

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

June 24, 2020  
GWRC Conference Room

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chair, Tim McLaughlin, **County of Spotsylvania**; Matt Kelly & Billy Withers, **City of Fredericksburg**; Jeff Black, **Caroline County**; Cathy Binder, **King George County**; David Ross-Alternate, **Spotsylvania County** & Meg Bohmke & Tom Coen (In at 6:10 p.m.), **Stafford County**

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Caroline County: Nancy Long; King George County: Annie Cupka; & Spotsylvania County: Chris Yakabouski

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Paul Agnello, Spotsylvania County & Jason Towery, Stafford County

**STAFF:** Linda Millsaps; Leigh Anderson, Jordan Chandler, Michele Dooling, Kate Gibson, Adam Hager, Matthew Lehane & Jennifer Morgan

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mr. Tim McLaughlin called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. with a quorum present; which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. Gibson read the Declaration in regard to the June 24<sup>th</sup> meeting being held in a virtual and remote setting.

*\*\* Due to the nature of the Declaration of a State of Emergency due to Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) pursuant to Code 2.2-3708.2, this meeting is to be held by electronic communications, via the web platform GoToMeeting. The catastrophic nature of this declared emergency makes it impossible and unsafe to assemble a quorum in a single location and the purpose of this meeting is to discuss or transact the business statutorily required or necessary to continue operations of the public body.*

Mr. McLaughlin stated that for Spotsylvania County, for the upcoming July meetings, the decision has been made to conduct these meetings live versus the electronic/virtual meeting arrangements that have been implemented over the last several months. Mr. McLaughlin suggested that GWRC/FAMPO consider implementing the same meeting set-up arrangements.

**APPROVAL OF GWRC MEETING AGENDA - Meeting June 24, 2020**

Upon motion made by Mr. Kelly & seconded by Mr. Withers, with all concurring, the June 24<sup>th</sup> GWRC meeting agenda was approved as submitted.

**APPROVAL OF GWRC MEETING MINUTES – June 15, 2020 - (Action Item)**

Upon motion made by Mr. Black and seconded by Mr. Kelly, with Mr. Ross abstaining and all other members concurring, the minutes from the June 15<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved as submitted, with the recommendation from Ms. Bohmke that revisions be made to the comments from Ms. Jamie Jackson with FRED. Ms. Bohmke stated Ms. Jackson advised that FRED was in receipt of

additional federal funding as the result of the CARES Act in the amount of \$7m and it was noted that FRED's operating budget/requests also equated to \$7m.

**PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT** – None

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**a.) FY21 GWRC Budget Approval (Action Item)**– Dr. Linda Millsaps

**i. Draft FY21 Budget**

Dr. Millsaps advised the budget included in tonight's agenda packet is Version 3 and includes all items passed by the FAMPO board at the June 22<sup>nd</sup> FAMPO Policy Committee meeting. Dr. Millsaps stated the FAMPO UPWP now has been revised to include seven full-time FAMPO positions.

**ii. Changes to FY21 GWRC Budget from June 15,2020 Draft**

Dr. Millsaps advised the changes in the FY21 GWRC budget are included in the red-lined version in tonight's agenda packet. Dr. Millsaps stated the red-lined items are reflective of the changes requested by FAMPO at the June 22<sup>nd</sup> FAMPO meeting.

**iii. Draft FY21 FAMPO UPWP**

Dr. Millsaps advised the draft FY21 FAMPO UPWP requires no action from GWRC and is included in tonight's agenda packet for informational purposes only. Mr. Ross asked that revisions be made on page 23 of the UPWP draft which is the \$75,000 funding allocation to the project in Stafford County on Route 610 and to the Stars Study in Spotsylvania County at Massaponax. Mr. Ross stated both of these projects will not affect GWRC as they are funded by VDOT. Dr. Millsaps stated staff would be able to comply with Mr. Ross' request and update the FY21 GWRC budget accordingly.

Ms. Bohmke asked if the draft budget figures includes the same amounts that localities paid for FY2020. Dr. Millsaps concurred that the locality fees received/approved for FY2020 were the same dollar amounts that were used for the budget calculations for FY2021 and no increases were requested. Ms. Bohmke stated she wanted to ensure she understands in that this also means that Spotsylvania County approved a \$20,000 decrease in funding allocated to GWRC again for the FY2021 budget year. Mr. McLaughlin concurred that Spotsylvania County has approved funding to GWRC at the same rate as the FY20 budgeted allocations which do result in a \$20,000 decrease in what GWRC previously received. Mr. McLaughlin stated that Spotsylvania County gives plenty to GWRC and they recommend that all other localities reduce the allocations to GWRC as well. Ms. Bohmke stated that she does not want to hold up approval of the budget process so she will support the motion for approval of the budget that has been amended per request from the FAMPO Policy Committee meeting on Monday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>. However, Ms. Bohmke stated she does not think this is a good regional business practice for four localities to pay their full dues and for one locality to approve funding that results in a \$20,000 funding decrease to GWRC.

Upon final motion by Mr. Ross and seconded by Ms. Bohmke, with all GWRC members concurring, the Draft FY21 Budget was adopted by GWRC at the June 24<sup>th</sup> meeting. (The final motion includes approval of the document with the updates being made tonight by Mr. Ross – there were also two other motions made & seconded prior to Mr. Ross' request & Ms. Bohmke's clarification question on the dues allocations but the motion and second above does reflect the final motion).

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

Dr. Millsaps advised that conversation has occurred with Mr. Black in regard to discussion of formation of a regional broadband committee. Dr. Millsaps stated GWRC will not meet in the month of July; however, the Executive Committee will need to meet in July for final approval of the Smart Scale projects approved for consideration in Round 4 of this year's Smart Scale process. Dr. Millsaps asked if the Executive Committee wanted to also initiate the process for establishing the regional broadband committee at the same time the Executive Committee meets for final approval on the Smart Scale projects. Mr. McLaughlin asked Mr. Black to contact him prior to the July meeting as Microsoft has presented options to Spotsylvania County in regard to broadband issues in the rural area of the county and this information could possibly also resolve some of Mr. Black's concerns on a region-wide basis. Dr. Millsaps asked for members to provide updates to any member email addresses – i.e. either concur what we have on file is still correct; add an additional email address contact; etc. so that all information can be forwarded to commission members in a timely manner prior to July special called meeting date.

Mr. McLaughlin asked for clarification on who comprises membership on the GWRC Executive Committee. Dr. Millsaps stated the Executive Committee is comprised of GWRC's officers and includes one elected official from each jurisdiction representing the committee. Dr. Millsaps stated the GWRC Executive Committee members are currently the following: City of Fredericksburg – Matt Kelly; County of Caroline – Jeff Black; County of King George – Cathy Binder; County of Spotsylvania – Tim McLaughlin; & County of Stafford – Meg Bohmke.

Mr. Hager advised that final approval will be needed by GWRC Executive Committee as well in July in regard to approval of the four Smart Scale projects that will be submitted for final consideration by the CTB. Mr. Hager stated five projects have been submitted for consideration in the pre-approval process and all five have been endorsed to move forward. However, Mr. Hager advised that GWRC can only submit four of the five projects for final submission so one of the projects would need to be removed. Mr. Hager relayed four of the five projects are Stafford County projects and one project is a King George County project. Mr. Hager stated the FAMPO Technical Committee will meet on July 6<sup>th</sup> and make recommendation to GWRC on the final four projects to move forward. Mr. Hager advised the final Smart Scale project submission time frame is August 3<sup>rd</sup> and neither the GWRC Board and/or the FAMPO Board will meet again prior to August 3<sup>rd</sup> which is the result of a special called meeting to be held in July. Mr. Hager relayed the FAMPO Technical Committee, who will be working with Stafford County staff, will make a recommendation to submit the three highest ranked Stafford County projects and then remove the one that is least likely to be approved by the CTB. The fourth project to be submitted will be the project request made from King George County. Mr. Hager relayed the special called July FAMPO meeting will be held at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, July 20<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Binder advised that she could not attend a live meeting on July 20<sup>th</sup>; however, could attend via phone call-in or virtual/electronic set-up. Mr. McLaughlin stated

electronic special-called GWRC Executive Committee meeting will be held on Monday July 20<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m.

Mr. Withers expressed his appreciation to Dr. Millsaps and to GWRC/FAMPO staff for the work that gets accomplished which is of benefit to the region. Mr. Withers relayed that this will be his last GWRC/FAMPO meeting as a new representative from the City of Fredericksburg will be serving beginning July 1<sup>st</sup>. Dr. Millsaps expressed her thanks to Mr. Withers' for his service to both GWRC & FAMPO and his support for regional progress.

**ADJOURN GWRC MEETING** – The June 24<sup>th</sup> special called GWRC meeting was adjourned at 6:35 p.m. The next regularly scheduled GWRC meeting will be held at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, August 17, 2020. An Executive Committee meeting will be held on Monday, July 20<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. and will be a meeting held via virtual/electronic setting.

Respectfully Submitted, Dr. Linda Millsaps, Executive Director  
(Draft Minutes prepared by JoAnna Roberson)