

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE GEORGE WASHINGTON REGIONAL COMMISSION

Monday, January 24, 2023 at 6:00 pm

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: All attending in-person: **First Vice-Chair** Darrell English – **Stafford County**; Jeff Black – **Caroline County**; Jon Gerlach, Matt Kelly (Alternate) – **City of Fredericksburg**; Cathy Binder & Annie Cupka – **King George County**; Chris Yakabouski, Lori Hayes – **Spotsylvania County**; Meg Bohmke, & Pamela Yeung (Alternate) – **Stafford County**

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jeff Sili – **Caroline County**; Jason Graham – **City of Fredericksburg**; Tim McLaughlin (Alternate), David Ross (Alternate) – **Spotsylvania County**; Crystal Vanuch (Alternate) – **Stafford County**

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Attending In-Person: Jason Tickle and Mac Williams – **Caroline Habitat for Humanity**; Gavin Gordon – **Spotsylvania Citizen**. Attending Virtually: AS Collander, Carl Bardy CVHC.

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

CALL TO ORDER: Mr. English called the GWRC meeting to order at 6:00 pm and indicated that he would be acting Chair as Mr. Graham was ill. This was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and then Mr. Boyles took roll and indicated a quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF GWRC MEETING AGENDA – Mr. English asked for a motion to approve the January 23, 2023 meeting agenda. Meg Bohmke Motioned for approval of the agenda, Mr. Kelly seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Mr. English asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the November 28, 2022 GWRC Board Meeting. Ms. Bohmke motions for approval of the minutes, Ms. Binder seconded. Motion carried with a majority, with Mr. Gerlach and Mr. Black abstaining.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Michele Dooling presented on the November, 2022 and December, 2022 financial report, hitting on the highlights from the end of 2022. All financial reports are included in the meeting packet. There were no questions from the Board. Mr. Boyles discussed where the GWRC expenses are 6 months into the fiscal year. Board members discussed the amount of the electric bill for the GWRC offices.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT: There were no written public comments or requests for presentations.

OLD BUSINESS:

Resolution 23-03: Employee Handbook, Personnel Policies & Procedures Revisions (ACTION ITEM):

Mr. Boyles presented the revisions to the employee handbook and personnel policies. Mr. Boyles discussed updates on the Drivers' License policy, Travel Policy, Dress Code, and Professional Association Membership Policy. The updates were provided in the Packet. The Board asked questions regarding the Drivers' License Policy, the requirements of asking an employee for their drivers' license, and guidelines for the Drivers' License policy and procedure implementation. Mr. Boyle answered the Board's questions.

Mr. English asked for a Motion to accept Resolution No. 23-03 Employee Handbook Policies and Procedures Updates. Mr. Gerlach motioned to approve Resolution No. 23-03, Ms. Hayes seconded. The Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

FY24 DRPT Grants for GWRideConnect

Kate Gibson presented the work done by GWRideConnect as well as the DRPT grant renewal and the match required from GWRC. Ms. Gibson presented a slide deck explaining the grant, amount of match required, and all the work done under the umbrella of GWRideConnect.

Board members asked questions regarding the vanpool program, decrease in ridership since COVID, transportation subsidies, and how GWRideConnect tracks data. Ms. Gibson answered the Board members' questions.

Ms. Gibson then went over the commuter assistance program grant, match, and commuters served in 2022. Ms. Yeung asked a follow-up questions regarding the number of commuters served and where the money goes. Ms. Gibson then went over the Vanpool Connections Program Annual Outcomes grant, match, and vanpools serviced in 2022 as well as money generated by the program. Ms. Gibson also went over the self-insurance pool for vanpools which does not require a match.

Ms. Gibson directed the Board to the two resolutions in the packet for vote: Resolution 23-04: Match Commitment for CAP Operating Assistance Grant & Resolution 24-05: Match Commitment for Vanpool Project Grant. Mr. Boyle informed the Board that the match funds come from the Per Capita Funds from the GWRC.

Board members then asked questions and discussed the value of the amount of match being committed, and whether it was an appropriate amount for the work done. Board members also discussed and \$1 million in revenue from the program and how that is spent. Ms. Gibson answered Board members questions regarding the data from the program in the last year. Board members asked for more detail to be presented when the grant is being brought before them next year.

Resolution 23-04: Match Commitment for CAP Operating Assistance Grant (ACTION ITEM)

Mr. English asked for a motion to approve Resolution 23-04. Mr. Kelly motioned to approve Resolution 23-04, Mr. Gerlach Seconded. The motion carried 9-1 with Ms. Hayes voting nay.

Resolution 23-05: Match Commitment for Vanpool Project Grant (ACTION ITEM)

Mr. English asked for a motion to approve Resolution 23-05. Mr. Kelly Motioned to approve Resolution 23-05, Mr. Gerlach Seconded. The motions carried 9-1 with Ms. Hayes voting nay.

Resolution 23-06: Authorization to Join VML/VACO Virginia Investment Pool for GWRC Finances

Mr. Boyles introduced Resolution 23-06 for discussion only. The Resolution would be for the GWRC to join the VML/VACO Virginia Investment Pool. Board members were asked for questions, and comments were received. Mr. Boyles stated that Resolution 23-06 will be up for a vote at the February GWRC Board meeting.

FY23 VDOT Smart Scale Project Report – GWRC Projects

Mr. Boyles introduced transportation planner Kari Eaves to present on the Smart Scale funding. Ms. Eaves gave a summary of the previous Smart Scale rounds, evaluation factors and weighting, funding distribution for round 5, staff recommended funding scenario summary, and then the recommended projects awarded to GWRC and FAMPO. Ms. Eaves indicated that GWRC and FAMPO received the most approved projects in the region than in the past. Ms. Eaves went over all of the projects that were recommended for award through Smart Scale in the region and next steps. Ms.

Board members asked questions about the projects that were recommended for funding, specifically the bike and pedestrian projects. Ms. Eaves answered their questions and indicated she would send more detail to the Board members.

Ian Ollis, FAMPO Administrator, spoke indicating the amount of work put into the Smart Scale applications and FAMPO staff's excitement that these projects were recommended for funding.

Council members made final comments on the presentation and results.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Boyles went over his Executive Director's Report which is available in the packet. Mr. Boyles discussed the grant award from Mary Washington Healthcare for housing, the FY21-22 Statewide PDC Biennial Report, Green Streets 3G Grant Application, and the GWRC and Caroline County Habitat Housing Grant Agreement.

Mr. Boyles directed the Board to the packet and the recent Bill introduced to the Virginia General Assembly for a Regional Transportation Authority. Board members asked questions and provided comments on the Bill and their concerns.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. English asked for any other comment. No comment was received. The January 23, 2023 George Washington Commission Board Meeting was adjourned at 7:02 PM. The next meeting is scheduled for February 27, 2023 at 6:00 PM.

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

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