

Action Summary
Hampton Roads Planning District Commission Meeting
October 21, 2021

The Regional Board Room, 723 Woodlake Drive, Chesapeake, Virginia

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by HRPDC Chair Andria McClellan at 12:30 p.m.

Approval/Modification of Agenda [Action Requested]

The Commission approved the agenda as presented.

Submitted Public Comments

There was one submitted public comment from Mr. Mark Geduldig-Yatrofsky, Portsmouth resident, urging the Commission to continue to consider the value of hybrid meetings and to seek General Assembly action to modify the Virginia Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) to allow at-will remote participation for Commission members and residents.

Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

Executive Director's Report

Mr. Robert A. Crum, Jr., HRPDC Executive Director, referenced his monthly report and highlighted the following items:

- *Mr. Crum introduced and welcomed new HRPDC employees Ms. Sherrie Adefenwa, Accounting Manager, and Ms. Riana Rich, Emergency Management Planner.*
- *On July 23, Senator Mark Warner was joined by Congressional Representatives Bobby Scott and Elaine Luria at the HRPDC offices to host a Coastal Resiliency Roundtable. Several Hampton Roads mayors, elected officials, and Secretary Matthew Strickler participated in this session along with representatives from the military, academic partners, and community stakeholder groups.*
- *White House National Climate Advisor Gina McCarthy visited Hampton Roads on August 3 to tour the region and discuss efforts around coastal resiliency, offshore wind, and sustainability.*
- *In celebration of the 10th anniversary of the HRPDC's regional environmental education and outreach program, askHRgreen.org, Mr. Crum shared a video illustrating the successful initiative.*

Employee Recognition

Mr. Crum recognized the following employees for outstanding service:

- *Katie Cullipher, HRPDC Principal Environmental Education Planner – 10 years*
- *Tiffany Smith, HRPDC/HRTPO Accounting Manager – 10 years*
- *Shernita Bethea, HRPDC Housing/Human Services Administrator – 15 years*
- *Whitney Katchmark, HRPDC Principal Water Resources Engineer – 15 years*
- *Greg Grootendorst, HRPDC Chief Economist – 20 years*
- *Sheila Wilson, HRPDC/HRTPO Chief Financial Officer – 20 years*

Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Report

Ms. Terry Danaher, Chair of the Community Advisory Committee (CAC), provided a brief report of the CAC's activities highlighting the following items:

- *Ms. Danaher reported that Ms. Kendall Miller, Office of Community Affairs and Civil Rights Administrator and CAC staff support, was moving on from her position at the HRPDC/HRTPO for a new professional opportunity and commended Ms. Miller's efforts in support of the CAC and on behalf of the region.*
- *In September, VDOT presented an update on the Hampton Roads Express Lanes Network with CAC members expressing concern regarding the significant amount of transportation construction and traffic in Hampton Roads. The committee proposed an alternative long-term focus of reducing miles traveled, which could also positively impact air and water quality.*
- *In October, Ms. Ann C. Phillips, Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy (Ret.), Special Assistant to the Governor for Coastal Adaptation and Protection, presented an update on the Virginia Coastal Resilience Master Plan, which was well-received and generated a significant amount of interest and discussion.*
- *The committee supports Mr. Geduldig-Yatrofsky's appeal to the Commission and HRTPO Board to seek General Assembly action to provide members the option and flexibility to participate remotely.*

Election of Officers [Action Requested]

On behalf of the Nominating Committee, Mr. Crum reported the following recommended nominees serve as officers during the upcoming year: Commissioner Andria McClellan for Chair, Commissioner David Jenkins for Vice-Chair, Commissioner Randy Keaton for Treasurer, and HRPDC Executive Director Robert Crum for Secretary.

The Commission approved the nominations as recommended by the Nominating Committee.

Consent Agenda [Action Requested]

Chair McClellan referenced the Consent Agenda, which included the following items for consideration and approval:

- *Meeting Minutes – July 15, 2021 Commission Meeting*
- *Treasurer's Report – August 2021*
- *Addendum to Executive Director's Contract*
- *Fiscal Year 2021 (FY 2021) SHSGP and UASI Grants*
- *Buy Local Virginia*

The Commission approved the Consent Agenda as presented.

Sail250 Virginia [Action Requested]

Ms. Karen Scherberger, Executive Chairman for Norfolk Festevents, briefed the Commission on the Sail250 Virginia event.

The year 2026 marks the nation's semiquincentennial, which is the 250th anniversary of the United States of America. Similar, yet larger, than previous events to commemorate national and international milestones, the Sail250 event is being planned in collaboration with the U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission established by Congress following the planning models of the previous events held in Virginia. Sail250 will provide every community in the region and across the Commonwealth the opportunity to

participate in engaging residents, students, businesses, government agencies, maritime and military partners, and more.

The expected conservative economic impact for Sail250 is no less than \$150 million, which is built on the participation of two million visitors and attendees; 7,000 international officers, cadets, crews, diplomats, and families; 500 members of the national and international press; special events at more than 40 regional event sites; multiple days of parades of sail and viewing locations; and extensive education arts and cultural programs. The overall Sail250 Virginia budget is estimated to reach \$10 million with support from the public and private sectors. In addition to the pageantry protocol and the public pride and appreciation to witness and participate in a historic event of this caliber, Sail250 will offer unparalleled opportunities to advance and promote strategic tourism, marketing, and economic development initiatives.

The flotilla of international ships and military vessels will first gather in the Port of New Orleans then proceed to the Ports of Virginia, Baltimore, Philadelphia, New York, and Boston. In order to maximize the success and benefits of Sail250 for the region and across the Commonwealth, each municipality is requested to become engaged in the planning to prepare for Sail250 Virginia. The Sail250 Executive Council is requesting that an official representative from each city's administration be assigned to join the Sales Team of the Executive Council, which will ensure that the key information is efficiently shared and coordinated to bring about a safe, productive, and enjoyable experience for all involved.

The Commission approved HRPDC Resolution 2021-01 to Endorse and Support Sail250 Virginia.

Fiscal Year 2021 (FY 2021) Audited Financial Statements [Action Requested]

Mr. Mike Garber of PBMares briefed the Commission on the annual audit.

The opinion rendered on the financial statements was unmodified, the opinions issued on internal control and compliance in accordance with accounting standards as well as internal control and compliance for the federal dollars spent were clean, and there were no findings, recommendations, or suggestions for improvement. The audited financial statements, along with supplemental management letters, and the auditor's opinion report, have been posted on the HRPDC and HRTPO websites. Mr. Garber suggested Commission members review the management's discussion and analysis on pages four through ten for an overview of what happened last year financially.

Mr. Garber recognized Ms. Tiffany Smith and Ms. Sheila Wilson for their dedication on behalf of the organization and their preparation efforts for a clean audit.

The Commission approved the FY 2021 Audited Financial Statements.

HRPDC Regional Legislative Agenda [Action Requested]

Mr. Crum referenced the draft HRPDC 2022 Regional Legislative Agenda, which included the following legislative priorities for consideration and approval:

- *Request the creation of the Commonwealth Flooding Board (CFB)*
- *Request the creation of an Offshore Wind Supply Chain Fund to assist Hampton Roads companies in their efforts to participate in the offshore wind supply chain*
- *Support funding programs and policies that advance regional efforts to develop interconnected and modern fiber networks*
- *Support funding programs and policies that assist local governments with preparing shovel-ready sites for economic development and job creation*

- *Support the continuation of efforts to appropriate funding for housing programs and projects and request the review of enabling legislation at the State level to ensure that all localities have consistent authority to implement tools such as inclusionary zoning and impact fees*
- *Sustain UASI funding levels for the Hampton Roads region*
- *Support increase in Funding for K-12 Public School Construction and Modernization*
- *Support legislation to provide local governments with greater authority in the reforestation, preservation, and management of urban forests*
- *Support revisions to the Public Notification Requirements for Discretionary Land Use Requests to include alternative public notice methods*
- *Request increased flexibility for public and regional bodies to hold electronic/virtual meetings*
- *Support and increase State funding for Planning District Commissions*
- *Request a Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee (JLARC) study of Public Health Districts' structure and resourcing to include recommendations on how to address the challenges on a regional level.*

The following revisions were discussed:

- *Amending the Offshore Wind item to include workforce development*
- *Including "local option" language, particularly within the Affordable Housing and Preserving and Expanding Tree Canopy items*
- *Opposition to the concept of a \$3 solid waste tipping fee*

The Commission approved the 2022 HRPDC Regional Legislative Agenda as revised.

Build Back Better Regional Challenge

Mr. Crum briefed the Commission on the Build Back Better Regional Challenge, an opportunity that a group of regional organizations pursued collectively.

The program is administered through the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA), and the goal of the challenge is to assist with strengthening regional economies through investment in regional growth clusters with a priority on innovative approaches. The Build Back Better Regional Challenge Phase 1 submissions were due October 19, 2021. As part of Phase 1, 50 to 60 regional coalitions of partnering entities will be awarded approximately \$500,000 in technical assistance funds to develop and support three to eight projects to grow a regional growth cluster. Regional coalitions successful in Phase 1 will be eligible to submit funding requests in Phase 2. The EDA will award 20 to 30 regional coalitions \$25 million to \$75 million, and up to \$100 million, to implement those projects. The Phase 2 submission deadline is March 15, 2022.

Hampton Roads' Phase 1 submission lists Reinvent Hampton Roads as the official applicant; although, it involves a consortium of regional organizations and includes a collaboration with northeastern North Carolina through the Albemarle Regional Commission. The Hampton Roads coalition is hopeful that the multi-state venture aspect of the submission will separate it from the competition.

Maritime Innovation is considered a regional growth cluster for Hampton Roads and includes the following projects:

- *Offshore Wind*
- *Technology Advancement and Innovation Hub*
- *Autonomous Systems National Hub*
- *Maritime Small Business Innovation Collaborative*

- *ODU Maritime and Cybersecurity and Analytics Center of Excellence in Virginia Beach*
- *Build an Inclusive Talent Pipeline*
- *Diversity, Inclusion, and Equity – collaboration with HBCUs*
- *Regional Flood Mitigation Strategy*
- *Regional Fiber Network*

The Phase 1 submission includes the following:

- *Regional Economic Competitiveness Officer (Reinvent Hampton Roads)*
- *Workforce Capacity Mapping (Hampton Roads Workforce Council)*
- *HBCU Outreach (Urban League of Hampton Roads)*
- *Fiber Ring Expansion (Hampton Roads Planning District Commission)*
- *HRGEO Expansion (Hampton Roads Planning District Commission)*
- *Tech Advancement & Innovation Accelerator Study (Virginia Tech Corporate Research Center)*
- *Maritime Small Business Innovation Staffing (OpenSeas, a partnership between Old Dominion University, the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, and the College of William & Mary)*

The decision of which partnering entities will be awarded the technical assistance funds is expected in December.

Three-Month Tentative Schedule

This item was for informational purposes.

Technical Committee Summaries

This item was for informational purposes.

For Your Information

This item was for informational purposes.

Old/New Business

Commissioner Debbie Ritter commented that the City of Chesapeake had been approached about joining a task force to make recommendations on Affordable Housing. She wondered if other localities considered an Affordable Housing Task Force to be a local, regional, or combined effort and asked that HRPDC staff review and report if a regional approach would be advantageous.

Chair McClellan specified that Affordable Housing is a broad term that can encompass many perspectives including homelessness, workforce housing, etc. She suggested discussing regional approaches beyond the HRPDC's Housing/Human Services program's current efforts.

Commissioner Tuck emphasized an unequal distribution of affordable housing in the region. He added that if examining regional approaches, strategies, or solutions, then every locality needs to participate and be willing to accept some measure of affordable housing responsibility.

Chair McClellan asked Mr. Crum to add the topic to a future agenda.

ADJOURNMENT