

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

September 17, 2011

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

**MEMBERS PRESENT AND VOTING:** **Caroline:** Robert J. Popowicz (Chairman);  
**Fredericksburg:** Mary Katherine Greenlaw (1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chairman); **King George:** Dale W. Sisson, Jr.,  
Joseph W. Grzeika (Secretary); **Spotsylvania:** Jerry I. Logan (Treasurer), Gary Skinner; **Stafford:**  
Harry E. Crisp, II (2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chairman).

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Wayne A. Acors, Caroline County; George C. Solley, City of  
Fredericksburg; Paul Milde, Stafford County.

**STAFF:** Eldon James, Interim 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; Daniel Reese, Regional Planner.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Popowicz called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. with a quorum  
present, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF THE GWRC AGENDA:** Mr. Crisp made a motion that was seconded by Ms.  
Greenlaw to approve the meeting agenda. The motion was approved unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF July 18, 2011:**

Mr. Grzeika made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Sisson to approve the minutes of the meeting  
of July 18, 2011. The motion was approved unanimously.

**PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT:** No comments were offered from the public.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:** Mr. James presented a balance sheet and P&L comparison from August  
of 2010 and August of 2011 to give the board a perspective of the changes in the financial position  
for the organization. He sees the commission moving in a positive direction.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:** Mr. James reminded the Commission that they  
approved a resolution to apply for a DCR grant designed to assist with regional work groups on the  
Watershed Implementation Plan Phase II. He informed the Commission that DCR opted to send  
an RFP to all of the PDCs in the Bay Watershed seeking similar local/regional efforts. Having done  
that, Mr. James decided to pull the Commission's request in order to comply with the new program  
created by DCR. Mr. James stated that since the application will be largely similar to the previously  
approved submission he will resubmit under the new RFP unless there is objection from the  
Commission. There was no objection. Mr. James then asked Mr. Waple to brief the Commission  
on item 6 of the FAMPO agenda pertaining to the MPOs Title VI Authorization due to the  
Commission acting as the fiscal agent for the MPO. Mr. James also mentioned that the auditors  
were at GWRCs office completing their fieldwork and no issues were raised during their visit.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

No old business was discussed.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### **Presentation on the Regional Green Infrastructure Plan**

Mr. Byrnes briefed the commission about the status of the grant program and gave an overview of what is meant by green infrastructure. Additionally he gave an overview of green infrastructure planning in the Commonwealth and the significance of having a Green Infrastructure Plan in the George Washington Region. He further advised that over the next month he would be receiving comments for local staffs and bring back the final plan for action at the October meeting.

### **Resolution No. – 12-04, Establishment of GW-HELP Loan Loss Reserve Fund Account**

Mr. Byrnes briefed the commission on the suggestion of the advisory committee to establish a GW-HELP Loan Loss Reserve Fund Account to act in assisting members of the public to make use of the GW-HELP program. After a brief discussion on concerns for GWRC to be in the loan guarantee business, Mr. Grzeika made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Sisson to deny Resolution No. 12-04. The motion to deny was approved unanimously.

### **George Washington Toll Road Authority Update**

Mr. Robinson briefed the Commission about the current status of the project including the need to search for a director for the Toll Road Authority and that the organization has received nearly \$15million to conduct the environmental aspects of the study.

### **Assisting King George and Caroline Counties with Rural Transit Service Decisions**

Mr. Robinson briefed the Commission about the current status of FRED's services in King George and Caroline Counties. He noted that the cost issues of providing rural transit is not uncommon throughout the country and that other alternatives would be needed to provide transit services to the underserved.

### **Update on the Commonwealth's Policy Considerations Regarding Transportation Devolution**

Mr. Elliot, the Fredericksburg VDOT District Administrator, briefed the Commission about the devolution process and what that means to the localities within PDC 16. He defined devolution as the localities taking over maintenance and other program costs for transportation infrastructure from VDOT. The Commonwealth has had the burden of maintaining all public roads in Virginia since 1932. Mr. Elliot entertained questions presented by the board.

### **Update on Search for New GWRC Executive Director**

Mr. James noted that the executive search committee has met stating that they narrowed the list of possible candidates down to five from seven and that the current plan is for interviews to be scheduled for Thursday October 13<sup>th</sup> and Friday October 14<sup>th</sup>.

### **Extension Agreement with the Interim Executive Director**

Mr. James briefed the commission about establishing a two month extension as the interim executive director. This stems from an unexpected delay in the search process. Mr. Sisson made a motion that was seconded by Ms. Greenlaw to approve the extension. The motion was approved unanimously.

### **Approving the Advertisement of Staff Position “Associate Regional Planner/HMIS Coordinator”**

Mr. James briefed the commission about the need for a full-time staff member to assist Mr. Byrnes with regional planning initiatives including the Coastal Zone Grant and the HMIS grant. The position will be restricted due to its grant funding support. Mr. Grzeika made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Crisp to approve the action. The motion was approved unanimously.

**Other New Business:**

No new business was discussed:

**Adjournment:** There being no further business, the Commission meeting was adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Eldon James  
Interim Executive Director

(Draft minutes prepared by Daniel Reese, Regional Planner)