

**NEW RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL COMMISSION**  
**Minutes of the Commission Meeting**  
**held on**  
**January 23, 2020**  
**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. J Ballard, Town of Pearisburg; 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. S. Fijalkowski, Montgomery County; Mr. T. Garrett, Town of Narrows; Dr. H. Harvey, City of Radford; Mr. J. Herbein, Town of Blacksburg; Mr. D. Horton, City of Radford; Mr. H. Johnson, Town of Christiansburg; Dr. A. Joyner, Radford University; Mr. W. Kantsios, Town of Rich Creek; Mr. C. Kiwus, Virginia Tech.; Mr. R. McCoy, Giles County; Ms. M. Sachs, Town of Christiansburg and Dr. D. Warren, Pulaski County.

**ABSENT:** Mr. C. Bopp, Pulaski County; Mr. R. Lawson, Town of Pembroke; Mr. M. Patton, Town of Floyd; Ms. C. Potter, Virginia Tech and Mr. J. Radcliffe, Town of Pulaski.

Staff Attendees: Kevin Byrd, Julie Phillips and Elijah Sharp.

Other Attendees: Jacob Demmitt and Christopher Stewart.

**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: 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 November and December**

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. Ms. Covey seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

**III. COMMONWEALTH INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS**

**A. Projects (Signed-off by the staff)**

1. Christiansburg Wingate Construction Project
2. Virginia Tech Hitt Hall and Intelligent Infrastructure
3. NRV Senior Services Vehicle Purchase

B. Regular Project Review

None

C. Environmental Project Review

None

**IV. PUBLIC ADDRESS**

None

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

Mr. Harvey reported Moon Hollow Brewery will open January 24<sup>th</sup> at The Old School at Prices Fork. Mr. Kiwus reported the 2020 Virginia Tech football schedule was recently released. Mr. Law reported Pemtel is completing a \$1.8 million project to extend broadband from Eggleston to Bane in Giles County. They are observing a 90% take-rate with the project. Pemtel is also working on building fiber to the home throughout their service area over a 10-year period. Ms. Covey reported New River Community College and Radford University have formed a partnership called New River Bridge to RU. Program enrollees will live on the Radford University campus and attend classes at New River Community College before they transition into Radford University courses. Ms. Anderson reported the Blacksburg Town Council held a retreat and took stock they completed many of the goals established during their retreat two years ago. She also shared the town recently received a final report on the North Main Street corridor. Ms. Sachs reported the Town of Christiansburg will be doing away with commercial dumpster service and many of the centralized recycling locations. Businesses and residents will have the option to pay for the town recycling collection program.

**VI. CHAIR'S REPORT**

**VII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Byrd provided a summary report in the Commission agenda packet. He reported the Commission submitted a technical assistance grant to the Development District Association of Appalachia (PDCs in ARC geography) for support developing a Recovery to Work system in the New River Valley and Mount Rogers regions.

The concept of a Regional Tourism Marketing program continues to advance. Following the Mayors/Chairs meeting in October, Destination Marketing Organizations discussed the concept locally in November/December and local government managers discussed it further at their meeting in January. A concept proposal was sent to the managers.

The Regional + Local Housing Study is nearing completion. Strategies for each local government are finalized. Staff is busy preparing the final report so it can be released.

The NRV Livability Initiative Leadership Team hosted a Systems Thinking Workshop. Small groups were invited to participate to learn how their work is linked with other people/resources and how best to leverage systems for the greatest impact. Groups invited include: Watershed Roundtable, Radford Downtown, Healthy Roots NRV, Climate Readiness, Pulaski Downtown, Floyd Housing, Christiansburg Downtown.

A budget amendment was introduced this General Assembly session to increase state funding for planning district commissions by \$28,000 over two years.

## VIII. OLD BUSINESS

None

## IX. NEW BUSINESS

### A. Wing Drone Delivery Presentation

Jacob Demmitt from Wing presented its drone delivery service which launched in 2019 in Christiansburg. He noted this is the only drone delivery in the country. The community support and use of the service has been positive. Christopher Stewart from Virginia Tech Mid-Atlantic Aviation Partnership (MAAP) presented on how MAAP and Wing work together and MAAP's role in advancing Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) approvals. The VT MAAP is one of seven in the country to have the FAA designation and it is a strong economic development tool for the region.

### B. VDOT Smart Scale Typology Change

Mr. Byrd explained the MPO non-urbanized boundaries are currently categorized as Factor Weight Typology C. Based on staff review, most projects would score higher under Typology D.

Mr. Harvey called for approval of recommending to the Commonwealth Transportation Board changing the non-urbanized areas in the Regional Commission service area from category C to category D.

Motion: Mr. McCoy moved the approval of the change. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

### C. Regional Commission Awards – Review Criteria and Process

Mr. Byrd explained the award categories, criteria and previous award recipients were included in the packet. With there being no modifications to the awards program proposed, staff will begin soliciting award nominations in February.

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

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M. Harvey, Chair  
New River Valley Regional Commission