

Hampton Roads Planning District Commission

Executive Committee Meeting

Minutes of September 20, 2012

The Executive Committee Meeting of the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission was called to order at 9:30 a.m. in the Regional Boardroom, 723 Woodlake Drive, Chesapeake, Virginia, with the following in attendance:

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Thomas Shepperd, Chairman (YK)
Kenneth Wright, Vice Chairman (PO)*
James O. McReynolds, Treasurer (YK)
Dr. Ella P. Ward (CH)
Randy Martin (FR)
Christopher G. Stuart (HA)
Dee Dee Darden (IW)

Mary Jones (JC)
McKinley Price (NN)
Marcus Jones (NO)*
John Seward (SY)
Louis R. Jones (VB)
Jackson C. Tuttle, II (WM)

Executive Director:

Dwight L. Farmer

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (ABSENT)

Brenda Garton (GL)
Paul D. Fraim (NO)
J. Randall Wheeler (PQ)

Michael W. Johnson (SH)
Selena Cuffee-Glenn (SU)
Tyrone Franklin (SY)

OTHER COMMISSIONERS:

Amar Dwarkanath (CH)
Eric Martin (CH)
Scott Matheson (CH)
Debbie Ritter (CH)
Mary Bunting (HA)
Will J. Moffett (HA)
Robert Middaugh (JC)
Douglas Caskey (IW)

Neil Morgan (NN)
Sharon Scott (NN)*
Kenneth L. Chandler (PO)
Harry E. Diezel (VB)
Barbara Henley (VB)
James Spore (VB)
Clyde Haulman (WM)

*Late arrival or early departure.

OTHERS RECORDED ATTENDING:

Brian DeProfio (HA); Jeff Raliski, Ron Williams (NO); Michael King, Jerri Wilson, Lel Tombori (NN); Sherri Neil (PO); Bob Matthias (VB); Steve Romine; LeClair Ryan; Ross Grogg, Kemper Consulting; Ellis James, Sierra Club Observer; Mark Geduldig-Yatrofsky, Portsmouth City Watch Org.; L. Frank Mach, US DOT Maritime; Wendy Vachet, U.S. Navy; Peter Huber, Willcox & Savage; Cathy Aiello, Aiello Enterprises, Inc.; Staff: John Carlock, Camelia Ravanbakht, Shernita Bethea, Melton Boyer, Rick Case, James Clary, Jennifer Coleman, Nancy Collins, Katie Cullipher, Kathlene Grauberger, Greg Grootendorst, Lisa Hardy, Julia Hillegass, Frances Hughey, Jim Hummer, Sara Kidd, Robert Lawrence, Mike Long, Jai McBride, Keith Nichols, Kelli Peterson, John Sadler, Tiffany Smith, Jennifer Tribo, Joe Turner, Chris Vaigneur.

Chairman Shepperd called the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission Executive Committee meeting to order and welcomed Debbie Ritter and Scott Matheson from Chesapeake and Will Moffett and Christopher Stuart from Hampton as new Commissioners.

APPROVAL/MODIFICATION OF AGENDA

Chairman Shepperd asked if there were any modifications or additions/deletions to the agenda. Hearing none he asked for a motion to approve the agenda.

Commissioner McReynolds Moved to approve the agenda; seconded by Commissioner Price. The Motion Carried.

Chairman Shepperd stated the first three items are in the workshop agenda and some of these will require action, which will be taken in the consent agenda.

WORKSHOP AGENDA

ANALYSIS OF ENERGY DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES IN HAMPTON ROADS – PART I

Mr. Clary stated HRPDC staff was asked to look at energy options in Hampton Roads and the potential impacts on the regional economy. This topic has been allocated into two parts, the first is an overview of global energy, in relation to the United States and the second will review Hampton Roads options.

Over the past 30 years, energy consumption has increased 70%. The majority of growth has been in Asia and the Middle East. The United States ranks 17th in per capita energy consumption, with China at 97th and India 151st.

Growth in oil over the last 30 years have been significantly smaller in relation to other energy sources. From 1950 to 1970 economic growth mirrored energy consumption, but as a result of the 1973 oil crisis, Gross Domestic Product (GDP) has risen at a higher rate than consumption.

Currently the largest source of energy use is from fossil fuels at 83%, which includes oil at 37%, natural gas at 25% and coal at 21%. Two growing technologies, wind and solar, represent small percentages of energy consumption at 0.88% and .08%, respectively.

Mr. Clary indicated the energy mix is not changing in the U.S. and it is not predicted to change; however the Energy Information Administration predicts a slight decline in oil and coal usage.

In relation to coal, electricity generation has decreased by ten percent because of EPA regulations and coal economics, while natural gas has increased 9% in part due to fracking and other technologies.

Mr. Clary explained the difference between generating capacity and electric generation percentages, or the actual energy currently in use. Efficiency, economics and technological issues all account for the variations between the two.

Renewable resources such as solar and wind have increased over the last 11 years; the latter making up a larger portion of the mix. Capacity is still not fully used for various reasons such as maintenance, refueling or the environment not cooperating.

Dispatchable technology is the ability to put energy into play at any point it is needed, while non-dispatchable technology is controlled by outside forces. Non-dispatchable sources have a larger cost basis because the operating ratio is not as high.

The Great American Cleanup – Final Report

(Commissioner M. Jones and Commissioner Wright arrive)

Ms. Hardy specified Hampton Roads was selected as one of ten national locations for the 2012 Great American Cleanup National Action Days on April 27th and 28th. Planning from HRPDC staff and previous actions of the Commission in adopting HRPDC Resolution 2011-08, formation of the Honorary Board and planning with localities all ensured a successful event.

Ms. Hardy informed the Commission that over 1,700 volunteers and 48 corporate, military and neighborhood groups at 92 sites picked up 124,000 pounds of litter and debris. Eighty six trees were planted and 248 structures painted, which include picnic tables and shelters. Invasive species were removed and 515 pounds of household hazardous waste was collected.

By partnering with Keep Virginia Beautiful, monies were raised to help offset the cost of this event and fund future cleanup initiatives.

Future plans for askHRgreen include continuous outreach opportunities, askHRgreen Learning Guide for 6th grade students, America Recycles Day and Best Practices to prevent stormwater pollution.

Chairman Shepperd asked what percentage of monies were paid by local government.

Ms. Hardy responded she was unsure, however all figures were included in the report.

Chairman Shepperd noted that whatever the cost, there was still a cost savings to our environment, and thanked the volunteers for improving the quality of life in those communities.

FY 2011-2012 Annual Report to Department of Housing and Community Development

Mr. Carlock explained the annual report is required by the Regional Cooperation Act and outlines all duties and responsibilities of Planning District Commissions. Each area is described in detail and provides examples of related work projects. He summarized the duties of the HRPDC, including:

- Conducting studies on issues and problems of regional significance
- Identifying and studying potential opportunities for state and local cost savings and staffing efficiencies
- Identifying mechanisms for the coordination of state and local interests on a regional basis
- Implementing services
- Providing technical assistance to state government and member localities
- Serving as a liaison between localities and state agencies
- Reviewing local government aid applications
- Conducting strategic planning for the region
- Developing regional functional area plans
- Assisting state agencies in the development of sub-state plans
- Participating in a statewide geographic information system
- Collecting and maintaining demographic, economic, and other data concerning the region and acting as a state data center affiliate

(Commissioner Scott arrives)

Mr. Carlock outlined the following HRPDC initiatives from FY 2012:

- Transportation – 2034 Long-Range Transportation Plan, Federal Certification
- Emergency Management – Special Needs, MMRS, Hazard Mitigation
- Environmental Education – askHRgreen.org
- Water Resources – TMDL, Water Supply Plan
- Housing – Home Loan Fund, Housing Consortium
- Regional Planning – Climate Change

Commissioner Haulman expressed his appreciation to the HRPDC staff for its assistance in providing a common database for the City of Williamsburg, James City County and York County as they are also involved in a simultaneous, coordinated and comprehensive planning process.

Commissioner Haulman thanked Mr. Farmer and his staff for their role in the recent Golden Crescent meeting.

Chairman Shepperd also thanked Mr. Farmer and his staff and urged the fellow locality members to utilize the comprehensive data the HRPDC has available.

REGULAR AGENDA

Public Comment

Two people requested to address the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission.

Ellis W. James

Thank you, Chairman Shepperd, members of the Commission, my name is Ellis W. James. I'm a lifelong resident of the city of Norfolk. A couple of things that I'd like to call to your attention. Uranium mining is still a hot issue and it's going to get hotter. We were all waiting or many of us were waiting for the NAS report. That came out and it showed clearly that something that I called to your attention a while back was right on target. The Commonwealth of Virginia is not prepared for lifting the moratorium on uranium mining. That's not Ellis James's opinion, that's a fact. And it is backed up by the study and the research that's being done surrounding this issue. On the good news front, I am delighted to report that Suffolk and Chesapeake, thank you Dr. Ward, Norfolk, Virginia Beach, have all joined and Virginia Beach of course is leading the way, have all joined the effort to try to call attention to the severe risk that exists if we push forward and lift the moratorium on uranium mining in the Commonwealth of Virginia. I'm hoping that my friends in Portsmouth will join the parade. There's still hope and I have talked with several of them and I hope that they will at least take a position. Now, the stunning thing was that in Chesapeake, as an example, the vote was nine to nothing opposing uranium mining. Well, that's very nice. In Norfolk it was 8 to nothing, and so on. I would hope that the potential risk of water quality throughout the eastern part of the Commonwealth of Virginia would be serious enough to garner your attention and hopefully have all of the communities join in an assessments of where we might be headed on this very critical issue. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mark Geduldig-Yatrofsky

Good morning, Mr. Chair. Honorable members of the Planning District Commission and fellow citizens. I'm Mark Geduldig-Yatrofsky and I make my home in Portsmouth and consider myself a citizen of the region. I'm going to do a bait and switch. I'm actually going to speak on uranium mining. I'm also disappointed that the City of Portsmouth has not taken a position in favor of the resolution. We are stakeholders in this outcome, although to a lesser extent than some of our neighbors. We have an agreement with the City of Norfolk by during drought conditions, we can draw up to ten million gallons per day of water from the Norfolk system. So if the Norfolk system, which receives the water from Lake Gaston, is compromised by radionuclides, then we are directly impacted under drought conditions. I believe that the moratorium should remain in place, but if it comes off, I believe one of the conditions that should be imposed is that uranium mining would have to establish a fund that would provide revenue to any affected localities so that they could purchase alternate water supply during the time that the water from Lake Gaston is compromised. This fund would need to be very large because bringing in water by alternate means is not inexpensive. However, that is a consequence of the mining operation that is contemplated. The spokespeople for the mining concern insists that it will be completely safe, no disasters will occur, and there's nothing to worry about. Let them put their financial guarantees where their assurances are, let them be responsible for putting together a pot of money large enough to compensate for bringing in water to replace any water that they may contaminate. Thank you very much.

Submitted Public Comments

Chairman Shepperd indicated there was a single submitted public comment.

Approval of Consent Items

- A. Minutes of July 19, 2012 Meeting
- B. Treasurer's Report
- C. Regional Reviews – Monthly Status Report
 - a. PNRS Reviews
 - b. Environmental Impact Assessment/Statement Review
- D. Uranium Mining - Resolution
- E. The Great American Cleanup – Final Report
- F. Redevelopment As a Nutrient Reduction Strategy – Final Report
- G. FY 2011-12 Annual Report to DHCD – Final Report
- H. Contract - Urban Area Security Initiative Contract Amendment for WebEOC Sustainment
- I. Contract - Urban Area Security Initiative Contract Amendment for Completion of a UASI Sustainment Plan
- J. State Homeland Security Grant Acceptance/Contract Amendment for First Responder Authentication Credential
- K. Resolution and Certifications for FY 2011 UASI Grant Applications
- L. Contract – Town of Windsor Comprehensive Plan
- M. Contract – Memorandum of Understanding with OHSVA - THIRA

Chairman Shepperd pulled Item 8-D: Uranium Mining Resolution for discussion. He stated it needed to be voted on separately because of the detrimental environmental implications if there should be a disaster.

Commissioner Ward thanked the Commission, Mr. James, and the City of Virginia Beach for their input and dedication to this topic.

Commissioner Jones Moved to approve Item 8-D: Uranium Mining Resolution; seconded by Commissioner Ward. The Motion Carried with Commissioner Seward voting in opposition.

Commissioner Smigiel Moved to approve the consent items, minus item 8-D; seconded by Commissioner Ward. The Motion Carried.

Appoint HRPDC FY2012-2013 Nominating Committee

Chairman Shepperd noted Commissioner Stuart replaced Mayor Ward on the Nominating Committee. Next month, Commissioner Haulman will report to the Commission a recommendation for Chairman and Vice Chair.

HRPDC Three Month Tentative Schedule

Chairman Shepperd highlighted the three month agenda schedule. He noted the legislative agenda will be discussed in October and suggested a more robust effort from the Commission to identify legislative priorities to the General Assembly.

Project Status Reports

Chairman Shepperd discussed the Project Status Reports and stressed the necessity of reviewing the information from the HRPDC staff committees.

Correspondence of Interest

Chairman Shepperd stated there were items in the Correspondence of Interest section of the agenda.

For Your Information

Chairman Shepperd noted the For Your Information part of the agenda.

Old/New Business

Mr. Farmer emphasized two mailings were drafted under the Urban Crescent Initiative. The first was a letter with 38 signatures of mayors and chairs and was sent to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Speaker of the House and General Assembly Members. The second mailing provided an economic analysis of a "Do Nothing" approach as it relates to transportation infrastructure along with a summary of transportation revenue tax streams. This information was submitted to Urban Crescent Mayors and Chairs at their request.

Mr. Shepperd reminded members the October meeting will be a full Commission with a closed session at the beginning.

Adjournment

With no further business to come before the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission, the meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Thomas G. Shepperd, Jr.
Chairman

Dwight L. Farmer
Executive Director/Secretary