

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

September 15, 2014

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

MEMBERS PRESENT AND VOTING: **City of Fredericksburg:** Matthew Kelly, Bill Withers; **Caroline County:** Jeff Black; **King George County:** Jim Howard, Dale Sisson; **Spotsylvania County:** Paul Trampe, Chris Yakabouski (Chair); **Stafford County:** Gary Snellings, Cord Sterling (in at 6:38p.m.)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jeff Sili – Caroline County

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Kathleen Harrigan, Friends of the Rappahannock

STAFF: Tim Ware, Executive Director; Andy Waple, FAMPO; Marti Donley, FAMPO; Daniel Reese, FAMPO; Diana Utz, GWRC

CALL TO ORDER:

Mr. Yakabouski 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. Sisson and seconded by Mr. Snellings with all in consensus, the agenda for the September 15th meeting was approved as submitted.

APPROVAL OF GWRC MEETING MINUTES (July 21, 2014) - (Action Item)

Upon motion by Mr. Kelly and seconded by Mr. Howard, with all in consensus, the minutes from the July 21st meeting were approved as submitted.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT - None

FINANCIAL REPORT

Mr. Ware relayed that the Financial Report is included in tonight's agenda packet. Mr. Ware advised that GWRC's year-to-date accounting balance is \$146,382.87. Mr. Ware relayed that the State revenue for this year should be allocated in October and will equate to a 5% reduction. Mr. Snellings stated that the localities will be absorbing a \$6 million dollar deficit for the upcoming fiscal year in the State budget.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Ware advised that GWRC is the financial entity for the Farmer's Market. Mr. Ware relayed that the North Stafford Farmer's Market is applying for a continuum grant in the amount of \$13,500. Mr. Howard had some specific questions regarding the grant request.

Mr. Ware relayed that GWRC's infrastructure is decaying. Mr. Ware stated that the telephone system is no longer supported. Mr. Ware advised that GWRC had received quotes from several different vendors and one of the vendors has been selected. Mr. Ware stated that he would be supervising the telephone system upgrades and will be ensuring that the agency receives the updates needed and that the updates agreed on will be included in the quote received.

Regarding the regional broadband system, Mr. Ware advised that a Broadband dinner was recently held as part of the University of Mary Washington's strategic plan. Mr. Ware stated that there was regional representation at the meeting with the exception from Spotsylvania County. Mr. Ware stated that he would like to have a brief broadband update listed for discussion on the upcoming October agenda.

Mr. Sisson stated that this committee has discussed in length the challenges of a regional broadband initiative. Mr. Sisson stated that he felt the CTI representative at the dinner meeting was largely out of touch. Mr. Sisson recommended that the Commission look for someone else instead of moving forward with UMW. Mr. Sisson stated that the rural aspect and rural components were not even included within UMW's proposals and research. Mr. Sisson stated that at a state level, the focus is commercial and not rural.

Upon motion by Mr. Sisson and seconded by Mr. Kelly, with consensus from the Commission, it was requested that the UMW consultants provide more references and look for additional resources. Mr. Ware stated that when UMW initially started their discussion that they did not even know who GWRC/FAMPO was or that they existed. Mr. Ware stated that at least now, UMW now sees that GWRC is in fact a major player and anything decided on needs to have regional benefits.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

a.) Friends of the Rappahannock Update – Ms. Kathleen Harrigan

Ms. Harrigan stated that FOR was established in 1985 by a group of concerned citizens and now have approximately 2,000 members and a staff of environmental professionals. FOR protects the Rappahannock River from here to the Chesapeake Bay. Ms. Harrigan stated that through sound science and constructive engagements with all stakeholders, that FOR is an advocate for cleaner rivers, a leader in restoration projects, and educator to thousands of youth annually.

Ms. Harrigan advised that sedimentation in the Rappahannock River is an ongoing process. Ms. Harrigan stated that the Rappahannock River transports eroded sediment from upstream connectors and deposits much of the sediment downstream near the Rappahannock Fall Line.

Ms. Harrigan relayed that the heavy grains of sediment settle out and then the finer grains travel downstream smothering the submerged aquatic vegetation, oyster beds and crab traps. This process of erosion and sedimentation has increased as the forest covers within the watershed have been drastically reduced.

Ms. Harrigan stated that the dams on the Rappahannock (the original 1854 Crib Dam and the 1910 Embrey Dam) trapped the large amounts of sediments; however, eventually silted in and the sediment began to wash over the dams. As islands along the Rappahannock riverfront have continued to grow quickly as additional flooding events upstream occur, the heavy sediment now loads past the Rappahannock Fall Line.

Ms. Harrigan stated that the Corps of Engineers believed that the remaining sediment would stabilize after the dredging occurred at the Embrey Dam. However, this has not proven to be the case. Ms. Harrigan stated that dredging is both a temporary solution and very costly.

Ms. Harrigan also relayed that some of the sediment seen in the Rappahannock River is in fact due to natural factors; however, much of it is also influenced by human activities, agricultural activities and urban development.

Ms. Harrigan stated that FOR encourage the PD16 localities to invest energy and finances into implementing sound land use and low impact developments for all projects. Implementing protective and restorative programs enables the FOR to promote its “Clean Water Drop” to obtain a clean river.

Ms. Harrigan relayed that the FOR work is mostly grant funded so obtaining grants is something they are constantly seeking. Ms. Harrigan stated that some of the grants are corporate grants; some are environmentally based; some are from public-private partnerships; and some come from volunteer funding.

b.) Approval of GWRC Resolution No. 15-01, Authorizing the Executive Director to Execute a Short-Term Lease for Park & Ride Spaces Located at the Ladysmith Professional Building – Ms. Diana Utz

Ms. Utz with GWRC, asked for endorsement by the Commission on the re-newal of the annual lease agreement between GWRC & Starr Management for utilization of 25 park and ride spaces at the Ladysmith Professional Building in Caroline County.

Ms. Utz advised that there is no formal park & ride commuter parking lot in the Ladysmith area of Caroline County. Without utilization of these leased spaces, that prevents cars and van pools from being towed, that without this leased lot option that it would significantly hinder the ability of carpools and vanpools to continue operation.

Ms. Utz relayed that the leased spaces cost GWRC \$1.00 per day for 25 spots and will not exceed an annual expense of \$6,525. Upon motion by Mr. Black and seconded by Mr. Kelly, with all in consensus, Resolution No. 15-01 was adopted by GWRC.

c.) Approval of GWRC Resolution No. 15-02, Recognizing the Dedicated Service of the Honorable Gary Snellings – Chairman Chris Yakabouski

Mr. Yakabouski advised that Resolution No. 15-02 is recognizing the dedicated service of Mr. Gary Snellings as serving as the Chair for the GWRC Commission from July 2013 to June 2014. Upon motion by Mr. Black and seconded by Mr. Sisson, with Mr. Snellings abstaining, Resolution No. 15-02 was adopted by GWRC.

d.) 2015 Local Dues Structure – Mr. Tim Ware

Mr. Ware advised that GWRC is preparing the FY2016 budget and it is now time again to set the annual dues structure for the upcoming year. Mr. Ware stated that the dues for the 2015 year were adopted at \$0.6433 per capita. Mr. Ware stated that it is staff recommendation that this funding remain as they are for the upcoming 2016 fiscal year.

Upon motion by Mr. Sisson and seconded by Mr. Kelly, with all in consensus, the dues rate will remain at the current figure of \$0.6433 per capita.

e.) Other New Business (if any) - None

Adjourn The GWRC meeting was adjourned at 6:57 p.m. The next GWRC meeting date is October 20th at 6:00 p.m.

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