

VIRGINIA: At a Recessed Meeting of the Board of Supervisors for the County of

Accomack held the Board of Supervisors Chambers in Accomac, Virginia
on the 19th day of April, A.D., 2016, at 5:00 p.m.

Members Present: Ron S. Wolff, Chair
Robert D. Crockett, Vice Chair
William J. "Billy" Tarr
Grayson C. Chesser
Paul E. J. Muhly
Harrison W. Phillips, III
Donald L. Hart, Jr.
C. Reneta Major

Member Absent: Laura Belle Gordy

Others Present: Steven B. Miner, County Administrator
Julie Wheatley, Exec. Director, Wallops Research Park
Tom Young, Chair, WRP Leadership Council
Caroline Massey, WRP Leadership Council
Shelia West, Administrative Assistant

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order and opened with a prayer by the Chair, after which the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was recited.

He informed members that Mrs. Gordy had been hospitalized and would not be present.

Presentation by Wallops Research Park Leadership Council on Annual Report

Mrs. Julie Wheatley, Wallops Research Park Executive Director, recognized members of the Board and thanked them for allowing the Wallops Research Park Leadership Council an opportunity to be present and give an update on the progress of the Wallops Research Park.

She noted that the reason for their presence was according to Virginia Code 15.2-2400 and subsections 15.2-2403.2 which created the Wallops Research Park Leadership Council, under G3 and stated that the council shall report annually its findings and recommendations regarding development and operation of the Wallops Research Park.

She introduced members of the Wallops Research Park Leadership Council that were present; namely, Mr. Tom Young, Chairman, Accomack County appointee and Mrs. Caroline Massey, Director of Basic Operations, NASA appointee. She also introduced Mr. Jason Loar, Project Manager of Davis, Bowen, Friedel and Mr. Bob Roop, Project Engineer of the Timmons Group.

She relinquished the floor to Mr. Young for the presentation.

Mr. Young, Chair, Wallops Research Park Leadership Council, appeared before the Board and stated his purpose was to give a report of the current state of their assessment of the Park's activities and its accomplishments and challenges.

Mr. Young apprised members of the four (4) documents that basically describe all of the activities associated with the Park and briefly discussed each:

- 1) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) – prepared between NASA, formerly the Marine Science Consortium, Chincoteague Bay Field Station and Accomack County, which had been prepared and signed in 2006,
- 2) The Code of the Commonwealth of Virginia which was approved in 2009,
- 3) The Space Act Agreement which was signed by NASA, the Chincoteague Bay Field Station and Accomack County, and
- 4) The Lease Agreement between NASA and Accomack County

He proceeded with a PowerPoint presentation explaining in detail the following outline of the Wallops Research Park Leadership Council Report as presented to the Accomack County Board of Supervisors dated April 19, 2016:

- Definitions
- WRP Principals' Responsibilities
- WRP Development Phases
- Future Actions
- Marketing and Economic Development
- Recommendations

He stated since the inception of the Wallops Research Park there hasn't been any Navy participation in the process. He said that their participation wasn't because of any negative aspect it was because of the Navy's legal counsel determination as to what an individual can and cannot do.

During the discussion regarding the Development Phases, he informed the Board that the contract and construction phase was nearing completion and explained that per the report, "6/16" was placed in quotations because he felt that all the issues concerning the contract and construction phase couldn't be closed by that date.

He informed members that construction was nearing completion and noted that the contractor performance was approximately twelve (12) months, but they were sixteen (16) months beyond the initial contract dates, to date.

He reported the significant accomplishments that had been achieved; taxiway had been implemented and infrastructure (water, sewer, Wi-Fi, and roads) had also been implemented.

He stated that the Park's current marketability was debatable, noting there were different views regarding the matter but expressed several reasons as to his "personal" belief why he felt as he did.

He discussed several ongoing construction issues which he described as some being "easily corrected" and some being "more challenging" with the cost being \$50,000 or less.

He responded to questions regarding related matters.

He reported that the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) issues with both sections had been resolved and there was a corrective action agreement.

He discussed and responded to questions regarding future actions and things which needed to be done, i.e.; completion of the park construction, closing the Dixie and Williams' contracts, establishing new contract with Garrett Development Group, and focusing on marketing and economic development.

In reference to Marketing and Economic Development, he discussed the strengths of the Park, issues with marketability and aspects of buildability.

Upon noting the tremendous support of the Accomack County Board of Supervisors, he also voiced his concerns regarding the negative business environment that may have been created by some of its member(s) relative to NASA/WFF and rocket launches, citing Board public discussion of selling the park.

Mr. Young and Ms. Massey responded to an inquiry from Mr. Crockett as to whether those concerns were that of the full WRP Leadership Council. Mr. Young stated that no vote had been taken nor any comments received even though the presentation had been sent to all its members.

The discussion continued at length regarding same and comments were offered by members of the Board.

A lengthy discussion continued regarding matters relating to the rocket launches, hazard zones, etc.

Mr. Young offered to volunteer a week prior to a NASA launch to spend a day with teachers to explain what to expect during the launch. Mr. Chesser agreed that would

a great idea because they do not understand and needed to be educated to help lessen the fear of the children. He offered to present the idea to the School Superintendent.

A discussion continued regarding some of the effects that citizens had experienced from the launches. Mr. Wolff shared an experience he had as well.

Ms. Massey informed the Board that for every launch that NASA does there is insurance which is mandated by law and whoever is responsible for the launch; i.e., Orbital Science Corp., etc.; if damages are incurred to private property, there is always a hotline set up so that citizens can call and file a claim. She stressed that she hoped that citizens would take advantage of it.

A discussion ensued.

Ms. Massey also informed members of the Educational Outreach Program that was offered by NASA and if the Board desired, she would be happy to take as a recommendation from the work session that NASA would do it as part of its Educational Outreach. Members agreed that it was a great idea.

A discussion continued regarding the report and Board members offered comments of concern regarding the “fairness” of the WRP Leadership report which attributed to the Board as having a “negative business environment”.

Mr. Young said that he had given the Chair and Vice Chair a “heads up” about the report and had reviewed it with them.

Mr. Young proceeded with the presentation and there was discussion concerning conversations being held about selling the park. Mr. Young stated the minutes should reflect that the Board has no interest in the sale of the park.

The presentation was continued with Mr. Young briefing the Board on the present status of the Wallops Research Park; “Status Quo Option”, “Options”, and “Recommendations”, and responded to questions. A discussion continued.

The Triton Program

In response to an inquiry, Mr. Young explained in detail the Triton Program stating it was an ongoing program of the Global Hawk by the Navy (which was a large unarmed vehicle) which had a potential of four hundred (400) jobs and a terrific opportunity for the Eastern Shore.

A discussion ensued regarding matters relating to the Triton Program and Mr. Young and Ms. Massey responded to questions.

Ms. Massey told members that she had a pre-draft press release of the program which noted that Wallops was among one of the potential sites. A discussion continued regarding ways in which a positive business environment could be created by the Board and citizens during the public input process.

Mr. Wolff made a motion that a work session be coordinated and scheduled which would help reinforce the ability of partnering with NASA and the NAVY to present a solid front and commitment in bringing the Triton Program to the Eastern Shore.

Mr. Muhly seconded the motion.

Ms. Deborah Christie, Assistant to Representative Scott Rigell, informed members that a lot of the support was coming through the Congressional delegation; Virginia, Maryland and Delaware. She recommended and volunteered to get the “players” that were involved in it to be a part of the work session.

The motion passed with Mrs. Gordy absent.

Wallops Research Park Annual Report Recommendations

Mr. Young discussed the following recommendations and responded to questions:

- 1) Complete Park construction and resolve contract issues
- 2) Resolve cited marketing and economic development issues
- 3) Not to market separately but integrate it with the State of Virginia’s activities and get the support of Governor with budget supported by Commonwealth (noting that it would take some effort)
- 4) Continue leasing the property

Recess

The Chair, by consensus, declared a 5-minute recess.

Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting back to order.

Closed Meeting

Mr. Tarr made a motion that the Board go into closed meeting pursuant to Section 2.2-3711. (A.29), of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended, for the purpose of discussing contractual issues related to the Wallops Research Park. Mr. Hart seconded the motion. The motion passed with Mrs. Gordy absent.

Open Session

The Chair declared the meeting open to the public.

Certification of Closed Meeting

Mr. Hart made a motion, seconded Mr. Crockett, to reconvene in Open Meeting and to Certify by roll call vote, pursuant to Section 2.2-3712 (D) of the Code of Virginia,

that to the best of each member's knowledge the only matters heard, discussed, or considered during the Closed Meeting were (i) public business matters lawfully exempted from Open Meeting requirements under this chapter and (ii) such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the Closed Meeting was convened.

Ayes:	Mr. Tarr	Mr. Wolff	Mr. Chesser	Nays: None
	Mr. Muhly	Mr. Phillips	Mr. Crockett	Absent: Mrs. Gordy
	Mr. Hart	Ms. Major		

Adjournment

Mr. Crockett made a motion to adjourn at 7:15 p.m. Mr. Phillips seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Mrs. Gordy absent.

Ron S. Wolff, Chair

Date