

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE GEORGE WASHINGTON REGIONAL COMMISSION

Monday, April 24, 2023 at 6:00 pm

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

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

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

STAFF: Attending In-Person: Chip Boyles, Michele Dooling, Kate Gibson, Kerry McKenney, Ian Ginger, Becky Golden, Meredith Keppel, Ian Ollis, and Sam Shoukas.

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Dan Maher – **Fredericksburg Regional Food Bank;** Elizabeth Borsh – **Virginia Community Food Connections**

CALL TO ORDER: Mr. Graham called the GWRC meeting to order at 6:00 pm. 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. Graham asked for a motion to approve the April 24, 2023 meeting agenda. Mr. English Motioned for approval of the agenda, Ms. Cupka seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Mr. Graham asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the March 27, 2023 GWRC Board Meeting. Ms. Cupka motioned for approval of the minutes, Ms. Bohmke seconded. Motion carried unanimously with Mr. English abstaining.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Ms. Dooling presented the March, 2023 and the Year-To-Date Quarterly financial report, hitting on the highlights from the cashflow and revenue. All financial reports are included in the meeting packet and Executive Director’s Memo. Mr. Graham asked questions about the debt ceiling and cashflow. Ms. Dooling answered questions accordingly.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT: There were no written, in person, or virtual public comments.

PRESENTATIONS:

Dan Maher, President and CEO of the Fredericksburg Regional Foodbank and the Chair of the Regional Hunger Action Coalition for PD 16 presented on the Regional Hunger Action Coalition (HAC). The presentation included a new tool developed by the Hunger Action Coalition for the purposes of identifying data points surrounding food insecurity in PD 16. Mr. Maher presented slides to the Board about the HAC, community stakeholders, and their strategic plan. Elizabeth Borsh with Virginia Community Food Connections presented the food insecurity map. Both Mr. Maher and Ms. Borsh went over the data from PD 16 on food insecurity amongst residents. Board members asked questions about the data, what information is available on the tool, and about food insecurity in the region. Mr. Maher answered the questions in detail. The presentation is available in the meeting packet.

OLD BUSINESS:

Resolution 23-7: FY24 GWRC Rural Transportation Planning Work Program

Ian Ollis presented the GWRC Rural Transportation Planning Work Program for approval. The plan had previously been presented to the board in March 2023. Mr. Graham asked representatives from King George and Caroline Counties if they had any comment. All members from those counties were satisfied with the plan and stated that the plan had been previously presented to their Board of Supervisors. Ms. Cupka motioned for approval of Resolution 23-7. Mr. Black seconded. The Motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

GWRideConnect Vision – Mission Review for Strategic Plan

Ms. Gibson presented on the Mission Review for the GWRideConnect Strategic Plan. She presented slides on the prior Strategic Plan and what is being done to update the plan as well as the draft missions, vision, and goals. Ms. Bohmke had questions and comments on the language in the draft mission. Ms. Gibson addressed the questions of the board and asked for their feedback. Board members asked questions, made comments, and provided feedback to Ms. Gibson about the draft strategic plan.

Introduction of Grant Award & Agreement for SS4A

Mr. Boyles presented the grant agreement from the Safe Streets For All received by the GWRC. Mr. Boyles indicated that once approved, applications for implementation can move forward. No action was needed. The SS4A agreement will be on the May agenda for action. The board had no questions or comments.

Review 2023 CDBG Regional Priorities

Mr. Boyles informed the Board that none of the local jurisdictions brought forth any projects for CDBG applications. Mr. Boyles presented GWRC staff suggested category scoring for CDBG applications to the Board. The Board was also provided the 2023 Community Development Block Grant Program Design in case any of the localities wanted to look further into the funding. Mr. Graham commented on how the City of Fredericksburg utilizes their CDBG grant money. Mr. English and Ms. Hayes asked how the application process would work for the other localities or non-profits. Mr. Boyles said he would bring this back to the Board next month for action.

Memorandum of Understanding for RRBC Fiscal Agent

Mr. Boyles presented the MOU between the Rappahannock River Basin Commission and the GWRC. Mr. Boyles informed the Board that the GWRC has been providing fiscal services to the RRBC for years without a MOU, so the GWRC and RRBC drafted the MOU to formally document the partnership. He asked the Board to review the MOU and that it would be brought back next month for approval and answered questions from the Board.

Introduction of GWRC FY24 Annual Budget

Mr. Boyles introduced and presented the FY24 annual budget to the Board for their consideration and stated it will be brought back in May for a vote. Mr. Boyles gave credit to Ms. Gibson and Ms. Dooling and Program Directors for their work on the budget. Mr. Boyles made a presentation to the Board including a summary of the budget, future concern of local per capita grant matches, and program activity. The Board was able to ask questions and provide comments on the FY24 budget. The full FY24 budget was provided in the packet.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Boyles went over his Executive Director's Report which is available in the packet. He let the Board know that staff has been very busy and the report included updates on their activities, including attending meetings in all localities.

The board was informed that the Fredericksburg Regional Chamber of Commerce may present at the May meeting on an economic development exchange visit they are organizing. Mr. Boyles also updated the Board on the Regional Planners Meeting that began in April, and that will continue each quarter. The Board was thanked for their help in getting the Hazard Mitigation Plan update passed. Mr. Boyles also updated the Board on the Septic and Sewer program.

Ms. Bohmke suggested that a topic of a future Regional Planners meeting could be data centers.

CORRESPONDENTS

Mr. Graham asked if there was any correspondence. Mr. Boyles indicated there was no correspondence.

CLOSED SESSION DISCUSSION

Mr. Graham asked if any member of the Board member wanted to go into closed session to discuss a staff member's salary. No member requested a closed session.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Graham asked for any other comment. No comment was received. The April 24, 2023 George Washington Commission Board Meeting was adjourned at 7:46 PM. The next meeting is scheduled for May 22, 2023 at 6:00 PM.

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

