

NEW RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL COMMISSION
Minutes of the Commission Meeting
held on
May 24, 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; Ms. A. Covey, New River Community College; Mr. T. Garrett, Town of Narrows; Mr. S. Fijalkowski, Montgomery County; Dr. H. Harvey, City of Radford; Mr. W. Kantsios, Town of Rich Creek; Ms. H. Lesko, Town of Blacksburg; Mr. K. Marshall, City of Radford; Mr. R. McCoy, Giles County; Mr. M. Patton, Town of Floyd; Mr. H. Showalter, Town of Christiansburg; Dr. D. Warren, Pulaski County and Ms. C. Woodring, Virginia Tech.

ABSENT: Mr. J. Coleman, Floyd County; Mr. H. Collins, Town of Christiansburg; Mr. G. East, Town of Pulaski; Ms. S. Journell, Town of Pearisburg; Mr. H. Johnson, Town of Christiansburg; Mr. C. Kiwus, Virginia Tech and Mr. M. Maslaney, Floyd County.

Staff Attendees: Kevin Byrd, Janet McNew, Patrick O'Brien and Julie Phillips.

II. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes for April

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 April

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. Showalter 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

1. VADEQ FY2018-2019 Pollution Prevention Grant Program
2. Virginia Tech Advanced Design Construction and Smoot Drive Remote Parking
3. Virginia Tech Challenge Course

IV. PUBLIC ADDRESS

None

V. REVIEW OF MUTUAL CONCERNS AND COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Mr. Law reported the parking fee at the Cascades was recently increased to \$8. Ms. Woodring reported Catherine Potter has been hired to replace Kevin Sullivan at the Virginia Tech Foundation. Mr. Showalter reported the Town of Christiansburg will start a curbside recycling program in July and they are happy to share lessons learned in establishing the program. Mr. Fijalkowski reported a groundbreaking ceremony for the Riner Volunteer Fire Department took place earlier in the day. Ms. Anderson reported a proposal for the old Blacksburg Middle School was submitted recently and it will go through the review process this summer. Ms. Covey reported New River Community College received a Virginia Tobacco Commission grant for Floyd County to fully fund their ACCE program for the next year.

VI. CHAIR'S REPORT

Mr. Carpenter reported the Annual Dinner went well and thanked the staff for their efforts. There will be five new Board members in July. The board leadership and staff will organize an orientation for the new members prior to the first meeting they attend. Mr. Carpenter thanked the Board for providing feedback for the Executive Director's annual evaluation.

VII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Byrd provided a summary report in the Commission agenda packet. He reported the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) expansion in the New River Valley that was slated for GO Virginia funding is still progressing. The application was moved from State Council review to a staff review because the funding was under \$100,000. The Commission is continuing to work with the Roanoke SBDC and VT Office of Economic Development to secure the funds for the fiscal year beginning July 2018.

The NRV Regional + Local Housing Study funding was announced at the NRV Funders Forum earlier this month. The Commission recently executed a contract with the Virginia Housing Development Authority to fund the effort. The project will kick-off formally this summer.

Montgomery County and the City of Radford were recently designated as eligible for POWER funds for coal-impacted communities. They will be invited to participate with any proposals being developed for the New River Water Trail Expansion and rural broadband deployment. Applications are due at the end of August for the second round of POWER funding.

The first NRV Funders Forum was held in early May. More than 65 attendees participated in the half-day event. Eight funding agencies participated which included a mix of community development, housing, tourism, arts and infrastructure.

An outcome of the NRV Local Government Managers May meeting was a request to coordinate a regional job fair for seasonal employees and public works staff. New River/Mount Rogers Workforce Development Board staff offered to coordinate a job fair in the coming weeks and participation appears strong among local governments.

Mr. Byrd distributed and explained a save the date for a leadership retreat to visit Winston-Salem, NC coordinated by the Coalition for Economic Development. The coalition is primarily comprised of agencies and organizations in the Roanoke Valley while New River Valley leadership participates as available. The focus of the trip will be about the Innovation District established in Winston-Salem. Mr. Byrd anticipates participating with the fall leadership retreat and will share more information with the Commissioners once it is available.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

None

IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. Habitat for Humanity of the New River Valley Overview
Shelley Fortier, Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity of the New River Valley, delivered a presentation overviewing Habitat for Humanity's programs, homebuyer qualifications, and funding sources. She detailed many of their accomplishments from 2017 and discussed the challenges and opportunities facing the agency and the region in the future.

B. Town of Pembroke Membership with the Regional Commission
Mr. Byrd explained the Town of Pembroke has expressed intent to join the Commission effective July 1, 2018.

Dr. Warren moved to formally extend an invitation to the Town of Pembroke to become a member of the New River Valley Regional Commission. Mr. Patton seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

C. Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Update
Patrick O'Brien gave an overview of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). He explained the goals, objectives, strategies, and the project ranking criteria. This year's CEDS report will incorporate a resiliency section that will primarily address vulnerability to market changes across industry sectors in the region.

D. Commission Officers for FY2019 – Slate Introduced
Mr. McCoy delivered the Nominating Committee report for the officers for Fiscal Year 2019, specifically: Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer and Member at-Large. The nominations are for terms

beginning July 1, 2018, for a one-year duration, and voted upon during the Commission's regularly scheduled June meeting.

The nominations include:

Chair: Mike Harvey, Montgomery County

Vice-Chair: Mike Maslaney, Floyd County

Treasurer: Leon Law, Giles County

At-Large: Larry Clevinger, Town of Pulaski

On behalf of the Committee, Mr. McCoy called for any nominations from the floor for the officer positions.

Hearing none, he called for a motion to close the floor to nominations.

Mr. Carpenter called to nominate the following as the slate of officers for Fiscal Year 2019:

Chair: Mike Harvey, Montgomery County

Vice-Chair: Mike Maslaney, Floyd County

Treasurer: Leon Law, Giles County

At-Large: Larry Clevinger, Town of Pulaski

Ms. Lesko moved to nominate the slate of officers as presented. Mr. Fijalkowski seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Carpenter called to adjourn the meeting at 7:10pm.

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