Hampton Roads Planning District Commission
Minutes of October 21, 2021 Meeting

The October 21, 2021 annual meeting of the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission (HRPDC) was called to order by the Chair at 12:30 p.m. in the Regional Board Room located at 723 Woodlake Drive in Chesapeake, Virginia with the following in attendance:

Commissioners in Attendance:

Andria McClellan, Chair (NO)  Courtneay Doyle (NO)*
David Jenkins, Vice-Chair (NN)  Larry “Chip” Filer (NO)
Christopher Price (CH)  Danica Royster (NO)*
Debbie Ritter (CH)  Randall Wheeler (PQ)
Ella Ward (CH)  Michael Stallings (SM)*
Amanda Jarratt (FR)*  Leroy Bennett (SU)
Frank Rabil (FR)  Robert Elliott (SY)
Carol Steele (GL)*  Melissa Rollins (SY)*
Mary Bunting (HA)  Patrick Duhaney (VB)*
Steve Brown (HA)*  Robert Dyer (VB)*
Donnie Tuck (HA)  Barbara Henley (VB)
Joel Acree (IW)  Guy Tower (VB)
Randy Keaton, Treasurer (IW)  Sabrina Wooten (VB)*
Jim Icenhour (JC)  Douglas Pons (WM)*
McKinley Price (NN)*  Sheila Noll (YK)
Cynthia Rohlf (NN)

Commissioners Absent:

Stephen Best (CH)  Michael Johnson (SH)
Robert Geis (CH)  T. Carter Williams (SM)
Phillip Bazzani (GL)  Albert Moor (SU)
Kenneth Alexander (NO)  Louis Jones (VB)
Gordon Helsel (PQ)  John Moss (VB)
Shannon Glover (PO)  Andrew Trivette (WM)
Angel Jones (PO)  Neil Morgan (YK)
William Gillette (SH)

Executive Director:
Robert A. Crum, Jr., Secretary

Other Participants:
Terry Danaher (CAC)

*Late arrival or early departure.
Others Recorded Attending:

David Westcott (Chesapeake); Jerri Wilson (Newport News); Jessica Dennis (Norfolk); Bob Baldwin and Sherri Neil (Portsmouth); Azeez Felder (Suffolk); Debra Bryan (Virginia Beach); Mike Garber (PBMares); Karen Scherberger and Shep Miller (Sail250 Virginia); Jimmy LaRoue (Suffolk News-Herald); Mark Geduldig-Yatrofsky (Resident); and Keith Cannady, Sherrie Adefenwa, Kelli Arledge, Rob Cofield, Katie Cullipher, Whitney Katchmark, Sara Kidd, Krista Lauro, Benjamin McFarlane, Cynthia Mulkey, Riana Rich, John Sadler, Tiffany Smith, Jill Sunderland, and Sheila Wilson (HRPDC/HRTPO Staff)

Approval/Modification of Agenda

Chair Andria McClellan asked for a motion to approve October 21, 2021 HRPDC Meeting Agenda as presented.

Motion: Commissioner Donnie Tuck Moved to approve the agenda as presented; seconded by Commissioner Ella Ward. The Motion Carried.

Submitted Public Comments

Mr. Robert A. Crum, Jr., HRPDC Executive Director, reported that staff received one Submitted Public Comment, which was provided as a handout. The comment, submitted by Mr. Mark Geduldig-Yatrofsky, urged 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

Chair McClellan invited members of the public to address the Commission. There were no public comments.

Executive Director’s Report

Mr. Crum referenced his monthly report included in the agenda package and offered to answer questions. Hearing none, he highlighted a few items of interest for Commission member information.


- 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. During this roundtable, the HRPDC staff and local elected officials provided an overview of regional work in the area of coastal resiliency and information on the region’s infrastructure funding needs related to flood mitigation and coastal resiliency.

- 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.

Chair McClellan thanked Mr. Crum for his report and commented on the future possibility of expanding the Environmental Education program to include energy efficiency.

Employee Recognition

Mr. Crum recognized several employees for their service to the HRPDC and reaching a milestone anniversary. He and the Commission members applauded Ms. Katie Cullipher, Principal Environmental Education Planner, and Ms. Tiffany Smith, Accounting Manager, for ten years of service; Ms. Shernita Bethea, Housing/Human Services Administrator, and Ms. Whitney Katchmark, Principal Water Resources Engineer, for fifteen years of service; and Mr. Greg Grootendorst, Chief Economist, and Ms. Sheila Wilson, Chief Financial Officer, for twenty years of service.

Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Report

Ms. Terry Danaher, Chair of the Community Advisory Committee (CAC), reported that Ms. Kendall Miller, Office of Community Affairs and Civil Rights Administrator and CAC staff support, would be moving on from her position at the HRPDC/HRTPO for a new professional opportunity. Ms. Danaher commended Ms. Miller’s efforts in support of the CAC and on behalf of the region.

Ms. Danaher provided a brief report of the CAC’s activities, noting that the committee had met twice since the last Commission meeting. 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. In September, VDOT presented an update on the Hampton Roads Express Lanes Network. Ms. Danaher shared the committee’s comments regarding mitigation of the significant amount of transportation construction and traffic in Hampton Roads. The committee proposed an alternative long-term focus of reducing miles traveled, which would impact air and water quality.
Ms. Danaher also expressed the committee’s support for 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.

Commissioner Robert Dyer expressed that he would need to leave the meeting due to a scheduling conflict. He commented that the current transportation projects are necessary for many reasons including road capacity, military readiness, and economic development. However, he acknowledged that the majority of Hampton Roads’ residents either live in flood plains or regularly drive through flood-prone areas. He added that Virginia Beach residents would vote on Election Day whether or not to approve a bond referendum that would increase the real estate tax rate to fund the first phase of flood protection in the city.

Chair McClellan thanked Ms. Danaher for her presentation and responded to Commissioner Dyer expressing her support and encouraging regional support of Virginia Beach’s efforts in this regard.

*Commissioner Robert Dyer departed*

Commissioner Donnie Tuck asked for clarification regarding the CAC’s support of traffic mitigation.

Ms. Danaher responded that ultimately the concern of the committee is that after the current transportation projects are complete in five to ten years, the amount of traffic will have increased again affecting road capacity. She suggested that before continuing to expand roadways in the future, the region first look into ways to mitigate traffic altogether and potentially allow for land to remain unpaved to absorb rainwater.

**Election of Officers**

The HRPDC Bylaws provide that, at its Annual Meeting in October, the Commission will elect a Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer to serve during the upcoming year. The Chair and Vice-Chair must come from separate localities and be elected officials. The offices of Secretary and Treasurer must be voted on an annual basis but need not be elected officials and may succeed themselves.

During the July 15, 2021 Commission Meeting, Chair McClellan requested the Nominating Committee prepare recommendations of nominees for the officer positions for the upcoming year.

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.
Mr. Crum suggested Commission consideration of the recommended individuals as well as any additional nominations. Hearing none, he recommended a motion to close nominations and a motion to accept the nominations as presented.

**Motion:** Commissioner Ella Ward *Moved* to close nominations; seconded by Commissioner Douglas Pons. The *Motion Carried*.

**Motion:** Commissioner Sheila Noll *Moved* to accept the nominations as presented; seconded by Commissioner Ella Ward. The *Motion Carried*.

Chair McClellan shared that she had just returned from the Hampton Roads Chamber's Leadership Exchange in Denver, Colorado. She attributed the successes of the Denver metropolitan area to collaboration, and she encouraged creating opportunities outside of the HRPDC to get to know one another on a personal level. She also shared that she is on the planning committee for the next Leadership Exchange and encouraged more local elected officials and chief administrative officers to attend.

**Consent Agenda**

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

Chair McClellan asked for questions or comments. There being none, she asked for a motion.

**Motion:** Commissioner Douglas Pons *Moved* to approve the Consent Agenda as presented; seconded by Commissioner Ella Ward. The *Motion Carried*.

**Sail250 Virginia**

Mr. Crum introduced Ms. Karen Scherberger, Executive Chairman for Norfolk Festevents, to brief the Commission on the Sail250 Virginia event.

Ms. Scherberger began her presentation by describing the upcoming Sail250 America project, which is being planned as the next major maritime and military project for the Port of Virginia. She recognized Mr. Shep Miller as a member of the event’s Executive Council and Chair of the Development Committee.
The last event of this scale was OpSail, which occurred most recently in 2012 and before that, in 2000. Both OpSail events carried forward the tradition of commemorating national and international historic events since the 1976 bicentennial. The next event of this magnitude is titled Sail250 America. 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. Ms. Scherberger referenced the information distributed as a handout, which included a copy of the HRPDC-endorsed resolution of support for OpSail in 2012, a post OpSail 2000 report providing a comprehensive overview of the successful and measurable outcomes for the region and the Commonwealth from that event, the Sail250 presentation slides, and a copy of the letter and budget request to the Governor in support of the regional and statewide Sail250 Virginia initiatives.

Past OpSail events throughout the region and the state have attracted close to two million attendees over ten days with 30,000 of those attendees from out of state. Sail250 expects to exceed those numbers and expectations in 2026. More than 20 countries and 60 total ships will once again gather in the Port of Virginia in the summer of 2026 in the tradition of international goodwill. In 2012, there was 100% participation from the Hampton Roads region. The OpSail 2012 report outlines the many performance measures that made the event one of the most successful and powerful regional projects to date. Based on its success, 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 intent is that the project is classified by the U.S. government once again as an event of national and international significance, a distinction assigned to the most prestigious events in the country. The Sail250 Executive Council is requesting that an official representative from each city's administration be assigned to join 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.

In addition to the Executive Council, several workgroups that range from marketing and tourism, education, economic development, events, and programs, to safety, security, transportation, and more will be formed. By the time OpSail 2012 arrived, more than one thousand members of regional, state, and federal workgroups coordinated efficiently and effectively together. Successfully planning an undertaking of this magnitude can take up to six years; the initial groundwork for Sail250 began in 2018 and continued through the pandemic. Norfolk Festevents will serve as the managing agent for this project, Ms. Scherberger will serve as the Executive Director, and they will have dedicated resources to coordinate with regional, state, federal, and international partners.

Ms. Scherberger concluded by requesting that each locality assign a representative of their administration to serve on the Executive Council and indicated that she would follow up with each locality individually. She also requested that the Commission consider endorsing a Resolution of Support.

Mr. Crum added that the Sail250 event provides an opportunity to highlight the completion of Hampton Roads’ concurrent regional milestones including the Hampton Roads Bridge Tunnel expansion project and the Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind project. Mr. Crum recommended the Commission consider approving HRPDC Resolution 2021-01 to Endorse and Support Sail250 Virginia.

Commissioner McKinley Price requested consideration of having a ship dock in Newport News for residents that may not have a way of traveling to the Port of Virginia in Norfolk.

Ms. Scherberger responded that one of the first topics of discussion will be to identify physical opportunities for the fleet to be spread throughout the region and beyond.

Chair McClellan repeated the request that Commission members identify an official representative to join the Executive Council and notify Ms. Scherberger no later than mid-December.

Mr. Crum offered to send a formal request to the Chief Administrative Officers with a copy to Ms. Scherberger.

Chair McClellan asked for a motion.

**Motion:** Commissioner Courtney Doyle Moved to approve the HRPDC Resolution 2021-01 to Endorse and Support Sail250 Virginia; seconded by Commissioner Ella Ward. The Motion Carried.

*Commissioner McKinley Price departed*
Fiscal Year 2021 (FY 2021) Audited Financial Statements

Chair McClellan introduced Mr. Mike Garber of PBMares to brief the Commission on the annual audit.

Mr. Garber reported that he met with the Personnel & Budget (P&B) Committee that morning to review the financial statements and audit results in detail. He presented the Commission with highlights from the completed HRPDC/HRTPO 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 concluded his comments by recognizing Ms. Tiffany Smith and Ms. Sheila Wilson for their dedication on behalf of the organization and their preparation efforts for a clean audit.

Chair McClellan asked for questions or comments. Hearing none, she specified that the P&B Committee reviewed and recommends approval of the FY 2021 Audited Financial Statements.

**Motion:** Commissioner Randy Keaton moved to approve the FY 2021 Audited Financial Statements; seconded by Commissioner Leroy Bennett. The motion carried.

HRPDC Regional Legislative Agenda

Mr. Crum began his presentation by outlining the process utilized to develop the draft regional legislative priorities for the upcoming 2022 Virginia General Assembly session. This year, a Joint HRPDC and HRTPO Regional Legislative Committee was formed to develop recommendations for regional legislative priorities to be considered by the Commission and HRTPO Board. The membership of this Hampton Roads Legislative Committee is as follows:

Andria McClellan, Norfolk  
Mayor Donnie Tuck, Hampton  
David H. Jenkins, Newport News  
Mayor Rick West, Chesapeake  
Mary Bunting, Hampton  
Mike Johnson, Southampton County  
HRPDC Chair  
HRTPO Chair  
HRPDC Vice-Chair  
HRTPO Vice-Chair  
CAO Committee Chair  
CAO Committee Vice-Chair

The Legislative Committee held its first meeting on June 30 and began deliberating on potential priorities. The Commission and HRTPO Board provided additional input during
their meetings on July 15. The committee met again on September 23 to refine recommendations and craft a draft proposal, which was reviewed by the CAO Committee on October 6. The HRTPO Board took action that morning to endorse the transportation priorities, and the remaining items were for Commission consideration. The requested action was to approve the HRPDC priorities in order to begin preparing summary brochures and materials for engaging with the Hampton Roads Caucus members.

Mr. Crum referenced the draft HRPDC 2022 Regional Legislative Agenda in the agenda package with all of the HRPDC regional priorities and background information on each item. Mr. Crum presented the following potential 2022 regional legislative priorities for Commission discussion and consideration:

- Commonwealth Flooding Board – Flooding is a statewide issue that requires the needed resources, staff, and organizational structure to ensure that Virginia can address this issue in an ongoing, systematic, and collaborative manner. The HRPDC requests the creation of a Commonwealth Flooding Board (CFB) to direct and prioritize State and Federal funding for flood mitigation, ensure collaboration and alignment among State agencies, and coordinate flood mitigation planning and adaptation efforts.

- Offshore Wind – Continue to support efforts to promote offshore wind and position Hampton Roads as a supply chain hub for this emerging industry. The HRPDC requests that the General Assembly create an Offshore Wind Supply Chain Fund to assist Hampton Roads companies in their efforts to participate in the offshore wind supply chain. This fund would be used by companies to offset some of the industry-related costs, including job training/certification, new product development or repositioning, equipment upgrades, and implementing new operational processes to support offshore wind.

- Broadband/Fiber – The procurement process for the first phase of the regional fiber ring is currently underway. Current State funding programs for broadband place priority on last-mile service to rural areas. The HRPDC requests flexible State funding opportunities for all of the community’s broadband needs.

- Economic Development Site Readiness – The Hampton Roads region has utilized funding through the GO Virginia program to advance regional economic development sites through the Tier-system utilized by the Virginia Economic Development Partnership (VEDP). The HRPDC requests funding programs and policies that assist local governments with preparing shovel-ready sites for economic development and job creation.

- Affordable Housing – The Hampton Roads region supports the continuation of efforts to appropriate funding for housing programs and projects. The HRPDC requests that the General Assembly review the legislation at the State level to
ensure that all localities have consistent authority to implement tools such as inclusionary zoning and impact fees.

- **Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI)** – Approximately five years ago, the Hampton Roads region did not receive any UASI funding. Since then, funding has been reinstated. The HRPDC supports maintaining and increasing UASI funding at the Federal level for Hampton Roads.

- **School Construction and Modernization** – The Hampton Roads region supports the continuation of efforts to provide increased State funding for K-12 public education. Evolving technology and facility needs require funding to ensure that the region’s K-12 facilities can meet today’s public education best practices. The HRPDC requests an increase in funding for School Construction and Modernization.

- **Preserving and Expanding Tree Canopy** – Urban forests play an important role in capturing and storing carbon, reducing stormwater runoff, improving air quality, reducing energy use, and mitigating urban heat islands. The HRPDC requests legislation to provide local governments with greater authority in the reforestation, preservation, and management of urban forests.

- **Public Notification Requirements for Discretionary Land Use Requests** – In response to excessive costs, the unreliability of services, and an overall decline in readership of printed newspapers, localities are seeking alternative public notice methods that reflect current trends and are more cost-effective and efficient. The HRPDC requests revisions to the Public Notification Requirements for Discretionary Land Use Requests.

- **Electronic Meetings** – Experiences over the past 18 months illustrate that electronic meetings can increase public participation and reduce the need for travel. Current provisions within the Code of Virginia are very restrictive regarding the ability of public bodies to conduct electronic/virtual meetings outside of a declared state of emergency. The HRPDC requests increased flexibility for public and regional bodies to hold electronic/virtual meetings.

- **Planning District Commissions (PDCs)** – In FY 2022, the HRPDC receives $165,943 as a base allocation from the Commonwealth of Virginia. While this amount represents a $14,000 increase, it is more than $200,000 less than the HRPDC received from the Commonwealth in the year 2001. PDCs play a critical role in coordinating regional cooperation and strategies that strengthen the regional economy and improve the quality of life for Virginia residents. PDCs also support State agencies in program and project delivery, which results in cost savings for the Commonwealth. The HRPDC requests increased State funding for PDCs to reflect the critical role that PDCs play within their regions and the support and cost savings PDCs create for the Commonwealth of Virginia.
• Public Health Districts – Local experiences throughout the pandemic demonstrated Public Health District deficiencies due to health district consolidations and insufficient funding. The HRPDC requests 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 HRTPO Board endorsed the following HRTPO 2022 Regional Legislative Agenda:

• Support efforts to mitigate the impact of the Downtown and Midtown Tunnel Tolls on Hampton Roads’ residents and businesses.

• Request State/Federal funding to finish the I-64 Gap between Hampton Roads and Richmond.

• Support efforts and projects that promote higher-speed passenger rail service between Hampton Roads, Richmond, and the Northeast Corridor.

• Support the identification of alternative funding sources for transportation improvements.

Mr. Crum recommended Commission approval of the 2022 HRPDC Regional Legislative Agenda.

Chair McClellan requested a modification of the Offshore Wind item to clarify that the requested $30 million Offshore Wind Supply Chain Fund would be to assist Hampton Roads companies in their efforts to participate in the offshore wind supply chain as well as to assist in the related workforce development.

Commissioner Randy Keaton commented on the increase in funding for School Construction and Modernization. He stated that Gloucester County received authorization to hold a referendum for an additional one percent sales tax for school construction, and Isle of Wight County is seeking the same authorization. He asked if the School Construction and Modernization legislative priority is inclusive enough to support General Assembly authorization for any interested locality.

Mr. Crum responded that the current statement is inclusive enough to allow the HRPDC to offer regional support for any locality interested in seeking the same authorization.

Commissioner Debbie Ritter asked if the requests, with regards to the Affordable Housing and the Preserving and Expanding Tree Canopy items, were specified as a local option.

Mr. Crum responded that in all instances, yes, and he indicated that he would modify the statements to include local option language.
Commissioner Ritter also recommended avoiding the term “consistent authority” within any related legislation. She also asked if the HRPDC was taking a position on the potentially proposed tipping fees.

Mr. Crum responded that the Legislative Committee discussed the item; although, a bill has not yet been introduced. He detailed that a proposal could be advanced to add a $3 per ton tipping fee in the Commonwealth of Virginia for solid waste, and the money would be generally utilized in parkland, natural resource areas, and/or conservation. The Southeastern Public Service Authority (SPSA) has officially opposed the possible proposal. The Legislative Committee members indicated that while they support conservation, they could not make the connection between the revenue source and conservation. As a bill has not been submitted, the committee decided not to take a position. If a bill is submitted, then the committee will revisit the item.

Commissioner Ritter said that she felt it would not be premature to officially oppose the possible proposal. She stated that the proposal is potentially harmful to every locality in the Commonwealth and expressed her preference for a proactive approach.

*Commissioners Patrick Duhaney and Carol Steele departed*

Chair McClellan commented that the Legislative Committee members all expressed hesitancy regarding the possibility of the General Assembly providing unfunded mandates and implementing fees that are not directly related to opportunities.

Chair McClellan asked if the HRPDC's opposition to the potential proposal needed to be included in the Legislative Agenda.

Commissioner Keaton added that the proposal would represent a substantial five percent increase in SPSA tipping fees for the Southside. For the localities that already charge a fee for solid waste disposal, adding $3 per ton would be very regressive to lower-income homeowners. For the localities that do not charge a fee, solid waste disposal is funded through taxes, and a $3 per ton increase equates to a $.015 tax increase for Isle of Wight County. He suggested opposing the concept of the proposal.

Commissioner Ritter stated that the concept of any unfunded mandate would be damaging to almost every locality.

Chair McClellan commented that the proposal would be a funded mandate paid for by constituents.

Commissioner Ritter clarified that the proposal would be unfunded by the General Assembly but a mandate to local government.

Chair McClellan asked for consent to add opposing the potential $3 per ton solid waste disposal fee to the 2022 HRPDC Regional Legislative Agenda.
Commissioner Tuck asked if the item is a priority or a consideration. He shared that the City of Hampton is opposed to the disposal fee as a consideration. He expressed support for adding the item in some capacity.

Ms. Danaher asked what precisely the revenue from the potential proposed fee would fund.

Chair McClellan responded that without a bill submission, they do not have the full details, but she explained that the revenue would be used generally in parkland, natural resource areas, and/or conservation.

*Commissioner Steven Brown departed

Mr. Crum added that the ambiguity of the potential proposal is a concern. He also reported that the Directors of Utilities Committee recommended as a group that the Commission oppose the proposal.

Chair McClellan thanked Commissioner Ritter for raising the topic. In light of the general opposition, Chair McClellan recommended the item be added to the legislative package.

Commissioner Ritter asked for confirmation that the Public Health District concerns will be included as a priority.

Chair McClellan confirmed.

Mr. Crum described the recommended action as approval of the 2022 HRPDC Regional Legislative Agenda as proposed with the following revisions:

- Amending the Offshore Wind item to include workforce development
- Addition of the statements on the Public Health Districts
- Including “local option” language, particularly within the Affordable Housing and Preserving and Expanding Tree Canopy items
- Opposition to the concept of the $3 tipping fee

**Motion:** Commissioner Sheila Noll Moved to approve the 2022 HRPDC Regional Legislative Agenda as proposed with noted revisions; seconded by Commissioner Courtney Doyle. The Motion Carried.

*Commissioner Douglas Pons departed*
Build Back Better Regional Challenge

Mr. Crum reported that the Build Back Better Regional Challenge was 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.

*Commissioner Courtney Doyle departed

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 during Phase 2 to implement those projects. The Phase 2 submission deadline is March 15, 2022.

*Commissioner Amanda Jarratt departed

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.

*Commissioner Melissa Rollins departed

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 Strategy (Hampton Roads Planning District Commission)
- HRCEO 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)

Mr. Crum reported that the decision of which partnering entities will be awarded the technical assistance funds is expected in December. He concluded his briefing by offering to answer questions.

Chair McClellan thanked Mr. Crum for his presentation. She commented that any one of the projects listed could cost $25 million and asked how the Commission would prioritize projects.

Mr. Crum responded that if successful in Phase 1, the coalition would need the Commission’s input on how best to spend $25 million to $75 million. Mr. Crum suggested the potential of using existing local funds for many of the efforts as a match opportunity. He also mentioned the possibility that the regional challenge competition may not be the end of Federal funding.

Chair McClellan asked if there would be a match required with the funding.

Mr. Crum responded that the $500,000 grant funding can be matched in kind. The Phase 2 funds would require a match, but many of the efforts already have local match funds.

Chair McClellan asked if the Phase 2 funds would include timing and trend requirements.

Mr. Crum responded that the Phase 2 grant requirements had not yet been determined.

Chair McClellan asked if Commission action was being requested.

Mr. Crum explained that the briefing was provided for information purposes and that he would keep the Commission up to date as the coalition navigates through the process.

**Three-Month Tentative Schedule**

Chair McClellan referred to the Three-Month Tentative Schedule and noted that the next Commission meeting was scheduled for November 18, 2021.
Technical Committee Summaries

Chair McClellan commented that the Technical Committee Summaries were provided for information purposes.

*Commissioner Danica Royster departed*

For Your Information

Mr. Crum referenced a letter included for Commission member information dated August 5, 2021 co-signed by Chair Andria McClellan and Vice-Chair David Jenkins. The letter was sent to the Virginia Federal Delegation to request support of the President’s FY 2022 budget request for the Department of Energy that would provide critical support for the Jefferson Lab facility in Newport News.

Old/New Business

Commissioner 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. She asked that HRPDC staff review and report if a regional approach would be advantageous.

Chair McClellan shared that Affordable Housing was a big topic of conversation at the Leadership Exchange in Denver as well as at the Norfolk City Council retreat. She expressed the importance of addressing the topic locally and regionally as many Hampton Roads residents live and work in different localities.

Commissioner Ritter noted that she has been approached by accomplished and interesting people that may offer new perspectives and approaches and would consider serving on a regional task force.

Commissioner Tuck asked for clarification regarding the objective.

Commissioner Ritter responded that the objective would ultimately be determined by the participating localities but described the possibility of examining regional approaches to Affordable Housing.

*Commissioner Sabrina Wooten departed*

Chair McClellan referenced a Metro Denver Homeless Initiative’s (MDHI’s) Housing Stability Flexible Fund (Flex Fund) designed to remove financial barriers that prevent households from obtaining or remaining in permanent housing. MDHI works with organizations to help households with one-time assistance for move-in, prevention, and landlord mitigation costs. She 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 Ritter agreed, emphasized the opportunity for interested localities to work together, and referenced SRO units.

*Commissioner Michael Stallings departed

Commissioner Tuck commented that he believed Norfolk offered single-room occupancy (SROs) housing.

Chair McClellan confirmed.

Commissioner Ritter added that Chesapeake also uses the development of SRO apartments as a strategy to address homelessness.

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.

Commissioner Ritter responded that this may be the way to start.

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

Adjournment

With no further business to come before the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission, the meeting adjourned at 2:09 p.m.