations in the Citizen of the Valley category, the committee decided to award two nominees this year, provided the voting secured the required 51% threshold to convey an award. Mr. Carpenter also reported Mr. Byrd will be presenting to the Pembroke Town Council in early April about becoming members of the Commission.

VII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Byrd provided a summary report in the Commission agenda packet. He reported the GO Virginia project for Small Business Development Center expansion in the New River Valley was directed to a staff-level review process since the request was under \$100,000. The state budget was not passed during the regular session so the total amount of GO Virginia funding for next fiscal year is still unknown.

NRV Rail 2020 leadership met with the Secretary of Transportation, Shannon Valentine, the first week of March. On April 4th there will be a kickoff meeting for the study evaluating station ownership models.

The Regional + Local Housing Study proposal received tentative approval from the funder last week. A full proposal is being submitted via the funders' grant portal. The NRV Livability Initiative Information Exchange held in early March was well attended with approximately 150 people. The Regional Commission will be co-hosting with the Community Foundation of the NRV a Funders Forum on May 3rd at Ignite in Christiansburg. Registration will open next week and will be available for up to 50 attendees. The half-day workshop will include presentations from key state, federal and nonprofit funders. The intention of the event is to help project leaders across the region be successful in securing funds for implementation.

The Commission will hold interviews for the Data Systems Manager/GIS position and Smart Beginnings NRV Coordinator the last week of March. Ideally, the positions will be filled by mid-April. The Virginia Association of Planning District Commissions held a Congressional briefing in Washington, DC for members of Congress and their staff. The Floyd Innovation Center project was discussed to highlight federal investments in the region and the impact of federal programs. The Regional Commission Annual Dinner even will be held Tuesday, May 15th at Sinkland Farm in Riner. Mobile workshops will be 4:00-5:30 with the dinner event 6:00-8:00.

The proposed federal budget was released and it includes increased funding for many of the programs the Commission utilizes. Senator Warner introduced a bill in March, the Appalachian Opportunity Program, which would fund public-private partnership projects.

Mr. Byrd explained he will be facilitating a retreat for the Blacksburg Partnership to discuss short, medium, and long-term goals for the Town of Blacksburg, Montgomery County, Virginia Tech, and the business community. Lastly, he distributed a handout containing 2018 population estimates for communities in the region.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

None

IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. FY19 VDOT Rural Transportation Planning Work Program

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 provided a brief presentation overviewing the proposed work program.

Motion: Dr. Warren moved to approve the Rural Transportation Work Program for FY19. Mr. Patton seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

B. NRV Regional Tourism Collaboration Report

Mr. Jones gave a presentation detailing the process of the grant program received from the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development in 2015 to evaluate models of collaboration for tourism in the New River Valley. He then explained the recommendations for the future of regional tourism.

C. Commission Awards Program for 2018 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 Susan Kidd, Town of Narrows as Champion of the Valley, and David Hagan and P. Buckley Moss as Citizens of the Valley. Mr. Byrd will be contacting the award recipients for recognition at the annual dinner event.

Mr. Carpenter called to adjourn the meeting.

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