



## Agenda

September 28, 2023

6:00 p.m.— Pulaski County Innovation Center, Fairlawn, VA

- I. **CALL TO ORDER**
- II. **CONSENT AGENDA**
  - A. Approval of Minutes for August
  - B. [Approval of Treasurer's Report for July and August](#)
- III. **COMMONWEALTH INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS**
  - A. Projects Signed-off by the staff
    1. None
  - B. Regular Project Review
    1. None
- IV. **PUBLIC ADDRESS**
- V. **CHAIR'S REPORT**
- VI. [EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT](#)
- VII. **REVIEW OF MUTUAL CONCERNS AND COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS**
- VIII. **OLD BUSINESS**
- IX. **NEW BUSINESS**
  - A. [New River Land Trust: Partnering on Recreation Asset Development](#)  
John Eustis, Executive Director  
Commission Discussion
  - B. [NRV Recovery Ecosystem: Anti-Stigma Campaign](#)  
Holly Lesko, Director of Community Health  
Kim Bonner, Regional Planner/Communications Specialist  
Commission Discussion
  - C. Distribution of the FY23 Annual Report  
Commission Discussion
  - D. Next Commission Meeting:
    - a. Need to cancel October due to Annual Dinner event  
Commission Action
    - b. November meeting date, need to adjust to avoid Thanksgiving holiday  
Commission Action

All meeting materials posted on the Commission website [www.nrvrc.org](http://www.nrvrc.org)

*The New River Valley Regional 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.*



6580 Valley Center Drive | Suite 124 | Radford, VA 24141 | 540-639-9313

[NRVRC.ORG](http://NRVRC.ORG)

## MEMORANDUM

**To: NRVRC Board Members**  
**From: Jessica Barrett, Finance Director**  
**Date: September 20, 2023**  
**Re: July 2023 Financial Statements**

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The July 2023 Agencywide Revenue and Expenditure Report and Balance Sheet are enclosed for your review.

The Agencywide Revenue and Expense report compares actual year to date receipts and expenses to the FY23-24 budget adopted by the Commission at the May 25, 2023 meeting. The financial operations of the agency are somewhat fluid and projects, added and modified throughout the year, along with the high volume of Workforce program activities, impact the adopted budget. To provide clarity, Commission and Workforce Development Board activities are separated on the agencywide report.

As of month-end July 2023 (8% of the fiscal year), Commission year to date revenues are 15% and expenses are 8% of adopted budget. The two largest budget expense lines, Salary and Fringe, are in line with budget at 7% and 9%, respectively.

The July volume of revenue is due in large part to the FY24 assessment (commission dues) invoiced in July. As of this writing, 100% of the dues invoiced to date have been received.

Looking at the balance sheet, Accounts Receivable is \$1,273,566. Of this total, Workforce receivables are \$682,544 (54%) and current. Commission receivables are heavy due to closing projects to fiscal year-end. The Executive Committee reviews all aged receivables over 60 days and no receivables are deemed uncollectible. Net Projects (\$44,266) represents project expenses, primarily benchmark projects, that cannot be invoiced yet and posted to receivables.

### Counties

Floyd | Giles  
Montgomery | Pulaski

### City

Radford

### Towns

Blacksburg | Christiansburg  
Floyd | Narrows | Pearisburg  
Pembroke | Pulaski | Rich Creek

### Higher Education

Virginia Tech | Radford University  
New River Community College

**New River Valley Regional Commission**  
**Balance Sheet**  
**7/31/2023**

<u>Assets:</u>		<u>Prior Month</u>	<u>Current Month</u>
	Operating Account	258,480	120,999
	Certificate of Deposit	110,942	110,942
	Accounts Receivable	1,053,072	1,273,566
	Accounts Receivable - Advanced Expenses	620	0
	Loans Receivable - Revolving Loan Fund	47,102	45,881
	Restricted Cash - Revolving Loan Fund	58,668	60,050
	Commission Vehicles	32,365	32,365
		<u>1,561,249</u>	<u>1,643,802</u>
	Total Assets:	<u>1,561,249</u>	<u>1,643,802</u>
<u>Liabilities:</u>			
	Accounts Payable	509,978	408,884
	Accrued Annual Leave	98,150	98,150
	Accrued Unemployment	29,955	30,002
	Expense Reimbursement	2,407	2,727
	Unearned Revenue	993	0
	Payroll Taxes Payable	0	4,681
		<u>641,482</u>	<u>544,444</u>
	Total Liabilities:	<u>641,482</u>	<u>544,444</u>
<u>Projects:</u>			
	Net Projects	(1,713)	(44,266)
(Equity Accounts)	Current Year Unrestricted	0	223,300
	Unrestricted Net Assets	815,690	815,690
	Restricted Net Assets - Revolving Loan Fund	105,790	105,790
		<u>919,767</u>	<u>1,100,514</u>
	Total Projects (Equity)	<u>919,767</u>	<u>1,100,514</u>
		<u>1,561,249</u>	<u>1,644,958</u>
	Total Liabilities and Projects	<u>1,561,249</u>	<u>1,644,958</u>
	Net Difference to be Reconciled	<u>0</u>	<u>(1,156)</u>
	Total Adjustments to Post*	0	1,156
		<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
	Unreconciled Balance (after adjustment)	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

\*YTD adjustment to Accrued Leave. Final adjustment posted to general ledger at fiscal year end closeout.

**New River Valley Regional Commission  
Revenue and Expenditures - July 2023**

FY23-24 Budget		(8% of FY)			
		July 2023	YTD	Under/Over	% Budget
<b>NRVRC Anticipated Revenues</b>					
ARC	90,842	21,926	21,926	68,916	24.14%
ARC POWER Water Trail Implementation	35,000	0	0	35,000	0.00%
ARC LDD READY Appalachia	60,000	0	0	60,000	0.00%
ARC Passenger Rail Station Development	574,000	0	0	574,000	0.00%
Local Assessment	238,220	238,220	238,220	0	100.00%
DHCD - Administrative Grant	89,971	0	0	89,971	0.00%
DHCD VATI 2022	90,000	0	0	90,000	0.00%
DRPT RIDE Solutions NRV	91,526	0	0	91,526	0.00%
DRPT NRVCAP RideSolutions Strategic Plan	15,000	0	0	15,000	0.00%
Department of Energy	37,500	0	0	37,500	0.00%
EDA	70,000	0	0	70,000	0.00%
Workforce Fiscal Agent	75,000	25,000	25,000	50,000	33.33%
Workforce Power Fiscal Agent	12,500	12,500	12,500	0	100.00%
Workforce YouthBuild Fiscal Agent	25,000	6,250	6,250	18,750	25.00%
Workforce Ready SWVA Fiscal agent	21,500	21,500	21,500	0	0.00%
Workforce WORC Fiscal agent	25,000	25,000	25,000	0	0.00%
Workforce Innovation Fiscal Agent	0	10,000	10,000	(10,000)	0.00%
Workforce WIOA Soft Skills Fiscal Agent	0	6,000	6,000	(6,000)	0.00%
Workforce WIOA Supplemental Fiscal Agent	0	6,000	6,000	(6,000)	0.00%
Workforce WIOA Technical Skills Fiscal Agent	0	8,000	8,000	(8,000)	0.00%
VDOT	58,000	0	0	58,000	0.00%
Floyd County	38,000	0	0	38,000	0.00%
Floyd Town	7,000	0	0	7,000	0.00%
Narrows Town	11,000	0	0	11,000	0.00%
Rich Creek Town	17,000	0	0	17,000	0.00%
Montgomery County	8,000	0	0	8,000	0.00%
Blacksburg Town	25,500	0	0	25,500	0.00%
Christiansburg Town	54,250	0	0	54,250	0.00%
Pulaski County	10,000	0	0	10,000	0.00%
Radford City	66,370	0	0	66,370	0.00%
Miscellaneous Income - Recovered Cost	0	53	53	(53)	0.00%
Virginia's First	14,960	0	0	14,960	0.00%
NRV MPO	95,500	0	0	95,500	0.00%
Pembroke	17,000	0	0	17,000	0.00%
Dept of Environmental Quality	14,500	0	0	14,500	0.00%
VDEM	25,000	0	0	25,000	0.00%
Virginia Outdoors Foundation	42,241	0	0	42,241	0.00%
VHDA	50,375	0	0	50,375	0.00%
Southwest Virginia SWMA	7,000	3,500	3,500	3,500	50.00%
Virginia Recycling Association	14,000	3,750	3,750	10,250	26.79%
VDH New River Health District	345,000	0	0	345,000	0.00%
VDH Office of Drinking Water	80,000	0	0	80,000	0.00%
NRV Passenger Rail Authority	67,500	0	0	67,500	0.00%
Revolving Loan - Interest	0	161	161	(161)	0.00%
Grant income (anticipated)	12,723	0	0	12,723	0.00%
<b>Sub Total Revenues</b>	<b>2,631,980</b>	<b>387,860</b>	<b>387,860</b>	<b>2,244,120</b>	<b>14.74%</b>
<b>Expenses</b>					
Salaries	1,325,877	98,732	98,732	1,227,145	7.45%
Fringe Benefits	340,515	29,453	29,453	311,062	8.65%
Travel	33,283	543	543	32,740	1.63%
Office Space	68,730	5,727	5,727	63,003	8.33%
Communications	20,832	1,273	1,273	19,559	6.11%
Office Supplies	66,892	915	915	65,977	1.37%
Postage	900	120	120	780	13.37%
Printing	8,285	0	0	8,285	0.00%
Copier Usage/Maintenance	1,100	126	126	974	11.48%
Outreach/Media Adv	11,110	939	939	10,172	8.45%
Equipment Rent/Copier	3,000	223	223	2,777	7.45%
Fleet Vehicles	2,000	173	173	1,827	8.65%
Dues/Publications	20,395	2,845	2,845	17,550	13.95%
Training/Staff Development	26,170	13,432	13,432	12,738	51.33%
Insurance	4,700	1,139	1,139	3,561	24.24%
Meeting Costs	13,573	144	144	13,429	1.06%
Contractual Services	588,441	50,829	50,829	537,612	8.64%
Professional Services Audit/Legal	6,000	0	0	6,000	0.00%
Miscellaneous/Fees	49,700	207	207	49,493	0.42%
Reimbursed Expenses	0	292	292	(292)	0.00%
<b>Sub Total Expenses</b>	<b>2,591,503</b>	<b>207,113</b>	<b>207,113</b>	<b>2,384,390</b>	<b>7.99%</b>
<b>NRVRC Balance</b>	<b>40,477</b>	<b>180,747</b>	<b>180,747</b>		

**New River/Mount Rogers Workforce Development Board  
Revenue and Expenditures - July 2023**

NR/MR WDB Anticipated Revenues		July 2023	YTD	Under/Over	(8% of FY) % Budget
Workforce Development Area	4,564,775	138,931	138,931	4,425,844	3.04%
<b>Sub Total Revenues</b>	<b>4,564,775</b>	<b>138,931</b>	<b>138,931</b>	<b>4,425,844</b>	
<b>Expenses</b>					
Salaries	614,994	53,569	53,569	561,425	8.71%
Fringe Benefits	215,248	15,250	15,250	199,998	7.08%
Travel	26,000	2,746	2,746	23,254	10.56%
Office Space	37,000	4,255	4,255	32,745	11.50%
Communications	16,000	1,565	1,565	14,435	9.78%
Office Supplies	35,000	848	848	34,152	2.42%
Postage	250	5	5	245	1.84%
Printing	1,500	373	373	1,127	24.85%
Outreach/Media Adv	30,000	1,088	1,088	28,912	3.63%
Equipment Rent/Copier	1,700	270	270	1,430	15.86%
Dues/Publications	5,000	0	0	5,000	0.00%
Training/Staff Development	7,000	0	0	7,000	0.00%
Insurance	5,000	5,504	5,504	(504)	110.08%
Meeting Costs	7,000	0	0	7,000	0.00%
Contractual Services	3,536,171	52,735	52,735	3,483,436	1.49%
Professional Services Audit/Legal	15,000	724	724	14,276	4.83%
Miscellaneous/Fees	11,912	0	0	11,912	0.00%
<b>Sub Total Expenses</b>	<b>4,564,775</b>	<b>138,931</b>	<b>138,931</b>	<b>4,425,844</b>	<b>3.04%</b>
<b>NR/MR WDB Balance</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>		
<b>Total Agency R&amp;E</b>		<b>July 2023</b>	<b>YTD</b>		
<b>Anticipated Revenue</b>	<b>7,196,755</b>	<b>526,791</b>	<b>526,791</b>	<b>7.32%</b>	
<b>Anticipated Expense</b>	<b>7,156,278</b>	<b>346,044</b>	<b>346,044</b>	<b>4.84%</b>	
<b>Balance</b>	<b>40,477</b>	<b>180,747</b>	<b>180,747</b>		



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## MEMORANDUM

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**From: Jessica Barrett, Finance Director**  
**Date: September 20, 2023**  
**Re: August 2023 Financial Statements**

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The August 2023 Agencywide Revenue and Expenditure Report and Balance Sheet are enclosed for your review. Financial reports are reviewed by the Executive Committee prior to inclusion in the meeting packet.

The Agencywide Revenue and Expense report compares actual year to date receipts and expenses to the FY23-24 budget adopted by the Commission at the May 25, 2023 meeting. The financial operations of the agency are somewhat fluid and projects, added and modified throughout the year, along with the high volume of Workforce program activities, impact the adopted budget. To provide clarity, Commission and Workforce Development Board activities are separated on the agencywide report.

As of month-end August 2023 (17% of the fiscal year), Commission year to date revenues are 18% and expenses are 17% of adopted budget. The two largest budget expense lines, Salary and Fringe, are in line with budget at 15% and 18%, respectively.

Looking at the balance sheet, Accounts Receivable is \$838,461. Of this total, Workforce receivables are \$440,068 (52%) and current. Commission receivables are heavy due to closing projects to fiscal year-end. The Executive Committee reviews all aged receivables over 60 days and no receivables are deemed uncollectible. Net Projects (\$197,336) represents project expenses, primarily benchmark projects, that cannot be invoiced yet and posted to receivables.

### Counties

Floyd | Giles  
Montgomery | Pulaski

### City

Radford

### Towns

Blacksburg | Christiansburg  
Floyd | Narrows | Pearisburg  
Pembroke | Pulaski | Rich Creek

### Higher Education

Virginia Tech | Radford University  
New River Community College

**New River Valley Regional Commission**  
**Balance Sheet**  
**8/31/2023**

<u>Assets:</u>		<u>Prior Month</u>	<u>Current Month</u>
	Operating Account	120,999	258,177
	Certificate of Deposit	110,942	110,942
	Accounts Receivable	1,273,566	838,461
	Loans Receivable - Revolving Loan Fund	45,881	44,655
	Restricted Cash - Revolving Loan Fund	60,050	61,431
	Commission Vehicles	32,365	32,365
	Total Assets:	<u>1,643,802</u>	<u>1,346,031</u>
<u>Liabilities:</u>	Accounts Payable	408,884	271,120
	Accrued Annual Leave	98,150	98,150
	Accrued Unemployment	30,002	30,018
	Expense Reimbursement	2,727	3,775
	Unearned Revenue	0	0
	Payroll Taxes Payable	4,681	0
	Total Liabilities:	<u>544,444</u>	<u>403,063</u>
<u>Projects:</u> (Equity Accounts)	Net Projects	(44,266)	(197,336)
	Current Year Unrestricted	223,300	221,038
	Unrestricted Net Assets	815,690	815,690
	Restricted Net Assets - Revolving Loan Fund	105,790	105,790
	Total Projects (Equity)	<u>1,100,514</u>	<u>945,181</u>
	Total Liabilities and Projects	<u>1,644,958</u>	<u>1,348,244</u>
	Net Difference to be Reconciled	<u>(1,156)</u>	<u>(2,213)</u>
	Total Adjustments to Post*	1,156	2,213
	Unreconciled Balance (after adjustment)	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

\*YTD adjustment to Accrued Leave. Final adjustment posted to general ledger at fiscal year end closeout.

**New River Valley Regional Commission  
Revenue and Expenditures - August 2023**

FY23-24 Budget		(17% of FY)			
		August 2023	YTD	Under/Over	% Budget
<b>NRVRC Anticipated Revenues</b>					
ARC	90,842	0	21,926	68,916	24.14%
ARC PemTel Painters School Road Broadband	0	68,395	68,395	(68,395)	0.00%
ARC POWER Water Trail Implementation	35,000	0	0	35,000	0.00%
ARC LDD READY Appalachia	60,000	0	0	60,000	0.00%
ARC Passenger Rail Station Development	574,000	0	0	574,000	0.00%
Local Assessment	238,220	0	238,220	0	100.00%
DHCD - Administrative Grant	89,971	0	0	89,971	0.00%
DHCD VATI 2022	90,000	0	0	90,000	0.00%
DRPT RIDE Solutions NRV	91,526	0	0	91,526	0.00%
DRPT NRVCAP RideSolutions Strategic Plan	15,000	0	0	15,000	0.00%
Department of Energy	37,500	0	0	37,500	0.00%
EDA	70,000	0	0	70,000	0.00%
Workforce Fiscal Agent	75,000	0	25,000	50,000	33.33%
Workforce Power Fiscal Agent	12,500	0	12,500	0	100.00%
Workforce YouthBuild Fiscal Agent	25,000	0	6,250	18,750	25.00%
Workforce Ready SWVA Fiscal agent	21,500	0	21,500	0	0.00%
Workforce WORC Fiscal agent	25,000	0	25,000	0	0.00%
Workforce Innovation Fiscal Agent	0	0	10,000	(10,000)	0.00%
Workforce WIOA Soft Skills Fiscal Agent	0	0	6,000	(6,000)	0.00%
Workforce WIOA Supplemental Fiscal Agent	0	0	6,000	(6,000)	0.00%
Workforce WIOA Technical Skills Fiscal Agent	0	0	8,000	(8,000)	0.00%
VDOT	58,000	0	0	58,000	0.00%
Floyd County	38,000	0	0	38,000	0.00%
Floyd Town	7,000	0	0	7,000	0.00%
Narrows Town	11,000	0	0	11,000	0.00%
Rich Creek Town	17,000	0	0	17,000	0.00%
Montgomery County	8,000	0	0	8,000	0.00%
Blacksburg Town	25,500	0	0	25,500	0.00%
Christiansburg Town	54,250	0	0	54,250	0.00%
Pulaski County	10,000	0	0	10,000	0.00%
Radford City	66,370	0	0	66,370	0.00%
Miscellaneous Income - Recovered Cost	0	0	53	(53)	0.00%
Virginia's First	14,960	7,500	7,500	7,460	50.13%
NRV MPO	95,500	0	0	95,500	0.00%
Pembroke	17,000	0	0	17,000	0.00%
Dept of Environmental Quality	14,500	0	0	14,500	0.00%
VDEM	25,000	0	0	25,000	0.00%
Virginia Outdoors Foundation	42,241	0	0	42,241	0.00%
VHDA	50,375	0	0	50,375	0.00%
Southwest Virginia SWMA	7,000	0	3,500	3,500	50.00%
Virginia Recycling Association	14,000	0	3,750	10,250	26.79%
VDH New River Health District	345,000	0	0	345,000	0.00%
VDH Office of Drinking Water	80,000	0	0	80,000	0.00%
NRV Passenger Rail Authority	67,500	0	0	67,500	0.00%
Revolving Loan - Interest	0	156	317	(317)	0.00%
Grant income (anticipated)	12,723	0	0	12,723	0.00%
<b>Sub Total Revenues</b>	<b>2,631,980</b>	<b>76,052</b>	<b>463,912</b>	<b>2,168,068</b>	<b>17.63%</b>
<b>Expenses</b>					
Salaries	1,325,877	103,377	202,108	1,123,769	15.24%
Fringe Benefits	340,515	30,522	59,975	280,540	17.61%
Travel	33,283	1,225	1,768	31,515	5.31%
Office Space	68,730	5,727	11,455	57,275	16.67%
Communications	20,832	1,343	2,616	18,216	12.56%
Office Supplies	66,892	3,416	4,331	62,561	6.47%
Postage	900	70	190	710	21.15%
Printing	8,285	0	0	8,285	0.00%
Copier Usage/Maintenance	1,100	106	232	868	21.07%
Outreach/Media Adv	11,110	741	1,679	9,431	15.12%
Equipment Rent/Copier	3,000	223	447	2,553	14.89%
Fleet Vehicles	2,000	52	225	1,775	11.24%
Dues/Publications	20,395	3,800	6,645	13,750	32.58%
Training/Staff Development	26,170	2,910	16,342	9,828	62.45%
Insurance	4,700	0	1,139	3,561	24.24%
Meeting Costs	13,573	605	750	12,823	5.52%
Contractual Services	588,441	77,425	128,254	460,187	21.80%
Professional Services Audit/Legal	6,000	0	0	6,000	0.00%
Miscellaneous/Fees	49,700	135	342	49,358	0.69%
Reimbursed Expenses	0	(292)	0	0	0.00%
<b>Sub Total Expenses</b>	<b>2,591,503</b>	<b>231,385</b>	<b>438,497</b>	<b>2,153,006</b>	<b>16.92%</b>
<b>NRVRC Balance</b>	<b>40,477</b>	<b>(155,333)</b>	<b>25,414</b>		



**New River/Mount Rogers Workforce Development Board  
Revenue and Expenditures - August 2023**

NR/MR WDB Anticipated Revenues	August 2023	YTD	Under/Over	(17% of FY) % Budget	
Workforce Development Area	4,564,775	170,558	309,489	4,255,286	6.78%
<b>Sub Total Revenues</b>	<b>4,564,775</b>	<b>170,558</b>	<b>309,489</b>	<b>4,255,286</b>	
<b>Expenses</b>					
Salaries	614,994	50,347	103,916	511,078	16.90%
Fringe Benefits	215,248	14,243	29,493	185,755	13.70%
Travel	26,000	3,020	5,766	20,234	22.18%
Office Space	37,000	1,943	6,198	30,802	16.75%
Communications	16,000	1,608	3,173	12,827	19.83%
Office Supplies	35,000	1,881	2,729	32,271	7.80%
Postage	250	0	5	245	1.84%
Printing	1,500	43	416	1,084	27.71%
Outreach/Media Adv	30,000	288	1,376	28,624	4.59%
Equipment Rent/Copier	1,700	135	404	1,296	23.79%
Dues/Publications	5,000	0	0	5,000	0.00%
Training/Staff Development	7,000	60	60	6,940	0.86%
Insurance	5,000	0	5,504	(504)	110.08%
Meeting Costs	7,000	2,367	2,367	4,633	33.82%
Capital Outlay	0	34,000	34,000	(34,000)	0.00%
Contractual Services	3,536,171	60,624	113,359	3,422,812	3.21%
Professional Services Audit/Legal	15,000	0	724	14,276	4.83%
Miscellaneous/Fees	11,912	0	0	11,912	0.00%
<b>Sub Total Expenses</b>	<b>4,564,775</b>	<b>170,558</b>	<b>309,489</b>	<b>4,255,286</b>	<b>6.78%</b>
<b>NR/MR WDB Balance</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>		

Total Agency R&E	August 2023	YTD		
<b>Anticipated Revenue</b>	<b>7,196,755</b>	<b>246,610</b>	<b>773,401</b>	<b>10.75%</b>
<b>Anticipated Expense</b>	<b>7,156,278</b>	<b>401,943</b>	<b>747,987</b>	<b>10.45%</b>
<b>Balance</b>	<b>40,477</b>	<b>(155,333)</b>	<b>25,414</b>	



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N R V R C . O R G

**September 21, 2023**

## **Executive Director's Report**

### **Economic Development:**

- The NRV Recovery Ecosystem Program is in the process of getting under contract with the Opioid Abatement Authority (OAA). Local resolutions have been adopted recently which enable the OAA to send out their first round of grant agreements. It is a considerable amount of volume for the new OAA entity, so it may take more time to receive the contracts. Work is beginning on the regional program to include hiring for two positions, both of which are posted on the Regional Commission website, and development of an anti-stigma campaign that will be highlighted at the meeting this month.
- Broadband: Montgomery County hosted a project kick-off event for the VATI 2021 award focusing on eastern Montgomery County earlier this month. Construction is underway with fiber being pulled and connections to houses/businesses will take place soon. People can sign-up for service at <https://www.gigabeam.net> The VATI 2022 for Montgomery/Bland counties, a lot of the equipment has been delivered with rolls of fiber on-site. For Pulaski County, All Points Broadband is working through the pole attachment process and final engineering.
- The NRV Tech Hubs proposal for Advanced Materials and Advanced Manufacturing was submitted in mid-August; however, work supporting the application has continued with congressional briefings taking place the past several weeks. The team has met with Senators Warner, Kaine, and Cardin (MD), along with Representatives Griffith and Whitman. The delegation has been impressed by the proposal and decided to submit a joint letter to the US Economic Development Administration which communicates strong bi-partisan support.
- A GO Virginia grant request for their capacity building program will be submitted by the end of the day on Friday. The purpose of the project is to pair with the Tech Hubs proposal that would enable further build out of the additive manufacturing cluster. If the Tech Hubs proposal is not selected, then hopefully GO Virginia remains a pathway to continue this important work for the regional economy.

### **Transportation:**

- The NRV Passenger Rail Station Authority will meet in September to receive a report from the nominating committee to fill the Chair role since Craig Meadows will be retiring at the end of October. The authority will also discuss legislative briefing opportunities before the upcoming General Assembly session in January.

### **Natural Resources:**

- The Plant Southwest Virginia Natives program recently completed the final draft of the Native Plant Guide for the region. Guides are being printed and will be delivered in mid-October with distribution soon thereafter.

### **Regional:**

- The NRV Housing Trust Fund (HTF) having selected projects in Pulaski and Blacksburg last month, will be issuing a press release soon with the intention of drawing attention to the investments along with the new trust fund entity.

**Commission:**

- The Regional Commission Annual Dinner Event is scheduled for October 19<sup>th</sup> at the Volvo Customer Experience Center in Dublin! A mobile workshop/tour will take place 4:30-5:45 and the dinner event will be 6:00-8:00. An invitation with registration information was sent out in late August.
- The banking services RFP for the broadband projects and passenger rail station authority has closed and a selection is anticipated within the week.
- The Virginia Association of Planning District Commissions is advocating for an increase in General Assembly funding for each PDC in the upcoming biennium budget. The request is to increase from \$89,000 to \$150,000 to reflect the level of support PDCs provide in delivering and executing many state programs.



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N R V R C . O R G

## MEMORANDUM

**To: Regional Commission Board Members**  
**From: Kevin Byrd, Executive Director**  
**Date: September 21, 2023**  
**Re: New River Land Trust: Partnering on Recreation Asset Development**

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At the September Regional Commission meeting John Eustis, Executive Director of the New River Land Trust, will provide a presentation about the land trust and their role in partnering on developing recreation assets. Below is information about the New River Land Trust and the Brush Mountain Park project. I encourage you to visit the links too, there may be some familiar faces in the YouTube videos!

The New River Land Trust (NRLT) works to conserve farmland, forests, open spaces, and historic places in the New River region of Southwest Virginia. We work with landowners and a range of public/private conservation partners to conserve and/or restore land and associated natural/cultural resources. Since 2002, we have worked with 270 landowners to conserve more than 57,000 acres in the region. This work has included 27 miles along the New River and been in part thanks to 6.9 million in federal, state and private sector grant funding for particularly high conservation value projects such as the Mountain Lake area of Giles County, land along the New River in Grayson County, and Brush Mountain in Montgomery County.

Background on the Brush Mountain Park: In 2018, the NRLT received a \$1.2 million grant from the Virginia Outdoors Foundation's (VOF) Forest CORE Fund. The funds allowed the NRLT to purchase the first two Park properties totaling 552 acres. In 2021, thanks to a \$210,000 grant from the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation, a \$200,000 grant from the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, \$112,000 in Town of Blacksburg (Town) funds, and a \$100,000 grant for the VOF's Preservation Trust Fund the NRLT and Town purchased a third 205 acre property of climate resilient, biodiverse forest habitat. The NRLT is developing the public access infrastructure/trails and the Town will ultimately be the owner/manager of the Park but with open spaces easements on each properties held by the VOF ensuring permanent conservation stewardship in the form of viewshed protection, preservation of the forest and its ecological values and public access via more than 20 miles of natural surface non-motorized multi-use trails. The trails are being built by contractor Eastern Trail Co. with funds raised from the community and grants as well as more than 2500 community volunteer hours coordinated by another project partner the Poverty Creek Trails Coalition.

<https://www.newriverlandtrust.org/brush-mountain-park>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xP2oK0yDOUU>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PwSZKVRhJa8>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D-TsUsBsNvU>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ExzkyNnpk7w>



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N R V R C . O R G

## MEMORANDUM

**To: Regional Commission Board Members**  
**From: Holly Lesko, Director of Community Health**  
**Date: September 21, 2023**  
**Re: NRV Recovery Ecosystem: Anti-Stigma Campaign**

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The NRVRC staff is working on an anti-stigma campaign as the first communications initiative of the NRV Recovery Ecosystem program. This is one of several campaigns we will be launching to address the multi-faceted issues that are connected to Substance Use Disorder (SUD) in our community. This campaign focuses on dispelling the myths and misconceptions of SUD as well as providing community members with tools and strategies to talk to friends and family about substance use and recovery. They can also access information about treatment and recovery support available in their area.

This work is led by our in-house marketing and communications specialist, Kim Bonner, and supported by the Communications Technical Team. The CTT includes members from New River Valley Community Services, Montgomery County PIO, and Radford University's substance abuse and violence education (SAVE) community. The anti-stigma campaign will focus on those most at risk of death from overdose: people ages 25-44 years old. This group is a "sandwich generation" between raising children and caring for aging parents, which means that reaching them will have a ripple effect on older and younger generations.

The campaign strategy will be presented at the meeting with an opportunity for commissioners to share thoughts and feedback. We believe this initial promotion will not only provide important educational information but can also prompt community engagement and conversation around this critical issue.

This work is supported by the \$2.1 million in grant fund awarded by the Virginia Opioid Abatement Authority and matched by \$1.2 million from direct allocations to our local governments. The focus is on strengthening well-being and addressing the impacts of addiction and the underlying factors that create risks to individuals and communities. The Regional Commission will be hiring a program manager as well as community accountability coordinators to ensure this work meets the needs and goals of our member jurisdictions. Participating service agencies are also expanding and enhancing services to address specific needs, targeting vulnerable populations to address addiction and promoting necessary programming and resources to aid recovery and prevention efforts.