I. CALL TO ORDER

II. CONSENT AGENDA
A. Approval of Minutes for November
B. Approval of Treasurer’s Report for November and December

III. COMMONWEALTH INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS
A. Projects (Signed-off by the staff)
   1. VA150106-00600400400 New River Valley Senior Services vehicle purchase
   2. VA150114-00700400400 New River Valley Community Services vehicle purchase
B. Regular Project Review
   None
C. Environmental Project Review
   None

IV. PUBLIC ADDRESS

V. REVIEW OF MUTUAL CONCERNS AND COMMISSIONERS’ REPORTS

VI. CHAIR’S REPORT

VII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT (enclosed)

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

IX. NEW BUSINESS
A. Review Key Legislative Items (VML and VACO Legislative Priorities Enclosed)
   Commission Discussion
B. Annual Commission Awards – Review Criteria and Process
   Commission Action

X. Regional Focus
A. Roanoke-Blacksburg Technology Council presentation – Johnathan Whitt, President and CEO

All meeting materials posted on the Commission website www.nrvpdc.org

The New River Valley Planning District Commission provides area wide planning for the physical, social, and economic elements of the district; encourages and assists local governments in planning for their future; provides a means of coordinating federal, state, and local efforts to resolve area problems; provides a forum for review of mutual concerns; and implements services upon request of member local governments.
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### Revenues

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**Total Revenues:** 1,650,141.81

### Expenses

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**Total Expenses:** 1,656,978.00

**Agency Balance:** -6,836.19

With Indirect Detail
# New River Valley Planning District Commission
## Balance Sheet
### Period From: 07/01/14 to 11/30/14

### Assets:
- Operating Account: 631,716.29
- Reserve Funds - Certificate of Deposit: 59,994.13
- Reserve Funds - MMA: 24,589.88
- Accounts Receivable: 221,059.34

**Total Assets:** $937,359.64

### Liabilities:
- AFLAC Withheld Payable: 0.03
- VRS Employee Contribution (VRS): -0.14
- Accrued Annual Leave: 46,709.99
- Accrued Unemployment: 16,577.69
- Accrued Workers Comp: 402.31

**Total Liabilities:** $63,689.88

### Projects
- Net Projects: 19,974.54
- Current Year Unrestricted: 256,558.85
- Unrestricted Net Assets: 591,071.65

**Total Projects:** $867,605.04

**Total Liabilities and Projects:** $931,294.92

**Net Difference to be Reconciled:** $6,066.72

**Total Adjustment:** $6,066.72

**Unreconciled Balance:** $0.00
New River Valley Planning District Commission  
Agencywide Revenue and Expenditures - December 2014  
With Indirect Detail

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<td><strong>138,437.00</strong></td>
<td><strong>794,880.02</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Agency Balance</strong></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>-6,836.19</strong></td>
<td><strong>4,596.48</strong></td>
<td><strong>198,083.58</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## New River Valley Planning District Commission

### Balance Sheet

**Period From:** 07/01/14 to 12/31/14

### Assets:
- Operating Account: $638,534.81
- Reserve Funds - Certificate of Deposit: $59,994.13
- Reserve Funds - MMA: $24,589.88
- Accounts Receivable: $225,626.29

**Total Assets:** $948,745.11

### Liabilities:
- Accounts Payable: $5,971.70
- AFLAC Withheld Payable: 0.02
- VRS Employee Contribution (VRS): -0.16
- Accrued Annual Leave: $46,709.99
- Accrued Unemployment: $16,609.49
- Accrued Workers Comp: $484.00

**Total Liabilities:** $69,775.04

### Projects
- Net Projects: $45,767.44
- Current Year Unrestricted: $235,285.48
- Unrestricted Net Assets: $591,071.65

**Total Projects:** $872,124.57

**Total Liabilities and Projects:** $941,899.61

**Net Difference to be Reconciled:** $6,845.50

**Total Adjustment:** $6,845.50

**Unreconciled Balance:** $0.00
January 22, 2015
Executive Director’s Report

Economic Development:
• The NRV Trail Guide funded by a Virginia Tourism Corporation grant and matching funds from local governments is getting underway. Commission staff is working with local government tourism offices to identify the top 3 trails per county to include in the guide. Staff is also preparing narrative to overview the trails and securing photos so visitors can quickly identify the highlight of a given trail. The guides are scheduled to be completed this summer and will be available in hard copy as well as digital for websites.
• The Blacksburg Broadband Committee released a Request for Information (RFI) in November and three firms provided responses before the January deadline. The RFI process is intended to generate private sector solutions to increasing bandwidth in the community. The committee will review the responses in detail later in January to discuss next steps.

Transportation:
• The NRV Passenger Rail committee is scheduled to meet February 3rd at the Pulaski Train Station. The committee plans to discuss setting a target date for expansion so everyone has a goal to work toward. The NRV study got underway this month starting with data collection and zip code analysis of students, faculty and staff at both universities.
• The NRVMPO is in the process of updating their long range plan. A survey for public input is available at the following link. http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/NRV_LRTP Please visit the link and provide feedback on transportation needs in the MPO area.

Regional:
• The NRV Livability Initiative will host a regional convening on 2/12 3:00-5:30 at the Event Center in Christiansburg. The purpose of the meeting will be to pull stakeholders together across the region to hear quick updates on projects/programs underway in the NRV, small group discussion on working group topics, and networking time built in.

PDC:
• The process of securing resolutions of support for changing the Commission’s name is going well. Currently the staff has eight of the 14 resolutions requested which represents the simple majority required to amend the charter. Staff is following up with members to secure the remaining resolutions.
• The branding process will kick-off on 1/15 with a four hour focus group meeting with Erica Allison of Allison Development Group. There are four Commissioners and six staff members participating in the focus group. Ms. Allison anticipates bringing three options to the Commission at the February meeting for review and feedback as we work toward an early May launch.
• Interviews were conducted the second week of January to fill the newly created regional planner position. Hopefully the top candidate will be able to start in early February.
• The VAPDC Winter Conference is scheduled for February 5-6 in Richmond and includes sessions with the VA Economic Development Partnership and the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond to discuss workforce development.
MEMORANDUM

To: NRVPDC Commissioners
From: Kevin R. Byrd, Executive Director
Date: January 14, 2015
Re: 2015 Key Legislative Items

At the January 22nd Commission meeting there will be a discussion on key legislative issues in the 2015 General Assembly session. Attached to this memo are legislative priorities for both the Virginia Municipal League (VML) and the Virginia Association of Counties (VACO). There will be time at the Commission meeting to discuss key legislative priorities for communities in the region. This is also an opportunity to inform other Commissioners about legislation they may have an interest in tracking during the session.
VML 2015 Legislative Program

VML’s membership approved the legislative program set out in this pamphlet at the annual conference held in Roanoke in October. The first five items in this program were identified as the top priorities for local governments in 2015.

Education Funding

A strong public school system is essential to economic development and prosperity. The state must be a reliable funding partner in accordance with the Virginia Constitution and state statutes. The Standards of Quality should recognize the resources, including positions, required for a high-quality public education system. VML opposes changes in methodology and changes in the division of financial responsibility that result in a shift of funding responsibility from the state to localities. As an example, VML opposes the elimination or decrease of state funding for state-mandated benefits for school employees.

Further, VML opposes policies that lower state contributions but do nothing to address the cost of meeting the requirements of the Standards of Accreditation and Standards of Learning. The State Board of Education should identify areas within the Standards of Quality and other educational requirements, such as mandates for expenditures in the area of student health services that can be modified or eliminated in order to provide localities with greater flexibility in their use of scarce education funds.

VML supports a study by the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission to determine how the SOQ may be revised and adequately funded to meet the requirements contained in the Standards of Learning and Standards of Accreditation. VML also supports implementation of JLARC recommendations to promote 3rd grade reading performance.

State Assistance to Local Law Enforcement (HB 599)

Law enforcement is a basic service of government. Funding for this service should be a shared responsibility of state and local government as it has long been for sheriffs’ departments. The state’s commitment to HB 599 has increasingly lagged in the past decade, and will be sorely tested again by the recent alarms about state revenues. The committee may consider asking the Finance Policy Committee to look at this issue and consider ways in which local governments can better prove and advocate the need for consistent funding for this program.

Transportation Funding

VML appreciates the actions taken by the General Assembly in the 2013 legislative session to boost transportation funding for new road construction, road maintenance, transit operating and capital, and rail passenger service. In order for Virginia to prosper a strong infrastructure is essential to meet the needs of commerce, commuters, and families.

VML understands that the landmark legislation from 2013 is a “down payment” or first step to comprehensively address transportation needs. More dedicated revenue for transit operations and capital as well as passenger and freight rail is needed to keep pace with growing public needs and expectations. It is also critical to find additional resources for urban and secondary road construction in light of actions taken by the state to halt allocations for these projects in the Six-Year Transportation Improvement Program.

State and Local Government Fiscal Relationship

Governance at the local level becomes ever more challenging as the Commonwealth and the federal government add new programs, or modify existing program guidelines, and promulgate complex regulations and higher standards for local governments to implement. It is not uncommon for the state and federal governments to either underfund their share of the costs or to ignore them altogether.

To that end, the Virginia Municipal League holds as essential these principles on local taxing and budget authority.

1. Specific local revenue authority and sources cannot be further restricted without first granting and providing alternative revenue authority with reliable, sustainable revenue sources. This includes, without limitation, the BPOL and M&T taxes.

2. Local general fund revenue and special funds cannot be confiscated or re-directed to the state treasury.

3. Local governments cannot be expected to bear the expenses related to the imposition of new funding requirements or the expansion of existing ones on services delivered at the local level without a com-
mensurate increase of state financial assistance or new local taxing authority.

4. Shifting traditional state funding responsibilities onto local governments, for such services including public education, law enforcement and public safety activities, is bad fiscal policy, resulting in the stress of local finances without reductions in overall program costs.

5. Piggybacking state fees, taxes or surcharges on local government services frustrates transparency at both the state and local level.

6. Placing additional administrative burdens on local governments without sufficient resources or administrative flexibility jeopardizes the quality of services delivered at the local level.

7. State budget cuts to state mandated and other high priority programs should specify the programs to be affected by the cuts.

The Commonwealth should:

1. Enter into a dialogue with local governments to examine state requirements and service expansions that can be suspended or modified to alleviate to the degree possible the financial burden on state and local taxpayers.

Specifically, the Commonwealth should:

- Critique the Standards of Accreditation and Standards of Learning to determine which standards impose costs on local governments that are not recognized in state funding formulas. In particular, changes adopted since 2009 to SOAs and SOLs should be examined as state funding on a per-pupil basis is now below 2009 levels.

- Re-examine those Standards of Quality that the Board of Education has adopted, but that the General Assembly has not funded. These standards reflect prevailing practices necessary to improve children’s academic performance. Their academic performance is crucial to students and schools meeting the accountability standards under the SOL and SOA. If funding is not available to pay for prevailing practices, the accountability standards should be adjusted so that local governments are not in the position of having to bear the entire burden of meeting these unfunded mandates.

2. Develop spending and revenue priorities that support economic development, public safety, education and other public goals. State tax credits, tax deductions and tax relief policies must receive the same scrutiny as spending programs as part of the prioritization process.

3. In times of revenue crises, review ways to increase revenues to meet constitutional and statutory obligations to Virginia citizens after all other actions have been taken including eliminating unnecessary programs, achieving greater program efficiencies, and streamlining service delivery.

4. Include local government representatives on any “blue ribbon” commission or other body established by the state that has as its purpose changes to local revenue authority or governance.”

Low Performing Schools

State Takeover of Persistently Low Performing Schools

VML supports repeal of the legislation establishing the Opportunity Educational Institution.

Improving Low-Performing Schools

Any approach to improving low-performing schools must include adequate state financial support. VML supports increased state funding for the Virginia Preschool Initiative, the K-3 reduced class size program and Early Reading Intervention program. VML also supports increased state stipends for highly effective teachers in high-poverty schools, and other innovative programs.

The state has consistently underfunded the state Standards of Quality and other state accountability programs. In the absence of increased state funding, VML opposes any efforts that would transfer to the state additional local funding that localities choose to provide to school divisions. Such local funds exceed the amounts the state requires for SOQ and other state-local match programs.
Other legislative positions

First Day Introduction for Bills with Local Fiscal Impact

VML supports reinserting the requirement for first day introduction of bills with a local fiscal impact in the procedural resolution that governs the conduct of the General Assembly session. This recommendation was supported in the last session by the Governor’s Task Force for Local Government Mandate Review and the Task Force for Fiscal Impact Review. The intent is to provide local governments more time to assess the fiscal impact of proposed legislation. During the 2014 session, delegates and senators had ten days after the start of the session to introduce legislation, leaving local governments with roughly three weeks to review bills, notify the Commission on Local Government about potential fiscal impacts and to lobby.

Fines and Costs Collections by Treasurers

VML seeks the repeal of language in the 2014 Appropriation Act that effectively bars local Treasurers from collecting delinquent fines and costs. Commonwealth’s Attorneys should have the option to choose the most efficient and effective collection agent regardless of whether the agent is a public or private entity. VML does not support efforts to monopolize collection services.

Local Fines and Fees

VML supports a budget amendment to end state confiscation of local fines, fees and forfeitures. At the very least, the General Assembly should reform the policies and procedures associated with the Commonwealth’s claims on these local dollars based on ideas introduced in the 2014 legislative session that adjusted court procedures to promote efficiencies, that narrowed the number of affected localities and that reduced the dollar amounts taken by the state.

Water Quality Funding

Virginia’s local governments face mounting costs for water quality improvements for sewage treatment plants, urban stormwater, combined sewer overflows (CSOs), and sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs). In response to federal and state legislation, regulation and policies, VML urges the federal government and the Commonwealth to provide adequate funding for these water quality improvements.

Taxing, Licensing and Regulating Internet-based Businesses & Services

If the Commonwealth should take action to regulate private enterprises employing a business model that emphasizes the use of the Internet to either provide retail or facilitate lodging or ride-sharing services, then local government interests should be acknowledged and localities should be included in the decision-making. As general principles, VML believes state and local policies should (1) encourage a level playing field for competing services in the market place; (2) seek to preserve and/or replace local and state tax revenues; and (3) ensure safety and reliability for consumers.

Workers Compensation – Medical Costs

Virginia should adopt Medicare-based fee schedules for setting medical provider fees in workers’ compensation cases, instead of the prevailing community rate standard now used. This will make providing workers’ compensation coverage more affordable and will adequately protect the financial interests of the medical providers of Virginia.

Transportation Networking Companies

VML supports the continued option of the regulation of taxi companies at the local level. VML supports state regulation of ride-sharing companies as needed to ensure proper safety, liability, cleanliness, insurance coverage, local revenue, consideration of ADA access, and equitable service in communities.

Municipal Net Metering

To facilitate the deployment of onsite renewable for municipal facilities VML supports (1) allowing local governments to aggregate the electric load of their governmental buildings, facilities, and any other governmental operations for the purpose of net energy metering; and (2) raising the net-metering limit from 500 kilowatts to 2,000 kilowatts for non-residential customers.

Hydraulic fracturing petroleum extraction

The process of hydraulic fracturing raises concerns about the potential pollution of groundwater, the depletion of water supplies and an increase in seismic activity in previously benign or inactive zones. The consequences potentially are costly and irreversible to local communities. VML supports a state regulatory program that addresses these concerns while protecting the authority of local governments to regulate this type of mining activity through its land use ordinances.
VML Executive Committee

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President-Elect – Mayor Ron Rordam, Blacksburg
Vice President – Mayor Robert K. Coiner, Gordonsville
At-large – Vice Mayor Edythe Kelleher, Vienna
At-large – Board Vice Chair Mary Hynes, Arlington
At-large – Vice Mayor Ceasar Johnson, Lynchburg
At-large – Council Member Katie Hammiler, Leesburg
At-large – Council Member Patricia Woodbury, Newport News
At-large – Mayor Mimi Elrod, Lexington
Town Section Chair – Council Member Faye Prichard, Ashland
City Section Chair – Councilor Christina Luman-Bailey, Hopewell
Urban Section Chair – Council Member Anita James Price, Roanoke
Immediate Past President – Mayor David P. Helms, Marion

VML Legislative Committee

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(V Urban Section)

Vice Chair: Council Member Ophie Kier, Staunton (City Section)

Urban Section
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Council Member Ellen F. Robertson, Richmond
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Council Member Gene Teague, Martinsville
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Town Section
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Mayor Tim Taylor, Strasburg
Council Member Sheila Olem, Herndon
Vice Mayor Cathy Lowe, Abingdon
Mayor Edward Owens, South Boston
Mayor James Hudson III, West Point

Street maintenance
Public health
Neighborhood preservation
Recycling
Animal shelters
Cable television franchises
Sidewalks
Voter registration
Child protective services
Courts
Zoning enforcement
Farmers’ markets
Engineering
Consumer protection
Green Government
Street sweeping
Social services
Industrial development
Paratransit
Fire marshal
Electric utilities
Comprehensive planning
Senior citizen programs
Community development
Main Streets
Kindergarten
Elections administration
Adult protective services
Welfare administration
Juvenile detention
County fairs
Natural gas utilities
Airports
Citizen boards and commissions
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING

Land Use/Growth Management Tools
VACo supports maintaining local authority to plan and regulate land use and opposes any legislation that weakens these key local responsibilities. VACo supports legislation that grants localities additional tools to adequately meet increasing needs for public services driven by new development without burdening current residents with the cost of new growth through increased real estate taxes.

Workforce Development
VACo supports state efforts to fund, encourage and facilitate local and regional efforts to convene and facilitate cooperation between the business community and other numerous stakeholders involved in Virginia’s workforce investment system. VACo supports applying credit recognition and state incentives for both certification, training or qualified credentialing and credit course hours.

EDUCATION

Education Funding
VACo urges the General Assembly to provide full state funding for public education including the Standards of Quality (SOQ) as recommended by the Board of Education, targeted incentive programs, capital and maintenance support and teacher salaries. Full state funding should be achieved without reduction to other parts of state public education budgets or to other core services. The state must recognize that in FY 2013 local school divisions spent $3.55 billion above required local effort.

VACo supports the current practice whereby all year-end funds appropriated to the school divisions by the locality revert to the locality, retaining discretion with the governing body to evaluate and approve the reallocation of year-end fund balances.

ENVIRONMENT AND AGRICULTURE

Water Quality Improvement Funding
VACo supports effective partnerships among and across all levels of government to improve water quality. VACo supports the goal of improved water quality, but will oppose provisions of any strategy that penalizes local governments by withdrawing current forms of financial assistance or imposing monitoring, management or similar requirements on localities without providing sufficient resources to accomplish those processes. VACo opposes the imposition of a state fee, tax or surcharge on water, sewer, solid waste or any service provided by a local government or authority.

FINANCE

Local Finances
VACo supports the authority of county governments to levy and collect revenue from local business taxes. VACo requests county government representation on all study or legislative commissions that impact local government revenues or services. VACo opposes mandated new or expanded funding requirements on counties.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Broadband
VACo urges the Commonwealth and the Federal Government to assist communities in their efforts to deploy universal affordable access to broadband for all areas, particularly in underserved and rural areas while preserving local land use, permitting, fees and other local authority.

Ethics Reform
VACo supports common sense efforts to strengthen Virginia’s public ethics and conflicts of interest laws. VACo also supports efforts to make sure current and future changes to these laws are applicable and practical at the local level.

HEALTH AND HUMAN RESOURCES

Health and Human Resources Funding
VACo supports transparent state policies and funding to ensure the Commonwealth’s at-risk families have access to high quality and appropriate services. The Commonwealth should fully fund localities for state mandated human services and provide the necessary program flexibility to enable localities to provide comprehensive and case-tailored services.

TRANSPORTATION

Devolution of Secondary Roads
VACo opposes legislative or administrative initiatives that transfer to counties the responsibility for the construction, maintenance or operation of new and existing roads.

Local-State Transportation Funding and Cooperation
VACo remains concerned about the lack of secondary and urban construction funding. Due to legislative changes in 2012, the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) has the authority to allocate up to $500 million to priority projects before funds are provided to the construction fund. It is imperative that each region receive its share of this funding. Secondary and urban road programs are not expected to receive new funds until FY 2017.
MEMORANDUM

To: NRVPDC Commissioners
From: Kevin R. Byrd, Executive Director
Date: January 14, 2015
Re: Annual Commission Awards Process and Criteria for Review/Discussion

In 2014 the Commission initiated an awards program. The Commission identified three award categories, established criteria and solicited nominees. Last year the Commission selected two award recipients, Mr. Joseph Sheffey, Champion of the Valley and Dr. Charles Steger, Citizen of the Valley. Below are the award criteria and the process anticipated for the 2015 awards for review and discussion before launching the call for nominees.

**Champion of the Valley:** an elected official (past or present) from within or representing the New River Valley that has made significant contributions for the betterment of the region. Focus will be on candidates that improve communities through their dedication, collaborative approach and impact.

**Friend of the Valley:** someone that lives outside of the New River Valley and has made significant contributions to the betterment of the region. Focus will be on candidates that improve communities through their dedication, collaborative approach and impact.

**Citizen of the Valley:** a citizen of the New River Valley that has made significant contributions toward the betterment of the region. Focus will be on candidates that improve communities through their dedication, collaborative approach and impact.

Please tell us why you think your nominee should be recognized as exemplifying one of the award categories in 750 words or less. This input will be the primary document used to select award recipients. Nominations should include examples of how the candidate contributes within the context of the proposed award category. In addition, you may want to include how the candidate impressed you or has influenced your work, what projects, positions and/or volunteer activities the candidate has been engaged with, and/or why the candidate stands out and should be recognized.

**Process:**
January – Commission review award criteria and process
February – Release call for award nominees, due March 17th
March – Commission review and select award recipients
April – Contact award recipients to ensure schedule availability for May award presentation
May – Present awards at annual dinner event