

**Northern Shenandoah Valley Regional Commission**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**April 16, 2026 – 5:00 pm**

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

**Staff present:** Brandon Davis, Brianna Taylor, Shelley Owens, Emma Rusnak, Taryn Logan, Tina Alley  
**Others present:** Mary Gessner, LFSWCD

**Call to Order**

Chairman Morris called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m. and thanked everyone for being present. Financial Director, Shelley Owens, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**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 Vickers, seconded by Commissioner Tibbs.

Mr. Davis announced that Mrs. Shelley Owens will be retiring in May. He indicated that her work for the Commission over the last 20 years has been outstanding and nothing short of miraculous. He introduced the new Financial Director, Mrs. Brianna Taylor, to the board. She comes to us from the Regional Jail with a lot of experience. Chairman Morris indicated that Mr. Davis is a great leader and has the foresight to build a strong team. The Board recognized Mrs. Owens with a standing ovation for her years of dedication.

**Reports**

Staff Report—Mr. Davis mentioned that the April report includes pertinent information and urged 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 provided a brief overview of the Broadband project updates to the board, indicating ongoing construction in each county.

**Quarterly Financials:**

Brianna Taylor, the new Financial Director, introduced herself to the board and provided a summary of the financials from July 1, 2025, to March 31, 2026, showing net income of \$33,731.71.

**Program Spotlight**

Emma Rusnak, GIS Coordinator & Regional Planner, provided an overview of the Stormwater Best Management Practices (BMP) mapping project. She indicated she is working with towns and counties to gather more data on stormwater facilities for town properties and private owners. She still needs data from several communities, and this work is expected to be a long-term project that will ultimately prove to be a resource for localities to compete for future infrastructure funding. A brief discussion ensued.

Chairman Morris thanked Emma for her dedication to the Commission and her hard work.

**Unfinished Business:** None

**New Business Items:**

Taryn Logan, AICP, Principal Planner, briefly explained the Rural Transportation Planning Work Program—the Resolution Authorizing Application for State Planning and Research Funds for Rural Transportation Planning Assistance FY2027. The Virginia Department of Transportation executes Rural Planning Assistance Grant Agreements with the Northern Shenandoah Valley Regional Commission and State Planning and Research (SPR) fund for \$58,000 are being made available to the Commission from July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027, and the Commission elects to provide the local share match of \$14,500. On a motion made by Commissioner Bennett and seconded by Commissioner Kimmons, the resolution was unanimously approved as presented.

**Other Business:** None

**Closing Remarks**

**Announcements & Commissioner Comments**

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

Chairman Morris thanked the Commission for each member's loyal engagement and commitment every month. The next meeting will be held on May 21<sup>st</sup>.

Hearing no other business, Chairman Morris adjourned the meeting at approximately 5:50 p.m.