

NEW RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL COMMISSION
Minutes of the Commission Meeting
held on
August 22, 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; Ms. S. Anderson, Town of Blacksburg; Mr. C. Bopp, Pulaski County; Mr. L. Clevinger, Town of Pulaski; Mr. H. Collins, Town of Christiansburg; Mr. J. Coleman, Floyd County; Mr. T. Clontz, Town of Pulaski; Mr. S. Fijalkowski, Montgomery County; Mr. D. Horton, City of Radford; Mr. T. Garrett, Town of Narrows; Dr. H. Harvey, City of Radford; Mr. J. Herbein, Town of Blacksburg; Mr. H. Johnson, Town of Christiansburg; Mr. W. Kantsios, Town of Rich Creek; Mr. C. Kiwus, Virginia Tech; Mr. R. Lawson, Town of Pembroke; Ms. C. Potter, Virginia Tech; Mr. J. Radcliffe, Town of Pulaski; Ms. A. Schumaker, Radford University and Dr. D. Warren, Pulaski County.

ABSENT: Mr. M. Maslaney, Floyd County, Vice-Chair; Ms. A. Covey, New River Community College; Ms. S. Journell, Town of Pearisburg; Mr. R. McCoy, Giles County and Mr. M. Patton, Town of Floyd.

Staff Attendees: Kevin Byrd, Jessica Barrett, Janet McNew, Julie Phillips, and Elijah Sharp.

Other Attendees: Joe Blevins, DHCD, Tamarah Holmes, DHCD, Mieka Sanderson, ARC, Tammy Breski, DHCD.

II. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes for June

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

Motion: Ms. Anderson moved for the approval of the minutes. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

B. Approval of Treasurer's Reports for June and July (distributed at the meeting)

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

Motion: Mr. Fijalkowski moved for the approval of the Treasurer's Report. Ms. Anderson 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 FY2018-20 Water Quality Management Planning Program
Discussion: Mr. Byrd suggested submitting a comment stating the Regional Commission supports the TMDL program, however they would not want to see an impact to the Watershed Roundtable funding.
Motion: Mr. Horton moved to approve the comment be submitted. Ms. Anderson seconded the motion.
Action: Motion carried unanimously.
2. VADEQ Leaking Underground Storage Tank (LUST) FY20-22 Request
3. VADEQ FY20-22 LUST Prevention Funding Request
Motion: Mr. Horton moved to approve item 2 and 3 with no comments submitted. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion.
Action: Motion carried unanimously.
4. Sewer Improvements for Town of Pulaski and Job Retention at James Hardie Pulaski Facility
Motion: Mr. Fijalkowski moved to approve with no comments submitted. Dr. Warren seconded the motion.
Action: Motion carried unanimously.
5. Reissuance of VPDES Permit No VA0062685 Pepper's Ferry RWTA WWTP
Discussion: Mr. Garrett noted the permit does not state if the plant has the capacity for the increased discharge proposed.
Motion: Mr. Garrett moved to approve if the plant has the capacity to handle the increased discharge proposed. Dr. Harvey seconded the motion.
Action: Motion carried unanimously.

IV. PUBLIC ADDRESS

None

V. REVIEW OF MUTUAL CONCERNS AND COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Mr. Lawson reported a BBQ restaurant opened in Pembroke recently and is doing well. Mr. Horton reported the City of Radford recently implemented a façade enhancement program in downtown and on August 31st there will be a Triwizard Tri-Mile Trail Race in Bissett Park. Mr. Johnson reported the Town of Christiansburg is working on the Market Place development and noted the former Meadows Golf Course will be developed as a residential neighborhood. He also shared the Hill Golf Course in Blacksburg recently re-opened and held a ribbon cutting event. Mr. Law reported plans were submitted recently for a 170-unit residential neighborhood in Pembroke. Mr. Harvey reported ReNew the New will be held 8/24 in Floyd County, 8/31 in Radford, Montgomery County, and Giles County, and 9/7 in Pulaski County.

VI. CHAIR'S REPORT

Mr. Harvey reported he is serving on the I-81 committee and encouraged everyone to visit www.va81corridor.org to follow the progress and get more information.

VII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Byrd provided a summary report in the Commission agenda packet. He reported the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) grant program held a public input meeting for the FY20 Program Design. ARC staff from D.C. and VA Dept of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) toured recent ARC investments in the New River Valley. The tour included the Floyd Innovation Center, New River Community College ACCE Program and Millstone Kitchen, the shared-use community kitchen at Prices Fork Elementary School.

The Regional Commission is working with Giles County on securing technical assistance from the US EPA program, Recreation Economies for Rural Communities. Staff received notice Giles County is a semi-finalist. The assistance will help advance work to connect communities to natural resources.

NRV Rail 2020 will host a legislative reception on October 3rd, 5:30-7:00pm, at the Great Road on Main in Christiansburg.

On September 12th there will be a bi-regional meeting of all elected officials in the New River Valley and Roanoke Valley to receive a briefing on Virginia Tech growth and Virginia Tech-Carilion research initiatives.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

None

IX. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Appalachian Regional Commission Visit
Ms. Holmes and Ms. Sanderson provided updates on some of the New River Valley projects funded by DHCD and ARC. Ms. Sanderson shared key points from ARC in D.C. which included the Federal Co-Chair's initiative on substance abuse and general economic conditions of the greater Appalachia region. Based on ARC guidelines and economic performance in the region, all of the New River Valley counties are designated as Transitional, which equates to 50/50 matching grants when pursuing ARC funding.

- B. FY20 Program of Work for the Regional Commission
Mr. Sharp provided an overview of the FY20 Work Program. He highlighted the process utilized by staff to keep everyone on track with project progress and project billing. Many of the FY20 projects are focused on grant administration which is attributed to successful implementation grants written the previous fiscal year.

Mr. Harvey called to adjourn the meeting at 7:05pm.

M. Harvey, Chair
New River Valley Regional Commission