

NEW RIVER VALLEY PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION

Minutes of the Commission Meeting

held on

January 22, 2015

6:00 p.m. – New River Valley Business Center, Fairlawn

I. CALL TO ORDER

PRESENT: Mr. K. Sullivan, Chair, Virginia Tech; Mr. G. East, Town of Pulaski, Vice-Chair; Mr. C. Bopp, Pulaski County; Mr. J. Carpenter, Radford University; Mr. L. Clevinger, Town of Pulaski; Mr. F. Gerald, Floyd County; Dr. H. Harvey, City of Radford; Ms. E. Janney, Floyd County; Ms. H. Lesko, Town of Blacksburg; Ms. C. Newcomb, Town of Blacksburg; Mr. M. Patton, Town of Floyd; 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. S. Weaver, Treasurer, Town of Christiansburg; Mr. T. Garrett, Town of Narrows; Mr. W. Kantsios, Town of Rich Creek; Ms. S. Journell, Town of Pearisburg; Mr. L. Law, Giles County; Mr. R. McCoy, Giles County; Ms. A. Perkins, Montgomery County; Mr. H. Showalter, Town of Christiansburg and Vacant, Montgomery County.

Staff Attendees: Kevin Byrd, Christy Straight 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: Dr. Warren moved for the approval of the minutes. Mr. Turk seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried; two abstentions Ms. Lesko and Ms. Janney.

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. Mr. Byrd explained starting next month the treasurer's report will include a memo from staff over-viewing the monthly financial activity. He also pointed out the office supplies category was over the budgeted amount due to computer purchases and the printing category was slightly over the budget amount due to printing of the annual report, but noted that they will balance in the revised budget which will be presented later in the fiscal year.

Motion: Mr. Bopp moved for the approval of the treasurer's report. Mr. Carpenter seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

III. COMMONWEALTH INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS

A. Projects (Signed-off by the staff)

1. VA150106-00600400400 New River Valley Senior Services vehicle purchase
2. VA150114-00700400400 New River Valley Community Services vehicle purchase

B. Regular Project Review
None.

C. Environmental Project Review
None.

IV. PUBLIC ADDRESS

None.

V. REVIEW OF MUTUAL CONCERNS AND COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Mr. Bopp reported Pulaski County utilized inmates to paint the Pulaski High School. Ms. Lesko noted that Lee Spiegel was awarded \$25,000 in a national competition for her work with skill development for youth in the Draper area of Pulaski County in hydroponic growing, a highly needed skill in the food industry. Ms. Lesko also announced the Dialogue on Race was held Saturday January 17th and had 130 people in attendance. Mr. Carpenter reported Radford University's Student Recreation and Wellness Center opened December 1st and is being used by 25% of the student body daily. Mr. Carpenter also noted construction started on Radford University's intramural fields and they are anticipating completion in the spring/summer of this year. Mr. Turk asked how many fields there will be and Mr. Soileau asked how many acres the fields will occupy. Mr. Carpenter explained the fields will be able to be configured different ways but that there will be as many as five depending on configuration and they will be situated on six to seven acres. Mr. Patton took a moment to report Senator Ford, also a previous Governor, from his home state of Kentucky passed away and explained the impact Senator Ford had on him.

VI. CHAIR'S REPORT

Mr. Sullivan explained the speakers who present to the Commission during the Regional Focus portion of the meeting are always tied to the Commission in some way and he noted that Mr. Byrd is on the Board of the Roanoke-Blacksburg Technology Council (RBTC). The Commission's involvement with organizations such as the RBTC help keep the Commission informed and engaged in the region. Mr. Sullivan announced the Annual Dinner Meeting will be held at Hotel Floyd on Wednesday, May 13, 2015. Mr. Sullivan also reported the Draper Mercantile was covered the Roanoke Times. In the story they announced the Merc will no longer offer Sunday brunch because it has been too successful and the dining experience was not what the owners wanted for the customers as a result of the volume. He also noted they plan to expand to include a farm, for more farm to table food, as well as add a vineyard. He explained what a success the Draper Mercantile has become and how they contribute to the economy in Pulaski County. Lastly he shared the most recent issue of the Roanoke Business Journal that contained an article about economic development in Montgomery County.

VII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Byrd provided a summary report in the Commission agenda packet. He reported the NRV Passenger Rail committee is scheduled to meet February 3rd at the Pulaski Train Station. He noted staff started work on this project this month and will be conducting surveys at Lynchburg and Charlottesville to collect data about passenger origination points. Regarding the Commission name change to New River Valley Regional Commission, Mr. Byrd reported eight of the fourteen resolutions requested have been received which represent the simple majority required to amend the charter, but he noted the Commission is hoping to get 100%. Mr. Byrd explained that the branding process began January 15th with a focus group meeting with Erica Allison of Allison Development Group.

Four Commissioners and six staff members participated. Ms. Allison will be bringing three options to the Commission at the February meeting for review and feedback before the May launch. Mr. Sullivan thanked all those that participated. Mr. Carpenter noted he is looking forward to the end result and noted that this will help to explain the value of the Commission to others. Mr. Byrd reported that Michael Gottfredson has been selected to fill the Regional Planner I position. Mr. Gottfredson has an undergraduate degree in landscape architecture from Utah State University and is finishing his Masters at Utah State in Bioregional Planning with all but thesis complete. He has worked part-time the past two years at the Bear River Association of Governments. Mr. Byrd reported the VAPDC Winter Conference will be held February 5-6 in conjunction with the Virginia Association of Counties and Mr. Sullivan will be attending with him. Lastly, Mr. Byrd explained that the electronic agenda packets are being reformatted to be more user friendly and asked that any Board member that would like to receive only the electronic version notify him. Mr. Patton asked who from the Commission is attending the passenger rail meeting. Mr. Byrd replied Mr. Sullivan will be attending. Mr. Bopp suggested people who attend the passenger rail meeting should also visit the Raymond Ratcliff museum.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

None.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. Review Key Legislative Items (VML and VACO Legislative Priorities)

Mr. Byrd explained the legislative priorities for both the Virginia Municipal League and the Virginia Association of Counties were attached to the agenda and asked if there are any specific legislative items that the local governments are actively pursuing this session so others could be informed. Ms. Newcomb noted the Town of Blacksburg has been made aware of a bill that would impact planning commissions which includes staff requirements to address specific aspects of planning processes on behalf of an applicant. Ms. Newcomb suggested Mr. Byrd look into it and provide input.

B. Annual Commission Awards – Review Criteria and Process

Mr. Sullivan explained there was an overview of last year's award criteria included in the agenda packet and asked if the Commission would like to move forward with the same criteria. Mr. Patton noted that it is not necessary to give all three awards annually, unless worthy candidates are nominated. Mr. Byrd explained that nominations will be accepted starting next week and will be due March 17th. Mr. Sullivan reminded the Commissioners that the awards serve a dual purpose, to honor a deserving individual and to elevate awareness of the Commission to a broader audience.

IX. REGIONAL FOCUS

A. Roanoke-Blacksburg Technology Council presentation – Johnathan Whitt, President and CEO

This portion of the agenda was moved to the start of the meeting.

Mr. Byrd introduced Mr. Whitt and explained that before joining the Roanoke-Blacksburg Technology Council (RBTC), Mr. Whitt worked with the Roanoke-Blacksburg Innovation Network which was established to implement a strategic plan for the technology industry the region. Mr. Whitt identified the four key items in the strategic plan; (1) the need for talent and recruitment within the region, (2) the need for entrepreneurship and to keep new businesses in the region, (3) the need to connect companies with the

assets offered in the region, and (4) to tell the story and show the value of membership. He then explained that while implementing the strategic plan the RBTC was identified as an asset for the region with 200 members representing 50,000 employees working in the industry. The Innovation Network and RBTC merged together using the strategic plan to provide cooperation and collaboration for the region. Mr. Whitt explained that a goal of the RBTC is to show the value of membership, and to do this they participated in a national survey to compare themselves to other technology councils in the country. As a result of the survey, some of the areas the RBTC identified to focus on include; improving the workforce available and the implementation of “growing our own” within the region using programs such as the STEM-H outreach program; improve broadband access; and showcasing the quality of place this region has to offer.

Discussion: Mr. Sullivan asked how the RBTC sees itself evolving in the future. Mr. Whitt explained the RBTC is evolving by collaborating with more organizations within the region and expanding partnership to implement projects. Mr. Byrd noted that the Commission partnered with the RBTC and submitted an application to the US Economic Development Administration to offer seed funds for startup to mid-sized companies. Mr. Sullivan asked Mr. Whitt to discuss the RBTC’s next event. Mr. Whitt announced they will host Tech and Toast, a breakfast meeting with education and networking, in Roanoke in February and the speakers will be from Rackspace and Firefly Media.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm.

Kevin Sullivan, Chair
New River Valley Planning District Commission

NEW RIVER VALLEY PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION

Minutes of the Commission Meeting

held on

March 26, 2015

6:00 p.m. – New River Valley Business Center, Fairlawn

I. CALL TO ORDER

PRESENT: Mr. G. East, Town of Pulaski, Vice-Chair; Mr. C. Bopp, Pulaski County; Mr. J. Carpenter, Radford University; Mr. F. Gerald, Floyd County; Mr. M. Harvey, Montgomery County; Mr. W. Kantsios, Town of Rich Creek; Ms. S. Journell, Town of Pearisburg; Mr. L. Law, Giles County; Ms. H. Lesko, Town of Blacksburg; Mr. M. Patton, Town of Floyd; Ms. A. Perkins, Montgomery County; Mr. H. Showalter, Town of Christiansburg and Dr. D. Warren, Pulaski County.

ABSENT: Mr. K. Sullivan, Chair, Virginia Tech; Mr. S. Weaver, Treasurer, Town of Christiansburg; Mr. L. Clevinger, Town of Pulaski; Dr. H. Harvey, City of Radford; Mr. T. Garrett, Town of Narrows; Mr. R. McCoy, Giles County; Ms. C. Newcomb, Town of Blacksburg; Mr. J. Soileau, Virginia Tech; and Mr. M. Sutphin, Town of Blacksburg and Mr. M. Turk, City of Radford; Ms. E. Janney, Floyd County.

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

II. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes for January

Mr. East 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. Bopp seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried; two abstentions Ms. Journell and Mr. Harvey.

B. Approval of Treasurer's Report for January and February

Mr. East 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. Mr. Patton 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. Nonpoint Source Implementation Grant Application

2. Reissuance of Pearisburg STP VA0085961

Mr. East called for any comments on either of the environmental reviews. There were no comments to report.

IV. PUBLIC ADDRESS

None.

V. REVIEW OF MUTUAL CONCERNS AND COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Ms. Lesko announced the IMAX Theater in Blacksburg is now open. Mr. Harvey reported a former Commissioner, Mr. Al Leighton from Blacksburg, passed away and services will be held Saturday, March 28th at McCoy Funeral home in Blacksburg.

VI. CHAIR'S REPORT

None.

VII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Byrd provided a summary report in the Commission agenda packet. He reported Michael Gottfredson joined the Commission as a Regional Planner in February and noted he will attend the April meeting to be introduced to the Commission. Mr. Byrd also noted the Commission received the Robert M. deVoursney Award for Best Practices in Regional Planning for the NRV Livability Initiative from the Virginia Association of Planning District Commissions at their winter conference in February. Mr. Byrd shared an article from The Patriot newspaper featuring Joe Sheffey which made reference to the Commission Award given to Mr. Sheffey at last year's annual dinner. He explained the passenger rail committee recently formed three sub-committees; a legislative committee, marketing/public relations committee, and a feasibility committee. The marketing/public relations committee recently changed the web address to www.nrvpassengerrail.org to make it easier to locate. Mr. Carpenter is on the marketing/public relations committee and explained there are three key areas the committee is focusing on. The areas are (1) to get the word out and to make the public aware of the study, (2) work toward the goal of service to the NRV 2020, and (3) to help publicize the survey and increase participation. Mr. Byrd reported the Rural Transportation Advisory Committee also met in March and discussed House Bill 2 which is legislation from the 2014 General Assembly session to establish project prioritization on proposed transportation projects. He noted a draft report was sent out showing the region as a suburban area and comments were sent in to explain areas inside of the MPO should be shown as suburban, while the areas outside of the MPO should be shown as rural. Mr. Byrd participated in a meeting with the White House Rural Policy Council in March to discuss the value of regional approaches to rural economic development. He explained the reason he was invited to participate was because of the innovative work being done in the New River Valley.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

A. Annual Dinner Update

Mr. Patton reminded everyone the annual dinner will be held May 13, 2015 at Hotel Floyd. There will be three food truck vendors, a dessert vendor, local craft vendors, and a bluegrass band. The first 1.5 hours will be social, while the last half-hour will feature an awards program. Invitations

will be mailed directly to invitees the early part of April. Save the date information was emailed to local government managers previously.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. Community Development Block Grant Priorities for 2015-2016

Mr. Byrd explained there is an update to the Community Development Block Grant Priorities included in the February agenda packet. Under the 2015 suggested priorities, Community Facility (water/sewer projects) was moved to priority #1 while Community Service Facility was moved to priority #2. This will allow the Eggleston waterline/connection project that was recently submitted to be included in the top priority area along with other projects recently submitted by local governments.

B. Rural Transportation Work Program for FY16

Mr. Sharp gave an overview presentation of the Rural Transportation Program. He first showed a map of the non-urbanized or rural areas, which are the areas outside of the MPO in which the program is focused. He then noted the local investment is \$14,500 annually from Commission unrestricted funds with \$58,000 from VDOT. The past several years the return on investment is \$5 for every local \$1 spent on planning and \$15 for every local \$1 spent on implementation. Mr. Sharp gave a budget overview and noted that there are more statewide projects planned for FY16 and local projects planned are the NRV Trail Counter Program, the NRV Cycling Guide, and Local Technical Assistance. Mr. Sharp then overviewed the anticipated statewide projects and called for any questions. Ms. Lesko asked if the mapping information is available on the Commission's website. Mr. Sharp replied all mapping information is available for public access on the Commission's website.

C. Commission Awards Program for 2015 Annual Dinner

Mr. East explained the nominations for the three award categories were handed out at the meeting and asked the Commissioners to review the nominations and make any comments. Mr. Patton encouraged the Commissioners to think of last year's recipients and choose people who have made contributions to the entire New River Valley. Mr. East also explained that the award recipient should be someone elevated the work done by the Commission. The Commission then voted to award the Champion of the Valley and Citizen of the Valley this year and not to award the Friend of the Valley. Mr. Byrd will be contacting the award recipients for recognition at the annual dinner event.

D. Commission Branding Process; Logo Options and Tag Lines

Erica Allison, CEO/Founder, Allison Development Group gave a brief overview of the work completed by Allison Development Group for other clients. She then overviewed the work completed to date for the rebranding of the Commission and presented three logo options. Mr. East explained the goal of the evening was to make a decision on one of the logos and called for any discussion. Mr. Showalter asked whether the mission statement and core values would be discussed. Mr. Byrd explained the mission statement on the agenda would remain the same, as it is the state code; however, a shorter tag line will be developed based on the survey distributed by Allison Development Group. He also noted the key values will be generated by the staff and shared with the Commission at a future meeting. Discussions between the commissioners led to selecting logo option 2 with blue, green, and some yellow to represent the Commission. Mr. Carpenter noted that the logo will be flexible allowing the text to be moved around the actual logo. Mr. Harvey asked if using three colors will be more costly to print than two colors. Ms. Allison replied that there should not

be a cost difference to print. Ms. Allison then explained her firm will now work to create a brand recognition package for the Commission to utilize in rolling out the new logo and brand in May.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 pm.

Kevin Sullivan, Chair
New River Valley Planning District Commission

NEW RIVER VALLEY PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION

Minutes of the Commission Meeting

held on

April 23, 2015

6:00 p.m. – New River Valley Business Center, Fairlawn

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

ABSENT: Mr. S. Weaver, Treasurer, Town of Christiansburg; Mr. R. McCoy, Giles County; Mr. H. Showalter, Town of Christiansburg and Mr. M. Turk, City of Radford.

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

II. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes for March

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. Carpenter seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried; four abstentions, Mr. Clevinger, Dr. Harvey, Mr. Garrett and Ms. Janney.

B. Approval of Treasurer's Report for March

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. Garrett seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion: Mr. Sullivan asked the budget report include what percentage the Commission is in the annual budget cycle on future reports.

III. COMMONWEALTH INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS

A. Projects (Signed-off by the staff)

None.

B. Regular Project Review

None.

C. Environmental Project Review

1. [15-10] FY2015 State Revolving Loan Funds Capitalization Application VA150327-01100400400

Mr. Sullivan called for approval of the environmental review.

Motion: Ms. Newcomb moved for the approval of the environmental review. Dr. Warren seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

IV. PUBLIC ADDRESS

None.

V. REVIEW OF MUTUAL CONCERNS AND COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Dr. Harvey reported the New River Valley Business Center is the second largest incubator facility in the state based on square footage found in an article in the Virginia Business Magazine. Mr. Harvey explained Pulaski County was featured in an article in the Washington Post Magazine and circulated a copy. Dr. Warren reported the Draper Water Treatment Plant received a Gold Award for water treatment and performance excellence in clarification, filtration and backwash. Mr. Carpenter reported Radford University was recognized by the Princeton Review as one of the 'Greenest Colleges' in the nation for the sixth consecutive year and announced commencement will be held May 8th and 9th. Mr. Sullivan noted Mr. Byrd sent out the Virginia Tech Football Economic Impact Study recently completed by the Virginia Tech Office of Economic Development on behalf of the university Athletic Department. He also shared the economic impact study completed by the Roanoke Valley Alleghany Regional Commission contracted by the Virginia Tech Foundation for the Hotel Roanoke. Since the renovation was complete in the 1990's the report demonstrated over \$660 million in spending attributed to the hotel within the last 20 years. Ms. Lesko reported there will be a farmer's market event to celebrate the opening of the Pearisburg Farmer's Market Saturday, April 25th.

VI. CHAIR'S REPORT

Mr. Sullivan reported the Board members appointed for the nominating committee for next year's officers are Mr. Patton, Mr. Bopp, and Mr. Clevinger.

Mr. Sullivan called for approval of the three members to serve as the nominating committee.

Action: Motion carried unanimously; one abstention Mr. Sullivan.

VII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Byrd provided a summary report in the Commission agenda packet. He reported the NRV Passenger Rail ridership survey can be accessed at www.surveymonkey.com/s/nrvrailsurvey or from www.nrvpassengerail.org and explained a Facebook page was recently established and can be found by searching NRV Rail 2020 on Facebook. The survey received over 3,000 responses within the first week. The MPO Technical Advisory committee is working on site selection for a train station and is moving toward narrowing the list and providing detailed analysis of three sites. Mr. Carpenter explained the region is the fastest growing population in Western Virginia with 46,000+ students and 10,000 employees at Virginia tech, Radford University, and New River Community College providing \$1.79 billion in economic impact to the region. Mr. Byrd announced if anyone is interested in participating on any

of the passenger rail committees to please contact him. Mr. Byrd reported the NRV Agritourism Strategic Plan will be finalized soon. The plan is a collaboration between Montgomery, Pulaski and Giles Counties. Mr. Byrd announced Tammy Stephenson from the DEQ Water Supply Planning Office will present the State Water Supply Plan and how it will be utilized at the June Commission meeting. Lastly, Mr. Byrd overviewed the branding process presentation from the March Commission meeting and the progress made toward the name change and rebranding of the Commission.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

A. Annual Dinner Update

Mr. Sullivan announced the annual dinner invitations were mailed out and encouraged the Commissioners to talk about it within their communities and invite people who may be interested. He overviewed the program and explained it will be a casual event with the focus on networking and a brief awards presentation. He also shared local artisans will be at the event. Dr. Warren mentioned he attended a food truck rodeo previously and it was interesting to see some of the trucks had longer lines than others. Mr. Byrd explained the food trucks will be open from 6:00pm until 7:30pm so there should not be long lines. Guests can move from truck to truck during the networking portion of the event.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. Resolution Implementing Commission Name Change

Mr. Sullivan called for approval of the resolution included in the agenda packet in order to officially change the name of the New River Valley Planning District Commission to the New River Valley Regional Commission.

Motion: Ms. Lesko moved for the approval of the resolution. Mr. Carpenter seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

B. House Bill 2 Transportation Prioritization

Mr. Sharp gave an overview presentation of House Bill 2. Mr. Sharp explained House Bill 2 directs the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) to develop a statewide process which will increase transparency and accountability in dispersing funds for transportation projects; however, the CTB is not required to fund highest scoring projects. Some exclusions to the criteria include revenue sharing, highway safety and maintenance, transportation alternatives, secondary/urban formulas, and the FTA formula. Mr. Sharp explained the objective measures and provided examples of weighting factors. He also explained the entire MPO and Commission boundary is currently defined as category B, or semi-urban. The Commission's Transportation Technical Advisory Committee made a recommendation for the area outside of the MPO to be moved into category C, or suburban. Mr. Sharp then overviewed the timeline of the bill, noting the policy is scheduled to be effective June 2016.

Discussion: Mr. Sullivan asked what prompted House Bill 2. Mr. Sharp explained the intention of the policy is to increase transparency in how transportation funds are distributed since the CTB who makes decisions on transportation funding is a politically appointed body. Mr. East asked how these changes will affect the NRV. Mr. Sharp explained it is difficult to know how it will affect the region without access to the VDOT databases which inform the ranking criteria. Mr. Garrett asked how they classified the entire region as urban. Mr. Sharp explained it is based on population density of the Commission boundary, not

necessarily county-by-county evaluation, and that is why the Commission's Transportation Technical Advisory Committee recommended moving from category B to category C for areas outside the MPO boundary.

C. Review Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Goals, Objectives, Strategies, Ranking Criteria

Mr. O'Brien gave an overview of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). He explained the goals, objectives, strategies, and the project ranking criteria. He also gave an update on CEDS committee meetings and CEDS content additions to this year's document. He gave examples of the projects already on the ground, such as the NRV Commerce Park, VT Corporate Research Center, New River Valley Broadband Network, TEMCI, and the NRVDC Revolving Loan Fund. Mr. O'Brien noted several changes in the ranking criteria will allow projects that secured funding to rank slightly lower and projects gaining momentum, such as passenger rail, to rank higher. Mr. O'Brien provided examples of data to illustrate how the region compares to the state in several key areas.

Discussion: Mr. East asked about a data example from the Roanoke-Blacksburg Technology Council that showed the NRV with a 'business friendly environment' lower than technology councils in other parts of the country. Mr. Byrd explained this data point reflects the Roanoke-Blacksburg Technology Council member's perception of local, state and federal government engagement and support of the tech community. Dr. Harvey explained she was pleased to see the both broadband and international trade criteria included in the CEDS. Mr. O'Brien explained some criteria were added to this year's document to better address and align goals. Ms. Lesko noted that there should be focus on early childhood education and childcare included in the CEDS document. Dr. Harvey noted global economic development is important and suggested the NRV market to international companies in the future. Mr. Byrd explained several international firms located in the NRV recently which demonstrated the need to focus attention on this market in the CEDS. Mr. Sullivan noted in the past the Northern Virginia region has driven the Virginia economy and explained that has shifted in large part due to government contracting. As a result, the NRV is in a good position to increase economic influence in our region because of the diverse economy.

Mr. Sullivan called the Commission to recognize Mr. Weaver for his many years of service as a member of the executive committee of the Commission from its founding in 1969 to his current role as Treasurer today.

Motion: Mr. Patton moved for the Executive Director to prepare a resolution to be presented at the Annual Dinner, May 13, 2015, honoring Scott Weaver for his service and naming him Treasurer Emeritus.

Ms. Newcomb seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 pm.

Kevin Sullivan, Chair
New River Valley Planning District Commission

NEW RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL COMMISSION

Minutes of the Commission Meeting

held on

May 28, 2015

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; Mr. L. Clevinger, Town of Pulaski; Dr. H. Harvey, City of Radford; Mr. T. Garrett, Town of Narrows; Mr. F. Gerald, Floyd County; Mr. M. Harvey, Montgomery County; Mr. W. Kantsios, Town of Rich Creek; Mr. L. Law, Giles County; Ms. C. Newcomb, Town of Blacksburg; Mr. M. Patton, Town of Floyd; Ms. A. Perkins, Montgomery County; Mr. J. Soileau, Virginia Tech; and Mr. H. Showalter, Town of Christiansburg.

ABSENT: Mr. S. Weaver, Treasurer, Town of Christiansburg; Mr. G. East, Town of Pulaski, Vice-Chair; Mr. C. Bopp, Pulaski County; Ms. E. Janney, Floyd County; Ms. S. Journell, Town of Pearisburg; Ms. H. Lesko, Town of Blacksburg; Mr. R. McCoy, Giles County and Mr. M. Sutphin, Town of Blacksburg and Dr. D. Warren, Pulaski County and Mr. M. Turk, City of Radford.

Staff Attendees: Kevin Byrd, Janet McNew, Patrick O'Brien, 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. Patton moved for the approval of the minutes. Mr. Kantsios 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: Ms. Newcomb moved for the approval of the treasurer's report. Mr. Showalter seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion: Mr. Byrd noted the budget report now includes what percentage the Commission is in the annual budget cycle.

III. COMMONWEALTH INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS

A. Projects (Signed-off by the staff)

1. Application for the Town of Pulaski for a Predevelopment Planning Grant VA150515-01200400155
2. Pulaski County CDBG Application for Kersey Bottom/Case Knife neighborhood improvements VA150515-01300400155None.

B. Regular Project Review

None.

C. Environmental Project Review

1. Notice of Intent to Prepare Environmental Impact Statement for Mountain Valley Pipeline VA150520-01400400400

Discussion: Mr. Byrd explained the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality is asking the Commission to identify which environmental considerations should be taken into account when preparing the environmental impact report for the Mountain Valley Pipeline. Mr. Byrd noted several items initially identified are the visual impact from primary roadways, stream crossings, impact to the Appalachian Trail and noise abatement from any compression stations. Mr. Byrd explained a compression station may be sited in Montgomery County. Preliminary information indicates the compression equipment is the equivalent of two jet engines, so noise abatement will be an issue. Ms. Newcomb asked for the impact to ground water and karst topography to be added to the list of considerations. Mr. Law noted that Giles County is concerned the line will go through the county without opportunities for connections to deliver natural gas to residents. Mr. Harvey expressed a similar understanding that there will not be drop off/connection points provided in the region. Ms. Newcomb indicated the impact to wildlife should be added to the list. Dr. Harvey noted there was an article in the Roanoke Times that explains many of the considerations the Commission should include in the response and will forward that to Mr. Byrd. Mr. Garrett noted the clear cut, or right of way, through forested areas should be as narrow as possible. Currently, a gas line running to an industrial facility in Giles County has a 100 foot right of way and it has a substantial visual impact. Mrs. Perkins noted the compression station will emit particles and the impact to air quality needs to be included as well as water quality. She also asked for the study to include an assessment of the impact to homes within 200 foot of the pipeline. Mr. Harvey requested the list include impact to steep topography and whether the impacted area can withstand the project on such steep terrain. He also asked for the impact to Tom's Creek headwaters to be included along with access for residents in areas when construction blocks roads, particularly in emergency situations. Mr. Law asked the Commission to inquire where the pipe is being manufactured and whether it was in the United States. Mr. Carpenter asked Mr. Byrd to review the list of concerns provided by the Commission. Following Mr. Byrd's review of the list, Ms. Newcomb asked the Commission to include how the line will be monitored and the process for detecting potential leaks. Dr. Harvey noted the response should indicate the Commission is submitting considerations for the environmental review and it should not be misconstrued to indicate support for the project. Mr. Sullivan explained that the Commission does not need to vote on this review since DEQ is requesting input on which environmental considerations should be included in the upcoming environmental impact statement.

2. VPDES Permit No. VA0000248 Reissuance: Radford Army Ammunition Plant VA150520-01500400400

Mr. Sullivan called for approval of the environmental review.

Discussion: Dr. Harvey asked how many citations the arsenal was given each year. Mr. Harvey asked if the reissuance is only to allow treated wastewater back into the body of water not any other pollutants. Mr. Byrd explained that the permit is for a variety of treated wastewaters identified in the memo from DEQ.

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

Action: Motion carried; 9-5 (nay votes- Dr. Harvey, Mr. Harvey, Ms. Newcomb, Mr. Patton, and Ms. Perkins.)

3. Virginia Tech Health Center Improvements VA150520-01600400121

Mr. Sullivan called for approval of the environmental review.

Discussion; Mr. Soileau explained the project will include a 1,700 square foot renovation and a 3,500 square foot addition.

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

Action: Motion carried; 13-1 (nay vote- Ms. Perkins)

IV. PUBLIC ADDRESS

None.

V. REVIEW OF MUTUAL CONCERNS AND COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Ms. Newcomb reported the Summer Solstice Festival will be held in Blacksburg in June. Mr. Law reported Pentel received a \$1.45 million line of credit to make improvements in the network. Mr. Carpenter reported Radford University held their graduation May 8-9, 2015. He also noted construction of intramural fields at Radford University at the old Burlington factory site is underway and scheduled to be completed this summer. The science facility is scheduled to be completed mid-fall this year and the humanities building is scheduled to be completed mid-2016. Mr. Carpenter also announced Radford University baseball will play in the NCAA regionals and it will air on ESPN3.

VI. CHAIR'S REPORT

Mr. Sullivan reported the New River Valley Mayors & Chairs meeting was held May 26th and had good representation from the region. The group discussed regional tourism and potential economic impacts associated with the frequency of lane closures on Interstate 81.

VII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Byrd provided a summary report in the Commission agenda packet. He reported Senator Warner hosted a Southwest Virginia Craft Beer Summit to discuss this growing industry, its tourism potential and economic impact. Mr. Byrd explained the Commission will host a field visit for a Strengthening Economies Together (SET) grant program to build economic opportunities based on the New River next Wednesday, June 3, at the NRV Business Center and encouraged everyone to attend. He reported the NRV Passenger Rail online survey received 4,100 responses and noted the survey will remain open for the next several weeks while the MPO Technical Advisory Committee reviews the preliminary findings. Mr. Showalter suggested the survey go out in the parent's newsletter email from the universities to reach more potential users. Mr. Carpenter explained the NRV Passenger Rail Legislative Committee will host a reception for Elected Officials at Radford University in August. Mr. Byrd noted the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) announced a new round of grant funds for Building Collaborative Communities and Community Business Launch. Mr. Byrd explained the Commission hosted the annual Planning Commissioner Training with the topic of Agriculture, Food Vending/Sales and Farmer's Markets as Event Spaces. He also noted the Commission formally introduced the name change to New River Valley Regional Commission at the annual dinner on May 13th. Lastly, he reported VAPDC will hold their summer conference August 5-7 in Virginia Beach, and explained he would like to have at least two board members attend.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

Annual Dinner Recap/Debrief

Mr. Sullivan thanked the staff as well as Dr. Harvey and Mr. Patton for their work and coordination on the annual dinner event. He also explained next year he would like to continue with a similar event format. Mr. Byrd thanked the Virginia Tech Foundation for sponsoring the event.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. Review Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Projects

Mr. O'Brien gave an overview of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) projects completed, active and new projects. He explained some items included in the agenda packet have been updated to show completed status. He asked the Commissioners if they had any comments or changes to the ranking of the CEDS. Mr. Sullivan asked about the success rate of new initiatives. Mr. O'Brien explained he would like to include an indicator on the redesigned NRVRC website to measure the outcomes of initiatives and projects.

B. Revised FY15 Budget

Mr. Byrd explained a revised budget was included in the agenda. He noted that the revised budget is within 1% of the original budget. He also noted a proposed budget for FY16 will be presented to the Commission next month.

Discussion: Mr. Sullivan asked why a revised budget needs to be approved when an original budget has already been approved by the Board. Mr. Byrd responded that revenues and expenditures change throughout the year as new projects are introduced and a revised budget captures the line item adjustments which provides a more accurate reflection than the original budget approved 12 months previous. A revised budget, along with monthly treasurers reports, keep the Board informed of the changes that occur during the fiscal year.

Mr. Sullivan called for approval of the revised budget.

Motion: Mr. Harvey moved for the approval of the revised budget. Ms. Newcomb seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously

D. Commission Officers for FY16 – Slate to be Introduced

Mr. Patton explained the nomination committee met and unfortunately Mr. East will step down as Vice-Chair. He also explained Mr. Weaver no longer feels he should remain Treasurer of the Commission given his inability to attend due to health limitations. Mr. Patton noted Mr. Weaver's resignation came after the nominating committee met, so they do not have a nomination for Treasurer at this time. The slate of officers the nomination committee recommends for FY 16 are; Chair- Mr. Sullivan, Vice-Chair- Mr. Carpenter, and Member-at-Large- Mr. Bopp.

Mr. Sullivan called for approval of the Slate of Officers for FY16 as presented. A vote on the officers will be taken at the June Commission meeting.

Motion: Ms. Perkins moved for the approval. Mr. Showalter seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried; two abstentions, Mr. Sullivan and Mr. Carpenter.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 pm.

Kevin Sullivan, Chair
New River Valley Regional Commission

NEW RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL COMMISSION

Minutes of the Commission Meeting

held on

June 25, 2015

6:00 p.m. – New River Valley Business Center, Fairlawn

I. CALL TO ORDER

PRESENT: Mr. K. Sullivan, Chair, Virginia Tech; Mr. G. East, Town of Pulaski, Vice-Chair; Mr. J. Carpenter, Radford University; Mr. L. Clevinger, Town of Pulaski; Mr. T. Garrett, Town of Narrows; Mr. F. Gerald, Floyd County; Mr. M. Harvey, Montgomery County; Ms. S. Journell, Town of Pearisburg; Mr. L. Law, Giles County; Ms. H. Lesko, Town of Blacksburg; Ms. C. Newcomb, Town of Blacksburg; Ms. A. Perkins, Montgomery County; Mr. H. Showalter, Town of Christiansburg; Mr. M. Sutphin, Town of Blacksburg and Mr. M. Turk, City of Radford.

ABSENT: Mr. S. Weaver, Treasurer, Town of Christiansburg; Mr. C. Bopp, Pulaski County; Dr. H. Harvey, City of Radford; Ms. E. Janney, Floyd County; Mr. W. Kantsios, Town of Rich Creek; Mr. R. McCoy, Giles County; Mr. M. Patton, Town of Floyd; Mr. J. Soileau, Virginia Tech; and Dr. D. Warren, Pulaski County.

Staff Attendees: Kevin Byrd, Janet McNew, Patrick Burton, Patrick O'Brien, Christy Straight 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: Ms. Perkins moved for the approval of the minutes. Mr. Harvey seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried; four abstentions, Mr. East, Ms. Lesko, Ms. Journell, Mr. Sutphin.

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: Ms. Lesko moved for the approval of the treasurer's report. Mr. Sutphin seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

III. COMMONWEALTH INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS

A. Projects (Signed-off by the staff)

1. EDA Planning Assistance FY16 VA150511-01700400400

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 that he visited Mr. Patton and noted that he is recovering and doing well. Mr. Harvey noted that a story on the recent Floyd County business competition included an interview with Patrick O'Brien on NPR. Mr. Showalter shared this is the five year anniversary of the Aquatics Center in Christiansburg and noted there will be events Friday June 26th and Saturday June 27th.

VI. CHAIR'S REPORT

Mr. Sullivan reported he and Mr. Byrd met with the Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission Executive Director and Board Chair to discuss how the regions could collaborate for the benefit of both regions. He also announced Mr. Byrd was recently nominated to serve as Secretary of the National Association of Development Organizations and elections will take place in October at the annual training conference.

VII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Byrd provided a summary report in the Commission agenda packet. He reported the Commission hosted a field visit for the Strengthening Economies Together (SET) program so the SET project evaluation team could determine whether the New River Initiative project was a good fit for the program. Mr. Byrd explained the SET program is not a grant program; it is staffing resources from multiple agencies designed to engage local leaders to accomplish economic development objectives. He also noted there are many untapped economic development projects associated with the New River and this program will provide an excellent platform to cultivate. There are seven regions competing for the two SET program openings in Virginia and selections should be announced in late summer/early fall. The New River Valley Trail Guide for hiking and biking trails should be complete in early July. Mr. Byrd reported the Commonwealth Transportation Board adopted policy at their June meeting to implement House Bill 2 (HB2) and noted the program is designed to prioritize transportation projects based on data-driven scoring criteria and will be used to shape the Six-Year Improvement Program. He explained Floyd County with the Town of Floyd as well as Giles County with the Town of Pearisburg will need to add language to their comprehensive plans to acknowledge that these towns are urban development area-like towns so Routes 8, 100 and 221 can be considered for future Six-Year Improvement funds. The Commission is convening a regional discussion on June 29th regarding tourism marketing geography to determine how the New River Valley and Southwest Virginia will be indexed in the Virginia Tourism Corporation guidebook. Mr. Byrd also explained the Cultural Heritage Foundation is working with all 19 counties in Southwest Virginia to create a brand that will be used to market Round the Mountain, the Crooked Road, and Appalachian Spring as cultural

destination assets. Mr. Byrd explained there is a grant opportunity through the Building Collaborative Communities Program administered by the Department of Housing and Community Development. The regional tourism group will discuss whether to submit an application to evaluate collaborative models for tourism in the region. The VAPDC summer conference will be held in Virginia Beach August 5-7 and there is funding in the budget to send two Commissioners. Mr. Byrd reported the staff will be meeting in August for a day-long retreat to begin working on a staff strategic plan. Lastly, two planning grants were recently funded by the Department of Housing and Community Development. Montgomery County received funds to reuse a portion of the Prices Fork Elementary School for a local food program; and Pembroke and Narrows received funding for business district revitalization around the outdoor recreation industry.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

None.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. Overview of Broadband in the New River Valley

Ms. Straight gave a presentation explaining the state of broadband in the region. She explained how planning for the project began, how the New River Valley Wireless Authority was formed, and what funding was obtained to build the middle mile fiber network. Ms. Straight displayed a map showing where the fiber runs through the New River Valley and explained Citizens Cooperative is the fiber broker and network operator. She noted there are 200 miles of fiber which can provide up to a 1 Gbps internet connection and it serves 7 localities and 57 Community Anchor Institutions. Ms. Straight explained several of the key issues in making access available to all communities. She noted the Blacksburg Broadband Project is a pilot project searching for an avenue to deliver affordable high-speed access to everyone in the community. Ms. Straight then overviewed the project progress to date and upcoming tasks. She explained the Department of Housing and Community Development launched a program, Virginia Telecommunication Planning Initiative, and is offering \$75,000 for up to 8 communities for local broadband planning. Pulaski County and Town of Blacksburg recently submitted letters of interest and both were invited to submit full proposals.

Discussion: Mr. Sutphin asked if there is a target completion date for 1 Gbps of service in Blacksburg. Ms. Straight explained there needs to be partners to provide access to consumers before a target date can be set. Mr. Byrd noted the next step will be to complete a right of way management plan and to identify private sector partners. Mr. Turk asked if any of the 200 miles of fiber overlap with existing internet providers and if any of the fiber laid will be able to provide a connection for residents. Ms. Straight explained there are some places the fiber overlaps with existing providers, but noted the middle mile fiber is for the private sector to use and deliver service to customers. Mr. Harvey asked if redundant service was a factor in building the fiber. Ms. Straight explained the line does connect to two different carriers so if needed it has a backup. Mr. Law explained that Pemtel's lines also have redundancy and explained that their board chooses to serve only the Pembroke area and some surrounding communities. Mr. Turk explained that there will have to be different

technologies for different areas and noted that many cells towers are connected to the fiber and can offer wireless technology to more rural areas.

B. Virginia Water Supply Plan

Ms. Stephenson gave a presentation explaining the State Water Resources Plan. During the presentation she overviewed plan development and compliance. The state water resource plan includes information directly from local plans. She also explained the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) can now analyze the expected impacts of future water demands on streamflows and groundwater resources. Ms. Stephenson discussed some of the challenges and some of the recommendations. She then explained the population, demand, and water sources for the New River Valley by locality. Lastly, Ms. Stephenson explained DEQ plans to meet with localities, planning regions, and stakeholders to examine cumulative impact analysis, develop a strategy to obtain additional data, and complete outstanding items as listed in the final compliance package.

Discussion: Mr. Sullivan asked if there are any areas forecasted to have a problem meeting demand in the New River Valley. Ms. Stephenson explained that there are not any projected issues for the region, but did note that Floyd County relies on groundwater for their public service authority and groundwater availability, particularly in Floyd County, is difficult to determine. Mr. Sullivan asked if Giles County's water demand identified in the presentation were mainly based on industry use. Ms. Stephenson explained it appears to be industry use, but noted DEQ would like the localities to verify their projections. Mr. Garrett noted that most of the water used in Giles County for industrial use is used for cooling then entered back into the water supply. Ms. Stephenson agreed the water is not consumed but explained the water still needs to be available for cooling so the capacity must be documented. She also explained the plan takes everything into consideration so DEQ can plan for water needs and consumption.

D. Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Project Package and Report
Mr. Sullivan called for approval of the CEDS package and report.

Motion: Ms. Perkins moved for the approval of the CEDS project package and report.

Ms. Newcomb seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

E. Proposed FY16 Budget

Mr. Byrd explained there are some changes from contractual staff to Commission staff in FY16. He also noted insurance rates are increasing, but pointed out the Commission changed the employees share of insurance cost last fiscal year. Mr. Sullivan noted there was not an increase in the amount the localities pay for FY16. Mr. Sullivan called for approval of the proposed FY16 budget.

Motion: Mr. Carpenter moved for the approval of the FY 16 budget. Ms. Newcomb seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

F. Commission Officers for FY16 – Election

Mr. Clevinger reported that the nominating committee nominated Mr. Law to serve as Treasurer. The slate of officers for FY16 presented to the Commission for FY16 are; Mr. Sullivan-Chair, Mr. Carpenter- Vice-Chair, Mr. Law-Treasurer, and Mr. Bopp-Member at Large. Mr. Sullivan called for approval of the slate of officers as presented by the nominating committee.

Motion: Mr. Gerald moved for the approval of the slate of officers as presented by the nominating committee. Mr. Clevinger seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried; two abstentions, Mr. Carpenter and Mr. Sullivan.

G. July Commission Meeting

Mr. Sullivan explained that the July meeting has traditionally been cancelled due to conflict with the VAPDC summer conference. Mr. Sullivan explained that this year the conference does not conflict with the meeting date, but may conflict with vacation schedules. He called for the Commission to approve cancelling the July meeting.

Motion: Ms. Perkins moved for the approval. Mr. Carpenter seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Kevin Sullivan, Chair
New River Valley Regional Commission

NEW RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL COMMISSION
Minutes of the Commission Meeting
held on
August 27, 2015
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; 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 and Dr. D. Warren, Pulaski County.

ABSENT: Mr. S. Weaver, Town of Christiansburg; Ms. E. Janney, Floyd County; Mr. H. Showalter, Town of Christiansburg; Mr. M. Sutphin, Town of Blacksburg and Mr. M. Turk, City of Radford.

Staff Attendees: Kevin Byrd, Janet McNew, Patrick Burton, Elijah Sharp, Jonnell Sanciangco, Michael Gottfredson and Julie Phillips.

II. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes for June

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. Ms. Newcomb seconded the motion.

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

B. Approval of Treasurer's Report for June and July

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 treasurer's report. Mr. East 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. [16-06] VADEQ FY2016 Water Quality Management Planning Program VA150803-00100400400
2. Managing Livestock Population by Coyotes, Dogs, & Red Foxes in the Commonwealth of Virginia VA150805-00200400400

Discussion; Mr. Bopp noted that in some cases bounties are given for coyotes and explained some people no longer want this. Dr. Harvey noted that the report did not give a response to how to manage the problem. Mr. Byrd explained that the full report does have several options for managing the problem; however, none were specifically recommended in the report. The full report is available online and from the Commission office.

3. [16-08] USGS Research and Data Collection, Water Use Financial Assistance VA150818-00300400400
4. Modification of VPDES Permit No. VA0000523; Lhoist North America of Virginia Inc.- Kimbalton VA150827-00500400071

Discussion; Mr. McCoy explained the permit modification only increases the amount of water discharged. Mr. Law added the water entering Big Stony Creek is not contaminated. Mr. Harvey noted the water in Big Stony Creek is primarily from the watershed in close proximity to the mine.

Mr. Sullivan called for approval of all four environmental reviews.

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

Action: Motion carried unanimously

IV. PUBLIC ADDRESS

None.

V. REVIEW OF MUTUAL CONCERNS AND COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Mr. Sullivan welcomed Mr. McCoy, Giles County Board of Supervisor, to the Commission. Mr. Harvey reported he and Ms. Lesko attended the VAPDC summer conference. Ms. Lesko added the Virginia Health Commissioner delivered a presentation at the conference which was highly engaging and sparked conversation about integrating community health in planning. Ms. Newcomb noted she recently attended both the rail reception and a breakfast with Congressman Griffith. Lastly, Mr. Harvey reported Saturday, August 29th will be Renew the New, a day to clean up the New River in Giles County.

VI. CHAIR'S REPORT

Mr. Sullivan reported he attended a reception for Mr. Weaver and noted how impressive it is that Mr. Weaver has served so many agencies within the New River Valley. Mr. Sullivan also explained he attended the rail reception and Mr. Carpenter added linking safety aspects to the need for rail may be the pathway to funding.

VII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Byrd provided a summary report in the Commission agenda packet. He reported the recently completed NRV Trail Guide was included in the packet. He also explained the New River Valley was not selected for the SET program; the two regions selected were Eastern Shore and Mount Rogers. Both will be conducting a higher level analysis of economic strategy development whereas the New River Valley application was more targeted to the New River. He noted there may still be resources available to move some of the New River items forward. Mr. Byrd reported the Commission is currently conducting a Regional Transit Study under contract with the NRV MPO. He announced the Commission's redesigned website launched August 19th and explained the annual report will be available at the September meeting. Mr. Byrd noted Jonnell Sanciangco will be leaving the Commission in September to return to the Philippines. Zach Swick will be starting September 1st as the Commission's Data Systems Manager and will have training/orientation time to work with Mr. Sanciangco. Mr. Byrd explained Ms. Lesko facilitated a staff strategic planning retreat August 21st and noted a report will be brought to the Commission after findings are complete. He overviewed a meeting hosted by VDOT Salem District for state elected officials and local government chief administrators to discuss I-81 capacity and the changes to transportation funding associated with House Bill 2. Mr. Byrd noted Go Virginia, which is a public-private partnership to advance economic opportunities, will be discussed with a VAPDC sub-committee to identify roles each region can play and make suggestions to the people shaping the program. Lastly, Mr. Byrd noted Charlie Jewel has been hired as the Executive Director of the Economic Development Alliance.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

None.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. New Process for Identifying Transportation Projects in Virginia

Mr. Sharp gave a general overview of the changes and distributed a list of the local governments and agencies able to apply for funding. Mr. Sharp explained the new application process and scoring areas. To be eligible for funding the project must fit one of three criteria, a corridor of statewide significance, a regional network, or within an urban development area. He then noted the New River Valley is in category C and overviewed the ranking criteria within the category. Lastly, he explained how the some areas that do not fit within the three criteria may need to update their comprehensive plans in order to make projects eligible. Mr. Sharp called for any questions and introduced Michael Gray, Salem District Planner from VDOT, and explained he would also be available to answer questions.

Discussion: Mr. Sullivan asked what the biggest change will be given the new system. Mr. Sharp explained the projects will be scored with more transparency. Mr. Byrd noted that there are also changes to the content needed when submitting a project for consideration. Mr. Sharp also noted there will now be a stronger connection with local planning. Mr. Gray explained the application will require more detail and it will be more competitive as all projects are ranked against each other. Mr. Byrd asked about the role of the MPOs and the PDCs. Mr. Gray replied the biggest change is that they can now apply for projects. Mr. East explained the Town of Pulaski has a need for improvements at Exit 94 on I-81 and asked Mr.

Gray how to move the project forward. Mr. Gray suggested getting data to show how crash data ranks against other areas and noted crash data is available on the VDOT website. He also suggested getting public input to show support for the project. Mr. East asked if there is a limitation on the number of projects submitted by a locality. Mr. Gray explained there is not a limitation but pointed out that there is more detail required for each project with the new application process and a limited amount of funding available.

B. Commission Work Program for FY2015-2016

Mr. Sharp overview the FY15-16 work program and gave details of the administrative, local and regional projects planned for the Commission. He noted that there is currently \$1.1 million worth of projects planned for FY15-16. He gave a brief description of several projects currently underway such as, the Parks and Recreation Master Plan update for Montgomery County, the Gatewood Park Master Plan for the Town of Pulaski, the Appalachian Trail Communities Program, Passenger Rail project, Agriculture and Agritourism project, and the partnership with the New River Health District.

Discussion: Mr. Patton asked why the Agriculture project only involves three counties, and not Floyd. Mr. Byrd replied it was not an exclusion of the county, but a financial decision to not participate at the time and he noted Floyd has been involved throughout the project.

C. Overview Commission Geographic Information Systems Program

Mr. Sanciangco overviewed the Geographic Information Systems (GIS) programs offered by the Commission. He showed examples of static maps, data analysis through GIS, and embedded maps or story maps. Mr. Sanciangco explained that a New River Valley GIS users group is facilitated by the Commission and noted the group offered training by an ESRI representative at their last meeting. (ESRI is the manufacturer of the GIS software)

Discussion: Mr. Sullivan asked if there are GIS only projects or if there is added value to other projects. Mr. Byrd explained that the Data Systems Manager has both standalone GIS projects such as the partnership with the New River Health District and adds value to other projects by creating the different types of maps and data analysis. Ms. Newcomb asked if the maps shown by Mr. Sanciangco are available on the NRVRC website. Mr. Sanciangco explained all maps are available on the website and have been formatted to be used on all devices such as tablets and cell phones.

Mr. Sullivan called for adjournment of the meeting.

Ms. Lesko moved to adjourn. Dr. Warren seconded the motion.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 pm.

Kevin Sullivan, Chair
New River Valley Regional Commission

NEW RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL COMMISSION
Minutes of the Commission Meeting
held on
September 24, 2015
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. 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. R. McCoy, Giles County; Ms. C. Newcomb, Town of Blacksburg; Ms. A. Perkins, Montgomery County; Mr. J. Soileau, Virginia Tech; Mr. M. Sutphin, Town of Blacksburg and Dr. D. Warren, Pulaski County.

ABSENT: Mr. C. Bopp, Pulaski County; Ms. E. Janney, Floyd County; Mr. W. Kantsios, Town of Rich Creek; Ms. H. Lesko, Town of Blacksburg; Mr. M. Patton, Town of Floyd; Mr. H. Showalter, Town of Christiansburg; Mr. M. Turk, City of Radford and Mr. S. Weaver, Town of Christiansburg.

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

II. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes for August

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

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

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

B. Approval of Treasurer's Report for August

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

Motion: Ms. Newcomb moved for the approval of the treasurer's report. Dr. Warren seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

III. COMMONWEALTH INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS

A. Projects (Signed-off by the staff)

1. Pulaski Adult Day Services & Fall Prevention Center Rural Development Loan Application VA150826-00400400155

B. Regular Project Review

None.

C. Environmental Project Review

1. Town of Pearisburg Wastewater Treatment Plant VA150917-00600400071

Mr. Sullivan called for approval of the environmental review.

Discussion: Dr. Harvey asked if dechlorination is no longer being used. Ms. Newcomb noted the Town of Blacksburg is no longer using dechlorination. Mr. Byrd explained ultraviolet disinfection will require less maintenance and have a lower operating cost.

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

Action: Motion carried unanimously

IV. PUBLIC ADDRESS

None.

V. REVIEW OF MUTUAL CONCERNS AND COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Mr. Gerald gave an update to the Commission on Mr. Patton and explained he would be driving soon. Mr. Harvey announced Professor Davoudi, a visiting faculty member from the University of New Castle in England, will be meeting with Commission staff for a discussion Friday, September 25 regarding her research focus on community resiliency. Mr. Carpenter reported Radford University has 9,748 students this year including undergraduate and graduate students. The new outdoor recreation complex is almost complete with work finishing soon on sand volleyball courts. Radford University recently entered into a partnership with the Town of Christiansburg for students and faculty to use the town aquatics center. Lastly, he shared the Highlander Festival scheduled for September 26 will be canceled due to weather.

VI. CHAIR'S REPORT

Mr. Sullivan reported he attended the Southwest Virginia Creative Economy Conference and the federal Co-Chair of the Appalachian Regional Commission, Earl Gohl, mentioned Virginia was doing a very good job utilizing their assets to elevate the economic competitiveness of the Appalachian region. Mr. Sullivan noted he attended a LEAD Virginia session in Wise County which highlighted several impressive tourism opportunities not too far away from the New River Valley. Mr. Sullivan added Mr. Byrd served as a moderator at the Southwest Virginia Creative Economy Conference for a panel discussion on advanced manufacturing and workforce development which was well received. Mr. Sullivan also mentioned Calfee Park had significant increase in attendance this past season. Mr. East added Calfee Park broke the attendance record for the Appalachian League. Mr. Sullivan mentioned Renew the New in Giles County has done such a good job cleaning the New River they are observing a decrease in the volume of tires and other debris collected each year. Mr. McCoy added they had over 250 volunteers come out to help at the most recent clean up in late August.

VII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Byrd provided a summary report in the Commission agenda packet. Giles County will be submitting an application to participate in the Coal-Reliant Communities Innovation Challenge, a multi-day workshop hosted by NADO and NACo focused on economic change as a result of impacts associated with the coal industry. A team from the region was assembled to attend the workshop and learn about strategies for potential reuse of the recently closed AEP power plant. He noted that many state and federal opportunities want to see different organizations and

localities working together in this team format to help ensure implementation after time is spent learning best practices. He also explained Giles County has new signage directing visitors to outdoor recreation and cultural destinations within the county funded by an ARC grant. The next Mayors and Chairs meeting will take place on October 20, 2015 at the NRV Business Center. Mr. Ken King, the VDOT Salem District Engineer, will join the group to discuss some of the proposed projects associated with House Bill 2 for I-81. Lastly, Mr. Byrd introduced Zach Swick, the new Data Systems Manager for the Commission.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

None.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. Unmanned Systems (Drone Technology) Research

Mr. Jon Greene with the Mid-Atlantic Aviation Partnership at Virginia Tech provided a presentation on unmanned systems research and potential economic opportunities. Virginia Tech was awarded one of the six test sites by the Federal Aviation Administration. He then gave an overview of some of the projects going on at Virginia Tech relating to drone technology, robotics and autonomous systems. Mr. Greene explained the potential market for unmanned air craft systems, unmanned ground vehicles, as well as social robotics and unmanned maritime systems. Lastly, he offered thoughts on what could be done in the New River Valley to be competitive in this industry.

Discussion: Mr. Sullivan noted that the average age of truck drivers has increased and asked how far into the future before automated trucks would be on the road. Mr. Greene replied the industry will ease in to automation and within ten years there will be some type of automated vehicle with a human in a supervisory role. Ms. Newcomb asked what type of energy source is used for the drones. Mr. Greene explained the drones use a lithium air battery, while many of the unmanned air craft and ground vehicles have gas engines. Ms. Newcomb asked if there are specific test sites for drones. Mr. Greene explained there are several test sites and noted that the drones must be at least 400 feet above the ground, not over people, and a flight plan must be submitted to the Federal Aviation Administration. Ms. Newcomb noted that Blacksburg Town Council has received complaints of drones flying over populated areas. Mr. Greene observed there are many hobbyist flying drones that may not be aware of the regulations. He referenced the website www.knowbeforeyoufly.org has information on rules and regulations. Ms. Newcomb noted Mr. Greene had referenced 'customers' in his presentation and she asked who are Virginia Tech's customers. Mr. Greene explained their customers are companies, universities, and governments. Through sponsored research Virginia Tech is helping to develop technology, provide oversight and establish procedures as well as helping customers learn to use the technology. Dr. Warren noted that the region has unpopulated mountainous areas that could be used for testing such as the property owned by the Boy Scouts of America in Pulaski County. Ms. Perkins noted that many of the unmanned vehicles are being used by the military. Mr. Green explained there is military driven research and added they consider alternative users based on the lessons learned from all of their sponsored research.

B. New River Valley Passenger Rail Project Update

Mr. Byrd gave an update on the progress made with the Passenger Rail project. He overviewed the subcommittees and explained up to date information can be found on the website (www.nrvpassengerrail.org) and on Facebook at NRV Rail 2020. Mr. Byrd overviewed some of the survey responses and shared the top three station locations were recently identified by the MPO Technical Advisory Committee. He explained the committee plans to have a station site identified by December 2015.

Discussion: Ms. Newcomb asked if there could be two stops in the New River Valley. Mr. Byrd explained there more than likely would not be two stops since Amtrak prefers stops to be spaced apart in greater distance for regional service. The committee will identify one site in the New River Valley as the preferred location to focus future operational studies and site development. Ms. Newcomb asked who makes the final decision on where the site will be. Mr. Byrd explained that the MPO Technical Advisory Committee and the MPO Policy Board are overseeing the project, but noted there are hopes the top site will become apparent through the third and final phase of site assessment. Mr. Carpenter noted that the survey will close on October 18, 2015. Mr. Carpenter added that the Commission has done a very good job to move the project forward and bringing the region together.

C. Consumer Version of Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy

Mr. Byrd explained the consumer version of the CEDS was included in the packet. He noted that this is a concise version of the full report so more people in the region and beyond will take a few minutes to learn about regional economic development strategies.

D. Commission Annual Report for FY 2014-2015

Mr. Byrd explained the annual report was distributed at the meeting and noted it will be distributed to all elected officials in the New River Valley.

Mr. Sullivan called for adjournment of the meeting.

Ms. Newcomb moved to adjourn. Mr. East seconded the motion.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Kevin Sullivan, Chair
New River Valley Regional Commission

NEW RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL COMMISSION
Minutes of the Commission Meeting
held on
October 22, 2015
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. Clevinger, 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; Mr. W. Kantsios, Town of Rich Creek; Ms. H. Lesko, Town of Blacksburg; Ms. C. Newcomb, Town of Blacksburg; Mr. M. Sutphin, Town of Blacksburg and Dr. D. Warren, Pulaski County.

ABSENT: Mr. L. Law, Giles County, Treasurer; Mr. C. Bopp, Pulaski County; Mr. G. East, Town of Pulaski; Ms. E. Janney, Floyd County; Ms. S. Journell, Town of Pearisburg; Mr. R. McCoy, Giles County; Mr. M. Patton, Town of Floyd; Ms. A. Perkins, Montgomery County; Mr. J. Soileau, Virginia Tech; Mr. H. Showalter, Town of Christiansburg; Mr. M. Turk, City of Radford and Mr. S. Weaver, Town of Christiansburg.

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

II. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of Minutes for September
Mr. Sullivan stated that due to the lack of a quorum at the meeting the September minutes were tabled.
- B. Approval of Treasurer's Report for September
Mr. Sullivan stated that due to the lack of a quorum at the meeting the Treasurer's report was tabled.

III. COMMONWEALTH INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS

- A. Projects (Signed-off by the staff)
1. Montgomery County submittal of ARC Application for Old Prices Fork Elementary - VA150923-00800400121
 2. Town of Pulaski submittal of ARC application on behalf of West Main Development LLC - VA150928-00900400155
 3. Floyd Co Submittal of ARC application on behalf of Blue Ridge Center- Chinese Medicine "Appalachian Herb Growers Consortium Phase II" - VA150929-01000400063
 4. FY2016 Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Program- Safe Drinking Water Act - VA150930-01100400400
- B. Regular Project Review
None.
- C. Environmental Project Review

None.

IV. PUBLIC ADDRESS

None.

V. REVIEW OF MUTUAL CONCERNS AND COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Ms. Newcomb reported due to road construction on University City Blvd and other projects there is increased traffic on Prices Fork Road. Further, Blacksburg Town Council recently passed an ordinance allowing density bonuses for designated historic properties in downtown. Mr. Sutphin added the conversation began based on the old bank building in downtown and explained the ordinance is fairly broad so hopefully it will be used throughout downtown. Ms. Lesko attended the Southwest Vision 2020 meeting and noted Pulaski County received a Trailblazer Award for their drug court program. Ms. Lesko also shared Unite US was recognized for their data sharing work with veteran's services, and explained their work is an example of how data can be shared across the region. Mr. Harvey thanked the staff members who met with Professor Davoudi, a visiting faculty member from England. Mr. Sullivan noted Floyd County was featured in Southern Living magazine. Lastly, Mr. Garrett shared the former bank building in Narrows currently being converted to a brewery is scheduled to be completed soon.

VI. CHAIR'S REPORT

Mr. Sullivan reported the Mayors and Chairs meeting was well attended and Ken King, VDOT Salem District Engineer, joined the group to discuss issues on I-81. The group also discussed House Bill 2 projects identified along the I-81 corridor. Mr. Sullivan shared he recently attended a LEAD Virginia presentation by the Port of Virginia and Norfolk Southern. The Norfolk Southern business model shows the 81 corridor as the area contributing to the highest growth for their company in large part due to congestion and the high rate of accidents. This causes companies to choose rail rather than trucks because of reliability. Lastly, Mr. Sullivan remarked LEAD Virginia and other programs are elevating awareness of just how many people in Virginia are dedicated every day to improving the Commonwealth and making it a better place for everyone.

VII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Byrd provided a summary report in the Commission agenda packet. Giles County was selected to participate in the Coal-Reliant Communities Innovation Challenge. A team will travel to West Virginia to explore future reuse options for the AEP plant site and other economic opportunities in the county. Also, the Friends of Southwest Virginia received funding through the POWER Initiative recently announced by ARC and EDA, (Department of Labor hopefully soon) to further the Southwest Virginia brand and to study the establishment of a river center on the New River. Recently, the Senior Fellow for Resource Development at Virginia Tech released a study regarding regional economic development between Roanoke and the New River Valley. The Commission and the NRV Economic Development Alliance attended a meeting when the study was released and continue to be actively engage on this topic. Mr. Byrd shared earlier in the day the Commission hosted an annual meeting with members of the Commonwealth Transportation Board. Seven communities in the region met with the representatives to cover transportation needs and requests for Transportation Enhancement funding. Lastly, Mr. Byrd shared Mr. Patton returned to work and is driving.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

None.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. New River Valley Agri-tourism and Agri-business Presentation

Mr. Sharp began by providing background on the project. He overviewed the funders, project timeline, deliverables completed, team approach, as well as how the project is covering both agri-business and agri-tourism. Morgan Paulette from Pulaski County Extension presented on Agri-business plan of work. Mr. Paulette explained the goal to establish Agriculture Development Boards in each county and how they could be utilized in an advisory capacity by the Board of Supervisors. He also overviewed some of the resources available to farms to help with education, networking, and marketing. Georgia Haverty from Doe Creek Farm in Giles County presented on Agri-tourism. Ms. Haverty explained Doe Creek has three different retail businesses that draw customers to the farm. She then overviewed the five goals associated with the plan of work for Agri-tourism; marketing, festivals/events, interactive website, educational opportunities, and on-farm direct sales of local products. Lastly, Cora Gnegy from Giles County presented on the marketing strategies for the project. Ms. Gnegy explained the group worked with a marketing firm to develop a brand and create a visual identity as well as locate target audiences. Ms. Gnegy then displayed the logo selected to represent the new brand. Lastly, Mr. Sharp overviewed the next steps for the project as well as possible future grants available.

Discussion: Mr. Sullivan asked Ms. Haverty what made Doe Creek Farm decide to change from wholesale to a pick your own. Ms. Haverty explained the pick your own orchard is a much more manageable size and allows for on the farm sales. Mr. Sullivan remarked how diverse the three retail businesses are at Doe Creek Farm, with a pick your own apple orchard, a kennel, and a wedding venue. Ms. Newcomb asked if Doe Creek Farm would consider holding a bicycle farm tour. Ms. Haverty indicated willingness and heard about other areas hosting such events. Mr. Byrd explained Round the Mountain is working to bring a bicycle farm tour to Southwest Virginia as a part of their agri-tourism program. Dr. Warren noted that on the industry side of agriculture, Red Sun Farms will be doubling their current size at the plant in Dublin and possibly adding a distribution center. Mr. Garrett asked if there will be an economic market for the two ends of the spectrum, local farms and industrial agriculture. Mr. Sharp explained the market brief completed for the project indicates there is a market now and into the future for both. Mr. Sullivan asked if the smaller local farms are growing within the region. Ms. Haverty responded she hoped so and explained advertising helps bring people to the farm. Ms. Gnegy noted that the biggest challenge for new farmers is finding land and financing, but noted there are programs available from Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, the Extension and other agencies. Mr. Paulette added the availability of land is the biggest issue for new farmers or farmers wanting to expand. Mr. Byrd asked if there are plans for a land brokerage system. Ms. Gnegy replied there is an informal system in place along with some financing options and support services. Ms. Lesko noted there may be a need for local governments to adopt policies to allow farms to grow; particularly in areas where there is development pressure to convert farm land to

residential use. Mr. Paulette added there are a wide range of workshops available as well as grants, loans, and assistance to help local farmers. Mr. Sharp explained the group plans to create a marketing strategy that will be used to guide launch of the local food brand for the region.

B. FY17 Per Capita Assessment Rate

Mr. Sullivan explained the Executive Committee recommends increasing the rate \$.02 to \$1.29 per capita. Due to the lack of a quorum at the meeting, the discussion was tabled and the rate will be discussed at the November meeting.

C. Set November Commission Meeting Date

Mr. Sullivan explained the November meeting falls on Thanksgiving Day and is historically combined with the December meeting. Typically, the Commission moves the November meeting to the 3rd Thursday of the month. Mr. Sullivan called for any objections to combining the November and December meetings and holding the meeting on Thursday November 19th. With no objections, the November meeting date was set for Thursday November 19th.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 pm.

Kevin Sullivan, Chair
New River Valley Regional Commission

NEW RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL COMMISSION
Minutes of the Commission Meeting
held on
November 19, 2015
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. F. Gerald, Floyd County; 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; Ms. H. Lesko, Town of Blacksburg; Ms. C. Newcomb, Town of Blacksburg; Mr. M. Patton, Town of Floyd; 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: Mr. K. Sullivan, Chair, Virginia Tech; Mr. G. East, Town of Pulaski; Mr. T. Garrett, Town of Narrows; Mr. R. McCoy, Giles County; Ms. A. Perkins, Montgomery County; and Mr. S. Weaver, Town of Christiansburg.

Staff Attendees: Kevin Byrd, Janet McNew, Patrick Burton, Michael Gottfredson, Elijah Sharp, Christy Straight, Zach Swick, Jennifer Wilsie, and Julie Phillips.

II. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes for September and October

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. Kantsios seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

B. Approval of Treasurer's Report for September and October

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. 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

None.

IV. PUBLIC ADDRESS

None.

V. REVIEW OF MUTUAL CONCERNS AND COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Mr. Gerald announced it was Ms. Janney's birthday.

VI. CHAIR'S REPORT

Mr. Carpenter thanked the Commission staff for organizing the mini-Thanksgiving dinner for the meeting. Mr. Carpenter also congratulated Mr. Bopp, Mr. Showalter, Mr. Sutphin, and Mr. Patton on their re-elections to serve their communities. Mr. Patton added he would also like to thank the Commission staff for organizing the dinner and attending the meeting.

VII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Byrd provided a summary report in the Commission agenda packet. Mr. Byrd explained Go Virginia, which is a private sector lead economic development initiative, will be introduced soon in the upcoming General Assembly session. Mr. Byrd explained Bring it Home NRV, a web-based campaign directed toward Virginia Tech alumni to invest or bring their business to the area, is discussing how to broaden future campaigns. Mr. Byrd shared he was recently contacted by a company in Christiansburg regarding a desire to elevate awareness of unmanned systems work taking place in the region. He then explained how the region's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy helped establish the connection and provides focus for a network of businesses going forward. Mr. Byrd overviewed the number of transportation projects submitted for House Bill 2 and explained there is a funding challenge in Virginia since the Salem District requests totaled \$800 million and only \$500 million is available statewide. Mr. Byrd congratulated Pulaski County on receiving grant funding to evaluate rural broadband needs. Mr. Carpenter added there will be a passenger rail steering committee meeting December 17th at 3:00pm at the Christiansburg Aquatic Center.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

A. FY17 Per Capita Assessment Rate

Mr. Carpenter explained the Commission evaluates the per capita rate each fall and asked Mr. Byrd to overview the recommendation made by the Executive Committee. Mr. Byrd explained the Executive Committee recommends increasing the rate \$.02 from \$1.27 to \$1.29 per capita. Mr. Byrd noted that the Commission has followed a schedule of adjusting the rate every other year when needed in small increments to avoid significant adjustments which are more burdensome to members. He added the Commission will have increased match requirements for ARC funding next fiscal year as well as anticipated capital needs on the horizon.

Discussion: Mr. Harvey noted that there is a ten to one return on investment for the localities. Mr. Patton added the Commission should consider increasing the rate to \$1.31 per capita. Mr. Byrd explained the Commission currently uses census data for the population

numbers which previously was available every ten years; however, in the future the Executive Committee has recommended the Commission use mid-decennial data in order to reevaluate the population numbers every five years.

Mr. Carpenter called for approval of the \$1.29 per capita for FY17.

Motion: Mr. Harvey moved for the approval of the rate to increase to \$1.29. Mr. Sutphin seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried; 17-1, Mr. Patton opposed seeking higher rate.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. FY15 Audit Report

Mr. Law explained the audit report contains no findings and he recommends approval. Mr. Carpenter asked for clarification of a comment on p. 53. Mr. Byrd explained the statement is always included in the audit report noting there is not a CPA on staff at the Commission; however, the staff works diligently with the auditor throughout the year to ensure proper accounting protocols, particularly when unique situations arise. Dr. Harvey asked about a discrepancy in figures for the pension liability found in the memo compared to the audit report. Mr. Byrd explained one number is a point in time amount with FY14 liability utilized by Virginia Retirement System while the other is a cumulative number from the auditor. Mr. Byrd explained the Commission has adequate reserves to cover the liability identified. Ms. McNew confirmed the statement made by Mr. Byrd regarding the liability discrepancy being FY14 numbers for the point in time amount from VRS compared to the auditor's cumulative figures.

Mr. Carpenter called for approval of the audit report.

Motion: Mr. Soileau moved for the acceptance of the audit report. Dr. Warren seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

B. Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee

Mr. Byrd explained the CEDS committee list was distributed in the packet and noted new members are highlighted.

Motion: Ms. Lesko moved to approve the CEDS committee as presented. Mr. Bopp seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

C. Regional Commission Staff Retreat Outcomes

Mr. Byrd overviewed outcomes of the staff retreat facilitated by Holly Lesko in late August. He noted an important outcome was the establishment of staff-led committees to develop and implement new ideas in the following three areas; building capacity, communications, and technology.

Ms. Straight is the committee chair for the building capacity committee and they are working to develop ways to prepare the Commission for future community needs and opportunities. Currently, their focus is on finding ways to enable staff to gain critical knowledge in areas outside of their current work program so staff can be more proactive in offering programs to Commission members. The committee wants to increase training and professional development and dedicate funding to support this on an application basis. Ms. Straight also noted the potential to grow the program by staff establishing a team with partners in the region to make applications.

Ms. Wilsie is the chair of the communications committee and their work comes on the heels of the recent rebranding of the Commission with a focus on telling our story. She noted the committee is currently working to increase presence on social media as well as create an image library for photos to use in reports and newsletters. Ms. Wilsie explained the Commission recently upgraded the camera and now has the capability to create video. Mr. Byrd noted that other regions use short video testimonials on both social media and websites that are helpful to explain the work of the Commission.

Mr. Sharp is the committee chair for technology and they are exploring different types of software to strengthen products in the existing work program. He noted the committee is learning about several new tools at the Commission including, Tableau software that can be used to create data dashboards; Sketchup and CADD which can be used to create 3-D elevations and building renderings; Magnify which consolidates basic census data and provides access to proprietary data for economic impact purposes, and Adobe Creative Cloud which offers image and video editing.

Mr. Carpenter thanked Ms. Lesko for facilitating the staff retreat and explained the ownership staff is taking in the Commission will have both an organizational benefit and serve well in professional development. Ms. Lesko asked if the image library would be available regionally. Mr. Byrd noted the images are available regionally and if the Commission has to procure a photographer to secure signature images there are plans to cost share with other regional partners.

D. December Meeting Cancelled.

Mr. Carpenter reminded the Commission that the December meeting has been cancelled and explained the next meeting will be held January 28th.

Mr. Carpenter called for adjournment.

Mr. Bopp motioned to adjourn. Mr. Kantsios seconded the motion.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 pm.

Kevin Sullivan, Chair
New River Valley Regional Commission