

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

November 16, 2015  
The Robert C. Gibbons Conference Room  
406 Princess Anne Street, Fredericksburg Virginia

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

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

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Mr. Michael Aukamp, Dunham, Aukamp & Rhodes PLC; Ms. Meghann Cotter, Micah; Mr. Hunter Snellings, VCEH

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

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Mr. Howard called the meeting to order at 6:00 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 Ms. Sellers, with all in consensus, the agenda for the November 16th meeting was approved as submitted with request from Mr. Agnello to add Resolution No. 16-12 as Item # 10E.

**APPROVAL OF GWRC MEETING MINUTES (October 19, 2015) - (Action Item)**

Upon motion by Ms. Sellers and seconded by Mr. Kelly, and all others in consensus, the minutes from the October 19th meeting were approved as submitted.

**PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT** - None

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

Mr. Ware advised that the Financial Report was included in tonight's agenda packet. Mr. Ware stated that the balance sheet looks much more positive now that the State has submitted outstanding reimbursements. Mr. Ware stated that the financial report is included and is self-explanatory.

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Ware advised that there will be no GWRC meeting in December and that he and Mr. Howard will coordinate a dinner event in appreciation of Mr. Sisson's twelve year tenure as serving as a member of GWRC and the members will be notified accordingly.

**OLD BUSINESS** - None

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

#### **a.) 2015 George Washington Regional Commission (GWRC) Audit – Mr. Michael Aukamp**

Mr. Aukamp advised that he is glad to be back before the Commission. Mr. Aukamp relayed that his auditing firm specializes in audits for non-profit government agencies and that currently they represent 10 different PDC's across the state. Mr. Aukamp expressed his appreciation to the GWRC staff for their assistance and helpfulness in locating the needed auditable information as requested. Mr. Aukamp advised that the efficiency of the office and the assistance of both Tim Ware & Barbara Bigelow make the audit process a much smoother transaction.

Mr. Aukamp stated that this is the second year whereby GWRC has used the GMS accounting software. Mr. Aukamp relayed that the initial software switch-over was an expense that the Commission had to financially commit to; however, the switch has improved significantly the auditing process. Mr. Aukamp stated that the new software now being utilized has resulted in better information, more efficient data and clearer data entry spreadsheets.

Mr. Aukamp advised that there were no problems noted in the GWRC audit for 2015. Mr. Aukamp stated that the audit revealed that GWRC's net position is solid and financially positive. Mr. Aukamp relayed that there has been tremendous improvement over the last 2 years; that bills are being paid; debts have been reduced; and assets are continuing to grow.

Mr. Sisson expressed his thanks to the auditor for the professional assessment and expressed thanks to Tim Ware. Mr. Sisson stated that he has served on the commission for 12 years and things in past years were not anywhere near run as smoothly and efficient as they are now. Mr. Ware stated that one of the biggest assets is getting the requested locality contributions submitted in a timely manner and Mr. Ware expressed his thanks to each of the localities for their participation. Mr. Withers asked if a vote was to be taken on the Draft Audit report or was this just presented tonight for informational purposes only. Mr. Ware advised that in the past the Commission has adopted the Draft as submitted and then a final report is forwarded to the Commission.

Upon motion by Mr. Withers and seconded by Mr. Sisson, with all in concurrence, the 2015 Draft Audit comprised for the George Washington Regional Commission was adopted.

**b.) Frequent Users Systems Engagement (FUSE) – Mr. Hunter Snellings**

Mr. Hunter Snellings with VCEH stated that they have entered into an agreement with the Cooperation for Supportive Housing Incorporation to develop a template for implementing a regional FUSE (Frequent users Systems Engagement) model across the State. Mr. Snellings stated that VCEH was asked to participate and attend the Commission's Issues of Homelessness and Affordable Housing Leadership meeting in October to specifically provide data on the homelessness issue in the Fredericksburg region. Mr. Snellings stated that the recommendations from this meeting were for the Commission to consider implementing a FUSE pilot program in partnership with the Continuum of Care program that would be under the leadership of VCEH. Mr. Snellings stated that the ultimate goal of FUSE is to find solutions to completely eliminate the homeless population.

Mr. Snellings stated that the goal is to eliminate the institutional circuit that the homeless population frequents that includes the following circuits: shelter stays, jail stays, detox stays, emergency residential program needs, emergency room visits, psychiatric hospital stays, etc. and to get these chronically homeless individuals services and housing. Mr. Snellings stated that the data shows that 82% of the original homeless population who frequently was in and out of one of the facilities mentioned above became independent of these services once they have been established and have secured housing needs met.

Mr. Snellings stated that there are a spectrum of needs that accounts for the homeless populations and these are as follows:

Low Need – these are individuals who for the most part have been living independently, are able-bodied and employed and face a short-term income gap due to a recent job loss, etc. and will require shelter services for a temporary period of time

Moderate Need – these are individuals who have limited employment history and educational abilities and may have ongoing substance abuse and physical or mental health challenges and will require services for an approximate 6-month time frame but will then be back on their own

High Need – these are the individuals with chronic disabilities, severe mental illnesses, chronic physical health issues, long-term substance abuse issues, etc. These are the individuals who will not stabilize on their own and will be the most frequent users of shelters, jails, etc.

Mr. Snellings advised that fees for the high need category of homeless people average approximately \$15,000 a year and fees for getting them into a permanent home dwelling averages approximately \$8-\$10,000 a year so it has been proven that it is cheaper to obtain permanent housing dwellings than to allow one to go in and out of the homeless systems.

Mr. Withers asked whether the housing availability issues and the facilities that provide the services currently within each individual locality should be something that becomes a regional approach. Mr. Withers stated that facilities could be sought and if based on a regional concept then residents from any area within the region could benefit; however, the cost to provide these services would not fall on a specific locality as is now what is occurring in Fredericksburg. Ms. Cotter advised that the purpose of a FUSE model is definitely geared towards becoming a regional opportunity.

Ms. Cotter advised that a \$100,000 grant has just been awarded that will provide the cost for establishing new and more available housing throughout the region and the requirement from GWRC would be an in-kind match. Mr. Gary Snellings asked how much would be requested from the region. Mr. Hunter Snellings stated that \$24,000 would be amount of the match needed from the localities and these expenses would cover an enhanced data base system, administrative fees, etc. and would be the cost involved for the development of the FUSE model. Mr. Ware stated that some of this needed funding could also come from the work programs set-up through the CoC within the GWRC. Mr. Hunter Snellings advised that the regional stakeholders would also be approached for financial support, etc.

Mr. Sisson asked what role each locality's Social Services Departments play into helping to resolve the homeless populations. Ms. Cotter stated that the Social Service Departments work with the clients to set them up to receive food stamps, Medicare, etc. but do not have any programs that deal with finding and retaining affordable housing.

Mr. Gary Snellings stated he was in support of doing what one could to eliminate or reduce the homeless population; however, this was something that he would need to take back to his Board of Supervisors to allow them to have the same presentation given tonight. Mr. Snellings stated that the Stafford Board already supports 35 different agencies, programs, etc. and he could not vote on behalf of the Stafford Board tonight. Mr. Howard asked if the localities felt that Board presentations needed to be made to each locality before GWRC votes to endorse the request.

Mr. Kelly stated that he supports the request but wants to make sure that the key factor is stressed that clearly the region lacks the supportive services regionally and that collectively it needs to be an issue that is addressed.

Upon motion by Mr. Kelly and seconded by Ms. Sellers, with no votes from both Mr. Snellings and Mr. Withers, and all others concurring, GWRC endorsed the FUSE model to move forward.

**c.) Line of Credit Consolidation – Mr. Tim Ware**

Mr. Ware advised that this request is more of a housekeeping issue. Currently, GWRC has 2 outstanding loans; one of which is remaining balance of the building loan (\$22,000) and the other is a line of credit loan (\$81,000) which has not been used in 2 years for a combined outstanding total of \$103,000. Mr. Ware stated that the request is being made to consolidate both notes for a 4-year payoff time frame at a 4.5% interest rate.

Upon motion by Mr. Kelly and seconded by Mr. Sisson, with all in concurrence, approval was given by the Commission for the line of credit consolidation to occur.

**d.) Urban Crescent Meeting – Mr. Tim Ware**

Mr. Ware advised that the Virginia's Urban Crescent meeting that was discussed last month has been scheduled. The Crescent meeting will be on December 11<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 – 11:45 a.m. and will be held at the University of Mary Washington Stafford County Campus at 121 University Boulevard, Fredericksburg, Virginia 22406. Mr. Ware advised that there is an RSVP request for those planning to attend and the contact information is included within the letter in tonight's agenda packet. Mr. Ware stated that elected officials, administrative officers, school superintendents, and school board chairs will be invited. Mr. Ware relayed that the meeting will focus on the inadequacy of the State K-12 public education funding.

**e.) Resolution No. 16-12, Authorizing the Executive Director to Execute Project Administration Agreements with Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) and Department of Rail & Public Transportation (DRPT) – Mr. Paul Agnello**

Mr. Agnello advised that Resolution No. 16-12 is a federal mandate that when an agency has a study or project pending with VDOT or DRPT that someone is designated as a person who holds signature authority. As FAMPO has grants ongoing with both VDOT and DRPT, it is requested that Mr. Tim Ware be appointed as the person for the signature authority.

Upon motion by Mr. Kelly and seconded by Ms. Sellers, with all in concurrence, Resolution No. 16-12 was adopted.

**f.) Other New Business – None**

Mr. Howard advised that he did not realize that tonight was Mr. Sisson's last meeting with GWRC and he apologized that something was not done to officially recognize him for his 12 years of service to GWRC but that again he and Mr. Ware would get something set up and advise the members accordingly.

Mr. Sisson stated that even though he may have lost the election that he is not leaving the county so he will still be around and be involved. Mr. Sisson stated that it had been his pleasure to serve as a commission member to GWRC. He said the Commission has truly grown and has now become one that is professionally positive – many years ago you could not even get enough to have a quorum; there were some past negative financial issues; the leadership was not as strong, etc. Mr. Sisson stated that he has learned a lot about regional ideas and concepts and that he has been afforded the opportunity of the development of great friendships. Mr. Sisson stated that he would miss his affiliation but wished GWRC continued success.

**Adjourn** The GWRC meeting was adjourned at 7:13 p.m. The next GWRC meeting is January 25, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Timothy Ware, Executive Director  
(Draft minutes prepared by JoAnna Roberson)

