

NEW RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL COMMISSION
Minutes of the Commission Meeting
held on
April 26, 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. 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; Ms. H. Lesko, Town of Blacksburg; Mr. R. McCoy, Giles County; Mr. M. Maslaney, Floyd County; Mr. M. Patton, Town of Floyd; Dr. D. Warren, Pulaski County and Ms. C. Woodring, Virginia Tech.

ABSENT: Mr. G. East, Town of Pulaski; Mr. K. Marshall, City of Radford and Mr. H. Showalter, Town of Christiansburg.

Staff Attendees: Kevin Byrd, Julie Phillips and Jennifer Wilsie.

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. Patton moved for the approval of the minutes. Mr. Bopp seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

B. Approval of Treasurer's Reports for March

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. Ms. Woodring 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

Ms. Lesko reported Giles County hosted a STEM-posium which had over 300 participants and included all hands-on activities. Mr. Johnson reported the Town of Christiansburg recently adopted a noise ordinance. Ms. Anderson reported the Town of Blacksburg passed their budget with a one-cent tax increase. Mr. Kivus reported Virginia Tech hosted a ribbon cutting event for the drone park, which is the tallest netted facility of its kind. Dr. Harvey reported Radford has an upcoming election on May 1st. Mr. Carpenter reported Radford University announced a partnership with TR Group in which they will be the sole source to deliver competency-based training for their cyber program.

VI. CHAIR'S REPORT

Mr. Carpenter reported Mr. Byrd and Mr. Law presented to Pembroke Town Council on becoming a member of the Regional Commission. Council should make a decision in early May. An email will go out to all Commissioners on April 27th containing information for the annual performance evaluation for the Executive Director.

VII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Byrd provided a summary report in the Commission agenda packet. He reported Regional Commission staff recently submitted two Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) for the towns of Pearisburg and Rich Creek. Both projects focus on downtown improvements to facades and small business development to assist with economic transitions.

NRV Rail 2020 hosted a regional meeting on April 26th at the Christiansburg Aquatic Center. The discussion included updates from state/federal legislators, station ownership study process and recent marketing/outreach efforts.

Giles and Pulaski County are eligible for POWER funds, a federal program for coal impacted communities. The Commission is in the early stages of conceptualizing a potential broadband expansion project to provide internet service in rural areas to assist with the delivery of telehealth services. A second project is taking shape to expand the New River Water Trail beyond Giles County.

The Commission will be co-hosting with the Community Foundation of the NRV a Funders Forum on May 3rd at Ignite in Christiansburg. The half-day workshop will include presentations from key state, federal and nonprofit funders.

The Regional Commission staff is providing interim staffing services for Pulaski County in their planning department as the county wraps up its search for a new Community Development Director. Two new employees joined the Regional Commission in late April. Meghan Pflaiderer was hired for the Smart Beginnings NRV Coordinator role. Meghan comes to us with experience in fund development, volunteer management and community engagement with the Children's Home Society of Florida based out of Orlando. She and her family recently relocated to Newport to be closer to family. Over the past year Meghan worked with the Apex Center for Entrepreneurs at Virginia Tech and coordinated its major entrepreneur challenge event. Kristie Warack was hired to be our next Data Systems Manager (GIS). Kristie comes to the Commission after working for Blacksburg Transit as a Data Specialist while also serving as a Naturalist for the City of Roanoke at Mill Mountain. She is currently pursuing a graduate certificate in Geospatial Information Technology at Virginia Tech.

Mr. Byrd explained the internal capacity building committee has awarded its first recipient. Michael Gottfredson will be attending an ESRI conference in Charlotte to learn more about how the Commission can improve our communication strategies utilizing GIS. Following the conference Michael will be holding a lunch-n-learn session with Regional Commission staff and will provide a presentation to the Commission at a future meeting.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

None

IX. NEW BUSINESS

- A. **NRV Aging in Place Leadership Team Overview and Accomplishments**
Jennifer Wilsie, Regional Commission Senior Planner; Tina King, Executive Director of the NRV Area Agency on Aging; and Elisabeth Willis, Senior Housing and Community Development Project Manager for the Town of Blacksburg and NRV HOME Consortium gave a presentation detailing the New River Valley Aging in Place Leadership Team's timeline and initiatives. Two programs were detailed: the New River Valley Timebank which is a neighbor to neighbor network and Age Friendly Community Certification. They also distributed interactive Aging in Place Workbooks to the Commission Board members.

- B. **2018 Annual Dinner Event Update**
Mr. Byrd explained the invitations for the Annual Dinner were mailed out and RSVP's are due back May 4th. All the details are coming together nicely for the event.

- C. **Appointment of Nominating Committee**
Mr. Carpenter appointed Ricky McCoy to serve as the member-at-large on the Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee will bring its nominations for officers to the May meeting.

Mr. Carpenter called to adjourn the meeting at 7:00pm.

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