

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

January 22, 2018  
The Robert C. Gibbons Conference Room  
406 Princess Anne Street, Fredericksburg Virginia

**MEMBERS PRESENT AND VOTING:**Chair – Matt Kelly, Fredericksburg; Tim Baroody & Billy Withers, City of Fredericksburg; Caroline County: Jeff Black & Nancy Long; King George County: Ruby Brabo & John Jenkins; and Stafford County: Meg Boehmke, Mark Dudenhefer & Cindy Shelton

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Greg Benton & Chris Yakoboski (Paul Trampe)

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Phil Brown, Donna Krauss & Jane Yaun, Rappahannock Health Community Advisory Council; Robert Courtnage & Anne Little, Solid Waste; Rupert Farley, CTAG; Scott Shenk, Free Lance Star; Randy Comer, Thrasher Group; Elaine Diepenbrock, Stafford County Citizen

**STAFF:** Tim Ware, GWRC Executive Director; Paul Agnello & Marti Donley; FAMPO; Kate Gibson & Sam Shoukas, CoC; and Diana Utz, Leigh Anderson & JoAnna Roberson, GWRC

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mr. Kelly called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. with a quorum present; which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF GWRC MEETING AGENDA:** Upon motion made by Ms. Brabo and seconded by Mr. Withers, with all concurring, the agenda for the January 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting was accepted as presented.

**APPROVAL OF GWRC MEETING MINUTES (November 20, 2017) - (Action Item)**

Upon motion by Ms. Brabo and seconded by Mr. Withers, with Mr. Dudenhefer abstaining, and all others in concurrence, the minutes from the November 20th meeting were approved as submitted.

**PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT** - None

**DRAFT FINANCIAL REPORT**

Mr. Ware advised that the Financial Report is included in tonight's agenda packet. Mr. Ware advised that the Commission's total assets through January 22<sup>nd</sup> are \$748,113.39 with total liabilities of \$288,582.56. Mr. Ware relayed agency balance for revenues and expenditures are \$285,377.17.

Upon motion by Mr. Withers and seconded by Ms. Brabo, with all concurring, the draft financial report for January 22<sup>nd</sup> was accepted as submitted.

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Ware advised that Ms. Kate Gibson has already spoken to, and or has meetings scheduled, to speak to City Council and the Board of Supervisors on the Fredericksburg Continuum of Care (CoC) within the region. Mr. Ware advised the CoC unsheltered homelessness plan is now available for review on the Unsheltered Homelessness Plan's website. Mr. Ware relayed the plan published is the same plan that was presented to the Commission several months ago.

Mr. Kelly stated that he realizes that some localities have either already supported a regional homeless plan and/or have their own in place; however, he feels that a regional program still needs to be implemented. Mr. Kelly stated that maybe the region could start small and sponsor a pilot program.

Ms. Brabo relayed that King George Board of Supervisors has endorsed a resolution in opposition of a regional homeless program. Ms. Brabo stated meetings have been held with King George County's Director of Social Services and he felt needs were being met within the county and that investing in a regional program would not be financially productive. Ms. Brabo stated that representatives from the homeless shelter were asked to meet with the director in King George but to her knowledge, to date, this has not occurred. Mr. Kelly asked Ms. Gibson if she would ensure that the coordination between the two entities occurs and follow-up to the commission at the February meeting.

Mr. Kelly also relayed that this Thursday is the annual point in time count and he is chair of one of the homeless housing count teams this year and if anyone is interested in volunteering to please let him know.

Mr. Ware stated that in regard to the "Go Virginia" program, work is moving forward on a grant application that will allow for flex space for Westmoreland & Montross areas for additional building capacity.

Mr. Ware stated that the Pamunky broadband program is also moving forward. Mr. Ware stated the business plans for both are complete; however, no infrastructure monies have been allocated. Mr. Ware stated that both "Go Virginia" programs are applying for a \$50,000 grant each.

Mr. Ware advised that Resolution No. 18-11 is included in tonight's agenda packet for committee endorsement. Mr. Ware stated the commission's accountant is also retiring in June the same time that he will be leaving. Mr. Ware stated we need to be proactive and issue the Procurement Policy now in order to get a new auditor hired in order to begin the audit process for FY2018. Mr. Ware stated the current auditor wants to have several months to finalize records, meet with the new auditor, etc.

Upon motion by Ms. Brabo and seconded by Mr. Withers, with all concurring, Resolution No. 18-11 was adopted by the George Washington Regional Commission at the January 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting.

Lastly, Mr. Ware relayed that as there new members on both the GWRC board and the FAMPO Policy Board, that he and Mr. Agnello are going to provide a combined orientation meeting to allow new members to become more familiar with the entities. Mr. Ware stated the orientation session will be held at the GWRC office on Wednesday February 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Withers asked that as new members are at the table if everyone would go around the table and introduce themselves.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

a.) Legislative Committee Appointments – Mr. Tim Ware

Mr. Ware advised that during the summer/fall of 2017 GWRC produced a set of regional priorities. This process entailed meeting with state legislative candidates to ask for support on the region's priorities. During November, 2017, Chairperson Mr. Kelly recommended appointing a Legislative Committee at the regional level. Mr. Ware stated that volunteers are being solicited at tonight's meeting.

The Legislative Committee members for FY2018 are as follows:

City of Fredericksburg – Mr. Matt Kelly  
County of Caroline – Mr. Jeff Black  
County of King George – Mr. John Jenkins  
County of Spotsylvania – Mr. Chris Yakoboski (not confirmed to date)  
County of Stafford – Ms. Meg Bohmke

Mr. Kelly stated the Legislative Committee will meet next month and request that Mr. Eldon James attend the meeting. Mr. Kelly stated the committee will meet approximately 2-3 times before year end. Mr. Kelly asked that commission members bring any recommendations to the Board in regard to legislative items they wish to see pursued, items they would like updates on, etc. to the February meeting.

Mr. Kelly stated he felt the Legislative Committee needs to be more specific with regional requests and be more proactive than before. Mr. Kelly stated that regular follow-up, either personally at a meeting and/or through correspondence to Mr. Ware (that would then be forwarded to all commission members) is needed. Mr. Kelly stated the region needs to be kept apprised of what bills are being proposed; the status of bills proposed; regional interests that would require legislative backing, etc.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

a.) Solid Waste Forum – Mr. Robert Courtnage & Ms. Anne Little

Mr. Kelly advised that per his request that this item was added to tonight's agenda for discussion by the commission members. Mr. Kelly stated that he realizes that each locality has a current program in place; however, waste management is going to become a regional problem.

Mr. Kelly stated the City of Fredericksburg & Stafford County share resources; Spotsylvania County currently has its own system in place. Mr. Kelly relayed the program in King George County is effective and currently meets the needs but realistically how much further upward in growth can King George continue to go before it too becomes an issue in this locality as well. Caroline County advised that they currently have a private contracting company who handles this issue for them.

Mr. Kelly relayed that the City & Stafford recently opened a new cell which is already almost at capacity. Mr. Kelly stated that he feels the committee needs to be addressing the long-term needs and research new/different alternatives.

Mr. Kelly asked that GWRC host regular meetings with Clear and provide the committee with a list of options; the cost associated with each option; additional alternatives etc. and present this information to the committee for consideration. Mr. Kelly stated that with growth rates and population expecting to double in the region by 2045, we need to begin the process now.

Ms. Anne Little with CLEAR (climate, environment & readiness) for GWRC and Mr. Robert Courtnage with Fredericksburg Clean & Green commission are in attendance at tonight's meeting to provide updates to the committee.

Ms. Little stated there was a CLEAR Waste forum held on October 11<sup>th</sup> and its purpose was to establish goals, achievements, developing composting programs, and learning new ways to expand waste diversion from the existing landfills.

Ms. Little stated CLEAR's mission and goals are to build an environment and economic resilient and sustainable quality of life for the community to adapt and continue to thrive despite the on-going changes in environmental, social & economic conditions.

Ms. Little stated CLEAR is funded from business partners and grants and its goals are to educate the public about natural, climate-related, and man-made challenges that affect every community. Ms. Little stated CLEAR wants to educate the community; discuss planning; & create/coordinate plans for floods or severe weather emergencies. Ms. Little stated CLEAR wants to sustain the region's resources and its open spaces and wants to provide tools to help the region engage in a strategic plan development.

Mr. Courtnage with Fredericksburg Clean & Green commission stated subcommittees are in place to do the following 3 items: clean, green, & sustain. Mr. Courtnage stated the clean component deals with litter reduction and has implemented litter reduction sites throughout the city. Some of the focal improvements include the annual "butts are litter too" campaign; the street and river clean-

up dates; & the doggy waste station sites now in place in the City. Mr. Courtnage stated that just last year there were 72,000 doggy waste station bags utilized by the region's citizens.

Mr. Courtnage stated the green component includes live tree planting and to date, nearly 6,000 new trees have been planted in the City since 2008. The sustainability component deals with solar energy usage, energy efficiency programs, recycling & composting. Mr. Courtnage stated city residents who have implemented some of these alternatives could receive reduced property taxes; as well as programs available for becoming more sustainable being offered to the residents with low-income status.

Mr. Courtnage stated the October 11<sup>th</sup> forum resulted in over 50 stakeholders participating to discuss regional collaborations for long-term solutions to solid waste management. Technology beyond landfills was addressed. The need for public education to alternatives was discussed. Mr. Courtnage relayed break-out sessions on environment/economic benefits for recycling; evaluating the success of new technologies; how to get the schools/restaurants involved on better food waste technology alternatives; & composting opportunities available in the region.

Mr. Courtnage relayed that composting is a natural biological process that breaks down organic matter into simpler materials. Composting also diverts waste by having fewer landfills needed and ultimately saves money over time. Mr. Courtnage stated composting produces a beneficial product that enriches the soil, helps to retain the soil's moisture, suppresses plant disease, and reduces the need for chemical fertilizers.

Mr. Courtnage stated that regionally there are two composting sites in place. One is at the Stafford Regional Landfill site and the other is at the Livingston Compost facility in Spotsylvania County. Mr. Courtnage stated that composting operations state-wide have been researched and involve programs that include some/all of the following: drop-off programs; curbside programs; roll cart programs; etc.

Mr. Courtnage stated the goal regionally is to keep materials out of landfills & to reduce the amount of waste products flowing into a landfill to prolong cell life. Mr. Courtnage stated the goal for the region is to be at a 50% recycling rate (currently we are at a 30-40% recycling rate).

Mr. Courtnage stated that moving forward GWRC and local jurisdictional support will be strived for and there will be another community forum scheduled in mid-2018 to discuss options beyond landfilling and to expand on the curbside collection programs in use in other areas of Virginia. Mr. Courtnage asked that localities consider placing this item on an upcoming BOS/City Council agenda so more education and information can be provided to citizens.

b.) Rappahannock Health Community Advisory Council Update – Mr. Phil Brown, Ms. Donna Krauss & Ms. Jane Yaun

An open presentation was given to GWRC several months ago and this is an update on to what is ongoing. There are 4 considerations in improving health and well-being for everyone that includes: socioeconomic factors, physical environment, health behaviors & clinical care. Mr. Brown stated that even though a lot of work needs to continue; that to date, a lot of good work is being done which provides overall benefits to the community. Mr. Brown stated that GWRC is a member of the Rappahannock Healthy Community Advisory Council and the advisory council's roles are as follows:

to identify the priority health & social needs for the region  
by comparing existing community assessments

to solicit input from stakeholders on the key health & social  
concerns for focused improvement efforts

to work in partnerships with other community groups to  
develop goals, strategies & tactics in addressing a focused  
community improvement effort

to serve as an advocate to the region for people affected  
by health & social concerns

to serve as a communication liaison by increasing  
awareness of the health/social issues the region faces

to provide support & insight to groups working on  
community initiatives

to promote partnerships/collaboration that will improve  
the health & social concerns in the region

to support the financial sustainability of community  
improvement efforts for the region

Mr. Brown stated a “Live well” case study comparison that was completed in San Diego in 2010 showed 3 goals & these are to build better health choices; live safely; & thrive. In order to be successful, all three resources need to be connected together. This region is not at this level of attainment yet but is continuing to improve in its efforts to attain these goals.

Ms. Krauss advised that efforts to date include having established work groups in place that deal with prevention, harm reduction & treatment. Ms. Krauss stated the accomplishments to date within the region include the following:

Establishment of 4 permanent medication collection bins

Providing Narcan to school resource officers

Having local sheriff's departments being trained in REVIVE  
(Caroline County Sheriff's Department just completed the course)

Hosted 5 town halls public education forums and more than 500 people from Spotsylvania attended & more than 3,000 viewed the presentation on-line

Approximately 200 community members have been trained through REVIVE

Mary Washington Healthcare hosted departmental training on substance abuse & prescribing practices and are now reviewing their entire pain management protocols

Spotsylvania County school nurses received presentation from Sheriff's department on opioids

King George High School provided training for teachers on opioid usage

Educational training has been developed to educate key groups on opiates and its addiction

Ms. Krauss stated that the journey is ongoing and will take a long time to fully complete and implement; however, efforts to date from the work groups that are in place are as follows:

Prevention Initiatives (social norms campaign & photoshoot)

Provider (physician to physician campaigns & pain management policy/procedures review)

Education (school surveys distributed, school board outreach,

Dea's operation prevention & regional resource guide developed

that lists contacts of all regional providers where help can be obtained)

Ms. Yaun with the Rappahannock Area Community Services Board stated that efforts to date include Impact – Prevention/Harm reduction seminars being conducted throughout the region. Currently, 14 REVIVE training sessions have been held since July 2017. REVIVE are sessions that educates participants about the opioid crisis and instructs individuals on how to administer Narcan. To date, 155 individuals have been trained in Narcan usage and early intervention services for exposed infants have been provided. Ms. Yaun stated 54 lives have been touched and remain in treatment for medication assistance treatments since September, 2017. Ms. Yaun stated the funding is currently provided through federal grants which will expire in April and RACSB is hopeful the grant will be renewed so the progress can continue. Treatment involves generational components and is multi-faceted but currently 55 have asked for treatment and 25 have stayed with the treatment program.

Mr. Brown stated the advisory council has met three times to date. The first meeting was to launch the advisory council whereby the council agreed on its purpose, structure and bylaws. The second meeting provided counseling to the work groups, adopted the bylaws, reviewed the progress of the opioid work groups & discussed the issue of babies being exposed. The third meeting provided feedback on the suicide prevention summit, reviewed the progress of the opioid work groups & discussed VDH health needs and assessment.

Mr. Brown advised that the suicide prevention professional workshop was held and involved 40 people in order to implement. There have been 100 people who have attended a town hall meeting on suicide prevention to date.

In 2018, the RHCAC focus is to determine how to promote the Council and the work it completes to the community. This will be done by looking for ways for the Council to increase public awareness, provide assistance in removing barriers, & help secure resources for community health improvement endeavors.

The Council will be identifying strategies that will have specific impacts to community concerns. Outreach will be made to councils, schools & public safety officials. A Social media campaign will be developed that will be taken into the schools and other prevention groups. Each jurisdiction will be providing help so the determination of key health and well-being indicators can be utilized and measured over time.

c.) Appointment of Rappahannock Health Community Advisory Council – Mr. Tim Ware

Mr. Ware advised that currently a new appointment needs to be made from the Commission for a committee member to serve on the Rappahannock Health Community Advisory Council. The meetings are held either monthly/quarterly and the first meeting will be Wednesday, January 24<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 – 5:30 p.m.

Ms. Bohmke expressed interest in serving in this capacity. There was unanimous consent from the commission members to appoint Ms. Bohmke to serve accordingly.

Ms. Bohmke asked if an alternate representative should also be appointed. At this time, no alternate recommendations were given and if an alternate is needed Ms. Bohmke will contact commission members to have someone preside if needed.

d.) Approval of GWRC Resolution No. 18-08, Authorizing Execution of Agreement with the Virginia Department of Rail & Public Transportation –Ms. Diana Utz

Ms. Diana Utz with GWRideConnect advised that Resolution No. 18-08 is asking for endorsement of an 80/20 match grant from DRPT for the purpose of funding the region's ridesharing program. Ms. Utz advised the grant includes a 3% increase in local funding from the Commission. Ms. Utz stated the grant includes eleven work components. Ms. Utz stated the ride share program includes vanpool services for the van-start program, the Advantage self-insurance pool, vanpool express match, vanpool alliance and vanpool connections webpage. Ms. Utz relayed there are currently 350 existing vanpools registered in the GWRideconnect's data base that transports 4,200 commuters on a daily basis. Ms. Utz advised that more than 85,000 citizens received rideshare assistance in FY2017.

Upon motion by Mr. Withers and seconded by Ms. Bohmke, with all concurring, Resolution No. 18-08 was adopted by the George Washington Regional Commission at its January 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting.

e.) Approval of GWRC Resolution No. 18-09, Approving the Amended Slate of Officers to Serve for remainder of Fiscal Year 2018 – Mr. Tim Ware

Mr. Ware advised that two vacancies now need to be filled for First Vice Chairperson (Stafford County) and Second Vice Chairperson (Spotsylvania County) for the remainder of FY2018.

Upon motion by Mr. Black and seconded by Ms. Brabo, with all concurring, Resolution No. 18-09 was adopted by the George Washington Regional Commission at its January 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting to fill the following two vacancies as follows:

First Vice Chairperson – Ms. Meg Bohmke  
Second Vice Chairperson – Mr. Greg Benton

f.) Appointment to Local Emergency Planning Committee – Mr. Tim Ware

Mr. Ware advised that due to the fact that Mr. Howard is no longer serving on the Commission, a new committee member is needed to serve on the hazardous waste committee. Mr. Ware advised this committee meets quarterly during the work day. Mr. Ware stated the meetings are generally held at GWRC and usually occur from 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

Upon motion by Mr. Black and seconded by Ms. Bohmke, with all concurring, Ms. Nancy Long was appointed to serve on the Local Emergency Planning Commission.

g.) Approval of GWRC Resolution No. 18-10, Authorizing Execution of Agreement with Virginia Department of Rail & Public Transportation – Mr. Paul Agnello

Mr. Agnello advised the City of Fredericksburg has expressed interest to FAMPO for the initiation of a Lafayette Boulevard study. Mr. Agnello stated that Resolution No. 18-10, is asking for endorsement for a grant application to be submitted to DRPT for funding of a Lafayette Boulevard study.

Upon motion by Ms. Brabo and seconded by Mr. Black, with all concurring, Resolution No. 18-10 was adopted by the George Washington Regional Commission at the January 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting.

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

**ADJOURN GWRC MEETING**–The January 22<sup>nd</sup> GWRC meeting was adjourned at 7:17 p.m. The next meeting will be held on February 26, 2018.

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