

NEW RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL COMMISSION
Minutes of the Commission Meeting
held on
January 24, 2019
6:00 p.m. – New River Valley Business Center, Fairlawn

I. CALL TO ORDER

PRESENT: Mr. M. Harvey, Chair, Montgomery County; Mr. L. Law, Giles County, Treasurer; Mr. C. Bopp, Pulaski County; Mr. L. Clevinger, Town of Pulaski; Mr. T. Clontz, Town of Pulaski; Mr. H. Collins, Town of Christiansburg; 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. H. Johnson, Town of Christiansburg; Ms. S. Journell, Town of Pearisburg; Mr. W. Kantsios, Town of Rich Creek; Mr. R. Lawson, Town of Pembroke; Mr. R. McCoy, Giles County Mr. M. Patton, Town of Floyd; Ms. C. Potter, Virginia Tech and Dr. D. Warren, Pulaski County.

ABSENT: Ms. S. Anderson, Town of Blacksburg; Ms. A. Covey, New River Community College; Mr. J. Coleman, Floyd County; Mr. C. Kiwus, Virginia Tech; Mr. M. Maslaney, Floyd County, Vice-Chair; Mr. J. Radcliffe, Town of Pulaski and Ms. A. Schumaker, Radford University.

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

Other Attendees: Dr. Emily Satterwhite, Dr. Julia Gholke and Meghan Johnson

II. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes for November

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. Mr. Fijalkowski seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried, one abstention, Mr. Collins.

B. Approval of Treasurer's Reports for November and December

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 Reports. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

III. COMMONWEALTH INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS

- A. Projects (Signed-off by the staff)
 - 1. Virginia Tech Creativity & Innovation District
 - 2. Giles Health & Family Center Vehicle Purchase
 - 3. NRV Senior Services Vehicle Purchase
 - 4. NRV Community Services Vehicle Purchase
- B. Regular Project Review
 - None
- C. Environmental Project Review
 - 1. Construction and Operation of a U.S. Army Permanent Energy Center at Radford Army Ammunition Plant
Discussion: Mr. Harvey noted a comment should be included stating RAAP should pursue the use of alternative energy if possible.

IV. PUBLIC ADDRESS

None

V. REVIEW OF MUTUAL CONCERNS AND COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Mr. Horton reported the Radford High School Bobcats basketball team is undefeated and the Radford University Highlanders basketball team is #1 in the big south. Mr. Lawson reported the Town of Pembroke started a plastic bag recycling program sponsored by the Trex company. Bags are collected at Town Hall and once 40,500 bags are collected, they are sent to the company and in return they send the community a bench made of Trex material.

VI. CHAIR'S REPORT

Mr. Harvey recognized Elijah Sharp for celebrating his 10-year anniversary with the Commission in January and Michael Gottfredson for his service to the Commission since he recently accepted a position in Utah with his last day being the end of January. Both received plaques recognizing their contributions to the Commission. Mr. Harvey also congratulated Mr. Byrd on receiving the 2018 Distinguished Business Leader Award from the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Harvey then gave a partial presentation of "Changing Macro-Economics and Societal Values" from "The Future of Regions" presentation shared at the NADO annual training conference in October.

VII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Byrd provided a summary report in the Commission agenda packet. He reported Commission staff provided grant writing services for three Appalachian Regional Commission grant applications earlier this month along with a grant application for Giles County to the VA Telecommunications Initiative program.

Staff coordinated a series of meetings for Commission members to meet with Dr. Smoot, Commonwealth Transportation Board member for the Salem District. 10 members took advantage of the ½ hour time slots to brief Mr. Smoot on their current and upcoming transportation projects. The NRV Rail 2020 committee met and received updates from the Regional Commission on the Ownership and Operations study.

The Regional Commission is coordinating an Opportunity Zones workshop on February 28th. VA Department of Housing and Community Development staff will deliver presentations on the program and there will be a presentation that evening to the Commission.

The Regional Commission is celebrating 50 years as an agency in 2019. Delegate Rush and Senator Chafin are carrying a resolution commemorating the 50th anniversary this General Assembly session. The federal government shutdown had somewhat of an impact on the Commission. A quarterly draw on one program was delayed due to federal staff furloughs. Also, environmental reviews currently underway that require federal agency coordination are delayed due to staff not being available.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

A. Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee Composition

Mr. Byrd explained the proposed CEDS Committee list for the 2018-19 was included in the packet and updated based on feedback staff received at the November Commission meeting.

Mr. Harvey called for approval of the 2018-19 CEDS Committee list.

Motion: Mr. Horton moved for the approval of the 2018-19 CEDS Committee list. Ms. Potter seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. Radford Army Ammunition Plant –Appalachian Community Research Project

Meghan Johnson presented an overview of the project's purpose, stages, and key findings.

B. Regional Commission Awards – Review Criteria and Process

Mr. Byrd explained the award categories, criteria and previous award recipients were included in the packet.

Mr. Harvey called for approval of the Regional Commission Awards criteria and process.

Motion: Mr. Horton moved for the approval of the Regional Commission Awards criteria and process. Mr. Johnson 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