

New River Valley Passenger Rail Station Authority

Minutes

June 27, 2024

11:30 a.m.

Pulaski County Innovation Center

Attendees: Angie Hill, Mary Biggs and Steve Fijilkowski, Montgomery County; Randy Wingfield and Mike Barber, Town of Christiansburg; Shannon Collins, Town of Pulaski; C.B. Andrews and Ricky McCoy, Giles County; David Ridpath, City of Radford; Angela Joyner and Brandon Cohen, Radford University; Lynsay Belshe and Dwyn Taylor, Virginia Tech; Jerry Ford and Larry Spencer, Town of Blacksburg; Kevin Byrd, and Chris Owens, New River Valley Regional Commission; and Reid Broughton, Sands Anderson PC.

Others Present: Ann Cassell, NRV Passenger Rail; Colin Burch, Jenna Friedberg and Miles Alston, Virginia Passenger Rail Authority; engineers from both Wendel and Foresight Design; Brian Hamilton, Montgomery County; and John Porter, Virginia Tech.

Absent: Jonathan Sweet and Dirk Compton, Pulaski County; Todd Day, Town of Pulaski; and David Horton, City of Radford.

I. Welcome and Introductions

Mike Barber, Chair, called the meeting to order at approximately 11:48 am.

- a. Oath of office for any new appointees—New appointee, G. E. “Dwyn” Taylor II, was sworn in just prior to the meeting being called to order.

II. Minutes from February 22, 2024

Motion: Lynsay Belshe moved for approval of the February 22nd minutes.

Jerry Ford seconded the motion.

Discussion: None

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

III. Virginia Passenger Rail Authority Update—Colin Burch and Jenna Friedberg

- a. Overview of Cambria Station Location—VPRA staff PowerPoint Presentation highlights the events that led up to renegotiations with Norfolk Southern (NS) and the results of these negotiations to date.

Some key points:

- NS’s Cambria Yard has been selected as a potential station site on the N-Line, commonly known as the Main Line.
- NS intends to build the platform, canopy and passenger track in Christiansburg and a layover facility in Radford.
- VPRA will take ownership of land and facilities following construction.
- NS will complete design plans for the NRV Station Site at Cambria and the Layover Facility at Radford in Autumn of 2024.

- VPRA and NS are in the process of finalizing a Comprehensive Agreement (CRA), which will outline the process for the NRV project to proceed at Cambria.
- VPRA Board Meeting on August 27, 2024—Staff will make a recommendation on proceeding with either the N-Line or the V-Line.
- Once CRA is executed, VPRA and NRVPRSA will collaborate on drafting a new term sheet and agreement identifying roles and responsibilities.

- IV. NRV Passenger Rail Organization Update—Ann Cassell. Ms. Cassell reported that she is hearing a lot of enthusiasm about the proposed site in Cambria. NRV Passenger Rail does not have any events scheduled at this time; however, the organization is looking toward additional information being released about the Cambria location then evaluating how to support the region making the project a reality.
- V. FY25 Conflict of Interest Forms—NRVRC Staff—Mr. Byrd reported that any new members would need to complete the Conflict of Interest Forms and annual updates will be due in January. It was also reported that we were working toward a contract with our Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) representative. Once under contract NRVRC will send out invoices for the match commitments for the ARC Planning Grant.
- VI. Next Meeting Date—August 29, 2024
The August meeting date was adjusted from the 4th Thursday to the last Thursday due to timing with the Virginia Passenger Rail Authority board meeting on August 27th.
- VII. Adjourn
- Motion: Mary Biggs moved to adjourn the meeting.
Jerry Ford seconded the motion.
Discussion: None
Action: Motion carried unanimously.