

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

October 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), George C. Solley; **King George:** Dale W. Sisson, Jr.; **Spotsylvania:** Jerry I. Logan (Treasurer), Gary Skinner; **Stafford:** Harry E. Crisp, II (2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chairman), Paul Milde.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Wayne A. Acors, Caroline County; Joseph W. Grzeika, King George County.

**STAFF:** Eldon James, Interim Executive Director; Lloyd P. Robinson, Director of Transportation Planning; Kevin F. Byrnes, Director of Regional Planning; Diana B. Utz, GWRideConnect Director; Andy Waple, Principal Regional Planner; Marti Donley, Senior Regional Planner; Daniel Reese, Regional Planner.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Popowicz called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. with a quorum present, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF THE GWRC AGENDA:** Mr. Popowicz added item 6.a. to the agenda; Executive Selection. Mr. Sisson made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Skinner to approve the meeting agenda as amended. The motion was approved unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 17, 2011:** Mr. Solley made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Crisp to approve the minutes of the meeting from September 17, 2011. The motion was approved unanimously.

**PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT:** Mr. Popowicz announced that he intends to hold public comment until after hearing ACTION ITEM 10.d.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Mr. Sisson made a motion the was seconded by Mr. Solley to move that the George Washington Regional Commission go into closed session pursuant to State Code Section 2.2-3711(A)1, for the purpose of discussing personnel issues related to the hiring of the Executive Director. The motion was approved unanimously.

Mr. Sisson made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Skinner to move that the George Washington Regional Commission return to public session and certify that only public business matters lawfully exempt from open meeting requirements by Virginia law, and only such public business matters as we identified in the motion convening the closed session were heard, discussed, or considered. The motion was certified unanimously.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:** Mr. James briefed the commission about updates to the balance sheet in regards to ongoing work with the auditors and commission accountant to make adjustments in reference to the HELP checking account. It was presented that the HELP

checking account needed to also be included as a liability because it has obligations against it although it is a cash asset. He also made comments about long standing payroll liability that is in the process of being cleaned up. Mr. James noted that the balance sheet is not quite where he would like it but the commission is in a better situation than in years past.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:** Mr. James turned the floor over to Mr. Waple to brief the commission on the status of the Title VI Non-discrimination program. He asked that a vote adopting the Title VI Non-discrimination program be held off until November in order to incorporate all of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) comments into the final draft. Mr. James then stated that the Farmers Market Promotional Grant was approved and that the commission would need to pass a resolution to accept it. Mr. James also noted that the commission had been notified by REDCO 504 of their plans to vacate the two offices the organization rents from the commission towards the end of the year. He then asked the commission to extend the agreement of interim executive director until the effective start date of the new executive director. However, it allows for the new executive director to keep the interim executive director for questions and comments concerning the position. Lastly Mr. James briefed the commission about a grant from DCR to assist with Chesapeake Bay cleanup. He noted that the commission authorized an unsolicited grant with DCR along with various other PDCs. This caused DCR to call for an request for proposals (RFP) which prompted the GWRC to pull its unsolicited proposal back. The GWRC will be working along with other PDCs around the commonwealth to negotiate with DCR to coordinate data gathering for the organization.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

No old business was discussed.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Resolution No. -12-05, Authorizing the Interim Executive Director to Execute Renewals to Short-Term Leases for Park-And-Ride Spaces Located at the Fredericksburg Field House and the Chatham Square Shopping Center**

Ms. Utz made a brief presentation about the successes of the parking space leases over the last two years and asked that the commission support to continue the current leases after they expire at the end of November. She noted that the commission leases the total of 105 spaces for \$1 per space per business day totaling \$27,600 which includes the spaces associated with **Resolution No. -12-06**. Mr. Sisson made a motion that was seconded by Ms. Greenlaw to extend the lease at the Fredericksburg Field House and the Chatham Square Shopping Center. The motion was approved unanimously.

**Resolution No. -12-06, Authorizing the Interim Executive Director to Execute Renewal to Short-Term Lease for Park-And-Ride Spaces Located at the Claiborne Run Shopping Center**

Ms. Utz made a brief presentation about the successes of the parking space leases over the last two years and asked that the commission support to continue the current lease after it expires at the end of December. Mr. Sisson made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Solley to extend the lease at the Clairborne Run Shopping Center. The motion was approved unanimously.

### **Caroline County Regional Water Opportunities**

Mr. Schiebel, the interim director of public utilities in Caroline County, made a presentation to the commission about regional water opportunities and decentralized wastewater systems being pioneered in the county. He stated that the notion of regional water opportunities came to be while county staff had been working on the water supply plan for the locality. He also noted that it would be to the region's benefit to have an interconnected water supply much like the agreement that the City of Fredericksburg and the Counties of Spotsylvania and Stafford already have in place. Additionally Mr. Schiebel briefed the commission about the current wastewater facilities being utilized within the county. He concluded by focusing on the capabilities that Caroline County would bring to any agreement with the surrounding localities.

### **Resolution No. -12-07, Endorsing the Regional Green Infrastructure Plan**

Mr. Byrnes briefed the commission about the history of the Regional Green Infrastructure Plan and noted that there have been two additions and executive summary recommendations came to be after consultation with local government staff and committee members. Firstly there has been an addition of by-right to the plan and secondly a 14,300 acre conservation easement goal for the region in order to provide green open space. A member of the public, Ms. Folger, made the effort to encourage the commission to endorse the plan based on its regional foundations. Mr. Solley made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Skinner to endorse the Regional Green Infrastructure plan. There was a six-to-one vote to endorse the plan with Mr. Sisson voting no against endorsement of the plan.

### **Resolution No. -12-08, Accepting Farmers Market Promotion Grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture**

Mr. James briefed the commission on the approval of the Farmers Market Promotional Grant during the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT. Mr. Sisson made a motion that was seconded by Ms. Greenlaw to approve Resolution 12-08. The motion was approved unanimously.

### **Assisting King George and Caroline Counties with Multi-Modal Decisions**

Mr. Robinson briefed the commission about low-cost/multi-modal transportation options in the rural localities within GWRC, specifically King George and Caroline counties. This was addressed due to elected officials showing concern over the cost of FRED to said localities. He noted that staff is looking at ways to research providing low-cost transit options within the localities and provided an information item to members in order to receive feedback with the hopes coming back to the board with more information and more options at the later date.

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

No new information was provided for this agenda item.

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

Mr. James briefed the commission on this agenda item during the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT. Mr. Sisson made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Skinner to extend the agreement as interim executive director. 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 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Eldon James  
Interim Executive Director

(Draft minutes prepared by Daniel Reese, Regional Planner)