

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

June 19, 2017

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

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Eldon James, Legislative Liaison; & Rupert Farley, CTAG

STAFF: Tim Ware, Executive Director; Paul Agnello, Nick Quint & John Bentley, 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: Upon motion by Mr. Kelly and seconded by Ms. Sellers, with all concurring, the agenda was approved as submitted.

APPROVAL OF GWRC MEETING MINUTES (May 15, 2017) - (Action Item)

Upon motion by Mr. Kelly and seconded by Ms. Sellers, and all others in consensus, the minutes from the May 15th 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 advised that GWRC has \$357,557.59 in assets and \$231,433.13 in liabilities, resulting in \$126,124.43 in positive equity. Mr. Ware advised that there are numerous account receivables the Commission is awaiting reimbursement on and these allocations should be received before the year ends. Mr. Ware relayed that the Commission is financially sound and positively moving forward.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Ware advised that staff-wise, FAMPO has two new employees, both of whom are recent graduates from the University of Mary Washington & that GWRC has a new part-time front desk receptionist. Mr. Ware stated that we are glad to have the new employees on board respectively:

Kari Barber; John Bentley; & Spencer Diehl. Mr. Ware advised that he was happy to report that Ms. Donley was now back to work after being out for some medical issues.

Mr. Ware advised that the “Go Virginia” program is moving forward. Mr. Ware stated that a consultant has been hired and stakeholder’s meetings are scheduled to be held next Wednesday (June 28th). Mr. Ware relayed the first meeting is being held in Bowling Green at 2:00 p.m. followed by a 7:00 p.m. meeting held at GWRC. Mr. Ware advised that also upcoming in August two meetings will be held in the Northern Neck/Peninsula regions.

Mr. Kelly relayed that the Affordable Housing Task Force meeting will be re-grouping and plan to meet in August.

OLD BUSINESS

- a.) Approval of Resolution No. 17-12, Approving the 2018 Fiscal Year GWRC Annual Budget

Mr. Ware advised that the preliminary budget was submitted for Commission review at the May meeting. Mr. Ware relayed that there is an overall budget increase of \$150,000 which is the projected funding awarded for the “Go Virginia” initiative. Mr. Ware stated that as this initiative was just in the beginning stages at the May meeting an original line item of funding needed was included and listed at \$50,000. Mr. Ware stated that as this effort has moved forward, the original projected revenues needed have been adjusted. Mr. Ware stated that this is the only change that was made to the preliminary budget previously distributed.

Upon motion by Ms. Brabo and seconded by Ms. Sellers, with all in consensus, Resolution No. 17-12 was adopted.

- b.) Approval of Resolution No. 17-13, Approving the Slate of Officers to Serve in Fiscal Year 2018

Mr. Ware advised that as discussed at the May meeting, the selection of officers for FY2018 are listed below:

Matt Kelly, City of Fredericksburg – Chairman
Laura Sellers, County of Stafford – First Vice President
Paul Trampe, County of Spotsylvania – Second Vice President
Ruby Brabo, County of King George – Treasurer
Jeff Black, County of Caroline – Secretary

Upon motion by Ms. Brabo and seconded by Mr. Withers, with all in consensus, Resolution No. 17-13 was adopted.

- c.) GWRC Involvement with Opioid Issue

Mr. Ware advised that the Commission had asked that he provide additional information on how GWRC would be utilized in the Work Group established to battle the Opioid addiction issue that

exists in our region. Mr. Ware advised that staff has been involved with the creation of this work group since the Opioid conference held last month. Mr. Ware stated that he was also tasked with obtaining clarification as to what role GWRC would play in as leadership of the group.

Mr. Ware advised the structure for the effort will be as follows:

- A Healthy Community Advisory Council will be created comprised of local leaders within the community committed to finding solutions to the Opioid problem.
- The Community Collaborative for Youth & Families would provide the administrative and programmatic oversight for the efforts. The Collaborative is a network of organizations working to improve the lives of youth and their families in the region. By working together, the Collaborative combines existing resources to decrease the risk factor in young lives, including substance abuse, violence, criminal activity, school dropouts and mental health issues.
- The Rappahannock Area Community Services Board (RACSB) would serve as the fiscal agent.

Mr. Ware stated that the initial discussions to date have indicated that GWRC, Mary Washington Healthcare and RACSB will play significant roles. It is planned that there will be three work committees within the structure. These will be: Prevention, Treatment, & Harm Reduction. Mr. Ware stated that GWRC would most likely staff the committees by offering administrative support and meeting preparation. Mr. Ware stated that GWRC would also be very active in seeking funding opportunities to support the total effort.

There were questions and comments expressed by the GWRC Commission members. Mr. Kelly asked how effective has the program been working to date. Mr. Withers stated that he felt GWRC's role should be providing data to the three groups. Ms. Bohmke stated that as the roles and expectations are still not clearly defined; combined with limited data on program effectiveness to date, that possibly GWRC should re-consider whether they are to be involved at this point. Ms. Bohmke recommended that the program get underway and GWRC re-evaluate in six months. Ms. Brabo concurred that as of this time the duties of GWRC and staff are not known and we should re-evaluate the program in September. Ms. Sellers stated that she, professionally, if not representing GWRC, is already a member on the committee and she did not feel that waiting six months for GWRC to take action was unreasonable. Ms. Sellers stated that currently GWRC is serving in a legislative liaison capacity and the current three members are herself, Mr. Ware, & Mayor Greenlaw from the City of Fredericksburg.

Ms. Bohmke stated that she would like to see data that shows the number of addicts that have been treated to date over the last four years and to see the progress or regression that has occurred. Both Ms. Bohmke and Ms. Brabo stated they would like to receive more clarification on how "support" is defined.

Ms. Brabo asked if any treatment programs would be addressing treatment to veterans as the VA hospitals do not provide treatment for veterans with addict addictions. Ms. Sellers stated that at this

time she does not think the veteran population is being identified as a specific sector of the population requiring services.

Ms. Sellers stated that the current program starts with doctors, professionals, the Sunshine House, RACSB, etc. that serves as a resource/referral for addicts to get signed up to get the treatment they need. Ms. Sellers stated that currently the program is serving as an advocate to the hospital board.

Mr. Kelly stated that as there was consent from the Commission to delay any action of support at this time and to review data, progress, etc. for further data collection review in September, he asked that Mr. Ware and Ms. Sellers provide the following information for discussion in September:

- Specific role GWRC will be asked to hold
- Comparison of the program here to the one already underway in the Shenandoah region – even though this program is good but there are still issues with the program so comparison of what things would be done differently here would be helpful

NEW BUSINESS

a.) Legislative Agenda – Mr. Eldon James

Mr. James provided an update to the FY2017 General Assembly legislature agenda. Mr. James advised that almost every delegate will have something coming back for review next year. Mr. James relayed that no major impacts were made this year.

Mr. Kelly stated that he thinks having monthly updates from the General Assembly would be beneficial to GWRC, with some months having Mr. James available to present and other months just forwarding any updates to Mr. Ware so the information can be distributed to the members. Both Ms. Bohmke and Ms. Brabo asked for continued discussion to occur on the Smart Scale process; tips on how the region could better prepare to become more competitive; etc. Mr. Kelly stated that he would like to see the General Assembly provide clear expectations on what/how local legislation comes into play as many of the critical projects are in fact regional issues and not a specific locality issue.

Mr. Kelly stated that he feels all delegates need to receive the same information and the State legislators need to be held accountable on specific issues. Some issues expressed by Commission members for follow-up are: state-wide proffer process, equal taxing authority option, etc.

Mr. James concurred that specific items need to be consistently presented in an agenda format that is annually presented to the General Assembly for discussion, feedback, etc. Mr. James encouraged the Commission to form a sub-committee to meet regularly with him so that specific agenda items can be documented for presentation. Mr. Ware was asked to schedule a meeting in the near future

with himself, Mr. James and the Executive Committee from the GWRC commission so the region's relevant issues can be highlighted.

Mr. Black also asked that additional outreach be made to have all local delegates be invited to attend the upcoming August GWRC meeting so specific regional agenda items can be addressed and discussed with them. It was felt that reaching out to delegates individually would be a better route. Mr. Ware was tasked with making the contacts to the delegates. Mr. James stated that this time of the year is the perfect time for requesting a meeting to meet with the regional delegates because the General Assembly for this year has concluded so the delegates would be able to devote more availability and have the time to listen to this region's concerns.

Mr. Agnello stated that initial feedback given to VDOT in regard to the Smart Scale process is that the State sees minor changes being implemented to Round 3 of the Smart Scale process. Mr. Agnello stated that it appears that the existing scoring process will remain as it is; however, the application process is expected to be modified.

b.) Approval of Resolution No. 17-14, Recognizing the Dedicated Service of Jeffrey Black – Mr. Matt Kelly

Mr. Kelly advised that Resolution No. 17-14 is recognizing the service of Mr. Black for serving as Chairman to the George Washington Regional Commission for FY2016-2017.

Upon motion by Ms. Long and seconded by Mr. Withers, with Mr. Black abstaining and all others in consensus, Resolution No. 17-14 was adopted. The Commission members thanked Mr. Black for his tenure as serving as Chairman for the FY2016-2017 year.

CLOSED SESSION – Personnel Issue

Chairman, Mr. Black, closed the June Commission meeting at 7:00 p.m. for the purpose of discussing personnel issues.

ADJOURN GWRC MEETING – After being called back into session, the June 19th GWRC meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m. The next meeting will be held on August 21, 2017.

Respectfully Submitted,
Timothy Ware, Executive Director
(Minutes prepared by JoAnna Roberson)

