

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
GEORGE WASHINGTON REGIONAL COMMISSION**

February 28, 2011

The Robert C. Gibbons Conference Room
406 Princess Anne Street, Fredericksburg, Virginia

MEMBERS PRESENT AND VOTING: Fredericksburg: Mary Katherine Greenlaw (2nd Vice Chairman), George C. Solley; **King George:** Dale W. Sisson (Chairman); **Spotsylvania:** Jerry I. Logan (Secretary), Gary Skinner; **Stafford:** Harry E. Crisp, II (Treasurer).

MEMBERS ABSENT: Wayne A. Acors and Robert J. Popowicz (1st Vice Chairman), Caroline County; Joseph W. Grzeika, King George County; Mark Dudenhefer, Stafford County.

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS: C. Douglas Barnes, Spotsylvania County.

INVITED GUESTS: Elizabeth Borst, Buy Fresh Buy Local Fredericksburg; Eldon James, Eldon James & Associates; Matt Noonkester, Seven Hills Town Planning Group; Carol Adams, Wayne Bushrod, Deputy Mike Christie, Sgt. Miles Turner, Regional Communications Interoperability Working Group.

STAFF: Robert H. Wilson, Executive Director; Lloyd P. Robinson, Director of Transportation Planning; Kevin F. Byrnes, Director of Regional Planning; Diana Utz, GWRideConnect Director; Andy Waple, Principal Regional Planner; David Lee, Principal Regional Planner; Marti Donley, Senior Regional Planner; Laurel Hammig, Senior Regional Planner; Danny Reese, Regional Planner.

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Sisson called the meeting to order at 6:11 p.m. *without* a quorum present. Mr. Crisp then led those present in a recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

(In the absence of a quorum, Mr. Sisson skipped the action items on the agenda.)

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT: James Lawrence of Fredericksburg distributed a handout regarding a lawsuit he had filed against the Fredericksburg City Council for allegedly violating the Freedom of Information Act. He also expressed his support for green infrastructure.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Mr. Robinson informed the Commissioners that cash flow is improving thanks to the localities making their full Fiscal Year 2011 contributions.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Mr. Wilson reported that the Regional Elected Officials Dinner will be held on March 30th at Brock's and that he expects approximately 40 attendees, including at least six members of the Region's General Assembly delegation. He also reminded the members that the Commission will cease operation of the telework centers on March 31st. Mr. Wilson then informed the members that the Commission has engaged Benjamin W. Emerson of Sands Anderson in Richmond as counsel on an hourly basis. Finally, he also reported that he is serving as manager for public outreach for FAMPO's I-95 Rest Area Access Project, at the request of Mr. Robinson and the George Washington Toll Road Authority Board.

OLD BUSINESS:

No old business was discussed.

NEW BUSINESS:

Request for Commission Sponsorship of a USDA Grant Application

Elizabeth Borst from *Buy Fresh Buy Local Fredericksburg* briefed the Commission on the program and the goals of the USDA grant application in advance of action to be requested from the Commission at a later date on a resolution of support for that application. She also solicited suggestions from the Commissioners on how to creatively fund regional food initiatives. Mr. Sisson suggested that she brief each of the Boards of Supervisors and the City Council individually.

(Messrs. Solley and Logan arrived at approximately 6:27 p.m., at which time a quorum was established. Accordingly, Chairman Sisson returned to those action items that were skipped.)

APPROVAL OF THE GWRC AGENDA: Mr. Wilson asked that the agenda be amended to include a new action item 10.g., “Authorizing Renewal of the Commission’s Operating Line of Credit,” and a new discussion item 10.h., “Home Performance with Energy Star Sponsor Application,” and renumbering the rest of the agenda accordingly. Ms. Greenlaw made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Crisp to approve the meeting agenda as amended. The motion was unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF JANUARY 24, 2011: Ms. Greenlaw made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Crisp to approve the minutes of the meeting of January 24, 2011. The motion was approved, with Mr. Skinner abstaining.

NEW BUSINESS (continued):

Update on the Regional Communications Interoperability Working Group (RCIWG)

After the Working Group members were introduced by Mr. Wilson, Ms. Adams from Stafford County updated the Commission on the discussions that have taken place in the RCIWG meetings over the past year, and she expressed the hope of the Working Group for increased coordination among Planning District 16’s localities. Following her presentation, Ms. Adams answered questions posed by the commissioners.

Resolution No. 11-22, Adoption of Regional Priorities for the Virginia Community Development Block Grant Program

After a brief explanation by Mr. Byrnes, Mr. Solley made a motion that was seconded by Ms. Greenlaw to approve Resolution No. 11-22. The motion was unanimously approved.

Resolution No. 11-23, Transfer of Regional Telework Center Program to the Mason Enterprise Center of George Mason University

Mr. Wilson informed the commissioners that the Mason Enterprise Center had agreed to take over the operation of the Region’s three telework centers after the Commission ceases to operate them on March 31, 2011. After a brief discussion, Mr. Skinner made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Crisp to approve Resolution No. 11-23. The motion was unanimously approved.

Fiscal Year 2012 Rural Transportation Planning Program

Mr. Waple briefed the Commission on the proposed Regional Rural Transportation Program, 80 percent of which is funded by the Virginia Department of Transportation with the remaining 20 percent contributed by the localities. The FY 2012 program budget would remain unchanged from the current year, which is \$72,500. He then offered to answer questions, but none were posed to him.

Development of the Regional Green Infrastructure Plan

Ms. Hammig described the development of a “Regional Green Infrastructure Plan” under the Commission’s annual Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program grant. She then offered to answer questions, but none were posed to her.

Authorizing Renewal of the Commission’s Line of Credit

Mr. Wilson provided the background of the Commission’s operating line of credit with StellarOne Bank and explained that it is critical during periods of cash-flow disruption. In response to a question from Mr. Logan, Mr. Wilson stated that the existing line of credit had had a zero balance for several months. Mr. Logan then made a motion that was seconded by Ms. Greenlaw to authorize Chairman Sisson and Executive Director Wilson to execute the renewal of the Commission’s operating line of credit with StellarOne Bank. The motion was unanimously approved.

Home Performance with Energy Star (HPwES) Sponsor Application

Mr. Byrnes briefed the Commission on the development of the Regional HPwES program, which is being funded through a stimulus grant from the Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy. He explained that the Commission’s role as a sponsor organization would involve recruiting contractors, monitoring contractors’ use of the Energy Star logo, providing quality control to a specified number of projects and preparing annual reports to the Energy Star Program. Mr. Byrnes concluded by informing the members that he would be coming back to them in March with a resolution of support for the HPwES sponsor application.

2011 General Assembly Update

Mr. James distributed a handout and provided an update on 12 legislative bills of interest to the Region and the individual localities.

(Upon the departure of Chairman Sisson at this point in the meeting, Second Vice Chairperson Greenlaw assumed the Chair.)

Regional Land Use Scenario Planning Presentation

Mr. Noonkester provided the commissioners – as well as most members of FAMPO – with an overview of the scenario planning process, including its six main components: tools for scenario planning, partnering strategy, building development scenarios, building consensus, documentation and project implementation. The four development scenarios he presented were of decentralized growth, “green-print” initiatives, compact development centers, and greater jobs/housing balance.

Adjournment: There being no further business, the Commission meeting was adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert H. Wilson, AICP
Executive Director

(Draft minutes prepared by Laurel Hammig, Senior Regional Planner)