

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

November 20, 2017

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

MEMBERS PRESENT AND VOTING: **Chair** – Matt Kelly, Fredericksburg; Tim Barody & Billy Withers, **City of Fredericksburg**; **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: Jeff Black

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Meghann Cotter, Micah; Randy Comer, Thrasher Group

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

CALL TO ORDER: Mr. Kelly 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 request made from Mr. Kelly, an item was added to the New Business category which is Item 11-e – Executive Director Search. Upon motion by Ms. Sellers and seconded by Mr. Howard, with all concurring, the agenda was approved as amended.

APPROVAL OF GWRC MEETING MINUTES (October 16, 2017) - (Action Item)

Upon motion by Ms. Sellers and seconded by Mr. Withers, with Ms. Brabo & Ms. Bohmke abstaining, and all others in concurrence, the minutes from the October 16th 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 the Commission's total assets through November 13th are \$720,176.72 with total liabilities of \$298,385.96. Mr. Ware relayed agency balance for revenues and expenditures are \$227,182.86.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Ware advised that last month FAMPO requested a sub-committee to be formed for the purpose of looking to obtain federal government agencies, as well as new businesses, to locate in this region rather than in Northern Virginia, Washington, DC, etc. The purpose of this sub-committee is to

look for additional ways of reducing congestion on I-95, Route 301, etc. Mr. Ware stated that each member locality needed to appoint a representative to serve on the sub-committee. The GWRC committee members will be: City of Fredericksburg, Mr. Matt Kelly; County of Caroline, Ms. Nancy Long; County of King George, Ms. Ruby Brabo; County of Spotsylvania, Mr. Paul Trampe & County of Stafford, Ms. Meg Bohmke.

As the possibility of having federal government agencies re-locate to this region this could occur either/or on the I-95 corridor and/or Routes 301/207, both Ms. Brabo and Ms. Long requested that this sub-committee be under the direction of GWRC and not FAMPO. The reason for this request is that the localities of Caroline County & King George County are non-voting members to the FAMPO Policy Committee; however, are voting members on GWRC.

2017 GWRC Annual Audit – Mr. Michael Aukamp, Dunham, Aukamp & Rhodes, PLC

Mr. Aukamp advised the Commission's annual audit has been completed. Mr. Aukamp stated they have completed the audits for several years for GWRC and he wanted to thank Mr. Ware & Ms. Bigelow for all of their assistance that is provided to them when the audit is being conducted.

Mr. Aukamp stated he has good news to report in that the audit went very well and all records were intact, accurate, and available as needed. Mr. Aukamp stated there were no issues noted. Mr. Aukamp stated that they provide audits for eight MPO's and the one here runs the smoothest by far.

Mr. Aukamp stated that for several years, the Commission was operating on negative equity and he is happy to report that there is now positive equity that continues being re-accomplished. Mr. Aukamp stated the region received a non-modified rating which showed no gaps within the auditing process.

Mr. Aukamp advised the draft annual report is written by Mr. Ware and he does the best job of any of other PDC's in providing a concise report. Mr. Aukamp advised the net position for the Commission is \$120,000, with a net value of \$80,000 and depreciated assets of \$40,000. This year's positive direct cash flow is \$24,000 compared to \$3,000 last year so is definitely heading in the right direction. Mr. Aukamp stated the \$24,000 of positive equity equates to approximately one month of equity on hand.

Mr. Aukamp did relay that even though the Commission does not have a lot of equity on hand, as the standard equity available should equate to three months of expenses, however, the Commission has recovered from the years where negative equity existed and continuing the way we are now going we will attain the standard three months of on-hand income/equity.

Upon motion by Ms. Sellers and seconded by Mr. Withers, with all concurring, the 2017 audit was accepted as presented.

OLD BUSINESS

a.) Draft Regional Legislative Platform – Mr. Tim Ware

Mr. Ware advised that several months ago a presentation was given by Mr. Eldon James in regard to upcoming legislative issues the General Assembly would be considering. Mr. Ware advised that included in tonight's agenda packet is a draft copy of the legislative issues.

Mr. Ware advised that the only significant issue is that the taxing authority and tax reform bill was pulled and will not be presented for consideration in the upcoming General Assembly session. There was committee consent that a request would be made for the executive committee to meet with the legislative board to provide a more collective voice of concerns, requests, etc. to the General Assembly.

Ms. Bohmke distributed a letter from the State Police that was sent to elected officials in the City of Fredericksburg and the Counties of Spotsylvania & Stafford (Caroline & King George were not included because the information did not relate to the rural areas as their staffing needs were in line with where they needed to be).

Ms. Bohmke stated she had met with a captain from the Virginia State Police at a ribbon cutting ceremony in Stafford County. Ms. Bohmke stated that she learned that for 20 years consistently, the Virginia State Police headquarters has received no increase in funding for new positions, etc. Ms. Bohmke advised this region is lowest staffed branch of the State Police and that 45 new positions are needed for this region.

Ms. Bohmke stated it is easy to think that the State Police departments have no impact on the local Sheriff's Departments/Police units. However, this is a serious problem that confronts the region. If the State Police in this region are understaffed by 45 positions, this does in fact fall to the local law enforcement agencies to provide the coverage and assistance needed to fill in these gaps. Ms. Bohmke asked that locality representatives take the letter back to their respective Boards/City Council for consideration as budgets are developed/supported for upcoming years.

b.) Support for Community Initiative to End Unsheltered Homelessness in Planning District 16 – Ms. Kate Gibson

Ms. Gibson advised the Fredericksburg Regional Continuum of Care plan for ending unsheltered homelessness in PD16 is being presented to the Commission for endorsement consideration. Ms. Gibson advised the Plan has been submitted and endorsed by the City of Fredericksburg. Presentation has been given to the King George Board of Supervisors and a presentation is scheduled to be made to the Spotsylvania Board of Supervisors on November 28th. Ms. Gibson stated that at this time no presentation dates have been scheduled for either Caroline or Stafford counties.

Ms. Gibson advised that unsheltered homelessness in PD16 relates to those who are sleeping outside, in tents, in cars, or any other place not meant for habitation. Ms. Gibson relayed there are four components in the plan that include: identifying all unsheltered persons (this goal is on task

with the annual point in time counts that are completed within the region); shelter (providing immediate access to shelters – this goal is working and is on-going); re-housing (having funding and programs in place that provides an opportunity for a homeless citizen to move back into permanent housing within 30 days; & prevention of new episodes of homelessness.

Ms. Gibson advised that to date, 93 citizens have been re-housed; however, the regional need is affordable housing available for 365 citizens. Ms. Gibson advised that there is an 81% success rate of persons re-housed through RRH or PSH that do not return to homelessness within two years and these are for citizens who have been homeless for some time so the program is successful.

Ms. Gibson stated that additional funding for housing is a viable solution; however, does require increased funding being allocated. Ms. Gibson stated the current system of emergency re-housing in shelters, etc. will continue and the current system will be enhanced.

Ms. Gibson advised there are three pieces to the re-housing portion of the plan that include the following:

- Housing locations – help citizens find a place to live
- Housing subsidy – help citizens with security deposits/rent
- Case Management – help citizens maintain housing stability

Ms. Gibson advised that if funding is approved, GWRC would become the fiscal agent; however, each individual jurisdiction would determine whether funding would occur. Ms. Brabo stated at this time, the King George Board of Supervisors has not endorsed because it is felt their homeless population is sufficiently being services by the county's social service department.

Mr. Kelly stated that several meetings ago a presentation was given to the Commission and at that time the Thurman Brisben Shelter was also in opposition of the re-housing program. Mr. Kelly asked if these feelings still exist.

Ms. Gibson advised the Board of Directors at Thurman Brisben have now endorsed an initiative of support for the program as long as the funding remains separate and apart from the funding allocated to emergency shelters.

Ms. Gibson advised the funding requested would be for a two-year period of time. Ms. Sellers asked if funding is approved for year one are you automatically committed to funding for year two. Ms. Gibson stated that approval of both years would make the region more competitive and potentially allow for more grants to be awarded, etc. but if funding for only a year is approved, the program timeframes would need to be re-adjusted. Mr. Kelly stated the request for two years is a recommendation only and a locality would not be committed to the funding in year two.

Ms. Gibson provided the following program details:

- Year 1 – Initial infusion to re-house 73 unsheltered persons = \$484,700
(This figure includes housing locations, short-term housing subsidy (RRH),
long-term housing subsidy (PSH) & case management)

Year 2 – Ongoing Resources to re-house 34 unsheltered person & maintain 26 PSH units = \$416,000

Ms. Gibson advised the CoC proposal for consideration is as follows:

Part 1 – Community Challenge (to house as many unsheltered persons as possible within the first 100 days in FY2019)

Part 2 – On-going Initiative (over 2 fiscal years and beyond)
Obtain & sustain functional ends to unsheltered homelessness)
Beginning in FY2019, FY2020 and beyond

Ms. Long asked what is our success rate from last year. Ms. Gibson stated the program so far is doing well; however, as this plan, if approved, would not begin until FY2019, no initiatives on data are available or started at this point. Ms. Gibson advised though localities would be kept apprised after the plan was implemented.

Mr. Benton asked what happens to the program if smaller portions of funding requested is actually received. Ms. Gibson stated the programs would still continue; however, decisions would need to be made on scaling back the goals and serving fewer citizens. Mr. Benton asked what will happen to the funding currently approved that is distributed to Micah, Thurman Brisben, etc. Ms. Gibson stated these funding sources to the designated entities would remain in place and one would not compete as this program would be a new and additional funded program.

Ms. Sellers asked if landlords have been identified throughout the region that will provide housing for \$600.00 a month. Both Ms. Gibson & Ms. Cotter (Micah) stated that each jurisdiction has identified landlords on board – whether they are single family homes or whether they are rates based on a four-bedroom house that accommodates up to four residents.

Mr. Withers asked how qualifications are made on last permanent address because unfortunately for the City, citizens are in hotels/shelters because they need to be available to amenities such as job sites, public transportation, etc. and these residents may only have been housed in the city for a short period of time.

Ms. Gibson concurred this is a situation they deal with regularly and last permanent addresses are coded differently from program to program; however, this program determines last permanent address by the zip code of where last home was. Ms. Gibson stated this is a hard factor to perfect as the population is transient. Ms. Gibson stated that efforts are continually being made in fine-tuning this component.

Mr. Kelly stated endorsement of the program could begin as a pilot program with regional consent and allow it to grow from here. Mr. Kelly asked if RACSB is in support of the program. Ms. Gibson stated this is the beauty of the program because it takes what is already ongoing to a higher level and that the CoC is aware of the initiatives. Ms. Gibson stated that shelter funding is leveled out and it is still important to provide funding for the shelters; however, need additional resources if the homelessness goal is to be achieved.

Mr. Kelly requested the program/plan be taken back to the respective Boards and have the item again on the January agenda. This will then give time for the localities to voice their opinions accordingly. Mr. Kelly stated that it may be helpful if a presentation can be given to localities that does provide success rates as to how re-sheltering here and other places has in fact proven to be effective and less costly. Mr. Kelly reiterated that he felt this is a regional issue and would like to see the program set-up as a pilot program if nothing else. The pilot program could establish program, goals, etc. from a regional perspective and even if not approved for funding this year could be on-going on a regional "wish" list.

Mr. Kelly stated that as of now there does not appear to be regional consent; the City has endorsed; King George has had presentation and has voted not to support; presentation is scheduled for next week with Spotsylvania; and presentations waiting to be scheduled in both Caroline & Stafford counties. (Ms. Long advised that this initiative was in fact supported by Caroline County last year and appears as of now to have support again this year).

Resolution No. 18-03, Issuing Support Community Initiative to End Unsheltered Homelessness in Planning District 16.

There was no action taken at the November GWRC meeting as this matter has been taken back for additional presentation and discussion to the respective local Boards of Supervisors/City Council. The Resolution will be added to the January agenda for discussion/endorsement.

- c.) Approval of GWRC Resolution No. 18-04, Approving the Selection of the Berkley Group and the Thrasher Group to Provide the George Washington Regional Commission Ono-Call Planning Services – Mr. Tim Ware

Mr. Ware advised that Resolution no. 18-04 is asking support for renewal of the Commission's on-call consultants to include proposals from both the Berkley Group and the Thrasher Group. Ms. Bohmke asked how much funding allocated to be awarded to the consultants. Mr. Ware stated the consultants remain on call; however, are only utilized as needed. Mr. Ware stated the budgeted amount for on-call consultant fees is \$100,000; however, in the past, the Commission has only expended up \$30,000 for services as needed.

Upon motion by Mr. Withers and seconded by Ms. Sellers, with all concurring, Resolution No. 18-04 was endorsed by GWRC at the November 20th GWRC Commission meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

- a.) Approval of GWRC Resolution No. 18-05, in Support of King George County's Revenue Sharing Program Request for the King George Middle School Turn Lane Project – Mr. Tim Ware

Mr. Ware advised that upon request from King George County, it is requested that the Commission endorse Resolution No. 18-05 which is supporting revenue sharing project funding for turn lanes at King George Middle School.

Upon motion by Ms. Long and seconded by Mr. Howard, with all members in consent, Resolution No. 18-05 was endorsed by the GWRC Commission at the November 20th meeting.

b.) Managing Waste in the 21st Century – Mr. Tim Ware

Mr. Kelly advised that included in tonight's agenda packet are notes from the Waste Management group that met last month. Mr. Kelly stated that currently the City of Fredericksburg and Stafford County have reviewed the draft; however, does not think regionally the other localities have had a chance to review the draft at this time.

Mr. Kelly stated that due to the lateness of tonight's meeting that it was his request for this matter to be reviewed by all of the localities and to take ideas for moving this effort to a higher level. Mr. Ware stated the localities need to look at both short-term and long-term effects of potentially forming a regional program. Mr. Kelly advised this item would be added again to the upcoming January agenda for further discussion.

c.) Approval of GWRC Resolution No. 18-06, Recognizing the Distinguished Service of James B. Howard – Mr. Matt Kelly

Upon motion by Ms. Long and seconded by Mr. Withers, with all concurring, Resolution No. 18-06 was endorsed by the GWRC Commission at its November 20th meeting.

d.) Other New Business – None

e.) Executive Director Search – Mr. Matt Kelly

Mr. Kelly stated a representative from each locality needs to be nominated to serve on the employment search committee for the replacement of Executive Director as Mr. Ware will be retiring from this position in June of 2018. Mr. Kelly stated this committee will begin meeting after the first of the year to establish criteria, position duties, etc. The following members will serve on this committee: City of Fredericksburg – Mr. Kelly; Caroline – Ms. Long; King George – Ms. Brabo; Spotsylvania – Mr. Benton; & Stafford – Ms. Bohmke.

ADJOURN GWRC MEETING – The November 20th GWRC meeting was adjourned at 7:08 p.m. The next meeting will be held on January 15, 2018.

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