

NEW RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL COMMISSION
Minutes of the Commission Meeting
held on
October 24, 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. H. Collins, Town of Christiansburg; Mr. J. Coleman, Floyd County; Ms. A. Covey, New River Community College; 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 and Dr. D. Warren, Pulaski County.

ABSENT: Mr. L. Law, Giles County, Treasurer; Mr. T. Clontz, Town of Pulaski; Ms. S. Journell, Town of Pearisburg; Mr. R. McCoy, Giles County; Mr. M. Patton, Town of Floyd and Ms. A. Schumaker, Radford University.

Staff Attendees: Kevin Byrd and Julie Phillips.

Other Attendees: Jessica Schultz

II. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes for September

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 September

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. Mr. Kantsios 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. VA Tech Non-Permanent Gym
 - 2. VA Tech Dietrick Hall and Plaza Renovations

IV. PUBLIC ADDRESS

None

V. REVIEW OF MUTUAL CONCERNS AND COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Mr. Horton reported the City of Radford is adding pocket parks and live music to help activate the parks/community. Mr. Collins reported drone delivery was officially launched by Wing in Christiansburg. Mr. Horton reported Radford University will begin an unmanned systems program in Reed Hall in January. Mr. Horton also requested future meetings feature updates about scooter regulations and small cell (5G) deployment. Ms. Anderson reported the Town of Blacksburg recently closed on a portion of the property at the old Blacksburg High School. Dr. Harvey reported the Town of Pulaski received great media coverage for redevelopment in their downtown.

VI. CHAIR'S REPORT

Mr. Harvey reported he attended an I-81 Advisory Committee meeting. The committee will be asking the General Assembly to approve bonding on the regional gas tax to fund the planned I-81 improvements. Mr. Harvey gave timeline details on some of the Roanoke and NRV projects. There will be a Mayors and Chairs meeting at the NRV Business Center on November 1st. Mr. Harvey recognized the passing of former board member, Fred Gerald from Floyd County, and stated condolences to the family have been sent from the Commission. Lastly, he recognized October 1st marked Mr. Byrd's ten-year anniversary as Executive Director.

VII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Byrd provided a summary report in the Commission agenda packet. He reported the Montgomery County/Radford Broadband Plan consultant team presented Phase 1 findings to the project management team and the County Board of Supervisors on 10/15. Their first phase identified un-served and under-served areas of the county.

NRV Rail 2020 held a legislative reception on October 3rd. The Secretary of Transportation did not make any major announcements, although she did express strong commitment from the Governor's administration to advance the project. Preliminary conversations are taking place regarding enabling legislation for a passenger rail authority and will resume following the upcoming General Assembly election.

The Commission hosted a regional Emergency Management Coordinators meeting on October 9th to discuss river safety/rescue. Many positives came from the meeting. One short-term deliverable was identified; the Commission will prepare a map for all dispatchers to use which illustrates the public and private access points to the river. An ARC grant is being considered to further develop a river-user safety program with videos, navigational information and marketing materials.

The Regional + Local Housing Study team is wrapping up focus group meetings and data analysis. Work is shifting to community-specific strategies and report writing. The Commission will receive a preliminary findings presentation at the November meeting. The report is scheduled to be released publicly in January.

Transition of the Millstone Kitchen operations is moving along and staff anticipates all aspects to be resolved in the next month.

Mr. Byrd was installed as President of the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) at the Annual Training Conference in Reno, NV. In the 52 years of NADO he is the first president from Virginia.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

None

IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. Millstone Kitchen at Prices Fork Center

Jessica Schultz, Kitchen Manager, with Millstone Kitchen provided a presentation overviewing the shared-use kitchen at The Old School. Ms. Schultz explained how the shared kitchen operates and provided examples of services offered to customers. Millstone Kitchen will host an opening event December 3rd for elected officials, Founders Campaign contributors and Commissioners.

B. FY21 Per Capita Assessment Rate (Commission Dues)

Mr. Byrd explained the current assessment rate is \$1.29 per capita based on 2015 Census figures. The Executive Committee recommends the use of annual population estimates from the Weldon Cooper Center to continue with minor adjustments in dues that are reflective of population change. The FY21 proposed rate of \$1.29 is unchanged from the past three fiscal years and no adjustment is recommended at this time.

Mr. Harvey called for approval of the FY21 Per Capita Assessment Rate to be set at \$1.29 with the use of annual population estimates.

Motion: Mr. Horton moved for the approval of the FY21 rate at \$1.29. Ms. Potter seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

C. November Commission Meeting Date

Mr. Byrd explained the November meeting date is historically moved to the 3rd week in November to avoid a conflict with the Thanksgiving holiday.

Mr. Harvey called for approval of holding the meeting November 21st, at 6:00pm.

Motion: Dr. Warren moved to hold the meeting November 21, 2019. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Harvey called to adjourn the meeting at 7:15pm.

M. Harvey, Chair
New River Valley Regional Commission