

**NEW RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL COMMISSION**  
**Minutes of the Commission Meeting**  
**held on**  
**October 25, 2018**  
**6:00 p.m. – New River Valley Business Center, Fairlawn**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

**PRESENT:** Mr. M. Harvey, Chair, Montgomery County; Mr. M. Maslaney, Floyd County, Vice-Chair; Ms. S. Anderson, Town of Blacksburg; Mr. C. Bopp, Pulaski County; Mr. L. Clevinger, Town of Pulaski; Mr. T. Clontz, Town of Pulaski; Mr. T. Garrett, Town of Narrows; Mr. S. Fijalkowski, Montgomery County; Dr. H. Harvey, City of Radford; Mr. D. Horton, City of Radford; Ms. S. Journell, Town of Pearisburg; Mr. W. Kantsios, Town of Rich Creek; Mr. R. Lawson, Town of Pembroke; Mr. M. Patton, Town of Floyd; Mr. J. Radcliffe, Town of Pulaski and Ms. A. Schumaker, Radford University.

**ABSENT:** Mr. L. Law, Giles County, Treasurer; Mr. J. Coleman, Floyd County; Ms. A. Covey, New River Community College; Mr. J. Herbein, Town of Blacksburg; Mr. H. Johnson, Town of Christiansburg; Mr. C. Kiwus, Virginia Tech; Mr. R. McCoy, Giles County; Ms. C. Potter, Virginia Tech; Mr. H. Showalter, Town of Christiansburg and Dr. D. Warren, Pulaski County.

Staff Attendees: Kevin Byrd, James Jones, Janet McNew and Julie Phillips.

**II. CONSENT AGENDA**

**A. Approval of Minutes for September**

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

Motion: Mr. Horton moved for the approval of the minutes. Mr. Garrett seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

**B. Approval of Treasurer's Reports for September**

Mr. Harvey 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. Horton 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. Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Program -- Safe Drinking Water Act

- C. Environmental Project Review  
None

**IV. PUBLIC ADDRESS**

None

**V. REVIEW OF MUTUAL CONCERNS AND COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS**

Mr. Kantsios reported some of the flooding in Rich Creek in September was caused by debris in stormwater drainage ditches. He encouraged everyone to work with VDOT to proactively clean out the stormwater ditches regularly. Mr. Radcliffe noted the Town of Pulaski uses inmate labor to help clean out ditches in their community. Mr. Fijalkowski reported the Montgomery County Board of Supervisors will be hosting a regional trails forum on November 29<sup>th</sup> at the county government center in Christiansburg from 9:30-12:00. Ms. Anderson reported there will be a kickoff meeting for affordable housing and green building in Blacksburg on October 29<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Harvey reported there was an article in the Roanoke Times about the Regional Housing Study and encouraged everyone to take the survey referenced in the article. Mr. Patton reminded everyone to vote on November 6<sup>th</sup>.

**VI. CHAIR'S REPORT**

Mr. Harvey explained he recently attended the NADO annual training conference. He gave updates on some of the sessions he attended including future visioning, opioid prevention and broadband planning.

**VII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Byrd provided a summary report in the Commission agenda packet. He reported Ray Smoot, Union Bank President and retired VT administrator, was recently appointed by Governor Northam to serve as the Salem District representative on the Commonwealth Transportation Board. This appointment marks the first NRV leader to serve in this role. He explained the Commission will arrange a day for local governments in the region to meet with Mr. Smoot and discuss local transportation issues.

VDOT recently held its fall public meeting where staff shared the SMART SCALE projects received and distributed information on the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program. The last half of the meeting shifted to an update session on the I-81 Study.

In early October, the NRV Rail 2020 committee working on station ownership and operations reviewed three site design scenarios provided by Hurt & Proffitt. The committee is scheduled to select its preferred site design at its meeting on November 7<sup>th</sup> which will be accompanied by an order of magnitude of cost to develop the site.

The Commission issued a press release for the Regional Housing Study. The release included a survey link for the general public to provide input on their home buying or renting experiences in

the region. In the coming weeks, kick-off meetings for the Leadership Team and the larger Consortium group will be scheduled.

The Commission staff retreat was held at the Hotel Floyd on October 2<sup>nd</sup>. Outcomes include direction for celebrating the Commission's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2019, along with work program goals for the communications and technology committees. Staff wrapped up the day with a tour of downtown Floyd provided by town manager, Kayla Cox.

The Commission received four responses to the office redesign RFP issued in late September. Staff and the Executive Committee reviewed the proposals and will be contacting the selected firm in the near future.

Mr. Byrd reported that beginning November 1<sup>st</sup>, Meghan Pfleiderer will be going full time. The primary funder, Virginia Early Childhood Foundation (VECF), recently awarded additional funds to the NRV program for an innovative partnership program which builds off the early childhood assessment. Given the continued investment in the program the Commission is able to offer the full-time status.

## **VIII. OLD BUSINESS**

None

## **IX. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. Pathways to the American Dream Project (Workforce)**

Ms. Jenny Bolte, Project Manager for the Pathways to the American Dream project, provided an overview of the program. The highly competitive \$6.0 million national grant award was provided to the New River-Mount Rogers Workforce Development Board from the US Department of Labor to help disadvantaged workers across Southwest Virginia get the training and jobs they need. She explained the project plans to create a regional workforce strategy for sector partnerships in manufacturing, healthcare and information technology industries. She noted the program plans to serve 1,100 individuals by December 2020.

### **B. Consideration of Resolution Supporting Improvements to I-81**

Mr. Byrd explained the I-81 resolution for consideration was included in the packet. He explained the resolution would encourage the General Assembly to adopt a corridor plan and designate funding for implementation, although it does not recommend specific funding strategies.

Mr. Harvey called for approval of the Resolution Supporting Improvements to I-81

Motion: Mr. Horton moved for the approval of the Resolution Supporting Improvements to I-81. Ms. Anderson seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

C. FY20 Per Capita Assessment Rate (Commission Dues)

Mr. Byrd explained the current assessment rate is \$1.29 per capita based on 2015 Census figures. The FY20 proposed rate of \$1.29 is unchanged from FY19. The Commission typically adjusts the rate every two years and last year was the second year the rate was applied to the 2015 Census which represented a net positive to the Commission because of overall population increase in the region. FY20 will be the third year using the 2015 population with the \$1.29 rate established in FY17, and no adjustment is recommended at this time.

Mr. Harvey called for approval of the FY20 Per Capita Assessment Rate to be set at \$1.29.

Motion: Mr. Horton moved for the approval of the FY20 rate at \$1.29. Ms. Anderson seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

D. Set November Commission Meeting Date

Mr. Byrd explained the regular Commission meeting date for November falls on the Thanksgiving holiday. Historically, the Commission has opted to move the meeting to the third Thursday. This year November has five Thursdays, so the Executive Committee is recommending moving the meeting to Thursday November 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm.

Mr. Harvey called for approval of holding the meeting November 29<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00pm.

Motion: Mr. Patton moved to hold the meeting November 29, 2018. Mr. Fijalkowski seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Harvey called to adjourn the meeting at 7:25pm.

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M. Harvey, Chair  
New River Valley Regional Commission