

NEW RIVER VALLEY PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION

Minutes of the Commission Meeting

held on

January 26, 2012

6:00 p.m.– New River Valley Competitiveness Center, Fairlawn

I. CALL TO ORDER

PRESENT: Mrs. H. Lesko, Chair, Town of Blacksburg; Mr. M. Patton, Vice-Chair, Town of Floyd; Mr. S. Weaver, Treasurer, Town of Christiansburg; Mr. R. Alvarez, Radford University; Mr. C. Bopp, Pulaski County; Mr. R. Chambers, Montgomery County; Mr. L. Clevinger, Town of Pulaski; Mr. T. Cox, City of Radford; Mr. G. Eaton, Town of Rich Creek; Mr. T. Garrett, Town of Narrows; Mr. F. Gerald, Floyd County; Dr. H. Harvey, City of Radford; Ms. E. Janney, Floyd County; Mrs. C. Newcomb, Town of Blacksburg; Mrs. A. Perkins, Montgomery County; Mr. J. Sheffey, Pulaski County; Mr. H. Showalter, Town of Christiansburg; Mr. K. Sullivan, Virginia Tech; Dr. D. Warren, Pulaski County; Mr. M. Welker, Town of Pulaski; and Mr. C. Via, Town of Pearisburg.

ABSENT: Mr. D. Dent, Virginia Tech; Mr. R. McCoy, Giles County; and Vacant, Giles County.

Staff Attendees: Kevin Byrd; Elijah Sharp and Janet McNew

II. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of Minutes for September and October
- B. Approval of Treasurer's Report for September, October, November and December

Mrs. Lesko called for approval of the consent agenda items if there were no questions or changes.

Motion: Mr. Garrett moved for the approval of the consent agenda items. Mr. Cox seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

III. CHAIR'S REPORT

Mrs. Lesko, on behalf of the Commission, presented a plaque and gift to retiree Shirl Quesenberry in recognition and appreciation for 35 years of service to the Commission.

IV. PUBLIC ADDRESS

None

V. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

Mrs. Lesko reported the Executive Committee, which routinely meets one hour before the Commission meeting, was considering alternative meeting times. This month they met for over an hour at lunch time earlier in the day. In February they will meet Wednesday prior to the Thursday Commission meeting. She also stated the Committee discussed the development of a strategic plan for the Commission.

VI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Byrd highlighted several areas of the report provided in the Commission agenda packet. He reported: Healthy NRV project- first meeting of the Community Health Working Group scheduled for January 31 at Pulaski Community Hospital. Also on January 31, the final report of the Blacksburg Business Climate Task Force will be presented to Blacksburg Town Council. The PDC hosted a Social Media in Local Government Workshop on January 20. The Volvo Plant tour held on December 16 drew 25 attendees from across the region.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

The Mayors, Chairs, Chief Administrative Officials meeting cancelled in December will be discussed with Chief Administrative Officials to determine an appropriate reschedule date.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Review/Endorsement of Regional Transit Organization Analysis - Presentation-Elijah Sharp

Mr. Sharp presented the report that was provided in the Commission agenda packet highlighting the significant level of stakeholder participation. Further, he explained the enabling legislation in Virginia that allows transportation providers to work together in service delivery. A number of comments and questions were raised by the Commission and it was agreed to table endorsement of the study to the next meeting to allow for additional review time.

B. Transportation Program Updates - Presentation-Elijah Sharp

Mr. Sharp discussed anticipated funding issues for VDOT and the department's desire to pursue public-private partnerships to address funding gaps. Mr. Sharp also explained the economic impact related to transportation implementation was equivalent to \$4 billion in construction has a \$13 billion impact with 100,000 jobs. Mr. Sharp closed the presentation with an overview of the Governor's Transportation Plan.

C. Devolution of State Transportation System-Commission Discussion

Mr. Byrd opened the conversation referencing materials provided in the agenda packet and expressed a desire for localities to discuss potential impacts associated with a major state service potentially becoming a local service. Commission members discussed the impacts and identified the following: rural localities have less taxing capacity to maintain roadways; localities may need another revenue option other than real estate, the potential for more primary roads so federal funds could be accessed; concern for tolling on I-81 or other facilities and the cost for students and low-income. As the issue continues to develop, the Commission asked staff to research how other states that already devolved handle their road programs.

D. Review and Approval of FY11 Audit

Mr. Byrd overviewed the FY11 Audit as prepared by Robinson, Farmer, Cox and Associates.

Motion: Mr. Sheffey moved to accept the audit. Mr. Weaver seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

- E. Identification of Key Legislative Issues – Commission Discussion
Mr. Byrd opened the conversation referencing VACO’s Legislative Program enclosed in the agenda packet. He asked what the major issues are facing localities in this General Assembly session. Concerns were expressed regarding the Machinery and Tools Tax no longer being enabled in favor of BPOL and the Commission discussed inequities between cities and towns when using BPOL. Mr. Welker also expressed concern for changes to eminent domain laws that may require a local government to pay for potential loss of income for a given project. Ms. Janney explained the state-level Farm Bureau supports the legislation so appropriate compensation is provided for the agriculture community.

IX. OTHER BUSINESS

None

X. REVIEW OF MUTUAL CONCERNS AND COMMISSIONERS’ REPORTS

Mr. Byrd stated the New River Valley Development Corporation Revolving Loan Fund program has funded four applications in the last couple of months. Mr. Sheffey reported John Wyatt is Pulaski County’s new representative to the Development Corporation and Dr. Harvey expressed appreciation of locality support to the Development Corporation.

Mrs. Lesko commented the Joint Budget Review meeting is scheduled for January 30 and will be held at the Competitiveness Center, please think of PDC funding as budgets are being developed.

XI. COMMONWEALTH INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS

- A. Projects (Signed-off by the staff)
New River Valley Senior Services vehicle purchase – DRPT
Giles Health & Family Center vehicle purchase - DRPT
- B. Regular Project Review
None
- C. Environmental Project Review
None

The meeting was then adjourned.

Holly Larson Lesko, Chair
New River Valley Planning District Commission

NEW RIVER VALLEY PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION

Minutes of the Commission Meeting

held on

February 23, 2012

6:00 p.m. – New River Valley Competitiveness Center, Fairlawn

I. CALL TO ORDER

PRESENT: Mrs. H. **Lesko**, Chair, Town of Blacksburg; Mr. M. **Patton**, Vice-Chair, Town of Floyd; Mr. S. **Weaver**, Treasurer, Town of Christiansburg; Mr. R. **Alvarez**, Radford University; Mr. C. **Bopp**, Pulaski County; Mr. R. **Chambers**, Montgomery County; Mr. L. **Clevinger**, Town of Pulaski; Mr. T. **Cox**, City of Radford; Mr. T. **Garrett**, Town of Narrows; Mr. F. **Gerald**, Floyd County; Dr. H. **Harvey**, City of Radford; Mr. J. **Sheffey**, Pulaski County; Mr. H. **Showalter**, Town of Christiansburg; Mr. K. **Sullivan**, Virginia Tech; Dr. D. **Warren**, Pulaski County; and Mr. C. **Via**, Town of Pearisburg.

ABSENT: Mr. D. **Dent**, Virginia Tech; Mr. R. **McCoy**, Giles County; Mr. G. **Eaton**, Town of Rich Creek; Ms. E. **Janney**, Floyd County; Mrs. C. **Newcomb**, Town of Blacksburg; Mrs. A. **Perkins**, Montgomery County; Mr. M. **Welker**, Town of Pulaski; and Vacant, Giles County.

Staff Attendees: Kevin Byrd; Tommi Godwin and Julie Phillips

II. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of Minutes for January
- B. Approval of Treasurer's Report for January

Mrs. Lesko called for approval of the consent agenda items if there were no questions or changes.

Motion: Mr. Gerald moved for the approval of the consent agenda items. Dr. Harvey seconded the motion.
Action: Motion carried unanimously.

III. CHAIR'S REPORT

Mrs. Lesko announced the Commission meeting would now be audio recorded and reminded all commissioners that payroll would now be done via direct deposit and asked that a voided check be provided.

IV. PUBLIC ADDRESS

None

V. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

Mrs. Lesko reported the Executive Committee would now meet at lunch time Wednesday prior to the Thursday Commission meeting. She also stated a strategic plan for the Commission will be developed; the first meeting will be at her house March 6, 2012 at 5:30pm with Jim Youngquist of SERDI attending to inform the planning process.

VI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Byrd provided a report in the Commission agenda packet. He reported: The I-81 tolling will not happen at this time because the toll on I-95 will precede it. The state is only allowed to toll one interstate facility at a given time. Also the state is continuing the public-private partnership (P3) projects to counteract decreases in public funding; please let the PDC know of any ideas for our area. ARC/Oak Ridge National Laboratory Residential Science Academy is seeking middle and high school students for a one week science academy July 15 to 20, 2012. The PDC will be going to Google Business for email, central calendaring and central contacts. HB823 was passed by indefinitely in sub-committee and was not reintroduced at full committee. The NRVPDC met with our legislators on this issue. A video of a news clip from WSLs was shown on the NRV Revolving Loan Fund.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

The review/endorsement of Regional Transit Organization Analysis was delayed until March.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Setting up Community Development Block Grant Priorities for 2012.

Mr. Byrd gave discussed the priorities for both 2011 and 2012. He asked any projects within the NRV be relayed to the NRVPDC staff.

Mrs. Lesko called for a motion to adopt.

Motion: Mr. Garrett moved for a motion to adopt. Mr. Patton seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

B. Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)

Mr. Byrd overviewed the schedule for the CEDS Committee and their work with the Livability Initiative Economic Development Working Group. A schedule was included in the agenda packet.

C. Healthy NRV project update

Ms. Godwin opened with a presentation on the Healthy NRV project and gave an overview of the project. She stated the NRVPDC is partnering with the Virginia Tech Institute for Policy and Governance. This is a two year grant awarded to the NRVPDC; with only twelve being awarded nationally by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Ms. Godwin explained youth ambassadors create digital videos know as digital story telling which will be shared via social media. She also stated the outcomes expected of this project are a better understanding of health issues and concerns within the NRV and to help generate new ideas about local government fiscal impact relating to healthcare.

IX. OTHER BUSINESS

None

X. REVIEW OF MUTUAL CONCERNS AND COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Mr. Patton spoke about the need to promote the work of the commission to communities across the region. He stated that the Commission is the only place where a member of every community in the NRV is represented. He expressed how important it is to tell our story.

XI. COMMONWEALTH INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS

A. Projects (Signed-off by the staff)

New River Valley Community Services vehicle purchase - DRPT

B. Regular Project Review

None

C. Environmental Project Review

1. Reissuance of VPDES Permit No. 0052850 Blacksburg-Christiansburg-VPI Water Authority Water Treatment Plant

Motion: Mr. Patton moved for a motion to approve.

Mr. Weaver seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried. One abstention, Mr. Via

2. Virginia Tech-Montgomery Executive Airport Runway Expansion

Mr. Patton asked what the expansion means for the airport and Virginia Tech. Mr. Sullivan responded this means bigger jets can land at the airport and ensures the number of planes landing at the airport will be allowed to land in the future.

Motion: Mr. Showalter moved for a motion to approve.

Mr. Garrett seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried. One abstention, Mr. Via

The meeting was then adjourned.

Holly Larson Lesko, Chair
New River Valley Planning District Commission

NEW RIVER VALLEY PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION

Minutes of the Commission Meeting

held on

March 22, 2012

6:00 p.m. – New River Valley Competitiveness Center, Fairlawn

I. CALL TO ORDER

PRESENT: Mr. M. Patton, Vice-Chair, Town of Floyd; Mr. S. Weaver, Treasurer, Town of Christiansburg; Mr. C. Bopp, Pulaski County; Mr. R. Chambers, Montgomery County; Mr. T. Garrett, Town of Narrows; Mr. F. Gerald, Floyd County; Dr. H. Harvey, City of Radford; Mr. J. Sheffey, Pulaski County; Mr. H. Showalter, Town of Christiansburg; Mr. K. Sullivan, Virginia Tech; Dr. D. Warren, Pulaski County; and Mr. C. Via, Town of Pearisburg; Ms. L. LaClair, Virginia Tech; Mrs. C. Newcomb, Town of Blacksburg; Mrs. A. Perkins, Montgomery County; Mr. M. Welker, Town of Pulaski.

ABSENT: Mrs. H. Lesko, Chair, Town of Blacksburg; Mr. R. Alvarez, Radford University; Mr. R. McCoy, Giles County; Mr. G. Eaton, Town of Rich Creek; Ms. E. Janney, Floyd County; Mr. L. Clevinger, Town of Pulaski; Mr. T. Cox, City of Radford; and Vacant, Giles County.

Staff Attendees: Kevin Byrd; Brad Mecham; Elijah Sharp; and Julie Phillips.

II. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes for February

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

Motion: Mr. Sheffey moved for the approval of the consent agenda items. Mrs. Newcomb seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

B. Approval of Treasurer's Report for February

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

Motion: Mr. Garrett moved for the approval of the consent agenda items. Mr. Sullivan seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

III. CHAIR'S REPORT

Mr. Patton announced Mrs. Lesko was absent from the meeting due to other commitments and he would be conducting the meeting in her place. He introduced the newest Commission member; Ms. LaClair from Virginia Tech and welcomed her to the Commission. Mr. Patton also explained the reason Virginia Tech has two Commission members while Radford University has only one because of student population.

IV. PUBLIC ADDRESS

None

V. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Patton referenced an email sent by Mrs. Lesko regarding the agency assessment/strategic plan. He talked about the focus groups that will be conducted and asked for input on the best format to get input from our members. He also asked each Commission member to provide names of people to take the survey before the focus group conversations take place. Mr. Byrd will be collecting names.

VI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Byrd provided a report in the Commission agenda packet. He reported: The ARC Grant awards for 2012 have been announced, also a grant opportunity for Rural Jobs and Innovation Accelerator was released in March with a May due date. The Commission may consider submitting an application or partnering on an application. He also announced there will be a ribbon cutting ceremony April 25th for the New River Valley Broadband project and Competitiveness Center name change. All Commission members, local, state, federal elected officials will receive invitations. Livability Initiative updates can be found each month on the project website www.nrvlivability.org. Mr. Byrd plans to secure a speaker from DCR at the Commission meeting next month to discuss new stormwater regulations. Mr. Sheffey asked if local government staff could attend. Mr. Byrd indicated an invitation will go out to local government managers to the meeting for them to share with their staff involved with stormwater management.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

None.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Approval of Rural Transportation Work Program FY13

Mr. Sharp gave a presentation of the proposed program along with discussing the projects underway in the current fiscal year.

Mr. Patton called for a motion to adopt the proposed Work Program.

Motion: Mr. Sullivan moved for a motion to adopt. Dr. Harvey seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

B. Review of Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Goals, Objectives and Ranking Criteria

Mr. Mecham gave an overview of the FY 12 update and revised ranking criteria based on input from the CEDS committee. The full Goals, Objectives and Ranking Criteria materials are on the Commission website for review. A FY 12 CEDS project list will be reviewed at the Commission meeting in April.

C. NRVPDC Economic Development Program Overview

Mr. Mecham discussed the different Economic Development programs the PDC conducts. He overviewed the CEDS program, the NRV Revolving Loan Fund, marketing assistance to the newly renamed NRV

Business Center, and explained recent success of PDC staff providing technical assistance to localities thru grant writing assistance. He also overviewed other PDC staff member roles within the Economic Development Program.

- D. Memorial Resolution Honoring Malvin L. "Pug" Wells
Mr. Patton called for a motion to adopt.

Motion: Ms. Perkins moved for a motion to adopt. Mr. Bopp seconded the motion.
Action: Motion carried unanimously.

IX. OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Newcomb announced the Town of Blacksburg along with the Wounded Warriors Project will be hosting a welcome home parade for veterans on April 29th at 2 p.m. and encouraged everyone to come.

X. REVIEW OF MUTUAL CONCERNS AND COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Mr. Showalter talked about a new tourism brochure for the Town of Christiansburg. They are being distributed to hoteliers and have been successful in promoting area businesses and destinations. Mr. Sheffey reminded the Commissioners when Pulaski Co. hosted Bike VA last year it had an economic impact of \$2.8 - \$3 million for the region.

XI. COMMONWEALTH INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS

- A. Projects (Signed-off by the staff)
1. Hotel Feasibility Study - RBEG Application
 2. EDA of Floyd County RBEG Application to recapitalize local small business loan pool.

- B. Regular Project Review
None

- C. Environmental Project Review
1. Management of Vulture Damage in Virginia

Motion: Mr. Sullivan moved for a motion to approve.
Mrs. Perkins seconded the motion.
Action: Motion carried. One abstention, Mr. Via

2. [12-12] FY 2012 Sec 103 PM 2.5 Air Monitoring Program

Motion: Mr. Sheffey moved for a motion to approve.
Dr. Harvey seconded the motion.
Action: Motion carried. One abstention, Mr. Via

3. Falling Branch-Merrimac 138 kV Transmission Line Project, PUE 201-0007

Discussion: Mrs. Perkins moved for a motion to approve with all comments attached

Motion: Mrs. Newcomb seconded the motion.
Action: Motion carried. One abstention, Mr. Via

The meeting was then adjourned at 7:15pm.

Holly Larson Lesko, Chair
New River Valley Planning District Commission

NEW RIVER VALLEY PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION

Minutes of the Commission Meeting

held on

April 26, 2012

6:00 p.m. – New River Valley Competitiveness Center, Fairlawn

I. CALL TO ORDER

PRESENT: Mrs. H. Lesko, Chair, Town of Blacksburg; Mr. M. Patton, Vice-Chair, Town of Floyd; Mr. S. Weaver, Treasurer, Town of Christiansburg; Mr. C. Bopp, Pulaski County; Mr. L. Clevinger, Town of Pulaski; Mr. T. Cox, City of Radford; Mr. T. Garrett, Town of Narrows; Mr. F. Gerald, Floyd County; Dr. H. Harvey, City of Radford; Mr. H. Showalter, Town of Christiansburg; Dr. D. Warren, Pulaski County; Ms. L. LaClair, Virginia Tech; Mrs. C. Newcomb, Town of Blacksburg; Mrs. A. Perkins, Montgomery County; Mr. M. Welker, Town of Pulaski; Mr. G. Eaton, Town of Rich Creek; Ms. E. Janney, Floyd County.

ABSENT: Mr. R. Alvarez, Radford University; Mr. R. Chambers, Montgomery County; Mr. R. McCoy, Giles County; Mr. J. Sheffey, Pulaski County; Mr. C. Via, Town of Pearisburg; Mr. K. Sullivan, Virginia Tech; and Vacant, Giles County.

Staff Attendees: Kevin Byrd and Julie Phillips.

II. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of Minutes for March
- B. Approval of Treasurer's Report for March

Mrs. Lesko called for approval of the consent agenda items if there were no questions or changes.

Motion: Ms. Perkins moved for the approval of the consent agenda items. Mr. Eaton seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried. Two abstentions, Mrs. Janney and Mr. Cox.

III. CHAIR'S REPORT

Mrs. Lesko apologized for missing the March meeting.

IV. PUBLIC ADDRESS

None

V. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

Mrs. Lesko talked about the agency assessment/strategic plan. She thanked the Commissioners for providing names to take surveys and announced there will be six focus groups that will be based geographically. She also

noted there is a work session planned for the August 30th commission meeting; there are three time slots available, 4:00 – 7:30, 5:00 – 8:30, or 5:30 – 9:00. Please let Mr. Byrd know which time slot works best as soon as possible so the schedule can be finalized. Mr. Patton also mentioned possibly having a potluck dinner along with the work session.

VI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Byrd provided a report in the Commission agenda packet. He reported: The ARC Grant for Rural Jobs and Innovation Accelerator application is due in May. He spoke about the possibility of a network of downtown theaters to entice musicians to book all venues in our area. The PDC would provide staff assistance only; there will be no PDC cash match. He also discussed attending an ARC conference on Local Food Economy in Appalachia and mentioned the need to keep agriculture thriving in the NRV. There was a ribbon cutting for Broadband project and recognition of the name change from the NRV Competitiveness Center to the NRV Business Center, with approximately 50 people in attendance. The broadband is currently being installed and will be ready to use in the fall. Mr. Byrd also mentioned the Hazard Mitigation Mapping Project Proposal and gave an update on the Livability Initiative. The Livability Initiative is currently working on a Lower-Literacy Survey, which has never been done, to date there are over 200 surveys completed. The staff is also working with a contractor to design a planning game called BUILT intended to engage the public in planning with a launch in late May or Early June. A Digital Story Telling Training session was held in March, this tool will assist in providing information to a wider audience. It was also noted the PDC will be hosting a Training Session on downtown revitalization on May 23rd, which is open to interested parties within our community.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

A. Regional Transit Organization Analysis – Resolution of Endorsement

It was noted that all involved parties have met and are in agreement.

Mrs. Lesko called for a motion to endorse the resolution.

Motion: Mr. Eaton moved for a motion to endorse. Ms. LaClair seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Stormwater Regulation Overview – Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation

Mr. Dietz gave an overview of the Integration Bill that will become effective July 1st; it will bring together the three components of law that cover Stormwater Management. The three components are the Erosion and Sediment Control Law, the Stormwater Management Act, and the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act. There will be assigned fees for permits, 70% of which will stay in the locality, the remaining 30% will go to the state. These fees are to be used to cover the cost of implementation and cannot be used for any other purpose; the localities will have the option to increase fees if the funds are not adequate. Mr. Dietz also identified the benefits of this bill to be, “one-stop-shopping” which will help keep costs down, the bill will help reduce program confusion and friction, it will also facilitate uniform program oversight and enforcement, and lastly it will give localities more control. All counties and cities must adopt a program, however towns (that are not classified as an MS4) will have an option. If a town chooses not to adopt a program the town will fall under the county program.

B. Review of Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Projects

Mr. Byrd stated the projects are ranked with a point system with 44 points being the highest. He also noted how impressive it is to see Career Pathways and Small Business Development ranked so high this year. Mrs. Lesko pointed out the overall number of projects was also impressive. Mrs. Perkins asked if this list went out to all localities for discussion. Mr. Byrd replied that all local government staff received a memo requesting projects be identified; further, the CEDS committee has representation from each locality and they had input on the list.

- C. Memorial Resolution Honoring David W. Ratcliff, Jr.
Mrs. Lesko read the resolution aloud and called for a motion to adopt.

Motion: Dr. Harvey moved for a motion to adopt. Dr. Warren seconded the motion.
Action: Motion carried unanimously.

IX. OTHER BUSINESS

None

X. REVIEW OF MUTUAL CONCERNS AND COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Mr. Bopp brought a copy of the South West Times to share with the Commission showing Pulaski Counties Board of Supervisors support for Pulaski County Administrator, Pete Huber.

Mrs. Newcomb reminded the commission the Town of Blacksburg along with the VA Wounded Warriors Program will be hosting a welcome home parade for veterans on April 29th at 2 p.m. and encouraged everyone to come.

Mrs. Lesko share information about a fashion show and skit put on by Narrows High School students, they modeled prom attire and then did a short skit on the impacts of drinking and driving. She described the program had an impact on the student body and the student event coordinators really enjoyed the opportunity. This was a part of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation grant on Community Health the PDC is partnering with Virginia Tech-Institute for Policy and Governance.

Mr. Patton stated the construction of an addition to Hotel Floyd is approved and on the way.

Mr. Cox explained Radford High School students made a pact this year called "No Bobcat Left Behind". It is a pact that every senior at Radford High School will graduate this year. Mr. Cox also mentioned that this is organized solely by the students.

XI. COMMONWEALTH INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS

- A. Projects (Signed-off by the staff)
 1. DHCD CDBG Application for Skyview Subdivision Sewer - Phase II
 2. Application to EDA - Economic Development Planning Assistance
- B. Regular Project Review
None

C. Environmental Project Review

1. Reissuance of VPA Permit No. VPA02058 Mountain Lake Hotel

Motion: Mr. Patton moved for a motion to approve.

Mr. Garrett seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

2. DEQ Grant Application for Federal funding assistance for FY 2013 Chesapeake Bay Monitoring Program (CWA 117 (e)(1)(B))

Motion: Mr. Cox moved for a motion to approve.

Mr. Welker seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

3. DEQ Grant Application for Federal funding assistance for FY 2013 Chesapeake Bay Monitoring Program (CWA 117 d)

Motion: Mrs. Perkins moved for a motion to approve.

Mr. Cox seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was then adjourned at 7:20 pm.

Holly Larson Lesko, Chair
New River Valley Planning District Commission

NEW RIVER VALLEY PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION

Minutes of the Commission Meeting

held on

May 24, 2012

6:00 p.m. – New River Valley Business Center, Fairlawn

I. CALL TO ORDER

PRESENT: Mrs. H. Lesko, Chair, Town of Blacksburg; Mr. M. Patton, Vice-Chair, Town of Floyd; Mr. S. Weaver, Treasurer, Town of Christiansburg; Mr. C. Bopp, Pulaski County; Mr. L. Clevinger, Town of Pulaski; Mr. T. Cox, City of Radford; Mr. T. Garrett, Town of Narrows; Mr. F. Gerald, Floyd County; Dr. H. Harvey, City of Radford; Mr. R. Alvarez, Radford University; Mr. K. Sullivan, Virginia Tech; Dr. D. Warren, Pulaski County; Mrs. C. Newcomb, Town of Blacksburg; Mrs. A. Perkins, Montgomery County; Mr. R. Chambers, Montgomery County; Mr. J. Sheffey, Pulaski County; Mr. M. Welker, Town of Pulaski; and Mr. L Law, Giles County .

ABSENT: Ms. L. LaClair, Virginia Tech; Mr. G. Eaton, Town of Rich Creek; Mr. R. McCoy, Giles County;; Mr. C. Via, Town of Pearisburg; Ms. E. Janney, Floyd County and Mr. H. Showalter, Town of Christiansburg.

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

II. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes for April

Mrs. Lesko called for approval of the consent agenda item if there were no questions or changes. Mr. Garret noted Giles County High School should be changed to Narrows High School.

Motion: Mr. Cox moved for the approval of the consent agenda items with noted changes. Mr. Weaver seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried. One abstention, Mr. Sheffey.

B. Approval of Treasurer's Report for March

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

Motion: Mr. Sheffey moved for the approval of the consent agenda item. Mr. Welker seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

III. CHAIR'S REPORT

Mrs. Lesko introduced a new Commissioner from Giles County, Mr. Leon Law, a citizen appointee.

IV. PUBLIC ADDRESS

None

V. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

Mrs. Lesko noted an example of a performance evaluation was distributed to all the Commissioners regarding Mr. Byrd's position as executive director. The executive committee used this tool to evaluate Mr. Byrd and the committee wanted the full Commission to be aware of their approach. She also mentioned the need to increase his salary based on both a cost of living increase and a merit increase; she noted the Commission wants to show their appreciation of his hard work. Mrs. Lesko also talked about the need to articulate Mr. Byrd's job description as it is not defined currently.

VI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Byrd provided a report in the Commission agenda packet. He reported: The NRVPCD is an Economic Development District with the EDA and our 3 year review is underway; the NRVPCD will receive both a peer review as well as a review from a U.S. Department of Commerce-Economic Development Administration representative. He also noted the NRV Bikeway, Walkway, Blueway Plan won an excellence in Regional Transportation Award. There will be a regional learning experience June 22 from 1:30 until 3:30 at New River Community College; this training will focus on solar and wind energy. Mr. Byrd spoke about the Planning Commissioner/Local Government Training on Historic Structure/District Revitalization which was held May 24, 2012; there were approximately 55 people in attendance. Dr. Warren mentioned the possibility of using this information to help designate structures as historical and the tax credits that are associated with this being a useful tool in marketing. The Livability Initiative is looking for groups of 12 to 24 to participate in the BUILT game; to date there is one group in Blacksburg, one group in Shawsville, and two groups in Giles County. Please let the PDC know if you have any suggestions for new groups or know of someone who would like to join an existing group. The PDC will be launching our new website in the near future; a brief overview was shown and discussed. Lastly Mr. Byrd explained JLARC is currently conducting a study on regional incentives and cooperation; the results should be complete this fall, and the VAPDC summer conference is scheduled for July 26-28. One executive committee member generally attends this conference.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

None

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Review of the revised FY12 Budget

Mr. Alvarez noted the report does not show revenue, and asked if it is a balanced budget. Mr. Byrd responded, yes it is a balanced budget and he noted FY13 Budget will be complete for next month's meeting.

Mrs. Lesko called for approval of the revised FY12 Budget.

Motion: Mrs. Newcomb moved for the approval. Mr. Cox seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

B. VRS Employer Contribution Rate Resolution.

Mr. Byrd suggested the 6.94% rate and stated that most local governments are going with this option. Mr. Alvarez asked if the PDC is adequately funded to cover this option; Mr. Byrd replied, yes.

Mrs. Lesko called for approval of the 6.94% rate option.

Motion: Mr. Garrett moved for the approval. Mr. Sheffey seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Lesko called for approval of the 5% rate of employee contribution.

Motion: Mr. Sheffey moved for the approval. Mr. Welker seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

C. CEDS 2013 Project Package and Report

Mr. Mecham explained the CEDS committee partnered with the Economic Development Working Group from the Livability Initiative to identify the following changes, goals and objectives/priority levels and ranking criteria/updated statistics. He also identified the top ten overall projects and the top five new projects. The CEDS goes through a five year update. He also mentioned there may be a need for additional CEDS committee members.

Mrs. Lesko called for approval of the 2013 CEDS if there were no questions or changes.

Motion: Mr. Patton moved for the approval. Mr. Gerald seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

D. New River Valley Bikeway, Walkway, Blueway Plan

Mr. Sharp gave an overview of the plan; he explained the plan is an update. The original plan was created in 1975. The original plan started as a tool for recreational planning and has moved into an alternative transportation planning tool. The PDC met with each locality to learn of their specific needs. This plan contains an executive summary, objectives, and maps. The past plans have used AutoCAD files which have been updated to GIS files to improve the access to the information. Mr. Sharp noted the plan is revised every five years. A resolution of endorsement will be considered at the June Meeting.

E. New River Valley Rural Long Range Transportation Plan

Mr. Sharp explained the plan is a partnership between the PDC and VDOT. The plan has been a five year initiative and has five main elements: goals and objectives, demographics, regional transportation system, performance and recommendations, and plan adoption.

F. MPO Boundary Adjustment

Mr. Sharp stated the change in the MPO boundary is a result of the 2010 census. The area will now include the Town of Blacksburg, the Town of Christiansburg, the City of Radford, and the Fairlawn area of Pulaski County. The population grew from 57,236 in 2000 to 88,542 in 2010. There was some discussion as to the relationship of the PDC with the MPO; Dr. Harvey asked if it would be advantageous of the PDC to be partnered with the MPO. It was explained that in our area the MPO primarily does planning in the urban areas while the PDC does planning in rural areas. Mr. Sheffey asked if it will be mandatory for Pulaski County to join the MPO now that the Fairlawn area is included in the boundary. It was decided that a training session needs to be done to explain what the MPO is and what roles it plays in our community.

IX. OTHER BUSINESS

None

X. REVIEW OF MUTUAL CONCERNS AND COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Mrs. Lesko announced that several United States post office locations in our area will be operating at reduced hours and passed around a list of the changes.

Mr. Sheffey shared at the graduation ceremony for Pulaski County High School it was announced that over \$2.4 million in scholarships were awarded to the graduating class of 2012.

Dr. Harvey stated the City of Radford pledged \$7,500.00 to the New River Valley Development Corporation for assistance with operating costs.

Dr. Warren explained he and Mr. Sheffey both attended a Pulaski Encouraging Progress Meeting where it was noted over 1,100 jobs were posted with the VEC. Dr. Warren also mentioned not all jobs are posted with the VEC and that our area is doing relatively well with available jobs.

Mr. Patton showed a final rendering of Hotel Floyd. He stated the hotel addition will have approximately 50 rooms.

XI. COMMONWEALTH INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS

A. Projects (Signed-off by the staff)

- 1. VHD Safe Drinking Water Act - FY2013 Public Water System Supervision Grant.

B. Regular Project Review

None

C. Environmental Project Review

- 1. DEQ Technical Review and Services for DERP Activities at Active DoD Facilities and Environmental Restoration at Base Closure Sites

Motion: Mr. Cox moved to approve.
 Mr. Patton seconded the motion.
 Action: Motion carried unanimously.

- 2. DEQ FY2012 State Revolving Loan Funds Capitalization Application

Motion: Mr. Sheffey moved to approve.
 Mr. Cox seconded the motion.
 Action: Motion carried unanimously.

- 3. RfAAP Nitrocellulose Plant

Discussion: Approve with Montgomery County's comments when the comments are received.
Motion: Mr. Cox moved for to approve.
Mr. Sullivan seconded the motion.
Action: Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was then adjourned at 7:40 pm.

Holly Larson Lesko, Chair
New River Valley Planning District Commission

NEW RIVER VALLEY PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION

Minutes of the Commission Meeting

held on

June 28, 2012

6:00 p.m. – New River Valley Business Center, Fairlawn

I. CALL TO ORDER

PRESENT: Mr. M. **Patton**, Vice-Chair, Town of Floyd; Mr. S. **Weaver**, Treasurer, Town of Christiansburg; Mr. L. **Clevinger**, Town of Pulaski; Mr. F. **Gerald**, Floyd County; Dr. H. **Harvey**, City of Radford; Mr. K. **Sullivan**, Virginia Tech; Dr. D. **Warren**, Pulaski County; Mrs. E. **Janney**, Floyd County; Mrs. C. **Newcomb**, Town of Blacksburg; Mrs. A. **Perkins**, Montgomery County; Mr. R. **Chambers**, Montgomery County; Mr. H. **Showalter**, Town of Christiansburg; Mr. J. **Sheffey**, Pulaski County; Mr. M. **Welker**, Town of Pulaski; Mr. C. **Via**, Town of Pearisburg and Mr. L **Law**, Giles County .

ABSENT: Mrs. H. **Lesko**, Chair, Town of Blacksburg; Mr. C. **Bopp**, Pulaski County; Ms. L. **LaClair**, Virginia Tech; Mr. G. **Eaton**, Town of Rich Creek; Mr. T. **Garrett**, Town of Narrows; Mr. R. **McCoy**, Giles County; Mr. R. **Alvarez**, Radford University and Mr. T. **Cox**, City of Radford.

Staff Attendees: Kevin Byrd, Jennifer Wilsie, and Julie Phillips.

II. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes for May

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

Motion: Mrs. Perkins moved for the approval of the consent agenda items. Mr. Gerald seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried. One abstention, Mrs. Janney.

B. Approval of Treasurer's Report for May

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

Motion: Mr. Sheffey moved for the approval of the consent agenda item. Mrs. Perkins seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

III. CHAIR'S REPORT

Mr. Patton announced Mrs. Lesko was out of town and noted he would be conducting the meeting in her place. He took a moment to express his appreciation to be able to serve on the board. In addition, Mr. Patton reminded the Commission that Jim Yougquist will be conducting an assessment August 21st -23rd and mentioned how

important it will be to be at the August 23rd meeting. Lastly, Mr. Patton took a moment to recognize Jennifer Wilsie for five years of service to the PDC.

IV. PUBLIC ADDRESS

None

V. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Patton explained the committee had proposed a slate of officers for next year's executive committee members. He also noted the executive committee will wait to nominate an at large member after next year's commissioners are all appointed.

VI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Byrd provided a report in the Commission agenda packet. He reported: The Commission packet contained a copy of the "consumer version" of the CEDS report. The Regional Transit Coordinating Council will hold their first meeting July 17, 2012. WDBJ 7 featured a story on the New River Valley Broadband project on June 11, 2012, and Mr. Byrd also pointed out the New River Valley Network Wireless Authority will be having a meeting July 24, 2012 to discuss the future needs of broadband and internet in the region. The PDC is continuing to work with local Farm Bureaus to potentially partner on an agricultural survey. Mr. Byrd attended a Rural Council meeting June 13, 2012 at the White House and gave a presentation on public engagement strategies and use of social media. Lastly, he noted the VAPDC Summer Conference is July 26-28 in Virginia Beach and he would like a board member to attend. Mr. Sheffey pointed out how worthwhile it is to attend this conference and Mr. Patton explained he wants at least one board member to attend.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

A. New River Valley Bikeway, Walkway, Blueway Plan – Resolution for Consideration

Motion: Ms. Newcomb moved for the approval. Mr. Via seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Industrial Hemp Presentation – Mr. Jim Politis gave a presentation describing the Industrial Hemp farming business. He began by giving an overview of some of the products that can be made from industrial hemp; such as plastics, textiles, rope, cellulose, paper products, shampoo, and many more. After World War II regulation of industrial hemp was transferred to the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and a permit became required to grow industrial hemp. Although it is legal to grow industrial hemp with the proper permit, the DEA does not allow permits to be given. Industrial Hemp absorbs carbon dioxide five times quicker than an equal size forest and one acre of industrial hemp can create four times more paper annually than a 20 acre forest.

Motion: Mr. Welker moved for the approval of a resolution to support Industrial Hemp Farming. Dr. Harvey seconded the motion.

Dr. Harvey asked Mr. Politis the number one objection to industrial hemp in the US; he replied, law enforcement. Mrs. Janney questioned the danger in allowing industrial hemp to be grown. Mr. Sheffey asked if Mr. Politis has received any feedback from senators; Mr. Politis replied, he has not received comments. Dr. Warren pointed out that the resolution did not pass the Pulaski County Board of Supervisors and was being considered by the Pulaski County Planning Commission; he stated that he needed to know more about industrial hemp before he could vote on it. Mr. Garrett stated industrial hemp could be a good farming product for Giles, while Mr. Weaver said the Commission needed input from their localities. Both Mr. Sheffey and Dr. Warren stated they want to be consistent with the position of their locality and a decision has not been reached in Pulaski County.

Action: Motion carried; 9 to 5 vote, one abstention Mr. Sheffey.

B. Commission Officers for FY13

Mrs. Newcomb made a motion to nominate Mr. Patton as Chair. Mr. Sheffey seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Patton stated the executive committee proposed Mr. Sullivan as Vice-Chair.

Mr. Sheffey made a motion to nominate Mr. Sullivan as Vice-Chair. Mr. Showalter seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried. One abstention; Mr. Sullivan

Mr. Patton stated the executive committee proposed Mr. Weaver continues to serve as Treasurer.

Mrs. Perkins made a motion to nominate Mr. Weaver as Treasurer. Mr. Sheffey seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

C. Proposed Budget for FY13

Discussion: Mr. Sheffey mentioned some New River Valley localities participate in a NRV consortium health care program rather than use a state program. Mr. Patton asked why a state program is used rather than a local NRV program, and asked that the rates be compared next year. Mr. Sheffey noted that the NRV consortium may change to self insured, but more research is needed before a decision is reached.

Mr. Patton called for approval of the Budget for FY13.

Motion: Mr. Sheffey moved for the approval. Mrs. Perkins seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

D. Amendment to Personnel Policy 14.02, Individual Position Classification Description

Mr. Byrd gave an overview of the need to change the Information System Manager position to Communications Manager.

Mr. Patton called for approval of the amendment.

Motion: Mrs. Perkins moved for the approval. Mrs. Newcomb seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

E. Blacksburg, Christiansburg, Montgomery County Area MPO Overview

Mr. Byrd gave a presentation on the MPO; stating the MPO is a transportation policy organization in areas with a population of 50,000 or more. The Blacksburg, Christiansburg, Montgomery County Area MPO was established as a result of the 2000 census information, with the 2010 census information changing the MPO to include the City of Radford, and areas of Pulaski County. Any changes to the MPO boundaries must be approved by the Governor. The Blacksburg, Christiansburg, Montgomery County Area MPO has a small staff with Montgomery County acting as the fiscal agent and providing

the office space. The MPO has a policy board which is made up of one elected official and one appointed member from each locality. Mr. Sheffey asked if there are monthly meetings, Mr. Byrd replied yes the meetings are scheduled to occur monthly, however usually there are only four or five meetings a year. With the expansion there should be more meetings because there will be more on the agenda.

IX. OTHER BUSINESS

One of the PDC fleet vehicles, a 1994 Dodge Caravan, was sold to the NRV Airport. Mr. Patton expressed his appreciation that the van was sold to an agency in the region which helps keep costs low for local government members of the airport.

X. REVIEW OF MUTUAL CONCERNS AND COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Dr. Harvey stated the NRV Business Center had one tenant graduate from the Business Center, Brian Bishop will be moving his agency to 2401 South Main Street in Blacksburg. She also mentioned one of the loan recipients; Bootleg BBQ is doing very well and announced that Barrel Cave Wines moved into the Business Center and will be an internet wine company.

Mr. Sheffey invited everyone to attend the remembrance of veterans on July 4th at 12:30pm at the Pulaski County old Courthouse.

Mr. Welker announced the Pulaski Mariners would be having a game at 4 pm on July 4th and admission would be free.

Mr. Patton reported that the Crooked Road is pursuing a designation as a national historical designation; he also noted they will be soliciting a resolution of support to be ratified at the August Commission meeting.

Dr. Harvey made a motion to approve a resolution of support. Mrs. Janney seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

XI. COMMONWEALTH INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS

- A. Projects (Signed-off by the staff)
 - 1. NRV Development Corporation Rural Business Enterprise Grant Application.

- B. Regular Project Review
 - None

- C. Environmental Project Review
 - None

The meeting was then adjourned at 8:05 pm.

Mike Patton, Vice - Chair
New River Valley Planning District Commission

NEW RIVER VALLEY PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION

Minutes of the Commission Meeting

held on

August 23, 2012

6:00 p.m. – New River Valley Business Center, Fairlawn

I. CALL TO ORDER

PRESENT: Mr. M. Patton, Chair, Town of Floyd; Mr. K. Sullivan, Vice-Chair, Virginia Tech; Mr. S. Weaver, Treasurer, Town of Christiansburg; Mrs. H. Lesko, Town of Blacksburg; Mr. L. Clevinger, Town of Pulaski; Mr. F. Gerald, Floyd County; Dr. H. Harvey, City of Radford; Mrs. A. Perkins, Montgomery County; Mr. J. Sheffey, Pulaski County; Mr. T. Cox, City of Radford; Mr. C. Bopp, Pulaski County; Mr. J. Soileau, Virginia Tech; Mr. G. Eaton, Town of Rich Creek; Mr. T. Garrett, Town of Narrows; Mr. B. Nicholson, City of Radford; and Mr. L. Law, Giles County.

ABSENT: Dr. D. Warren, Pulaski County; Mrs. E. Janney, Floyd County; Mrs. C. Newcomb, Town of Blacksburg; Mr. G. East, Town of Pulaski; Mr. C. Via, Town of Pearisburg; Mr. R. McCoy, Giles County; Mr. R. Alvarez, Radford University; Mr. R. Chambers, Montgomery County; and Mr. H. Showalter, Town of Christiansburg.

Staff Attendees: Kevin Byrd, Brad Mecham, Elijah Sharp, Christy Straight, Phil Gilbertson, Tommi Godwin, and Julie Phillips.

II. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes for June and approval of the Treasurer's Report for June and July

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

Mr. Garrett noted a comment on page 2 of the minutes was reported to have been said by him although he was not present at the meeting. He stated the name will need to be corrected.

Motion: Mr. Cox moved for the approval of the consent agenda items with changes. Mrs. Lesko seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried. Two abstentions, Mr. Nicholson and Mr. Bopp.

III. CHAIR'S REPORT

Mr. Patton reported that Mr. Clevinger attended the VAPDC conference in July with Mr. Byrd. He then nominated Mr. Clevinger for the position of Member at Large to the Executive Committee.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

IV. PUBLIC ADDRESS

None

V. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

Due to the work session with Mr. Youngquist, Mr. Patton noted that this portion of the meeting will be discussed at a later point in the night.

VI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Byrd provided a report in the Commission agenda packet. He reported: 'Round the Mountain won an \$815,000 grant for Rural Jobs Accelerator. He also noted the broadband visioning meeting was held on July 24th with the main topics being utility easements and a "dig-once" policy. The Commonwealth is requiring all localities to implement a stormwater program, the towns and counties will have to finalize who will run these programs by April 2013. Mr. Byrd conducted orientation with new Commissioners, Mr. Law and Mr. Nicholson. It was also reported Radford University Small Business Development Center has appointed Anthony Byrd as a business analyst and counselor.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

A. Ratification of Resolution of Support for National Heritage Area for the Crooked Road

Motion: Ms. Perkins moved for the approval. Mr. Garrett seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Annual Report for FY12

Mr. Gerald made a motion to approve. Mr. Cox seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

B. Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development Annual Report.

Mrs. Lesko made a motion to approve. Mr. Garrett seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

C. Agency Assessment Work Session with Jim Youngquist (SERDI)

Mr. Youngquist explained the agency assessment done for the New River Valley Planning District Commission was the 47th assessment he has done, he noted he had received comments provided by the online survey and also had conducted seven focus group meetings. He then gave an overview of

the feedback that was given in response to the online survey. There were several themes that reoccurred during both the online survey and the focus groups, such as the NRVPC being seen as a valuable resource and providing services to the communities. It was also noted the local governments would like both the board and staff to be more engaged within their communities. A suggestion was made that a working committee structure be formed within the board. Several opportunities as well as challenges were brought to the attention of the NRVPC, such as regional tourism, community or region wide economic development, and possibly a name change to better reflect the services and resources provided by the NRVPC.

Mr. Sheffey asked how the NRVPC compares to other PDC's, Mr. Youngquist replied he was pleasantly surprised and that the communities here saw the "bigger picture." Mr. Weaver stated he is proud of the NRVPC and thinks we have always done and continue to do a great job. It was noted by Mr. Sheffey that if the localities and other agencies contributed more funding, that local funding money can help get more grant resources directed to the region. Mr. Patton asked if there will be more recommendations in the full written report. He also asked if Mr. Youngquist had any insights into how to accomplish some of the suggested changes. Mr. Youngquist responded that he felt one important change would be to have the board in more of a committee structure and then those committees would serve as advisory boards to both staff and the localities. Mrs. Lesko pointed out that the working groups within the Livability Initiative currently work in a committee structure and that we may not want to over utilize the same people repeatedly. She added that local youth be engaged in some of the committees. Mr. Sullivan asked in what time frame other PDC's accomplish these proposed changes or actions. Mr. Youngquist replied that most changes are ongoing. Mr. Sheffey pointed out that the NRVPC is different from most PDC's in that we have two major universities, which is important for future visioning. Mr. Patton pointed out that it is the NRVPC's opportunity to decide what we want to do, and he challenged all the Commissioners to really think about it. The Board will take up the assessment results and set priorities for implementation at a meeting in the near future.

IX. OTHER BUSINESS

None

X. REVIEW OF MUTUAL CONCERNS AND COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Mr. Patton announced that in the future we will be having 30 minute information blocks. He wants the Commissioners to ask questions, and really understand what the NRVPC is all about and what projects are happening. Dr. Harvey welcomed Mr. Nicholson to the Commission. Mr. Sheffey took a moment to express how thankful he is for his time on the Commission; in return Mr. Patton thanked Mr. Sheffey for his years of service. Mr. Garrett expressed his concern over doing too much, he wants to make sure the things that are done are needs, and not just wants. Mr. Patton replied we also need to contemplate the wants because they can become needs in the future.

XI. COMMONWEALTH INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS

A. Projects (Signed-off by the staff)

1. VPDES Permit Reissuance VA0021119 Town of Narrows Treatment Plant

B. Regular Project Review

None

C. Environmental Project Review

1. [13-01] - VADEQ Pollution Prevention Enhancements
2. VPDES permit reissuance - Radford WTP VA0054780

Motion: Ms. Perkins moved for the approval. Dr. Harvey seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Patton asked if there was a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion: Ms. Perkins moved for the approval. Mr. Garrett seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was then adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Mike Patton, Chair
New River Valley Planning District Commission

NEW RIVER VALLEY PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION

Minutes of the Commission Meeting

held on

September 23, 2012

6:00 p.m. – New River Valley Business Center, Fairlawn

I. CALL TO ORDER

PRESENT: Mr. M. Patton, Chair, Town of Floyd; Mr. K. Sullivan, Vice-Chair, Virginia Tech; Mr. S. Weaver, Treasurer, Town of Christiansburg; Mrs. H. Lesko, Town of Blacksburg; Mr. L. Clevinger, Town of Pulaski; Mr. F. Gerald, Floyd County; Dr. H. Harvey, City of Radford; Mr. T. Cox, City of Radford; Mr. C. Bopp, Pulaski County; Mr. J. Soileau, Virginia Tech; Mr. R. Alvarez, Radford University; Dr. D. Warren, Pulaski County; Mr. G. Eaton, Town of Rich Creek; Mrs. C. Newcomb, Town of Blacksburg; Mr. G. East, Town of Pulaski; Mr. T. Garrett, Town of Narrows; Mr. H. Showalter, Town of Christiansburg; Mr. B. Nicholson, City of Radford; and Mr. L. Law, Giles County.

ABSENT: Mrs. E. Janney, Floyd County; Mrs. A. Perkins, Montgomery County; Mr. C. Via, Town of Pearisburg; Mr. R. McCoy, Giles County and Mr. R. Chambers, Montgomery County.

Staff Attendees: Kevin Byrd, Brad Mecham, Elijah Sharp, Janet McNew, Jennifer Wilsie, Carol Davis, Kim Thurlow, and Julie Phillips.

II. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes for August

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

Motion: Mrs. Newcomb moved for the approval of the minutes. Mr. Bopp seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

B. Approval of Treasurer's Report for August

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

Motion: Mrs. Lesko moved for the approval of the treasurer's report. Mrs. Newcomb seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

III. REVIEW OF MUTUAL CONCERNS AND COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Mr. Clevinger gave an overview of his experiences while attending the VAPDC conference. He recommended attending this conference to all commissioners. He mentioned how he watched Norfolk Southern transport coal mined from Southwest Virginia while at the dinner event. Mr. Law announced Pemtel installed a new SAN switch which will benefit Giles County and serve up to 300 thousand customers. Referring to Mr. Clevinger's earlier

comments Mr. Garrett mentioned how England no longer mines coal and wondered what the outcomes of supplying it to them may be.

IV. CHAIR’S REPORT

Mr. Patton noted he was asked by Mr. Eaton to be the keynote speaker at Rich Creek’s fall festival. He also talked about the need for New River Community College to be represented on the Commission and noted that they will explore this in the near future.

V. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Sullivan made note of the schedule changes for the October, November, and December meetings. The following changes will be made to these three meetings; the October meeting will be cancelled as the annual commissioner’s dinner will be held on the fourth Thursday, October 25th and the November and December meetings will be combined into one meeting on November 29th. He also reported the November 29th meeting will be when the complete assessment done by Mr. Youngquist will be reviewed. The agenda packets will be mailed out two weeks in advance of this meeting to allow all Commissioners’ time to read the assessment and be prepared to talk about the findings. He also noted that there will be an implementation committee and asked anyone interested to contact a member of the executive committee.

Motion: Ms. Sullivan moved to cancel the October meeting. Mr. Patton seconded the motion.
Action: Motion carried unanimously.

Motion: Ms. Sullivan moved to combine the November and December meetings. Mr. Patton seconded the motion.
Discussion: Mr. Garrett asked if the charter calls for a specific number of meetings. Mr. Byrd replied, there is flexibility with the meeting schedule.
Action: Motion carried unanimously.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

VII. COMMONWEALTH INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS

- A. Projects (Signed-off by the staff)
 - 1. Proposal for completion funds required with the Sheadawn Industrial Park Road.

- B. Regular Project Review
None

- C. Environmental Project Review
None

VIII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Byrd provided a report in the Commission agenda packet. He reported: The MPO officially expanded to include the City of Radford and the eastern portion of Pulaski County. He also reported VDOT will hold a public hearing Thursday, October 11, 2012 from 5 - 7 p.m. at the Virginia Tech Corporate Research Center 1715 Pratt Drive, Building Number 12, Suite 1500 Blacksburg, VA 24060 on the improvements at Research Center Drive Intersection. It was also mentioned an editorial in the Roanoke Times Wednesday September 26, 2012 discussed a proposed change in the state funding formula for transit agencies. The Annual Planning Commissioner Dinner will be held on October 25th, the host locality, Pulaski County sent out invitations this week. The PDC has submitted a local stormwater program development grant on behalf of Montgomery, Floyd, and Pulaski Counties, a decision on the grant should be made by mid-October. Mr. Byrd noted that he attended the Rural Summit of Virginia and the dedication of the Rocky Knob property in Floyd County. He also reported the Department of Housing and Community Development will be contacting the Commissioners regarding PDC boundary study. Mr. Cox asked, how often does this happen? Mr. Byrd replied every ten years.

IX. OLD BUSINESS

None

X. NEW BUSINESS

A. New River Valley Livability Project Update, presentation by staff

Ms. Thurlow began by overviewing the process of the Livability project to date. The Livability Initiative is a three year regional planning process with nine topic areas, fifteen consortium partners and seven working groups. The working group process is to identify issues, identify baseline conditions, identify common trends and projections, prioritize goals and indicators, and finally to create strategies. To date there have been 160 participants in the monthly working groups.

Ms. Davis presented on the outreach done by the Livability Initiative. The different types of outreach have been a kick-off summit, on-line and paper surveys, a Spanish language survey, a lower literacy paper survey, small focus group and community meetings, an interactive performance, digital storytelling, and the BUILT planning game. Ms. Davis also touched on some of the reoccurring comments from all outreach methods being community values, innovation, self-sufficiency, preservation, independence, self-reliance, and sustainability.

Next, several staff members presented on the individual working groups. Ms. Thurlow talked about how our population is aging and what this means for our region. She noted several concerns are a declining tax base, an increased need for supportive services, different housing and transportation needs, concerns with existing housing, and the need for new construction. She then discussed agriculture shifts within our region. She noted that all localities with the exception of Floyd County increases have had a slight decline or held steady in the average market value of agricultural products. Mr. Sharp talked about findings

within the transportation working group. He reported the priorities identified to date are, to create choices for commuters, create solutions for those who don't have a vehicle or driver's license, improve accessibility to local businesses and enhance abilities to move freight, create safe and attractive places for walking and biking, and to improve access to important regional corridors. Ms. Wilsie talked about the findings within the housing working group. She explained the housing demand our region faces and noted that there will be a demand for 10,000 new homes in the next twenty years while 14,000 homes will need rehab or replacement. Mr. Mecham overviewed findings from the economic development working group; he explained connections between jobs and education levels and discussed the job losses and creation in our region for the last five years. Lastly, Ms. Davis talked about some of the health challenges our region faces and the impacts it has on the entire community.

Ms. Thurlow then explained the intersections within the working groups and talked about the value of the Livability Initiative. She explained how the data collected will help to prioritize citizen needs and preferences, how understanding trends will help recognize challenges that will be easier and cheaper to address now rather than down the road and she talked about some of the partnerships that are forming.

Discussion: Mr. Patton thanked the staff and noted they gave a great presentation. Mr. Law asked about health issues, diabetes was mentioned but what about cancer numbers for our region? Ms. Davis noted that cancer and heart disease are the leading causes of death in the NRV. Mr. Patton also noted cancer and heart disease need to be main concerns. Ms. Thurlow explained the numbers of cancer and heart disease cases in the NRV are higher than the state average. Mr. Law mentioned that he was told Giles County has a higher cancer rate than anywhere in the state. Mr. Cox noted that drug abuse and other drug related problems are also an immediate concern for our region and they need to be a priority. Mrs. Lesko noted the drug problem is multi-generational. At this point the discussion was tabled and it was decided to discuss it further at a later meeting.

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

None

The meeting was then adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Mike Patton, Chair
New River Valley Planning District Commission

NEW RIVER VALLEY PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION

Minutes of the Commission Meeting

held on

November 29, 2012

6:00 p.m. – New River Valley Business Center, Fairlawn

I. CALL TO ORDER

PRESENT: Mr. M. Patton, Chair, Town of Floyd; Mr. K. Sullivan, Vice-Chair, Virginia Tech; Mrs. H. Lesko, Town of Blacksburg; Mr. L. Clevinger, Town of Pulaski; Mr. F. Gerald, Floyd County; Dr. H. Harvey, City of Radford; Mr. T. Cox, City of Radford; Mr. C. Bopp, Pulaski County; Mr. J. Soileau, Virginia Tech; Dr. D. Warren, Pulaski County; Mrs. C. Newcomb, Town of Blacksburg; Mr. G. East, Town of Pulaski; Mr. T. Garrett, Town of Narrows; Mr. H. Showalter, Town of Christiansburg; Mr. R. Chambers, Montgomery County; Mr. B. Nicholson, City of Radford; Mr. C. Via, Town of Pearisburg; and Mr. L. Law, Giles County.

ABSENT: Mr. R. Alvarez, Radford University; Mr. G. Eaton, Town of Rich Creek; Mrs. E. Janney, Floyd County; Mrs. A. Perkins, Montgomery County; Mr. R. McCoy, Giles County and Mr. S. Weaver, Treasurer, Town of Christiansburg.

Staff Attendees: Kevin Byrd and Julie Phillips.

II. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes for September

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

Motion: Mr. Cox moved for the approval of the minutes. Mr. Garrett seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

B. Approval of Treasurer's Report for September and October

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

Motion: Mr. Cox moved for the approval of the treasurer's report. Mr. Garrett seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

III. REVIEW OF MUTUAL CONCERNS AND COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Mr. Patton welcomed Mr. East to the Commission. Mr. Bopp provided an overview of the annual dinner meeting; he noted Marcus Thompson of Volvo was one of the speakers. Mr. Bopp then spoke about the impact of Volvo on the community and how many jobs and other companies are created in our area because of their presence. Ms. Newcomb mentioned an ice-breaker or mixer may be beneficial next year to help meet new people. Mr. Garrett spoke about Mr. Byrd's presentation to the Town of Narrow's Council, he noted the presentation was informative, but he was disappointed that council and the audience did not ask many questions. Mr. Showalter noted that the presentation given to the Town of Christiansburg was a great refresher for council and he would like to see this type of presentation every year. Mr. Patton updated the Commissioners on Mr. Weaver; he noted that Mr. Weaver was

recovering from surgery at home. Mr. Patton also thanked the Commissioners for bringing food donations for the United Way and reminded those who have not provided a piece of memorabilia to the PDC to display in the reception area to please do so.

IV. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Sullivan gave an overview of the discussion held at the executive committee meeting. He explained that the presentations Mr. Byrd is giving to the localities are a reminder of the importance of the New River Valley Planning District Commission. He also noted they spoke about the Livability Initiative and its importance to the community. He also explained the need for a board resource manual and how it can help provide information to each Commissioner. He also explained that the executive committee spoke about the rate assessment and noted that they put a lot of time into the discussion on this issue. Lastly he explained the commission will be going over the consultant's report and discussing how to implement recommendations the Commission would like to pursue.

V. PUBLIC ADDRESS

None

VI. COMMONWEALTH INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS

A. Projects (Signed-off by the staff)

1. Floyd Biomedical Equipment Project (Rural Business Enterprise Funding from Rural Development)

B. Regular Project Review

None

C. Environmental Project Review

1. Alliant Techsystems, Inc. /New River Energetics Operations Assessment Radford Army Ammunition Plant

Motion: Mr. Sullivan moved for the approval. Mr. Bopp seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

2. Celanese Acetate LLC (Celco) Major Source Construction Permit

Motion: Mr. Bopp moved for the approval. Mr. Law seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried; two abstentions Mr. Garrett and Mr. Via both stated conflict of interest as their reason for abstaining.

3. Reissuance of VADEQ Permit No. VA0025992 Floyd-Floyd Co. PSA WWTP

Motion: Mr. Gerald moved for the approval. Ms. Newcomb seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried; one abstention Mr. Via, stated conflict of interest as his reason for abstaining.

VII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Byrd provided a report in the Commission agenda packet. He reported: ARC Co-Chair, Earl Gohl and ARC Chief of Staff, Guy Land visited October 25th, they discussed VA Community Capital Funding, the Livability

Initiative, and the Crooked Road, and they also attended the annual dinner. Mr. Patton noted that he made a great connection by meeting both gentlemen at the annual dinner. Mr. Byrd also reported that the stormwater program was discussed at a local government managers meeting. Delegate Rush and Delegate Yost are working on legislation to postpone implementation of the stormwater program by local governments until July 2015 to ensure localities are ready and the building community is aware of the changes. A Rural Caucus Legislative meeting was held on November 7th and was well attended. Floyd County was awarded a CDBG Grant to Revitalize the Newtown Neighborhood, with the PDC and the Town of Blacksburg managing the project. He also reported Tommi Godwin resigned from her position with the Commission; she will be returning to her home state, Minnesota, where she will serve as an Associate Planner with the Washington County Department of Public Health and Environment.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

None

IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. Planning District Commission Assessment Rate for FY14

Mr. Patton explained that the Executive Committee is recommending maintaining the current rate this year (\$1.25 per capita); however, they do not want to go multiple years without raising the rate in order to keep up with costs. The rate is based on census population figures at \$1.25 per capita for the member jurisdictions and universities. Mr. Patton asked, "If the rate is based on population, how are Radford University's and Virginia Tech's rates figured?" Mr. Byrd answered; "The per capita numbers for universities are based on the number of students living on campus." Dr. Harvey noted that it should be put in writing that the PDC is not asking for an increase. Mr. Byrd explained the per capita assessment is in the annual Joint Budget Review Request sent to all four counties and the City with budget detail included. Further, the PDC sends letters to each town and university informing them of the upcoming fiscal year assessment rate obligation. The Joint Budget Request is due at the end of December each year and letters are sent to towns and universities in February. Mr. Nicholson pointed out that it is important for each community to know the rate is per capita. Mr. Patton asked if the population numbers are based on the census, if so are they only updated every ten years. Mr. Byrd replied, yes the population numbers are updated every ten years. He also explained some PDCs use Weldon Cooper Annual Estimates to capture population changes on a more regular basis and suggest this is an item the Commission may wish to discuss at a future date.

Motion: Mr. Patton moved to maintain the current rate. Mr. Sullivan seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

C. Review of Audit for FY12

Mr. Byrd provided an overview of the FY12 Audit prepared by Robinson, Farmer, Cox Associates. He explained the audit was performed with additional measurements this year due to increased federal funds moving through the budget. This is primarily attributed to the Transportation Equipment Manufacturers Competitiveness Initiative (TEMCI) and the NRV Livability Initiative project. The auditor not only reviewed financial performance, but also reviewed program reports submitted to funders and found activities aligned with financial accounting. The audit included a positive finding, "It is noted that the auditee has made great strides in posting year-end adjustments and is gaining a good understanding of the year-end audit process."

Motion: Mr. Cox moved to accept the audit. Ms. Lesko seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

D. Appointment of CEDS Committee Members for FY13

Discussion: Mr. Cox noted that healthcare is one of the largest sectors in the area and there are no recommended members from this field. Mr. Byrd indicated an individual from Carilion attended two meetings last year and the PDC staff is currently seeking a consistent representative. If Commissioners can recommend someone the PDC will follow up and invite them to participate.

Motion: Mr. Soileau moved to approve the five new members to the CEDS committee. Mr. Garrett seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

X. OTHER BUSINESS

None

XI. Regional Focus

A. Review and Discuss Agency Assessment

Jessica Wirgau, Executive Director of the Community Foundation for the New River Valley, facilitated a discussion and small working groups to prioritize the goals of the assessment. A committee was formed to put the agency assessment's goals along with the Commissioner's priorities into action. The committee will be chaired by Mr. Sullivan, other members include, Mr. Nicholson, Mr. Cox, Mr. Law, Dr. Harvey and other members may be invited before the first meeting.

Mr. Patton thanked the Commission for a wonderful year and reminded the Commissioners the December meeting was cancelled and the next meeting will be January 24, 2013.

The meeting was then adjourned at 8:05 pm.

Michael Patton, Chair
New River Valley Planning District Commission