

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

**Monday, June 26, 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 (left during 10 minute recess), Jeff Sili (left during 10 minute recess) – **Caroline County;** Jon Gerlach– **City of Fredericksburg;** Annie Cupka – **King George County;** Lori Hayes – **Spotsylvania County;** Darrell English (left prior to adjournment), Meg Bohmke – **Stafford County.** Attending Virtually – Cathy Binder (counted after roll call due to audio issue) – **King George County;**

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

**STAFF:** Attending In-Person: Alexa Boothe, Chip Boyles, Michele Dooling, Kate Gibson, Becky Golden, Meredith Keppel, Ian Ollis, Sam Shoukas, and Sarah Oldaker.

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Melody Fowler – **FXBGO;** Gavin Gordon – **Spotsylvania Citizen;** Brent Hunsinger – **Friends of the Rappahannock;** Laura Sellers – **Commonwealth Transportation Board.**

**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 June 26, 2023 meeting agenda. Mr. Gerlach motioned for item 9a. GWRC Fiscal Year 2024 Operating Budget up to item 5 on the Agenda. Ms. Cupka seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**GWRC FISCAL YEAR 2024 OPERATING BUDGET** – Mr. Boyles presented highlights of the proposed GWRC FY 2024 operating budget and changes that had been made. Mr. Boyles addressed a Board member’s question regarding the 6% cost of living raise for GWRC staff. Mr. Boyles answered questions from commissioners. Mr. Black motioned for approval of the GWRC Fiscal Year 2024 Operating Budget. Ms. Bohmke seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Mr. Graham asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the April 24, 2023 GWRC Board Meeting. Ms. Cupka motioned for approval of the minutes. Ms. Bohmke seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:** Ms. Dooling presented the May, 2023 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.

Ms. Dooling indicated that they are working on updated data to present to the board that pulls out the pass-through expenses. Ms. Dooling and Mr. Boyles answered questions from the Board.

**PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT:** Mr. Brent Huntsinger from the Friends of the Rappahannock presented public comment in support of Resolution 23-11 which was being presented to the Board later that day and scheduled to be presented for vote in August 2023.

**PRESENTATIONS:** There were no presentations to the Commission.

**CONSENT AGENDA:** Mr. Graham asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Mr. Bohmke made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Mr. Gerlach seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Fredericksburg Transit Federal 5307 Funding Request & Future GWRC Funding Policy**

Mr. Boyles instructed the Commissioners that there is 5307 funding that had previously been awarded to Fredericksburg Transit (now FXBGO) and was no longer able to be spent on the radio communications system due to federal "Buy America" requirements. FXBGO was coming to the Commission to ask for a funding transfer to their transit fiber installation project.

Melody Fowler presented the transfer of funding to the commissioners. Commissioners had questions regarding FXBGO's rebranding, the consultant used, details of who would be providing maintenance to the fiber, and details regarding installation of the fiber. Ms. Fowler and Mr. Boyles answered the Commissioner's questions with available information. The Commissioners discussed the 5307 funding, its source, and what is an allowable use of funds. The Commissioners decided to defer the decision until the August meeting when they could have more information provided.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Resolution 23-10: Election of GWRC Officers:** Mr. Boyles presented the FY 2024 slate of officers for approval per GWRC by-laws

Chair – Stafford County, Darrell E. English  
First Vice-Chair – Spotsylvania County, Chris Yakabouski  
Second Vice-Chair – King George County, Cathy Binder  
Treasurer – Caroline County, Jeffrey S. Black  
Secretary – City of Fredericksburg, Jason Graham

Ms. Cupka made a motion for approval of Resolution 23-10. Ms. Bohmke seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

**Resolution 23-11 Septic Local Partner Program:** Ms. Keppel presented on the Septic Local Partner program. Ms. Keppel answered questions from the Commissioners regarding water quality, monitoring, and the septic program. Resolution 23-11 will be brought back in front of the Board at the August 2023 meeting for approval.

**Executive Director's Report:** Mr. Boyles presented his Executive Director's report including staffing updates and program updates. Ms. Shoukas introduced the new MSW Intern, Alexa Boothe. Mr. Boyles let the Commissioners know that he will be presenting to them about the Southeast Crescent Regional Commission that could provide federal grant money.

**Resolution 23-12: Recognizing the Dedicated Service of Jason Graham:** Mr. Boyles presented Resolution 23-12. Mr. Gerlach made a motion to approve Resolution 23-10. Ms. Hayes Seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Graham then adjourned the meeting for a ten-minute recess.

#### **JOINT GWRC AND FAMPO POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING**

Mr. Graham reconvened the GWRC Board and as FAMPO Chair called to order the FAMPO Policy Committee Meeting as a joint meeting to discuss the Commonwealth Transportation Board's proposed Smart Scale Application Criteria. The FAMPO staff called roll for the FAMPO Policy Committee Meeting and indicated that FAMPO had a quorum.

Mr. Ollis presented slides from the May Commonwealth Transportation Board's meeting changing the criteria for Smart Scale application and the "number of slots" for submitted projects.

FAMPO Staff, the FAMPO Policy Committee, Ms. Sellers from the CTB, and GWRC Board members discussed the proposed changes, how it would affect the region, and how to respond.

The GWRC Board no longer had a quorum to vote on a Resolution of Concern for Smart Scale Scoring and Application Proposals or a Letter of Concern for Smart Scale Scoring and Application Proposals therefore a vote could not be taken.

The FAMPO Policy Committee voted to approve a modified Letter of Concern for Smart Scale Scoring and Application Proposals.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Graham asked for any other comment. No comment was received. The June 26, 2023 George Washington Commission Board Meeting was adjourned at 8:27 PM. The next meeting is scheduled for August 28, 2023 at 6:00 PM.

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