



Ex. Dir. Search Committee meeting at 8:15 a.m. prior to CRC Meeting

Meeting Agenda
Commonwealth Regional Council
Wednesday, March 20, 2024 9:00 a.m.

Commonwealth Regional Council Conference Room, 200 Heartland Road, Keysville, VA

- I. Welcome & Call to Order.....Chairman
II. Invocation
III. Pledge of Allegiance
IV. Approval of Minutes of February 21st Council Meeting, (pg 1)..... Council Members
V. Treasurers' Report – February/March Financial Statements, (pg 9)..... Treasurer Walker
VI. Report of Officers, Committees & Executive Director
A. Chairman's Report..... Chairman
1) Executive Director Search Committee Report Chairman
2) Appointment of CRC Budget Committee Chairman
B. Executive Director's Monthly Activities Report, pg (13)
VII. Scoping the Future – Discussion of Innovative/Regional Ideas, (pg 14)..... Council Members
VIII. Old Business
A. Staff Monthly Project Reports
1) Update on Regional Emergency Planning Activities, (pg 15) Todd Fortune
2) Update on Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) Phase III (pg 16) Lauren Jones
3) Update on Charlotte County Comprehensive Plan (pg 17) Lauren Jones
4) Update on Buckingham County Comprehensive Plan (pg 18) Todd Fortune
5) Update on Amelia County Comprehensive Plan Update (modified) (pg 19) Todd Fortune
6) Update on Lunenburg County Comprehensive Plan Update, (pg 20)..... Tyler Henderson
7) Update on CRC Affordable Workforce Housing Development Program, (pg 21) Lauren Jones
8) Update on Kenbridge & Charlotte County ESHP Projects, (pg 22) Lauren Jones
9) Update on Regional VATI Grant for Cumberland, Lunenburg & Prince Edward, pg (23) Todd Fortune
10) Update on Drakes Branch Admin – SLFRF Funds Projects, pg (27) Melody Foster
11) Update on Drakes Branch Building Acquisition Project, pg (28) Todd Fortune
12) Update on Blackstone Armory-Environmental Cleanup Project, pg (31)..... Todd Fortune
13) Update CRC Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan Update, pg (32) Todd Fortune
14) Update on Longwood SEED Innovation Hub Project, pg (33)..... Lauren Jones
15) Update on New Regional Economic Development Organization (REDO) Grant, pg (34)..... Melody Foster
16) Update on Central Virginia Poultry Cooperative, (pg 35) Melody Foster
17) Report on National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) Conference Todd Fortune
Lauren Jones
18) Council Member Comments
IX. New Business Chairman
A. Staff Reports
1) Update on Grant Writing, (pg 41) Lauren Jones
2) Update on Request for Additional Planning District Funding, (pg 45)..... Melody Foster
3) Council Member Comments
X. Commonwealth Intergovernmental Review Process, None this month
XI. Other Business
XII. Council Member Comments
XIII. Adjourn – Next Meeting Date – Wednesday, April 17, 2024,
CRC Conference Room

**Commonwealth Regional Council
CRC Conference Room
Keysville, Virginia
February 21, 2024**

Welcome & Call to Order

The Chairman, Mr. Emert, called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

Invocation and Introductions

Mr. Emert gave the invocation and led the group in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag.

ROLL CALL**MEMBER REPRESENTATIVES****PRESENT****ABSENT**

Amelia:

Mr. Dexter Jones

*Mr. David Felts

Mr. Dexter Jones

(Secretary)

*Mr. David Felts

Buckingham:

Mr. Paul Garrett

*Mr. Karl Carter

*Mr. Karl Carter

Mr. Paul Garrett

Charlotte:

Mr. Gary Walker

*Mr. Walt Bailey

Mr. Gary Walker

(Treasurer)

*Mr. Walt Bailey

Cumberland:

Mr. John Newman

*Mr. Eurika Tyree

Mr. John Newman

*Mr. Eurika Tyree

Lunenburg:

Mr. Mike Hankins

*Ms. Taylor King

Mr. Mike Hankins

(Vice-Chairman)

*Ms. Taylor King

Nottoway:

Mr. Dickie Ingram

*Mr. Bill Collins

Mr. Dickie Ingram

*Mr. Bill Collins

Prince Edward:

Mr. David Emert

*Dr. Odessa Pride

Mr. David Emert

(Chairman)

*Dr. Odessa Pride

Non-Member Representatives:

SVCC:

**Mr. Keith Harkins

**Mr. Keith Harkins

Longwood University:

**Ms. Sheri McGuire

**Ms. Sheri McGuire

Hampden-Sydney College:

**VACANT

**VACANT

NOTE: *Denotes Alternates

**Denotes Non-Voting Member Attending

Member County Administrators Present

Mr. Taylor Harvie, Amelia County

Mr. Dan Witt, Charlotte County

Mr. Derek Stamey, Cumberland County(V)

Mr. Steve Bowen, Nottoway County

Mr. Doug Stanley, Prince Edward County(V)

STAFF

Ms. Melody Foster, Executive Director

Mr. Todd Fortune, Deputy Director

Ms. Lauren Jones, Regional Planner

Mr. Tyler Henderson, Regional Planner

GUESTS:

Ms. Sara Crawford, Charlotte Court House Town Manager

Ms. Robin Jones, CPA, CFP - Creedle, Jones, & Associates, P.C.

(V) Denotes attendees who participated virtually.

Approval of Minutes of January 17, 2024 Council Meeting:

Mr. Walker moved and Mr. Carter seconded to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report:

January/February: Mr. Emert stated he had reviewed the financial report and found everything to be in order. Mr. Walker moved and Mr. Jones seconded to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Motion carried. Mr. Harkins stated that the Budget Amendment for additional PDC funding is in the works for less than originally requested.

Report of Officers, Committees & Executive Director:**Chairman's Report:** There was none.

Executive Director Monthly Activities Report: Ms. Foster stated that a report was included in the Council packet. Ms. Foster stated that she attended the VACO/VML/VAPDC Local Government Day, VAPDC Meeting and visited General Assembly Delegate/Senate offices to support the increasing funding

for Virginia Planning Districts in Richmond. Ms. Foster stated that she met virtually with Bryan David, GOVAR3 Program Director, to discuss the CRC becoming the applicant for the Amelia County Regional Commerce Center Project. Ms. Foster stated that she assembled and submitted the requested CRC Budget request for FY 24-25. Ms. Foster stated that Ms. Hall, Finance Director, resigned on February 1st. Ms. Foster stated that she has started advertising for Finance Director and has received two applications.

Presentation of CRC FY 22-23 Audit: Ms. Foster stated that we had to complete a single audit due to additional federal funds through the VATI grant. Ms. Foster stated that it was discovered during the Audit that the VATI funds were not federal funds but instead state allocated funding therefore the single audit was not required. Ms. Foster welcomed Mrs. Robin Jones, CPA, CFA – Creedle, Jones, & Associated, P.C, to provide a presentation of the FY 2022 -2023 Audit. Ms. Foster stated that she has provided each person with a copy of the audit. Mrs. Jones stated that she would provide a brief overview of the Audit. Mrs. Jones that there was a clean opinion on the Audit. Mrs. Jones stated that the net position was \$442,639 and the only liability was the net pension of \$336,000. Mrs. Jones stated that the total assets are \$891,533. The net change in fund balance was \$114,752. Mr. Hankins moved and Mr. Carter seconded to approve the Audit as presented. Motion carried.

Scoping the Future - Discussion of Innovative/Regional Ideas: There was none.

Old Business:

Staff Monthly Project Reports:

Update on Regional Emergency Planning Activities: Mr. Fortune stated that a report was included in the Council packet. Mr. Fortune stated that after evaluating different options with the Project Management Team, it was decided to deliver educational materials and emergency kits to local emergency managers for distribution to citizens. Mr. Fortune stated that distribution is currently underway. Every county will receive 50 kits, with each kit containing 71 items and multiple information packets. Mr. Fortune stated that local distributions for Nottoway and Cumberland are pending. Mr. Fortune stated that the educational campaign is underway. The CRC staff is in the process of coordinating with local superintendents and school staff in each public school system in the region, plus the heads of school and school staff for the private schools in our region. The CRC plans to deliver Pedro the Penguin preparedness activity books to each elementary school in late March for distribution to second grade students. The second-grade students would then be able to take the books home and complete the activities during spring break as a fun way to learn about emergency preparedness.

Update on Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) Phase III: Ms. Jones stated that a report was included in the Council packet. Ms. Jones stated that CRC staff has been researching and sending along grant opportunities to localities including the Virginia Department of Forestry's Virginia Trees for Clean Water Grant Program. Ms. Jones stated that the Town of Kenbridge is looking to apply to this grant program. The CRC will be assisting the Town with an application. Ms. Jones stated that she has emailed Lunenburg and Cumberland Counties extension office to discuss a potential rain barrel workshop within the Counties.

Update on Charlotte County Comprehensive Plan Update: Ms. Jones stated that a report was included in the Council packet. Ms. Jones stated that the CRC met with the Charlotte County Board of Supervisors on December 11th for a work session to provide a brief overview of the plan and address any board member concerns about the Plan. Board members posed questions regarding whether or not language on the solar cap can legally be included in the plan. Ms. Jones stated that the board was notified at their January meeting that solar cap language can legally be included in the plan. The board selected to change the recommended solar language and lower the cap to four percent. Ms. Jones

stated that at the February Board meeting the Board selected to set the public hearing date to April 10th. Mr. Jones asked if the solar cap language caps the number of solar projects on open land? Ms. Jones stated that it is for all acres in the County. Mr. Witt stated that SB 697 is still being reviewed. Mr. Witt stated that if this bill is passed the language included within this Bill would take away the localities right to approve or disapprove solar projects until four percent of the County's total acreage covered in solar panels has been approved. Mr. Witt stated that the percentage of the County's total land mass would not begin to be counted until after July 2024, therefore allowing solar projects to be approved above the four percent of the County's total land mass without the local government approval process. Mr. Bowen stated that Nottoway County is proposing an 800-foot setback on all Solar projects. There was discussion on how this bill could affect the county's solar zoning ordinances if passed.

Update on Buckingham County Comprehensive Plan Update: Mr. Fortune stated that a report was included in the Council packet. Mr. Fortune stated that CRC staff attended the Planning Commission work session on February 20th. CRC staff reviewed revisions to draft Section 2 and Section 3 of the plan, reviewed the citizen survey results, and Draft Section 4 with the Commission. The Planning Commission was scheduled to hold their next work session with the CRC on March 18th. Mr. Fortune stated that CRC staff are working on the requested changes.

Update on Amelia County Comprehensive Plan Update: Mr. Fortune stated that a report was included in the Council Packet. Mr. Fortune stated that CRC staff are working with County staff and the Planning Commission on revising the Future Land Use map. A draft map was presented to the Commission for review. The Commission requested a second option, which CRC staff are working to develop and will present to the Commission for review at its meeting on February 26th.

Update on Lunenburg County Comprehensive Plan Update: Mr. Henderson stated that a report was included in the Council Packet. Mr. Henderson stated that the CRC held a kick-off meeting for the working committee on Thursday, February 8, 2024. CRC staff presented and distributed information on the existing CRC Comprehensive Planning Process. Mr. Henderson stated that topics that were covered included the timeline, community meetings, and updating the plan with minimal changes. In addition, the committee brainstormed about special issues including broadband, solar, changing housing market, attracting major industries, solid waste transit, and outdoor recreation. Mr. Henderson stated that the next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 7th. At this meeting, the committee will discuss likes/dislikes from the previous plan in more detail and the CRC staff will discuss logistics of the community meeting(s).

Update on CRC Affordable Workforce Housing Development Program: Ms. Jones stated that a report was included in the Council packet. Ms. Jones stated that the CRC has a remaining \$320,357.46 in grant funding that has not been obligated to a housing partner or CRC staff time. The CRC is seeking experienced housing partners to establish affordable workforce housing units in the counties of Amelia, Cumberland, and Buckingham by June 30, 2025. These counties were not previously served by the first round of grant funding. She stated that applications are due by Wednesday, February 28, 2024. Mr. Walker asked if Charlotte was included in the last round of grant funding. Ms. Jones stated that Charlotte was included. Mr. Jones asked if these was an income limit. Ms. Jones stated that yes, there is an income limit. An individual would need be at or below 80% Area Median Income to be eligible to purchase or rent a housing unit. Ms. Jones stated that Piedmont Habitat's contractor and volunteers are currently working to complete the remaining work on the two homes on California Street in Crewe. Piedmont Habitat is working with the homeowners and the USDA Rural Development Loan office to close on the Andrew Drive homes in Farmville. Smyth Properties has noted that all seven housing units in Kenbridge are complete and have received the Certificate of Occupancy. The Smyths are currently accepting rental applications for these housing units. Ms. Jones stated that the Town of Blackstone's

contractor has completed siding on one of the two homes. The Town has completed water, sewer, and electricity connection to both homes. She stated that the contractor was hired to build both homes and is currently completing the builds simultaneously. Ms. Foster stated that our intent with this recently released round of funding is to cover all of our Counties. Ms. Foster stated that if we have any funds left over from this next round of funding we will rerelease the funding and open it to all of our counties.

Update on Kenbridge and Charlotte County Emergency Supplemental Historic Preservation (ESHP) Fund Projects: Ms. Jones stated that a report was included in the Council packet. The CRC is assisting the Town of Kenbridge and Charlotte County with grant-funded projects through the Department of Historic Resources to make repairs to historic structures that were damaged by Hurricane/Tropical Storm Michael. Ms. Jones stated that the Kenbridge Town Hall Repairs Project has been closed out. The CRC and Town staff have been in communication with DHR staff in regards to the final preservation agreement and is working on finalizing these documents. Ms. Jones stated that CRC staff worked with County staff to assemble and submit any final reimbursement requests and to set up a final site visit with DHR staff. The final site visit was completed on February 14, 2024.

Update on VATI Grant for Cumberland, Lunenburg, and Prince Edward: Mr. Fortune stated that a report and map was included in the Council packet. The CRC was awarded a grant by DHCD through the Virginia Telecommunication Initiative (VATI) program to provide funding to Kinex Telecom to complete a fiber buildout in part of Cumberland County, all of Prince Edward County, and part of Lunenburg County. Mr. Fortune stated Kinex and their crews have resumed work on laying fiber in Lunenburg County. Mr. Fortune stated that Kinex has advised that crews are working with VDOT on strategies to avoid old culvert lines. Mr. Fortune stated that CRC staff have requested an extension on the period of performance for the grant due to guidance from Kinex that they do not expect to have the work completed by the current end date. The CRC has requested a new end date of June 14, 2026 for the grant. Mr. Fortune stated that as of February 1, 2024, a total of 4,121 passings and 872 installs for new customers have been completed. Mr. Fortune stated that the CRC are scheduled to complete another site visit in March 2024.

Update on Drakes Branch SLFRF Projects: Ms. Foster stated that a report was included in the Council packet. Ms. Foster stated that the water metering project is complete. Ms. Foster stated that CRC staff have met with the Town Mayor and Clerk to review additional projects to expend the remaining funds. The Town will be working to prioritize projects and will be meeting again in March to discuss updates.

Update on Drakes Branch Building Acquisition Project: Mr. Fortune stated that report was included in the Council packet. The CRC is assisting the Town with implementation of a Hazard Mitigation Grant Program grant from FEMA through VDEM to fund the acquisition and removal of nine buildings in the Town's Central Business District. These buildings are located within the floodplain and are subject to periodic flooding. Mr. Fortune stated that the Town has retained Hurt and Proffitt to conduct lead and asbestos inspections of buildings 2 and 3. The inspections are underway and scheduled to be complete by late February/early March. These inspections need to be done before the demolition/clearance work can be bid out. Mr. Fortune stated that the Building 4 owner has selected to participate and has signed the agreement to sell the property to the Town. Mr. Fortune stated that the sale is pending completion of the sale agreement and supporting paperwork. Mr. Fortune stated that buildings 5 and 6's owner has agreed to the terms on a sale of the property to the Town. The Town is working with the Town Attorney and the property owner to complete the sale of these properties. Mr. Fortune stated that building 8 property has a tax lien. Mr. Fortune stated that the County has referred the property to Tax Authority Consulting Services (TACS) in Henrico County-based firm that assists local

governments in collection, bankruptcy, and assessment matters, for a tax sale on the property. Mr. Fortune stated that TACS has filed paperwork in Charlotte County Circuit Court to begin the sale process, and is working to appoint a Guardian ad Litem. Mr. Fortune stated that the building 9 property owner has agreed to terms on a sale of the property to the Town. The Town is working with the Town Attorney to close on the sale.

Update on Blackstone Armory VBAF Grant: Mr. Fortune stated that there is not a report in the Council packet. The CRC is assisting the Town with implementation of a Virginia Brownfields Assistance Fund (VBAF) grant through VEDP to undertake asbestos abatement, underground tank removal, and lead abatement at the Harris Memorial Armory Center in Blackstone. Mr. Fortune stated that all abatement/removal activities are complete. The CRC assisted the Town in preparing and submitting the required reporting and financial documentation to VEDP on October 5, 2023. Mr. Fortune stated that the consultant used by VEDP to review submittals under this program requested additional information. CRC staff worked with the Town and their project inspector to provide to the additional information to VEDP and their consultant on February 5, 2024. Mr. Fortune stated that the Town is still waiting on a response.

Update on CRC Hazard Mitigation Plan Update: Mr. Fortune stated that a report was included in the Council packet. Mr. Fortune stated that CRC staff has been working with VDEM and FEMA Region 3 staff, Lunenburg County staff, and representatives from Southside Electric Cooperative (SEC) on how to address the project submitted by SEC for mitigation funding. Mr. Fortune stated that there are two options to address this: Add SEC as a participant to our Regional Plan, which would require significant changes to the draft Plan; or amending on of Lunenburg County's mitigation actions to make this project eligible, which would require the County to act as applicant and (if funded) grantee for the project. As of today, CRC staff was in communication with Lunenburg County staff and SEC representatives to determine the preferred option. Mr. Fortune stated that there are currently four known mitigation funding applications from this region that are being held by VDEM until preliminary approval of our Plan has been granted. Mr. Fortune stated that based on the information received to date from SEC about the project, Lunenburg County was not comfortable actin as the applicant or grantee for the project. Therefore, after consulting with VDEM staff and given the amount of time it would take to add SEC as a participant to the plan, the decision was made to go ahead and submit the plan to FEMA Region 3 staff for preliminary approval.

Update on SEED Innovation Hub Project: Ms. Jones stated that a report was included in the Council packet. The CRC is assisting the Longwood Real Estate Foundation (REF) in implementation of three grants that were awarded to the REF for the completion of the SEED Innovation Hub. Grants are from the U.S. EDA, the Tobacco Commission, and GO Virginia (GOVA). Ms. Jones stated that on January 25th, LUREF held a public bid opening with two submitted bids from Kenbridge Construction and English Construction. Ms. Jones stated that the CRC is assisting LUREF with providing the EDA with the necessary documentation that is required for the final approval of the lowest bidder.

Update on CRC GO Virginia Grant – Development of Business Plan and Strategy for NEW REDO: Ms. Foster stated that a report was included in the Council packet. Ms. Foster stated that at the last Council meeting the Council selected to determine dues for the new CRC REDO based off a \$2.50 per capita model. Ms. Foster stated that the CRC did not discuss how Longwood would be included in this model. There was discussion. Mr. Emert stated that Longwood should contribute at a flat rate of \$25,000 (minimum rate). Ms. Foster stated that originally the CRC was planning on utilizing an unpaid student intern to assist with the administrative support to Convergent. Ms. Foster stated that she was informed that unpaid internships are unlikely option stating that many students are looking for a paid internship experience. Ms. Foster stated that the CRC has a surplus of salary funds that were originally

budgeted for the Regional Planner position, as it took longer than anticipated to hire the position. Ms. Foster stated that she would propose that the Council hires a part-time person to work 15 to 20 hours a week at \$15 to \$18 per hour. Ms. Foster stated that this person would work from March till June. Mr. Hankins moved and Mr. Jones seconded to request public investment dues for the creation of the Virginia's Heartland Regional Economic Development Alliance to Longwood University for a flat investment rate of \$25,000 (minimum rate) and that the CRC can begin to advertise to hire a part-time person to work 15 to 20 hours a week at \$15 to \$18 per hour to assist the Consultant on the Fundraising Campaign. The motion carried.

Central Virginia Poultry Cooperative: Mr. Foster stated that a report was included in the Council packet. Ms. Foster stated that due to this project being an ongoing Economic Development project, the TRRC cannot make a comment at this time.

Council Member Comments: Mr. Emert stated that the Executive Director Search Committee met prior to the Council meeting. Mr. Emert stated that the committee has advised staff to advertise for the Executive Director position. The Committee would like for the new Executive Director to begin by May 1, 2024.

New Business:

Staff Reports

Update on Grant Writing: Ms. Jones stated a copy of the grant writing report was included in the Council packet. Ms. Jones stated that the CRC is assisting the Town with an application to the SCRC, State Economic Infrastructure Development Grant Program to fund construction costs for the renovation and rehabilitation of the Harris Memorial Armory. Ms. Jones stated that the CRC is assisting Prince Edward County to apply for a US DOT RAISE Planning Grant to complete a Farmville US 460 East Interchange Study. Ms. Jones stated that the CRC is assisting Virginia Food Works with a AFID planning grant application to purchase a new liquid goods filling machine and dry goods filling machine for the Prince Edward Cannery that would serve local food producers. Ms. Jones also stated that the CRC is assisting PSR with an application to purchase a vehicle through the USDOT FTA, Innovative Coordinated Access and Mobility grant program. Ms. Jones stated that the CRC is also assisting Victoria Fire and Rescue, Blackstone VFD, Keysville VFD, Kenbridge VFD, and Prince Edward County with applications to the Assistance to Firefighter Grant Program.

Virginia Department of Health, Office of Emergency Medical Services (OEMS) Update on Rescue Squad Assistance Fund Grant delays: Ms. Foster stated that the letter from the Office of Emergency Medical Services (OEMS) is included in the Council Packet. Ms. Foster stated that the OEMS is continuing to focus on financial restructuring. Because of this, the OEMS will not be funding Rescue Squad Assistance Fund (RSAF) grants for the upcoming Spring 2024 grant cycle and therefore will not be taking new applications. Ms. Foster stated that as noted in the letter the incoming "4 for Life" program funds will be used to fund grants previously obligated. Ms. Foster stated she spoke with VDH staff and they are expecting to have the next grant round by Fall 2024.

Update on Request for Additional Planning District Funding: Ms. Foster stated that there was not a report included in the Council packet. Ms. Foster stated that there was no additional State funding for PDCs included in the Governor's released budget. VAPDC worked with legislators to introduce a budget amendment that would give each PDC an extra \$150,000 in funding. Ms. Foster stated that currently there is an amendment that would provide \$75,000 in additional PDC funding. However, this amendment is not carried by both the House and the Senate.

Council Member Comments: There were none.

Commonwealth Intergovernmental Review Process (CIRP): There were no comments.

Other Business: There was none.

Council Member Comments: There were none.

Adjournment, Next Meeting: The meeting adjourned at 10:02 a.m. The next meeting was set for Wednesday, March 20th, at the CRC's office located at the Heartland Building in Keysville, Virginia.

Mr. Mike Hankins, Secretary

Treasurer's Report - Cash on Hand & Account Balances

For the Period of February 15, 2024 thru March 13, 2024

<u>Cash on Hand</u>	<u>Period Ending</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Total Income	\$ 49,120.48	\$ 3,826,400.73
Total Expenses	\$ 88,519.20	3,832,306.97
Net Income	\$ -39,398.72	\$ -5,906.24
Cash on Hand	\$ 860,812.63	\$ 860,812.63

Account Balances as of March 13, 2024

Benchmark (M2)	\$ 235,939.56
BB&T (M1)	\$ 524,674.24
Benchmark (CD1)	\$ 54,439.71
Benchmark (CD2)	\$ 15,043.36
BB&T (PR)	\$ 10,311.69
BB&T (Oprtg)	\$ 20,404.07
	\$ 860,812.63

Prepared by: Melody Foster, March 13, 2024

****Note:** Items 47060, 47070, 47080 and 47081 are Pass-Thru revenue funds for current grant projects and are not counted as income for the CRC. Corresponding expenses categories are 79036, 79045, 79046 & 79047.

*47060/70045 VH PDC Housing Program Funds

*47070/79036 VATI Regional Broadband Grant

*47080/79046 CRC REDO (GOVA Grant) *Reminder - the CRC committed \$10,000 to the CRC REDO Grant as cash match.*

*47081 CVPC AFID PG

*****Due to the move several funding agencies have sent our request for funds to the wrong address and are currently re-issuing checks.**

These include DEQ (\$58,000), VDEM Haz Mitg Funds (\$29,489.56), GOVA CRC REDO (\$14,242.79) and VDEM SHSHP Comm Outreach (\$22,277.15).

**Commonwealth Regional Council
Financial Statement
February 15 through March 13, 2024**

10:48 AM
03/12/24
Accrual Basis

	Feb 15 - Mar 13, 24	Budget	Jul 1, '23 - Mar 13, 24	YTD Budget	Annual Budget
Income					
40000 · Revenue					
43000 · Local Member Investment					
43010 · Amelia Local Member Investment	0.00	0.00	19,000.00	19,000.00	19,000.00
43020 · Buckingham Local Member Investim	0.00	0.00	19,000.00	19,000.00	19,000.00
43030 · Charlotte Local Member Investime	0.00	0.00	19,000.00	19,000.00	19,000.00
43040 · Cumberland Local Member Investim	0.00	0.00	19,000.00	19,000.00	19,000.00
43050 · Prince Ed Local Member Investime	0.00	0.00	19,000.00	19,000.00	19,000.00
43060 · Lunenburg Local Member Investime	0.00	0.00	19,000.00	19,000.00	19,000.00
43095 · Nottoway County	0.00	0.00	19,000.00	19,000.00	19,000.00
Total 43000 · Local Member Investment	0.00	0.00	133,000.00	133,000.00	133,000.00
44000 · Revenue					
45000 · Project Funding					
44000 · VA Regional Cooperation	0.00	0.00	133,000.00	133,000.00	133,000.00
45000 · Project Funding	0.00	7,022.21	67,478.00	63,124.87	89,971.08
45880 · CRC Regional Haz Mit Plan Updat	0.00	2,424.38	52,071.05	21,793.50	31,062.00
45900 · Prince Edward Access Road Admin	0.00	585.38	7,500.00	5,262.10	7,500.00
45955 · PDC Housing Program	3,439.52	1,561.00	12,076.21	14,032.29	20,000.04
45965 · Charlotte Comp Plan Update	0.00	199.02	0.00	1,789.11	2,550.00
45970 · Kenbridge ESHPF Grant Admin	0.00	948.31	12,150.00	8,524.60	12,150.00
45975 · Charlotte ESHPF Grant Admin	0.00	151.73	1,944.00	1,363.94	1,944.00
45985 · VATI Regional Broadband Grant	0.00	1,821.13	0.00	16,370.76	23,333.04
45990 · Drakes Branch SLFRF Admin	0.00	237.98	2,139.27	2,806.51	3,049.08
45991 · Blackstone Armory Abatement Adm	0.00	312.21	8,000.00	2,806.51	4,000.08
45992 · Amelia Mod Comp Plan Update	0.00	466.30	0.00	4,209.68	6,000.00
45993 · VATI Audit funds	0.00	312.21	0.00	2,806.51	4,000.08
45994 · Farmville SHSP Admin	0.00	0.00	900.00	0.00	0.00
45995 · Drakes Branch VDEM Grant Admin	0.00	1,609.86	0.00	14,471.52	20,626.08
45996 · Buckingham Comp Plan Update 23	0.00	1,951.25	0.00	17,540.38	25,000.08
45997 · Lunenburg Comp Plan Update 24	0.00	1,951.25	0.00	17,540.38	25,000.08
45998 · SHSP Comm Outreach & Prep.	0.00	1,014.65	0.00	9,121.02	13,000.08
45999 · Longwood SEED Inn Hub Admin	0.00	2,528.34	8,472.25	22,728.05	32,394.00
Total 45000 · Project Funding	3,439.52	18,077.00	103,113.51	162,499.62	231,608.64
46000 · Other Funding					
46005 · DEQ 2021 CRC WIP II Assistance	0.00	4,526.88	0.00	40,693.60	58,000.08
46010 · VDOT-Transport Planning	0.00	4,526.88	25,538.91	40,693.60	58,000.08
46040 · Interest Income	0.00	62.44	2,717.06	561.32	800.04
46050 · Misc. Income	0.00	0.00	1,856.30	0.00	0.00
46081 · EDA Technical Assistance Fund	0.00	5,960.16	18,641.29	47,214.10	70,000.04
46082 · SCRC LDD Funds	0.00	3,434.19	0.00	19,870.99	33,000.03
Total 46000 · Other Funding	0.00	18,510.55	48,753.56	149,033.61	219,800.27
47000 · Pass Thru Funds					
47060 · VH PDC Housing Program Funds	22,592.00	0.00	283,311.49	0.00	0.00
47070 · VATI Broadband	0.00	0.00	3,082,618.55	0.00	0.00
47080 · CRC REDO	0.00	0.00	70,036.66	0.00	0.00
47081 · CVPC AFID PG	23,088.96	0.00	38,088.96	0.00	0.00
Total 47000 · Pass Thru Funds	45,680.96	0.00	3,474,055.66	0.00	0.00
Total Income	49,120.48	43,609.76	3,826,400.73	507,658.10	674,379.99
Expense					
71000 · Personnel Costs					
71010 · Salary Distribution	23,006.97	26,771.05	183,582.25	240,653.28	343,000.08
71040 · Payroll Expenses (SS/FICA)	1,760.06	2,048.10	14,044.06	18,411.02	26,241.00

**Commonwealth Regional Council
Financial Statement
February 15 through March 13, 2024**

10:48 AM
03/12/24
Accrual Basis

	Feb 15 - Mar 13, 24	Budget	Jul 1, '23 - Mar 13, 24	YTD Budget	Annual Budget
71150 - Unemployment Ins.	5.56	10.30	49.45	92.61	132.00
71200 - VRS Contribution	5,171.75	5,953.87	38,918.03	53,521.17	76,283.04
71350 - Staff Train/Conference	0.00	1,326.85	2,697.55	11,927.45	17,000.04
71400 - Workmens Comp Ins	0.00	39.02	0.00	350.83	500.04
71500 - Group Health Insurance	4,533.10	3,121.99	24,746.13	28,064.57	40,000.08
71600 - Life Insurance	29.70	27.32	291.90	245.59	350.04
71700 - Other Staff Costs	0.00	70.48	0.00	633.56	903.00
71750 - Employee Cell Phone Stipend	0.00	234.15	1,600.00	2,104.84	3,000.00
Total 71000 - Personnel Costs	34,507.14	39,603.13	265,929.37	356,004.92	507,409.32
72000 - Office Operations					
72005 - Cleaning & Maint.-Bldg	0.00	449.57	2,800.00	4,041.29	5,760.00
72010 - Lease Costs	1,200.00	1,123.92	9,600.00	10,103.23	14,400.00
72015 - Utilities	385.02	195.13	3,429.03	1,754.09	2,500.08
72020 - Telephone/Internet Costs	278.39	273.17	2,119.15	2,455.67	3,500.04
72030 - Postage and Freight	0.00	93.66	1,145.26	841.94	1,200.00
72035 - Express Mail	0.00	9.36	57.00	84.19	120.00
72040 - Consumable Supplies	0.00	280.98	5,795.83	2,525.81	3,600.00
72050 - Dues and Subscriptions	0.00	27.32	97.00	245.59	350.04
72060 - Office Insurance	0.00	7.81	0.00	70.22	100.08
72070 - Administrative Costs	18,251.80	1,014.65	22,976.80	9,121.02	13,000.08
72080 - Office Costs - Other	0.00	234.15	4,058.12	2,104.84	3,000.00
72085 - Office Moving Expense	0.00	0.00	1,256.15	0.00	
Total 72000 - Office Operations	20,115.21	3,709.72	53,334.34	33,347.89	47,530.32
73000 - Office Equipment					
73010 - Office Equipment	0.00	195.13	1,600.00	1,754.09	2,500.08
73030 - Equipment Maintenance	1,020.78	1,240.99	7,801.54	11,155.65	15,900.00
73040 - Equipment Repair	0.00	156.10	138.84	1,403.25	2,000.04
73050 - Equipment - Other	0.00	1,521.97	16,041.31	13,681.45	19,500.00
Total 73000 - Office Equipment	1,020.78	3,114.19	25,581.69	27,994.44	39,900.12
74000 - Auto/Staff Travel					
74020 - Staff Mileage	340.77	741.47	4,135.04	6,665.35	9,500.04
Total 74000 - Auto/Staff Travel	340.77	741.47	4,135.04	6,665.35	9,500.04
75000 - Meetings/Memberships					
75010 - Council Meetings	0.00	405.86	2,607.54	3,648.44	5,200.08
75020 - Committee Meetings	0.00	31.22	0.00	280.70	400.08
75030 - Staff Meetings	0.00	39.02	221.29	350.83	500.04
75040 - Council Memberships	0.00	554.16	7,120.00	4,981.48	7,100.04
75050 - Other Meeting Costs	1,854.34	15.61	1,854.34	140.35	200.04
75060 - Public Official Insurance Cov.	0.00	140.49	0.00	1,262.90	1,800.00
Total 75000 - Meetings/Memberships	1,854.34	1,186.36	11,803.17	10,664.70	15,200.28
77000 - Collateral Materials					
77010 - Web Page Costs	0.00	273.17	261.05	2,455.67	3,500.04
Total 77000 - Collateral Materials	0.00	273.17	261.05	2,455.67	3,500.04
78000 - Local Relations					
78010 - Newsletter/Annual Report	0.00	11.71	0.00	105.24	150.00
78030 - Other	0.00	78.06	0.00	701.67	1,000.08
Total 78000 - Local Relations	0.00	89.77	0.00	806.91	1,150.08

Commonwealth Regional Council
Financial Statement

February 15 through March 13, 2024

Accrual Basis

	Feb 15 - Mar 13, 24	Budget	Jul 1, '23 - Mar 13, 24	YTD Budget	Annual Budget
79000 · Pass Thru Fund Expenses					
79036 · VATI Broadband	0.00	0.00	3,082,618.55	0.00	0.00
79045 · VH PDC Hous Prog-Partner Expens	22,592.00	0.00	283,311.49	0.00	0.00
79046 · CRC REDO	0.00	0.00	85,199.52	0.00	0.00
79047 · CVPC AFID PG	8,088.96	0.00	8,088.96	0.00	0.00
Total 79000 · Pass Thru Fund Expenses	30,680.96	0.00	3,459,218.52	0.00	0.00
90000 · Other Program Costs					
90010 · Planning Project Costs	0.00	0.00	12,043.79	0.00	0.00
90011 · EDA Other Costs	0.00	702.45	0.00	6,314.52	9,000.00
90012 · Consultant Contractual Service	0.00	390.25	0.00	3,508.09	5,000.04
90013 · Printing Costs, etc.	0.00	195.13	0.00	1,754.09	2,500.08
90101 · New REDO Costs	0.00	390.25	0.00	3,508.09	5,000.04
Total 90000 · Other Program Costs	0.00	1,678.08	12,043.79	15,084.79	21,500.16
Total Expense	88,519.20	50,395.99	3,832,306.97	453,024.67	645,690.36
Net Income	-39,396.72	-5,786.13	-5,906.24	54,633.43	28,689.63



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

The Counties of Amelia | Buckingham | Charlotte | Cumberland | Lunenburg | Nottoway | Prince Edward

TO: CRC Representatives
FROM: Melody Foster, Executive Director
SUBJECT: CRC Executive Director Monthly Activities
DATE: March 13, 2024

- Met virtually with Bryan David and Ann Taylor for the Quarterly check-in on the CRC GOVA REDO project. Relayed the project is complete and final closeout documents will be submitted soon. Still waiting on final payment from GOVA.
- Meeting weekly with Todd Fortune to discuss Executive Director Transition tasks.
- Worked on submitting CRC county budget requests for FY25.
- Attended Central Virginia Poultry Cooperative meeting in Farmville, Virginia and also met with property owner, VDACS, Virginia Farm Bureau Federation and CVPC representatives to discuss the CRC Economic Development Announcement site.
- Sent executed CRC REDO Fundraising Campaign Agreement with Convergent Nonprofit Solutions LLC to Andy Coe and discussed next steps.
- Assembled and submitted the GOVA REDO Close Out report and reported CRC final payment had not been received. Learned GOVA sent to old address and will be re-issuing check.
- Corresponded daily with VDACS and Virginia Farm Bureau Federation representatives to discuss logistics, site preparation and other needs for CRC Economic Development Announcement to be held in Nottoway County.
- Sent out invitation to CRC Regional Economic Development Announcement and collected RSVPs for the event.
- Corresponded with Prince Edward County staff to obtain information for the TRRC grant for the HIT Park Access Road project. Submitted application on February 8th.
- Set up, and facilitated the CRC Regional Economic Development Announcement – presentation of \$1,791,750 check to CRC for the creation of the Central Virginia Poultry Cooperative by Virginia Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry, Matthew Lohr at the farm of Tom Schaubach in Burkeville, VA. Funding agencies were TRRC - \$1.4 million, VDACS (AFID \$50,000 & RRTF \$341,750).
- Corresponded with Prince Edward County staff to coordinate with the County to apply for US DOT RAISE Planning Grant funds for the US 460 East Interchange Study project. Submitted application on 2/28.
- Corresponded with Bryan David, GOVAR3 Program Director, to discuss the CRC application for the Amelia County Regional Commerce Center Project.
- Attended ribbon cutting of South Street Lofts housing project in Kenbridge, VA.
- Assembled and submitted Public Funding Investment requests to all 7 counties of the CRC region and Longwood University for the creation of the Virginia's Heartland Regional Economic Development Alliance.
- Corresponded with Crystal Morphis, CEDC to determine path forward to initiate VHREDA as a 501c3 Nonprofit.
- Participated in EDA, EDD training webinar.
- Interviewed candidates for the CRC Finance Director Position.
- Posted advertisement for the CRC Executive Director position in local newspapers and VACO, VML, VAPDC, CRC websites.
- Completed and submitted EDD questionnaire to EDA.
- Discussed ongoing projects with CRC staff.



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

The Counties of Amelia | Buckingham | Charlotte | Cumberland | Lunenburg
Nottoway | Prince Edward

Scoping the Future List of Innovative/Regional Ideas

Ideas Previously Discussed:

- Creation of New Regional Economic Development Initiative
- ~~Exploring establishing county cigarette tax and a regional cigarette tax board~~
- Building Entrepreneurial Economies (BEE) Grant Program through DHCD
- ~~CEDS/EDD Funding~~
- Aeronautical Grants for Drone Industry
- Triage Emergency Dispatch Program
- Lack of Work Force Training - Ways for CRC to get involved, including working with Southern VA Go Region & SVCC
- Work with the Buckingham Historical Society on grant opportunities
- Establish de-regulation requirements for mandates on rural localities (tiered approach).
- Broadband Support by the CRC
- Expand Health Care Providers in the Region
- Aging Plan for the Region (grants to develop)
- High Bridge Trail State Park Expansion to Burkeville

New Ideas:

- _____
- _____

Note: Items stricken through have been addressed or pursued.




IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

The Counties of Amelia | Buckingham | Charlotte | Cumberland | Lunenburg |
Nottoway | Prince Edward

MEMORANDUM

TO: CRC Council Members

FROM: Todd Fortune 
Deputy Director

DATE: March 6, 2024

SUBJECT: Update on Regional Emergency Planning Activities

As you are aware, the CRC was awarded a State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) grant in November 2022 to fund community outreach and preparedness activities related to disaster and emergency preparedness. This grant was funded under one of the FEMA National Priorities, Community Preparedness. Consequently, FEMA placed on hold on these funds at the time of award. That hold was released on May 16, 2023.

Update: The educational materials and emergency kits have been delivered to local emergency managers in each county for distribution to citizens. Every county received 50 kits, with each kit containing 71 items and multiple information packets. Local distributions have occurred in Ameila, Buckingham, Charlotte, Lunenburg, and Prince Edward Counties. Local distributions for Cumberland and Nottoway Counties are pending.

The educational campaign is underway. CRC staff have been coordinating with school superintendents and school staff in each public school system in the region, plus the heads of school and school staff for the four private schools in our region. As of today, staff have been in touch with all the schools except for one private school. CRC staff have begun scheduling delivery of Pedro the Penguin preparedness activity books to each elementary school for distribution to second grade students during the month of March. The second-grade students would then be able to take the books home and complete the activities during Spring Break, which is in early April for most of the schools in the region, as a fun way to learn about emergency preparedness.

NOTE: The current end date for this grant is June 30, 2024. Given the delay in getting this grant under contract, the CRC considered requesting an extension of this deadline. However, CRC staff believe we can complete distribution of the educational materials in the Spring 2024. Therefore, an extension on this grant will not be needed.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

cc: Melody Foster



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

The Counties of Amelia | Buckingham | Charlotte | Cumberland | Lunenburg |
Nottoway | Prince Edward

MEMORANDUM:

TO: CRC Council Members
FROM: Lauren Jones, Regional Planner
DATE: March 4, 2024
SUBJECT: Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) III (Contract VI) – Monthly Update

As you are aware, the Commonwealth Regional Council (CRC) has been assisting the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) in the implementation of Phase III of its Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP). The following activities have taken place since the last CRC Council meeting.

- Activities undertaken so far, include:
 - Researching and sending along grant opportunities to localities including the Virginia Department of Forestry's Virginia Trees for Clean Water grant program.
 - Assisted the Town of Kenbridge with a submitted application VDOF's Virginia Trees for Clean Water Grant Program.
 - Researching opportunities for the CRC to assist in documenting BMP activities in the region in the DEQ BMP warehouse.
 - Updating CRC website and Facebook page.
 - Email Corresponded with Cumberland County Virginia Cooperative Extension office to discuss a potential rain barrel workshop within the County.



MEMORANDUM

TO: CRC Council Members

FROM: Lauren Jones
Regional Planner

DATE: March 4, 2024

SUBJECT: Charlotte County Comprehensive Plan Update – Monthly Update

As you are aware, the Commonwealth Regional Council (CRC) is assisting Charlotte County with an update of the County’s Comprehensive Plan. As part of the CRC’s efforts to assist the County, the following is a summary of what has occurred since the last update on February 13, 2024:

- The CRC met with the Charlotte County Board of Supervisors on December 11, 2023 for a work session to provide a brief overview of the plan and address any board member concerns about the Plan. Board members posed questions regarding whether or not language on the solar cap can legally be included in the plan.
- At the January Board of Supervisors meeting, the board was notified that the solar language can legally be included in the plan. The board selected to change the recommended solar language and lower the solar cap to 4%. At the February Board of Supervisors meeting, the Board set the Comprehensive Plan Public Hearing to Wednesday, April 10th.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

cc: Todd Fortune, Deputy Director, CRC
Dan Witt, County Administrator
Monica Elder, Assistant County Administrator



MEMORANDUM

TO: Karl Carter, County Administrator
Members of the Buckingham County Board of Supervisors

FROM: Todd Fortune *Todd Fortune*
Deputy Director

DATE: March 6, 2024

SUBJECT: Buckingham County Comprehensive Plan Update – Monthly Update

As you are aware, the Commonwealth Regional Council (CRC) is assisting Buckingham County with an update of the County’s Comprehensive Plan. As part of the CRC’s efforts to assist the County, the following is a summary of what has occurred since the last update on February 5, 2024:

- CRC staff attended the Planning Commission Work Session on February 20. At this meeting, the Commission reviewed revisions to draft Sections 2 (Community Profile) and 3 (Inventory and Analysis: Community Resources), and conducted an initial review of draft Section 4 (Transportation) and a draft citizen survey results summary. The Commission asked for some changes to draft Sections 3 and 4, and asked for some changes to the survey summary report, which the CRC are working on making.
- The next Planning Commission Work Session is scheduled for March 18. At that meeting, the Commission will review changes to draft Sections 3 and 4 plus changes to the survey results summary. Time permitting, the Commission will also begin discussions on changes to the Future Land Use map.


Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

cc: Melody Foster, Executive Director, CRC
Lauren Jones, Regional Planner, CRC
Nicci Edmonston, Zoning/Planning Administrator, Buckingham County



MEMORANDUM

TO: Taylor Harvie, County Administrator
Members of the Amelia County Board of Supervisors

FROM: Todd Fortune 
Deputy Director

DATE: March 7, 2024

SUBJECT: Amelia County Comprehensive Plan Update – Monthly Update

As you are aware, the Commonwealth Regional Council (CRC) is assisting Amelia County with a modified update of the County’s Comprehensive Plan. The CRC will provide services to update the Demographic Section, revise the Future Land Use map, and revise the Goals, Objectives, and Strategies Section of the current plan. As part of the CRC’s efforts to assist the County, the following is a summary of what has occurred so far:

- CRC staff are working with the Amelia County Planning Commission to finalize the update of the Demographics section of the Comprehensive Plan.
- CRC staff are working with County staff and the Planning Commission on revising the Future Land Use map. Two options were presented to the Commission for review at its meeting on February 26th. The Commission asked for some changes to one of the options, which CRC staff are working on making. Those changes will be presented to Comprehensive Plan Committee at its next meeting, which is scheduled for March 21st.


Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

cc: Melody Foster, Executive Director, CRC
Brady Deal, Director of Community Development



MEMORANDUM

TO: Tracy Gee, Lunenburg County Administrator
Rodney Newton, Victoria Town Manager
Tony Matthews, Kenbridge Town Manager
Members of the Lunenburg County Board of Supervisors
Members of Victoria Town Council
Members of Kenbridge Town Council

FROM: Tyler Henderson
Regional Planner 

DATE: March 12, 2024

SUBJECT: Lunenburg County Comprehensive Plan Update – Monthly Update

The Commonwealth Regional Council (CRC) is assisting Lunenburg County, Victoria, and Kenbridge update their Joint Comprehensive Plan. As part of the CRC’s efforts to assist the County and Towns, the following is a summary of activities completed to date:

- The CRC held the second working committee meeting on Thursday, March 7, 2024. During the meeting, the committee discussed likes and dislikes from the previous plan and the scope of the current project.
- The committee discussed holding two community meetings and removing working committee meetings to compensate for the increase in scope. In addition, the group decided to try working on the update through a shared document to increase shared responsibility.
- The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 4th at 4:30pm. At this meeting, the committee will discuss the upcoming community meetings scheduled for April 15th at Kenbridge and April 22nd in Victoria.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

cc: Melody Foster, Executive Director, CRC



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

The Counties of Amelia | Buckingham | Charlotte | Cumberland | Lunenburg |
Nottoway | Prince Edward

MEMORANDUM:

TO: CRC Representatives

FROM: Lauren Jones, Regional Planner

SUBJECT: CRC Affordable Workforce Housing Development Program

DATE: March 7, 2024

As you are aware the CRC has received \$2 million in grant funds from Virginia Housing to establish 20 affordable and workforce housing units in the CRC region **over a 48-month period (extended to June 30, 2025)**. CRC staff time on the project is also covered by this grant award.

Project: The Affordable Workforce Housing Development Program has established three housing partners: Piedmont Habitat for Humanity, Smyth Properties, and The Town of Blackstone. Piedmont Habitat will be installing 11 modular homes in the Towns of Farmville, Keysville, and Crewe. Smyth Properties will be establishing seven (7) units for lease through adaptive reuse of downtown properties in Kenbridge. The Town of Blackstone and their partner, Southside Outreach, will be building three (3) homes in Blackstone for home ownership. Through these partners the CRC has been able to establish 21 affordable housing units.

Update: The CRC has a remaining \$320,357.46 in grant funding that has not been obligated to a housing partner or CRC staff time. The CRC is now seeking funding applications from Experienced Housing Partners to establish affordable workforce housing units in the counties of Amelia, Cumberland, and Buckingham by June 30, 2025. These counties were not previously served by the first round of grant funding. Applications were due by Wednesday, February 28, 2024. We received three applications. CRC staff are currently reviewing the applications.

- Piedmont Habitat – Piedmont’s contractor and volunteers are currently working to complete the remaining work on two of the homes on California Ave in Crewe. The project is expected to be completed in April 2024. All the Andrew Drive homes in Farmville have been completed. Piedmont Habitat is working with the homeowners and the USDA Rural Development loan office to close on the Andrew Drive homes.
- Smyth Properties – All seven housing units are complete. The Smyths are currently accepting rental applicants for these housing units. CRC staff attended a ribbon cutting in Kenbridge on March 1st for these properties.
- Town of Blackstone/ Southside Outreach – The contractor was hired to build both homes and is currently completing the builds simultaneously. The drywall has been hung for both homes.



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

The Counties of Amelia | Buckingham | Charlotte | Cumberland | Lunenburg |
Nottoway | Prince Edward

TO: Commonwealth Regional Council

FROM: Lauren Jones, Regional Planner

SUBJECT: Emergency Supplemental Historic Preservation Funds (ESHP)
Town of Kenbridge and Charlotte County Project Update

DATE: March 4, 2024

Project: The CRC is assisting Charlotte County and the Town of Kenbridge with grant administration of the two grant funded projects.

Project Synopsis: Kenbridge Town Hall Repairs project – grant funds will be utilized to repair the Kenbridge Town Hall which was damaged during Hurricane Michael. Charlotte County Courthouse Complex Drainage project – grant funds will be utilized to address moisture issues for the Charlotte Courthouse Complex that flooded and was damaged during Hurricane Michael.

Project Update:

Kenbridge Town Hall Repairs Project – The contractor, Harris and Sons, has completed the remaining painting and carpentry work on the Town Hall building (only a small portion of the carpentry work will be covered by this grant). This grant has been closed out. The CRC and Town Staff have been in communication with DHR staff in regards to the final preservation agreement, which will be recorded at Lunenburg County’s Deed office. CRC staff has been working with DHR staff to finalize the preservation agreement.


Charlotte County Courthouse Complex Drainage Project –All work for the project has been completed. CRC staff worked with County staff to complete a final site visit with DHR staff. The final site visit was completed on February 14, 2024. The CRC completed and submitted the final close out report. The CRC and County Staff have been in communication with DHR staff in regards to the final preservation agreement, which will be recorded at Charlotte County’s Deed office.

****The Emergency Supplemental Historic Preservation Funds (ESHP) were only available through the Department of Historic Resources to localities that suffered historic property damage due to Hurricane Michael. Localities had to be listed in the Hurricane Florence and/or Hurricane Michael Major Disaster Declaration to be eligible for assistance.**



MEMORANDUM

TO: CRC Council Members

FROM: Todd Fortune 
Deputy Director

DATE: March 7, 2024

SUBJECT: Virginia Telecommunications Initiative (VATI) Grant for Cumberland,
Lunenburg, and Prince Edward Counties – Monthly Update

Project: CRC VATI grant for the expansion of broadband in Cumberland, Lunenburg, and Prince Edward Counties. The project involves working with Kinex Telcom, a local internet service provider.

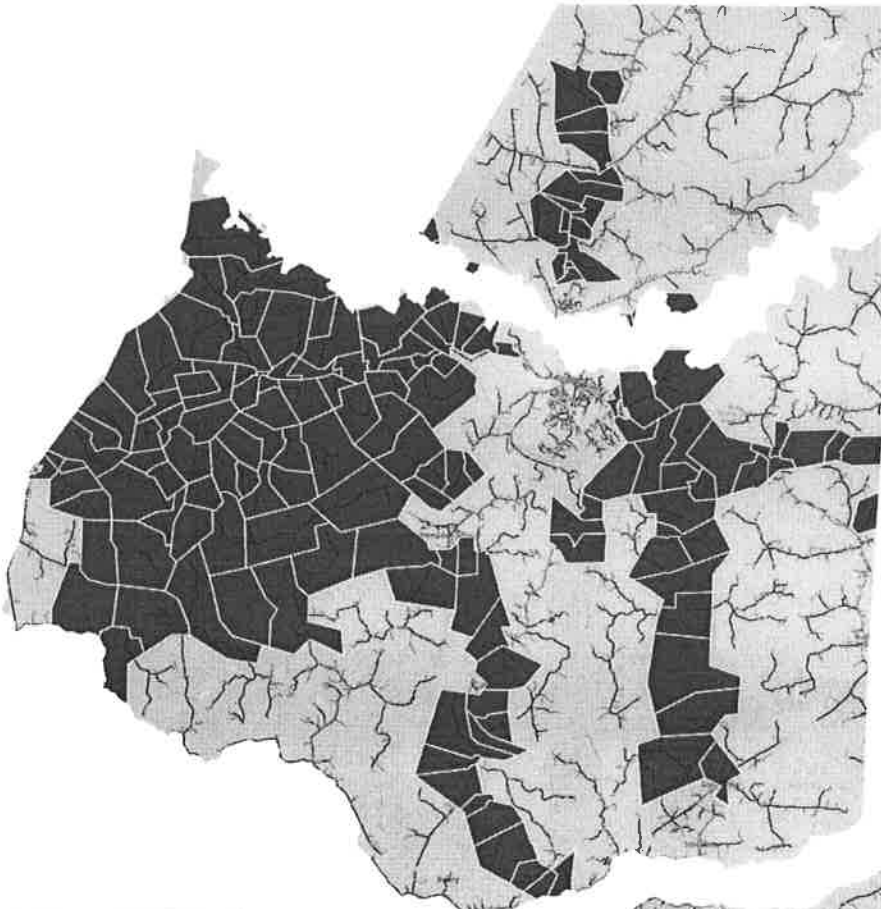
Update:

- Kinex and their contractors continue to work on laying down middle-mile fiber in unserved areas of all three counties.
- Kinex crews are working in parts of all three counties where middle-mile fiber is in place to complete installations for new customers. James Garrett, Kinex Telecom, has advised that Kinex continues to work on addressing the existing backlog for new installations.
- Mr. Garrett has advised that Kinex filed a challenge to DHCD on an application from Firefly to connect VATI-eligible customers in Cumberland County. The challenge involves 239 houses. Kinex is challenging on the grounds that they have fiber within 1,000 feet of these houses.
- The CRC was granted an extension on the period of performance for the grant. The extension was requested after Kinex advised that they do not expect to have the work completed by the original end date (June 14, 2025). The new end date for the project is June 14, 2026.
- As of March 2, 2024, a total of 4,394 passings (out of a target of 11,397 total passings) and 1,028 installs for new customers have been completed.
- The Project Management Team meets monthly to discuss the project. The team includes local staff, CRC staff, Kinex staff, and DHCD staff. The next meeting is scheduled for March 8, 2024.
- Per an agreement with DHCD, CRC and local staff will be making periodic site visits to observe the work being done by Kinex and their contractors. CRC and Cumberland County staff conducted a site visit on Route 45 in Cumberland County on March 5, 2024 to observe middle mile installation. CRC staff also visited a site in Prince Edward County the same day where a new customer installation was taking place.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.



cc: Melody Foster, Executive Director, CRC

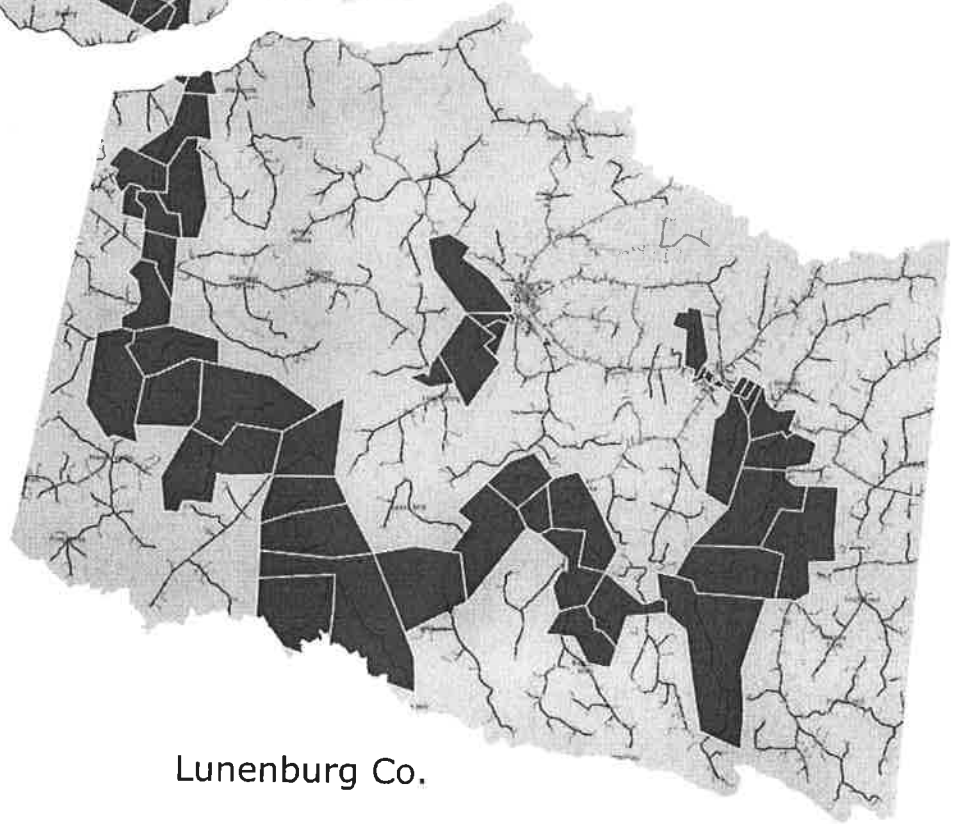
Cumberland Co.



Prince Edward Co.

Key

-  Built
-  Future Build



Lunenburg Co.

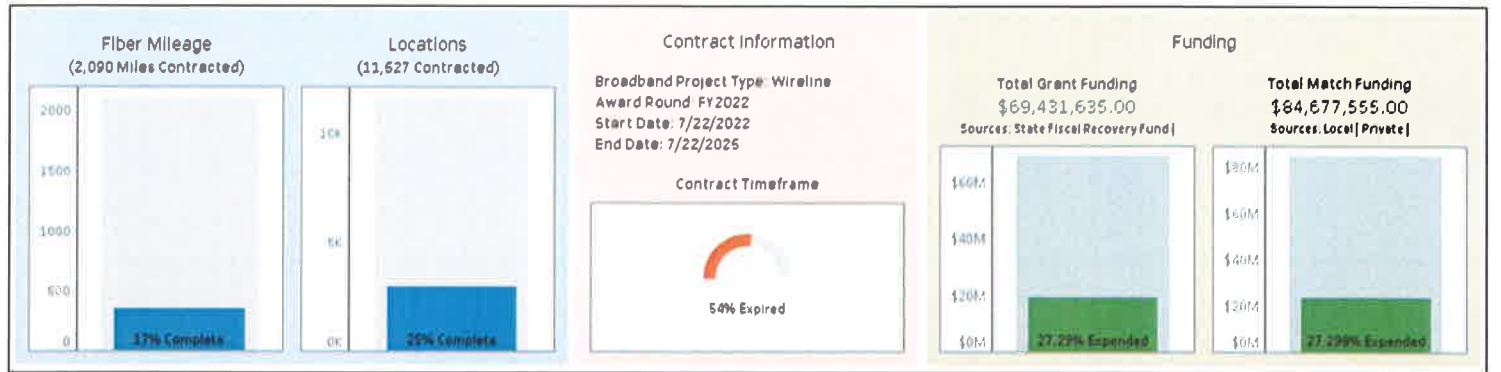
VATI Project Status – March 2024

CRC/Kinex project compared with other projects serving this region

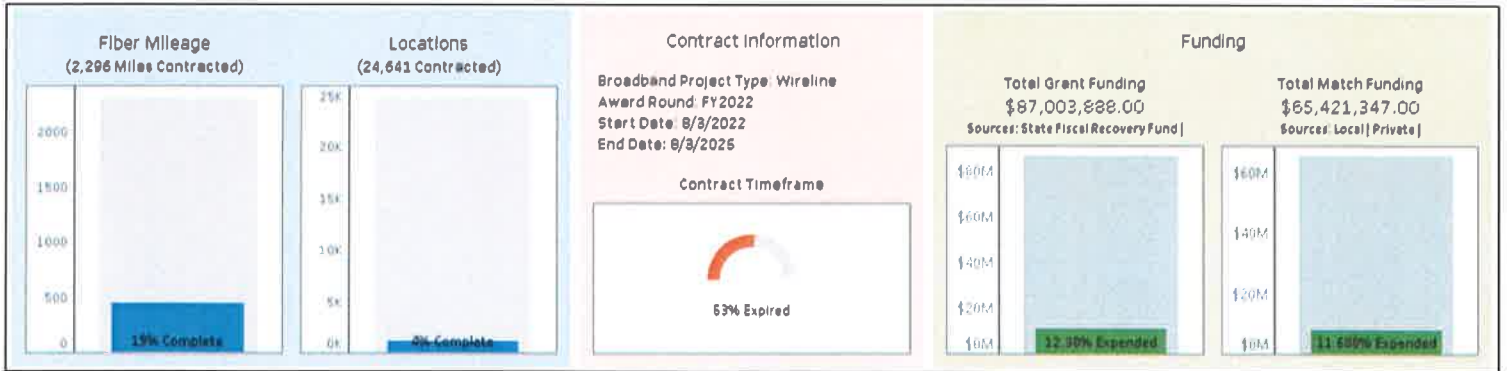
CRC/Kinex (Cumberland, Lunenburg, Prince Edward)



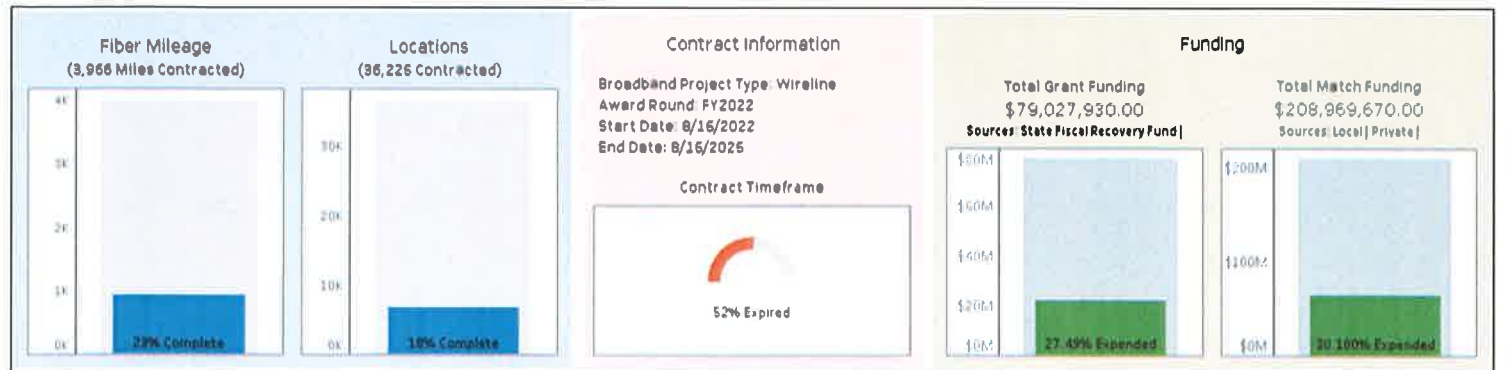
Southside PDC/MEC-Empower (Charlotte)



West Piedmont PDC - East/Riverstreet Networks (Amelia, Charlotte, Nottoway)



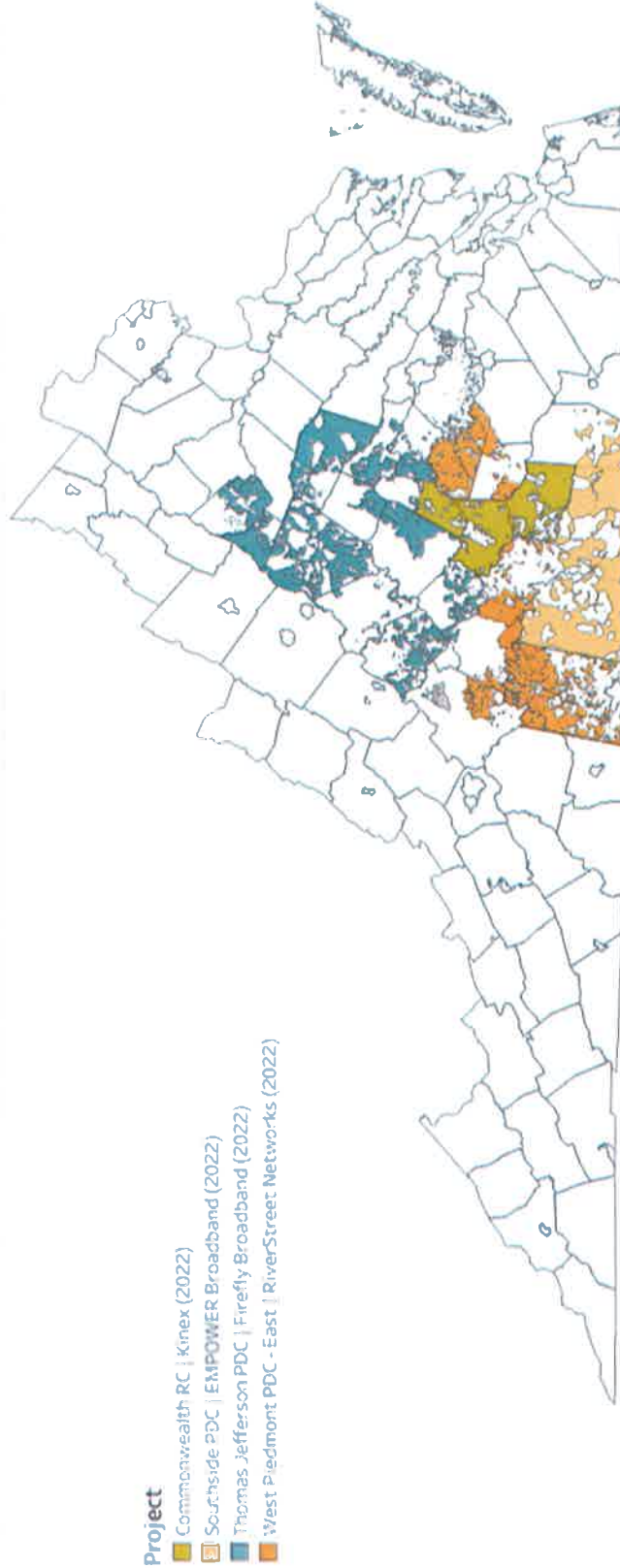
Thomas Jefferson PDC /CVEC-Firefly (Buckingham, Cumberland)



Virginia Telecommunication Initiative Project Dashboard

Description: This dashboard displays key project statistics for broadband expansion projects across the Commonwealth of Virginia funded through the Virginia Telecommunication Initiative (VATI) since January 2021, including other projects that have opted in. **Projects under contract are shaded in colors across the Commonwealth. Projects not under contract as of January 1, 2024 are shaded in grey.**

Usage Directions: Hover the cursor over project areas under contract to display key project statistics and select project areas to open an individual progress report for that project. Enter your zip code in the search bar below to see if a broadband infrastructure expansion project is in your area.



Note: Projects under contract are shaded in colors across the Commonwealth. Projects not under contract by January 2024 are shaded in grey. Statistics are only provided for those projects under contract. More information will be provided once DHCD and the unit of local government awardee enter into a contract, which governs implementation of the award. Project areas provided on this dashboard are approximate and should not be used to conclusively determine if a location is within a Virginia Telecommunication Initiative project area. To determine if a location is within a project area, please contact local government officials in yo..



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

The Counties of Amelia | Buckingham | Charlotte | Cumberland | Lunenburg |
Nottoway | Prince Edward

TO: CRC Representatives

FROM: Melody Foster, Executive Director

SUBJECT: CRC Administration of Drakes Branch Coronavirus State and Local
Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) Projects

DATE: March 13, 2024

Project:

The CRC is under contract with the Town of Drakes Branch to provide project administration assistance for the expenditure of SLFRF funds to be utilized to complete needed projects in the Town of Drakes Branch. The CRC is providing technical assistance including reporting on the SLFRF funds expended. Under the SLFRF program, funds must be used for costs incurred on or after March 3, 2021. Further, funds must be obligated by December 31, 2024, and expended by December 31, 2026.

Update:

Water Metering Project complete.

CRC staff did not meet with Town officials in March but will be meeting with them in April to review additional projects to expend funds. The Town did request a quote for updating their Comprehensive Plan, staff are working with the Town determine the type of update they would like to conduct.

The Town will be working to prioritize projects.

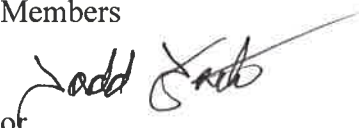


IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

The Counties of Amelia | Buckingham | Charlotte | Cumberland | Lunenburg |
Nottoway | Prince Edward

MEMORANDUM

TO: CRC Council Members

FROM: Todd Fortune 
Deputy Director

DATE: March 6, 2024

SUBJECT: Update – Drakes Branch Building Acquisition Project

As you may recall, the Town of Drakes Branch has been awarded a Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) grant by FEMA through VDEM to fund the acquisition and removal of nine (9) buildings in the Town’s Central Business District. These buildings are located within the floodplain and are subject to damage from flood events in the area. The HMGP grant is being matched with a combination of funds from the State and local matching funds from the Town. The CRC is assisting the Town with the implementation of this project.

Update:

- Building 1: Privately owned property
 - The property owner has opted out, and will not be participating in the project.

- Buildings 2 and 3: Old Town Hall and fire station
 - Appraisals completed.
 - Title searches completed.
 - The Town has retained Hurt & Proffitt (H&P) to conduct lead and asbestos inspections of these properties. They have completed the interior inspections, and still need to inspect the roofs. H&P has advised that they were delayed by weather and hope to have the roof inspections completed by late March. These inspections need to be done before the demolition/clearance work can be bid out.

- Building 4: Privately owned property
 - Appraisal completed.
 - Title search completed.
 - The owner has signed an agreement to sell the property to the Town. The sale is pending completion of the sale agreement and supporting paperwork.
 - This property has a deed of trust per the title search, which will need to be settled as part of the sale process.
 - The Town has retained Hurt & Proffitt to conduct a lead and asbestos inspection of this property. They have completed the interior inspection, and still need to inspect the roof. H&P has advised that they were delayed by weather and hope to have the roof inspection completed by late March. This inspection needs to be done before the demolition/clearance work can be bid out.

- Buildings 5 and 6: Privately owned, adjoining buildings, same owner
 - Appraisals completed.
 - Title searches completed.
 - The owner has agreed to terms on a sale of the property to the Town. The Town is working with the Town Attorney and the property owner to complete the sale of these properties.
 - The Town has retained Hurt & Proffitt to conduct lead and asbestos inspections of these properties. They have completed the interior inspections, and still need to inspect the roofs. H&P has advised that they were delayed by weather and hope to have the roof inspections completed by late March. These inspections need to be done before the demolition/clearance work can be bid out.

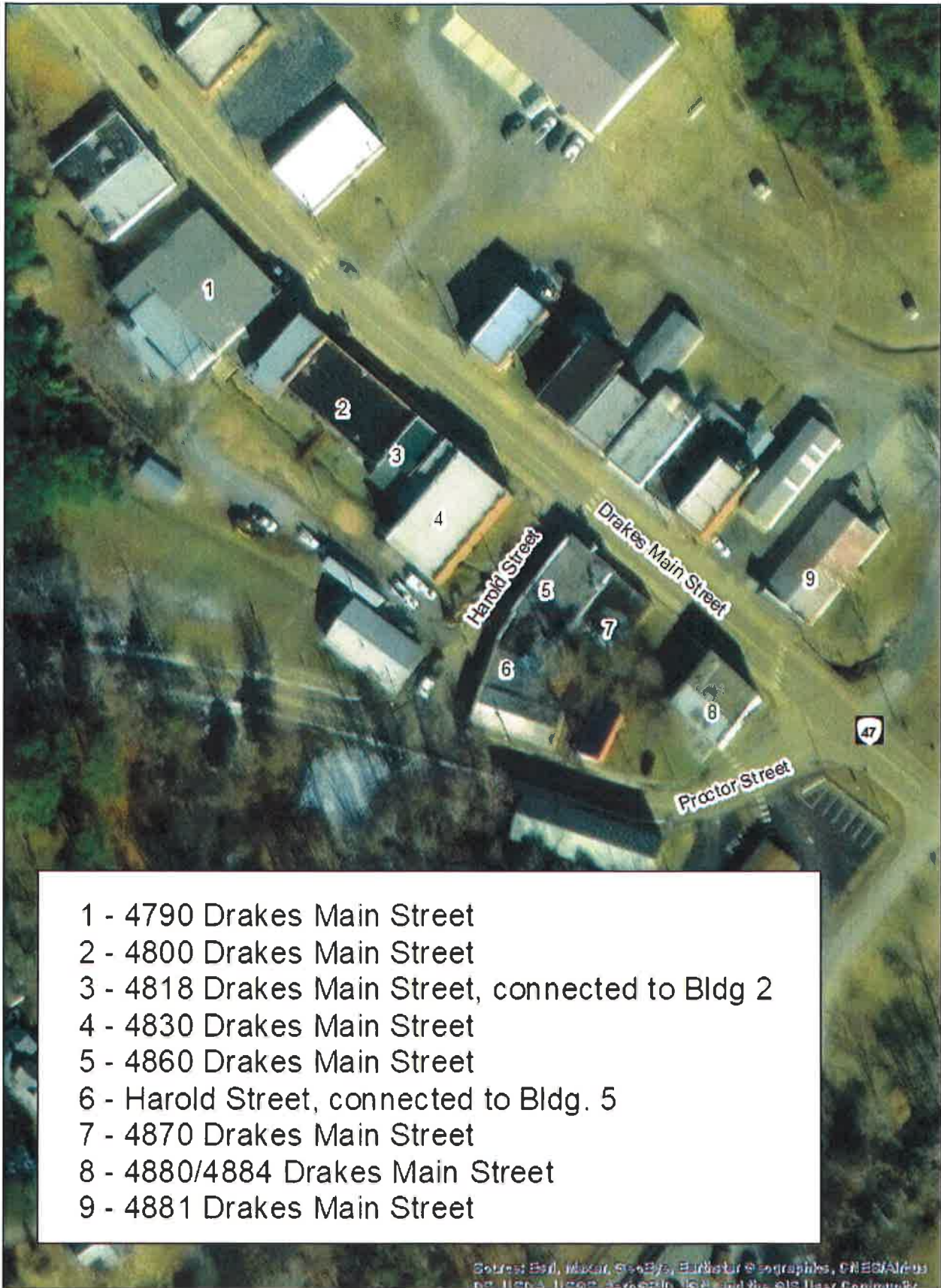
- Building 7: Privately owned property
 - Property owner has opted out, and will not be participating in the project.

- Building 8: Privately owned property
 - Appraisal completed.
 - Title search completed.
 - Property has tax liens. The County has referred the property to Tax Authority Consulting Services (TACS), a Henrico County-based firm that assists local governments in collection, bankruptcy, and assessment matters, for a tax sale on the property. TACS has filed paperwork in Charlotte County Circuit Court to begin the sale process, and a decree of sale hearing has been scheduled for April 24. Once a decree is entered by the Circuit Court Judge, the next step is to schedule the sale. Staff from TACS has advised that the sale would likely occur sometime in June.
 - The Town has retained Hurt & Proffitt to conduct a lead and asbestos inspection of this property. They have completed the interior inspection, and still need to inspect the roof. H&P has advised that they were delayed by weather and hope to have the roof inspection completed by late March. This inspection needs to be done before the demolition/clearance work can be bid out.

- Building 9: Privately owned property
 - Appraisal completed.
 - Title search completed.
 - The sale of this property has been completed.
 - The Town has retained Hurt & Proffitt to conduct a lead and asbestos inspection of this property. They have completed the interior inspection, and still need to inspect the roof. H&P has advised that they were delayed by weather and hope to have the roof inspection completed by late March. This inspection needs to be done before the demolition/clearance work can be bid out.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

cc: Melody Foster



- 1 - 4790 Drakes Main Street
- 2 - 4800 Drakes Main Street
- 3 - 4818 Drakes Main Street, connected to Bldg 2
- 4 - 4830 Drakes Main Street
- 5 - 4860 Drakes Main Street
- 6 - Harold Street, connected to Bldg. 5
- 7 - 4870 Drakes Main Street
- 8 - 4880/4884 Drakes Main Street
- 9 - 4881 Drakes Main Street




IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

The Counties of Amelia | Buckingham | Charlotte | Cumberland | Lunenburg |
Nottoway | Prince Edward

MEMORANDUM

TO: CRC Council Members

FROM: Todd Fortune 
Deputy Director

DATE: March 6, 2024

SUBJECT: Update – Blackstone Armory Virginia Brownfields Assistance Fund
Grant: Asbestos Remediation/Lead Abatement/Tank Removal

As you may recall, the Town of Blackstone has been awarded a Virginia Brownfields Assistance Fund grant by the Virginia Economic Development Partnership (VEDP) to undertake asbestos and lead abatement activities, as well as removal of an underground fuel tank, at the Harris Memorial Armory Center. The Armory is being rehabbed for use as a multi-purpose facility, which would include job training programs to train workers for jobs in the hospitality industry. The CRC is assisting the Town with the implementation of this grant.

Update: All abatement/removal activities are complete. The CRC assisted the Town in preparing and submitting the required reporting and financial documentation to VEDP on October 5, 2023. The consultant used by VEDP to review submittals under this program requested additional information, which the CRC provided. Upon a review of the additional information by the consultant, VEDP informed the CRC and the Town February 23, 2024 that all submittals had been approved and VEDP was processing the grant reimbursement. Subsequently, on February 29, 2024, VEDP made the grant reimbursement to the Town via electronic funds transfer and the grant was closed out.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

cc: Melody Foster



MEMORANDUM

TO: CRC Council Members

FROM: Todd Fortune *Todd Fortune*
Deputy Director

DATE: March 6, 2024

SUBJECT: Update of Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan – Monthly Update

As you are aware, the Commonwealth Regional Council (CRC) is working on an update of the CRC's Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan. The updated Plan will cover all seven (7) counties in Planning District 14. The project is being funded by a FEMA grant through the Building Resilient Infrastructure in Communities (formerly known as Pre-Disaster Mitigation) program, with all seven counties and the Town of Farmville providing in-kind (staff hours) as a match for the grant.

Update: CRC received word from FEMA Region III staff on February 29, 2024 that FEMA has completed its review of the draft Plan and given the plan Approval Pending Adoption (preliminary approval). CRC staff are coordinating with the covered localities on local adoption of the Plan. When all localities have adopted the Plan, it will be sent back to FEMA for final approval.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

cc: Melody Foster, Executive Director, CRC



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
The Counties of Amelia | Buckingham | Charlotte | Cumberland | Lunenburg |
Nottoway | Prince Edward

TO: Commonwealth Regional Council
FROM: Lauren Jones, Regional Planner
SUBJECT: SEED Innovation Hub Project Update
DATE: March 4, 2024

Project: The CRC is under contract with the Longwood Real Estate Foundation to provide project administration assistance for three grants that will fund the rehabilitation, renovation, and will provide equipment for the development of the SEED Innovation Hub. The Economic Development Association (EDA) has awarded the Longwood Real Estate Foundation with \$1,986,965.00 in grant funds for construction costs for the facility. The Tobacco Commission also awarded the project \$500,000 in grant funds for construction costs for the facility. Go Virginia awarded the project \$674,304.00 in grant funds to purchase necessary equipment to establish the SOVA Innovation Hub.

Project Update:

EDA funds- On January 25th at 2:15pm, LUREF held a public bid opening with two submitted bids from Kenbridge Construction and English Construction. English Construction was the lowest bidder. The CRC assisted LUREF with providing the EDA with the necessary documentation that is required for the final approval of the lowest bidder.

Tobacco Commission Funds- Due to the funds uses, these is not an update at this time (funds will be used for construction costs).

GO Virginia Funds - Due to the funds uses, these is not an update at this time (funds will be used for equipment).



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

The Counties of Amelia | Buckingham | Charlotte | Cumberland | Lunenburg |
Nottoway | Prince Edward

MEMORANDUM:

TO: CRC Member Localities & Longwood University

FROM: Melody Foster, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Status Report - Creation of New Economic Development Organization (REDO) for CRC region

DATE: March 13, 2024

Project: CRC GO Virginia Enhanced Capacity Building Grant to fund a business plan & strategy for the creation of a NEW CRC (footprint) Regional Economic Development Organization (REDO) in partnership with Longwood University. The CRC hired a consultant team in March 2023: Creative Economic Development Consulting, Timmons Group/Mangum Economics and Convergent Nonprofit Solutions to assist the CRC staff, CRC REDO Working Committee and CRC Advisory Board in completing this feasibility project. This grant is complete and has been closed out. The results of the project concluded that a new REDO is a viable option. The new REDO – Virginia’s Heartland Regional Economic Development Alliance (VHREDA) is being pursued by the CRC.

Update:

- The CRC at the January 17th Council meeting took action to allow the Executive Director to negotiate an agreement with Convergent Nonprofit Solutions, LLC to proceed with the Fundraising Campaign for VHREDA (the new REDO). The CRC would support the monthly costs upfront and be reimbursed by membership dues or by private pledges received for VHREDA.
- The CRC also determined dues for VHREDA would be based on \$2.50 per capita with Longwood University paying the minimum of \$25,000 for a total of \$278,573 in public investment funds.
- The CRC signed an agreement with Convergent to begin the Fundraising Campaign for the VHREDA on April 1, 2024.
- The CRC has advertised for a part-time administrative support for the VHREDA fundraising campaign. So far, we have no applicants.
- The VHREDA Private Investment Campaign Kick-Off Meeting will be held the first week of April (date TBD). The County Administrators and Longwood University will be participating in this meeting.
- VHREDA Public Investment requests to all seven counties and Longwood University have been sent out.

Establishing VHREDA as a 501c3

I contacted Crystal Morphis, Creative Economic Development Consulting, to determine the steps for establishing the VHREDA as a 501c3. VHREDA will need to complete incorporation documents with the state and IRS. Filing for nonprofit status happens with the IRS after it is incorporated. Crystal recommended we engage an attorney to do this – one with experience incorporating nonprofits for economic development specifically. There is specific language that the IRS looks for when considering a 501c3 application for economic development. Legal fees may range \$6,000-\$9,000. The IRS approval process may take a few months to possibly up to nine months. Regarding fundraising, Crystal advised VHREDA can begin accepting funds with the IRS application pending.

Action – Request the CRC Executive Director to employ an Attorney to begin this process.



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

The Counties of Amelia | Buckingham | Charlotte | Cumberland | Lunenburg | Nottoway | Prince Edward

TO: CRC Representatives

FROM: Melody Foster, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Poultry Farming Support
Creation of Central Virginia Poultry Cooperative

DATE: March 13, 2024

The Commonwealth Regional Council has been assisting the Central Virginia Poultry growers since May of 2024 to find solutions for farmers who were affected by the Tyson closure in Glenn Allen, Virginia. The growers came up with a solution – the creation of the Central Virginia Poultry Cooperative (CVPC). The Central Virginia Poultry Cooperative was created and has entered into an agreement with Dutch Country Organics, LLC of Middlebury, Indiana. CVPC will raise and sell wholesale cage-free and other premium table eggs to Dutch Country LLC. Profits will be reinvested in people, products, processes, and member dividends. Local grain purchases will benefit local grain farmers, the community.

The CRC was able to assist CVPC in obtaining the following grants to assist with the start-up costs of the CVPC. The CRC is serving as the applicant and fiscal agent:

Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS)	
Governor's Agriculture and Forestry Industries	
Development Fund (AFID) Planning Grant.....	\$ 35,000
Seven Counties matching funds.....	\$ 35,000
Virginia Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission (TRRC)	
Southern Virginia Program Grant	\$1,400,000
Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS)	
Governor's Agriculture and Forestry Industries	
Development Fund (AFID) Infrastructure Grant.....	\$ 50,000
Seven Counties matching funds.....	\$ 21,000
Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS)	
Rural Rehabilitation Trust Fund	\$ 341,750
Total	\$1,882,750

Governor Youngkin Announces State Support for New Poultry Cooperative

Finally, we get to share the following announcement (see press release below)!

Congratulations to the Central Virginia Poultry Cooperative! We are honored to have been able to assist with this regional project. The CRC served as the applicant/recipient of \$1,791,750.00 in grant funds from the Virginia Tobacco Commission and the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services for funding of start-up costs for the Central Virginia Poultry Cooperative. Also, a big thanks to Tony Banks at the Virginia Farm Bureau Federation for his assistance in this project. The Announcement and Presentation of funds were made yesterday at the farm of Tom Schaubach in Burkeville, Virginia.

Melody Foster, CRC Executive Director



Commonwealth Regional Council receiving \$1,791,750 check from Secretary Lohr for CVPC project.



Central Virginia Poultry Cooperative representatives receiving State Flag from Secretary Lohr.

Governor Youngkin Announces State Support for New Poultry Cooperative

Press, Governor Youngkin <press@governor.virginia.gov>

Thu 2/29/2024 11:27 AM

To:Melody Foster <mfoster@virginiashartland.org>



Commonwealth of Virginia *Office of Governor Glenn Youngkin*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 29, 2024

CONTACTS:

Office of the Governor

Contact: Christian Martinez

Email: Christian.Martinez@governor.virginia.gov

Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

Contact: Michael Wallace

Email: Michael.Wallace@vdacs.virginia.gov

Virginia Farm Bureau Federation

Contact: Pam Wiley

Email: Pam.Wiley@vafb.com

Virginia Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission

Contact: Jordan Butler

Email: jbutler@revalizeva.org

Commonwealth Regional Council

Contact: Melody Foster

Email: mfoster@virginiashartland.org

Central Virginia Poultry Cooperative, Inc

Contact: John Bapties

Email: johnbapties@gmail.com

Governor Youngkin Announces State Support for New Poultry Cooperative

Central Virginia poultry farmers form new cooperative and transition from broilers to egg production with Dutch Country Organics agreement

RICHMOND, VA – Governor Glenn Youngkin announced the formation of the Central Virginia Poultry Cooperative, Inc., by a group of poultry farmers who were affected by the closure of the Tyson Foods broiler facility in Glen Allen. The farmer-owned cooperative will produce and sell wholesale cage-free, premium table eggs to Dutch Country Organics, LLC of Indiana. Cooperative profits will be reinvested in people, products, processes, and member dividends. Establishment of the cooperative restores and revitalizes poultry production in Central Virginia for the benefit of poultry-dependent farms and communities through the production of eggs.

“When we learned last March that poultry farmers in Central Virginia needed our help, I directed our Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry to bring a team together and find a way forward for the family-owned farms of the region,” said **Governor Glenn Youngkin**. “I am thrilled to share that less than a year later, the Commonwealth is supporting many of these growers in making a bold step forward to a brighter future in the fast-growing market for cage-free eggs.”

“I commend the team of public and private entities that rolled up their sleeves, went to work and played a role in the formation of the Central Virginia Poultry Cooperative and getting the poultry producers in this region farming again,” said **Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry Matthew Lohr**. “Virginia poultry farmers produced nearly 62 million eggs in 2022 and I look forward to seeing that number eclipsed in the future, thanks to the family farms in Central Virginia and Dutch Country Organics.”

Dutch Country recently executed a multi-year agreement with the Central Virginia Poultry Cooperative. Details of the agreement have not yet been released. The cooperative expects to place the first laying hens in members’ converted broiler houses in April 2024.

“Central Virginia Poultry Cooperative, Inc. was formed with the hope of returning the poultry growers of Central Virginia back to farming. We have been able to achieve this with help from many individuals and organizations,” said **Central Virginia Poultry Cooperative President John Bapties**. “The Co-op and its members would like to express our gratitude to all the state and local agencies who have helped us during the last year. We would also like to thank Dutch Country Organics for giving us this new farming opportunity.”

Founded by Lamar Bontrager, Dutch Country Organics, LLC is an Amish-owned specialty egg business based in Middlebury, Indiana. Operating under the highest standards of animal welfare practices, the company contracts with over 50 local Amish farm families to produce a variety of high-quality, fresh, cage-free, and other specialty table eggs. Through established contracts, Dutch Country eggs are sold to national

retailers such as Costco, Albertsons, Target, Aldi, Walmart, and Kroger, the largest and second largest retail buyers of U.S. eggs respectively.

“We look forward to our new relationship with the Central Virginia Poultry Cooperative and its family farm members. The family farm is our story. It’s what we support. It’s what we encourage. The family farm, where fresh, natural eggs come from fresh, clean environments,” **said Bontrager, Dutch Country Organics CEO.** “At Dutch Country Organics, we promote the family farm, where families work together to provide a place that hens can live and roam, doing what comes naturally to them. Healthy and happy hens produce eggs that are healthier, too. And that’s good for all of us.”

“I am pleased the Commission was an early and strategic partner in helping to stand-up this important new farmer-owned cooperative and that through the coordinated support of the state and key partners like the Virginia Farm Bureau we are enabling these farmers to have control over this business and their livelihoods. This cooperative will also have a positive impact on agriculture in our region beyond the cooperative itself and I am particularly interested in working with the cooperative to see if we can prioritize the use of locally farmed grain. A win for farmers is a win for the Commonwealth and our ability to work together to support our family farms is going to have a lasting impact,” **said Virginia Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission member Richard Hite.**

“Virginia Farm Bureau is proud to be a partner in this effort to restore poultry production in Central Virginia. Everyone involved has contributed a tremendous effort in a short amount of time,” **said Virginia Farm Bureau Federation President Wayne F. Pryor.** “The Cooperative not only promises to return economic and employment opportunities to poultry and grain producers and their communities, but also represents a significant locally driven economic impact in the region.”

“The Commonwealth Regional Council has been pleased to have assisted the Central Virginia Poultry Cooperative in applying for multiple funding sources to assist them in setting up the Cooperative,” **said Commonwealth Regional Council Executive Director Melody Foster.** “The Cooperative is to be applauded for staying the course and not giving up on farming in south central Virginia.”

The Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) worked with the Virginia Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission, Virginia Farm Bureau Federation, and the Commonwealth Regional Council to secure this project for the Commonwealth. The Commonwealth Regional Council serves Amelia, Buckingham, Charlotte, Cumberland, Lunenburg, Nottoway, and Prince Edward counties.

Governor Youngkin approved a \$50,000 grant from the Governor’s Agriculture and Forestry Industries Development Fund, with the counties providing matching funds. The project is also receiving a \$1.4 million award from the Virginia Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission. The cooperative also is expected to receive an award of \$341,750 from the Rural Rehabilitation Trust Fund, which is administered by VDACS.

###



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

The Counties of Amelia | Buckingham | Charlotte | Cumberland | Lunenburg |
Nottoway | Prince Edward

MEMORANDUM

TO: CRC Council Members

FROM: Lauren Jones
Regional Planner

DATE: March 7, 2024

SUBJECT: CRC Staff Update – Providing Grant Writing Services to Local Agencies

As per the CRC's ongoing efforts to provide grant writing services for County Public Schools, local government, law enforcement, and 501 (c)(3) organizations in the region, the following activities have taken place since February 13, 2024:

Status Update

- Tobacco Commission – By Invitation Only: **Congratulations** to the **Central Virginia Poultry Cooperative!** The CVPC was awarded **\$1,400,000** in funding to cover start-up costs to develop a Poultry Cooperative. The CVPC will be providing the dollar for dollar required match for this grant. The CRC was the applicant and will be the fiscal agent for funds.
- VDACS, AFID Planning Grant: **Congratulations** to the **Central Virginia Poultry Cooperative!** The CVPC was awarded **\$35,000** in grant funding to cover start-up costs to develop a Poultry Cooperative. Amelia, Buckingham, Cumberland, Charlotte, Lunenburg, Nottoway, and Prince Edward Counties will be providing \$35,000 in required match (\$5,000 per County). The CRC was the applicant and will be the fiscal agent for funds.
- VDACS, AFID Infrastructure Grant: **Congratulations** to the **Central Virginia Poultry Cooperative!** The CVPC was awarded **\$50,000** in grant funding to cover start-up costs to develop a Poultry Cooperative. Amelia, Buckingham, Cumberland, Charlotte, Lunenburg, Nottoway, and Prince Edward Counties will be providing \$21,000 in required match (\$3,000 per County). The remaining \$4,000 in required match will be matching through Tobacco Commission grant funding. The CRC was the applicant and will be the fiscal agent for funds.
- VDACS, Rural Rehabilitation Trust Fund: **Congratulations** to the **Central Virginia Poultry Cooperative!** The CVPC was awarded **\$341,750.00** in grant funding to cover start-up costs to develop a Poultry Cooperative. The CRC was the applicant and will be the fiscal agent for funds.
- DHCD – Affordable and Special Needs Housing Program: **Congratulations** to **Piedmont Habitat for Humanity!** Piedmont Habitat for Humanity, a non-profit based out of Farmville, was awarded **\$623,203** in funding to partially fund the construction of five-homes on Ashley Way in Keysville. The CRC assisted with this application.
- VDACS, AFID Planning Grant: The CRC is assisting Virginia Food Works, a local non-profit, with a planning grant application to purchase a new liquid goods filling machine and dry goods filling machine for the Prince Edward Cannery that would serve local food producers. The planning grant applications are accepted on a rolling basis.

- VDOF, Virginia Trees for Clean Water grant: The CRC assisted the Town of Kenbridge with a submitted grant application to purchase and mulch 45 American Holly trees. These Holly trees will be planted at the soccer complex to screen the wastewater plant and the Town Park. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis.
- VDCJS, Byrne Justice Assistance Grant: The CRC is assisting Charlotte County Sheriff's Office with an application to purchase new body cameras for deputies. The application is due on March 13th.
- Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG): Applications were due on March 8th. The CRC assisted the following agencies with AFG applications:
 - Victoria Fire and Rescue – purchase a vehicle
 - Blackstone VFD – purchase an exhaust system
 - Keysville VFD – purchase breathing apparatus
 - Prince Edward County (regional application) – purchase radios

Awaiting Approval

- USDOT Federal Transit Administration (FTA), Innovative Coordinated Access and Mobility grant: The CRC assisted Piedmont Senior Resources with an application to purchase a vehicle. Applications were due on February 13th.
- Southeast Crescent Regional Commission (SCRC), State Economic and Infrastructure Development (SEID) Grant Program: The CRC assisted the Town of Blackstone with an application to fund construction costs for the renovation and rehabilitation of the Harris Memorial Armory. Applications were due on February 2, 2024.
- NPS, Save America's Treasures Grant: The CRC assisted Mary E. Branch Heritage Center with a submitted application to renovate the historic Mary E. Branch Elementary School. Applications were due on December 1, 2023.
- VDOT, Ready, Set, Go: The CRC assisted the Town of Keysville with a submitted planning grant application to fund planning activities for a sidewalk project in Keysville.
- NPS, African American Civil Rights: The CRC assisted Cumberland Co. with submitting two applications to renovate and establish the historic designation for the historic Luther P. Jackson High School. The CRC also assisted Mary E. Branch Heritage Center/ Prince Edward County with a submitted application to renovate the historic Mary E. Branch Elementary School. Applications were due November 1, 2023.
- VDOT Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP): The CRC assisted Amelia County, Lunenburg County, the Town of Farmville and the Town of Keysville with pre-application submissions to fund the construction of pedestrian sidewalks. Lunenburg County and the Town of Farmville has selected to not submit a full application for the TAP. The Town of Keysville has been advised to pursue another VDOT grant opportunity. The CRC assisted Amelia County with the submission of a full TAP application. Applications were due October 2, 2023.

Projects on Standby (work undertaken as developments warrant)

- Better Days Farmville: CRC staff is working with Better Day Farmville, a local non-profit, to **Page 42** funding sources to purchase a new building for its operations.

- Lunenburg County: CRC staff is working with Lunenburg County to identify funding sources to expand the Tobacco Heritage trail.
- Town of Kenbridge: CRC staff is working with Lunenburg County and the Town of Kenbridge to identify funding sources to purchase a HVAC system for the Kenbridge Recreation Center.
- Cumberland County: CRC staff is working with Cumberland County to identify gap funding to complete a recreational trail between Bear Creek State Park and Court House Village.
- Nottoway County: CRC staff is working with Nottoway County to identify funding sources to assist with operation costs for the landfill.
- Drakes Branch Volunteer Fire Department: CRC staff is working with the Drakes Branch Volunteer Fire Department to identify funding sources for the purchase of turnout gear and breathing apparatus. CRC staff are looking into submitting a potential application to Firehouse Subs.
- Town of Keysville: CRC staff is working with the Town of Keysville to identify funding sources for the construction of a pickle ball court and public parking lot.
- Community Resource Services: CRC staff is working with Community Resource Services, a local non-profit, to identify funding sources for the construction of a new food pantry that would serve Lunenburg County. CRC staff are looking into submitting a potential application to the Sentra Health grant program that are estimated to open in the spring.
- Crewe Volunteer Fire Department: CRC staff is working with Crewe VFD to identify funding sources to purchase an iPad for the EMS Truck. CRC staff are looking into submitting a potential application to the CENTRA health grant program that are estimated to open on March 4th.
- Curdsville Community Center (Buckingham County): The CRC is working with the group to seek funding opportunities to renovate the community center.
- Playground Equipment Funding: The CRC is continuing to research funding for a playground equipment.
- Animal Shelter Funding: The CRC is continuing to research funding for new animal shelters.
- Twin Lakes State Park, Friends of Twin Lakes State Park: The CRC is working with the State Park and the non-profit group that supports the State Park to identify funding opportunities for various projects at the Park.

Upcoming Grant Funding Opportunities	
Grant Opportunity	Deadline
VDACS, AFID Planning Grant	Open – Rolling Basis
Assistance to Firefighter Grant (AFG)	Due – March 8, 2024
DCR, Land and Conservation Trust Fund	Pre-app. due - March 15, 2024
VOF, Get Outdoors Fund (pre-app. is required to submit a full app.)	Pre- App. Due – February 12, 2024 Full App. Due – March 8, 2024
VOF, Preservation Trust Fund	Due - March 8, 2024
Sentra Health Grant	Open – March 11, 2024 Close – April 11, 2024
CENTRA Health Grant	Mandatory Training – February 21, 2024 Open – March 1, 2024 Due – May 1, 2024
VDF, Virginia Trees for Clean Water	Open - Rolling Basis
<i>*Programs with rolling submissions include: EDA, USDA, Virginia Housing, GO Virginia, DHCD, Tobacco Commission TROF, VEDP, etc.</i>	

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.



MEMORANDUM:

TO: CRC Members

FROM: Melody Foster, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Update on VAPDC Additional State Funding Request

DATE: March 13, 2024

As you may recall, the Virginia Association of Planning District Commissions (VAPDC) put together a workgroup to work on submitting a request for an additional \$150,000 for each Planning District. This request was submitted to the Governor and requested to be included in his budget released in mid-December. Many of our localities provided letters of support, which were much appreciated. Unfortunately, no additional State funding was included in the Governor's released budget.

However, the VAPDC worked with legislators to put forward a budget amendment that was included in the approved FY24 State Budget. While a reduced amount, a \$25,000 (per PDC) increase has been included in the State Budget for FY25 and FY26.

Currently the CRC receives \$89,971 from the State (VA Regional Cooperation Act) for planning activities. This amount will increase to \$114,971 annually once the Budget is signed by the Governor and approved.

David Blount, VAPDC Executive Director is to be commended for his efforts in getting this budget amendment approved. Also, Mr. Hankins, who serves on the VAPDC Board of Directors, urged lawmakers to support this request and should be commended as well.