

**Northern Shenandoah Valley Regional Commission
Meeting Minutes
February 19, 2026 – 5:00 pm**

	Clarke County		Warren County		Stephens City
✓	Bev McKay		Vacant		Linden Fravel
✓	Brandon Stidham		Cheryl Cullers (alt.)		Mike Majher (alt.)
	Frederick County	✓	John Vance		Strasburg
✓	John Jewell		Berryville	✓	Ashleigh Kimmons
✓	Eric Lawrence, Vice Chairman	✓	Erecka Gibson	✓	Brian Otis
✓	Jay Tibbs	✓	Terry Russell (alt.)		Winchester
✓	Gary R. Oates		Front Royal		Richard Bell
	Wyatt Pearson (alt.)	✓	Melissa DeDomenico-Payne	∇	John Fox
	Page County		Lauren Kopishke (alt.)		Mike Ruddy
	Vacant		Luray		Woodstock
	Vacant		Ron Vickers		Michelle Manning
	Shenandoah County		Middletown		Lauren Bennett (alt.)
✓	Dennis Morris, Chairman		Carolyn Aliff		
✓	Tim Taylor				
	Conrad Helsley				
✓	Joe Lehen				

Staff present: Brandon Davis, Amanda Kerns, Tina Alley

Others present: Tom Innes, APB Fiber, and Mary Gessner, LFSWCD

Call to Order

Chairman Morris called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m. and thanked everyone for being present. Commissioner Taylor led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Morris asked Board members to introduce themselves to our new members. Erecka Gibson, Berryville; John Jewell and Gary R. Oates, Frederick County; Tim Taylor, Shenandoah County; and Brian Otis, Strasburg. These are the newest board members to join NSVRC. Welcome aboard.

Administrative Action Items

Consent Agenda

Approval of the Agenda

Approval of Minutes of November 20, 2025

Chairman Morris asked whether there were any amendments or corrections to the consent agenda and requested a motion to approve it. The consent agenda was unanimously approved on a motion by Commissioner Lehen, seconded by Commissioner Tibbs.

Mr. Davis announced that Mrs. Shelley Owens will be retiring in May, and praised her work for the Commission over the last 20 years. He notified the board that a new Finance Director has been hired, and will be introduced at the next meeting of the Commission. He also indicated that there will be a two-month overlap in employment to provide hands-on training and ensure continuity of operations.

Reports

Staff Report—Mr. Davis mentioned that the January report includes pertinent information and asked the Commissioners to distribute it as they deem appropriate. Please inform any staff member if you would like us to include more details in the Staff Report.

Mr. Davis gave a brief overview of several recent affordable housing grants for an exciting project in Luray, which are detailed in the staff report. A brief discussion ensued.

Quarterly Financials:

Mrs. Owens was not present, and Mr. Davis provided a summary of the financials from July 1, 2025, to December 30, 2025, showing net income of \$95,719.30.

Program Spotlight

Tom Innes, Senior Vice President of Business Development at APB Fiber, gave a presentation on the regional broadband project. A brief discussion ensued after the presentation. Chairman Morris indicated that the All Points Broadband presentation will be distributed to board members after tonight's meeting.

Unfinished Business:

Ms. Rusnak, GIS Coordinator & Regional Planner, was unable to attend this month's meeting. Mr. Davis indicated that she would provide her presentation on the Stormwater Best Management Practices (BMP) and mapping project at a later meeting.

Ms. Kerns, Sr. Planner, provided a brief overview of the Solid Waste Management program (SWMP). The Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling (SWIFR) grant is moving forward. Request for Proposal (RFP) for combined curbside recycling and trash collection services was released on January 6th. The Watershed Implementation Program (WIP) and Water Supply Planning (WSP) are goals to ensure adequate and safe drinking water. Ms. Kerns went over the basic steps for the Septic Pump-Out Program. Ms. Kerns indicated she will share handouts and requested each of the localities' help in sharing those details for the Septic Pump-Out Program.

New Business Items: None

Other Business: None

Closing Remarks

Announcements & Commissioner Comments

Members were invited to announce upcoming events and provide updates on projects in their communities.

Partner Comments—

- Mary Gessner with LFSWCD announced the hiring of two new staff members and urged the Commission to continue working with nonprofit organizations to implement the HOME program
- Commissioner Russell commented on a significant housing development in Berryville
- Commissioner Taylor commented on the local budgeting process, highlighting Shenandoah County's anticipated investments in public safety personnel
- Commissioner Lehnert highlighted recent grants for the New Market Community Center and the Camp 7 facility in Clarke
- Commissioner Otis highlighted Strasburg's recent work on the consideration of a data center development

- Commissioner Kimmons highlighted Strasburg's work on a potential large commercial project across the interstate from the current town boundary

Chairman Morris thanked the Commission for each member's loyal engagement and commitment every month. The next meeting will be held on March 19th; if there are no urgent matters, we may cancel.

Hearing no other business, Chairman Morris adjourned the meeting at approximately 6:25 p.m.