

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

February 24, 2014

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

MEMBERS PRESENT AND VOTING: **City of Fredericksburg:** Matthew Kelly (Secretary), Frederic N. Howe, III; **Caroline County:** Jeff Black, Jeff Sili; **King George County:** Jim Howard, Dale Sisson; **Spotsylvania County:** Paul Trampe, Chris Yakabouski; **Stafford County:** Gary Snellings (Chair).

MEMBERS ABSENT: Cord Sterling (Stafford County).

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Steven Hubble, Assistant Director of Public Works, Stafford County; Janet West – Stafford County resident & student at University of Mary Washington

STAFF: Tim Ware, Executive Director; Diana Utz, Rideshare Director; JoAnna Roberson, Transportation Demand Management Planner.

CALL TO ORDER:

Mr. Snellings 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

Mr. Snellings advised that Item 10d under the New Business category, which was an update of the Regional Emergency Planning Committee, would be deferred to the March 17th meeting. Mr. Kelly made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Sisson to approve the GWRC Meeting Agenda for February 24, 2014. The motion was carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF GWRC MEETING MINUTES (November 18, 2013 & December 16, 2013) - (Action Item)

Mr. Sisson noted there was a typo on the minutes from the November 18th meeting which will be corrected after the conclusion of tonight's meeting. Upon motion by Mr. Kelly and seconded by Mr. Sisson the GWRC minutes from the November 18th & December 16th meeting were approved. The motion was carried unanimously.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Ms. West advised that she is a resident of Stafford County and a student taking an Intro to Planning class at the University of Mary Washington. Ms. West stated that she was in attendance at tonight's meeting for a class requirement. Ms. West stated that she choose to attend the GWRC meeting instead of an individual locality meeting because she was interested in issues that involve the region.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Mr. Ware relayed that the new accounting system is being utilized totally now by GWRC and the system is working well. Mr. Ware stated that this new system has the capability to provide better and more concise reporting data. Mr. Ware stated that to date, GWRC is still \$62,532.71 to the good and is still on track to accrue an additional \$50,000.00 as positive cash flow by the end of December, 2014.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Ware advised that next Monday GWRC, FAMPO, Community Leaders, and Chairman of both GWRC & FAMPO will be meeting collectively. Mr. Ware stated that he has been asked to provide a presentation as to what GWRC does and how it may assist with the strategic plan implementation for the University of Mary Washington.

Mr. Ware relayed that the State funding budget has been cut by \$70,000. Mr. Trampe asked what the percentage of that cut would be applicable to this region. Mr. Ware stated the approximate percentage should be \$2,000 less to our region.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

- a.) **Approval of GWRC Resolution No. 14-14, Authorizing Execution of Agreement with the Virginia Department of Rail & Public Transportation (DRPT) – Ms. Diana Utz**

Ms. Utz gave an overview on the grant application process that is submitted to Department of Rail & Public Transportation (DRPT) which is an annual federal requirement. The grant is utilized to run and support the rideshare program through GWRC.

Ms. Utz advised that the grant is an 80/20 grant percentage; with 80% being funded by DRPT and 20% being funded with local matches. Ms. Utz stated that the FY2014 DRPT granted amount is \$355,803 and the local match is \$88,951. Ms. Utz also relayed that CMAQ funding provides \$153,069 in funding and \$44,250 that covers expenses for leased parking lots in both Spotsylvania & Stafford counties to accommodate the region's Dahlgren commuters.

Ms. Utz relayed that the total program funding, which includes the local matches, the DRPT allocations, and the CMAQ funding equals \$642,073. Ms. Utz advised that the grant amount requested has not increased in funding for the last several years. Ms. Utz stated that if the grant amount requested increased then this would result in a higher match being required locally.

Ms. Utz advised that the grant program consists of sixteen work elements which includes some of the following programs: free matching program; GWRC website; applicant follow-ups; van pool formation, maintenance, & assistance; Advantage self-insured insurance pool program; van start program; van save program; National Transit database data collection; car pool formation, maintenance, & assistance; commuter buses; commuter lots and leased parking spaces; public outreach; guaranteed ride home program; and TDM/Planning transportation demand management plan.

Ms. Utz stated that currently this region has over 400 vanpools registered in our data base that transport 5,112 people on a daily basis from this region to their work sites in the Northern Virginia, Washington, DC or Richmond work areas. Ms. Utz stated this equates to a reduction of 154,586,880 vehicular miles traveled annually.

Ms. Utz relayed that the current data reflects that car pools registered with GWRC are down; however, slugging is up. Ms. Utz stated that GWRC also assists and promotes the use of riding commuter buses outside of the region as well as supporting and promoting people to utilize the local FRED transit bus system. Ms. Utz advised that GWRC also promotes both the VRE and Metro systems as another resource option in lieu of commuters riding alone.

Ms. Utz advised that GWRC promotes and advertises the commuting options with a fall/winter and spring/summer campaign with radio advertising; highway signs; the GWRC website; community outreach; commuter job fairs; & applicant surveys. Ms. Utz stated that for FY2013, GWRC provided commuting assistance to more than 40,000 people within the region.

Upon motion made by Mr. Sisson and seconded by Mr. Howe, Resolution 14-14 was unanimously approved.

b.) Approval of GWRC Resolution No. 14-15, Reappointing a First Vice Chairman, Second Vice Chairman, & Treasurer to Serve for the Remainder of Fiscal Year 2014 – Mr. Tim Ware

Mr. Ware advised that as GWRC has three new members that to complete the remainder of the term of the previous board members through July 2014, the committee needs to re-appoint the positions of: First Vice Chairman (Spotsylvania representative); Second Vice Chairman (King George representative); & Treasurer (Caroline representative).

Upon recommendation from Mr. Trampe, Mr. Sisson, and Mr. Sili respectively; the following nominations were made and unanimously endorsed:

First Vice Chair – Mr. Chris Yakabouski
Second Vice Chair – Mr. Jim Howard
Treasurer – Mr. Jeff Black

c.) Storm Water Regulation Update – Mr. Steve Hubble

Mr. Steve Hubble provided an update on the Virginia Storm Water Management Program Regulations (VSMP) and MS4 Storm water Discharge permit update. Mr. Hubble stated that VSMP does the following:

Provides prescriptive requirements for storm water management for all new land development and constructions projects throughout the region

As a result of the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act from 1990, all GWRC localities are required to address storm water management and water regulations per state regulations

Localities implement ordinances and current requirements individually for the City of Fredericksburg, Spotsylvania, & Stafford & per the Chesapeake Bay Act for both Caroline and King George

Mr. Hubble stated that the Storm water Permit (MS4) regulates existing developments and systems throughout the region. Mr. Hubble stated that as a result of the MS4, that the clean water act will require that it be applied to the rural areas within the region which will affect both Caroline & King George counties. Mr. Hubble relayed that the issuance of permits and oversights will be provided by the State through DEQ and it will have substantial costs associated with the regulatory updates.

Mr. Hubble relayed that as a result of General Assembly action from 2005, that regulations are now completed and were adopted on September 3, 2011. Mr. Hubble stated that these are state mandated regulations and are standardized for all localities in the State of Virginia. Mr. Hubble relayed that the new regulations will now transfer additional oversight and responsibility previously held by the State now to the individual locality. Mr. Hubble stated that local adoption will be required by July 1, 2014.

Mr. Hubble advised that performance standards are being changed and he provided a handout which listed the current regulations as well as the new regulations. Mr. Hubble stated that the new responsibilities will now require that the locality staff oversees developer construction's storm water permits. Mr. Hubble stated that the good things from the new local regulations will be flexibility in compliance with vesting and grandfathered projects.

Mr. Hubble stated that the next steps in the VSMP regulations are that by January 15, 2014, all localities will have completed their draft ordinances/fundings/staffing plan to DEQ. Mr. Hubble relayed that the five localities within the FAMPO region all met the January 15th deadline. Mr. Hubble stated that public hearings on the draft ordinances will occur in the March/April time frame and that final program implementation will be received from DEQ by July 1, 2014.

Mr. Hubble advised that the MS4 permit regulations previously affected only the City of Fredericksburg and the Counties of Spotsylvania & Stafford. However, Mr. Ware relayed that information that had been submitted to staff earlier today indicates that now Spotsylvania County is exempt. Mr. Hubble relayed that he was not aware of this change.

Mr. Snellings asked that this item appear again on the upcoming March agenda so that Mr. Ware can have time to confirm why Spotsylvania County is now exempt. Mr. Howe stated that this issue is a sleeping giant and the localities have no idea how extensive the costs will be. Mr. Howe stated that he felt the costs associated would be monumental over the next 15 years. Mr. Snellings concurred and stated that deferring this item would also allow staff to determine a preliminary cost associated with the program requirements.

d.) Farmers Market Grant Application – Mr. Tim Ware

Mr. Ware stated that he was presenting renewal of the Farmers Market Grant application for Ms. Elizabeth Borst. Mr. Ware stated that Mary Washington Hospital provides a \$20,000 grant that supports the Farmers Market Nutrition Incentive Program. The program matches up to \$10.00 of SNAP purchases at the regional farmer's market locations. Currently, the program matches purchases by those participating in both the farmer's markets in Spotsylvania & Stafford Counties. Mr. Sili asked if the Caroline Farmer's Market would also qualify. Mr. Ware stated that not at this time. Mr. Ware relayed that the program is collaborative and GWRC serves as the fiscal agent and sponsor.

Upon motion by Mr. Sisson and seconded by Mr. Yakabouski, with there being unanimous support, the Farmers Market Grant application request was endorsed for the FY2014 year.

e.) Regional Court System – Mr. Matt Kelly

Mr. Kelly asked for member comments in regard to providing input for future years on the development of a regional court system. Mr. Kelly stated that for the City, as a result of the new Courthouse complex, they will now have 2 court rooms vacant that will not be utilized by the City. Mr. Kelly stated that the City of Fredericksburg's annual budget is \$82 million dollars and \$11 million dollars of this budget is allocated to the Court systems.

Mr. Snellings stated that he was in favor of a regional concept and it would certainly be less expensive than each locality having to continually build new courthouse facilities; however, he did not know how the logistics of something like this would occur.

Mr. Kelly asked that Mr. Ware obtain information from the State whereby regional court system facilities are already in place; the regulations that are required to be met; the cost savings; etc. and to have this item discussed in further detail at the upcoming March 17th meeting.

f.) Other New Business –

Mr. Howard asked if any other jurisdictions were dealing with Fracking in regard to ordinances with properties that are maintained by wells. Mr. Howard stated that this was a prevalent issue in King George and right now there is not enough information available to determine if in fact this is also a regional problem.

Mr. Ware stated that this could be an issue that will also affect the counties of Caroline, Spotsylvania, and Stafford. Mr. Sili stated that in Caroline County, the county has very little control over Fracking.

Mr. Sili stated that Senate Bill 48 is endorsed and right now is pending in the House. Mr. Sili stated that the bill is more to inhibit; however, DEQ has mandates in place regardless of whether the bill is approved or not. Mr. Sisson stated that the region needs to ensure that before DEQ assumes responsibility for overseeing this issue that the region needs to know they have the proper engineering tools in place.

The committee asked Mr. Ware to make contact with other jurisdictions within the State, and especially with those in neighboring planning districts, i.e. the Northern Neck and Middle Peninsula regions to see if Fracking has in fact affected them; what measures they have in place; etc. and that this item also be brought back for further discussion at the upcoming March 17th meeting.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m. and the next GWRC meeting date is March 17th at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Timothy Ware
Executive Director
(Minutes prepared by JoAnna Roberson, Transportation Demand Management Planner)