

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

July 20, 2009
Gibbons Conference Room
406 Princess Anne Street, Fredericksburg, Virginia

PRESENT AND VOTING: CAROLINE: Robert J. Popowicz (2nd Vice Chairman), David M. “Maxie” Rozell, Jr.; **FREDERICKSBURG:** Mary Katherine Greenlaw (Treasurer), Matthew J. Kelly; **KING GEORGE:** James B. Howard, Dale W. Sisson (1st Vice Chairman); **SPOTSYLVANIA:** Henry “Hap” Connors (Chairman), Benjamin T. Pitts; **STAFFORD:** Mark Dudenhefer (Secretary), Robert “Bob” Woodson.

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS: Douglas Barnes, Spotsylvania County; Anthony Romanello, Stafford County.

STAFF: Robert H. Wilson, Executive Director; Lloyd P. Robinson, Director of Transportation Planning; Kevin F. Byrnes, Director of Regional Planning; Diana Burton Utz, Director, GWRideConnect; Andy Waple, Principal Planner; David J-H. Lee, Senior Planner; Jane Wills, Regional Mobility Coordinator; Jean Hamilton Ivester, Operations Manager; Marti Donley, Regional Planner; Laurel Hammig, Regional Planner; Danny Reese, Associate Regional Planner.

INVITED GUESTS: Eldon James, Eldon James & Associates; Steven Thomas, Chairman, Spotsylvania County Economic Development Authority.

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Connors called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. with a quorum present, which was followed by a recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Mr. Wilson requested that the following new items be added to the meeting agenda as action items 10.f., 10.g. and 10.h., respectively: “Resolution No. 10-03, Establishing an Ad Hoc Committee to Review the Regional Strategic Plan and Authorizing the Chairman to Appoint Members to the Committee”; “Resolution No. 10-04, Recognizing the Dedicated Service of Barbara Bigelow,” and; “Resolution No. 10-05, “Recognizing the Dedicated Service of Mark Dudenhefer.” Additionally, Mr. Wilson asked that Mr. Eldon James’ presentation of the “Legislative Study Committee on Development and Land-use Tools” be added as a new item 10.a. under Old Business, with the existing items to be renumbered accordingly. Mr. Kelly then made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Sisson to approve the agenda as modified. The motion was unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF JUNE 15, 2009: Ms. Greenlaw made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Dudenhefer to approve the minutes of the meeting of June 15, 2009. The motion was approved, with Mr. Woodson abstaining.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT: No comments were offered from members of the public.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Mr. Wilson advised that the Fiscal Year 2009 audit would be conducted over the summer with a plan to have a final draft of the audit report at the September 21st meeting.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Mr. Wilson updated members on the status of the possible closure of the Stafford Telework Center and what he believes to be a more viable alternative to the current location. Mr. Dudenhefer made a motion authorizing the chairman and the executive director to continue to work on this issue with GSA. The motion was seconded by Mr. Pitts and unanimously approved by the membership.

OLD BUSINESS

Legislative Study Committee on Development and Land-use Tools

Mr. James advised the Commission of the work of the Legislative Study Committee on Development and Land Use Tools, also known as the Athey/Vogel Study Committee. The committee is working on new legislation to further define Urban Development Areas and hopes to also draft legislation broadening development impact fees in exchange for cash proffers.

Summary of Regional Emergency Communications Efforts

Mr. Wilson informed members that he would report back at the next meeting of the Commission on the outcome of the July 28th meeting with local fire department and law enforcement officials on regional communications inoperability.

Regional Produce Cannery

Mr. Byrnes advised the Board that Caroline County had identified temporary funding to keep the County's cannery in operation for this season while possible ways to fund and operate the facility as a regional asset are explored. He added that the region's planning directors met on July 1st and expressed interest in working together to support this initiative, which could include coordinating plans for the cannery with other regional food and nutrition projects.

Other Old Business

No other old business was discussed.

NEW BUSINESS

Regional Partnership to Advocate and Promote Local Farms and Food

Mr. Connors introduced Mr. Thomas, the current chairman of the Spotsylvania County Economic Development Authority (EDA). Mr. Thomas explained that the EDA considered a local request for financial support of a "Buy Fresh, Buy Local" program related to the promotion of the use of the local farmers' markets and concluded that this is an opportunity to develop a regional program to promote local farms and food. Mr. Byrnes added that Elizabeth Borst, a local volunteer working on the "Buy Fresh, Buy Local" program, had spoken with the regional planning directors earlier in the month and that Commission staff would continue to work with her to develop a potential regional program.

Resolution No. 10-01, Authorization of Agreement for the 2010 Census Partnership Program

Mr. Byrnes explained that his initiative was discussed with the local chief administrative officers and other local government staff, and that the region's planning directors had offered to coordinate any local census promotion programs with GWRC should the Commission agree to join the Census program. Mr. Kelly then made a motion to approve Resolution No. 10-01, which was seconded by Mr. Dudenhefer and unanimously approved.

Resolution No. 10-02, Acceptance of Department of Forestry Grant and Authorization to Execute a Non-Professional Services Contract with the American Forestry Association

Mr. Byrnes explained that staff had applied for a Department of Forestry (DOF) grant to study the regional tree canopy to assess how it has changed between 1996 and 2008. Mr. Woodson made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Pitts to approve Resolution No. 10-02, which authorizes the acceptance of the \$14,060 DOF grant and entering into a contract with the American Forestry Association to perform reclassification of 2008 aerial photography to conform to the resolution of a time series of satellite imagery. There was no further discussion and the motion carried unanimously.

Proposed Regional “Home Performance with Energy Star” Program

Mr. Byrnes updated the Commission on the development progress of this regional project, noting that staff from those local governments eligible for the statewide Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Program (i.e., Caroline and King George counties, the City of Fredericksburg and the towns of Bowling Green and Port Royal) had met to discuss the program concept and to reach an understanding of how this program would have to operate to garner the necessary support from eligible local governments.

Regional Phase III Development Review Process

Mr. Byrnes explained that a working group of staff from local governments and certain state agencies is meeting monthly to develop recommendations of how local development ordinances could be better synchronized in the development review and approval process to improve protection of the environment and the Chesapeake Bay.

Resolution No. 10-03, Establishing an Ad Hoc Committee to Review the Regional Strategic Plan and Authorizing the Chairman to Appoint Members to the Committee

Mr. Kelly made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Sisson to approve Resolution No. 10-03. There was no discussion and the motion carried unanimously.

Resolution No. 10-04, Recognizing the Dedicated Service of Barbara Bigelow

Mr. Sisson made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Kelly to approve Resolution No. 10-04. There was no discussion and the motion carried unanimously.

Resolution No. 10-05, Recognizing the Dedicated Service of Mark Dudenhefer

Mr. Rozell made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Howard to approve Resolution No. 10-05. There was no further discussion and the motion carried unanimously.

Other New Business

Mr. Sisson made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Pitts to cancel the August meeting. There was no further discussion and the motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment: There being no further business, the Commission meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert H. Wilson, AICP
Executive Director

(Draft minutes prepared by Jean Hamilton Ivester, Operations Manager)