

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

August 22, 2022
GWRC Conference Room

MEMBERS PRESENT: All Attending In-Person: **Chair**, Jason Graham, **City of Fredericksburg** Jeff Black & Jeff Sili, **Caroline County**; Matt Kelly, **City of Fredericksburg**; Cathy Binder & Annie Cupka, **King George County**; Tim McLaughlin, **Spotsylvania County**; & Darrell English, **Stafford County**; Attending: Virtually: None

MEMBERS ABSENT: City of Fredericksburg, Jonathan Gerlach (Alternate); Spotsylvania County: Lori Hayes & David Ross (Alternates), & Chris Yakabouski; Stafford County: Meg Bohmke,; & Crystal Vanuch & Pamela Yeung (Alternates)

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Attending In-Person: Buck Cox & Mikel Ann Manchester, Rivere; Jason Tickle, Caroline Habitat; & John Holden, Stafford County Attending Virtually: “Alex”; Friends of the Rappahannock; & Phone Number: 540-734-0328

STAFF: (Attending In-Person): Chip Boyles, Kate Gibson, Ian Ollis, Becky Golden, Sam Shoukas, & Ian Ginger

CALL TO ORDER: Mr. Graham called the GWRC meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. with a quorum present; which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF GWRC MEETING AGENDA – August 22, 2022 (Action Item)

Upon motion made by Mr. Kelly and seconded by Mr. English, with all concurring, the August 22nd GWRC meeting agenda was approved as amended to include two additional items for preliminary discussion only to be added under “New Business” as E1 - Regional Water Supply project and E2 - Work Force Investment Development discussion.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

a.) June 27 2022 GWRC Meeting (Action Item)

Upon motion by Mr. Kelly and seconded by Ms. Binder, with all other members concurring, the minutes of the June 27th meeting were approved as submitted.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

- a.) Monthly Financial Report (June 2022) – Chip Boyles**
- b.) Year-To-Date Financial Report – July 2021 to June 2022**

Mr. Boyles advised all financial reports to include: Balance Sheet, Agency-wide Income Statement, Dashboard & Cash Flow statement for the month of June, 2022 and for Year-to-Date from July 2021 to June 2022 are included in tonight’s agenda packet. There were no questions asked of Mr. Boyles from the GWRC committee members that required further reporting from staff.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT: There were no written comments provided prior to tonight's meeting nor any verbal comments given at tonight's August 22nd GWRC meeting.

PRESENTATIONS:

i. RIVERE Ecological Center – Mikel Ann Manchester, Executive Director

Ms. Manchester advised RIVERE (Rappahannock River Ecological Park) has approached Stafford County for the purpose of creating an ecological center on the banks of the Rappahannock River. Ms. Manchester stated RIVERE has met with Stafford County's Community & Economic Development committee to make their case that the park would become a help with tourism growth to the community as well as to provide important ecological research.

Ms. Manchester stated RIVERE is seeking to lease a portion of the Duff McDuff Park which Stafford County owns. Ms. Manchester advised RIVERE has already obtained an adjacent 14-acre site near McDuff Park from the University of Mary Washington.

Ms. Manchester relayed that should Stafford County agree to the leasing request, RIVERE plans to set up a center that will be dedicated to ecological research and community education. RIVERE will place sensors along the river which effectively creates the first "smart river" that uses AI technology. The goal of this transformation is to monitor the river areas in real-time for detection of pollutants that could become an endangerment to the health of the river. The data would then be used to identify pollution sources and to create responses and measures through predictive modeling to inform and guide authorities on the challenges that freshwater bodies deal with on a regular basis. The sensors would be installed along the length of the Rappahannock River and flow to the organization's headquarters at the Chesapeake Bay.

Ms. Manchester advised partnerships have already been formed with some public and private organizations and RIVERE hopes to also include future partners from Stafford County, GWRC, etc. as well. Ms. Manchester stated Mr. John Holden from Stafford County and Mr. Tom Coen, Supervisor for where RIVERE project would be established have both endorsed the project efforts. Ms. Manchester stated at this time, they would like to see GWRC also support the project as it would have substantial regional opportunities. The GWRC committee members asked if Stafford County Board of Supervisors has firstly endorsed the RIVERE efforts to which Mr. English replied they have not. Ms. Manchester stated at this time, a presentation has not been made to the entire Board of Supervisors in Stafford County and this meeting with the supervisors is scheduled to occur over the next several months. Both Mr. Kelly and Mr. McLaughlin stated endorsement letters are usually brought before GWRC after a member locality Board of Supervisors and/or City Council has approved a specific project, endeavor, opportunity, etc. It was unanimous consent from the GWRC committee members to not provide any letters of support until Stafford County Board of Supervisors initiates these efforts.

OLD BUSINESS:

a.) Resolution 22-24: Housing Grant Agreement with Caroline County Habitat for Humanity (Action Item)– Chip Boyles

Mr. Boyles advised that at the June GWRC meeting the development of building at least 20 affordable homes within the region as a result of the Habitat for Humanity grant application process was endorsed. Mr. Boyles stated the grant was awarded to GWRC and will be awarded to Caroline County Habitat for Humanity and included in tonight's agenda packet is the actual Resolution awarding this funding to Caroline County. Mr. Boyles stated the final agreement is being reviewed by both GWRC's attorney and the attorney representing Habitat for Humanity.

Upon motion by Mr. Black and seconded by Mr. Sili, with all other members concurring, Resolution 22-24 was adopted at the August 22nd GWRC committee meeting contingent on no revisions being provided from legal counsel.

NEW BUSINESS:

a.) Resolution 22-25: Regional Transportation Safety Planning Grant SS4A Application (Action Item)– Ian Ollis

Mr. Ollis advised that FAMPO's Technical Advisory Committee requested FAMPO staff to research and move forward with applying for a Regional Transportation Safety Planning Grant SS4A. This planning grant opportunity has millions of dollars established for the purpose of regions being recipients of additional funding sources. The purpose of the planning grant is for road safety projects. However, before a region can become a recipient of the funding resources, it needs to also develop a Safety Action Plan. Mr. Ollis stated the Action Plan will cost approximately \$120,000 and will be completed in conjunction with consultant expertise, VDOT recommendations and FAMPO staff application work. Mr. Ollis stated Resolution 22-25 is being brought before GWRC tonight for endorsement for FAMPO to move forward on compiling an Action Plan for the GWRC region and to identify specific projects from locality input as to what projects would be classified as road safety projects that would be eligible for funding from the Planning Grant SS4A allocations.

Upon motion by Mr. Kelly and seconded by Ms. Cupka, with all GWRC members concurring, Resolution 22-25 was adopted at the August 22nd GWRC committee meeting

b.) Resolution 22-26: MOA between GWRC and Virginia Department of Health for Equitable Housing Opportunities (Action Item) – Chip Boyles

Mr. Boyles advised Resolution 22-26 is in regard to staff's participation with the regional health department for the "CHIPS" plan which has identified three areas of regional concerns which includes ensuring equitable housing opportunities become available for all residents residing in Planning District 16. Mr. Boyles stated the Memorandum of Agreement for Equitable Housing

opportunities with GWRC support is contingent upon adequate financial resources being available to support GWRC staff time and other incidental expenses of the scope of work projection.

Upon motion by Mr. Kelly and seconded by Ms. Cupka, with all GWRC members concurring, Resolution 22-26 was adopted at the August 22nd GWRC committee meeting.

c.) Resolution 22-27: Authorizing Deputy Director or Finance Director to Approve Executive Director Program Hours (Action Item) – Chip Boyles

Mr. Boyles advised Resolution 22-27 is a result from feedback from GWRC's Housing Grant application. Mr. Boyles stated the feedback application is requesting that either the Chair of GWRC or GWRC Deputy Director and/or Finance Director be authorized to approve Executive Director's work hours that are applied to the VA Housing grant.

Upon motion by Mr. Kelly and seconded by Ms. Binder, with all GWRC members concurring, Resolution 22-27 authorizing Deputy Director or Finance Director to approve work hours associated with Executive Director's tasks to the Housing Grant was adopted at the August 22nd GWRC committee meeting.

d.) Resolution 22-28: Authorizing Signers for GWRC Banking Activities (Action Item) – Chip Boyles

Mr. Boyles advised that Resolution 22-28 is authorizing signers for GWRC banking activities. Mr. Boyles relayed this resolution occurs annually as a result of yearly position changes for GWRC's Executive Committee members.

Upon motion by Mr. Kelly and seconded by Ms. Cupka, with all GWRC members concurring, Resolution 22-27 was adopted at the August 22nd GWRC committee meeting.

e.) Draft GWRC FY22 Annual Report – Kate Gibson

Ms. Gibson advised the draft annual GWRC report for FY22 is included in tonight's agenda packet for member review. Ms. Gibson stated staff would be asking for GWRC endorsement at the upcoming September 26th GWRC meeting. Ms. Gibson stated that members are asked to review the draft and provide any comments, feedback, or edits to staff over the next several weeks.

f.) Executive Director's Report – Chip Boyles

i. Staffing Updates

Mr. Boyles advised Dr. John Ridout, Sarah Oldaker and Erica Dutcher have joined as new GWRC staff. Mr. Boyles stated John has joined the FAMPO team as a Planner II; Sarah is the new Program Coordinator II and will be working with both Go Virginia and the CoC; and Erica is also a Program Coordinator II and will also be working with CoC.

ii. Program Updates

Mr. Boyles advised Sam Shoukas and the Continuum of Care received an award at the VAPDC annual meeting. Mr. Boyles stated the award was in recognition of organizations who initiated innovative regional activities with our region's work in providing homeless services throughout the region during the pandemic.

Mr. Boyles relayed FAMPO is working on two studies and is preparing for the upcoming Freight summit that FAMPO will be hosting. Mr. Boyles stated the CoC completed its first summer-time Point in Time count and even though final counts and data have not been compiled to date, the initial counts indicate there are currently more homeless residents within the region than there were for the winter Point in Time counts.

Mr. Boyles advised the complete executive director's report is included in tonight's agenda packet for member review.

g.) Correspondence – either included in tonight's agenda packet for member review and/or posted on GWRC's website

I. Support Letter Caroline VAT

ii. Support Letter VIMS

iii. Intergovernmental Review Documents at <https://gwregion.org/public-notices/intergovernmental-reviews>

ADJOURN GWRC MEETING – The August 22nd George Washington Regional Commission meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m. The next scheduled GWRC meeting will be held on September 26, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted, Chip Boyles, Executive Director
(Draft Minutes prepared by JoAnna Roberson)