

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE GEORGE WASHINGTON REGIONAL COMMISSION

Monday, November 27, 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**; Jason Graham, Jon Gerlach– **City of Fredericksburg**; Cathy Binder – **King George County**; Lori Hayes (virtually), Chris Yakabouski (arrived after roll call) – **Spotsylvania County**; Meg Bohmke – **Stafford County**.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jeff Black, Jeff Sili – **Caroline County**; Annie Cupka – **King George County**; 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: Leigh Anderson, Chip Boyles, Michele Dooling, Kari Eaves, Kate Gibso , Kerry McKenny, Kim Mitchell, Sarah Oldaker.

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Mike Moran – **Robinson Farmer Cox**, Tamara Banks, Karen Brown, Paul Agnello (virtually), Faduma (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. Ms. Bohmke motioned for approval and Mr. Gerlach seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 23, 2023 MINUTES – Mr. English asked for a motion to approve the Minutes from the October 23, 2023. Ms. Binder made a motion to approve the October 23, 2023 Minutes, and Mr. Graham seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Mr. Boyles presented the October 2023 financial report in the new format. Mr. Boyles asked for suggestions on the updated dashboard to provide the Commission with the most important financial information. Commission members asked questions about Annual Total Equity, Unrestricted Net Assets, and Accounts Receivables.

GWRC FY2023 ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT: Mr. English asked to move the FY2023 Annual Financial Report (item 9a on the Agenda) up in order to align with the financial report discussion. No one opposed. Mike Moran from Robinson Farmer Cox presented to the Commission the GWRC's FY2023 Annual Report. Mr. Moran informed the Commission members that the auditors gave the GWRC an unmodified opinion for the financial statements and found no material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. Mr. Moran let the Commissioners

know that the full report is available to them for review and is in the packet. The Commissioners had no questions and congratulated Michele Dooling on a good, clean audit.

Mr. English asked for a Motion to accept the FY2023 Financial Report. Ms. Bohmke motioned for acceptance, Mr. Graham seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT: There was no public involvement nor comments.

PRESENTATIONS:

Caroline County Transportation Comp Plan Element

Kari Eaves presented the transportation portion of the Caroline County Comprehensive Plan Update. The GWRC has worked on the transportation plan as part of the FY23 Rural Work Plan. Ms. Eaves went over the highlights of the plan update and transportation goals of Caroline County. The transportation chapter of the Comprehensive Plan update was given to Caroline County to revise, take to their board, and incorporate into the Comprehensive Plan Update. The Commissioners had no questions.

Congratulations to VACO Board Members

Mr. Boyles gave congratulations to the GWRC board members who are serving on the VACO Board. Mr. Boyles also recognized the GWRC Commission members and alternates who are transitioning off their localities Board of Supervisors or City Council.

OLD BUSINESS:

GWRC Resolution 24-09 VAPDC Support of State Funding Request (ACTION ITEM)

Mr. Boyles presented GWRC Resolution 24-09 to support the VAPDC's request to the Governor for an increase of the appropriation to the Planning District Commissions around Virginia. Commission members asked questions about what would happen to the funds if this was included in the Governor's budget. Mr. Boyles answered the Commissioner's questions. Mr. Graham made a Motion to approve GWRC Resolution 24-09. Ms. Binder seconded. The Motion passed unanimously.

GWRC Resolution 24-10 GWRideConnect Strategic Plan (ACTION ITEM)

Kate Gibson presented the final draft of the GWRideConnect Strategic Plan to the Board for approval. Ms. Gibson went over updates to the plan, as suggested by Commission members from the October meeting, and summary of public comments. The Commission members were asked to approve the Strategic Plan with a change adding the Commonwealth Drive Park and Ride Lot in Spotsylvania County in Chapter 2 of the plan. Ms. Gibson answered questions about the ROI and funding. Including conversion rate of commuters. Ms. Gibson indicated that the Commission would need to approve the Strategic Plan, which would be necessary for DRPT funding. Mr. English asked for a Motion approving GWRC Resolution 24-10. Mr. Graham motioned for approval of GWRC Resolution 24-10. Ms. Binder seconded. The Motion passed unanimously.

CY2024 GWRC Commission Meeting Schedule

Mr. Boyles presented the CY2024 GWRC Commission Meeting Schedule with one change to the meeting in the month of May. The meeting was set for May 27th, 2024, which is the Memorial Day Holiday. The Commission members agreed to amend the May meeting date to May 20th, 2024 at 5:00

pm to accommodate the FAMPO meeting the same night. Mr. English asked for a Motion to approve the CY2024 GWRC Commission Meeting Schedule. Mr. Graham Motioned for approval of the CY2024 GWRC Commission Meeting Schedule as amended with May 20th, 2024 at 5:00 pm. Ms. Binder Seconded. The Motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

GWRC Resolution 24-11: Match Commitment for CAP Operating Assistance Grant & GWRC

Resolution 24-12: Match Commitment for Vanpool Project Grant

Ms. Gibson presented both GWRC Resolution 24-11 and 24-12 approving match for the DRPT grants. GWRideConnect is asking for the 3% increase, which requires a 3% increase in match to accommodate increased inflation, cost of living increase for staff, and increase in marketing and advertising. Ms. Gibson did indicate this increase in the local match amount was built into the GWRC local funding request already sent to the local Boards. This resolution was just for introduction and would come back as an Action Item at the January 2024 meeting.

GWRC Resolution 24-13: Support for Addition of Virginia Route 3 to Corridor of Statewide Significance (ACTION ITEM)

Ms. Eaves presented GWRC Resolution 24-13 for the Commission's approval. Mr. Boyles covered the background of the Resolution, and that FAMPO approved their support at their last meeting. There would be no financial commitment, just a letter of support. Ms. Eaves then presented details on the request to the Commonwealth Transportation Board to add Virginia Route 3 to Corridor of Statewide Significance. The presentation stated that if Route 3 is considered a Corridor of Statewide Significance, then it would increase opportunities to grant funding. Ms. Eaves took questions from the Commission members and answered accordingly. Ms. Bohmke Motioned to approve GWRC Resolution 24-13. Mr. Gerlach seconded. The Motion passed unanimously.

Executive Director's Report

Mr. Boyles went over his Executive Director's report, specifically discussing FAMPO's vote to create a committee to explore the RTA and the Regional Water Supply Planning. Mr. Boyles took questions from the Commissioners. Commissioners discussed water and power supply issues in the region. The full Executive Director's Report is included in the packet.

Mr. English indicated that there would not be a Closed Session. He tasked Commission members to complete the staff review and future goals for the Executive Director position by January 8th, 2024.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. English asked for any other comment. No comments were received. Mr. English reminded the Commission that there was no meeting in December, 2023. The November 27, 2023, George Washington Commission Board Meeting was adjourned at 7:16 PM. The next meeting is scheduled for January 22nd, 2024, at 6:00 PM.

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