

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

January 24, 2022
GWRC Conference Room

MEMBERS PRESENT: Attending In-Person: **Chair**, Jeff Black, **Caroline County**; Jason Graham & Matt Kelly, **City of Fredericksburg**; Jeff Sili, **Caroline County**; Cathy Binder & Annie Cupka, **King George County**; Lori Hayes (Alternate) & Chris Yakabouski, **Spotsylvania County**; Meg Bohmke & Darrell English, **Stafford County**

MEMBERS ABSENT: Tim McLaughlin, Spotsylvania County

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: (Attending In-Person): Jonathan Gerlach, Alternate, City of Fredericksburg City Council; Monica Gary & Crystal Vanuch (Alternate), Stafford County Board of Supervisors; Jamie Jackson, FRED; Susan Gardner & Stephen Haynes, VDOT; S.C. Harperbery; Paul Milde & Adam Simonoff, Citizens; (Attending Virtually): Rodney White, Spotsylvania County; Kimball Payne & Jack Tuttle, Berkley Group; & Mary Parnell, Exodus Family Institute

STAFF: (Attending In-Person): Chip Boyles, Michele Dooling, Kate Gibson, Anne Marie Kluempfen, & Leigh Anderson, Matthew LeHane, Sam Shoukas; (Attending Virtually):

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

APPROVAL OF GWRC MEETING AGENDA – Meeting January 24, 2022

Upon motion made by Mr. Kelly and seconded by Ms. Bohmke, with all concurring, the January 24th GWRC meeting agenda was approved as submitted

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

a.) November 22, 2021 GWRC Meeting (Action Item)

Upon motion by Ms. Bohmke and seconded by Mr. Graham, with all other members concurring, the minutes of the November 22nd meeting were approved as amended with one wording correction update on page 5 to be made after conclusion of tonight's GWRC meeting.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT:

Mr. Boyles advised staff had received notification prior to tonight's meeting with a citizen request for brief presentation to be given to GWRC. Mr. Boyles advised he would now turn this public involvement time over to Mr. Adam Simonoff who is a citizen from King George County.

Mr. Simonoff presented a proposal for consideration by GWRC for road improvements at US301 in King George County. Mr. Simonoff stated the new Governor Nice Bridge doubles the traffic

capacity; however, the two US301 intersections at Roseland Road and Barnesfield Road remain the same. Mr. Simonoff stated drivers heading north on US301 have to yield indefinitely to oncoming traffic from the new bridge. Mr. Simonoff stated his proposal contains the following recommendation: to replace the existing intersections with a new left-hand exit ramp on US301 North that crosses over US301 South. This proposal will reduce the risks of collision and congestion and also includes economic development opportunities with tourism by connecting the secondary roads at Barnesfield Park to the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail that includes the Dahlgren Railroad Heritage Trail. Mr. Simonoff expressed his appreciation for being allowed to present his transportation improvement proposal to GWRC for consideration.

INTRODUCTIONS And WELCOME

a. GWRC Board Members

Mr. Boyles advised the GWRC Commission has the following new board member representatives and they are as follows: Darrell English from Stafford County; and Alternates: Jonathan Gerlach, City of Fredericksburg; Lori Hayes, Spotsylvania County; and Crystal Vanuch and Pamela Yeung, Stafford County.

b. GWRC Staff

Mr. Boyles advised FAMPO has added a new staff member, Becky Golden, who comes with over 33 years of transportation expertise and will serve as the FAMPO Transportation Planning Manager.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

- a.) Monthly Financial Report (November 2021) – Michele Dooling**
- b.) Monthly Financial Report (December, 2021) – Michele Dooling**
- c.) Year-to-Date Financial Report (June-December, 2021) – Michele Dooling**

Ms. Dooling advised all financial reports to include: Balance Sheet, Agency-wide Income Statement, Dashboard & Cash Flow statement for the months of November, 2021; December 2021; and Year-to-Date Financial reports for June-December, 2021 are included in tonight's agenda packet. There were no questions asked of Ms. Dooling from the GWRC committee members.

PRESENTATIONS: None

OLD BUSINESS:

- a.) GWRC Strategic Plan – Chip Boyles, GWRC; & Kimball Payne & Jack Tuttle, The Berkley Group**

Mr. Boyles advised staff and stakeholders began work with the Berkley Group in June of 2021 for the purpose of revising GWRC's existing strategic plan. The revised plan will be for FY2022-2027 and has been reviewed by staff, localities, and stakeholders. Mr. Boyles stated the draft plan was submitted two months ago to GWRC members for review and there have been no changes made to the plan previously submitted. Mr. Boyles stated staff is asking for a public hearing to be held at tonight's meeting and Resolution 22-10 for adoption of the Strategic Plan to occur after the conclusion of tonight's public hearing.

i. Public Hearing on GWRC Strategic Plan

A request for anyone in attendance, either attending in-person and/or attending virtually to express any comments in regard to the Draft FY2022-2027 GWRC Strategic Plan was requested by Chair, Mr. Black. There were no comments provided resulting in the Public Hearing being closed.

ii. Resolution 22-10: GWRC Strategic Plan (Action Item)

Upon motion by Mr. Kelly and seconded by Ms. Bohmke with unanimous consent from GWRC members in attendance, Resolution 22-10 for adoption of the revised GWRC Strategic Plan was granted at the January 24th GWRC meeting.

b.) George Washington Region Resilience Plan – Kate Gibson

Ms. Gibson advised this is the third time the George Washington Region's Resilience Plan has appeared on a GWRC meeting agenda. Ms. Gibson stated that included in tonight's agenda packet is an additional Community Flood Preparedness Fund Fact Sheet. Ms. Gibson advised the Plan is designed to create a regional plan that will be in compliance for projects submitted either on a regional basis and/or by individual localities from the Virginia Community Flood Preparedness funding allocations. Ms. Gibson advised the Plan has been approved by the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). Ms. Gibson stated GWRC staff has confirmed the following with DCR:

- 1) the GWRC Regional Plan does not preempt any local project priorities
- 2) the GWRC Regional Plan would be used as a vehicle to support local efforts
- 3) the localities may also submit local plans by using the regional plan as reference only and may be appended with locality-specific elements

Ms. Gibson stated there is \$40m available in Round 3 of the grant application process. Ms. Gibson relayed currently there is one project being prepared for submission from Stafford County. Ms. Gibson advised that without a Regional Resilience Plan adopted, project applications could still qualify for funding for planning and studies; however, could not qualify for funding for

implementation without a regional plan in place. Ms. Gibson stated the draft plan has been reviewed by staff, locality representatives, County Administrators, City Manager, and Boards of Supervisors and City Council and no previous comments have been provided to staff.

There was new discussion; new regional concerns/issues; and new Plan questions/observations expressed at tonight's meeting by GWRC members. As the plan for funding options for Round 3 is in April, Ms. Gibson stated the plan presented tonight did not have to be endorsed tonight. It was recommended from Mr. Black, GWRC Chair, that members/localities provide all comments to GWRC staff for follow-up at the upcoming February GWRC meeting.

- i. Community Flood Preparedness Fund Fact Sheet**
- ii. Resolution 22-06: Adopting the George Washington Region Resilience Plan (Action Item)**

Upon motion by Ms. Bohmke and seconded by Mr. Yakabouski, with all members concurring for Resolution 22-06: Adoption of the George Washington Resilience Plan to be tabled for action at the upcoming February GWRC meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a.) FY23 DRPT Grants for GWRideConnect– Kate Gibson**

Ms. Gibson advised it is time for GWRC staff to submit the FY23 DRPT grants for funding allocations. Ms. Gibson relayed two of the three grants which are the grants for the GWRideConnect programs require local matches. Ms. Gibson stated the local match being requested has not changed from the match amounts requested last year.

- i. Resolution 22-11: Match Commitment for CAP Operating Assistance Grant (Action Item)**

Upon motion made by Mr. Graham and seconded by Ms. Bohmke, with all GWRC members concurring, Resolution 22-11 for Match Commitment for Commuter Assistance Program (CAP) Operating Assistant Grant for the GWRideConnect program was adopted at the January 24th GWRC meeting.

ii. Resolution 22-12: Match Commitment for Vanpool Project Grant (Action Item)

Upon motion made by Ms. Bohmke and seconded by Mr. Kelly, with all GWRC members concurring, Resolution 22-12 for Match Commitment for Vanpool Project Grant for GWRideConnect program was adopted at the January 24th GWRC meeting.

b.) Resolution 22-13: GWRC FOIA Officer Designation (Action Item) – Chip Boyles

Resolution 22-13 is for endorsement of Chip Boyles to serve as the FOIA Officer designee for GWRC. Upon motion by Ms. Bohmke and seconded by Mr. Kelly, with all members concurring, Resolution 22-13 was adopted by GWRC at the January 24th meeting.

c.) GWRC FY22 Meeting Schedule – Chip Boyles

Mr. Boyles advised the GWRC FY22 Meeting schedule is included in tonight's packet and that meeting dates have been confirmed with holiday schedules, Virginia Association of Counties and Virginia Municipal League meeting dates, etc. and there do not appear to be any conflicts as of now.

d.) Executive Director's Report – Chip Boyles

i. Staffing Updates

Mr. Boyles advised GWRC still has two vacant staffing positions we are looking to fill. One is the Title VI Coordinator who would be working for FAMPO and the other is the GoVirginia Economic Development Coordinator. Mr. Boyles asked if GWRC members have any referrals for either position to please forward applicants to staff attention.

Program Updates – Due to lateness of tonight's meeting, Mr. Boyles advised the GWRC program updates are included in tonight's agenda packet and he will not go through each program at tonight's meeting. Mr. Boyles did advise that Proof of Concept for affordable housing development has been sent to both profit and non-profit agencies with a return date of interest by January 28th. An update of information received will be presented to GWRC at the upcoming February meeting.

Lastly, Mr. Boyles advised the annual Point In Time (PIT) count for identification counts, demographics, etc. for the homeless population within the region will occur on Thursday. Mr. Boyles stated this project has 45 volunteers in place and will be distributing 150 backpacks filled with hygiene items for those homeless citizens who participate in the PIT survey/counts.

CoC, FAMPO, GoVirginia and GWRideConnect – refer to Executive Director’s report included in tonight’s GWRC agenda packet

ENTER CLOSED SESSION (Action Item)

Due to the lateness of tonight’s GWRC meeting and the FAMPO meeting scheduled to immediately follow after conclusion of the GWRC January 24th meeting, the Closed Session discussion was cancelled and will be re-addressed at the upcoming February 28th GWRC meeting. It was decided that the Executive Committee will be meeting over the next several weeks and will bring back recommendations to GWRC at the upcoming February 28th meeting for further discussion and/or endorsement on potential office re-location options.

CLOSED SESSION – Cancelled and re-scheduled for February 28th GWRC meeting

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION (Action Item) – Not applicable – re-scheduled for February 28th GWRC meeting

CORRESPONDENCE: Included in tonight’s agenda packet for board member information and review.

ADJOURN GWRC MEETING – The January 24th George Washington Regional Commission meeting adjourned at 7:22 p.m. The next scheduled GWRC meeting will be held on February 28, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted, Chip Boyles, Executive Director
(Draft Minutes prepared by JoAnna Roberson)