

**NEW RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL COMMISSION**  
**Minutes of the Commission Meeting**  
**held on**  
**September 26, 2019**  
**6:00 p.m. – New River Valley Business Center, Fairlawn**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

**PRESENT:** Mr. M. Harvey, Chair, Montgomery County; Mr. M. Maslaney, Floyd County, Vice-Chair; Mr. L. Law, Giles County, Treasurer; Ms. S. Anderson, Town of Blacksburg; Mr. C. Bopp, Pulaski County; Mr. L. Clevinger, Town of Pulaski; Mr. H. Collins, Town of Christiansburg; Mr. J. Coleman, Floyd County; Mr. S. Fijalkowski, Montgomery County; Mr. D. Horton, City of Radford; Mr. T. Garrett, Town of Narrows; Dr. H. Harvey, City of Radford; Mr. J. Herbein, Town of Blacksburg; Mr. H. Johnson, Town of Christiansburg; Mr. W. Kantsios, Town of Rich Creek; Mr. M. Patton, Town of Floyd and Dr. D. Warren, Pulaski County.

**ABSENT:** Ms. A. Covey, New River Community College; Mr. T. Clontz, Town of Pulaski; Ms. S. Journell, Town of Pearisburg; Mr. C. Kiwus, Virginia Tech; Mr. R. Lawson, Town of Pembroke; Mr. R. McCoy, Giles County Ms. C. Potter, Virginia Tech; Mr. J. Radcliffe, Town of Pulaski and Ms. A. Schumaker, Radford University.

Staff Attendees: Kevin Byrd, Jessica Barrett, Janet McNew, Julie Phillips, Elijah Sharp and Christy Straight.

Other Attendees: Noelle Bissett and Malcom McNew

**II. CONSENT AGENDA**

**A. Approval of Minutes for August**

Mr. Harvey 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. Fijalkowski seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

**B. Approval of Treasurer's Reports for August**

Mr. Harvey 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. Kantsios 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. Town of Pulaski - Water System Improvements Project
  - 2. VADEQ FY20-25 Section 106 2019 Additional Supplemental Appropriation for Disaster Relief Act Funding

### **IV. PUBLIC ADDRESS**

None

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

Mr. Fijalkowski reported a new ballpark, Creed Field, will open in Shawsville this month. Ms. Anderson reported Blacksburg will host a Blues, Brews and BBQ festival on September 28<sup>th</sup> and the second floor of the Black House Museum will open October 5<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Law reported Pembroke Heritage days will be September 28<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Patton reported the Floyd Craft Fair will be held on October 5<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Horton reported Radford will host Craft and Draft September 28<sup>th</sup> and the Highlander Festival will be October 12<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Collins reported Wing will host a drone delivery demonstration at the Christiansburg Moose Lodge on September 28<sup>th</sup>.

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

Mr. Harvey reported he participated in a presentation Mr. Byrd delivered on Regional Commission activities at the Montgomery-Radford-Floyd NAACP branch meeting. He also attended the Blacksburg Partnership Transportation Committee meeting. The I-81 committee will hold a meeting October 1<sup>st</sup> at Natural Bridge State Park in Lexington. He recognized Janet McNew's retirement following 20 years of service and presented her with a gift from the Commission.

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

Mr. Byrd provided a summary report in the Commission agenda packet. He reported the Commission anticipates positive news for Giles County on the US EPA technical assistance program, Recreation Economies for Rural Communities. The assistance will help advance work to connect communities to surrounding natural resources.

NRV Rail 2020 will host a legislative reception on October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5:30-7:00pm, at the Great Road on Main in Christiansburg. The Secretary of Transportation, Shannon Valentine, will provide remarks. Commission staff will be following up with local governments about their support to establish an authority to own/operate the NRV Passenger Rail Station with the intent of securing General Assembly enabling legislation in 2020.

The Regional + Local Housing Study team will be meeting with elected officials in work sessions over the next couple of months to review community-specific data and local strategies for inclusion in the final report which is anticipated for release in January.

On September 30<sup>th</sup> Mr. Byrd presented to the Indiana Legislature on New River Valley collaborations for implementation. The session was designed by the Pew Charitable Trust to assist states with research on impactful regional initiatives.

Lydeana Martin, Floyd County Community and Economic Development Director, was selected to participate in the inaugural class of the Appalachian Regional Commission Leadership Institute.

Mr. Byrd thanked Ms. Schumaker and Radford University for providing tickets for the Commission to attend the Radford University Discovery Institute event. The Valley to Valley Trail received notice to proceed from VDOT and an on-call consultant was assigned to work on the planning phase. The annual Commission staff retreat will be held on Friday, September 26<sup>th</sup>, and will focus on updating the Commission's website.

## **VIII. OLD BUSINESS**

None

## **IX. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. New River Health District Programs/Initiatives**

Dr. Bissell provided updates on the programs and initiatives underway at the New River Health District. The health district leads and partners on numerous programs throughout the region, many of which run through local health departments hosted by each county and the city. Dr. Bissell discussed several of the key challenges our region faces pertaining to public health. The department focuses on education, prevention and treatment. Staff are observing an increase of Hepatitis A cases in the region and keeping a close watch on Hepatitis C. The number of sexually transmitted infections in the region has rapidly increased over the past four years. As a result, the health department has increased educational resources, outreach programs and treatment for people at risk. The Regional Commission has provided mapping services for the health district pertaining to Hepatitis C along with other public health program areas such as well and septic locations.

### **B. Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy – Consumer Version**

Mr. Byrd explained the 'consumer version' of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) provides a user-friendly overview of the CEDS content for public distribution, including information about the CEDS, the region's economic development goals, top-ranked projects, and select regional demographic and economic data. Staff will begin the next annual update later this fall, reconvening the CEDS think-tank committee to update the CEDS to reflect recent economic development trends.

### **C. Annual Report for FY19**

Mr. Byrd explained the FY19 Regional Commission Annual Report was included in the packet and can be viewed online at the Commission's website via

[www.nrvrc.org/publications/](http://www.nrvrc.org/publications/). A hard copy will be mailed to every elected official in the region including all local, state and federal representatives. Copies are also mailed to all of our partner agencies and organizations.

Mr. Harvey called to adjourn the meeting at 7:15pm.

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M. Harvey, Chair  
New River Valley Regional Commission