

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

March 21, 2011

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

MEMBERS PRESENT AND VOTING: Fredericksburg: Mary Katherine Greenlaw (2nd Vice Chairman), Frederic N. Howe, III (alternate for George Solley); **King George:** Dale W. Sisson, Jr. (Chairman), Joseph W. Grzeika; **Spotsylvania:** Jerry I. Logan (Secretary), Gary Skinner; **Stafford:** Harry E. Crisp, II (Treasurer), Mark Dudenhefer.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Wayne A. Acors and Robert J. Popowicz (1st Vice Chairman), Caroline County; George C. Solley, City of Fredericksburg.

INVITED GUESTS: Elizabeth Borst, Buy Fresh Buy Local Fredericksburg; Christine Singhass, Regional Housing Initiative Task Force.

STAFF: Robert H. Wilson, Executive Director; Lloyd P. Robinson, Director of Transportation Planning; Kevin F. Byrnes, Director of Regional Planning; Diana Utz, GWRideConnect Director; 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 6:04 p.m. with a quorum present, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF THE GWRC AGENDA: Mr. Wilson asked that the agenda be amended to include new action items 10.d., "Supporting the Fredericksburg Regional Farmers Market Association's Application for a U.S. Department of Agriculture Grant" and 10.e., "Transferring Furniture and Equipment to Spotsylvania County for the Continued Operation of a Telework Facility in the County." Ms. Greenlaw made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Skinner to approve the meeting agenda, as amended. The motion was unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FEBRUARY 28, 2011: Mr. Crisp made a motion that was seconded by Ms. Greenlaw to approve the minutes of the meeting of February 28, 2011. The motion was approved, with Messrs. Grzeika and Howe abstaining.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT: No comments were offered from the public.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Mr. Wilson reported that cash flow had been fairly steady. He stated that he had begun collecting information for the Commission's Fiscal Year 2012 budget but was waiting for several pieces of information, including the approved amounts of the local contributions. Mr. Wilson also stated that he is exploring the possibility of having the Commission bid on requests for planning-consulting proposals issued by the member localities. Mr. Grzeika suggested as an alternative that the Commission establish a fee for additional services instead of entering the competitive bidding process.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Mr. Wilson informed the Commission that he had received a letter from the Commonwealth's Secretary of Natural Resources offering to have a senior member of his staff provide an update on Virginia's Watershed Implementation Plan at the April Commission meeting, and there was consensus to extend such an invitation. He also reminded the members that the Commission will cease its operation of the telework centers on March 31, 2011. Finally, he stated that 44 people had accepted the invitation to attend the Regional Elected Officials Dinner on March 30th.

OLD BUSINESS:

No old business was discussed.

NEW BUSINESS:

Resolution No. 11-24, Fiscal Year 2012 Rural Transportation Planning Program

After a brief explanation by Mr. Wilson, Ms. Greenlaw made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Howe to approve Resolution No. 11-24. The motion was unanimously approved.

Resolution No. 11-25, Endorsing the Commission's Home Performance with Energy Star (HPwES) Sponsor Application to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Mr. Byrnes briefed the Commission on the development of the Regional HPwES program, which is being funded under a 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 those 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. After a brief discussion, Mr. Skinner made a motion that was seconded by Ms. Greenlaw to approve Resolution No. 11-25. The resolution was approved on a five to three vote, with Messrs. Dudenhefer, Grzeika and Sisson voting in opposition.

Regional Housing Initiative Task Force Update

Christine Singhass distributed a handout describing the goals of the Regional Housing Task Force. She invited the commissioners to attend Task Force meetings and/or to communicate any areas of concern they may have. She then offered to answer questions, but none were posed to her.

Resolution No. 11-26, Supporting the Fredericksburg Regional Farmers Market Association's Application for a U.S. Department of Agriculture "Farmers Market Promotion Program" Grant and Agreeing to Establish a Regional Food Systems Council

Mr. Wilson summarized the presentation Ms. Borst made at the February Commission meeting, and Ms. Borst offered to answer questions. Mr. Grzeika suggested that Ms. Borst go to the individual governing bodies to seek support for this initiative rather than do so through the Commission. Mr. Wilson then stated his belief that the Commission is the appropriate entity from which to seek support, since the initiative is regional in nature. Mr. Grzeika also questioned the necessity of having the Commission establish a regional food systems council, as was included in the draft resolution. Mr. Wilson responded that establishing such a body would be similar to the Commission's establishment of other regional advisory entities, such as the Regional Communications Interoperability Working Group, and that it would require little or no staff support. Mr. Grzeika then proposed amending the resolution to remove the Commission's pledge to "establish" a regional food systems council and replace it with an expression of support for the establishment of such a body. After a brief discussion, Mr. Grzeika made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Dudenhefer to approve Resolution No. 11-26, as amended. The motion was approved unanimously.

Resolution No. 11-27, Transferring Furniture and Equipment to Spotsylvania County for the Continued Operation of a Telework Facility in the County

After a brief explanation from Mr. Wilson, Mr. Skinner made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Logan to approve Resolution No. 11-27. The motion was approved unanimously.

Adjournment: There being no further business, the Commission meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert H. Wilson, AICP
Executive Director

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