

NEW RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL COMMISSION
Minutes of the Commission Meeting
held on
June 25, 2020
6:00 p.m.— Electronic Meeting via Zoom

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. T. Garrett, Town of Narrows; 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; and Ms. M. Sachs, Town of Christiansburg.

ABSENT: 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; Dr. H. Harvey, City of Radford; Mr. R. Lawson, Town of Pembroke; Mr. R. McCoy, Giles County; Mr. M. Patton, Town of Floyd; Ms. C. Potter, Virginia Tech; Mr. J. Radcliffe, Town of Pulaski and Dr. D. Warren, Pulaski County.

Staff Attendees: Kevin Byrd, Patrick O'Brien, Julie Phillips, and Elijah Sharp.

II. ELECTRONIC MEETING PARTICIPATION – Commission Action (attached)

Mr. Harvey called for approval of the electronic meeting participation policy. Section 2.2-3708.2 of the Virginia State Code, 1950, as amended, Section 3. Any public body may meet by electronic communication means without a quorum of the public body physically assembled at one location when the Governor has declared a state of emergency in accordance with § 44-146.17.

Motion: Mr. Horton moved for the approval of the policy. Ms. Anderson seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

III. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes for May

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 February and May

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 Reports. Ms. Sachs seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

IV. COMMONWEALTH INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS

- A. Projects (Signed-off by the staff)
 - 1. VADEQ- Superfund Core- Am 2
- B. Regular Project Review
None
- C. Environmental Project Review
None

V. PUBLIC ADDRESS

None

VI. CHAIR'S REPORT

Mr. Harvey reported the Commission Board will have a member change in July. This change is due to the rotating elected official two-year position. Mr. Radcliffe, representing the Town of Pulaski, will leave the board effective June 30, and Ms. DeVito Kuchenbuch from Floyd County will join on July 1. Mr. Harvey thanked Mr. Radcliff for his years of service. I-81 Committee will be postponing their June meeting. The Commission will be working to expand options for office space. Lastly, he thanked the Board for allowing him to serve as chair.

VII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Byrd provided a summary report in the Commission agenda packet. As a part of the US Economic Development Administration CARES Act funding, the Commission is budgeting a full-time temporary (2-year) position to develop a regional economic recovery plan and support project development for businesses. The position advertisement is available on the Commission's website. The Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) committee met three times this year to update the strategy document and project list. The 2019-2020 update will be presented at tonight's meeting for review/adoption by the Commission.

The Valley to Valley Trail project held a stakeholder meeting on May 27th to review data collected and potential trail alignments based on previous studies conducted in both the New River Valley and Roanoke Valley. The stakeholder group is anticipating adjustments of historical alignments in combination of new alignments identified during the study process. The next step will involve the consultant team engaging local government staff to review and provide feedback on alignments prior to public input being received.

The local government managers and the New River Health District continue to meet regularly via conference call and recently adjusted the schedule to Tuesday and Thursday each week. Regional

Commission staff continues to update the NRV Working Smart. Working Safe. Guidebook as the Governor releases additional advisement for each phase of re-opening.

The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) project for Neighbors in Need, a food security initiative at Millstone Kitchen, recently went through a contract negotiation meeting with the VA Dept. of Housing and Community Development. The local governments decided not to pursue CDBG funds for the drive through testing supplies previously discussed and will be using their CARES Act funds to support the program expenses. The Business Continuity Team (BCT) program is also advancing. A program manager position (full-time temporary) and medical director (part-time temporary) will be advertised in the coming days. Additional funds for the BCT are being pursued through CDBG via Giles County along with a second round of GO Virginia funds. The NRV Public Health Task Force recently completed the six-week Virtual Town Hall Series.

The Commission wishes Shawn Utt, Pulaski Town Manager, and Nichole Hair, Deputy Town Manager, best of luck in their next endeavors. Both will be leaving the town in early July. They have worked closely with the Commission on numerous projects over several years and Shawn is a previous Commission employee.

The Commission continues to work remotely with plans to re-open the office in the coming weeks.

VIII. REVIEW OF MUTUAL CONCERNS AND COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Mr. Kiwus reported Virginia Tech is awaiting advisement from the NCAA for collegiate sports operations during COVID-19. Ms. Sachs shared several funding sources for small businesses, www.vatc.org/wanderlove-grant and www.vatc.org/grants/leverageprogram. Mr. Johnson reported Blacksburg Transit announced they received COVID-19 operating funds.

IX. OLD BUSINESS

None

X. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Project Package and Report
Mr. O'Brien presented this year's updated report. He stated the CEDS has not been modified significantly from last year's five-year 'overhaul,' in anticipation of more significant revisions and updates that will result from upcoming COVID economic recovery planning efforts. NRVRC staff will undertake a planning process this fall that considers the economic impacts of the pandemic-related closures and disruptions in more detail, as a part of an expected grant award from the US EDA.

Mr. Harvey called for approval of the CEDS package and report.

Motion: Mr. Herbein moved for the approval of the CEDS project package and report. Ms. Sachs seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

B. Consideration of Proposed FY21 Budget

Mr. Byrd explained the proposed budget was included in the mailout and provided additional details on both the budget and the anticipated revenue.

Motion: Ms. Anderson moved to approve the FY21 budget. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

C. Commission Officers for FY21- Slate Introduced at May Meeting

Mr. Harvey reported the nominations for the slate of officers for Fiscal Year 2021 are as follows:

The nominations include:

Chair: Mike Maslaney, Floyd County

Vice-Chair: Hil Johnson, Town of Christiansburg

Treasurer: Leon Law, Giles County

At-Large: Angie Covey, New River Community College

At-Large: Steve Fijalkowski, Montgomery County

At-Large: Catherine Potter, Virginia Tech

Past Chair: Mike Harvey, Montgomery County

Ms. Anderson moved to elect the slate of officers as presented. Ms. Sachs seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

D. July Commission Meeting (Historically it is cancelled)

Motion: Mr. Bopp moved to cancel the July meeting. Ms. Anderson seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

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

M. Maslaney, Chair
New River Valley Regional Commission