

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

April 21, 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; **King George County:** Jim Howard, Dale Sisson; **Spotsylvania County:** Paul Trampe, Chris Yakabouski; **Stafford County:** Gary Snellings (Chair).

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Jeff Sili (Caroline County); Cord Sterling (Stafford County)

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Al Harf, Director PRTC; Dr. Brooke Rossheim, Regional Health Department Director; Darren Coffey, Emergency Planning Committee; Mike McGurk, Transurban; Rupert Farley, Citizen; Pamela Thorpe, MWHC

**STAFF:** Tim Ware, Executive Director; Lloyd Robinson, FAMPO Director; Andy Waple, FAMPO; Marti Donley, FAMPO; Danny Reese, FAMPO; Diana Utz, Rideshare Director; JoAnna Roberson, GWRC.

**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 with committee consensus, Mr. Rick Hurley, President of UMW, had requested to speak briefly to the committee at tonight's meeting. Even though not on the agenda, there was unanimous consent from the members to endorse the request.

**APPROVAL OF GWRC MEETING MINUTES (February 24, 2014) - (Action Item)**

Upon motion by Mr. Howe and seconded by Mr. Yakabouski, with all in consensus, the minutes from the February 24<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved as submitted.

**PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT** - None

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

Mr. Ware relayed that the Financial Report in tonight's agenda packet is from the new software now being utilized by GWRC. Mr. Ware stated that the new accounting system provides for a clear and concise break-down and the balance sheet is self-explanatory. Mr. Ware stated that the commission is on track financially with its year-to-date financial expectations and obligations.

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Ware advised that GWRC, FAMPO, Community Leaders, and Chairman of both GWRC & FAMPO met recently for the purpose of discussing strategic planning being led by the University of Mary Washington. Mr. Ware stated that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss with the community leaders on how they and the community can become better partners; to reiterate what GWRC does; etc.

Mr. Ware relayed that the Continuum of Care program that was recently staffed and funded by the City of Fredericksburg is now going to become a new responsibility to GWRC effective July 1, 2014. Mr. Ware advised that previously GWRC had been funding a part-time position that was responsible for maintaining a data base on homeless statistics throughout the region. If funding and grants materialize, the City will relinquish all responsibility for the grant maintenance, data collection, etc. and the position will revert to one full-time position becoming effective towards the end of the 2014 calendar year.

Mr. Ware advised that effective July 1<sup>st</sup>, that Mr. Robinson is going to begin working part-time for FAMPO and he will be relinquishing his current duties of serving as the FAMPO Administrator.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

#### **a.) Regional Courts – Mr. Tim Ware**

Mr. Ware advised that he was tasked from the Commission at the February meeting to pursue information on consolidation of jurisdictional court rooms and courts. Mr. Ware stated that he has had conversations with Wiley Associates, local court clerks within the region, and with Frederick County who currently is utilizing a regional court system.

Mr. Ware stated that the sharing of court facilities would be viable; however, not an easy process as it would require a tremendous amount of local cooperation. Mr. Ware advised that not only would the administration for the three courts (Circuit, General District, & Juvenile) and the judges need to reach agreements in regard to the common ground on facility usage but the local governments would also be required to come to terms on how the shared facilities would be funded.

Mr. Ware advised that included in today's agenda packet, is a summary that shows the pros and cons for sharing court facilities as well as for consolidation of court services that can be reviewed by the members. Mr. Kelly stated that this was a request to see if something like this could work and if members want this discussed and explored in greater detail that it can be included as an agenda item at future meetings.

#### **b.) Natural Gas Extraction – Mr. Tim Ware**

Mr. Ware advised that he was tasked from the Commission at the February meeting to pursue what information is available in regard to Natural Gas Extractions (fracking). Mr. Ware stated that he was asked to confer with neighboring PDC's to determine if any collaborative efforts have occurred.

Mr. Ware relayed that to date, most regions are still in the preliminary information gathering stage. The Shenandoah area is actually exploring the next phase past the information gathering stage. Mr. Ware advised that both the Northern Neck and Middle Peninsula Regions have conducted information sessions with DMME. Mr. Ware relayed that DMME is willing to have a representative come to the PD16 region as well; however, this meeting would need to occur at an alternative time/date from the commission's regularly scheduled 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday meeting night.

Mr. Ware stated that included in tonight's agenda packet is the information gathered to date for review. Mr. Ware relayed that he would continue with follow-up on this issue per the commission's request. Mr. Sisson stated that there is an informational meeting planned at 7:00 p.m. at King George High School on June 12<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Sisson stated that this is not an issue that should be ignored regionally; however, as no permits have been filed to date, that the planning district has limited power. Mr. Ware stated that to date no permits have been filed regionally and no revisions have been made to jurisdictional planning ordinances. Mr. Howe stated that having the current maps updated to show which areas within the region could be affected would be helpful. Mr. Black stated that he felt it would be beneficial for the commission to meet with DMME and he personally would be willing to meet at an alternate date/time as needed. This general consensus was also expressed by the other members.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

##### **a.) Approval of GWRC Resolution No. 14-16, Endorsing the Fiscal Year 2015 Rural Transportation Planning Program – Mr. Andy Waple (ACTION ITEM)**

Mr. Waple advised that Resolution No. 14-16 is the annual transportation planning program that affects the rural areas of Caroline and King George counties. Mr. Waple stated that the amount of funding to be allocated is the same amount that was endorsed in 2014. Mr. Waple relayed that staff has included an additional component in this year's plan which provides data for daily congestion and incident management to the Route 301/Harry Nice Bridge coming from Maryland into Virginia in King George County.

Upon motion made by Mr. Sisson and seconded by Mr. Howe, Resolution No. 14-16 was unanimously approved.

##### **b.) – Approval of GWRC Resolution No. 14-17, Approving the Selection of Spangler/Erkert and Associates to Provide Marketing Services to the George Washington Regional Commission – Ms. Diana Utz**

Ms. Utz advised Resolution No. 14-17 is a request for approval of \$170,000 of funding the region has received for marketing the I95 Express Lane project. Ms. Utz stated that this is funding that requires no local matches and will run from May until October. This funding will be utilized to market specifically to the commuters from this region and will target both multi-modal and multi-media marketing options. Resolution No. 14-17 is requesting approval for GWRC to hire an on-call consultant, Spangler/Erkert & Associates to implement the marketing campaign.

Upon motion made by Mr. Howe and seconded by Mr. Kelly, Resolution 14-17 was unanimously approved.

**c.) Approval of GWRC Resolution No. 14-18, Approving the Issuance of a Professional Services Request for Proposals to Procure Financial Auditing Services – Mr. Tim Ware (ACTION ITEM)**

Mr. Ware advised that Resolution No. 14-18 is requesting approval for issuance of professional services to procure financial auditing services. Mr. Ware stated that “competitive negotiation” is required and to be initiated for the issuance of a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the commission.

Upon motion made by Mr. Kelly and seconded by Mr. Howe, Resolution 14-18 was unanimously approved.

**d.) Regional Health Department Update – Dr. Brooke Rossheim**

Dr. Rossheim provided the commission with the 2013 highlights from the Virginia Reportable Disease list. Dr. Rossheim advised that there were 1,219 disease reports received in Virginia for 2013. The break-down of this report is as follows: 571 – met confirmed case definitions; 120 – submitted with probable cause indicating that some criteria was met but not all criteria was identified; 81 – suspected cases; 93 – unknown; and 354 – did not meet any of the case definition criteria.

Dr. Rossheim advised that in 2013 the region had no confirmed cases of tuberculosis. To date, there has been 1 confirmed case; 2 cases that had symptoms; & 1 unconfirmed case reported. Dr. Rossheim reported that the top ten reported diseases regionally are: Chronic Hepatitis B/C; MRSA; Salmonellosis; Lyme; RMSF; Campylobacteriosis; Pertussis; Ehrlichia; and Giardiasis. In regard to rabies exposure, in 2013 there were 183 cases of people who had been potentially exposed to rabies; 91 of these started the postexposure prophylaxis rabies shots.

**e.) Regional Emergency Planning Committee Grant Update – Mr. Darren Coffey**

Mr. Coffey provided a handout and update on the Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) Grant. Mr. Coffey stated that the two primary outcomes of the grant are to develop a regional LEPC business plan and to consolidate a Tier II Facility GIS database for the five localities. Mr. Coffey stated that once the regional plan is adopted it would then be submitted to the State of Virginia for adoption as well.

Mr. Coffey stated that the Regional LEPC Business Plan needs the following components:

**Regional LEPC Members** – determination of who will be on the committee from each locality

**Governance Structure** – determination of how GWRC operates

**Operating Budget** – realizing that LEPC’s do not currently have an established budget but understanding that a minimal budget will become necessary and determination of how this materializes and who funds it

**By-Laws** – currently there are 15 positions on the committee so once the committee structure is finalized, By-Laws will need to be written to coincide with the committee’s duties and obligations

Mr. Coffey advised that currently the committee has 15 non-rotating positions that include the following areas of representation: News Media, AP Hill Emergency manager; US EPA; VDEM; State Police; RAHD; FAMPO; State Hazard Mitigation Officer & GWRC (Executive Director or appointee). Mr. Coffey stated that the rotating locality positions change on an annual basis but include the following: Emergency Manager, Fire/EMS, Hospital Representative, Elected Official, Community Group (someone with no knowledge of haz mat process) & a representative from the Business/Industry Tier II facility.

Mr. Coffey stated that the Tier II facilities GIS mapping has been completed for each of the five localities within Planning District 16. Mr. Coffey relayed that the hazardous transportation routes of where the facilities are within the region has been completed as well. Mr. Coffey stated that having the region aware of not only where the transportation routes are but also need to be cognizant of facilities neighboring the routes – i.e. hospitals, nursing homes, schools, etc.

Mr. Coffey advised that the project progress will be continually shared with the regional providers as new data is implemented. The GIS database development and mapping is underway now and should be completed by month end. The business development plan is also underway and is scheduled for a review by the committee in May. The project completion date and deliverables to VDEM are anticipated to be submitted in June.

Mr. Kelly stated that his concern is that as the list of required committee members is heavily mandated by state representatives, he does not want the intent of this project to become a state mandated effort. Mr. Kelly stated that he does not want the process to ultimately push local representation out of the concept thus allowing the State to take charge over a region. Mr. Kelly stated that he felt more focus and representation with local authorities is needed. Mr. Sisson concurred with Mr. Kelly’s comments.

**f.) 95 Express Lanes Operations Briefing – Mr. Mike McGurk**

Due to the lateness of tonight’s meeting and being aware that the FAMPO Policy Committee meeting starts directly after the conclusion of the GWRC meeting, the 95 Express Lane briefing was modified to simply include the highlights. GWRC apologized for the meeting time overlaps and asked that Mr. McGurk with Trans urban come again for an in-depth presentation at a future upcoming GWRC meeting.

Mr. McGurk stated that the I95 Express Lane project is a public-private partnership between VDOT, VDRPT, FHWA, & Trans urban-Fluor. Mr. McGurk relayed that Trans urban will

operate the express lanes and will provide lane maintenance. VDOT will continue to own and oversee the roads.

Mr. McGurk relayed that the HOT lanes will add capacity and improves the existing HOV system. This project covers a 29 mile span from Edsall Road in Fairfax County to Garrisonville Road in Stafford County.

Mr. McGurk advised that construction on the project began in August of 2012 and to-date is 70% completed. Complete construction is scheduled for late 2014 and will be available to be utilized by drivers in early 2015.

Mr. McGurk stated that the key point for the project will allow for a toll-free system for those drivers who have an E-Z pass that can be utilized 24/7. Mr. McGurk stated that all drivers will need either a standard E-Z pass or an E-Z pass Flex to enter onto the express lanes.

Mr. McGurk relayed that the toll rates will adjust to keep lanes free flowing; toll equipment will identify a total trip distance; pricing/signage will have at least 2 signs on-going in advance of all entrances; and sensors will monitor traffic 24/7 that will adjust toll prices as necessary.

**g.) Other New Business – Mr. Rick Hurley, President of University of Mary Washington**

Mr. Hurley relayed that the University is spearheading development of a regional economic plan whereby the university is the neutral party within Planning District 16. Mr. Hurley stated the committee has been working together for the last year and its expertise and diversity have been assets as it continues to move forward.

Mr. Hurley stated that the committee is now focusing on broad band technology and determining where it already is; where localities want it to be; etc. and that the university is hosting a summit meeting on May 1<sup>st</sup> at the Jepson Center. The meeting begins with a breakfast at 7:30 a.m. on Hanover Street and will conclude at the Jepson Center. Mr. Hurley relayed that the summit spokesperson will be Ms. Sandi Terry who is an expert in broadband technology. Mr. Hurley invited and encouraged the GWRC members to participate in this summit and told them to please contact him at the University for additional registration information.

**Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:18 p.m. and the next GWRC meeting date is May 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

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