

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

April 20, 2015

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

MEMBERS PRESENT AND VOTING: **Chair** – Chris Yakabouski, **Spotsylvania County;**
City of Fredericksburg: Matt Kelly & Billy Withers; **Caroline County:** Jeff Black & Jeff Sili;
King George County: Jim Howard & Dale Sisson; **Spotsylvania County:** Paul Trampe; **Stafford
County:** Laura Sellers & Gary Snellings

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Nick Donahue, Virginia Deputy Secretary of Transportation &
Donald Hickman, Rinker Design Associates

STAFF: Tim Ware, Executive Director; Lloyd Robinson, FAMPO; Marti Donley, FAMPO; Diana
Utz, GWRC; Teiji Epling, GWRC & JoAnna Roberson, 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. Kelly and seconded by Mr. Sisson, with all in consensus, the agenda for the
April 20th meeting was approved as submitted with one amendment made by Mr. Ware. Mr. Ware
advised that the presenter for item A under the New Business category (Stream & Rain Gauge
presentation) had a medical emergency and would not be in attendance at tonight's meeting. Mr.
Ware advised that this item would be re-scheduled for an upcoming meeting.

APPROVAL OF GWRC MEETING MINUTES (March 16, 2015) - (Action Item)

Upon motion by Mr. Sisson and seconded by Ms. Sellers, and all others in consensus, the
minutes from the March 16th meeting were approved as submitted.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT - None

FINANCIAL REPORT

Mr. Ware relayed that the Financial Report is included in tonight's agenda packet. Financially,
GWRC is on target of where it should be. Mr. Ware stated that currently the Commission has a
positive balance of approximately \$250,000; however, Mr. Ware advised that some of this balance is
for items that are paid for in advance so the balance will even out once the payments are disbursed.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Ware advised that the Regional Emergency Planning Committee is back on track. Mr. Ware stated that he would like to have 2 members from the Commission to serve on this committee. Mr. Ware relayed that the meetings will begin resuming again in the summer. Mr. Howard & Mr. Kelly agreed to serve on this committee. Mr. Howard asked if there were any brochures, material, etc. available for the Planning Committee. Mr. Ware advised that he would forward the information that is available to the commission members.

Mr. Ware advised that he would be participating in a congressional hearing on the Community Development Block grant Program in Washington, DC on April 24th.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

a.) HB2 Update – Mr. Nick Donahue, Virginia Deputy Secretary of Transportation

Mr. Donahue advised that an HB2 draft was released in March and the State is aware that it requires updates. Mr. Donahue stated that the comments that have been received across the State will be brought before the CTB at their upcoming May meeting. Mr. Donahue relayed that it was felt it was best to keep this as a single document until the public comment period ends and then all changes will be incorporated at one time.

Mr. Donahue advised that the HB2 legislation requires the CTB to adopt a state-wide prioritization process to evaluate projects to receive funding. This process must be developed & implemented into the FY2017-2022 Six-Year Improvement Plan.

Mr. Donahue stated that this process applies to flexible funds that are used to enhance or expand the transportation capacity and does not apply to maintenance, major rehabilitation or specialized programs.

Mr. Donahue advised that the CTB is required to consider the following 6 factors when it weights projects state-wide. These factors will be: congestion mitigation, economic development, accessibility, safety, environmental quality & land use coordination (only for areas with over a population of 200,000). Each project will be weighted & given a score in each of the categories mentioned above.

Mr. Donahue stated that significant public outreach has been undertaken that includes he personally having made a presentation to every MPO & region state-wide. 18 CTB hearings have been held; 9 regional stakeholder meetings held; meetings held with all 14 Virginia MPO's & planning districts; & presentations have been given at state-wide conferences. Mr. Donahue advised that the public comment period is still open and that the Board will continue to seek additional public feedback over the next month. Mr. Donahue advised that there still are 9 additional CTB hearings scheduled over the next 4 weeks.

Mr. Donahue advised that the State has allocated 4 categories of weighting frameworks state-wide ranging from Category A to Category D. Mr. Donahue stated that currently the Fredericksburg region is assigned to a Category B rating which indicates that the crash data is continuing to increase. Mr. Donahue relayed that both Categories C & D have been assigned to areas within the State that are more stable in regard to number of crashes, etc.

Mr. Donahue stated that he and the State are aware that the FAMPO region has requested its re-classification to be further reviewed and are requesting a change from a Category B rating to a Category A rating. (Mr. Robinson advised that there is a Resolution asking for this that will be brought before the FAMPO Policy Committee tonight for their endorsement).

Mr. Donahue advised that in the State's project scoring category, that project benefits are being examined relative to a project's cost. The Board is considering whether total funding or only HB2 eligible funds should be considered in the final determinations. Mr. Robinson asked what costs are actually being considered – i.e. if a region has a \$100,000 project for consideration & has \$50,000 of funding accrued to go to the project does the project cost get computed at \$50,000 or \$100,000. Mr. Robinson stated that it is felt for regions across the State that do not have money allocated to a project that their project may not be weighted as high because one project could be completed for \$50,000 whereas another project's cost would be the total \$100,000. Mr. Donahue stated that this is a factor that has not been finalized by the State to date.

Mr. Donahue stated that currently 39 real projects are being rated state-wide and even though the projects are real projects they are anonymous to the staff so that knowing what a specific project is does not guarantee it will be rated higher based on personal feelings toward a project. All projects are either projects constructed to a specific phase of development or projects that are under construction.

Mr. Donahue advised that the HB1887 implications have currently developed a percentage chart for district grants state-wide. Currently, the Fredericksburg region has received a 6.9%. Mr. Donahue stated that they are aware that the region feels this is a low and inaccurate rating. Mr. Donahue relayed that this chart is a sliding scale & as new data is continually received & input that you could see changes occur on a regular basis to the current percentages assigned.

In closing, Mr. Donahue stated that the plan is in no way finalized to date and that each region needs to continue to engage concerns, submit comments, etc. Mr. Donahue advised that in April/May public comment on the draft plan will be sought at the upcoming Six-Year Improvement Program hearings. In May, the CTB will be presented with the pilot test results and process revisions. In June, the CTB will receive the final process from the Board and the CTB will take final action at this time.

b.) Approval of Resolution No. 15-08, Authorizing the change in Employee Handbook Procedures for Sick Leave Payout Upon Termination of Employment –Mr. Tim Ware

Mr. Ware advised that Resolution No. 15-08 has to do with the new VRS changes whereby under the hybrid program full-time employees will not be allowed to accumulate unlimited sick leave. Mr. Ware stated that the cap will be at 480 accrued hours and will amount to 80 hours of sick leave pay being paid to an employee upon their termination from the company. Mr. Ware advised that currently GWRC only has 1 employee that this new stipulation applies too & he will be grandfathered in under the old plan.

Upon motion by Mr. Howard and seconded by Mr. Withers, with all in consensus, Resolution No. 15-08 was adopted.

c.) Approval of Resolution No. 15-09, Accepting Grant from Community Foundation of the Rappahannock River Region to Purchase & Install a Homelessness Management Information System – Mr. Teiji Epling

Mr. Teiji Epling, HMIS Coordinator with GWRC, requested approval of Resolution No. 15-09 which was acceptance of a grant from the Community Foundation of Rappahannock River Region to purchase & install a Homelessness Management Information System.

Mr. Epling advised that GWRC serves as the administrative entity for the Fredericksburg Continuum of Care (CoC). Mr. Epling advised that the CoC must maintain a Homelessness Management Information System (HMIS) & that the current system is no longer providing adequate service. Mr. Epling stated that various vendors, their services, & their fees have been evaluated. It has been determined that Service Point is being administered by Homeward and is the most competitive in fees and the services provided. Mr. Epling relayed that Homeward Service Point is already the lead agency for the Richmond CoC and is currently being used by 70% of HMIS agencies nation-wide. Mr. Epling stated that Fredericksburg would go under the Richmond umbrella and they will provide the technical assistance, training, data quality monitoring, etc. to Fredericksburg. Mr. Epling relayed that he wrote the grant request; however, Micah will be the fiscal agency.

Mr. Epling advised that the new system initial cost & annual fees will be \$26,650 and that these fees will be covered from Rappahannock River Grants from Honeywell for \$25,000 & David Morgan Fund for \$1,000.

Upon motion by Mr. Withers and seconded by Ms. Sellers, with all in consensus, Resolution No. 15-09 was adopted. Mr. Epling was also going to provide the Commission with Point in Time results from the recent homeless counts taken within the region. However, due to the lateness of tonight's meeting, this item was moved to occur at a future meeting.

d.) Approval of Resolution No. 15-10, Accepting Grant from Virginia Department of Environmental Quality for 2015 GIS & Land Use Clean-Up for the Chesapeake Bay Model for King George County – Mr. Tim Ware

Mr. Ware advised that Resolution No. 15-10 is requesting approval of a grant from the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality to assist King George County with 2015 GIS & Land Use Data clean-up for the Chesapeake Model.

Upon motion by Mr. Sisson and seconded by Mr. Withers, with all in consensus, Resolution No. 15-10 was adopted.

e.) GWRC Strategic Planning Discussion – Mr. Tim Ware - Due to the lateness of tonight's meeting, the GWRC Strategic Planning discussion was moved to a future meeting.

f.) Other New Business (if any) – None

Adjourn The GWRC meeting was adjourned at 7:08 p.m. The next GWRC meeting is May 18, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.

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