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**CHARTER AGREEMENT
OF THE
NORTHERN SHENANDOAH VALLEY REGIONAL COMMISSION**

**Adopted: May 10, 1970
Amended: June 9, 1983
Amended: May 17, 2001
Amended: August 15, 2008**

**CHARTER AGREEMENT OF THE
NORTHERN SHENANDOAH VALLEY REGIONAL COMMISSION**

This Charter Agreement to organize a Planning District Commission made this 10th day of May 1970, by and between the undersigned governmental sub-divisions as authorized by the Virginia Area Development Act (Title 15.1, Chapter 34, Sections 15.1-1400, et seq., Code of Virginia (1950), as amended):

NOW THEREFORE it is agreed that:

ARTICLE I

Name, Location, Authority, Purpose

- Section 1. The name of this organization shall be the Northern Shenandoah Valley Regional Commission, hereinafter called the "COMMISSION."
- Section 2. The principal office of the COMMISSION shall be in Front Royal, Virginia. The location of the principal office may be changed by the concurrence of 3/4ths of the COMMISSION members present at a regular meeting, provided that the clerk of the governing body of each member governmental subdivision has been notified of the contemplated relocation in writing at least thirty days before such meeting.
- Section 3. The COMMISSION shall be a public body corporate and politic with all powers and duties granted to it by the Virginia Area Development Act.
- Section 4. The purpose of the COMMISSION shall be to promote the orderly and efficient development of the physical, social, and economic elements of the Planning District by planning and encouraging and assisting governmental subdivisions to plan for the future.

ARTICLE II

Membership

- Section 1. COMMISSION members shall be appointed by the respective governing bodies of those political subdivisions which are parties of the Charter Agreement provided, however, that at least a majority, but not substantially more than a majority, of the COMMISSION'S members shall be elected officials of the governing bodies of the governmental subdivisions within the Planning District with each participating county, city, and town having at least one representative, and the other members being qualified voters and residents of the District, who hold no office elected by the people.
- Section 2. Governmental subdivisions which are parties to this Charter Agreements shall appoint members to the COMMISSION on the following basis:

Population	Number and Type of Representative	
	Elected Representative	Non-Elected Representative
1 – 6,999	1	0
7,000 – 19,999	1	1
20,000 – 39,999	2	1
40,000 – 59,999	2	2

For each 20,000 increment of population in excess of 60,000, a member governmental subdivision shall appoint one additional representative, alternating its appointments between elected and non-elected representatives, to assure that a majority of the COMMISSION'S representatives shall be elected officials.

- Section 3. Vacancies on the COMMISSION shall be filled for the unexpired term in the same manner as the original appointment was made or according to the practices of the appointing governing body.
- Section 4. Any member of the COMMISSION shall be eligible for reappointment but may be removed for cause by the governing body which appointed him.
- Section 5. Each member jurisdiction shall appoint an alternate voting representative to serve in the absence of that jurisdiction's duly appointed voting representative. This alternate may be an elected or non-elected representative.

ARTICLE III
Terms of Office and Voting Rights

- Section 1. The terms of office of COMMISSION members who are also members of governing bodies shall be coincident with their elected terms of office or such term as their governing bodies shall determine according to their practices. The terms of office of the citizen members shall be three years or such term as their governing bodies shall determine according to their practices.
- Section 2. East member of the COMMISSION shall have one equal vote in all matters before the COMMISSION.

ARTICLE IV
Officers

- Section 1. Officers of the COMMISSION shall consist of a Chairman and a Vice-Chairman who shall be elected by the membership of the COMMISSION. The COMMISSION may elect other officers as it deems necessary.
- Section 2. The Chairman and Vice-Chairman shall be elected for terms of one year or until their successors are elected.
- Section 3. COMMISSION officers shall be eligible for reelection.
- Section 4. The COMMISSION shall appoint an Executive Director who shall be an employee of the COMMISSION and shall serve at the pleasure of a majority of the membership.

ARTICLE V
Addition or Withdrawal of Members

- Section 1. Any governmental subdivision within Planning District Number 7 which is not a party to this Charter Agreement at the effective date thereof may thereafter join the COMMISSION, provided that such governmental subdivision is eligible for membership and that it adopts and executes this Agreement.
- Section 2. Any governmental subdivision may withdraw from the COMMISSION by submitting to the COMMISSION in writing, at least 90 days before the end of the COMMISSION'S then current fiscal year, a notice of intent to withdraw. Such withdrawal shall not become effective until the COMMISSION'S fiscal year has ended.

ARTICLE VI
**Appointments of an Executive Committee and
Adoption of By-Laws**

- Section 1. The COMMISSION may designate an Executive Committee and delegate to it such powers as the COMMISSION may determine, provided that these powers are not inconsistent with provision of the Virginia Area Development Act.
- Section 2. The COMMISSION may adopt By-Laws and such other rules as it deems necessary to govern its operations.

ARTICLE VII
Meetings

- Section 1. The COMMISSION shall hold regular meetings on a schedule which will be determined by the membership.
- Section 2. Meetings of the COMMISSION shall be open to the public, however, the COMMISSION may hold executive meetings.

ARTICLE VIII
Amendments

- Section 1. This Charter Agreement may be amended, supplemented, or superseded only by concurring resolutions from a majority of the member governmental subdivisions. All proposed amendments shall be submitted to the COMMISSION for its review and comment to the member governmental subdivisions.

ARTICLE IX
Date of Organization

- Section 1. The organization of the Northern Shenandoah Valley Regional Commission shall be effective on 10th day of May, 1970 or at such time after this date when the Charter Agreement has been adopted and signed by that governmental subdivision whose population when added to the aggregate population of those who have already adopted and signed that Charter Agreement embraces the majority of the population within Planning District Number 7.