George Washington Regional Commission
406 Princess Anne Street
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www.gwregion.org

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE GEORGE WASHINGTON REGIONAL COMMISSION

Monday, August 24, 2026, at 6:00 pm

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Jeff Black, Nancy Long (arrived after roll call) – **Caroline County;** Susanna Finn, Jannan Holmes - **City of Fredericksburg**; Cathy Binder, David Sullins - **King George County**; Deuntay Diggs **– Stafford County**; Lori Hayes, Drew Mullins **- Spotsylvania County**

MEMBERS ABSENT: Joy Crump (Alternate) – **City of Fredericksburg**; Gerald Childress (Alternate), Chris Yakabouski (Alternate) – **Spotsylvania County;** Darrell English, Crystal Vanuch (Alternate), Pamela Yeung (Alternate) – **Stafford County**

STAFF: Leigh Anderson, Chip Boyles, Cheyenne Courtney, Mel Davis, Michele Dooling, Kate Gibson, Kerry McKenney, Sarah Oldaker, Megan Samples, Sam Shoukas

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Maria Costa (Citizen); Kevin French (**Protect Stafford**); Marcela Gallo-Churchill, Theron Stinar (**Fredericksburg Christian Health Center**); John Hewa (**Rappahannock Electric Cooperative**); Tudy Moncure (**Citizen**); Tom Scott (**Virginia's Innovative Crossroads**); Susan Spear, Wendy Zelazny (**Fredericksburg Regional Chamber**); Cynthia Staats (**Safeguard Spotsy**)

VIRTUAL: Chris Hoeffner; Susan

CALL TO ORDER: Mr. Black 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 THE GWRC AGENDA: Mr. Diggs moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Ms. Hayes. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA: Mr. Boyles briefly covered the consent agenda items which are included in the meeting packet. Ms. Hayes made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Mr. Diggs seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT:

Public Comment In Person

1. Dr. Theron Stinar, with Fredericksburg Christian Health Center, provided public comment regarding funding for the center.

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2. Cynthia Staats, with Safeguard Spotsy, provided public comment regarding the data center tax rates.
3. Kevin French, with Protect Stafford, provided public comment regarding data center development.
4. Tudy Moncure, a King George County citizen, provided public comment regarding regional considerations for water.

GWRC Vanpool Individual Acknowledgement

(Due to unforeseen delays, the GWRC Vanpool Individual Acknowledgement took place after a few individuals provided public comment and the remaining individuals arrived to participate in the acknowledgement.)

Ms. Anderson presented board members with a press release recognizing Maria Costa and presented Ms. Costa with an award honoring her 45 years of service to the region through her vanpool. Commission, staff and audience recognized Ms. Costa with a standing ovation.

PRESENTATIONS:

Virginia Energy Resources

Mr. Hewa provided a presentation on Energy Enabled Investment – Navigating the Risks & Opportunities, which is included in the meeting packet. The board members asked questions, which Mr. Hewa answered.

OLD BUSINESS:

Introduce GWRC Resolution 27-04 Award Legislative Consultant Contract

Mr. Boyles provided an update on GWRC Resolution 27-04 and asked that the Executive Committee assist with interviewing and selecting a legislative consultant for the board's approval at the September meeting.

Regional Data Center Equipment and Computer Tax Rate Information

Mr. Boyes briefly provided a recap of previous discussions and covered the tax rates with board members. Mr. Boyles is to convene a group of local government officials to develop recommendations of any type of tax rate change recommendations for the Commission's consideration. The Commission may only recommend changes to the local governments.

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NEW BUSINESS:

Introduce GWRC Resolution 27-01 FY28 Local Government Funding Request
Ms. Gibson presented Resolution 27-01 to board members. She covered the resolution and what it involves. The resolution will be brought back for consideration at the September meeting.

GWRC Resolution 27-03 Vanpool Alliance Section 5307 Funding Project List
Ms. Gibson presented Resolution 27-03 to board members. The resolution will be brought back for consideration at the September meeting.

Introduce GWRC Resolution 27-02 Award of Transportation On-call Consulting
Mr. Boyles presented Resolution 27-02 to board members. The resolution will be brought back for consideration at the September meeting.

Introduce FY26 GWRC Annual Report
Mr. Boyles presented the draft FY27 GWRC Annual Report to board members and requested edits as needed.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Mr. Boyles covered the Executive Director's Report as presented in the packet.

COMMISSION MEMBER DISCUSSION: An opportunity was provided for commission members to collaborate and engage in open discussion.

ENTER CLOSED SESSION (ACTION ITEM): Ms. Hayes made a motion to move into Closed Session pursuant to Virginia Freedom of Information Act (FOIA): Section 2.2-3711(A)(1) for the discussion and consideration of a personnel matter concerning the salaries and benefits of individual employees of GWRC (Individual staff member payroll issue) and pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(A)(3) Discussion or consideration of the acquisition of real property for a public purpose, or of the disposition of publicly held real property, where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body. . Ms. Holmes seconded. The motion carried unanimously. The GWRC meeting moved into Closed Session.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION (ACTION ITEM): Ms. Hayes made a motion that only matters allowed in closed session were discussed and that the session may return to open session status. Ms. Holmes seconded. Motion carried unanimously by a roll-call vote.

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ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Diggs moved to adjourn the meeting and Ms. Hayes seconded. The motion carried unanimously. The August 24, 2026, George Washington Regional Commission Board Meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM. The next meeting is scheduled for September 28, 2026, at 6:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted, Chip Boyles, Executive Director
(Approved minutes prepared by Cheyenne Courtney)