



Roanoke Valley-Alleghany

REGIONAL commission

rvarc.org

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MINUTES

The November Executive Committee Meeting of the Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission was held on Thursday, November 18, 2021 at 11:45 a.m. at the Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission office located at 313 Luck Ave., SW, Roanoke, VA.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

Chairman Phil North called the meeting to order at 11:45 a.m. and welcomed those in attendance.

Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission Executive Committee Members: Present: Phil North, Roanoke County; Dean Martin, Roanoke County; Pam Marshall, Town of Clifton Forge and Billy Martin, Botetourt County.

OTHERS/GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE

Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission Staff: Jeremy Holmes and Sherry Dean.

2. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Billy Martin motioned, Mayor Marshall seconded and the consent agenda was approved by voice vote.

3. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

A. Collective Response Funding and Positions:

Jeremy Holmes reported the City of Roanoke received American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds and allocated \$390,600 to the Roanoke Valley Collective Response (RVCR) to support two positions (a director and one administrative staff person) to

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coordinate mental health and substance addiction treatment recovery services. The City of Roanoke asked the Commission to house two positions to support the Roanoke Valley Collective Response. The positions hired will most likely search for additional funding to continue operations past the initial ARPA funds allocated. It is expected the Perdue Pharma case money could provide funding but initially the effort is fully funded with the ARPA funding. This will not cost the Commission and the RVCR staff hired will report to Jeremy Holmes and be Commission employees. The Commission has an oversight agreement with the RVCR Steering Committee on managing the program staff. In the future, the RVCR may become an independent organization and seek 501c (3) status. The RVCR will be located on the ground floor of the Commission.

Mr. North noted the Collective Response copies handed out at the meeting were not in the Executive Committee agenda packet that was distributed with the meeting agenda. All meeting material should be included in the meeting packet distributed before the meetings.

B. FY2022 Revised Budget:

Jeremy Holmes reported the FY2022 Revised Budget was most significantly affected by the Collective Response revenue received and Matt Miller leaving along with Jeremy's old position with Ride Solutions not being filled until the beginning of October. Both employment changes reflect salary cost savings. Additionally, new planner William Long will be leaving for a position at Valley Metro.

Motion was made by Mr. Dean Martin to recommend the FY2022 Revised Budget to the Commission board at the December 16, 2021 Commission meeting. The motion was seconded by Pam Marshall. The motion was adopted by a unanimous voice vote of 4-0.

C. Work Program Process:

Jeremy Holmes reported each year, in December, the Commission establishes a work program committee to assist with developing work projects for the next fiscal year. As he completed listening tours this past summer, Mr. Holmes noted a small amount of frustration, within the area, with the work program process. The Commission work plan has a combination of required grant projects and local projects solicited from the localities. Local dues and some discretionary funding, from grant sources, pay for the cost of the local projects. Localities provided feedback as follows on the Commission work plan process:

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1. It is hard to know in January of a project that may be 18 months away.
2. A desire for white papers to provide information on various topics.
3. A desire to align projects with regional goals.
4. There was not a clear sense of what capacity the RVARC had to take on certain projects.
5. Projects in the work plan would drop off at a later date when it was decided they were no longer needed.

Mr. Holmes would like to spend this year investigating what the work program process could be such as a rolling assistance process throughout the year or some way to change the process to be more helpful to the localities.

Mr. North reported it would be good for localities to have an outline of what and how to submit a request and then requests could be turned in throughout the year, as well as the RVARC provide a tutorial on how to submit a project because new Commissioners may not understand the process. Mr. Holmes noted he understands the need up front to explain better how the process works and a lot is happening at the same time projects are being accepted such as waiting to hear from VDOT the actual grant amounts.

Ms. Marshall noted she liked the tutorial idea on what to submit. Mr. Holmes noted we could show how better prepared the Commission could be when funding opportunities come along because we don't have built in space because there are so many required projects.

Mr. North summarized a work program committee would be established and they could decide the January and June projects and work with the work localities to develop the plans. All agreed on the process.

4. OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. North welcomed Ms. Marshall to the board and Ms. Marshall reported she was excited to learn. Mr. North noted he has always enjoyed working with Mr. Dean Martin and Mr. Billy Martin and looks forward to the coming year.

The next Commission meeting will be December 16, 2021 and Mr. North would like to introduce the concept of having the localities do presentations about their areas. This would not be mandatory. Ms. Marshall reported she would be able to let the Commission know if Alleghany County, Clifton Forge and Covington would be presenting at the January meeting. Mr. Holmes noted this could help staff know what is happening in the local areas and possibly help with project planning and allow RVARC to be more responsive.



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Mr. Dean Martin inquired as to if Christmas Eve became a holiday for RVARC staff, as was discussed in the last committee meeting, and Mr. Holmes reported that he had made that a RVARC holiday and that staff were very happy.

MEETING ADJORNED

Mr. Billy Martin made motion to adjourn the meeting, Ms. Marshall seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 12:35 p.m.

Submitted by:

Jeremy Holmes, Secretary,

Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission