

**NEW RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL COMMISSION**  
**Minutes of the Commission Meeting**  
**held on**  
**May 30, 2019**  
**6:00 p.m. – New River Valley Business Center, Fairlawn**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

**PRESENT:** Mr. M. Harvey, Chair, Montgomery County; Mr. L. Law, Giles County, Treasurer; Mr. C. Bopp, Pulaski County; Mr. T. Clontz, Town of Pulaski; Mr. H. Collins, Town of Christiansburg; Ms. A. Covey, New River Community College; Mr. S. Fijalkowski, Montgomery County; Mr. T. Garrett, Town of Narrows; Dr. H. Harvey, City of Radford; Mr. J. Herbein, Town of Blacksburg; Mr. W. Kantsios, Town of Rich Creek; Mr. C. Kiwus, Virginia Tech; Mr. R. Lawson, Town of Pembroke; Ms. C. Potter, Virginia Tech; Mr. J. Radcliffe, Town of Pulaski and Dr. D. Warren, Pulaski County.

**ABSENT:** Mr. M. Maslaney, Floyd County, Vice-Chair; Ms. S. Anderson, Town of Blacksburg; Mr. L. Clevinger, Town of Pulaski; Mr. J. Coleman, Floyd County; Mr. D. Horton, City of Radford; Mr. H. Johnson, Town of Christiansburg; Ms. S. Journell, Town of Pearisburg; Mr. R. McCoy, Giles County Mr. M. Patton, Town of Floyd and Ms. A. Schumaker, Radford University.

Staff Attendees: Kevin Byrd, Aphi Fancon, Nicole Hersch, James Jones, Janet McNew and Patrick O'Brien.

Other Attendees: Teresa Sweeney.

**II. CONSENT AGENDA**

**A. Approval of Minutes for April**

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

Motion: Mr. Kantsios moved for the approval of the minutes. Ms. Covey seconded the motion.  
Action: Motion carried unanimously.

**B. Approval of Treasurer's Report for April**

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

Motion: Mr. Law moved for the approval of the Treasurer's Report. Mr. Fijalkowski seconded the motion.  
Action: Motion carried unanimously.

**III. COMMONWEALTH INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS**

**A. Projects (Signed-off by the staff)**

- 1. Public Notice, Lower Stroubles Creek WWTP, Reissuance VPDES Permit VA0060844
- B. Regular Project Review
  - None
- C. Environmental Project Review
  - 1. Draft Permit for New River Resource Authority (NRRA) Regional Solid Waste Management Facility, SWP548
  - 2. VADEQ Grant Application - PM 2.5 Monitoring Workplan
  - 3. U.S. Army's Proposed Solvent Propellant Pack-Out Facility at the Radford Army Ammunition Plant in Radford, Virginia

**IV. PUBLIC ADDRESS**

None

**V. REVIEW OF MUTUAL CONCERNS AND COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS**

None

**VI. CHAIR'S REPORT**

Mr. Harvey reported he and Mr. Byrd recently toured an existing office space for the Commission to consider. Concept plans will be developed by the architect previously engaged for the office space analysis. Mr. Harvey also introduced Nicole Hersch, the most recent hire at the Commission, who will be leading the New River Watershed Roundtable program among other projects at the Commission. The Watershed Roundtable met recently and began planning this year's river cleanup event which will take place on August 31<sup>st</sup>.

**VII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Byrd provided a summary report in the Commission agenda packet. He reported the annual dinner was well attended with great representation across the region.

The Montgomery County/Radford Broadband Assessment launched a community broadband survey. Currently there are 764 electronic survey responses. Hard copy format of the survey is available at 10 locations across the county/city including all town/city/county offices, libraries and both hospitals. The RFPs for consulting services were due at the end of April and seven firms responded. A sub-set of the project management team will meet on June 14<sup>th</sup> to interview the top four firms.

The office space external evaluation continues to move forward. Recently Mr. Byrd and Mr. Harvey toured a space. Mr. Byrd met with the current architect along with two partner organizations to discuss space needs to determine whether the space will work for our needs. Once the architect prepares concept designs the committee will reconvene to review options.

The Governor will be at an I-81 bill signing event at the VDOT Traffic Operation Center in Salem on June 7<sup>th</sup> at 11:00am. All Commission members are invited to attend.

The Prices Fork project is moving forward with equipment coming into the space and an anchor tenant looking to use the space. The kitchen is planned to open July 1 with a community grand opening in August. The Commission recently made the decision to terminate the kitchen start-up/operations contract with Beans and Rice, Inc. The Executive Committee is working closely with the Executive Director to successfully navigate this transition.

## VIII. OLD BUSINESS

None

## IX. NEW BUSINESS

- A. **Montgomery Regional Solid Waste Authority Overview**  
Ms. Sweeney gave an update on the Montgomery Regional Solid Waste Authority (MRSWA). The authority handles integrated solid waste management for the New River Valley and specifically Montgomery County, the towns of Blacksburg and Christiansburg along with Virginia Tech. In its daily operations the authority works closely with the New River Resource Authority. The mission of MRSWA is to progressively manage solid waste and recyclable materials in an environmentally safe, reliable and efficient manner. Its services include closed landfill management, education, a transfer station and recycling.
- B. **Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Update**  
Patrick O'Brien gave an overview of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). He explained the goals, objectives, strategies, and the project ranking criteria. As part of the 2019 update, NRVRC staff has convened the CEDS committee. The committee met to discuss progress on CEDS projects over the past year, update the regional SWOT analysis (a listing of the region's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats as relates to the economy and economic development issues), and provide input on updates and revisions to the CEDS goals and strategies, with a focus on ensuring the CEDS aligns with the strategies of regional stakeholders' existing economic development-related initiatives.
- C. **SolSmart Regional Organization Designation**  
Mr. Byrd overviewed the SolSmart program, a national solar designation and technical assistance program which is led by the Solar Foundation and the International City/County Management Association. SolSmart helps communities go solar and realize associated economic benefits and provides support to communities that are taking actions to go solar faster. In 2019 SolSmart announced the SolSmart Regional Organizations Pathway, which is their regional organization campaign. This program is specifically designed to encourage regional organizations like the Regional Commission to play a support role for solar efforts in the region. The primary reason for the Regional Commission to consider pursuing the Regional Organizations Pathway is to ensure resources are available at the Commission to assist communities in the region with an interest in solar deployments.

Motion: Mr. Harvey moved to pursue the SolSmart regional organization designation. Dr. Warren seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

D. FY20 Nominating Committee Report – Slate Presented

Mr. Harvey reported the nominating committee recommended adding an additional at-large member position to the Executive Committee since the immediate past-chair role has not been filled the past three years due to job changes for the past-chairs. The Committee’s nominations for terms beginning July 1, 2019, for a one-year duration will be voted upon during the Commission’s regularly scheduled June meeting.

The nominations include:

Chair: Mike Harvey, Montgomery County

Vice-Chair: Mike Maslaney, Floyd County

Treasurer: Leon Law, Giles County

At-Large: Steve Fijalkowski, Montgomery County

At-Large: Catherine Potter, Virginia Tech

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M. Harvey, Chair  
New River Valley Regional Commission