

NEW RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL COMMISSION
Minutes of the Commission Meeting
held on
November 29, 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; Mr. L. Law, Giles County, Treasurer; Ms. S. Anderson, Town of Blacksburg; Mr. C. Bopp, Pulaski County; Mr. L. Clevinger, Town of Pulaski; Mr. T. Clontz, Town of Pulaski; Mr. J. Coleman, Floyd County; 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. J. Herbein, Town of Blacksburg; Mr. D. Horton, City of Radford; Mr. W. Kantsios, Town of Rich Creek; Mr. R. Lawson, Town of Pembroke; Mr. M. Patton, Town of Floyd; Ms. C. Potter, Virginia Tech; Mr. J. Radcliffe, Town of Pulaski; Ms. A. Schumaker, Radford University and Dr. D. Warren, Pulaski County

ABSENT: Mr. H. Johnson, Town of Christiansburg; Ms. S. Journell, Town of Pearisburg; Mr. C. Kiwus, Virginia Tech; Mr. R. McCoy, Giles County and Mr. H. Showalter, Town of Christiansburg.

Staff Attendees: Jessica Barrett, Kevin Byrd, Aphi Fancon, Michael Gottfredson, Janet McNew, Patrick O'Brien, Meghan Pfleiderer, Julie Phillips, Elijah Sharp, Christy Straight, Kristie Warack and Jennifer Wilsie.

Other Attendees: Doug Janarena, Greg Feldman, Meredith Hundley and Ed Lawhorn.

II. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes for October

Mr. Harvey 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. Ms. Anderson seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

B. Approval of Treasurer's Reports for October

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 Treasurer's Report. Mr. Fijalkowski seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

III. COMMONWEALTH INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS

- A. Projects (Signed-off by the staff)
 - 1. Reissuance of Town of Pulaski Water Treatment Plant's VPDES Permit
 - 2. Loan Application for acquisition of building and land for Town of Floyd business expansion
- B. Regular Project Review
None
- C. Environmental Project Review
None

IV. PUBLIC ADDRESS

None

V. REVIEW OF MUTUAL CONCERNS AND COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Mr. Fijalkowski reported the first Valley to Valley Regional Trail meeting was held earlier in the month with good turnout from the Roanoke Valley, New River Valley and Mount Rogers areas.

VI. CHAIR'S REPORT

Mr. Harvey explained he recently attended the quarterly New River Watershed Roundtable meeting. The group began the planning discussions for this year's ReNew the New river clean-up event. Mr. Harvey also gave a partial presentation of "The Future of the Regions" presentation shared at the NADO conference in October.

VII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Byrd began by asking each staff member to introduce themselves and highlight one of their current projects.

He provided a summary report in the Commission agenda packet. He reported Commission staff is hosting Ray Smoot, the recently appointed Commonwealth Transportation Board member for the Salem District, on December 10th so members can meet one-on-one with Mr. Smoot to review their transportation needs.

The Commission provided staff support to the Montgomery County Board of Supervisors for the Regional Trails Forum which was well attended and attracted coverage by television and newspaper media.

The Regional Broadband Plan update planning grant request submitted by the Commission with Montgomery County in the applicant role was funded by the VA Dept of Housing and Community Development. The Regional Housing Study Leadership Team met for the first time in November and the group provided great insight at this early stage of the project. The first Consortium meeting will take place on December 12th. The Commission, Community Foundation of the NRV and Onward NRV are co-hosting a livestreaming Learning Exchange hosted by Virginia Community Capital on December 13th.

The Commission's 50th anniversary will take place in 2019. During the annual staff retreat we began identifying ways to recognize the milestone. One item included a General Assembly Resolution which was sent earlier this month to Delegate Rush for pre-filing in the 2019 session. The office space redesign project will be conducted by Colley Architects based in Blacksburg. The process is expected to kick-off in December and take about two months for the schematic design phase to be complete. Staff will be involved through a survey and will have the opportunity to review and provide feedback on the preliminary designs provided by the architect.

Mr. Byrd reported there will be a workshop in February, in the afternoon before the Commission meeting, to learn about Opportunity Zones. Staff from the VA Department of Housing and Community Development will support a workshop in the afternoon to be held at the Montgomery County Government Center followed by a presentation that evening at the February Commission meeting. Lastly, earlier in the month he facilitated an abbreviated retreat meeting for the Montgomery County Board of Supervisors and offered to provide this service to any Commission member that may have a need.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

None

IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. Valleys Innovation Council

Mr. Doug Juanarena provided an overview of the Valleys Innovation Council (VIC). VIC launched in January 2018 with board members comprised of regional leaders supporting innovation and entrepreneurship in the New River and Roanoke Valleys. By connecting, communicating, and collaborating with regional stakeholders in higher education, government, industry, and community organizations, VIC works to align regional assets and strengthen the region's innovation economy.

B. FY18 Audit Report

Mr. Byrd explained the Audit Report was included in the agenda packet.

Mr. Harvey called for approval of the FY18 Audit Report.

Motion: Mr. Horton moved for the approval of the FY18 Audit Report. Ms. Anderson seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

C. Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee Composition

Mr. O'Brien explained the proposed CEDS Committee list for 2018-19 was included in the packet.

Mr. Garrett suggested the CEDS plan should support VIC initiatives and committee participation should include VIC representation. Ms. Anderson and Dr. Harvey suggested

additional members be considered to serve on the committee to ensure engaged participation.

Mr. Harvey noted additional members will be added to the CEDS committee and the list will be brought back to the Commission at the January meeting for review.

D. December meeting traditionally cancelled

Mr. Byrd explained the December Commission meeting is historically cancelled due to holiday conflicts.

Mr. Harvey called for approval of cancelling the December meeting.

Motion: Mr. Patton moved to cancel the December meeting. Ms. Potter seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Harvey called to adjourn the meeting at 7:20pm.

M. Harvey, Chair
New River Valley Regional Commission