

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE GEORGE WASHINGTON REGIONAL COMMISSION

Monday, January 22nd, 2024 at 5:00 pm

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

GWRC NEW MEMBER MEET AND GREET: At 5:00 pm the GWRC Board held an informal meet and greet with new members of the Commission where Executive Director, Chip Boyles, presented an overview of the GWRC and programs. A recording of the meeting is available on the George Washington Commission website. No business was held.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jeff Black (arrived at 5:30 pm) – **Caroline County**; Jannan Holmes, Jason Graham – **City of Fredericksburg**; David Sullins – **King George County**; Lori Hayes (Arrived at 5:45 pm), Drew Mullins (arrived at 5:53 pm) – **Spotsylvania County**; Darrell English (arrived at 5:30 pm), Deuntay Diggs (arrived at 5:45 pm), Pamela Yeung (Alternate) – **Stafford County**

MEMBERS PRESENT: All attending in-person: Chair Darrell English – **Stafford County**; Jeff Black – **Caroline County**; Jason Graham, Jannan Holmes (Alternate) - **City of Fredericksburg**; Cathy Binder, David Sullins – **King George County**; Lori Hayes, Drew Mullins - **Spotsylvania County**; Deuntay Diggs, Pamela Yeung (Alternate) – **Stafford County**.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Nancy Long – **Caroline County**; Gerald Childress (Alternate), Chris Yakabouski (Alternate) – **Spotsylvania County**; Jonathan Gerlach – **City of Fredericksburg**; Crystal Vanuch (Alternate) – **Stafford County**

STAFF: Attending In-Person: Leigh Anderson, Chip Boyles, Michele Dooling, Kari Eaves, Kate Gibson, Sierra James, Meredith Keppel, Kim Mitchell, Ian Ollis, Megan Samples, Sam Shoukas, Colie Touzel.

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Elizabeth Saunders (illegible), Chris Payton, Alice Stanton, David Gazetta – **Brisben Center**; Gavin Gordon – **Spotsylvania Citizen**; Steve Lynd – **King George Fire and Rescue**.

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. Mr. Graham motioned for approval and Ms. Hayes seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 27, 2023 MINUTES – Mr. English asked for a motion to approve the Minutes from the November 27, 2023. Ms. Hayes made a motion to approve the November 27, 2023 Minutes, and Mr. Graham seconded. Mr. Black Abstained. Motion carried with one abstention.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Mr. Boyles presented the November & December 2023 financial report in the new format. Mr. Boyles also updated the Commission members on the cash flow for year-to-date, accounts receivable, accounts payable, and operating expenses. There were no questions from the Commission members.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT: There was not any public comment submitted prior to the meeting. Mr. English asked for public involvement or comment. No member of the public stated they had public comment at the time. After the next item on the Agenda was being discussed, Chris Payton from the Thurman Brisben Center spoke up and said they did have public comment and did not hear Chair English ask for public comment. Chair English allowed them to present their public comment. Mr. Payton spoke regarding his disagreement with the Thurman Brisben Center's rating given by the Continuum of Care (CoC) for Jurisdictional Funding. The written public comment presented by Mr. Payton from Thurman Brisben Center has been included in the packet available to the public. Mr. Payton answered questions from the Commissioners. Mr. Gazetta gave public comment regarding Thurman Brisben being evaluated for Jurisdictional Funding by the CoC even though they are not members of the CoC. Mr. Boyles agreed to meet with the members of the public who presented public comment on a later basis to discuss how Jurisdictional Funding is done.

OLD BUSINESS:

FY25 DRPT Grants for GWRideConnect. Resolution 24-11 (ACTION ITEM) and Resolution 24-12 (ACTION ITEM).

Leigh Anderson presented Resolution 24-11 and Resolution 24-12 as an Action Item to the Commission. The Commission had previously been briefed on the grant funds and match. Mr. Ollis clarified acronyms for new Commission members. Mr. Graham commented on the work that GWRideConnect has done for commuters. Mr. Graham made a motion to approve Resolution 24-11, Jeff Black seconded. The motion carried unanimously. The agenda item was temporarily delayed due to Public Comment (see above). Once Public Comment was over, Mr. English asked for a motion to approve Resolution 24-12. Mr. Graham motioned for approval of Resolution 12-14, Ms. Binder seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

GWRC Resolution 24-14: Election of First Vice Chair (ACTION ITEM)

Mr. Boyles indicated that the Commission would need to appoint a new Vice-Chair since Chris Yakabouski is now an alternate member. Mr. Boyles informed the Commission that the appointee would need to be from Spotsylvania County. Mr. Mullins motioned for Lori Hayes to be appointed as the new GWRC Board Vice-Chair and approval of Resolution 24-14. Mr. Graham seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

GWRC Resolution 24-15: FY24 Authorized Bank Signers Amended (ACTION ITEM)

Mr. Boyles indicated that Ms. Hayes would now need to be appointed as an authorized bank signer as the new Vice-Chair. Mr. English asked for a Motion. Mr. Black motioned for approval of Resolution 24-15. Mr. Graham seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Senate Bill 371 & Houe Bill 1197 King George County to Northern Neck PDC

Mr. Boyles informed the Commission that VAPDC has informed the GWRC of a Senate Bill submitted to the Virginia General Assembly by Senator Richard Stuart that would pull King George County out of Planning District 16 and into Planning District 17, and of a House Bill that would do the same submitted by Representative Hillary Pugh Kent. Mr. Boyles let the Commission know that 4 out of 5 members of the King George Board of Supervisors voted for a Resolution supporting the Bills. One Caroline County Board of Supervisors member had indicated to Senator Richard Stuart that they would like to be included. Mr. Boyles made a recommendation to the Commissioners to oppose both bills because it does not follow the process laid forth by the Department of Housing Community and Development for a jurisdiction to move from one PDC to another.

The Commissioners discussed the bills, why King George would want to leave PDC 16, the reason for King George wanting to leave PDC16, the effect the proposed Regional Transportation Authority has had on rural communities wanting to leave PDC 16. Ms. Binder indicated that the cultural and historical heritage and water conservation district align with the Northern Neck PDC.

The Commissioners came to a consensus for the GWRC to go to the King George County Board of Supervisors and explain what the GWRC does for King George County and relay the implications of the County leaving PD 16, but that no recommendation from the GWRC Board will be made.

Introduction of GWRC Rural Long Range Transportation Plan

Kari Eaves presented the GWRC 2050 Rural Long-Range Transportation Plan for Caroline County and King George County. Commissioners had no questions for Ms. Eaves.

FY25 VDOT Smart Scale Program Report

Ms. Eaves presented the recent SMART Scale Policy Update and how they will affect the regional project applications. Mr. Ollis spoke to the Land Use Factor in scoring. Ms. Eaves informed the Commission that one change is only larger projects can be submitted. Commissioners asked questions and Ms. Eaves answered accordingly.

Introduction of Revised Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan, King George County (ACTION ITEM)

Ms. Keppel introduced Steve Lynd from King George County Fire & Rescue asking for an amendment to the Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan in order for King George County to apply for FEMA funding. There were no questions. Mr. Graham made a Motion to approve the amendment to the Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan. Ms. Hayes seconded. The Motion carried unanimously.

FY22-27 GWRC Strategic Plan Update Survey

Mr. Boyles presented a draft survey to be sent out to all of the jurisdictions in order to update the FY22-27 Strategic Plan. Mr. Boyles asked for Commission member comments in order to approve a final survey at the next meeting.

GWRC FY23 Annual Report

Mr. Boyles presented the draft FY23 annual report to the Commission. No comments were made.

Executive Director's Report

Mr. Boyles went over his Executive Director's report, specifically discussing the Chamber's upcoming regional economic development summit and the date and time of the next Commission meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. English asked for any other comment. No comments were received. The January 22nd, 2024, George Washington Commission Board Meeting was adjourned at 7:08 PM. The next meeting is scheduled for February 26, 2024, at 6:00 PM.

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