Northern Shenandoah Valley Regional Commission
Meeting Minutes
May 21, 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**
Z	John Jewell		**Berryville**	Z	Ashleigh Kimmons
✓	Eric Lawrence, Vice Chairman	✓	Erecka Gibson	✓	Brian Otis
Z	Jay Tibbs	✓	Terry Russell (alt.)		**Winchester**
	Gary R. Oates		**Front Royal**		Richard Bell
	Wyatt Pearson (alt.)	✓	Melissa DeDomenico-Payne	Z	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 Lehnen				

Staff present: Brandon Davis, Brianna Taylor, Taryn Logan, Tina Alley
Others present: Brad Reed, VDOT, Staunton District Planner.

Call to Order

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

Administrative Action Items

Consent Agenda

Approval of the Agenda
Approval of Minutes of April 16, 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 Helsley, seconded by Commissioner Lehnen.

Reports

Staff Report—Mr. Davis mentioned that the May 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.

Program Spotlight

Mr. Reed, VDOT Staunton District Planner, joined remotely and provided an overview of the smart-scale applications being submitted by and on behalf of localities in the region, for which staff will be seeking a resolution of support from the NSVRC Board. He indicated numerous studies underway in the region, and provided a brief overview of some of the most pertinent ongoing work. Mr. Reed offered his continued support for Commission staff and local government staff during the smart-scale process. A brief discussion ensued regarding the history and ranking criteria related to smart-scale. Chairman Morris thanked Mr. Reed for joining the meeting and commented on his professionalism and knowledge.

Unfinished Business: None

New Business Items:

Mrs. Logan, AICP, Principal Planner, provided an explanation of the Smart Scale Resolution being presented for endorsement, being submitted through the Smart Scale FY2028 – 2033, a six-year improvement program. The projects included:

- US 11/I-81 Exit 298 Improvements
- Route 522/Siler Road Unsignalized RCI
- US 50 Corridor Safety Improvements
- US 522/Route 37 and Apple Pie Ridge Road Improvements
- US 50 W Corridor Safety Improvements
- Route 7 Gateway Area Improvements
- Route 7 and Greenwood Road/First Woods Drive Turn Lanes
- I-81, Exit 307, and Route 277 Improvements
- Amherst Street Safety Improvements

Mrs. Logan requested an endorsement from the Commission. Mr. Morris asked for a motion to approve the Resolution of Support for the FY2028 Smart Scale applications. So moved by Commissioner Lawrence and seconded by Commissioner Lehnen. The motion carried unanimously. Chairman Morris thanked Taryn for her hard work on the Smart Scale applications.

Mr. Davis provided a summary of the FY207 NSVRC Budget and Work Program. He indicated that the NSVRC Executive Committee recommends approval of the NSVRC FY2027 Budget and Work Program. Chairman Morris asked if there were any questions, noted the extensive review of the Budget and Work Program recently undertaken by the Commission's executive committee, and requested a motion for approval. So moved by Commissioner Lawrence and seconded by Commissioner Helsley. The motion carried unanimously.

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. Unless a time-sensitive business arises that requires the Board's attention in June, we expect to cancel the regularly scheduled meeting and have no meeting in July. We expect the August meeting to be held as planned.

Hearing no other business, Chairman Morris adjourned the meeting at approximately 6:08 p.m.