George Washington Regional Commission
406 Princess Anne Street
Fredericksburg, Virginia 22401
(540) 373-2890
Fax (540) 899-4808
www.gwregion.org

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE GEORGE WASHINGTON REGIONAL COMMISSION

Monday, August 26, 2024 at 6:00 pm

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Attending in-person: Chair Lori Hayes, Drew Mullins – **Spotsylvania County**; Jeffrey Black, Nancy Long (arrived after roll call) – **Caroline County;** Jannan Holmes - **City of Fredericksburg**; Cathy Binder – **King George County;** Darrell English – **Stafford County**.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jason Graham (Alternate) – **City of Fredericksburg**; David Sullins – **King George;** Deuntay Diggs, Crystal Vanuch (Alternate), Pamela Yeung (Alternate) – **Stafford County;** Gerald Childress (Alternate), Chris Yakabouski (Alternate) – **Spotsylvania County**.

STAFF: Attending In-Person: Chip Boyles, Michaela Collins, Cheyenne Courtney, Michele Dooling, Ian Ginger, Sarah Oldaker, Austin Pajcic, Sam Shoukas. Attending Virtually: Leigh Anderson, Kate Gibson.

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Attending Virtually: Kathy Knotts (**Fredericksburg Free Press**)

CALL TO ORDER: Ms. Hayes called the GWRC meeting to order at 6:01 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: Ms. Binder motioned for approval of the agenda and Mr. Black seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF JUNE 24, 2024, MINUTES – Mr. Black motioned to approve the Minutes from June 24, 2024, and Mr. English seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT: There was no written or in-person public comment.

George Washington Regional Commission
406 Princess Anne Street
Fredericksburg, Virginia 22401
(540) 373-2890
Fax (540) 899-4808
www.gwregion.org

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Mr. Boyles presented the July 2024 financial report. Mr. Boyles informed the Commission members that the numbers presented have not yet been audited and that the numbers will change in November once the audit has been completed. Mr. Boyles also updated the Commission on the unrestricted net assets, noting that GWRC currently has twelve days' worth of operating funds, but incoming accounts receivables are expected to increase this to over two months' worth of operating expenses.

Mr. Boyles presented the year-end financial report and revenue to be placed into reserves. Mr. Boyles also went over operating expenses and income statements. Mr. Boyles stated that he, along with Kate Gibson and Michelle Dooling, will review the Virginia Investment Pool secondary fund, which offers a more guaranteed rate for a one-to-three-year term.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT:

Introduction of New Staff

Mr. Boyles introduced Cheyenne Courtney and stated that she has filled the Office Coordinator position and has been working in the environmental program as the new septic program continues to move forward. Mr. Boyles and Ms. Shoukas introduced Austin Pajcic. the new Affordable Housing AmeriCorps Vista who will be with the GWRC until August 2025.

GWRC Resolution 25-06 Recognition of Accomplishments

Ms. Hayes presented Resolution 25-06 Recognition of Accomplishments, which recognized Mr. Darrell English as the Chairman of the Commission from July 2023 to June 2024. Ms. Binder motioned for approval, and Ms. Holmes seconded. The motion was passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

Resolution 24-26 FY22-27 GWRC Strategic Plan Update

Mr. Boyles provided a reminder that a vote will not be taken tonight and that the Commissioners previously reviewed all the program areas of the first strategic plan with the recommended updates. Mr. Boyles asked for suggestions on the Organizational Effectiveness program, as well as anything else that GWRC should consider. The document will be presented to the Commissioners again in September. Mr. Boyles and the Commissioners reviewed the marketing and communication plan, process for locally initiated projects, financial policies and

George Washington Regional Commission
406 Princess Anne Street
Fredericksburg, Virginia 22401
(540) 373-2890
Fax (540) 899-4808
www.gwregion.org

manual and stability benchmarks, regional legislative officials event, local government news outlet, military base and personnel programs, public engagement, office space, and the GWRC succession plan.

NEW BUSINESS:

GWRC Resolution 25-01 Remote Participation

Mr. Boyles presented Resolution 25-01 to the Commissioners, allowing members of the Commission to participate in meetings through electronic communication. Ms. Holmes clarified that commission members can only virtually participate in a board meeting twice a year. Mr. English made a motion, Ms. Binder seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

GWRC Resolution 25-02 Regional Resiliency Definition

Mr. Boyles presented Resolution 25-02, which aims to develop a regional definition of resiliency. He explained that resiliency should consider external economic, social, environmental, and infrastructure-related factors. The Commissioners discussed real-life examples of how resiliency could be applied. The resolution will be reviewed again at the September board meeting.

GWRC Resolution 25-03 Construction Contractor Prequalification Policy

Mr. Boyles presented Resolution 25-03 to the Commission, proposing the adoption of a prequalification policy for construction and repair projects. He explained that GWRC has started signing contracts for the Septic Repair Program, and although the number of participating companies is limited, they are reputable. The resolution will be reviewed again at the September board meeting.

GWRC Resolution 25-04 Commitment of Funding for GWRideConnect CMAQ Grant

Mr. Boyles presented Resolution 25-04, which will allow GWRC to provide an invoice and receive CMAQ funds. Mr. Boyles further explained to the Commissioners that a resolution must be authorized for him to sign the grant agreements with VDOT. The funds provided will go into the GWRideConnect program. Mr. English made a motion, Ms. Binder seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

GWRC Resolution 25-05 FY26 Annual Dues Structure

Mr. Boyles introduced Resolution 25-05 to the Commissioners to begin discussion on submitting FY26 local funding requests to the member jurisdictions by October 25, 2024. Mr. English made a motion and was seconded by Ms. Binder. During the discussion, Ms. Holmes clarified that the motion was for the Commissioners to vote

George Washington Regional Commission
406 Princess Anne Street
Fredericksburg, Virginia 22401
(540) 373-2890
Fax (540) 899-4808
www.gwregion.org

on the submission of the FY26 funding request which were the same amounts requested in FY25. The motion passed unanimously.

Department of Housing & Community Development PDF Boundary Review
Mr. Boyles informed the Commissioners that every ten years, the Department of Housing and Community Development reevaluates the boundaries of each jurisdiction within a planning district commission. The department will send a survey to all jurisdictions in September, after which discussions will begin. This process can take up to a year and a half to complete.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Mr. Boyles went over his report, which is in the packet. Information items included the Fredericksburg Regional Transit Strategic Plan from Fiscal Year 2025 to 2034, his election to the Board the Virginia Association Planning District Commission, the Regional Housing Summit, and the Rappahannock River Symposium.

ADJOURNMENT
Mr. English made a motion, seconded by Ms. Holmes. The August 26, 2024, George Washington Commission Board Meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM. The next meeting is scheduled for September 23, 2024, at 6:00 PM.

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