

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

September 21, 2015

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

MEMBERS PRESENT AND VOTING: Chair – Jim Howard **County of King George; City of Fredericksburg:** Matt Kelly & Billy Withers; **Caroline County:** Jeff Black; **King George County:** Dale Sisson; **Spotsylvania County:** David Ross & Mark Taylor; **Stafford County:** Laura Sellers & Gary Snellings

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jeff Sili, Caroline County; & Chris Yakabouski, Spotsylvania County

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Ms. Lisa Hull, Northern Neck Tourism Commission; Mr. Jason Robinson & Mr. Craig Van Dussen (in at 6:07), VDOT; Ms. Megan Cotter, Micah; & Mr. Rupert Farley (in at 6:20) – CTAG/Citizen

STAFF: Tim Ware, Executive Director; Paul Agnello, FAMPO, Lloyd Robinson, FAMPO, Marti Donley, FAMPO & Nick Quint, FAMPO; Diana Utz, GWRC; Kate Gibson & Wilfred Salas, CoC; & JoAnna Roberson, GWRC

CALL TO ORDER:

Mr. Howard called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. with a quorum present, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF GWRC MEETING AGENDA

Upon motion by Mr. Kelly and seconded by Mr. Sisson, with all in consensus, the agenda for the September 21st meeting was approved as submitted.

APPROVAL OF GWRC MEETING MINUTES (July 20, 2015) - (Action Item)

Upon motion by Mr. Kelly and seconded by Mr. Snellings, with abstentions from Mr. Ross, and all others in consensus, the minutes from the July 20th meeting were approved as submitted.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT - None

FINANCIAL REPORT

Mr. Ware advised that the Financial Report is included within tonight's agenda packet and is self-explanatory.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Ware advised that as of today, GWRC has a new staff member. Ms. Kate Gibson has been hired to serve as the CoC Coordinator. The Commission welcomed Ms. Gibson to GWRC.

OLD BUSINESS:

a.) GWRideConnect Budget and Match Requirements – Ms. Diana Utz

Ms. Utz stated that a request was made at the last Commission meeting for a break-down and re-cap of the GWRideConnect grant and budget that is utilized from DRPT. Included in tonight's agenda packet is a spread-sheet that depicts funding from FY2016-2022. Ms. Utz stated that the grant is an 80/20 grant with 80% of funding being provided by DRPT and the other 20% of funding being matched from the five localities.

Ms. Utz advised that beginning with the FY2017 year, that a 3% budget increase is included on the spreadsheet for comparison. Currently, the local funding matches equate to \$88,951 and with the 3% increase beginning in FY2017 the locality matches would be \$91,620.

Ms. Utz stated that for the last five years no increase in the grant submission has been requested by GWRC. Ms. Utz stated that if the 3% increase as well as the increase suggested in the 6-Year Plan are approved that it would be applied to the following areas: an enhanced marketing program; technology upgrades; additional staff person to manage the AdVantage insurance program; rental fees for an additional 50 commuter lot spaces in both the counties of Caroline & King George; better promotions of bicycle and pedestrian transportation options; implementation of a mobile application for transportation options; etc.

Mr. Kelly stated that as CMAQ funding is currently being utilized to off-set the 20% local match requirements that approving the 3% requested locality matches may be the way to go. Mr. Kelly stated that it was his recommendation for the Commission to pursue this option as then CMAQ funds could possibly be utilized and applied to other projects and needs throughout the region. Mr. Kelly asked that Ms. Utz be very specific in what the increase would be utilized for when preparing the FY2017 budget as the Commission would want to ensure that the increase proves to be a good return on the investment.

NEW BUSINESS:

a.) Northern Neck Tourism Commission – Ms. Lisa Hull

Ms. Lisa Hull who serves as the Economic Development & Tourism Coordinator for the Northern Neck Tourism Commission provided a report on current and potential tourism programs that are occurring in the Northern Neck.

Ms. Hull stated that the Northern Neck Tourism Commission includes 5 counties, 1 of which is King George. Ms. Hull advised that this Commission was previously a non-profit organization that was disbanded. So that tourism programs and opportunities would continue, the Northern Neck

Tourism Commission was then placed under the planning district so that tourism efforts would remain active.

Ms. Hull stated that there are no local full-time regional entities that are currently promoting events for the 5 counties. Ms. Hull advised that tourism outreach in the past has been promoted more from a regional aspect instead of an individual locality perspective. Ms. Hull stated that brochures are placed in all of the 7 Visitor's Centers. Ms. Hull relayed that in FY2014 that the tourism numbers for King George County depicted a 3.5% growth. Ms. Hull stated that King George County is the only 1 of the 5 localities who currently collects meals & lodging taxes.

Mr. Kelly asked who comprises the Tourism Commission. Ms. Hull stated that it is a 15 member board; with 3 members from each locality. Ms. Hull advised that 1 of the 3 members is either an elected official (who is not elected but appointed); a member of staff from the local planning offices & a member from the Economic Development departments. Ms. Hull stated that the other 2 members from each locality are either individuals, private donors, or stakeholders. Mr. Howard asked what the amount of the tourism budget is. Ms. Hull stated that it is an \$85,000 budget that covers expenses for marketing and staff. Ms. Hull relayed that \$7,500 comes from each of the 5 localities and the remaining monies come from either stakeholders or private donors.

Mr. Kelly asked what are the next immediate goals that the Tourism Commission hopes to accomplish. Ms. Hull stated that more effort is being put into bringing the localities together in lieu of each locality promoting its own events. Ms. Hull stated that currently the Artisan Trails event is one that brings the 5 localities together; however, the Virginia Oyster Trail event is an actual state-wide event so tourism efforts are being promoted outside of just the Northern Neck region.

b.) Approval of Resolution No. 16-04, Accepting Grant from Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, Coastal Zone Management for the Port Royal Water Trail, Pier Access and Public Access – Mr. Tim Ware

Mr. Ware advised that Resolution No. 16-04 has been discussed with the Commission members at previous meetings. This Resolution is requesting endorsement of the grant request from the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality for the Port Royal Water Trail, Pier Access and Public Access improvements. Mr. Ware stated that this is a grant in the amount of \$65,000 and one that requires no local funds.

Upon motion by Mr. Black and seconded by Mr. Withers, with all in consensus, Resolution No. 16-04 was adopted.

c.) Approval of Resolution No. 16-05, Endorsement of King George County HB2 Project Submittal for UPC 103725 – Turn Lane Extension/Construction of Route 301 Northbound at Gate B at Dahlgren Naval Base – Mr. Tim Ware

Mr. Ware advised that Resolution No. 16-05 is requesting endorsement of King George County's request for submittal of HB2 project for a turn lane extension and construction on Route 301 at the Northbound Gate B entrance to the Dahlgren Naval Base.

Upon motion by Mr. Sisson and seconded by Mr. Kelly, with all in consensus, Resolution No.16-05 was adopted.

Mr. Sisson stated that he, on behalf of King George County, would like to thank Mr. Jason Robinson with VDOT for their help and assistance in guiding the county with their expertise and staff in getting this project application completed to be submitted for consideration of HB2 funding.

d.) Approval of Resolution No. 16-06, Approval and Support of George Washington Regional Commission House Bill 2 Priority Projects – Mr. Tim Ware

Mr. Paul Agnello with FAMPO advised that Resolution No. 16-06 is requesting approval from the George Washington Commission for the submission of the following 3 HB2 priority projects for funding consideration from the State. These 3 projects are as follows: VRE Brooke & Leeland Station Improvements (Stafford County); I-95 at Courthouse Road Park & Ride Lot Expansion (Stafford County); & US Route 1 new construction of Park & Ride Lot at Commonwealth Drive (Spotsylvania County).

Upon motion by Ms. Sellers and seconded by Mr. Ross, with all in consensus, Resolution No. 16-06 was adopted.

e.) GWRC Homeless Services – Mr. Matt Kelly

Mr. Ware stated that as a result of discussion that was held last month that he was not trying to reinvent the CoC but instead is looking to see how the Commission can proceed with getting more community involvement as the homeless issue is a concern for the entire region.

Mr. Kelly stated that he felt the biggest concern is finding a way to create affordable housing. Mr. Kelly stated that possibly discussions could be held with the community and stakeholders to discuss building homes that are not in fact Section 8 housing developments but instead are homes built to accommodate minimum wage earners. Mr. Snellings stated that he is not opposed to this concept and thinks having developers to also attend the regional homeless meetings is good. However, Mr. Snellings stated that he thinks we need to have the actual rules & regulations available to the members to ensure that legally everyone is in compliance. Mr. Snellings stated that in Stafford County a developer wanted to build a housing development that would specifically cater to teachers, fire fighters, police officers, etc. Stafford County was advised that per federal regulations that a developer could not be specific to a housing development unless it was age restricted – i.e. – a development for seniors 55 years old & over.

Ms. Sellers stated that she feels there are 2 separate issues – the first is how to better support the homeless population and secondly, how to overcome the affordable housing dilemma.

Mr. Kelly stated that he agrees that developers and others should also be included to attend and participate in the homeless service meetings as they occur over the next 6 months. Currently, only 1

meeting has been held but Mr. Kelly stated that he expects the meetings to begin commencing on a monthly basis and will allow the Commission to move forward to look at homeless issues from a regional perspective. The meetings will consist of a representative from each locality and that planning department staff, developers, & community development representatives will be invited to attend. Mr. Kelly stated that the regional stakeholders such as the Rappahannock Regional Jail, Mary Washington Hospital, the University of Mary Washington, Spotsylvania Regional Hospital, etc. will also continue to be participants to the committee.

f.) Elected Officials Dinner – Mr. Jim Howard

Mr. Howard advised that King George County is hosting the Elected Officials Dinner this year. The dinner will be held at the Citizen's Center in King George and will begin at 6:30 p.m. Mr. Howard stated that he would ask that Mr. Ware contact all of the County Administrators and the City Manager for confirmation of the following two dates: Preferred Date by King George is: Thursday, October 22nd; Alternate Date would be Wednesday, October 21st. Mr. Howard stated that all the elected legislators will be invited to attend as well. The upcoming legislative agenda will be the focal point of discussion. Mr. Howard asked that Mr. Ware contact the administrators for confirmation of the date, as well as the number of participants who will be attending, and if possible to provide this information to Mr. Travis Quesenberry by close of business on Friday. This deadline would then allow King George County to have enough time to send the invitations out to the legislators accordingly.

g.) 2017 Local Dues Structure – Mr. Tim Ware

Mr. Ware advised that included in tonight's agenda packet is the FY2017 Local Dues Structure. Mr. Ware relayed that the current per capita dues are set at \$0.6433 and that staff is recommending funding at the same level for the upcoming year.

Upon motion by Mr. Sisson and seconded by Mr. Snellings, with all in consensus, the Commission approved the FY2017 local dues structure to be maintained at the current \$0.6433 per capita rate.

Adjourn The GWRC meeting was adjourned at 7:08 p.m. The next GWRC meeting is October 20, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Timothy Ware, Executive Director

(Minutes prepared by JoAnna Roberson)

