

NEW RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL COMMISSION
Minutes of the Commission Meeting
held on
February 27, 2020
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. J Ballard, Town of Pearisburg; Mr. C. Bopp, Pulaski County; Mr. L. Clevinger, Town of Pulaski; Mr. T. Clontz, Town of Pulaski; Mr. J. Coleman, Floyd County; Ms. A. Covey, New River Community College; Dr. H. Harvey, City of Radford; Mr. J. Herbein, Town of Blacksburg; Mr. D. Horton, City of Radford; Mr. H. Johnson, Town of Christiansburg; Mr. W. Kantsios, Town of Rich Creek; Mr. C. Kiwus, Virginia Tech; Mr. R. Lawson, Town of Pembroke; Mr. R. McCoy, Giles County; Ms. C. Potter, Virginia Tech; Ms. M. Sachs, Town of Christiansburg and Dr. D. Warren, Pulaski County.

ABSENT: Mr. S. Fijalkowski, Montgomery County; Mr. T. Garrett, Town of Narrows; Dr. A. Joyner, Radford University; Mr. M. Patton, Town of Floyd; and Mr. J. Radcliffe, Town of Pulaski.

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

Other Attendees: Mel Jones.

II. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes for January

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

Motion: Mr. Horton moved for the approval of the minutes. Ms. Anderson seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

B. Approval of Treasurer's Report for January

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

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

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

III. COMMONWEALTH INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS

- A. Projects (Signed-off by the staff)
 - 1. NRV Community Services Vehicle Purchase
 - 2. Giles Health & Family funding assistance
- B. Regular Project Review
 - None
- C. Environmental Project Review
 - Virginia Tech- Glade Road-Broiler and Turkey Research Center Renovation

IV. PUBLIC ADDRESS

None

V. REVIEW OF MUTUAL CONCERNS AND COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Mr. Horton reported the Polar Plunge took place at Bissett Park February 22nd and raised nearly \$62,000 for Special Olympics. Ms. Anderson reported many elected officials in our area attended the Virginia Municipal League Legislative Day in Richmond and were recognized by the Governor. Ms. Sachs reported the Town of Christiansburg will begin looking into the Flow Control ordinance as is Montgomery County and the Town of Blacksburg. Ms. Covey reported New River Community College hosted a signing event for the Ferrum Promise program. Students are promised to receive bachelor's degree within two years upon entering Ferrum College with an associate degree from New River Community College.

VI. CHAIR'S REPORT

Mr. Harvey reported there were articles in the Roanoke Times about the Valley to Valley Trail initiative and the Christiansburg Town Council retreat facilitated by Mr. Byrd. Mr. Harvey and Mr. Byrd attended a meeting of the City of Radford Economic Development Authority to give a presentation on the Regional + Local Housing Study. The New River Watershed Roundtable met and discussed the environmental impacts of Doodle Dust in the Peak Creek watershed, spring clean ups around the region, water trail markers on the New River, and ReNew the New which will be held August 29th.

VII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Byrd provided a summary report in the Commission agenda packet. He reported the Commission is putting together a concept for an ARC POWER planning grant on extending the New River Water Trail. Initial thoughts were on an implementation application; however, there are several items to be confirmed before implementation could begin, such as specific locations for new boat launches.

The NRV Livability in Action event is scheduled for March 12th 8:30am-12:00 at the German Club in Blacksburg. The lightning round presentation session will cover the following topics, Brush Mountain Trails Project, Millstone Kitchen Foodpreneur Series, Growth at Floyd's Innovation Center, Radford's Downtown POP program, Refugee Resettlement Efforts, 2020 Census Complete Count,

Pulaski County's Vision, and In-demand Skilled Jobs. The Millstone Kitchen Grand Opening event was held on 2/12. The project has fully transitioned to the Live, Work, Eat, Gather, Inc (LWEG) non-profit board. Millstone Kitchen is also hosting a business plan competition for food-based businesses. They anticipate the creation of fourteen businesses through the process.

Mr. Byrd will be facilitating a retreat with Pulaski County Board of Supervisors and Pulaski County School Board on March 5th. Giles County Recreation Economies workshop will be held March 25th - 26th. The Commission's Annual Dinner will be held May 13th at Brickhouse Pizza in Radford.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

None

IX. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Regional + Local Housing Study Presentation
Mr. Byrd, Ms. Jones, and Ms. Wilsie gave a presentation on the soon to be released Regional + Local Housing Study. Mr. Byrd explained the need for the study. Ms. Jones detailed the data and findings as well as some of the opportunities and challenges identified. Ms. Wilsie detailed the strategies for implementation. The complete report is forthcoming.

- B. Regional Commission Awards – Reminder to Nominate
Mr. Byrd reminded Commissioners that nominations are due March 13, 2020.

Mr. Harvey called to adjourn the meeting at 7:25pm.

M. Harvey, Chair
New River Valley Regional Commission