

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

November 16, 2020
GWRC Conference Room

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair, Cathy Binder (in-person), **County of King George;** Jason Graham (virtually) & Matt Kelly (in-person), **City of Fredericksburg;** Jeff Black (in-person), **Caroline County;** Annie Cupka (in-person), **King George County;** Tim McLaughlin (in-person) & David Ross (Alternate, virtually, in at 6:10), **Spotsylvania County** & Meg Bohmke (in-person) & Tom Coen (virtually), **Stafford County**

MEMBERS ABSENT: Nancy Long, Caroline County & Chris Yakabouski, Spotsylvania County

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE (Virtually): Denise Nelson, Berkley Group; Eric Gregory, Hefty Wiley & Gore; Paul Agnello, Spotsylvania County; Alex Owsiak, Stafford County; Gerald Anderson, League of Women Voters; Meghann Cotter, Micah Ecumenical Ministries; & Ted Schubel, WFVA Radio

STAFF (In-Person): Linda Millsaps, Kate Gibson, Ian Ollis

STAFF (Virtually): Leigh Anderson, Kari Barber, Jordan Chandler, Michele Dooling, Adam Hager, Mohammad Khan, Matthew Lehane, & Samantha Shoukas

CALL TO ORDER: Ms. Binder called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. with a quorum present, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. Binder asked that Dr. Millsaps introduce Mr. Ian Ollis as the newly hired FAMPO staff member who started work with GWRC on November 1st. Dr. Millsaps introduced Ian and then Ian gave a brief presentation to the commission on his background.

APPROVAL OF GWRC MEETING AGENDA - Meeting November 16, 2020

Upon motion made by Mr. Kelly & seconded by Ms. Bohmke, with all concurring, the November 16th GWRC meeting agenda was approved as submitted.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF OCTOBER 19, 2020 GWRC MEETING (Action Item)

Ms. Bohmke advised there was one typographical error in the October 19th minutes. As this was a typographical error only and not content-related error, it was advised staff would amend accordingly.

Upon motion by Ms. Bohmke and seconded by Mr. Kelly, and all others concurring, the October 19th GWRC minutes were approved as submitted with typographical error to be made after conclusion of tonight's meeting.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT: None

FINANCIAL REPORT: Michele Dooling, Director of Finance & Personnel

a.) Monthly Financial Report (October 2020)

Ms. Dooling provided updates to the Monthly Financial Report for October, 2020. Ms. Dooling advised the current balance sheet; the income statements; the dashboard; & the cash flow statements are included in tonight's agenda packet. There were no questions asked of Ms. Dooling from the GWRC committee members on any of the above-referenced reports.

a.) Audit Update

Ms. Dooling advised auditors spent one day in the office working with her on financial statements, questions, follow-up, etc. Ms. Dooling stated that a final half-day office visit with her and the auditor will occur after the Thanksgiving holiday which will be the final wrap-up meeting required. Ms. Dooling relayed a full report from the audit review will be presented at the upcoming January 25th, 2021 GWRC meeting.

PRESENTATIONS:

a.) Environmental Strategic Plan – Denise Nelson, Berkley Group

i. Presentation

Ms. Denise Nelson with the Berkley Group gave a final presentation after a year-long process of a culmination of a regional GWRC Environmental Strategic Plan. Ms. Nelson relayed the process included stormwater managers, plan developers, and locality representation with expertise on environmental issues.

ii. Resolution 21-06: Adopting GWRC 2020 Environmental Strategic Plan (Action Item)

Upon motion by Mr. Kelly and seconded by Ms. Cupka, with Mr. McLaughlin and Mr. Ross voting no and all others concurring, Resolution 21-06 was adopted by the George Washington Regional Commission at its November 16th meeting.

b.) 2050 Rural Long-Range Transportation Plan – Kari Barber, FAMPO

i. Presentation

Ms. Barber advised the completed 2050 Rural Long-Range Transportation Plan is included in tonight's agenda packet for member review. Ms. Barber relayed the Rural Long-Range plan includes details on population/employment data for the counties of Caroline and King George which are the two rural localities within the GWRC region.

Ms. Cupka noted however, the final plan that will be voted on tonight does not coincide with the plan submitted to GWRC members for review prior to tonight's meeting. Ms. Cupka relayed the content of the plan is current and correct; however, the maps included in the packet are not the most updated version and she just wanted this to be noted before a vote was taken.

Ms. Gibson advised the finalized map amendments were received on Friday which was after the GWRC agenda packet had been sent out. Ms. Gibson relayed the finalized and amended version is available for review tonight on the overhead and this will be what GWRC votes on. Ms. Gibson stated a revised 2050 Rural Long-Range Transportation Plan with all map updates will be forwarded to commission members after conclusion of tonight's meeting.

ii. Resolution 21-8: Adopting 2050 Rural Long-Range Transportation Plan (Action Item)

Upon motion by Ms. Cupka and seconded by Mr. Black, with all members unanimously concurring, Resolution 21-8 was adopted by the George Washington Regional Commission at its November 16th meeting.

c.) Continuum of Care Update – Samantha Shoukas, CoC

Ms. Shoukas advised the Fredericksburg Continuum of Care is not an individual organization and the coordination planning aspect and management side is overseen by GWRC. Ms. Shoukas relayed that there are 60 member organizations who work collectively within the Fredericksburg region to provide services to the homeless environment within Planning District 16.

i. Funding Summary

Ms. Shoukas advised that as a result of COVID-19, the CARES Act awarded \$2.5m to the CoC designated to the homeless population in the region.

Ms. Shoukas stated the CoC focused first on the un-sheltered population to get them off of the streets and into temporary hotels. Ms. Shoukas advised the CARES Act funding allowed for enough funding for hotel expenses through June of 2021.

Ms. Shoukas relayed the “Keys For Christmas” program is also established to keep those previously homeless sheltered into permanent housing by the end of the year. Ms. Shoukas stated the goal is to find affordable housing by working with local land owners who will be offered financial incentives for participating in providing housing units that will get citizens out of hotels and into permanent dwellings. Ms. Shoukas stated the goal is to house 95 households in 90 days. To date, 39 have been housed in 60 days.

OLD BUSINESS:

a.) Resolution 21-09: Adopting GWRC Housing Affordability Study and Action Plan (Action Item) – Dr. Linda Millsaps

Dr. Millsaps advised the GWRC Housing Affordability study and Action Plan was presented to GWRC at the October meeting. Dr. Millsaps advised the final study and action plan has been completed by the consultants and is included in tonight's agenda packet.

Upon motion by Mr. Kelly and seconded by Ms. Cupka, with Mr. McLaughlin and Mr. Ross voting no and all other members concurring, Resolution 21-09 was adopted by the George Washington Regional Commission at its November 16th meeting.

b.) Fund Balance and Legislative Services Discussion – Dr. Linda Millsaps

Dr. Millsaps advised this item is a follow-up on questions members presented at the October GWRC meeting.

i. Resolution 21-10: Approving GWRC FY22 Fund Balance and Legislative Services Amounts (Action Item)

There was unanimous recommendation from the commission members to table approval of Resolution 21-10 in approving GWRC FY22 Fund Balances until the January 25th meeting.

However, upon motion by Mr. Kelly and seconded by Mr. Black with all members unanimously concurring, effective today and continuing throughout the remainder of FY2021, fees being currently paid for legislative services would be suspended.

c.) Local Funding Discussion – Dr. Linda Millsaps

Dr. Millsaps advised the local funding discussion is a follow-up discussion item from previous meetings. Dr. Millsaps relayed that Mr. Eric Gregory who is the legal representative for GWRC is also on the line tonight to answer additional questions.

i. GWRC Charter

Dr. Millsaps advised that changes to the current local funding per capita is incorporated into the GWRC Charter and not the GWRC By-laws. Mr. Gregory recommended that all GWRC members review the Regional Cooperation Act. Mr. Gregory relayed the Regional Cooperation Act will help members to understand the purpose of a PDC; to determine what a PDC does; to establish the purpose of a Commission; the authority the Commission has; etc.

Ms. Binder requested that GWRC staff forward each commission member a copy of the Regional Cooperation Act that will allow elected GWRC members to review it with of their respective boards to determine whether the charter should be updated.

NEW BUSINESS:

a.) Executive Director’s Report – Dr. Linda Millsaps

i. Grants Update

ii. Staffing Update

Dr. Millsaps advised that after the selection of Mr. Ollis as the FAMPO Director of Transportation, all staffing positions have now been filled. Dr. Millsaps stated that after the first of the year an existing part-time FAMPO position has been approved and budgeted to move into a full-time position.

MEMBER COMMENTS:

Mr. Black asked for follow-up on the regional broadband issue. Dr. Millsaps stated the issue has been presented to all CAO's & the City Manager and that currently Spotsylvania/Stafford counties have provided a staff contact representative to serve on the regional broad-band committee. However, Dr. Millsaps advised the City of Fredericksburg and the Counties of Caroline/King George have not provided a staff contact representative to date and they do not feel at this time they cannot commit to having a staff member serve on a regional broad-band committee. Dr. Millsaps stated the broad-band committee meetings are currently planned to be held at GWRC during the work day; however, staff is willing to conduct meetings in the early evening if this time frame better accommodates locality representation. Each locality member was asked to re-present this topic to the respective county officials to see if representation can be provided.

Ms. Bohmke stated she has a concern about the lengthy GWRC agenda items and asked that staff consider not including multiple presentations and/or agenda items to a designated meeting. Ms. Bohmke asked for staff consideration in keeping the agenda to items that can be reviewed, discussed & endorsed in an hour meeting time frame.

Mr. Black concurred and also asked that consideration be given to placing items of higher priority at the beginning of the meeting agendas and have presentations, discussion items, updates, etc. be placed at the end of the agenda.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Included in November 16th agenda packet for member review – required no action from the committee.

ADJOURN GWRC MEETING – The November 16th George Washington Regional Commission meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m. The next scheduled GWRC meeting will be held on January 25th, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

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