



Agenda
May 27, 2021
6:00 p.m. – Hybrid Meeting via Zoom/In-person

- I. **CALL TO ORDER**
- II. **ELECTRONIC MEETING PARTICIPATION – Commission Action (attached)**
- III. **CONSENT AGENDA**
 - A. Approval of Minutes for April
 - B. **Approval of Treasurer's Reports for April**
- IV. **COMMONWEALTH INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS**
 - A. Projects (Signed-off by the staff)
 - None
 - B. Regular Project Review
 - None
 - C. Environmental Project Review
 - 1. **RAAP Nitrate Ester Manufacturing Facilities**
- V. **PUBLIC ADDRESS**
- VI. **CHAIR'S REPORT**
- VII. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**
- VIII. **REVIEW OF MUTUAL CONCERNS AND COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS**
- IX. **OLD BUSINESS**
- X. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - A. **National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) Federal Policy and Programs Update**
 - Presentation: Joe McKinney, Executive Director and Mirielle Burgoyne, Deputy Executive Director/Legislative Affairs
 - Commission Action
 - B. **Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Update**
 - Presentation: Patrick O'Brien, Regional Planner II
 - Commission Discussion
 - C. **FY22 Nominating Committee Report – Slate Presented**
 - Commission Action
 - D. **Next meeting June 24, 2021**

All meeting materials posted on the Commission website 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

MEMORANDUM

To: NRVRC Board Members

From: Kevin R. Byrd, Executive Director

Date: May 20, 2021

Re: Participation in NRVRC meetings through Electronic Communication Means Policy

When the Governor has declared a state of emergency in accordance with section 44-146.17 of the Code of Virginia, it may become necessary for the NRV Regional Commission to meet by electronic means as outlined in Section 2.2-3708.2 of the Code of Virginia as amended. In such cases, the following procedure shall be followed:

1. The NRV Regional Commission will give notice to the public or common interest community association members using the best available method given the nature of the emergency, which notice shall be given contemporaneously with the notice provided to members of the NRV Regional Commission.
2. The NRV Regional Commission will make arrangements for public access or common interest community association members access to such meeting through electronic means including, to the extent practicable, videoconferencing technology. If the means of communication allows, provide the public or common interest community association members with an opportunity to comment
3. The NRV Regional Commission will otherwise comply with the provisions of § 2.2-3708.2 of the Code of Virginia. The nature of the emergency, the fact that the meeting was held by electronic communication means, and the type of electronic communication means by which the meeting was held shall be stated in the minutes of the NRV Regional Commission meeting.

Strengthening the Region through Collaboration

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



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NRVRC.ORG

MEMORANDUM

To: NRVRC Board Members
From: Jessica Barrett, Finance Director
Date: May 19, 2021
Re: April 2021 Financial Statements

The April 2021 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 FY20-21 budget adopted by the Commission at the June 25, 2020 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 April 2021 (83% of the fiscal year), Commission year to date revenues are 69% and expenses are 70% of adopted budget. The two largest budget expense lines, Salary and Fringe, are ahead of budget at 95% and 97%, respectively. This is due to additional staff being hired to support the Business Continuity Team. Revenue is secure to cover these expenses.

Looking at the balance sheet, Accounts Receivable is \$582,755. Of this total, Workforce receivables are \$364,132 (62%) and current. The Executive Committee reviews all aged receivables over 60 days and no receivables are deemed uncollectible. Net Projects (\$126,898) represents project expenses, primarily benchmark projects, that cannot be invoiced yet and posted to receivables.

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New River Valley Regional Commission
Balance Sheet
4/30/2021

Assets:

Operating Account	95,533
Certificate of Deposit	106,717
Money Market Account	84,774
Accounts Receivable	582,755
Accounts Receivable - Advanced Expenses	18,020
Prepaid Item	1,324
Loans Receivable - Revolving Loan Fund	38,966
Restricted Cash - Revolving Loan Fund	64,319
Total Assets:	992,408

Liabilities:

Accounts Payable	46,140
Accrued Annual Leave	89,535
Accrued Unemployment	25,049
Expense Reimbursement	352
Total Liabilities:	161,076

Projects:
(Equity Accounts)

Net Projects	(126,898)
Current Year Unrestricted	107,280
Unrestricted Net Assets	733,452
Restricted Net Assets - Revolving Loan Fund	103,285

Total Projects (Equity)	817,119
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Total Liabilities and Projects	978,195
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Net Difference to be Reconciled	14,214
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Total Adjustments to Post*	14,214
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Unreconciled Balance (after adjustment)	0
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*YTD adjustment to Accrued Leave. Final adjustment will be posted to general ledger at fiscal year end closeout.

**New River Valley Regional Commission
Revenue and Expenditures - April 2021**

FY20-21 Budget Adopted 6/25/2020		April 2021	YTD	Under/Over	(83% of FY) % Budget
NRVRC Anticipated Revenues					
ARC	68,666	0	68,668	(2)	100.00%
ARC - New River Water Trail Expansion	0	0	1,638	(1,638)	0.00%
ARC - James Hardy Construction	15,000	0	0	15,000	0.00%
Local Assessment	235,826	12,208	235,827	(0)	100.00%
DHCD - Administrative Grant	75,971	0	56,978	18,993	75.00%
DRPT RIDE Solutions NRV	77,160	0	47,887	29,273	62.06%
EDA	70,000	17,500	70,000	0	100.00%
EDA COVID19 CARES Act	225,000	0	98,644	126,356	43.84%
GO Virginia	150,000	0	100,000	50,000	66.67%
POWER 2021	20,000	0	0	20,000	0.00%
Workforce Fiscal Agent	65,000	10,000	65,000	0	100.00%
Workforce Pathways Fiscal Agent	50,000	0	50,000	0	100.00%
Workforce RSVP Fiscal Agent	0	0	25,000	(25,000)	0.00%
VDOT	58,000	0	41,570	16,431	71.67%
VDOT - Rocky Knob Project	70,000	0	1,724	68,276	2.46%
Floyd County	111,000	0	74,277	36,723	66.92%
Floyd Town	0	0	3,338	(3,338)	0.00%
Floyd Co EDA	0	0	20,500	(20,500)	0.00%
Giles County	0	0	38,808	(38,808)	0.00%
Narrows Town	13,000	0	1,263	11,737	9.71%
Pearisburg Town	5,000	0	0	5,000	0.00%
Montgomery County	53,000	3,500	59,732	(6,732)	112.70%
Blacksburg Town	14,000	1,167	11,667	2,333	83.33%
Christiansburg Town	25,000	0	0	25,000	0.00%
Pulaski County	0	807	45,653	(45,653)	0.00%
Pulaski Town	32,167	0	19,077	13,090	59.31%
Radford City	27,500	0	49,500	(22,000)	180.00%
Miscellaneous (Meetings/Interest/Recovered Costs)	0	58	389	(389)	0.00%
Virginia's First RIFA	27,500	2,292	22,917	4,583	83.33%
Virginia's First - NRV Commerce Park Grading	14,000	610	12,286	1,714	87.76%
NRV MPO	33,500	0	32,856	644	98.08%
CDBG COVID19	8,500	0	0	8,500	0.00%
CDBG Business Continuity	250,000	0	0	250,000	0.00%
Dept of Environmental Quality	5,250	0	9,443	(4,193)	179.87%
Southwest Virginia SWMA	2,000	0	2,000	0	100.00%
Virginia Recycling Association	4,000	0	8,167	(4,167)	204.17%
Downtown Christiansburg, Inc.	1,500	0	3,250	(1,750)	216.67%
New River Health District	10,000	0	0	10,000	0.00%
New River Valley Development Corporation	21,700	0	9,042	12,658	41.67%
Friends of SWVA	0	0	3,515	(3,515)	0.00%
Local Match (unprogrammed ARC)	24,916	0	0	24,916	0.00%
Sub Total Revenues	1,864,156	48,141	1,290,612	573,544	69.23%
Expenses					
Salaries	869,513	91,859	827,140	42,373	95.13%
Fringe Benefits	222,602	24,066	215,581	7,021	96.85%
Travel	33,211	133	931	32,280	2.80%
Office Space	49,968	13,675	51,151	(1,183)	102.37%
Communications	11,401	1,726	16,824	(5,423)	147.57%
Office Supplies	101,034	7,828	78,613	22,421	77.81%
Postage	2,126	12	1,175	951	55.28%
Printing	4,500	0	4,549	(49)	101.08%
Copier Usage/Maintenance	2,000	51	477	1,523	23.85%
Outreach/Media Adv	9,533	93	10,614	(1,081)	111.34%
Equipment Rent/Copier	4,219	223	2,618	1,601	62.06%
Fleet Vehicles	8,024	69	2,151	5,873	26.80%
Dues/Publications	16,835	0	17,462	(627)	103.72%
Training/Staff Development	10,845	825	6,073	4,772	56.00%
Insurance	3,605	288	2,897	708	80.37%
Meeting Costs	11,125	76	1,335	9,790	12.00%
Contractual Services	457,484	2,791	64,623	392,861	14.13%
Professional Services Audit/Legal	4,540	0	4,493	48	98.95%
Miscellaneous/Fees	4,700	369	4,179	521	88.91%
Reimbursed Expenses	0	(113,275)	(2,749)	2,749	0.00%
Unassigned Expenses	36,891	0	0	0	0.00%
Sub Total Expenses	1,864,156	30,809	1,310,135	517,130	70.28%
NRVRC Balance	0	17,333	(19,523)		

**New River/Mount Rogers Workforce Development Board
Revenue and Expenditures - April 2021**

NR/MR WDB Anticipated Revenues		April 2021	YTD	Under/Over	(83% of FY) % Budget
Workforce Development Area	2,657,549	144,998	1,194,633	1,462,916	44.95%
Sub Total Revenues	2,657,549	144,998	1,194,633	1,462,916	
Expenses					
Salaries	375,020	41,829	398,782	(23,762)	106.34%
Fringe Benefits	112,036	10,956	105,132	6,904	93.84%
Travel	20,000	1,920	9,910	10,090	49.55%
Office Space	44,100	4,082	40,845	3,255	92.62%
Communications	6,000	1,138	12,484	(6,484)	208.07%
Office Supplies	4,000	633	59,584	(55,584)	1489.60%
Postage	250	7	29	221	11.66%
Printing	1,000	44	338	662	33.85%
Copier Usage/Maintenance	0	0	0	0	
Outreach/Media Adv	9,000	46	9,316	(316)	103.51%
Equipment Rent/Copier	1,700	78	839	861	49.36%
Fleet Vehicles	0	0	0	0	
Dues/Publications	3,500	0	3,848	(348)	109.94%
Training/Staff Development	4,500	99	4,119	381	91.53%
Insurance	2,500	0	2,806	(306)	112.24%
Meeting Costs	7,000	29	2,752	4,248	39.31%
Contractual Services	2,027,289	80,872	530,776	1,496,513	26.18%
Professional Services Audit/Legal	10,200	3,240	9,960	240	97.65%
Miscellaneous/Fees	29,454	0	1,535	27,919	5.21%
Workforce Grants Admin	0	26	1,578	(1,578)	0.00%
Sub Total Expenses	2,657,549	144,998	1,194,633	1,462,916	44.95%
NR/MR WDB Balance	0	0	0		

Total Agency R&E		April 2021	YTD	
Anticipated Revenue	4,521,705	193,139	2,485,244	54.96%
Anticipated Expense	4,521,705	175,807	2,504,768	55.39%
Balance	0	17,333	(19,523)	



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NRVRC.ORG

COMMONWEALTH INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW MEMORANDUM

TO: Regional Commission Board Members

FROM: Kevin R. Byrd, Executive Director

AGENDA ITEM: III. Intergovernmental Review Process, C. Environmental Project Review, Item #1

CIRP Review

May 20, 2021

PROJECT: Radford Army Ammunition Plant (RFAAP) Nitrate Ester Manufacturing Facilities, Pulaski and Montgomery Counties, Virginia

SUBMITTED BY: DEQ

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Department of Environmental Quality is requesting scoping comments.

PROJECT SENT FOR REVIEW TO: Commission Board Members

Strengthening the Region through Collaboration

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Rich Creek

Higher Education

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Radford University
New River Community College



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
RADFORD ARMY AMMUNITION PLANT
PO BOX 2
RADFORD, VIRGINIA 24143-0002

April 5, 2021

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

SUBJECT: Nitrate Ester Manufacturing Facilities at Radford Army Ammunition Plant, Virginia

Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Office of Environmental Impact Review
Attn: Valerie Fulcher
PO Box 1105
Richmond, Virginia 23218

Dear Ms. Fulcher:

The Army is requesting a project review for a development project at the Radford Army Ammunition Plant (RFAAP) in Pulaski County, Virginia and Montgomery County, Virginia. This undertaking is proposed to replace the current and aging Nitroglycerin production facility with the construction of a consolidated, efficient, reliable, and modern nitrate ester production facility at RFAAP that is compliant with all applicable laws and regulations. The proposed action is needed to meet the Department of Defense's current and estimated future nitrate ester production requirements in a consolidated, safe, cost effective, energy efficient, and environmentally compliant manner. The Army anticipates the Area of Potential of Effect (APE) for this undertaking would include the areas where ground-disturbing activities would occur. Any comments you may have on the APE for this undertaking are requested.

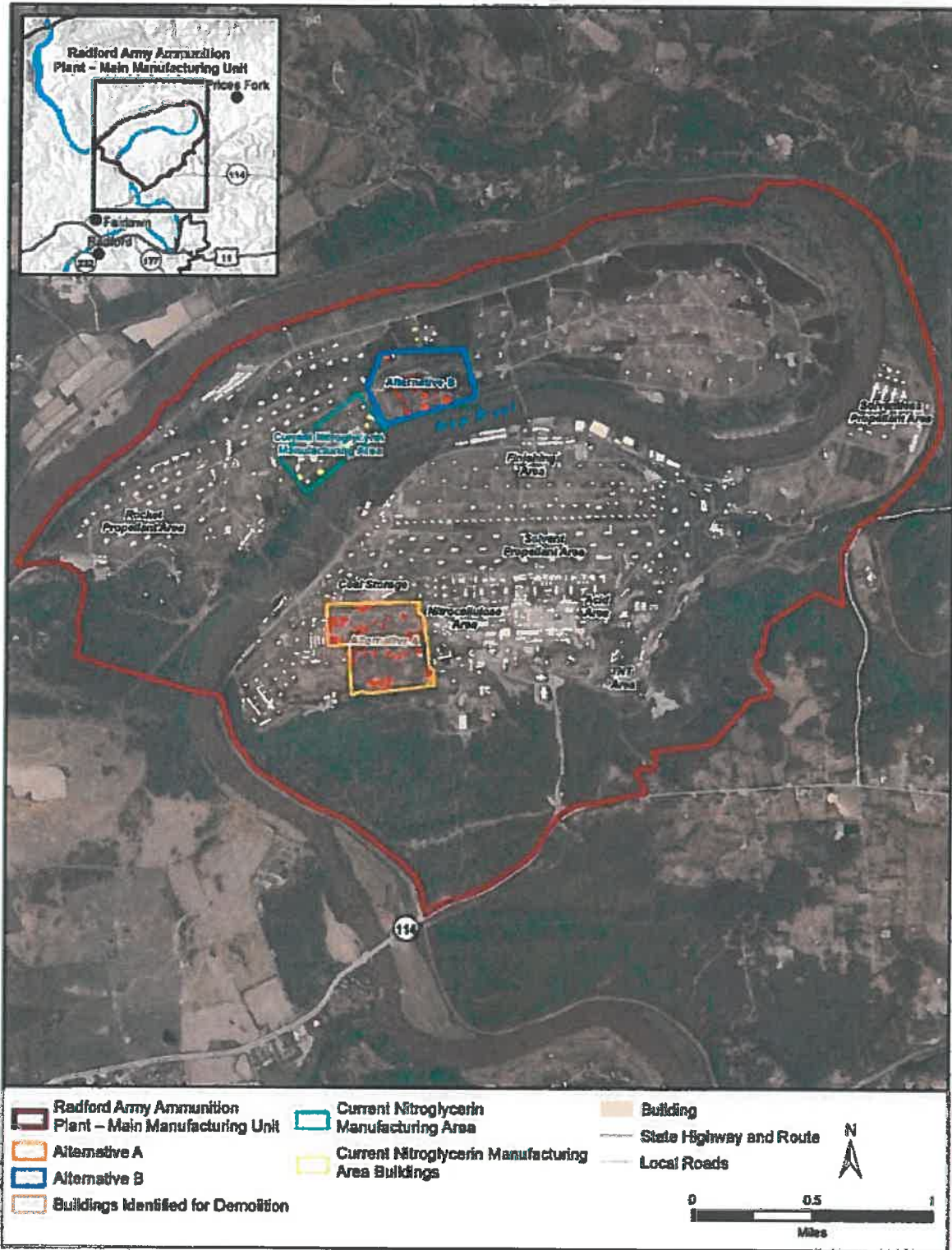
As part of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance process, we request your review of the proposed project site, along with any information about wetlands, surface waters, or other resources that may occur on or near the property. Our intent is to address your agency's concerns and incorporate any recommendations into the planning process at the earliest possible time. Your response will be incorporated into the Environmental Assessment.

Correspondence may be sent to Ms. Laura M. Dickerson at the address on this letterhead. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact Ms. Dickerson directly at the address above, by telephone (540) 731-5786, or by email at laura.m.dickerson2.civ@mail.mil.

Sincerely,

Anthony J. Kazor
Lieutenant Colonel, U. S. Army
Commanding

Enclosure 1. Map of Area of Potential Effects and Radford Army Ammunition Plant





COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
Street address: 629 East Main Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219
Mailing address: P.O. Box 1105, Richmond, Virginia 23218
www.deq.virginia.gov

Matthew J. Strickler
Secretary of Natural Resources

David K. Paylor
Director

(804) 698-4000
1-800-592-5482

May 18, 2021

Laura Dickerson
Department of the Army
Radford Army Ammunition Plant
PO Box 2
Radford, Virginia 24143-0002
Laura.m.dickerson2.civ@mail.mil

RE: Nitrate Ester Manufacturing Facilities at Radford Army Ammunition Plant, Virginia

Dear Ms. Dickerson:

This letter is in response to the scoping request for the above-referenced project.

As you may know, the Department of Environmental Quality, through its Office of Environmental Impact Review (DEQ-OEIR), is responsible for coordinating Virginia's review of federal environmental documents prepared pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and responding to appropriate federal officials on behalf of the Commonwealth.

DOCUMENT SUBMISSIONS

In order to ensure an effective coordinated review of the NEPA document, notification of the NEPA document documentation should be sent directly to OEIR. We request that you submit one electronic to eir@deq.virginia.gov (25 MB maximum) or make the documents available for download at a website, file transfer protocol (ftp) site or the VITA LFT file share system (Requires an "invitation" for access. An invitation request should be sent to eir@deq.virginia.gov).

The NEPA document should include U.S. Geological Survey topographic. We strongly encourage you to issue shape files with the NEPA document. In addition, project details should be adequately described for the benefit of the reviewers.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW UNDER THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT: PROJECT SCOPING AND AGENCY INVOLVEMENT

As you may know, NEPA (PL 91-190, 1969) and its implementing regulations (Title 40, *Code of Federal Regulations*, Parts 1500-1508) requires a draft and final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for federal activities or undertakings that are federally licensed or federally funded which will or may give rise to significant impacts upon the human environment. An EIS carries more stringent public

participation requirements than an Environmental Assessment (EA) and provides more time and detail for comments and public decision-making. The possibility that an EIS may be required for the proposed project should not be overlooked in your planning for this project. Accordingly, we refer to “NEPA document” in the remainder of this letter.

While this Office does not participate in scoping efforts beyond the advice given herein, other agencies are free to provide scoping comments concerning the preparation of the NEPA document. Accordingly, we are providing notice of your scoping request to several state agencies and those localities and Planning District Commissions, including but not limited to:

Department of Environmental Quality:

- DEQ Regional Office
- Air Division
- Office of Wetlands and Stream Protection
- Office of Local Government Programs
- Division of Land Protection and Revitalization
- Office of Stormwater Management

Department of Conservation and Recreation

Department of Health

Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

Department of Wildlife Resources

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Department of Historic Resources

Department of Mines, Minerals, and Energy

Department of Forestry

Department of Transportation

DATA BASE ASSISTANCE

Below is a list of databases that may assist you in the preparation of a NEPA document:

- DEQ Online Database: Virginia Environmental Geographic Information Systems

Information on Permitted Solid Waste Management Facilities, Impaired Waters, Petroleum Releases, Registered Petroleum Facilities, Permitted Discharge (Virginia Pollution Discharge Elimination System Permits) Facilities, Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Sites, Water Monitoring Stations, National Wetlands Inventory:

- www.deq.virginia.gov/ConnectWithDEQ/VEGIS.aspx

- DEQ Virginia Coastal Geospatial and Educational Mapping System (GEMS)

Virginia’s coastal resource data and maps; coastal laws and policies; facts on coastal resource values; and direct links to collaborating agencies responsible for current data:

- <http://128.172.160.131/gems2/>

- MARCO Mid-Atlantic Ocean Data Portal

The Mid-Atlantic Ocean Data Portal is a publicly available online toolkit and resource center that consolidates available data and enables users to visualize and analyze ocean resources and human

use information such as fishing grounds, recreational areas, shipping lanes, habitat areas, and energy sites, among others.

<http://portal.midatlanticocean.org/visualize/#x=-73.24&y=38.93&z=7&logo=true&controls=true&basemap=Ocean&tab=data&legends=false&layers=true>

- DHR Data Sharing System

Survey records in the DHR inventory:

- www.dhr.virginia.gov/archives/data_sharing_sys.htm

- DCR Natural Heritage Search

Produces lists of resources that occur in specific counties, watersheds or physiographic regions:

- www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural_heritage/dbsearchtool.shtml

- DWR Fish and Wildlife Information Service

Information about Virginia's Wildlife resources:

- <http://vafwis.org/fwis/>

- Total Maximum Daily Loads Approved Reports

- <https://www.deq.virginia.gov/programs/water/waterqualityinformationtmdls/tmdl/tmdldevelopment/approvedtmdlreports.aspx>

- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Information System (CERCLIS) Database: Superfund Information Systems

Information on hazardous waste sites, potentially hazardous waste sites and remedial activities across the nation, including sites that are on the National Priorities List (NPL) or being considered for the NPL:

- www.epa.gov/superfund/sites/cursites/index.htm

- EPA RCRAInfo Search

Information on hazardous waste facilities:

- www.epa.gov/enviro/facts/rcrainfo/search.html

- EPA Envirofacts Database

EPA Environmental Information, including EPA-Regulated Facilities and Toxics Release Inventory Reports:

- www.epa.gov/enviro/index.html

- EPA NEPAassist Database

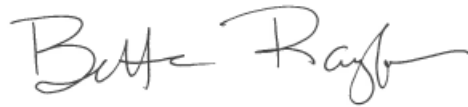
Facilitates the environmental review process and project planning:

<http://nepaassisttool.epa.gov/nepaassist/entry.aspx>

If you have questions about the environmental review process, please feel free to contact me (telephone (804) 698-4204 or e-mail bettina.rayfield@deq.virginia.gov).

I hope this information is helpful to you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bettina Rayfield". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Bettina Rayfield, Program Manager
Environmental Impact Review and
Long-Range Priorities



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N R V R C . O R G

May 21, 2021

Executive Director's Report

Economic Development:

- Federal guidance for use of American Rescue Plan funding was released in May. The five primary funding objectives include: support urgent COVID-19 response efforts; replace lost revenue for governments to strengthen support for vital public services and help retain jobs; support immediate economic stabilization for households and businesses; Address systemic public health and economic challenges that have contributed to inequal impact of the pandemic.

Transportation:

- Governor Northam was in Chrisitansburg May 5th to announce the Western Rail Initiative. The program will include passenger service to the New River Valley, a second daily train on the Northeast Corridor and a significant investment by the Commonwealth to purchase right of way from Norfolk Southern.
- The Valley to Valley Trail planning project will hold a stakeholder meeting in late May before releasing a survey to the public and holding a public meeting. The stakeholder meeting will be an opportunity to review potential alignments and ask questions of the consultant before the public process gets underway.

Natural Resources:

- The ReNew the New annual fall clean-up event will take place on August 28th. Be on the look out for community-specific event information for times and locations.
- The New River Water Trail expansion project team met on 5/17 with a focus on current marketing of the region. The Destination Marketing Organizations and Onward NRV shared their marketing plans. The expansion project will be scheduling community-specific site meetings to discuss improvements needed to infrastructure such as launches and/or sign locations.

Regional:

- The Business Continuity Team (BCT) is winding down the large-scale vaccine clinics with the last held at Lane Stadium on 5/18. Focus has shifted to supporting schools with vaccine clinics before schools close for the summer. The VA Dept of Emergency Management is also deploying a mobile clinic in the region starting on 5/23. There will be 13 clinics over 13 days offering Johnson and Johnson single-dose vaccine. BCT staff helped schedule clinic locations.
- Virginia Housing recently announced a program dedicated for planning district/regional commissions in Virginia. Based on population, our organization will have access to \$2.0M to assist with housing units being built and supporting regional initiatives identified in the recently completed Regional + Local Housing Study.

Commission:

- The Berkley Group presented findings from the Wage/Compensation Study to the Executive Committee on 5/19.
- NexGen Media was selected to assist with the Commission website update. A full-staff workshop was held on 5/4 and sub-committees have met to provide content to the developer.



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NRVRC.ORG

MEMORANDUM

To: NRVRC Board Members

From: Kevin Byrd, Executive Director

Date: May 21, 2021

Re: National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) Federal Legislation and Programs Update

At the May Commission meeting, Joe McKinney, Executive Director, and Mirielle Burgoyne, Deputy Executive Director/Director of Government Affairs, with NADO will join the meeting via Zoom to provide a presentation on federal legislation and programs. There is a tremendous amount of activity underway at the federal level in response to the pandemic along with initiatives being proposed by the Biden Administration. Key topics NADO is tracking include the American Rescue Plan, US Economic Development Administration, transportation reauthorization and proposed infrastructure packages. Following the NADO presentation Commissioners will have time to ask questions.

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MEMORANDUM

To: NRVRC Board Members

From: Patrick O'Brien, Regional Planner

Date: May 21, 2021

Re: 2021-22 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) and EDA CARES Act Recovery Program- Progress Update

NRVRC staff are modifying the typical annual update cycle for the region's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) to align with the ongoing EDA CARES Act Recovery Assistance award, which the Commission received in July 2020. This two-year award complements NRVRC's existing EDA-supported CEDS planning process, providing additional staff and funding to improve the CEDS format and accessibility, revise the CEDS to reflect a focus on top-priority pandemic recovery economic development projects, and develop strategies to improve the region's economic resilience and ability to withstand future shocks.

NRVRC staff began the CEDS content update process this winter, and reconvened the CEDS committee in March 2021 for the first of several meetings to provide input for this expanded CEDS update. CEDS committee meetings will focus on reviewing and critiquing online CEDS content as it is developed over the upcoming year, and developing regional projects for each of the CEDS 'priority area' strategies. The May meeting focused on the workforce topic area, with meetings in June, and throughout the fall and winter, focusing on small business development, infrastructure, etc. The revised strategies and projects developed at this meetings will provide the initial content for the online CEDS 'storymap,' which will largely replace the existing report format PDF document.

NRVRC staff will be present at the May commission meeting to provide a brief update on CEDS committee discussions to date, and present templates of the proposed format for the online CEDS revisions. If you would like more information about the CEDS, please contact Patrick O'Brien at: pobrien@nrvc.org.

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