

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

January 23, 2017
The Robert C. Gibbons Conference Room
406 Princess Anne Street, Fredericksburg, Virginia

MEMBERS PRESENT AND VOTING: Chair – Jeff Black, Chair **Caroline County**; **City of Fredericksburg:** Matt Kelly; **Caroline County:** Nancy Long; **King George County:** Ruby Brabo; **Spotsylvania County:** Greg Benton & Paul Trampe; and **Stafford County:** Meg Bohmke & Laura Sellers

MEMBERS ABSENT: Billy Withers, City of Fredericksburg & Jim Howard, County of King George

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Tim Baroody, City of Fredericksburg & Randy Comer, Citizen

STAFF: Tim Ware, Executive Director; Paul Agnello & Nick Quint, FAMPO; Kate Gibson, CoC; and Diana Utz, Leigh Anderson & JoAnna Roberson, GWRC

CALL TO ORDER:

Mr. Black 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

Under the New Business category on the agenda, Mr. Black made the following request that an additional item be added for discussion. The item is to occur before Item A (Smart Scale Update) and is in regard to discussion of an upcoming meeting change. Upon motion by Mr. Kelly and seconded by Ms. Sellers, with all concurring, the agenda was approved as amended.

APPROVAL OF GWRC MEETING MINUTES (November 21, 2016) - (Action Item)

Upon motion by Ms. Bohmke and seconded by Mr. Kelly, with Ms. Brabo abstaining and all others in consensus, the minutes from the November 21st meeting were approved as submitted.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT - None

DRAFT FINANCIAL REPORT

Mr. Ware advised that the Financial Report is included in tonight's agenda packet. Mr. Ware relayed that the total assets are \$439,187.97 and the total liabilities are \$224,897.50. Ms. Bohmke had a question on the Agency wide Revenues and Expenditures print-out in regard to expense codes #81780 and #97000 for the Advantage Self-Insurance program. Mr. Ware relayed that item #81780

are the expenses expended for the software that is needed for the maintenance of the Advantage Self Insurance program and #97000 is the actual program itself.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Ware advised that the annual Point-In-Time homeless shelter count is upcoming and he asked Ms. Gibson to update the committee. Ms. Gibson advised that the Point-In-Time count/survey will be conducted on Thursday, January 26th. Ms. Gibson stated that the counts will be conducted early in the a.m. and will be surveying the citizens within the GWRC region who are living in tents, campsites, etc. inquiring as to where these residents slept on the night of Wednesday, January 25th.

Ms. Gibson advised that the survey results are reported to HUD. Mr. Benton asked if the survey is coordinated with the local law enforcement agencies as the local sheriff's departments are very familiar with where specific homeless camps are located, etc. Ms. Gibson stated that in the past, coordination has occurred between the CoC and the local law enforcement agencies; however, this year Micah has new software data available that should provide the same results.

Ms. Gibson relayed that there are enough volunteers available for the actual counts; however, volunteers are still needed on Thursday evening beginning at 6:00 p.m. for the dinner that will be held at the Thurman Brisben Center and if anyone is interested in helping out to please let her know as soon as possible.

Mr. Kelly asked if the number of pages within the survey has been condensed. Ms. Gibson advised that the survey is still four pages; however, the first two pages are strictly demographic questions that include items such as: age, race, name, etc. and are HUD requirements. The last two pages are an effort to get a better idea of the issues within the region involving the homeless population so attempts can be made locally to determine what resources are needed.

Mr. Black asked if the CoC would be available to come and make a presentation at each locality's Board of Supervisor's meeting to discuss the homeless issue within the region; to educate everyone on the programs currently being implemented; etc. Ms. Brabo stated that maybe a presentation to this committee should be the starting point and that possibly a fact sheet of collected data could then be presented to each Board for their review. Mr. Kelly concurred that the presentation should be given to GWRC and not necessarily each of the local Board of Supervisors and/or City Council. Mr. Kelly stated that he felt it would be helpful for the region to get a better understanding of what programs are currently available; what types of resources are being offered; what Micah, Thurman Brisben provide, the criteria needed that classifies a resident as being homeless; etc. Ms. Sellers stated that as participating agencies are beginning to re-write their strategic plans that knowing what is already being done in the region will allow the updated strategic plans to be expanded.

Ms. Gibson advised that recently the Central Housing Coalition transferred the ownership of three actions that are funded by the State that were previously the responsibility of CHC and have now become duties of the CoC (Continuum of Care) agencies. These are as follows:

1 – operation of a central intake telephone line (duty now being absorbed by Hope House, Micah, & Thurman Brisben)

2 – homeless preview (which for the remainder of FY2017 and FY2018, this will be maintained by Northern Virginia) which is evaluating the time frame of what is happening to a resident that will potentially result in them becoming homeless; and lastly,

3 - housing location coordinator (new position) and this will be a person who will work in the Planning District 16 region who will be working with land-lords, contractors, etc. to incur more housing based on a citizen's finances, needs, etc.

Mr. Ware advised that the GOVA Regional Council Formation is moving forward. The regional configuration has been made and GWRC will be in the region with the Northern Neck and Middle Peninsula areas. Mr. Ware advised that the committee membership is being finalized and will be submitted for approval by February 17th. Mr. Ware relayed that as of this time, the membership roster is not available for distribution to the committee as some members who have been recommended have not officially accepted. Mr. Ware stated that a membership roster should be available for the GWRC members by the February meeting. Mr. Black asked if the membership consists of business members, citizens, elected officials, etc. Mr. Ware advised that a majority of the membership will be represented by business members which are a regulation of the initiative.

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS:

a.) **2017 Meeting Date Change Consideration**– Mr. Jeff Black

Mr. Black stated that the current GWRC meeting schedule stipulates that the month of August is an “off-meeting” month (unless there is specific business that needs to be addressed within a short time period and then a special meeting is scheduled to occur in August). Mr. Black stated that for Caroline County, July is when the fiscal year begins so there are numerous budget meetings that are required; and the July 4th holiday where the locality holds special community events, etc. that he is requesting that the “off-meeting” month for GWRC be July and have a regularly scheduled meeting to occur in August. There was consensus from the commission members that making this change would not negatively impact anyone.

Upon motion by Ms. Bohmke and seconded by Mr. Kelly, with all concurring, Mr. Black's request to make the “off-meeting” month be July instead of August was supported.

b.) **Smart Scale Update**– Mr. Paul Agnello, FAMPO

Mr. Agnello advised that the Fredericksburg region did not score as well with Round 2 of the Smart Scale application process as it did with Round 1. Mr. Agnello relayed that staff has met with VDOT for clarification on why the scoring process appeared different this time; why projects from this region were not selected; how the region can make the projects become more competitive; etc. Mr. Agnello stated that staff hopes to get feedback from VDOT over the next several weeks and will provide more updates at the upcoming February meeting.

c.) **GWRC Planning Session**– Mr. Tim Ware

Mr. Ware advised that at the November meeting, it was determined that the committee is interested in moving forward with developing a regional agency planning goal and a request was made for Mr. Ware to provide some documentation of what is currently being funded and implemented by the localities. It was determined that before focusing on services that could potentially be shared regionally, that we first needed to start with each locality's services and expand on this. Mr. Ware stated that included in tonight's packet is a jurisdictional agreement that shows the agreements in place and the respective localities that support them. Mr. Ware also stated that included is a list of regional partners within the County of Stafford. Mr. Ware asked that each member take the listing back to their respective Board so it can be verified, amended, updated, etc. as needed.

Mr. Ware asked for direction on which top two issues wish to be pursued further for a regional cooperative effort to possibly occur. It was committee consensus that the top two issues that members would like to see moved forward at this time are the following: Broadband and a regional Drug Court program. Mr. Ware advised that updates will be provided at the February meeting.

d.) **Other New Business** - None

Upon motion by Ms. Sellers and seconded by Ms. Brabo, the January 23rd meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m. The next meeting will be held on February 27, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.

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

