

NEW RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL COMMISSION
Minutes of the Commission Meeting
held on
May 28, 2020
6:00 p.m.— Electronic Meeting via Zoom

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; Ms. A. Covey, New River Community College; Mr. S. Fijalkowski, Montgomery County; Mr. J. Herbein, Town of Blacksburg; Mr. D. Horton, City of Radford; Mr. H. Johnson, Town of Christiansburg; Dr. A. Joyner, Radford University; Mr. C. Kiwus, Virginia Tech; Mr. R. McCoy, Giles County; Ms. C. Potter, Virginia Tech; and Ms. M. Sachs, Town of Christiansburg.

ABSENT: Mr. T. Clontz, Town of Pulaski; Mr. J. Coleman, Floyd County; Mr. T. Garrett, Town of Narrows; Dr. H. Harvey, City of Radford; Mr. W. Kantsios, Town of Rich Creek; Mr. R. Lawson, Town of Pembroke; Mr. M. Patton, Town of Floyd; Mr. J. Radcliffe, Town of Pulaski and Dr. D. Warren, Pulaski County.

Staff Attendees: Kevin Byrd and Julie Phillips.

II. ELECTRONIC MEETING PARTICIPATION – Commission Action (attached)

Mr. Harvey called for approval of the electronic meeting participation policy. Section 2.2-3708.2 of the Virginia State Code, 1950, as amended, Section 3. Any public body may meet by electronic communication means without a quorum of the public body physically assembled at one location when the Governor has declared a state of emergency in accordance with § 44-146.17.

Motion: Mr. Horton moved for the approval of the policy. Mr. Kiwus seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

III. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes for February

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 minutes. Ms. Sachs seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

B. Approval of Treasurer’s Report for March and April

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 Treasurer's Report. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

IV. COMMONWEALTH INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS

A. Projects (Signed-off by the staff)

1. VA TECH Livestock and Poultry Projects
2. Radford University Acquisition of Property for Campus Expansion
3. VADEQ - FY20 NEIEN Grant Application - Water Quality Monitoring Mobile Application
4. Virginia Tech Livestock & Poultry Projects-Kentland Farm Sites-Beef and Swine Research Centers

B. Regular Project Review None

C. Environmental Project Review

1. Town of Pulaski Brownfields Grant application for federal funds

V. PUBLIC ADDRESS

None

VI. CHAIR'S REPORT

Mr. Harvey reported the I-81 Committee is discussing a possible meeting in June. VDOT staff will confirm the details in the coming weeks. The Executive Committee discussed how to handle Regional Commission board member compensation in light of electronic meetings. Since compensation is provided to offset the cost of travel, the committee felt it was most appropriate to not provide compensation when an electronic meeting is held, and no in-person participation takes place. He thanked those who submitted comments for the Executive Director's annual performance evaluation. The ReNew the New clean up events are scheduled for August 29th and the New River Watershed Roundtable is continuing to discuss how clean-ups can be conducted this year. The New River Conservancy recently received a \$250,000 grant to assist with water quality monitoring and water quality improvement projects in the Mountain Valley Pipeline impacted counties of Giles and Montgomery. The New River Conservancy is also working with the Town of Pulaski and Friends of Peak Creek on a phased approach to remediate the impact of Doodle Dust, a by-product of a legacy industrial facility in Pulaski, in the Peak Creek watershed by October 2020.

VII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Byrd provided a summary report in the Commission agenda packet. He reported the Commission will have access to non-competitive funds through the US Economic Development Administration CARES Act appropriation to assist with economic recovery for the region. The Commission will work with the New River/Mount Rogers Workforce Development Board and Onward NRV to develop an economic recovery plan for impacted business sectors. The Commission also plans to hire an additional staff member to support the recovery plan and assist with project development for industry. US EDA also has funds available on a competitive basis for

their Economic Adjustment Assistance program and Public Works, which primarily funds infrastructure related projects. Community Development Block Grant funds are being made available by the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development to assist small businesses in the non-entitlement communities.

The local government managers and the New River Health District continue to meet via conference call for coordination purposes. Use of CARES Act funding received by local governments and government facility transitions are the current focus areas for this group. The NRV Public Health Task Force Recovery Team released the NRV Working Smart. Working Safe. Guidebook. The guidebook was recently updated to include the Governor's Phase One operation guidelines. Two Community Development Block Grants projects, a food security initiative at Millstone Kitchen and Drive Through Testing Supplies for the New River Valley Public Health Task Force, are moving through public meeting requirements via Montgomery County.

A GO Virginia application was approved to establish a Business Continuity Team (BCT) to be housed at the Regional Commission to assist businesses when an employee tests positive. The BCT is a wrap-around service led by a medical director to advise and assist businesses when an employee tests positive. The BCT will have public relations expertise available to assist with messaging to employees, customers, and the general public. The program also has a pool of funds for professional site cleaning services. Upon completion of steps advised by the medical director, the employer can receive a certificate indicating the company followed guidelines provided by the Center for Disease Control and recommendations by the New River Valley Public Health Task Force. The BCT is designed to instill confidence in returning to work and the broader community. The NRV Public Health Task Force recently completed the 3rd session in a six-week Virtual Town Hall Series. The first three topics were Health Care, Law Enforcement and First Responders, and Local Government.

The Commission continues to work remotely with plans to open the office in shifts in the coming weeks.

VIII. REVIEW OF MUTUAL CONCERNS AND COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Mr. Law reported the closing of US Route 460 from Narrows to Rich Creek due to a landslide is causing significant transportation issues in Giles County. Ms. Sachs reported UVA-Wise has a program connecting students with businesses to help with online presence. Mr. Byrd noted there is a conversation scheduled to discuss replicating the program in the New River Valley. Mr. Fijalkowski reported Montgomery County plans to release an RFP for broadband providers this week. Mr. Law reported Pembroke Telephone will put out a notice for bids to lay fiber in their service area next week in order to deploy fiber to the home. Ms. Anderson reported the Town of Blacksburg moved their Town Council meetings to 6:30pm. Mr. Law reported the Newport Agricultural Fair was recently canceled for 2020. Mr. Horton reported the City of Radford plans to have fireworks on the 4th of July although they had to cancel the other community events typically held that day. Ms. Anderson and Ms. Sachs reported the Towns of Blacksburg and Christiansburg also plan to have fireworks and cancel their community events during the day as well.

IX. OLD BUSINESS

None

X. NEW BUSINESS

A. Regional Commission Award Recipients – Recognition Plan

Mr. Harvey asked for input on how to recognize the 2020 annual award recipients. Ms. Potter suggested the Commission send out a press release containing photos of the award recipients. Ms. Sachs added sending the announcement out to local radio stations would help reach more people. Mr. Horton suggested inviting the award recipients to a live or broadcasted meeting. Ms. Sachs suggested creating a video of each receiving their award and sharing it on the Commission's social media accounts. The Commission also recommended the 2020 award recipients be invited to the next annual dinner event so they can be recognized in person. Staff will coordinate the stained glass award production with the artist and once the awards are received, the award recipients will be contacted to coordinate photos and a brief video interview.

B. FY21 Nominating Committee Report

Mr. Harvey presented the nominating committee's proposed slate for terms beginning July 1, 2020, for a one-year duration. The slate will be voted upon during the Commission's regularly scheduled June meeting.

The nominations include:

Chair: Mike Maslaney, Floyd County

Vice-Chair: Hil Johnson, Town of Christiansburg

Treasurer: Leon Law, Giles County

At-Large: Angie Covey, New River Community College

At-Large: Steve Fijalkowski, Montgomery County

At-Large: Catherine Potter, Virginia Tech

Past Chair: Mike Harvey, Montgomery County

C. Next meeting June 25th.

Mr. Harvey called to adjourn the meeting at 7:10pm.

M. Harvey, Chair
New River Valley Regional Commission