

**NEW RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL COMMISSION**  
**Minutes of the Commission Meeting**  
**held on**  
**February 28, 2019**  
**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; Ms. S. Anderson, Town of Blacksburg; Mr. C. Bopp, Pulaski County; Mr. L. Clevinger, Town of Pulaski; Mr. T. Garrett, Town of Narrows; Mr. S. Fijalkowski, Montgomery County; Dr. H. Harvey, City of Radford; Mr. H. Johnson, Town of Christiansburg; Ms. S. Journell, Town of Pearisburg; Mr. R. McCoy, Giles County 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. L. Law, Giles County, Treasurer; Mr. J. Coleman, Floyd County; Mr. H. Collins, Town of Christiansburg; Ms. A. Covey, New River Community College; Mr. T. Clontz, Town of Pulaski; Mr. J. Herbein, Town of Blacksburg; Mr. D. Horton, City of Radford; Mr. W. Kantsios, Town of Rich Creek; Mr. C. Kiwus, Virginia Tech and Mr. R. Lawson, Town of Pembroke.

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

Other Attendees: Kristen Dahlman

**II. CONSENT AGENDA**

**A. Approval of Minutes for January**

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. Johnson seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

**B. Approval of Treasurer's Report for January**

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

Motion: Mr. Bopp 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. VT Undergraduate Laboratory Building
  - 2. Reissuance of VPDES Permit No. VA0089991- Federal Mogul Powertrain, LLC  
Discussion: Dr. Warren suggested a comment from the Commission in response stating, there is cause for concern of safe levels of discharge for trichloroethylene and whether other options are available rather than discharging to a waterbody that ultimately contributes to a supply for public drinking water.
  - 3. VADEQ- 319h Watershed Project Funding

#### **IV. PUBLIC ADDRESS**

None

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

Mr. Harvey reported there will be an Earth Day festival at Bissett Park on April 20<sup>th</sup> and the Ramps and Roads cleanup in Giles County will be held March 30<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Bopp reported there will be an antique truck show at the Ratcliffe Museum on May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

#### **VI. CHAIR'S REPORT**

##### **A. Discussion on Office Renovation Report**

Mr. Harvey explained an office space renovation report was included in the packet for Commission review and discussion. After discussion, it was decided a committee of board members would be appointed by the Chair to review the report in greater detail and evaluate office space options outside the NRV Business Center in order to prepare a comparative analysis. Ultimately the committee will make a recommendation to the Commission for consideration.

#### **VII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Byrd provided a summary report in the Commission agenda packet. He reported the towns of Pearisburg and Rich Creek received Community Development Block Grants for the revitalization of their downtowns. Staff is working with Montgomery County and the City of Radford on a broadband planning grant through the Dept of Housing and Community Development.

The I-81 improvement plan continues to be a focal point for the 2019 General Assembly session. A study committee was tasked with making a recommendation prior to mid-December 2019 for the 2020 General Assembly session. The Regional Commission will have a seat on the study committee.

The NRV Livability in Action Regional Exchange will take place on March 7<sup>th</sup> at the German Club in Blacksburg. This will be the 5<sup>th</sup> year the Commission has co-hosted this event with the Community Foundation of the NRV.

Interviews for the vacant regional planner position will take place on March 8<sup>th</sup>. The Commission Awards are open for nominations until March 19<sup>th</sup>. The NRVMPPO is looking to secure VDOT funds to pursue the Valley to Valley Trail project and a resolution of support will be presented for the Commission's consideration at the March meeting. The Watershed roundtable met in February and the tentative date for the annual ReNew the New clean-up event is set for August 31, 2019.

## VIII. OLD BUSINESS

None

## IX. NEW BUSINESS

### A. Opportunity Zone Program Overview

Kristen Dahlman, Senior Policy Advisor with the VA Dept. of Housing and Community Development presented an overview of the Opportunity Zone Program. She explained how the zones were determined, the tax benefits available for investors as well as investment eligibility guidelines.

### B. NRV Passenger Rail Initiative Update

Mr. Sharp gave an update on the progress of bringing passenger rail service to the New River Valley. He detailed findings from the recent Ownership and Operations study and explained the next steps for the project.

### C. Setting Community Development Block Grant Priorities

Mr. Byrd explained each year the Regional Commission is asked by the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development to submit a list of anticipated local projects for Community Development Block Grant competitive grants within the region. The suggested 2019 priorities are based on projects listed in the packet with input from local governments across the region.

Motion: Mr. Patton moved for the approval of the Community Development Block Grant Priorities. Ms. Anderson seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

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M. Harvey, Chair  
New River Valley Regional Commission