

# Minutes from 15 September 2022

## HRMFFA Board of Directors Meeting

1. HRMFFA's quarterly Board of Directors meeting was held at the Regional Building on 15 September 2022. Public Board members present were: Mayors Alexander, Duman, Dyer, Glover, Pons, Tuck and West; Supervisors Bazzani, Cornwell, Elliott, Hipple, and Rosie. Councilman Southall represented Poquoson. Private Board members present were: Buckless, Garcia, Klett, Monaco, and Sutton. Bill Brown represented ECPI and Karl Johnson represented BAE Ship Repair. Executive Director Dwyer and Treasurer Wilson were also present. A quorum was achieved.
2. Board Chair Pons called the meeting to order at 10:32 a.m. and welcomed HRMFFA's three new municipal members; Supervisor Phillip Bazzani representing Gloucester County, Supervisor Chris Cornwell representing Southampton County, and Supervisor Robert Elliott representing Surry County. Chair Pons also welcomed Old Point National Bank's new representative to the Board, Mr. Donald Buckless. Mayor Pons asked if there were any public comments. Mr. Dwyer stated no public comments had been submitted.
3. Mayor Pons introduced Dr. David Bowles from ODU's Virginia Institute for Spaceflight and Autonomy (VISA). Dr. Bowles thanked HRMFFA for the opportunity to present on VISA's activities and said it was good to be back since he last briefed HRMFFA as the NASA Langley Center Director several years ago. Highlights from Dr. Bowles' presentation included:
  - VISA is chartered to grow the spaceflight and autonomy sectors in the region through partnerships with industry, academia, and government; developing a talent pipeline, sponsoring research and technology; and leveraging space facilities and growing capability to support advances in satellites and autonomous systems (UxS), the sensors they carry, and the data they produce.
  - Signed MOU with Unmanned Systems Center at Virginia Innovation Partnership Corporation to provide regional leadership in UxS business initiatives.
  - Awarded a Region 5 GO VA planning grant (\$100,000) for a UxS route/corridor network study in southeast Virginia. He thanked HRMFFA and Rick Dwyer for the support in pulling together the military focus group of this study. They expect the final report in late 2022 or early 2023.
  - Worked with Norfolk to develop a commercial Maritime Autonomous Systems Test site with a \$394,000 grant. Site will be at the Willoughby Bay boat ramp and includes fenced area with covered workspace, floating dock and lift and will be completed in summer/fall of 2023.



- Worked with NASA to develop Autonomous Systems Regional “Strategic Playbook”
  - Requested by VA Space to lead the mission formulation/execution of a 6U CubeSat with payloads from ODU, Virginia Tech, and Coast Guard Academy; targeted launch date of March 2023.
  - Received \$1.5 million award for Virginia Small Sat Data Consortium and Virginia Data Cube. Partnership with Virginia Tech and NASA to provide easily accessible data from satellites, drones, ground sensors, etc. applied to wide spectrum of issues (e.g. coastal resiliency) for more informed solutions.
  - Future opportunities include space applications expansion on Eastern Shore and a maritime focused autonomous systems innovation & commercialization center.
  - Dr. Garcia asked if VISA was coordinating with the Navy on the Willoughby Bay test site as the Navy has an autonomous systems range in that area. Dr. Bowles confirmed they are working with the Navy and are striving to collaborate and be good neighbors. Dr. Garcia also asked if they are working with the Maritime Industrial Base Ecosystem (MIBE) on the maritime efforts. Dr. Bowles said he is aligned under VMASC and they work closely with MIBE.
4. Mr. John Simmons of The Roosevelt Group (TRG) next provided the Board a Washington Update. Highlights of his presentation included:
- TRG recently added Carlos Colon-Rodriguez who is an expert from the intelligence community on secure facilities. They also added Army LTG (ret) Jason Evans who recently oversaw the Army’s installation and quality of life enterprise. In the near future, TRG plans to add familiar faces with Rear Admiral Craig Quigley and Rear Admiral Chip Rock joining their team.
  - Three of the four defense authorization and appropriations bills include significant increases (~\$37 - \$45 billion) over the President’s budget request. The House appropriations bill is the only one that sticks to the President’s request. Will not see the defense bills passed until after the election. Likely have a continuing resolution funding the government until mid-December.
  - Air Force will likely be allowed to proceed with requested aircraft retirements, except for the F-22 fighters. They may ask to retire them again in FY24.
  - 4.6% military and civilian pay raise included in the bills.
  - Navy is asking Congress for waiver to 10 carrier air wings by 1 Oct 2025. Possible impact to Oceana.
  - Approximately \$260 million in Hampton Roads military construction projects included in the bills and budget request.
  - \$1.2 billion for the shipyard infrastructure optimization program. Navy is starting with Hawaii and Washington shipyards but will eventually get to Norfolk Naval Shipyard.
  - HRMFFA legislative priorities such as NASA’s enhanced use lease authority extension, Army watercraft service life extension program, Army Corps of Engineers authorities to include federal lands in studies, and 100% discount



- of child development center workers are included in the various bills.
- Both Hampton and Newport News were selected for Defense Community Infrastructure Program (DCIP) grants. The nearly \$14 million in grants for Hampton Roads represents about 15% of the entire DCIP program.
  - Russia's invasion of Ukraine has reinvigorated the NATO alliance and made members of both parties realize the U.S. needs to continue robust defense spending. Even with the Russian invasion, China will continue to be the pacing threat and focus of the Department of Defense.
5. Mr. Dwyer reviewed the end-of-August financials for the Board. He noted the budget is right on track so far. Payroll expenses were significantly under budget as we had not yet hired a Deputy Executive Director. Mr. Dwyer noted that the position has been advertised on HRMFFA's website and LinkedIn pages for 3-4 weeks and he had already received several applications. He requested Board members to refer to him any possible candidates they think may be a good fit. Intent is to fill the position this fall.
6. Chair Pons invited Mayor Duman to present the Budget and Finance Committee report. Mayor Duman said the B&F Committee met virtually on 13 September to review the annual audit results, returning of funds to Board members, and replacing a member of the B&F Committee.
- FY2022 Annual Audit: Mayor Duman stated the committee reviewed the audit that was provided to the members in the read-aheads. It was a clean audit with no issues. The committee recommends the Board approve the results. Mayor Dyer seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved by the Board.
  - Returning of funds: Mayor Duman reminded the members of the Board's decision in June to return funds that exceeded the \$1 million reserve and \$100,000 stabilization funds proportionately to the members. The Board was provided with the breakout in their binders. If approved, checks would be cut and sent out by mid-October. Mayor Duman motioned that the excess funds be returned to the members as noted in the spreadsheet. Mayor Dyer seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved by the Board.
  - New committee member: Since Cindy Black had stepped down as a HRMFFA Board member, she needs to be replaced on the B&F Committee. Cindy's replacement, Don Buckless, had agreed to serve and the B&F Committee members unanimously recommended him to the Board to be added to the committee. Mayor Duman motioned that Mr. Buckless be added to the B&F Committee. Mayor Tuck seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved by the Board.

7. Mr. Dwyer reviewed the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws changes necessitated by adding the three new municipal members. He discussed the issue with the HRMFFA attorney who recommended the Articles of Incorporation be updated reflecting the changes to the membership. Mr. Dwyer noted that the changes to the Bylaws primarily involved the adding of the new municipal members as well as cleaning up some language, annotating the Chambers of Commerce members as non-voting honorary members, and spelling out the duties of the Deputy Executive Director. There were no questions on the changes from the Board members. Mayor Dyer made a motion to approve the changes to the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws. Supervisor Bazzani seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved by the Board.
8. Mr. Dwyer stated that he was contacted by Mr. Don Hall, representing the Hampton Roads Automobile Dealers Association, who said they were not able to continue as a member of HRMFFA in FY2023 due to financial constraints. Mr. Dwyer said he had talked to some of the local Chambers of Commerce leaders about potential candidates. He asked the Board members for any recommendations of a company that would be a good fit so potential candidates could be considered by the Nominating Committee. The full Board could then vote on the matter at the December Board meeting.
9. Chair Pons invited Mr. Klett to provide the Board an update on the Futures Advisory Committee. Mr. Klett presented a draft outline of what he, Mayor Tuck, and Mr. Dwyer thought the final report could look like. He noted that the committee still needed to meet with the National Park Service and will be pulling the draft report together by the December Board meeting. He reiterated the common themes that kept coming up were sufficient/reliable/resilient energy, affordable workforce housing, sea level rise/flooding, childcare, spouse licensure/employment, encroachment, broadband connectivity, and quality of K-12 education among others. He also reviewed various future missions and opportunities such as increased use of unmanned platforms, Jefferson Lab's High Performance Data Facility, growth of Air Force and Navy intelligence missions, fielding of new frigates and fighter aircraft for the Navy and Air Force, and increased community partnerships. The Roosevelt Group would be asked to help provide information on the view from DC as to future missions, technologies, etc. Mayor West asked if the report would make recommendations that would then be brought to the localities. Mr. Klett said that was the intent for the committee to make recommendations to the Board for execution. Supervisor Hipple asked if the concerns listed were in priority order. Mr. Klett said they were not prioritized yet, but that is something the committee would look at. Mayor Tuck commented that the committee was still gathering data and needed to further develop the report and recommendations. And it

would be incumbent on the Board to determine what needs to be prioritized. Some items will be low-hanging fruit that can be addressed, where others will be tougher and more long-term. John Simmons noted it will be important to address items that are potential threats to local installations. Many of the quality-of-life issues are concerns across the country. However, if the region does not address things like sea-level rise, those can threaten the closure of a base in the future. Mayor Dyer noted the elected officials in the area are aware of many of these issues and there are efforts underway the region can leverage to address. Mayor Alexander noted that the entire HRMFFA Board should be involved with these efforts as it is very significant to the region instead of having a small group making recommendations. Mayor Tuck noted the committee has been primarily fact finding to bring the information back to the Board to work on the issues.

10. Mr. Dwyer provided a NASA Advisory Committee update from their recent meeting with NASA Langley Research Center (LaRC) Director, Clayton Turner. Highlights from the meeting included:
  - Director Turner was very appreciative of HRMFFA's support in the past and asked for continued support going forward so they get the investment needed today to make the magic of tomorrow happen.
  - LaRC's FY23 budget request was again over \$1 billion showing continued strong investment and support for their missions.
  - Just opened their \$95 million 175,000 square foot Measurement Systems Lab and broke ground on a \$43 million 25,000 square foot Flight Dynamics Research Facility continuing great investments at LaRC.
  - NASA's annual economic impact in Virginia is approximately \$2 billion in labor income, \$5.5 billion in economic output, and supported 27,097 jobs.
11. Mayor Pons invited Dr. Garcia to update the Board on the Bunker Labs initiative in Hampton Roads. Dr. Garcia said Bunker Labs is a non-profit that exists to help veteran entrepreneurs get businesses started. Given the large military presence in Hampton Roads, Bunker Labs wants to start a chapter in the region for veterans and their spouses. Dr. Garcia, Bob McKenna, and about 55 supporters met with the Bunker Labs CEO on July 26. They are gathering members to join the first group with a soft opening scheduled for Spring of 2023. Dr. Garcia said this can help address support to military spouses as identified during the Futures Advisory Committee interviews.
12. Mr. Dwyer updated the group on the Board trip to DC. He noted 27 October had been selected for the visit to meet with senior leaders at the Pentagon. He reviewed the tentative schedule for the day and noted coordination is underway with The Roosevelt Group to set up the meetings. Mayor Pons asked members



to please participate if possible so we can send a strong signal to Pentagon leadership of the region's support for the military.

13. Mr. Dwyer updated the Board on the potential for Jefferson Lab to add a High Performance Data Facility (HPDF) or "supercomputer" to their site in Newport News. He said the facility JLAB is proposing will exceed the capabilities of any similar facility in the country today. He noted that the General Assembly appropriated \$3 million in FY23 for JLAB to begin early planning and design for the facility. Preliminary estimates are that the infrastructure required will cost around \$43 million and the Commonwealth will be asked to support the building to help land the capability at JLAB. Initial estimates are that the HPDF could double the lab's annual economic impact to about \$1 billion and spur additional benefits from private sector companies wishing to utilize those capabilities. It could also greatly benefit local universities who are working on data science programs. Several regional organizations including Reinvent Hampton Roads, HRPDC, Chambers of Commerce, etc. are working to support the effort to bring the HPDF to JLAB. Mayor Pons said this is something the whole region should be able to work together and support. Dr. Garcia commented that he did not think the Department of Energy would allow outside entities to utilize an HPDF facility and typically data would have to stay contained on DoE networks. He said there are other efforts to build data science facilities to utilize the subsea cables landing in the area that would not be government controlled.

**NOTE: Following the Board meeting, Mr. Dwyer contacted the JLAB Director, Stuart Henderson, to get clarification on whether the HPDF could potentially be utilized by educational institutions and private sector companies. He stated that the world's biggest supercomputer is at DoE's Oak Ridge National Lab in Tennessee. They have an industry partnership program "that is helping start-up companies to Fortune 500 giants supercharge their competitiveness through access to world class computational resources and expertise not available elsewhere." More info on this program can be found at <https://www.olcf.ornl.gov/about-olcf/accel/>. Additionally, Mr. Henderson stated DOE labs are expected to make their capabilities available to private industry and their performance on that goal is evaluated every year right alongside their science output.**

14. Mayor Pons thanked everyone for their time and participation and adjourned the meeting at 11:52 am.