

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

October 19, 2015

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

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Jeff Sili, Caroline County; & Dale Sisson, King George County

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Mr. Greg Evans, VDOF; Mr. Jason Robinson, VDOT

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

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Mr. Howard 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 Ms. Sellers, with all in consensus, the agenda for the October 19th meeting was approved as submitted.

**APPROVAL OF GWRC MEETING MINUTES (September 21, 2015) - (Action Item)**

Upon motion by Ms. Sellers and seconded by Mr. Kelly, with abstention from Mr. Yakabouski, and all others in consensus, the minutes from the September 21st meeting were approved as submitted.

**PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT** - None

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

Mr. Ware advised that the Financial Report is included within tonight's agenda packet and is self-explanatory. Mr. Ware stated that even though the Financial Report may appear to be showing items in the negative, that actually the Commission is in good shape. Mr. Ware stated that the discrepancies on the financial report that are being shown now as a negative expense are actually revenues ahead of expenditures so once payments are received accordingly that the financial statement will be balanced.

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Ware advised that he has had conversation with the Executive Director in Hampton Roads. Mr. Ware stated that previously there was a Golden Crescent meeting held within the region to discuss transportation needs between the I64 corridor and the I95 corridor. Mr. Ware stated that the results of this last meeting were that a letter of support was submitted to Bill Howell and the Governor stating the region's needs and concerns. Mr. Ware relayed that there is interest again in scheduling a meeting to discuss current needs. Mr. Ware asked if the members would be interested in participating in a similar meeting dedicated to K-12 funding. Mr. Kelly stated that he thought it was also feasible to conduct meetings with other mpo's to get new and fresh ideas on how to approach needs that are financially constrained. Mr. Kelly stated that interaction with other pdc's can only be informative and potentially helpful. There was committee consensus for Mr. Ware to proceed in scheduling a meeting of such within this region.

**OLD BUSINESS** - None

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**a.) Healthy Watersheds Forest/TDL Pilot Project** – Mr. Greg Evans, Virginia Department of Forestry

Mr. Evans with the Virginia Department of Forestry gave a presentation to the Commission. Mr. Evans stated their objective is to demonstrate the value of retaining forestlands within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed regions. Mr. Evans stated that the TMDL project's partners include: DEQ, Nature Conservancy, GWRC, Virginia Water Resources Research Center, Forestry Department, Rappahannock River Basin, etc.

Mr. Evans stated that the project goal, in conjunction with EPA guidelines, is to build a case for crediting forestland retention actions by localities within the TMDL modeling region. Mr. Evans stated that the development of a TMDL model has the opportunity to effect regulations and policy changes from the federal, state, and local levels.

Mr. Evans stated to answer the question of "why" should a region complete a TMDL model is because forest land is recognized as one of the best land uses in having the Chesapeake Bay attain its goals and outcomes. However, with that being said, localities within the designated watershed have stated that unless TMDL credits are given to localities who are in fact doing their part in retaining forestlands that there would be little or minimal local incentives allocated for preserving the forestlands. Mr. Evans stated that the TMDL project addresses these concerns.

Mr. Evans stated that conversations have been held with the Rappahannock River Basin Commission and its technical committee on utilizing the Rappahannock River Basin as a partner in creating a model for FY2017 with the GWRC region.

Mr. Evans relayed that Phase 1 of the model has been completed which included the following objectives:

- Evaluation of growth trends within the pilot region
- Comparison of TMDL model to land use changes/projections
- Model alternatives on how they relate to growth scenarios
- After factors were reviewed the findings were shared with localities
- Forward data to EPA for possible 2017 TMDL model revisions

Mr. Evans stated that scenarios were developed in what the region will be facing in 2025. Mr. Evans advised that local comprehensive plans were reviewed within the region. Mr. Evans stated that a sustainable and comprehensive plan was formulated by using the current technical data available from each jurisdiction. Mr. Evans thanked the localities & GWRC for providing their assistance and expertise and because this region's model was so effective they have been asked to partner with Pennsylvania on their model.

Mr. Evans stated that four models were run, combined, and reviewed to provide the most accurate data available. The models that were utilized are: current 2025 TMDL predictions from each of the localities within the pilot area; the GWRC Green Infrastructure Model; the Comprehensive Plans Implementation Model; & the Hybride Model. In addition, Mr. Evans stated that scenarios were run that identified trends for the years 2010 & 2015.

Mr. Evans advised that the preliminary findings of Phase 1 showed the following information:

- Confirmation of water quality and healthy watershed values of Forestland retention that demonstrates potential offsets
- Regional demonstration of how high value forestland retention can help to reduce the offset requirements of future developments
- Possibly could result in \$125M in offset savings to the GWRC region
- This could also in turn reduce the BMP treatment costs currently needed to be in compliance with Virginia's storm water regulations

Mr. Evans stated that EPA has already allocated funding for Phase II of the process. Phase II's goal will be to work extensively with the Rappahannock River Basin Commission, with the local government officials, and with the representatives from Pennsylvania to develop the tool box of criteria, incentives, etc. that could be used in future land use policy and zoning situations. This tool box would also accurately identify and assign appropriate values to the high conservation values assess to forest lands.

Mr. Evans relayed that Phase II of the plan will divide the Rappahannock River Basin into three separate study areas: lower, middle, & upper basins. Mr. Evans stated that each of the three areas provides different political, economic, environmental and social perspectives. The objective would be to learn how the different dynamics change the thought process in what works and what does not work.

Mr. Evans stated that continued coordination with the Rappahannock River Basin committee will provide for peer to peer discussions focusing on geographically targeted groups of key elected officials and local planning department staff. This will allow for the group to identify obstacles, incorporate best practices, explore lessons learned in other areas, develop solutions, and continue building the tool box elements.

In closing, Mr. Evans stated that the Phase II objectives will include the following directives:

Work with EPA & CB GITS to frame options in developing forestland retention to BMP within the TMDL model

Carry out discussions/negotiations across the basin with the localities to build, test & implement the elements of the tool kit that allows for more consideration of forestland retention within land use policies and decisions

**b.) Approval of Resolution No. 16-08, Authorizing the Executive Director to Execute a Short-Term Lease for Park and Ride Spaces Located at the Ladysmith Professional Building – Ms. Diana Utz**

Ms. Utz advised that Resolution No. 16-08 is the annual lease renewal for the 25 leased park and ride spaces at the Ladysmith Professional Building in Caroline County. Ms. Utz advised that the spaces are leased to GWRC at a cost of \$1.00 per day and will not exceed \$6,550 annually.

Upon motion by Mr. Black and seconded by Mr. Kelly, with all in consensus, Resolution No. 16-08 was adopted.

**c.) Approval of Resolution No. 16-09, Authorizing the Executive Director to Execute a Short-Term Lease for Park and Ride Spaces Located at the Claiborne Run Shopping Center – Ms. Diana Utz**

Ms. Utz advised that Resolution No. 16-09 is the annual lease renewal for the 15 leased park and ride spaces at the Claiborne Run Shopping Center in Stafford County. Ms. Utz relayed that the spaces are leased to GWRC at a cost of \$1.00 per day and will not exceed \$3,930 annually.

Upon motion by Mr. Kelly and seconded by Mr. Black, with all in consensus, Resolution No. 16-09 was adopted.

**d.) Approval of Resolution No. 16-10, Authorized the Executive Director to Execute a Short-Term Lease for Park and Ride Spaces Located at the Fredericksburg Field House and the Chatham Square Shopping Center – Ms. Diana Utz**

Ms. Utz advised that Resolution No. 16-10 is the annual lease renewal for the 60 leased park and ride spaces at the Fredericksburg Field House in Spotsylvania County and the 30 leased park and ride spaces at the Chatham Square Shopping Center in Stafford County. Ms. Utz relayed that the spaces are leased to GWRC at a cost of \$1.00 per day and will not exceed \$15,720 for the Field House and \$7,860 for Chatham Square annually.

Upon motion by Mr. Kelly and seconded by Ms. Sellers, with all in consensus, Resolution No. 16-10 was adopted.

**e.) Approval of Resolution No. 16-11, Endorsement of District Grant Application Submission from Caroline County – Mr. Tim Ware**

Mr. Ware advised that Resolution No. 16-11 is a resolution of support for the HB2 application candidate project submitted by Caroline County that was submitted as both a project of consideration for the statewide high priority program and the for the district grant application program. The project is UPC #106670 and is for modifications to Ladysmith Road. Mr. Ware relayed that as the GWRC serves as the Planning District for PDC 16 that the Commission also needs to endorse and support the project with a Resolution.

Upon motion by Mr. Black and seconded by Ms. Sellers, with all in consensus, Resolution No. 16-11 was adopted.

**f.) Go Virginia – Mr. Tim Ware**

Mr. Ware advised that included in tonight's agenda packet is a handout from Go Virginia. Mr. Ware stated that the goals of Go Virginia are to raise awareness of the state's new and economic challenges and potential opportunities. Mr. Ware relayed that it is also aimed to mobilize business, education and community leaders in each part of the state that will work collaboratively for economic development, creation of more jobs, and career readiness. Lastly, Mr. Ware stated that the Go Virginia's goal is to make the state government a strong and effective catalyst for a strategic job-focused regional collaboration by utilizing financial incentives, technical support, etc.

Mr. Ware stated that the Go Virginia goals to achieve sustained success, initiatives to promote continued growth and creation of more jobs, the state must meet the demand from the private marketplace. Thusly, the state is seeking to encourage voluntary business-led collaborations to the economic and workforce developments within each region state-wide.

Mr. Ware relayed that five state-funded incentives could have significant positive impacts on the private-sector growth and these are as follows:

Innovation

Investment

Improvement

Invention

Infrastructure

Mr. Ware stated that Go Virginia is an initiative that has been launched by the Virginia Business Higher Education Council and the Council on Virginia's future. Go Virginia helps in generating private sector growth and opportunities in all regions state-wide. If Go Virginia materializes, it will be an incentive based and voluntary enrollment and will result in no new taxes, layers of government, local mandates, and/or changes in local authorities. Mr. Ware advised that as more information becomes available and updates and legislative reviews are done the updated information will be forwarded to the Commission for their review.

**g.) Elected Officials Dinner - Mr. Tim Ware & Mr. Jim Howard**

Mr. Ware reminded locality officials that the elected officials dinner will be held this Wednesday night in King George County beginning at 6:30 p.m. Mr. Ware stated that GWRC had received only one complaint and that was why the dinner is held prior to the election. Mr. Ware stated that Mr. Howell replied that he would not be able to participate as he has other pre-electoral commitments.

Mr. Howard stated that when the date was set they really did not think about the upcoming elections. He stated that the goal is have an elected official's dinner twice a year – one that is pre-election and one that is post-election. However, he did say that with next year's planning that possibly consideration of the 2<sup>nd</sup> week in November is better than several weeks prior to the election. Mr. Howard encouraged all of the localities to participate and relayed that the dinner was being catered by a reputable caterer in King George County. Mr. Withers stated he appreciated the opportunity and the event is always a good opportunity too network with other elected officials within the region.

**h.) Other New Business – None**

**Adjourn** The GWRC meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m. The next GWRC meeting is November 16, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.

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

