

**NEW RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL COMMISSION**  
**Minutes of the Commission Meeting**  
held on  
**January 28, 2016**  
**6:00 p.m. – New River Valley Business Center, Fairlawn**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

**PRESENT:** Mr. K. **Sullivan**, Chair, Virginia Tech; Mr. J. **Carpenter**, Radford University, Vice-Chair; Mr. L. **Law**, Giles County, Treasurer; Mr. C. **Bopp**, Pulaski County; Mr. L. **Clevinger**, Town of Pulaski; Mr. G. **East**, Town of Pulaski; Mr. T. **Garrett**, Town of Narrows; Mr. F. **Gerald**, Floyd County; Ms. H. **Lesko**, Town of Blacksburg; Mr. R. **McCoy**, Giles County; Ms. C. **Newcomb**, Town of Blacksburg; Mr. M. **Patton**, Town of Floyd; Ms. A. **Perkins**, Montgomery County; Mr. J. **Soileau**, Virginia Tech; Mr. H. **Showalter**, Town of Christiansburg; Mr. M. **Sutphin**, Town of Blacksburg; Mr. M. **Turk**, City of Radford, and Dr. D. **Warren**, Pulaski County.

**ABSENT:** Dr. H. **Harvey**, City of Radford; Mr. M. **Harvey**, Montgomery County; Ms. E. **Janney**, Floyd County; Ms. S. **Journell**, Town of Pearisburg; Mr. W. **Kantsios**, Town of Rich Creek and Mr. S. **Weaver**, Town of Christiansburg.

Staff Attendees: Kevin Byrd, Janet McNew, Patrick Burton, Elijah Sharp, Jennifer Wilsie, and Julie Phillips.

**II. CONSENT AGENDA**

A. Approval of Minutes for November  
Mr. Sullivan called for approval of the consent agenda item if there were no questions or changes.

Motion: Ms. Lesko moved for the approval of the minutes. Mr. Bopp seconded the motion.  
Action: Motion carried; one abstention, Mr. Garrett.

B. Approval of Treasurer's Report for November and December  
Mr. Sullivan called for approval of the consent agenda item if there were no questions or changes.

Motion: Mr. Patton moved for the approval of the minutes. Mr. Soileau seconded the motion.  
Action: Motion carried unanimously.

**III. COMMONWEALTH INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS**

- A. Projects (Signed-off by the staff)
1. NRV Senior Services Vehicle Purchase VA160106-01200400400
  2. Muse Hall Safety System Renovation DEQ #15-205S
  3. NRV Community Services Vehicle Purchase VA160111-01300400400
  4. Giles County Health & Family Center Vehicle Purchase VA160113-01400400071
- B. Regular Project Review  
None.

- C. Environmental Project Review  
None.

#### **IV. PUBLIC ADDRESS**

None.

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

Mr. Gerald reported Floyd County is looking into their water supply. He explained the school board, the planning commission, the PSA board and the Town of Floyd joined the County in a meeting discussing the possibility of extending a waterline from Riner and/or building a water treatment plant near the Little River. Mr. Byrd noted that the Commission is available to assist the County and has completed studies on how to move water throughout the region. He also noted USDA-Rural Development may have funds available to assist with planning and engineering work.

#### **VI. CHAIR'S REPORT**

Mr. Sullivan reported the Executive Committee met in December and held a conference called in January due to the snow storm.

#### **VII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Byrd provided a summary report in the Commission agenda packet. Mr. Byrd explained a financial disclosure form was placed at each of the citizen representative's seats to be filled out. He explained a change in state code in late 2015 now requires the Commission to file disclosure statements with the local clerk of court and noted the elected official representatives would have already filled one out for their locality. Mr. Byrd reported the Go Virginia economic development program was introduced as legislation in the current General Assembly session. He overviewed the program and funding proposed. He also explained the intention of the program is for private sector investment to stimulate economic development within Virginia. He reported there will be \$50 million in new funding in the FY16 Federal Omnibus Bill for coal-impacted communities through the Appalachian Regional Commission POWER program. Mr. Byrd explained Giles County was approved for a POWER grant, which was the first round from FY15, to complete a study on how to connect the communities to the New River much like communities are connected to cycling trails. He explained the New River Valley and southwest Virginia PDCs are working together to identify priorities for the POWER program and noted they are discussing how to support the growing unmanned systems industry. Mr. Byrd reported the transportation projects for House Bill 2 were recently released and noted the region has four projects recommended by VDOT staff. Mr. Byrd explained the Commission is facilitating a discussion regarding the expansion of Renew the New, a Giles County river clean up, to the entire region. He also noted the Commission applied to VA Dept. of Environmental Quality for Watershed Roundtable funding to support staff time involved with Renew the New expansion coordination. Mr. Sullivan stated the program has been going on in Giles County for over 14 years and noted its importance to tourism and use of the river as a blueway. Mr. Byrd explained the Southwest Virginia Outdoor Expo will be held in the New River Valley in the spring of 2017. Mr. Byrd reported the Commission is working with the Roanoke Valley region on a grant application called Tech Hire which would be a four year project working with 400+ people training for technology jobs. The main focus of the grant would be underemployed 17-29 year olds. Lastly, he explained a

Livability in Action meeting will be held February 29<sup>th</sup> at 2:30pm in the Event Center in Christiansburg and all Commissioners are invited to attend.

## VIII. OLD BUSINESS

None.

## IX. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Access to Community College for Education (ACCE) Program  
Presentation by Angie Covey and Erika Tolbert with New River Community College Education Foundation

Ms. Covey explained the ACCE Program is a public private partnership that allows Giles County Students to be eligible to earn an associate's degree from New River Community College (NRCC) tuition free. She explained the program uses the FAFSA to identify students to enroll in the program and noted the student must have at least a 2.5 GPA to be eligible. Ms. Covey explained there is no limit to how many students the program can support and noted all students that applied were accepted. Ms. Covey overviewed the guidelines of the program while Ms. Tolbert explained the community service work required.

Discussion: Ms. Newcomb asked how many students are currently in the program. Ms. Tolbert explained there are 36 ACCE students. Dr. Warren asked if there is a time limit to how long after graduating Giles County High School a student can enroll. Ms. Covey explained the program began in 2015 so students graduating before that time are not eligible. She also noted the student must be a resident of Giles County for a minimum of one year before they graduate to be eligible. Dr. Warren also noted the program should be encouraged throughout the region. Mr. East asked if this is a pilot program with Giles County that would expand to other localities within the region. Ms. Covey explained that they have talked to Floyd County about expanding. Mr. Law asked how much Giles County businesses contributed to the program. Mr. McCoy explained that half of the program is funded by businesses and private citizens while the other half is paid by Giles County. Dr. Warren asked if students who take dual enrollment are participating in the program. Ms. Covey explained there are students who have taken dual enrollment participating in the program and noted that taking dual enrollment in high school earns free college credits.

- B. NRV Passenger Rail Project Overview and Resolution

Mr. Byrd overviewed the partners involved with the project. He also reviewed the project progress to date, the history of rail in the region, how the potential ridership was determined and where the highest demand falls within the New River Valley. Lastly, he overviewed the potential economic impact passenger rail would have. Mr. Sharp continued the presentation by discussing how the station locations were chosen and then narrowed down by the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Technical Advisory Committee. Mr. Sharp explained that the two sites in Christiansburg were chosen by the MPO Policy Board based on data collected and will serve as the general area location for the New River Valley station. Lastly, Mr. Sharp discussed the next steps planned and explained an Intercity Passenger Rail

Operating and Capital (IPROC) application will be submitted Feb. 1, 2016 to potentially fund the next steps of the program which is a rail modeling study.

Discussion: Dr. Warren asked if the modeling study will determine if the New River Valley site will become a station. Mr. Byrd explained that the site piece was completed to identify a suitable site and build regional support. The modeling study will determine whether the busy freight corridor can accommodate passenger train service. Mr. Carpenter noted that this project moved forward quickly because of the work of the Commission staff. Mr. Garrett asked if there will be a limited number of stops in the rail service long term plan. Mr. Byrd noted the number of stops will be determined by the Department of Rail and Public Transit and it is likely stops will be spaced apart further than they were when the region had service in the 1960's. Mr. Sullivan noted that in addition to passengers going north it will bring tourism from the north into the region. Mr. Byrd added, if anyone would like to receive a presentation on the passenger rail project to let him know. Mr. Carpenter added that Mr. Byrd has been called upon by the NRV Rail 2020 group to brief the region on the project and noted this is a great representation of the high quality work being done at the Commission.

Mr. Sullivan called for approval of the resolution to support filing the joint application for IPROC funding.

Motion: Mr. Carpenter moved to approve the resolution. Mr. Patton seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

C. Regional Commission Awards – Review Criteria and Process

Mr. Byrd explained the annual dinner awards process and criteria was included in the packet. He noted allowing organizations to be nominated for the Citizen of the Valley award and the Friend of the Valley award was suggested following the event last year. Mr. Sullivan asked if there were any objections to allowing organizations to be nominated along with individuals. No objections were expressed, so organizations will be allowed to be nominated for these two awards.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.

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Kevin Sullivan, Chair  
New River Valley Regional Commission

**NEW RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL COMMISSION**  
**Minutes of the Commission Meeting**  
held on  
**February 25, 2016**  
**6:00 p.m. – New River Valley Business Center, Fairlawn**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

**PRESENT:** Mr. K. **Sullivan**, Chair, Virginia Tech; Mr. C. **Bopp**, Pulaski County; Mr. L. **Clevinger**, Town of Pulaski; Mr. G. **East**, Town of Pulaski; Mr. T. **Garrett**, Town of Narrows; Mr. F. **Gerald**, Floyd County; Dr. H. **Harvey**, City of Radford; Mr. M. **Harvey**, Montgomery County; Ms. S. **Journell**, Town of Pearisburg; Mr. W. **Kantsios**, Town of Rich Creek; Ms. H. **Lesko**, Town of Blacksburg; Mr. R. **McCoy**, Giles County; Ms. C. **Newcomb**, Town of Blacksburg; Mr. M. **Patton**, Town of Floyd; Ms. A. **Perkins**, Montgomery County; Mr. J. **Soileau**, Virginia Tech; Mr. M. **Turk**, City of Radford, and Dr. D. **Warren**, Pulaski County.

**ABSENT:** Mr. J. **Carpenter**, Radford University, Vice-Chair; Mr. L. **Law**, Giles County, Treasurer; Ms. E. **Janney**, Floyd County; Mr. H. **Showalter**, Town of Christiansburg; Mr. M. **Sutphin**, Town of Blacksburg and Mr. S. **Weaver**, Town of Christiansburg.

Staff Attendees: Kevin Byrd, Janet McNew, Patrick O'Brien, Christy Straight and Julie Phillips.

**II. CONSENT AGENDA**

A. Approval of Minutes for January

Mr. Sullivan called for approval of the consent agenda item if there were no questions or changes. Mr. Garrett noted item II.B. should be changed to "approval of the Treasurer's Report".

Motion: Ms. Lesko moved for the approval of the minutes with the correction. Mr. Patton seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried; two abstentions, Mr. Harvey and Mr. Kantsios

B. Approval of Treasurer's Report for January

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

Motion: Mr. Bopp moved for the approval of the Treasurer's Report. Mr. Gerald seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

**III. COMMONWEALTH INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS**

A. Projects (Signed-off by the staff)

None.

B. Regular Project Review

None.

C. Environmental Project Review

None.

#### **IV. PUBLIC ADDRESS**

None.

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

Mr. Patton asked the more recent appointees to the Commission (Mr. Turk, Mr. Harvey, Mr. McCoy) to briefly introduce themselves. Mr. East reported the Jackson Park Inn is open and doing well in downtown Pulaski. He also noted Calfee Park is undergoing further renovations and looking into moving into the Class A-Advanced League. Lastly, Mr. East shared the Town is exploring ways to encourage business to move into Main Street. Ms. Newcomb reported Blacksburg Town Council has a day-long retreat scheduled for March 10<sup>th</sup>, which Mr. Byrd will be facilitating. She also noted downtown Blacksburg will soon have a pharmacy and a new restaurant. Mr. Soileau explained Virginia Tech is currently undergoing many construction and renovation projects. Mr. Garrett reported Right Turn Clyde Brewery in Narrows is open and doing well. Mr. Gerald shared Floyd County held a meeting recently to discuss future water supply issues. Mr. Patton added the Floyd County Board of Supervisors, the Floyd Town Council, and the Floyd County School Board will be meeting jointly to discuss the future of Floyd. Mr. Patton also noted Floyd was ranked 18<sup>th</sup> on the Southern Living list of the 20 best small towns in America for 2016. Mr. Harvey reported the Commission has done a great job convening the region on the LEAD project to expand Renew the New, Giles County's river cleanup program.

#### **VI. CHAIR'S REPORT**

Mr. Sullivan reported the Annual Dinner will be held May 11<sup>th</sup> at the Draper Mercantile. He reminded the Commissioners the award nominations are due March 15<sup>th</sup> and encouraged the Commissioners to make nominations.

#### **VII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Byrd provided a summary report in the Commission agenda packet. Mr. Byrd explained the Tech Hire grant the Commission is working with the Roanoke region to submit will be due March 11<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Byrd explained the Commission is working with partners to consider expanding Giles County's Renew the New program throughout the entire watershed. The steering committee identified three sub-committees to include, event logistics, organizational structure, and civic forum planning. Mr. Byrd explained there will be a 'Livability in Action' meeting at the Event Center in Christiansburg on February 29<sup>th</sup>. There will be 12 five-minute lightning round presentations to quickly introduce attendees to projects in communities across the region and how they address goals of the Livability Initiative. Lastly, Mr. Byrd explained the Commission received notice of the availability of Watershed Roundtable funds from the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality which will be used to start the conversation of reconstituting the New River Watershed Roundtable.

Ms. Lesko added the New River/Mount Rogers Workforce Development Board will be hosting sector strategy meetings. On March 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> the meetings will be held in the New River Room at the NRV Business Center. She encouraged all businesses, particularly manufacturing businesses, in the area to attend. Mr. East noted the Launch Something Pulaski program, an entrepreneurial

development strategy, received funding from the Department of Housing and Community Development to initiate a small business counseling and competition program. Mr. Byrd added the model DHCD is supporting in Pulaski has been successful at downtown economic restructuring in several communities. Mr. East also shared the Town is setting up a revolving roof fund to improve downtown buildings to attract business to Main Street and is observing a lot of collaboration toward revitalization.

## VIII. OLD BUSINESS

None.

## IX. NEW BUSINESS

### A. Pulaski Grow – Non-profit Youth Training and Aquaponics Business

Presentation- Ms. Lee Spiegel

Ms. Spiegel gave a presentation on Pulaski Grow. Pulaski Grow is located in Draper and the building is a reuse of a portion of the old Draper school. She explained the youth training program is available for ages 14-18 and prepares them to be workforce ready. The youth learn resume writing, interviewing, marketing and customer service skills as well as gaining real work experiences in the Pulaski Grow aquaponics business. Lastly, Ms. Spiegel explained how Pulaski Grow utilizes an aquaponics process to grow vegetables that are sold locally.

Discussion: Dr. Harvey asked Ms. Spiegel about her background that led her to open Pulaski Grow. Ms. Spiegel's career has always involved youth development and she discovered a way to continue youth development through a hands-on business experience for participants. Dr. Warren asked if the cannery on the property is being used. Ms. Spiegel explained there is no canning equipment, but she would like to pursue opening a community cannery in the future. Mr. Sullivan asked where Pulaski Grow sells produce. Ms. Spiegel explained they sell at the Market Place which is downtown Pulaski's farmer's market and they offer a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program, where citizens purchase shares of the crops.

### B. Community Development Block Grant Priorities for 2016

Mr. Byrd explained the suggested Block Grant priorities for 2016 were included in the packet and asked for any questions or comments.

Mr. Sullivan called for approval of the 2016 Community Development Block Grant Priorities as presented.

Motion: Dr. Warren moved to approve the 2016 Community Development Block Grant Priorities. Ms. Lesko seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

### C. Go Virginia Overview

Mr. Byrd gave an update on the GO Virginia program. He explained there are 21 planning districts in Virginia and the GO Virginia program will more than likely be establishing one-

half as many regions. Mr. Byrd asked for discussion on the multi-regional geographies for the purpose of making a recommendation to those shaping the GO Virginia program.

Discussion: Dr. Warren stated the NRV has ties to the Mt. Rogers region as well as the Roanoke region. Mr. Patton explained the region has two choices, either merge with the Roanoke and Lynchburg regions or merge with the far southwest region. Mr. Garrett noted that merging with the more rural regions would allow the NRV to be more competitive. Mr. Harvey stated that the Roanoke region seems to focus on the medical industry, the NRV on education and technology, and Lynchburg on aeronautics industries. Ms. Lesko noted that industry may be the drivers of the program since GO Virginia is supposed to be private-sector led. Mr. Byrd explained that industry leaders will be included on the Regional Councils based on literature currently available on the program. Mr. McCoy noted that in the past the NRV has aligned more with Southwest Virginia. Ms. Newcomb noted that it will be important to get a seat on the Regional Council Board. Mr. Byrd explained higher education, such as Virginia Tech and Radford University, will play a big part in the program. Dr. Harvey asked if the GO Virginia program is successful would there be a chance the current planning district boundaries would change to align with the GO Virginia boundaries. Mr. Byrd explained decisions on planning district boundaries reside with local governments that comprise the district and the question about geography will be an item to observe as GO Virginia evolves.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 pm.

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Kevin Sullivan, Chair  
New River Valley Regional Commission



**NEW RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL COMMISSION**  
**Minutes of the Commission Meeting**  
held on  
**March 24, 2016**  
**6:00 p.m. – New River Valley Business Center, Fairlawn**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

**PRESENT:** Mr. J. **Carpenter**, Radford University, Vice-Chair; Mr. L. **Law**, Giles County, Treasurer; Mr. C. **Bopp**, Pulaski County; Mr. L. **Clevinger**, Town of Pulaski; Mr. T. **Garrett**, Town of Narrows; Dr. H. **Harvey**, City of Radford; Mr. W. **Kantsios**, Town of Rich Creek; Mr. M. **Maslaney**, Floyd County; Mr. R. **McCoy**, Giles County; Ms. C. **Newcomb**, Town of Blacksburg; Mr. M. **Patton**, Town of Floyd; Ms. A. **Perkins**, Montgomery County; Mr. M. **Sutphin**, Town of Blacksburg; Mr. M. **Turk**, City of Radford, and Dr. D. **Warren**, Pulaski County.

**ABSENT:** Mr. K. **Sullivan**, Chair, Virginia Tech; Mr. G. **East**, Town of Pulaski; Mr. F. **Gerald**, Floyd County; Mr. M. **Harvey**, Montgomery County; Ms. S. **Journell**, Town of Pearisburg; Ms. H. **Lesko**, Town of Blacksburg; Mr. H. **Showalter**, Town of Christiansburg; Mr. J. **Soileau**, Virginia Tech and Mr. S. **Weaver**, Town of Christiansburg.

Staff Attendees: Kevin Byrd, Janet McNew, Elijah Sharp and Julie Phillips.

**II. CONSENT AGENDA**

A. Approval of Minutes for February

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

Motion: Ms. Newcomb moved for the approval of the minutes. Ms. Perkins seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

B. Approval of Treasurer's Report for February

Mr. Carpenter 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. Ms. Newcomb seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

**III. COMMONWEALTH INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS**

A. Projects (Signed-off by the staff)

None.

B. Regular Project Review

None.

C. Environmental Project Review

1. DEQ Air Quality Monitoring Program

Mr. Carpenter called for approval of the environmental review.

Motion: Mr. Bopp moved for the approval of the environmental review. Mr. Kantsios

seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously

2. State Revolving Loan Funds Capitalization Application

Mr. Carpenter called for approval of the environmental review.

Motion: Dr. Warren moved for the approval of the environmental review. Dr.

Harvey seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously

#### **IV. PUBLIC ADDRESS**

None.

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

Mr. Law reported Giles County Planning Commission discussed a proposed development project near Shumate Falls on the New River, which is a 1,500 acre site half in Giles County, Virginia and half in West Virginia. Mr. Byrd added Commission staff met with investors on the project to discuss economic projects to help with development and possible funding. Dr. Harvey explained there was an editorial in the Roanoke Times about attracting businesses and suggested the Commissioners read the article. Dr. Warren added the value outdoor amenities offer in attracting businesses to the area. Mr. Carpenter reported the Southwest Virginia branding meeting took place earlier in the week which provides a tool for attracting and retaining people and businesses in the region. Mr. Patton welcomed Mr. Michael Maslaney, Floyd County's new citizen representative to the Commission. Lastly, Mr. Carpenter announced Radford University recently moved into the Center for the Sciences building and explained it will not only be an asset for Radford University, but it will also be important to K-12 education in the region as a resource.

#### **VI. CHAIR'S REPORT**

Mr. Carpenter reported the Executive Committee met the week previous. The agenda included annual dinner planning and implementing a pre-tax medical premium for staff. He noted all items discussed would be covered in the agenda.

#### **VII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Byrd provided a summary report in the Commission agenda packet. Mr. Byrd reported the Commission is in the process of updating the regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) document. The annual Local Government Planning Commissioner Training event is scheduled for April 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:00pm at the NRV Business Center. The Commission hosted three sub-committee meetings on March 14<sup>th</sup> to advance Renew the New Expansion. Mr. Byrd noted the 2016 clean-up will take place late August in Radford covering 11 miles of river from the I-81 bridge through Radford to the Rt. 114 bridge. The Livability in Action regional convening had 140 registrants demonstrating interest in the region for collaboration and learning best practices from neighboring communities. The Commission's annual dinner will take place on May 11, 2016 at the Draper Mercantile and will include mobile workshops beginning at 3:30 that afternoon. Mr. Byrd explained the Commission is working to coordinate a USDA Rural Development workshop that will be held this summer to help local governments learn about programs available. He reported the

towns of Pembroke and Narrows downtown revitalization programs will hold open houses March 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> to gather public input. Mr. Byrd shared the Southwest Virginia Brand was introduced at a regional meeting hosted by the Commission on March 21<sup>st</sup>. The brand will be open source so it can be used by anyone interested in marketing the region. The Southwest Virginia Outdoor Expo planning meeting with destination marketing organizations in the region will be held on March 30<sup>th</sup>. Lastly, he reported he will be attending ARC, NADO, and EDA conferences the first week of April in Washington, DC and will learn more about the POWER program along with opportunities to recapitalize the New River Valley Revolving Loan Fund Program.

## **VIII. OLD BUSINESS**

None.

## **IX. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. GO Virginia Presentation**

Christopher Lloyd from McGuire Woods Consulting presented an overview of GO Virginia. Mr. Lloyd explained the Go Virginia program structure and how funds are planned to be distributed throughout the state. He explained the GO Virginia Regional Councils, comprised of two or more planning district geographies across the state, will include local leaders in business, higher education, and local government. The Regional Councils will prioritize projects and decide how a portion of the funds are used within each region established by GO Virginia. He encouraged the region to begin thinking about leaders to serve on the regional council and identify projects of regional significance.

Discussion: Ms. Newcomb asked how GO Virginia is planned to help higher education. Mr. Lloyd explained the General Assembly dedicated funds for higher education, particularly for matching research funds that have a STEM focus (science, technology, engineering and mathematics). Ms. Newcomb asked if the regional council board members will serve in a volunteer capacity. Mr. Lloyd explained the role would be on a volunteer basis. Mr. Byrd asked how appointments would be made to the regional councils. Mr. Lloyd responded the regions will constitute the regional council, rather than a state-level entity making appointments. Mr. Carpenter asked if there are deadlines for creating a regional council. Mr. Lloyd responded the timeline has not been set, but anticipates the councils to be formed by November or December of this year.

### **B. Rural Transportation Work Program for FY17**

Mr. Sharp explained the Virginia Department of Transportation allocates funding each year to the Regional Commission to deliver transportation planning assistance for non-urbanized areas outside the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) boundaries. Mr. Sharp gave a brief presentation covering the proposed work program. Mr. Sharp noted the NRV Rural Transportation Technical Advisory Committee reviewed and recommended the Commission adopt the FY17 Transportation Planning Work Program at their meeting on March 15, 2016.

Mr. Carpenter called for approval of the Rural Transportation Work Program for FY17 as presented.

Motion: Ms. Newcomb moved to approve the Rural Transportation Work Program for FY17.  
Mr. Bopp seconded the motion.  
Action: Motion carried unanimously.

C. Consideration of Implementing Pre-tax Medical Premium (Section 125 Plan)  
*(This portion was moved up in the agenda to allow more time for the Commission Awards program discussion.)*

Mr. Byrd explained staff who pay for a portion of their health insurance premiums currently do so after taxes are withdrawn from their paycheck since the Commission does not have a pre-tax plan in place. The Commission's auditor recommended implementing a Section 125 plan that enables employees to pay insurance premiums pre-tax. Mr. Carpenter added that implementing the plan would be a benefit to the staff.

Motion: Mr. Patton moved to approve implementing the Section 125 plan. Mr. Law seconded the motion.  
Action: Motion carried unanimously.

D. Commission Awards Program for 2016 Annual Dinner

Mr. Byrd explained the process which nominations were solicited and then overviewed the voting procedure for Commissioners. Following the overview, nominee information was distributed for the three award categories. The Commission reviewed the nominees then voted to award Delegate Joseph Yost and Mr. Bill Brown as Champions of the Valley, President Penelope Kyle as Citizen of the Valley, and the Mary Moody Northern Endowment (Mountain Lake ownership) Friend of the Valley. Mr. Byrd will be contacting the award recipients for recognition at the annual dinner event.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm.

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Kevin Sullivan, Chair  
New River Valley Regional Commission

**NEW RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL COMMISSION**  
**Minutes of the Commission Meeting**  
held on  
**April 28, 2016**  
**6:00 p.m. – New River Valley Business Center, Fairlawn**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

**PRESENT:** Mr. J. **Carpenter**, Radford University, Vice-Chair; Mr. L. **Law**, Giles County, Treasurer; Mr. C. **Bopp**, Pulaski County; Mr. G. **East**, Town of Pulaski; Mr. T. **Garrett**, Town of Narrows; Mr. F. **Gerald**, Floyd County; Dr. H. **Harvey**, City of Radford; Mr. M. **Harvey**, Montgomery County; Ms. S. **Journell**, Town of Pearisburg; Ms. H. **Lesko**, Town of Blacksburg; Mr. M. **Maslaney**, Floyd County; Mr. R. **McCoy**, Giles County; Ms. C. **Newcomb**, Town of Blacksburg; Mr. M. **Patton**, Town of Floyd; Mr. H. **Showalter**, Town of Christiansburg; Mr. J. **Soileau**, Virginia Tech Mr. M. **Sutphin**, Town of Blacksburg; Mr. M. **Turk**, City of Radford, and Dr. D. **Warren**, Pulaski County.

**ABSENT:** Mr. L. **Clevinger**, Town of Pulaski; Mr. W. **Kantsios**, Town of Rich Creek; Ms. A. **Perkins**, Montgomery County; Mr. K. **Sullivan**, Chair, Virginia Tech; and Mr. S. **Weaver**, Town of Christiansburg.

Staff Attendees: Kevin Byrd, Janet McNew, Patrick O'Brien, Jennifer Wilsie, Michael Gottfredson and Julie Phillips.

**II. CONSENT AGENDA**

A. Approval of Minutes for March  
Mr. Carpenter called for approval of the consent agenda item if there were no questions or changes.

Motion: Mr. Patton moved for the approval of the minutes. Mr. McCoy seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried, one abstention; Mr. Gerald.

B. Approval of Treasurer's Report for March  
Mr. Carpenter 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. Ms. Lesko seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

**III. COMMONWEALTH INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS**

A. Projects (Signed-off by the staff)  
1. Eggleston Water Extension CDBG Application

B. Regular Project Review  
1. Virginia Tech – Rector Field House Renovations  
Mr. Carpenter called for approval of the regular project review.

Motion: Mr. Bopp moved for the approval of the environmental review. Ms. Newcomb seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously

C. Environmental Project Review

1. Defense Environmental Restoration Program (Arsenal groundwater monitoring)  
Mr. Carpenter called for approval of the environmental review.

Motion: Mr. Patton moved for the approval of the environmental review. Mr. Garrett seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously

2. FY2016 Nonpoint Source Implementation Grant Application (DEQ)

Mr. Carpenter called for approval of the environmental review.

Motion: Mr. Harvey moved for the approval of the environmental review. Mr. Bopp seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously

**IV. PUBLIC ADDRESS**

None.

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

Mr. Carpenter reported the Radford University College of Business and Economics was dedicated to President Penelope Kyle on April 22nd. He also shared President Kyle was honored to receive the Citizen of the Valley award from the Regional Commission. Saturday May 7<sup>th</sup> will be Radford University's commencement ceremony and July 1<sup>st</sup> Dr. Brian Hemphill will become the new President of Radford University. Mr. Harvey reported the ReNew the New luncheon was well attended and had coverage from several local media outlets. Mr. Garrett announced April 30<sup>th</sup> will be kid's fishing day in the Town of Narrows. Ms. Lesko reported she attended a fundraiser for the Women's Resource Center and was very impressed with the support for the event. She also shared ICAT day at Virginia Tech is scheduled for May 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Moss Center for the Arts and it will be a showcase of student projects.

**VI. CHAIR'S REPORT**

Mr. Carpenter reported Mr. Sullivan had a prior commitment that would delay his arrival; however, he sent his appointments for the nominating committee for FY17 officers. The bylaws call for the chair, treasurer and a commissioner at-large to comprise the nominating committee. The Committee will be; Mr. Sullivan as Chair, Mr. Law as Treasurer, and Mr. Clevinger as Member-at-Large.

**VII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Byrd provided a summary report in the Commission agenda packet. Mr. Byrd reported the Commission is partnering with Beans and Rice to evaluate the region's entrepreneurial ecosystem and engage partners to identify strategies to support entrepreneurial activity. Mr. Byrd explained the Commission and project team was recently awarded \$500,000 from the Appalachian Regional Commission for a portion of the Prices Fork School Reuse project and explained the team also submitted a grant application to the Department of Housing and Community Development-Vibrant Communities Initiative for additional funding. The 2016 General Assembly approved legislation for GO Virginia to establish Regional Councils. State funding for projects was not

approved in 2016 and will be reviewed in the 2017 session. Mr. Byrd explained the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) selected the NRV Passenger Rail Study for an Excellence in Rural Transportation Award. Mr. Byrd reported the annual Local Government Planning Commissioner Training was attended by over 40 people representing Planning Commissions, Board of Supervisors, Town Councils and staff. Lastly, Mr. Byrd noted staff is researching cloud-based file server options following a recent IT glitch.

## **VIII. OLD BUSINESS**

### **A. Annual Dinner Event Update**

Mr. Byrd reported the annual dinner will be held May 11<sup>th</sup> at the Draper Mercantile. He noted the planning is going well and reminded the Commission to RSVP if they have not done so already.

## **IX. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) 2016 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. He gave examples of the projects already on the ground, such as the Route 460/Southgate Drive interchange project, commercial kitchens in local projects (Floyd, Prices Fork), downtown redevelopment projects in several localities, New River Resource Authority landfill methane project, and the development of a regional data dashboard.

### **B. POWER Program Overview**

Mr. Byrd explained the POWER program (Partnerships for Opportunity and Workforce and Economic Revitalization) a multi-agency initiative that targets federal resources to help communities and regions that have been affected by job losses in coal mining, coal power plant operations, and coal-related supply chain industries due to the changing economics of America's energy production. Mr. Byrd defined the process for submitting an application and explained Giles County has been awarded planning funds to develop a River Center Action Plan which will help connect the five towns to the river users. Lastly, Mr. Byrd explained the next steps for the river center planning process as well as a potential Cluster Development study for Unmanned Systems/IT/Advanced Manufacturing through the POWER program.

### **C. Dispense Surplus Property**

Mr. Byrd explained the Commission's oldest fleet vehicle recently experienced a flat tire due to dry rot and other tires are presenting the same condition. The vehicle has over 142,000 miles. Based on the miles driven, it does not seem worthwhile to invest money into this vehicle. Over the next several months the Commission staff will review mileage logs to determine whether a third vehicle is needed in the fleet.

The Commission owns two hydraulic hand pumps which were purchased for a tire shredder program that no longer operates. He explained if the Commission moves forward to surplus the property the staff will work with GovDeals.com to make them available for purchase.

Motion: Mr. Bopp moved to approve dispensing the surplus property. Ms. Newcomb seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 pm.

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Kevin Sullivan, Chair  
New River Valley Regional Commission



**NEW RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL COMMISSION**  
**Minutes of the Commission Meeting**  
held on  
**May 26, 2016**  
**6:00 p.m. – New River Valley Business Center, Fairlawn**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

**PRESENT:** Mr. K. **Sullivan**, Chair, Virginia Tech; Mr. J. **Carpenter**, Radford University, Vice-Chair; Mr. L. **Law**, Giles County, Treasurer; Mr. C. **Bopp**, Pulaski County; Mr. L. **Clevinger**, Town of Pulaski; Mr. G. **East**, Town of Pulaski; Mr. F. **Gerald**, Floyd County; Dr. H. **Harvey**, City of Radford; Mr. M. **Harvey**, Montgomery County; Ms. S. **Journell**, Town of Pearisburg; Mr. M. **Maslaney**, Floyd County; Mr. M. **Patton**, Town of Floyd; Ms. A. **Perkins**, Montgomery County; Mr. H. **Showalter**, Town of Christiansburg; Mr. M. **Sutphin**, Town of Blacksburg; Mr. M. **Turk**, City of Radford, and Dr. D. **Warren**, Pulaski County.

**ABSENT:** Mr. T. **Garrett**, Town of Narrows; Mr. W. **Kantsios**, Town of Rich Creek; Ms. H. **Lesko**, Town of Blacksburg; Mr. R. **McCoy**, Giles County; Ms. C. **Newcomb**, Town of Blacksburg; Mr. J. **Soileau**, Virginia Tech and Mr. S. **Weaver**, Town of Christiansburg.

Staff Attendees: Kevin Byrd, Christy Straight, and Julie Phillips.

**II. CONSENT AGENDA**

A. Approval of Minutes for April

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

Motion: Mr. Bopp moved for the approval of the minutes. Mr. Turk seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

B. Approval of Treasurer's Report for April

Mr. Sullivan 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. Bopp seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

**III. COMMONWEALTH INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS**

A. Projects (Signed-off by the staff)

1. Town of Pulaski submittal of RD grant application "Fixing Roofs to Fix Business Revitalization"

B. Regular Project Review

None

C. Environmental Project Review

1. [16-11]-VADEQ 2016-2018 Building Capacity for Protection of Wetland Resources in Virginia-Track One

Mr. Sullivan called for approval of the environmental review.

Motion: Dr. Harvey moved for the approval of the environmental review. Mr. Carpenter seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously

2. [16-16] - VADEQ Pollution Prevention Outreach

Mr. Sullivan called for approval of the environmental review.

Motion: Ms. Journell moved for the approval of the environmental review. Mr. Sutphin seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously

3. Revision of 1991 Guidelines of Minimum Requirements for Transmission Line Applications

Mr. Sullivan called for approval of the environmental review.

Motion: Mr. Gerald moved for the approval of the environmental review. Mr. East seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously

#### **IV. PUBLIC ADDRESS**

None.

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

Mr. Patton reported he was recently reappointed by the Floyd County Board of Supervisors to serve on the New River Community College Board. Mr. Law shared Pembroke Telephone is in the process of a \$2 million upgrade to their system. Mr. Law also explained his concerns about parking at the Cascades and the impact it has on visitors to the area. Mr. Showalter announced the Town of Christiansburg hired a new town manager, Mr. Steve Biggs from Clayton, NC, who will start on July 1<sup>st</sup>. Lastly, Mr. Sutphin noted the Town of Blacksburg recently completed an Economic Development and Growth Indicators Report, which is available on the Town's website.

#### **VI. CHAIR'S REPORT**

Mr. Sullivan reported Go Virginia is moving forward to develop Regional Councils in the first year of the program. Out years that include grant funding for projects will be discussed in the next General Assembly session. Mr. Sullivan also explained the Smart Beginnings New River Valley program is at a transition point and has approached the Commission about potentially serving as fiscal agent. This will come to the Commission for a full discussion before any action is taken, most likely at the June meeting.

#### **VII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Byrd provided a summary report in the Commission agenda packet. Mr. Byrd reported the Virginia Main Street program is hosting their Downtown Intersections conference July 11-13 in Staunton and explained the NRV has access to 10 complimentary registrations plus lodging due to our work with the LEAD program and ReNew the New expansion. Mr. Byrd explained a funding decision regarding the next phase of activity for NRV Passenger Rail, a Rail Modeling Study, should be announced at the June Commonwealth Transportation Board meeting in Richmond. He reported the NRV Mayors and County Chairs bi-annual meeting is scheduled for June 20<sup>th</sup> and

noted that Commission continues to coordinate quarterly local government managers meetings. Lastly, the ReNew the New Steering Committee will meet on May 31<sup>st</sup> to discuss details heading into the August 27<sup>th</sup> clean up event.

## **VIII. OLD BUSINESS**

### **A. Annual Dinner Event Recap/Debrief**

Mr. Sullivan reported the annual dinner was attended by 112 people and there has been positive feedback from guests. Ms. Perkins expressed the format allows people from different localities to meet and have discussions. Dr. Harvey said she enjoyed the mobile workshop day-time event. Mr. Sullivan passed around a thank you letter from Radford University President Penelope Kyle after she was awarded Citizen of the Valley. Mr. Sullivan thanked Mr. Byrd and the staff for bringing the event together.

## **IX. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. Overview of RIDE Solutions Program – Connecting the Region’s Commuters**

Christy Straight gave a presentation explaining the RIDE Solutions program. Ms. Straight explained the services available for commuters and noted that the program is available for commuters living and/or working within the NRV. Ms. Straight highlighted some of the offerings and benefits available to members of the RIDE solutions program. She also explained community involvement aspect of the program, such as bike month events and the bike shorts film festival.

### **B. Consideration of FY17 Proposed Budget**

Mr. Byrd overviewed the proposed budget included in the packet and called for any questions following a brief presentation.

Discussion: Mr. Patton asked if the staff will receive an increase in compensation in the proposed budget. Mr. Byrd explained there is an adjustment included in the proposed budget. Mr. Sutphin asked if the Department of Labor changes in how overtime is calculated will affect the budget. Mr. Byrd explained staff is in the process of determining if there will be any changes before the rule goes into effect in December, but noted there are not financial impacts anticipated for the Commission due to the use of compensation time. Mr. Carpenter asked if the increase in the local assessment rate was included. Mr. Byrd noted the increased rate was included.

Motion: Mr. Patton moved to approve the FY17 Budget. Mr. Carpenter seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

### **C. Commission Officers for FY17 – Slate to be Introduced**

Mr. Sullivan announced the nominating Committee proposed the following slate of officers for FY17, Chair, Joe Carpenter-Radford University; Vice-Chair, Michael Harvey-Montgomery County; Treasurer, Leon Law-Giles County; and Member at Larger, Charles Bopp-Pulaski County. Mr. Sullivan called for any nominations from the floor and receiving none, the floor was closed for nominations.

Mr. Sullivan called to adjourn the meeting.

Motion: Mr. Patton moved to adjourn. Mr. Bopp seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm.

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Kevin Sullivan, Chair  
New River Valley Regional Commission

**NEW RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL COMMISSION**  
**Minutes of the Commission Meeting**  
held on  
**June 23, 2016**  
**6:00 p.m. – New River Valley Business Center, Fairlawn**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

**PRESENT:** Mr. K. **Sullivan**, Chair, Virginia Tech; Mr. J. **Carpenter**, Radford University, Vice-Chair; Mr. L. **Law**, Giles County, Treasurer; Mr. C. **Bopp**, Pulaski County; Mr. T. **Garrett**, Town of Narrows; Mr. F. **Gerald**, Floyd County; Dr. H. **Harvey**, City of Radford; Mr. M. **Harvey**, Montgomery County; Mr. W. **Kantsios**, Town of Rich Creek; Mr. R. **McCoy**, Giles County; Ms. A. **Perkins**, Montgomery County; Mr. J. **Soileau**, Virginia Tech; Mr. M. **Turk**, City of Radford, and Dr. D. **Warren**, Pulaski County.

**ABSENT:** Mr. L. **Clevinger**, Town of Pulaski; Mr. G. **East**, Town of Pulaski; Ms. S. **Journell**, Town of Pearisburg; Ms. H. **Lesko**, Town of Blacksburg; Mr. M. **Maslaney**, Floyd County; Ms. C. **Newcomb**, Town of Blacksburg; Mr. M. **Patton**, Town of Floyd; Mr. H. **Showalter**, Town of Christiansburg; Mr. M. **Sutphin**, Town of Blacksburg and Mr. S. **Weaver**, Town of Christiansburg.

Staff Attendees: Kevin Byrd, Michael Gottfredson, Janet McNew, Patrick O'Brien and Julie Phillips.

**II. CONSENT AGENDA**

A. Approval of Minutes for May

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

Motion: Mr. Bopp moved for the approval of the minutes. Mr. Harvey seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

B. Approval of Treasurer's Report for May

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

Motion: Mr. Kantsios moved for the approval of the Treasurer's Report. Mr. Law seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

**III. COMMONWEALTH INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS**

A. Projects (Signed-off by the staff)

1. Application to EDA for FY16-17 Planning Assistance

B. Regular Project Review

None

C. Environmental Project Review

1. Environmental Assessment for the Town of Rich Creek Water Systems Improvements

Mr. Sullivan called for approval of the environmental review.

Motion: Mr. McCoy moved for the approval of the environmental review. Mr. Harvey seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously

2. Reissuance of VPDES permit, Lhoist North America of Virginia Inc. – Kimballton

Mr. Law asked if the water was being pumped from an active mine and how it is monitored for pollutants such as diesel from the pumps. Mr. McCoy explained the mine is not active.

Mr. Sullivan called for approval of the environmental review with the comment that active monitoring needs to take place and there needs to be a plan to contain any pollutants in the event pollutants are detected.

Motion: Mr. Harvey moved for the approval of the environmental review. Mr. Turk seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously

#### **IV. PUBLIC ADDRESS**

None.

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

Mr. Carpenter thanked the region for the support shown to Radford University while hosting the Boy's State program. He also noted in the next month Radford University will be transitioning to the new president, Dr. Brian Hemphill.

#### **VI. CHAIR'S REPORT**

Mr. Sullivan reported the NRV Mayors and Chairs meeting was well attended and the group discussed the potential for a regional drug court and day report program for non-violent offenders. The local government fiscal impact for prisoners is substantial and regional coordination of certain programs may help decrease costs. Mr. Byrd will coordinate a regional meeting to explore this concept further with local governments that are interested. Mr. Sullivan announced the Town of Christiansburg will have two new representatives on the Commission in the next fiscal year, Mr. Hil Johnson will be a citizen representative replacing Mr. Scott Weaver and Mr. Harry Collins will serve in the rotating elected official role for a two-year term. Mr. Michael Sutphin from Blacksburg Town Council completes his appointment as rotating elected official at the end of June.

#### **VII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Byrd provided a summary report in the Commission agenda packet. Mr. Byrd reported the Virginia Main Street program is hosting their Downtowns Intersection conference July 11-13 in Staunton and several communities in the region will be sending representatives. Mr. Byrd explained the NRV Passenger Rail project was selected to move forward with a Rail Modeling Study in the Commonwealth Transportation Board budget; however, the project is not scheduled to take place until FY19. He noted communities considering submitting transportation projects for 2016 House Bill 2 prioritization should begin working on applications and explained the Commission

staff is available for assistance. Mr. Byrd reported the ReNew the New Steering Committee will hold a scouting meeting on the river July 28<sup>th</sup> to prepare for the August 27<sup>th</sup> clean up event. He also noted the event has already reached its goal for 300+ volunteers. Surplus items discussed in the May meeting were listed on govdeals.com. The van was sold, but the hydraulic hand pumps did not reach the minimum reserve. The Commission was asked by statewide partners to serve as lead applicant/fiscal agent for an Agritourism Economic Impact Study for Virginia and noted this is a direct result of previous staff performance on grant management with the funding agency. Mr. Byrd shared an invitation to attend the White House Rural Council meeting on June 30<sup>th</sup> in Abingdon with the focus on prescription drug abuse. Lastly, he noted the Governor's office announced the Prices Fork School Reuse project will receive \$2.5million in funds through a pilot program, Vibrant Communities Initiative.

## **VIII. OLD BUSINESS**

None.

## **IX. NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Smart Beginnings New River Valley Transition Presentation  
John Neel, Kristi Snyder, and Jessica Wirgau gave a presentation on the Smart Beginnings NRV program. They explained the program purpose, services provided, and the transition expected in the next two years. Smart Beginnings NRV is currently operated through the Virginia Tech Institute for Policy and Governance. They are currently seeking a fiscal agent as well as back office support. By way of a transition study conducted by the Virginia Early Childhood Foundation, several interviewees identified the Regional Commission as a good fit for Smart Beginnings NRV. Following the presentation, discussion included particular expectations of the Commission and capacity to assist.

Mr. Sullivan explained the presentation was for information purposes. Mr. Byrd will bring more details to the Commission as he continues to work with the Smart Beginnings NRV Transition Team to determine whether the Commission is an appropriate fit.

- B. Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Project Package and Report  
Mr. Byrd explained the full CEDS document was included in the packet and Mr. O'Brien is available for any questions.

Discussion: Mr. Sullivan asked if every planning district is required to submit a CEDS document annually. Mr. Byrd explained only planning district regions that are designated Economic Development Districts by the US Economic Development Administration are required to submit the CEDS. Mr. Harvey suggested getting more detail on employment data in next year's report could help clarify state employee/education sector status, particularly those working on university campuses.

Motion: Mr. Harvey moved to approve the CEDS. Dr. Warren seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

C. Commission Officers for FY17

Mr. Sullivan announced the following slate of officers for FY17, Chair, Joe Carpenter-Radford University; Vice-Chair, Michael Harvey-Montgomery County; Treasurer, Leon Law-Giles County; and Member at Large, Charles Bopp-Pulaski County. Mr. Sullivan called for any nominations from the floor and receiving none, the floor was closed for nominations.

Motion: Dr. Warren moved to approve the slate of officers for FY17. Mr. Turk seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

D. July Commission Meeting

Mr. Byrd explained the July meeting is typically cancelled because it conflicts with the VAPDC Summer Conference.

Motion: Mr. McCoy moved to cancel the July meeting. Mr. Bopp seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Sullivan called to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.

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Joe Carpenter, Chair  
New River Valley Regional Commission



**NEW RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL COMMISSION**  
**Minutes of the Commission Meeting**  
held on  
**August 25, 2016**  
**6:00 p.m. – New River Valley Business Center, Fairlawn**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

**PRESENT:** Mr. J. **Carpenter**, Radford University, Chair; Mr. M. **Harvey**, Vice-Chair, Montgomery County; Mr. L. **Law**, Giles County, Treasurer; Mr. C. **Bopp**, Pulaski County; Mr. L. **Clevinger**, Town of Pulaski; Mr. H. **Collins**, Town of Christiansburg; Mr. G. **East**, Town of Pulaski; Mr. T. **Garrett**, Town of Narrows; Mr. F. **Gerald**, Floyd County; Dr. H. **Harvey**, City of Radford; Ms. H. **Lesko**, Town of Blacksburg; Mr. R. **McCoy**, Giles County; Mr. K. **Marshall**, City of Radford; Mr. M. **Maslaney**, Floyd County; Ms. A. **Perkins**, Montgomery County; Mr. M. **Patton**, Town of Floyd; Mr. H. **Showalter**, Town of Christiansburg; Mr. K. **Sullivan**, Virginia Tech; and Dr. D. **Warren**, Pulaski County.

**ABSENT:** Mr. H. **Johnson**, Town of Christiansburg; Ms. S. **Journell**, Town of Pearisburg; Mr. W. **Kantsios**, Town of Rich Creek; Ms. C. **Newcomb**, Town of Blacksburg, and Mr. J. **Soileau**, Virginia Tech.

Staff Attendees: Kevin Byrd, James Jones, Eli Sharp, Christy Straight and Julie Phillips.

**II. CONSENT AGENDA**

A. Approval of Minutes for June

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

Motion: Mr. Bopp moved for the approval of the minutes. Mr. McCoy seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

B. Approval of Treasurer's Report for June

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

Motion: Mr. McCoy moved for the approval of the Treasurer's Report. Mr. Sullivan seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

**III. COMMONWEALTH INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS**

A. Projects (Signed-off by the staff)

None

B. Regular Project Review

None

C. Environmental Project Review

None

#### **IV. PUBLIC ADDRESS**

None

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

Mr. McCoy announced the ReNew the New river cleanup will be held August 27<sup>th</sup> and a record number of volunteers is anticipated. Mr. Showalter reported the Town of Christiansburg will be hosting several festivals and also explained the Town is in the process of purchasing land for a rail station, showing their commitment to the NRV Rail 2020 project. Ms. Lesko shared the Dialogue on Race will take place this weekend in Blacksburg at Nellies Cave Park. Mr. Collins reported the Town of Christiansburg will be hosting Touch a Truck event at the NRV Mall this weekend. Mr. Bopp reported there was a cruise-in held last month at the Ratcliff Museum in Pulaski which helped raise awareness for the museum in town. Mr. Carpenter shared Radford University's president, Dr. Hemphill, hosted a meeting to reach out to the business community and announced the University will be updating their strategic plan.

#### **VI. CHAIR'S REPORT**

Mr. Carpenter reported the Executive Committee met in July although there was not a full Commission meeting. That meeting focused on goals for the coming fiscal year. The Executive Committee also met in August. Mr. Carpenter and Mr. Law met with the auditors during their field work review of FY15-16. Mr. Carpenter thanked Mr. Sullivan for his service as Chair the past two years and presented him with a plaque.

#### **VII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Byrd provided a summary report in the Commission agenda packet. Mr. Byrd reported the GO Virginia state-level board was announced and explained a workgroup was established to develop the program guidelines. He noted the current map draft includes NRV in a region with Roanoke and Lynchburg. Mr. Byrd reported Pembroke and Narrows held downtown revitalization design workshops and noted Glen Lyn, Pearisburg, and Rich Creek recently received grant funds for downtown revitalization. Mr. Byrd thanked Radford University for hosting the NRV Rail 2020 reception. Mr. Byrd noted the ReNew the New river cleanup will be held Saturday. Lastly, the new commission member orientation was held recently for the two new representatives from the Town of Christiansburg.

#### **VIII. OLD BUSINESS**

None.

#### **IX. NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Smart Beginnings New River Valley Transition Presentation  
Kristi Snyder and Jessica Wirgau gave a presentation on the Smart Beginnings NRV program. They overviewed content in the board packet which included the anticipated budget, job description for board members and a fundraising plan.

Motion: Mr. Carpenter moved to approve the New River Valley Regional Commission serving as the fiscal agent and host agency for Smart Beginnings New River Valley. Mr. McCoy seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

B. FY 17 Regional Commission Work Program

Mr. Byrd explained the FY17 Work Program was included in the packet. Mr. Sharp develops this document annually along with staff to serve as a guide to the projects underway at the Commission in the upcoming fiscal year.

Motion: Dr. Warren moved to approve the FY17 Work Program. Ms. Lesko seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

C. NRV Data Dashboard

Mr. Jones gave a presentation on the NRV Data Dashboard. He explained the NRV Data Book was a hard copy document produced every two years in the past and the data dashboard will serve as an online data repository for the public going forward. Mr. Jones walked through an example of how to use the online dashboard and how filtering can be applied. Mr. Sullivan asked where the data comes from and how new users will learn to access the information. Mr. Jones explained each dashboard contains a link to the original data source. Also, Commission staff is planning a workshop to show how to use the features of the NRV Data Dashboard. Staff will also research a video tutorial to place on the website.

Mr. Carpenter called to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 pm.

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L. Joe Carpenter, Chair  
New River Valley Regional Commission

**NEW RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL COMMISSION**  
**Minutes of the Commission Meeting**  
held on  
**September 22nd, 2016**  
**6:00 p.m. – New River Valley Business Center, Fairlawn**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

**PRESENT:** Mr. J. **Carpenter**, Radford University, Chair; Mr. M. **Harvey**, Vice-Chair, Montgomery County; Mr. L. **Law**, Giles County, Treasurer; Mr. L. **Clevinger**, Town of Pulaski; Mr. H. **Collins**, Town of Christiansburg; Mr. G. **East**, Town of Pulaski; Mr. T. **Garrett**, Town of Narrows; Mr. F. **Gerald**, Floyd County; Dr. H. **Harvey**, City of Radford; Mr. H. **Johnson**, Town of Christiansburg; Ms. S. **Journell**, Town of Pearisburg; Mr. W. **Kantsios**, Town of Rich Creek; Ms. H. **Lesko**, Town of Blacksburg; Mr. K. **Marshall**, City of Radford; Mr. M. **Maslaney**, Floyd County; Ms. A. **Perkins**, Montgomery County; Mr. M. **Patton**, Town of Floyd; Mr. H. **Showalter**, Town of Christiansburg; and Dr. D. **Warren**, Pulaski County.

**ABSENT:** Mr. C. **Bopp**, Pulaski County; Mr. R. **McCoy**, Giles County; Ms. C. **Newcomb**, Town of Blacksburg; Mr. K. **Sullivan**, Virginia Tech, and Mr. J. **Soileau**, Virginia Tech.

Staff Attendees: Kevin Byrd, Patrick Burton, Michael Gottfredson, Patrick O'Brien, Jennifer Wilsie and Julie Phillips.

**II. CONSENT AGENDA**

A. Approval of Minutes for August  
Mr. Carpenter called for approval of the consent agenda item if there were no questions or changes.

Motion: Mr. Gerald moved for the approval of the minutes. Mr. Patton seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

B. Approval of Treasurer's Report for July and August  
Mr. Carpenter called for approval of the consent agenda item if there were no questions or changes.

Motion: Ms. Lesko moved for the approval of the Treasurer's Report. Dr. Harvey seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

**III. COMMONWEALTH INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS**

- A. Projects (Signed-off by the staff)
  - 1. FY2017 Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Program- Safe Drinking Water Act
- B. Regular Project Review
  - None
- C. Environmental Project Review
  - 1. Pulaski County Sewer Improvements Project

## 2. Montgomery County Water Improvements Project

### **IV. PUBLIC ADDRESS**

None

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

Mr. Carpenter reported Radford University held a ribbon cutting for the College of Humanities and Behavioral Sciences building. Mr. Collins announced there was a ribbon cutting for the Wilderness Trail in Christiansburg, as well as the Holiday Inn. Dr. Warren announced the Pulaski County PSA is moving to a new building in Dublin and will be having a ribbon cutting on October 3<sup>rd</sup>. Mr. Garrett shared a new restaurant, Momma Donnas, is opening in Narrows in the old Anna's building. Lastly, Mr. Patton reported Mr. Byrd and Mr. Sharp gave a presentation to Floyd Town Council last week on an update to their Town Park Master Plan. He noted the Commission staff does a great job helping the localities take on projects they may not have the resources to complete.

### **VI. CHAIR'S REPORT**

Mr. Carpenter welcomed Mr. Hil Johnson to the Commission, Christiansburg's new citizen representative. Mr. Carpenter noted he attended the NRV Economic Development Alliance annual dinner and noted how the Commission is involved with so many regional projects. He reported the executive committee met the week previous and discussed forthcoming policy changes associated with the Fair Labor Standards Act. The policy changes will come before the Commission at the November meeting.

### **VII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Byrd provided a summary report in the Commission agenda packet. Mr. Byrd reported he met with his counterparts in Roanoke and Lynchburg to discuss submitting a joint letter of intent for the three PDC Executive Directors to serve as conveners for the new Regional Council for GO Virginia. Mr. Carpenter noted the current map of the regions is consistent with the momentum of the economic development landscape. Mr. Byrd explained there will be a joint local government managers meeting with the New River Valley, Roanoke and Lynchburg regions in November. He explained the Town of Pulaski selected the Commission to serve as grant administrator for their downtown revitalization planning grant. Also, Giles County kicked-off their planning grant project that will support Pearisburg, Rich Creek and Glen Lyn to conduct similar visioning exercises to Pembroke and Narrows. Mr. Byrd explained the Commission will serve as fiscal agent and host agency for Smart Beginnings NRV and noted the project is scheduled to start in January 2017. The Census data training at the NRV Business Center originally scheduled for September was rescheduled for October 28<sup>th</sup>. Lastly, Mr. Byrd reported the staff will be participating in an all-day retreat at Mountain Lake on September 29<sup>th</sup> to revisit and update the internal strategic plan started last year.

### **VIII. OLD BUSINESS**

None.

## **IX. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. Jefferson National Forest Management Overview**

Dan McKeague, District Ranger with the US Forest Service, gave a presentation outlining the management of the Jefferson National Forest. He explained the forest service's mission and noted the Jefferson National Forest is a conservation agency which is distinctly different from a preservation mission. Mr. McKeague explained there are upcoming projects which include natural resource management and recreation collaboration where the Forest Service will be working with localities. Mr. Law asked what the management priorities are at different areas within the Jefferson National Forest. Mr. McKeague explained each area is managed differently, some with partners. He noted an upcoming recreation collaboration project will kick-off in the spring with a desire to help to disperse use to areas not visited as frequently. Mr. Law asked if the natural gas pipeline is planned to go through the Jefferson National Forest. Mr. McKeague explained it is planned to go through approximately 4 miles of the forest. Mr. Law asked if there is a long range plan for the Cascades. Mr. McKeague explained it will be part of the recreation collaboration project which is important since the previous weekend there were approximately 4,000 visitors to that site alone. Mr. Law noted the high visitation is good; however, there are impacts to public services, particularly local government rescue resources since the Forest Service is not equipped, and those factors should be taken into account in the upcoming planning effort.

### **B. ReNew the New Debrief**

Mr. Gottfredson gave a presentation explaining the process of the ReNew the New expansion. He outlined how the organization began in Giles County and how it became a regional project. Mr. Gottfredson gave an overview of the 2016 event and explained the next steps planned for future events. Lastly, he showed a video created at the event, which can be found on the Commission's You Tube channel.

### **C. FY16 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Consumer Version**

Mr. Byrd overviewed the FY16 CEDS Consumer Version included in the packet and asked for any comments.

### **D. FY16 NRVRC Annual Report**

Mr. Byrd overviewed the FY16 Annual Report included in the packet highlighting all the projects and programs delivered by the Commission and asked for any comments.

Mr. Carpenter called to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 pm.

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L. Joe Carpenter, Chair  
New River Valley Regional Commission

**NEW RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL COMMISSION**  
**Minutes of the Commission Meeting**  
held on  
**October 27th, 2016**  
**6:00 p.m. – New River Valley Business Center, Fairlawn**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

**PRESENT:** Mr. J. **Carpenter**, Radford University, Chair; Mr. M. **Harvey**, Vice-Chair, Montgomery County; Mr. L. **Law**, Giles County, Treasurer; Mr. C. **Bopp**, Pulaski County; Mr. L. **Clevinger**, Town of Pulaski; Mr. H. **Collins**, Town of Christiansburg; Mr. T. **Garrett**, Town of Narrows; Mr. F. **Gerald**, Floyd County; Dr. H. **Harvey**, City of Radford; Ms. S. **Journell**, Town of Pearisburg; Mr. W. **Kantsios**, Town of Rich Creek; Mr. M. **Maslaney**, Floyd County; Mr. K. **Sullivan**, Virginia Tech; Mr. J. **Soileau**, Virginia Tech, and Dr. D. **Warren**, Pulaski County.

**ABSENT:** Mr. G. **East**, Town of Pulaski; Mr. H. **Johnson**, Town of Christiansburg; Ms. H. **Lesko**, Town of Blacksburg; Mr. K. **Marshall**, City of Radford; Mr. R. **McCoy**, Giles County; Ms. C. **Newcomb**, Town of Blacksburg; Ms. A. **Perkins**, Montgomery County; Mr. M. **Patton**, Town of Floyd, and Mr. H. **Showalter**, Town of Christiansburg.

Staff Attendees: Kevin Byrd, Janet McNew, Jennifer Wilsie and Julie Phillips.

**II. CONSENT AGENDA**

A. Approval of Minutes for September

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

Motion: Mr. Gerald moved for the approval of the minutes. Mr. Kantsios seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

B. Approval of Treasurer's Report for September

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

Motion: Mr. Sullivan moved for the approval of the Treasurer's Report. Ms. Journell seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

**III. COMMONWEALTH INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS**

A. Projects (Signed-off by the staff)

None

B. Regular Project Review

None

C. Environmental Project Review

1. Mountain Valley Pipeline Draft Environmental Impact Statement Review

Mr. Byrd provided an overview of the Commission's role in the environmental review process based on the memo provided in the packet. Mr. Byrd noted all the items the Commission asked for inclusion in the environmental impact statement were addressed in the full report, aside from the manufacturer's location for the pipe, which would not typically be included in such a report. Following Commission discussion, Mr. Harvey asked for the response to include the Commission supports any comments from member localities.

2. Virginia Tech O'Shaughnessy Hall expansion  
No comments from the Commission.

#### **IV. PUBLIC ADDRESS**

None

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

Mr. Bopp reported Pulaski County hired a new county administrator, Mr. Jonathan Sweet from Grayson County, who will start in mid-January. Mr. Bopp also shared the Ratcliffe museum has commemorative bricks to be placed in the community garden available for purchase as a fundraiser to support the museum. Mr. Carpenter reported Radford University had an inauguration ceremony for the new president, Dr. Brian Hemphill. The university is also planning a \$34.0 million renovation to Reed and Curie Halls which will allow for more science and cyber defense studies programs to be offered by the university.

#### **VI. CHAIR'S REPORT**

Mr. Carpenter reported the executive committee met earlier in the month and discussed the per capita dues which is on the agenda for the Commission. He also appointed Dr. Harvey to serve on the Smart Beginnings NRV Leadership Council to represent the Commission.

#### **VII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Byrd provided a summary report in the Commission agenda packet. Mr. Byrd reported the GO Virginia Statewide board held their first meeting and voted to send the proposed map (developed by VAPDC) out for a 30-day public comment period. Mr. Byrd explained there will be a joint local government managers meeting with the New River Valley, Roanoke and Lynchburg regions in November. In partnership with the towns of Blacksburg and Christiansburg, Montgomery County and the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce, the Commission launched a broadband user survey in mid-October. Mr. Byrd reported the concept for next year's ReNew the New event will be centralized registration, then decentralized clean-up activities so all four counties and the city can host activities. The SWVA Outdoor Expo will be held April 22<sup>nd</sup> in Bisset Park. He noted Commission staff is the lead coordinating entity as a joint tourism project, and called for discussion about potential vendors in the region to contact. Mr. Sullivan asked about the intended audience for the event and the market range. Mr. Byrd explained the public is the intended audience and all of Southwest Virginia is the market range. Dr. Warren suggested Mother Earth news be contacted. Mr. Garrett asked if there will be spots available for towns and local chambers of commerce. Mr. Byrd explained there will be spots for both at no cost and there will also be a range of sponsorship packages available for entities that would like an increased level of exposure. Mr. Byrd reported the



staff held a retreat at Mountain Lake reviewing successes of our internal committees and developing focus areas for FY17. The next Mayors and Chairs meeting will be held December 2<sup>nd</sup>. Also on December 2<sup>nd</sup> there will be a New River Watershed Roundtable meeting to discuss the role of the roundtable going forward. Mr. Byrd will be attending a VAPDC meeting with key State Agency Heads in Richmond on November 9<sup>th</sup>. Due to the federal Fair Standards Labor Act, an update to the personnel manual will be included in the November mailout. Giles County was awarded POWER funds to be used for boat ramp development and a river center. Lastly, the Commission was selected as a winner of the NADO photo contest for the second year in a row.

## **VIII. OLD BUSINESS**

None.

## **IX. NEW BUSINESS**

A. Prices Fork Elementary School Reuse Project (Housing + Local Food)  
Ms. Wilsie gave a presentation explaining the Prices Fork Elementary School Reuse project. She outlined the partners involved, project components (housing and economic development), and project's timeline including the three phases planned. Lastly, Ms. Wilsie explained the breakdown of the numerous funding sources for the project.

B. FY18 Per Capita Assessment Rate  
Mr. Byrd explained the proposed assessment rate for FY18 is \$1.29 which is unchanged from FY17. Based on the Commission's recommendation from last year, the Commission is using the 2015 population estimates for FY18 rather than waiting until 2020 for updated population figures. Utilizing 2015 population estimates should provide incremental adjustments rather than larger adjustments that may follow using the decennial Census (10-years).

Motion: Dr. Warren moved to approve the assessment rate for FY18 at \$1.29. Mr. Harvey seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

C. Set November Commission Meeting Date  
Mr. Byrd explained the November meeting date falls on Thanksgiving and traditionally is moved to the third Thursday.

Motion: Mr. Kantsios made a motion to move the November meeting to November 17, 2016. Mr. Collins seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Carpenter called to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 pm.

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L. Joe Carpenter, Chair  
New River Valley Regional Commission

**NEW RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL COMMISSION**  
**Minutes of the Commission Meeting**  
held on  
**November 17th, 2016**  
**6:00 p.m. – New River Valley Business Center, Fairlawn**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

**PRESENT:** Mr. J. **Carpenter**, Radford University, Chair; Mr. M. **Harvey**, Vice-Chair, Montgomery County; Mr. C. **Bopp**, Pulaski County; Mr. L. **Clevinger**, Town of Pulaski; Mr. H. **Collins**, Town of Christiansburg; Mr. T. **Garrett**, Town of Narrows; Mr. F. **Gerald**, Floyd County; Dr. H. **Harvey**, City of Radford; Mr. H. **Johnson**, Town of Christiansburg; Ms. S. **Journell**, Town of Pearisburg; Mr. W. **Kantsios**, Town of Rich Creek; Mr. M. **Maslaney**, Floyd County; Mr. M. **Patton**, Town of Floyd; Mr. H. **Showalter**, Town of Christiansburg; Mr. K. **Sullivan**, Virginia Tech; and Dr. D. **Warren**, Pulaski County.

**ABSENT:** Mr. L. **Law**, Giles County, Treasurer; Mr. G. **East**, Town of Pulaski; Ms. H. **Lesko**, Town of Blacksburg; Mr. K. **Marshall**, City of Radford; Mr. R. **McCoy**, Giles County; Ms. C. **Newcomb**, Town of Blacksburg; Ms. A. **Perkins**, Montgomery County, and Mr. J. **Soileau**, Virginia Tech.

Staff Attendees: Kevin Byrd, James Jones, Janet McNew, Elijah Sharp, Christy Straight, Jennifer Wilsie and Julie Phillips.

**II. CONSENT AGENDA**

A. Approval of Minutes for October

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

Motion: Mr. Gerald moved for the approval of the minutes. Mr. Harvey seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

B. Approval of Treasurer's Report for October

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

Motion: Mr. Sullivan moved for the approval of the Treasurer's Report. Mr. Showalter seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

**III. COMMONWEALTH INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS**

A. Projects (Signed-off by the staff)

None

B. Regular Project Review

None

C. Environmental Project Review

None

#### **IV. PUBLIC ADDRESS**

None

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

Mr. Harvey expressed his concern about the performance of the Virginia Economic Development Partnership regarding the recently released report prepared by the Virginia Joint Legislative Audit Committee (JLARC).

#### **VI. CHAIR'S REPORT**

Mr. Carpenter reported the executive committee met earlier in the month and discussed the updates to the personnel manual, the progress of GO Virginia, and the financial operations presentation. He also noted there will be three resolutions added to the agenda.

#### **VII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Byrd provided a summary report in the Commission agenda packet. Mr. Byrd reported he attended a joint local government managers meeting with the New River Valley, Roanoke and Lynchburg regions earlier in the day. One of the key outcomes of the meeting was an approach to populating the new GO Virginia Regional Council. Mr. Byrd explained each PDC region will organize a roundtable discussion among regional leadership to identify seven to eight leaders to serve on the Regional Council for GO Virginia. After the Regional Council is determined, the next step will be to establish an Economic Diversification and Growth Plan for the region. The Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) should be a good starting point to develop the plan. If the General Assembly appropriates the funds in this upcoming session for GO Virginia projects, money will be available in July 2017, provided the Regional Council gets certified by June 30, 2017. Mr. Byrd reported staff continues to support the passenger rail advocacy group and explained NRV Rail 2020 is working on a budget amendment to move funds budgeted for FY19 into FY18 for the Rail Traffic Control Study. Mr. Byrd noted the Mayors and Chairs meeting and the New River Watershed Roundtable meeting will be held December 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Business Center.

#### **VIII. OLD BUSINESS**

None.

#### **IX. NEW BUSINESS**

##### **A. Personnel Manual Update to Comply with Fair Labor Standards Act**

Mr. Byrd overviewed the changes proposed in the personnel manual which was included in the packet. Two minor corrections were identified since the packet was distributed, one on p.3-13, removing the word 'dismissal' and one on p. 3-15, item c. add the word 'employee'.

Motion: Mr. Patton moved to approve the personnel manual with the two changes. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

B. Regional Commission Financial Operations Overview

Mr. Byrd gave a presentation explaining the Financial Operations. He outlined how the budget is built, the revenue sources and the expenses. Ms. McNew explained the details of the reports included in the monthly Treasurer's report. Mr. Byrd described what is involved in serving as the Workforce Development Board's fiscal agent and other agencies that use the Commission for bookkeeping services. Mr. Byrd gave examples of the members return on investment from the Commission. Lastly, Mr. Byrd covered the overall financial position of the Commission. Following several years of conservative budgeting and successfully securing diverse revenue streams during each fiscal year, a fund balance exists. He asked the Commissioners to begin thinking of ways the Commission could advance significant regional needs with the resource.

C. FY16 Audit Report

Mr. Byrd overviewed the audit report included in the packet.

Motion: Mr. Harvey made a motion to approve the audit report. Dr. Warren seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

D. Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee

Mr. Byrd shared a list of proposed members of the CEDS committee included in the packet and called for any additional members.

Motion: Ms. Journell made a motion to approve the CEDS committee as presented. Mr. Garrett seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

E. December Meeting Cancelled. Next Meeting January 26th.

F. Resolutions of Support and Appreciation

Mr. Carpenter explained a resolution of support for a Montgomery County request to VDOT under the Smart Scale Program for funding an intersection improvement at US Route 460 and Route 637 was distributed at the meeting and called for approval.

Motion: Mr. Harvey made a motion to support the resolution. Mr. Kantsios seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Carpenter presented two resolutions of appreciation for Peter Huber, Pulaski County Administrator and Kenneth Vittum, Pearisburg Town Manager, distributed at the meeting and called for approval.

Motion: Mr. Gerald made a motion to support the resolutions. Mr. Bopp seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Patton shared Dr. Jack Lewis, President of New River Community College, announced his retirement and suggested the Commission prepare a resolution of appreciation in recognition of his service to the region.

Mr. Patton made a motion that a resolution be presented to Dr. Jack Lewis.

Mr. Bopp seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Carpenter called to adjourn the meeting.  
The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.

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L. Joe Carpenter, Chair  
New River Valley Regional Commission