

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE GEORGE WASHINGTON REGIONAL COMMISSION

Monday, September 25, 2023 at 6:00 pm

Location: 406 Princess Anne Street, Fredericksburg, VA 22401, GWRC Board Room

MEMBERS PRESENT: All attending in-person: **Chair** Darrell English – **Stafford County**; Jeff Black – **Caroline County**; Jason Graham (arrived after roll call), Jon Gerlach – **City of Fredericksburg**; Cathy Binder, Annie Cupka – **King George County**; Lori Hayes – **Spotsylvania County**; Meg Bohmke – **Stafford County**.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jeff Sili – **Caroline County**; Chris Yakabouski, Tim McLaughlin (Alternate), David Ross (Alternate) – **Spotsylvania County**; Matt Kelly (Alternate) – **City of Fredericksburg**; Pamela Yeung (Alternate) & Crystal Vanuch (Alternate) – **Stafford County**

STAFF: Attending In-Person: Chip Boyles, Michele Dooling, Kari Eaves, Kate Gibson, Ian Ginger, Meredith Keppel, Sarah Oldaker, Ian Ollis (Virtually), Megan Samples, Sam Shoukas.

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Jamie Jackson, Melody Fowler (virtually) – **FXBGO**; Jason Tickle – **Caroline Habitat for Humanity**; Justin Boynton – **Southall Development Corporation**; Mac Williams (virtually); Paul Agnello (virtually); Rodney (virtually)

CALL TO ORDER: Mr. English called the GWRC meeting to order at 6:00 pm. This was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and then Mr. Boyles took the roll and indicated a quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF GWRC AGENDA: Mr. English asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Black motioned for approval and Ms. Cupka seconded. Mr. Boyles indicated there was one change to the agenda, and that item 8B would need to be moved to 8D due to Jamie Jackson from FXBGO running late from another meeting. Mr. Black amended his motion, and Ms. Cupka seconded the amendment. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA – Mr. English asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda. Ms. Bohmke made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, and Ms. Cupka seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Mr. Boyles presented the August 2023 financial report highlighting the cash on hand, cashflow and revenue. All financial reports are included in the meeting packet and Executive Director's Memo. The Commissioners had no questions.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT: There was not any public involvement or comments.

OLD BUSINESS:

Resolution 24-2, King George County Transportation Alternatives Program Project Support

Ms. Eaves gave a brief presentation on the letter of support needed for King George's TAP project. She indicated the county would need the letter of support from the GWRC to move forward with the application. Commissioners had no questions. Ms. Cupka motioned for approval of Resolution 24-2, Ms. Hayes seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 24-08, FY25 Dues Structure

Mr. Boyles presented the FY25 Dues Structure request, and one update to the presentation from the August meeting. Mr. Boyles indicated that staff has requested presentations to the localities' elected officials and/or staff, including the change in FY25 where GWRC is not asking for money for the Fund Balance line item and the increase in Per Capita Dues. Commissioners had no questions. Mr. English asked for a motion to approve Resolution 24-08. Ms. Bohmke made a motion to approve Resolution 24-08, Mr. Black Seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

MOU with VDH for Septic Repair Program

Mr. Boyles presented the MOU with the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) for the Septic Repair Program. GWRC received notice of a \$300,000 grant from DEQ and a potential separate \$300,000 grant from VDH, and the need for a MOU for the working relationship between GWRC and VDH. Mr. Boyles and Ms. Keppel answered questions from the Commissioners on the septic program. Mr. English asked for a motion to approve the MOU between GWRC and VDH for the Septic Repair Program. Ms. Bohmke made a Motion for approval. Ms. Graham seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

MOU City of Fredericksburg for Outreach Specialist

Mr. Boyles presented the MOU between GWRC and the City of Fredericksburg that was presented at the August 28, 2023, meeting. He indicated the change in the MOU that the City of Fredericksburg was now the sole funder of the position for the first year, with the position being a part of the GWRC. Commissioners asked Mr. Boyles and Ms. Shoukas questions regarding the MOU. The Commissioners had a lengthy discussion regarding the Pros and Cons of the Outreach Specialist position, including concerns of some of the Commissioners with this position being housed at the GWRC as opposed to another partnering organization and if the position is needed regionally. Commissioners expressed a concern of liability of the GWRC and concern for the safety of the outreach worker. Mr. English asked for a Motion. Mr. Graham made a Motion to approve the MOU between the GWRC and City of Fredericksburg for the Outreach Specialist, Mr. Gerlach seconded. The Motion failed with 2 ayes (Mr. Graham and Mr. Gerlach) and 5 nays (Mr. English, Mr. Black, Ms. Binder, Ms. Cupka, Ms. Hayes, and Ms. Bohmke).

GWRC DHCD Annual Funding Agreement

Mr. Boyles presented the Annual Funding Agreement with the Department of Housing and Community Development. Mr. Boyles indicated that the funding was already approved in the FY24 budget, but the contract for the funding needed to be approved by the Commission. Information was given to the Commission that the Virginia Association of Planning District Commissions has put in a request to the Governor for an increase in this funding for FY25. Commissioners did not have any questions. Mr. English asked for a Motion. Ms. Hayes made a motion to approve the DHCD Annual Funding Agreement, Ms. Hayes seconded. The Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 24-07, Amendment to GWRC Caroline County Habitat Housing Development

Mr. Boyles presented Resolution 24-07 for a contract amendment on the Caroline County Habitat Housing Development to allow for a no cost extension of a year for the homes to be completed. Mr. Boyles indicated that this extension had been approved at the state level, and this Resolution would make the extension official in the contract. The Commissioners did not have any questions. Mr. English asked for a Motion. Mr. Black made a Motion to approve Resolution 24-07, Ms. Cupka seconded. The Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 24-6, Allocating Vanpool Alliance CARES Act Section 5307 for Fredericksburg Area Transit

Jamie Jackson from FXBGO presented the request to allocate previously allocated 5307 funding from the Radio Communications project to the Transit Fiber and Security Project and an optional request for \$321,000 to fund future vehicles for transit. Ms. Jackson answered questions from Commissioners regarding the readiness of the project, how the funds will be used, and potential other uses of the 5307 funding. Mr. English asked for a Motion. Mr. Graham made a motion for approval of Resolution 24-6, Ms. Cupka seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

FAMPO – GWRC Consideration of Legislation for Regional Transportation Authority

Mr. Boyles and Mr. Ollis presented the potential formation of a Regional Transportation Authority that came up at the most recent FAMPO meeting. The discussion centered around forming an RTA for all PD16. Mr. Boyles indicated that the FAMPO Board and King George representatives tasked the GWRC and FAMPO staff to work on developing a draft piece of legislation that would create a Regional Transportation Authority for consideration to be submitted as a Bill. Commissioners asked questions from Mr. Boyles and Mr. Ollis, which were answered accordingly.

Executive Director’s Report

Mr. Boyles presented his Executive Director’s Report. He directed Commissioners to two grants to continue the support for the regional housing effort and Community Eligibility Worker through the Housing and Community Health. Mr. Boyles also brought attention to the flyer for the Regional Housing Summit on October 17th. Mr. Boyles then highlighted the program reports, including GWRideConnect’s flyer of their activities. The full Executive Director’s Report is included in the packet.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. English asked for any other comment. No comment was received. The September 25, 2023, George Washington Commission Board Meeting was adjourned at 7:10 PM. The next meeting is scheduled for October 23, 2023 at 6:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted, Chip Boyles, Executive Director
(Draft Minutes prepared by Sarah Oldaker)