

New River Valley Passenger Rail Station Authority

Minutes

February 27, 2025

11:30 a.m.

Pulaski County Innovation Center

Attendees: Angie Hill and Mary Biggs, Montgomery County; Randy Wingfield and Mike Barber, Town of Christiansburg; C.B. Andrews and Ricky McCoy, Giles County; David Horton and Craig Meadows, City of Radford; Shannon Collins, Town of Pulaski; Jerry Ford, Town of Blacksburg; Angela Joyner and Brandon Cohen, Radford University; Jonathan Sweet, Pulaski County; Kevin Byrd and Chris Owens, New River Valley Regional Commission; and Reid Broughton, Sands Anderson PC.

Others Present: Ann Cassell, NRV Passenger Rail; Emily Gibson, Virginia Tech; Gina Strait and Rob Alexander, Wendel; and John Neel, Foresight Design.

Absent: Dirk Compton, Pulaski County; Todd Day, Town of Pulaski; Lynsay Belshe and Dwyn Taylor, Virginia Tech; and Larry Spencer, Town of Blacksburg.

- I. Welcome and Introductions
Mike Barber, Chair, called the meeting to order at approximately 11:52 am.
 - a. Oath of office for any new appointees—None present.
- II. Minutes from February 27, 2025
Motion: Mary Biggs moved for approval of the February 27th minutes.
Jerry Ford seconded the motion.
Discussion: None
Action: Motion carried unanimously.
- III. Review Draft Development Agreement with VPRA (previously referred to as Term Sheet)—Reid Broughton, Legal Counsel
The Board reviewed VPRA's notes. The following two issues of concern were identified: 1) The division of the funds generated from parking fees between the VPRA and the NRV PRSA. The NRV PRSA would like to retain funds for parking lot maintenance and will need to discuss further with VPRA. 2) Building maintenance.
- IV. VPRA Update—Colin Burch
Mr. Burch reported that the that the VPRA now had a fully executed MOU from Department of Historic Resources (DHR). Next step is to execute an MOU with the NRV PRSA outlining roles and responsibilities. Mr. Burch also reported that the groundbreaking event was rescheduled for Thursday April 24, 2025, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

- V. NRV Passenger Rail Organization Update—Ann Cassell
Ms. Cassell reported that the NRV Passenger Rail Organization was continuing their efforts to advocate for the project. Expenses will be less in FY26 due to the status of the project moving forward; however, important advocacy work remains to keep local, state, and federal partners informed. As a result, NRV Passenger Rail will be invoicing a decreased amount in the coming year.

- VI. Grants Update
 - a. Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) for preliminary Architecture/Engineering costs—Mr. Byrd reported contracts have been fully executed with ARC as well as the A/E firm, Wendel.
 - b. CRISI grant for construction— No update at this time.

- VII. Architecture/Engineering Project Kick-off—Gina Strait, Rob Alexander and John Neel presented a Stakeholder Discussion/Questionnaire to the board. The goal was to gather information about the project goals, user needs/experience, functionality and design, constraints and considerations, and site specifics. Images of other stations in Virginia were presented along with images of the current Cambria station facility. The board had lengthy discussion about the vision for the project, design elements of the existing structure to retain, and the desire to keep renovation costs as reasonable as possible.

- VIII. Next Meeting Date—April 24, 2025

- IX. Adjourn