

# **New River Valley Passenger Rail Station Authority**

## **Minutes**

February 22, 2024

11:30 a.m.

Pulaski County Innovation Center

Attendees: Angie Hill and Mary Biggs, Montgomery County; Randy Wingfield and Mike Barber, Town of Christiansburg; Michael Mooney, Pulaski County; Shannon Collins and Todd Day, Town of Pulaski; C.B. Andrews and Ricky McCoy, Giles County; Charlie Jewell and Connie Phillips, Radford University; Bob Broyden, Virginia Tech; Jerry Ford and Larry Spencer, Town of Blacksburg; Kevin Byrd, and Chris Owens, New River Valley Regional Commission; and Michael Bedsaul, Sands Anderson PC.

Others Present: Members of NRV Passenger Rail, staff from the Virginia Passenger Rail Authority, engineers from both Wendel and Foresight Design, and Darlene Burcham.

Absent: Jonathan Sweet and Dirk Compton, Pulaski County; Angela Joyner and Brandon Cohen, Radford University; Lynsay Belshe, Virginia Tech; and David Horton and David Ridpath, City of Radford.

### **I. Welcome and Introductions**

Mike Barber, Chair, called the meeting to order at approximately 11:47 am.

- a. Oath of office for any new appointees—New appointees, Charlie Jewell, Connie Phillips, and Todd Day, were sworn in just prior to the meeting being called to order.

### **II. Minutes from January 25, 2024**

Motion: Mary Biggs moved for approval of the January 25<sup>th</sup> minutes.

Bob Broyden seconded the motion.

Discussion: None

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

### **III. Virginia Passenger Rail Authority Update (VPRA)**

- a. Recap January 29<sup>th</sup> Public Meeting—Open House with 132 people signed-in. Public Engagement Survey about the three site options opened on 1/29/24 and will close on 2/29/24. To date, there are 633 responses with very few from outlying communities. Discussion about the need to get input from the entire region. It was agreed that all partners/board members would do email/social media blasts to boost survey numbers.
- b. Overview Cinnabar Road Site, Option A in 30% design—Conceptual Design presented. Discussion and Q&A followed.
- c. Release of 60% design RFP—Requests for Proposals closes in late March. Anticipate final decisions in May of 2024.

- d. Forthcoming agreement between VPRA and the NRV Passenger Rail Station Authority pertaining to project roles and responsibilities—a draft was sent to Authority staff and legal counsel for review. Comments were sent back to VPRA for consideration. A final draft version is anticipated by the end of March 2024 for the Authority to review.
  
- IV. NRV Passenger Rail Organization Update—Mr. Hincker reported the organization appreciated the opportunity to hold a joint meeting in January to receive the project update from VPRA. NRV Passenger Rail will continue working on educating their membership on the project information recently shared by VPRA and will advocate on specific aspects when it is deemed appropriate.
  
- V. Next Meeting Date—March 28, 2024