

New River Valley Passenger Rail Station Authority

Minutes

February 23, 2022

11:30 a.m.

Pulaski County Innovation Center – Training Room

Attendees: Dirk Compton, Pulaski County; Sherri Blevins and Craig Meadows, Montgomery County; Jerry Ford and Larry Spencer, Town of Blacksburg; Mike Barber and Randy Wingfield, Christiansburg; Darlene Burcham and Shannon Collins, Town of Pulaski; David Horton; David Ridpath, City of Radford; Angela Joyner, Radford University; Lynsay Belshe and Chris Kiwus, Virginia Tech; Kevin Byrd and Chris Owens, New River Valley Regional Commission; Reid Broughton, Sands Anderson PC; Colin Burch and Ann Cassell, Virginia Passenger Rail Authority.

Absent: Ricky McCoy, Giles County; Jonathan Sweet, Pulaski County and Laura Quesenberry, Radford University.

I. Welcome and Introductions

Kevin Byrd called the meeting to order at 11:45 am since a chairperson has not been determined by the board. The board members introduced themselves to the Virginia Passenger Rail Authority (VPRA) guests.

II. Presentation of Nominating Committee Report for Officer Positions

The Nominating Committee identified the following slate of officers:

Chair—Craig Meadows, Montgomery County

Vice Chair—Mike Barber, Town of Christiansburg

Secretary—Lynsay Belshe, Virginia Tech

Treasurer—Darlene Burcham, Town of Pulaski

Motion: Mr. Compton moved to close nominations for the officer positions.

Mr. Ford seconded the motion.

Discussion: None

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

III. Election of Officer Positions for 2023

Motion: Mr. Compton moved to accept the Slate of Officers as presented.

Mr. Ford seconded the motion.

Discussion: None

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

IV. Minutes from January 26, 2023

Mr. Meadow, the newly elected chair, presided over the remainder of the meeting.

Motion: Mr. Ridpath moved for approval of the January 26th minutes.

Ms. Blevins seconded the motion.

Discussion: None

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

V. Update from Virginia Passenger Rail Authority (Colin Burch, Planning Manager)

Mr. Burch provided a PowerPoint presentation to communicate the progress the VPRA has made on the rail improvement portion of the project. VPRA is currently working on the environmental review that will determine the final station location and conducting preliminary engineering for the railway improvements.

VI. Review Draft Request for Qualifications (RFQ)

The board reviewed the RFQ. There was a discussion about the timing of the process. The group agreed to allow for some flexibility in the schedule as needed.

a. Consider Appointing a RFQ Review Committee.

The board self-identified committee members. The following five authority members agreed to assign someone within their organization as a RFQ review committee member: Virginia Tech, Town of Christiansburg, Pulaski County, Montgomery County, and the Town of Pulaski.

VII. Discuss Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) Planning Grant

The board discussed the ARC planning grant opportunity and agreed to pursue funding.

a. Up to \$300K; slightly less than 50% match required; due March 31st.

Match funds were requested from each of the authority members. There was a discussion about the two planning grant match scenarios presented. It was agreed to go with option #2 which is a 4+5 model (60/40) split to include \$30,000 from Montgomery County, Blacksburg, Christiansburg, Virginia Tech and \$16,000 from Pulaski County, Pulaski Town, Giles County, Radford University, and the City of Radford. Match requests are pending approval from each authority members respective governing bodies.

Motion: Mr. Horton made a motion to approve the submittal of an ARC Planning Grant Application.

Ms. Blevins seconded the motion.

Discussion: None.

Action: Motion approved unanimously.

VIII. Staff Report:

- a. Financial Disclosure Statements (FDS) have been turned in.
- b. VPRA will schedule a quarterly NRV meeting in the spring. Date TBD.
- c. Next steps for Authority:
 - i. Planning Grant Submittal—All authority members were asked to submit a letter of support to be submitted with the planning grant application.
 - ii. Establishing a banking account—Mr. Byrd reported that it was in progress.
 - iii. Architectural/engineering (A/E) services—RFQ to be hosted on the Regional Commission's website and published in the Roanoke Times, eVA and shared broadly.

IX. Next Meeting Date—March 23, 2023 at 11:30