

NEW RIVER VALLEY PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION
AGENDA

January 26, 2012

6:00 p.m.—New River Valley Competitiveness Center, Fairlawn

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. CONSENT AGENDA
 - A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER
 - B. APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORTS FOR SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER, NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER
- III. CHAIR'S REPORT
- IV. PUBLIC ADDRESS
- V. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE'S REPORT
- VI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT (enclosed)
- VII. OLD BUSINESS
 - A. Reschedule Mayors, Chairs, Chief Administrative Officials Meeting
- VIII. NEW BUSINESS
 - A. Review/Endorsement of Regional Transit Organization Analysis (enclosed)
Presentation-Elijah Sharp
 - B. Transportation Program Updates
Presentation-Elijah Sharp
 - C. Devolution of State Transportation System (enclosed)
Commission Discussion
 - D. Review and Approval of FY11 Audit (enclosed)
 - E. Identification of Key Legislative Issues (VACO Legislative Program Enclosed)
Commission Discussion
- IX. OTHER BUSINESS
- X. REVIEW OF MUTUAL CONCERNS AND COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS
- XI. COMMONWEALTH INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS
 - A. Projects (Signed-off by the staff)
New River Valley Senior Services vehicle purchase - DRPT
Giles Health & Family Center vehicle purchase - DRPT
 - B. Regular Project Review
None
 - C. Environmental Project Review
None

New River Valley Planning District Commission

Treasurer's Report

Expenditures as of November 30, 2011

Expense Category	Budget	Previous Total	November Expenditures	YTD Expenditures	Budget Balance	% Budget Expended
Salaries	852,751.00	262,873.09	73,202.06	336,075.15	516,675.85	39.41%
Fringe Benefits	304,338.00	97,245.07	24,066.39	121,311.46	183,026.54	39.86%
Travel	65,459.00	17,789.04	3,394.89	21,183.93	44,275.07	32.36%
Office Space	21,544.00	7,181.20	1,795.30	8,976.50	12,567.50	41.67%
Telephone	6,000.00	2,442.33	627.29	3,069.62	2,930.38	51.16%
Office Supplies	9,754.00	3,053.18	1,822.58	4,875.76	4,878.24	49.99%
Postage	500.00	592.55	1.76	594.31	-94.31	118.86%
Printing	250.00	0.00	-	0.00	250.00	0.00%
Copies & Copier Maintenance	1,600.00	1,636.69	87.62	1,724.31	-124.31	107.77%
Media Ad	5,500.00	3,576.63	-	3,576.63	1,923.37	65.03%
Equipment Rent	1,500.00	492.96	123.24	616.20	883.80	41.08%
Vehicle Fuel	500.00	147.19	282.03	429.22	70.78	85.84%
Dues	4,745.00	2,800.00	365.00	3,165.00	1,580.00	66.70%
Publications	0.00	0.00	-	0.00	0.00	0.00%
Training	950.00	0.00	375.00	375.00	575.00	39.47%
Insurance	1,000.00	0.00	-	0.00	1,000.00	0.00%
Meeting Expense	2,575.00	4,957.17	164.67	5,121.84	-2,546.84	198.91%
Capital Outlay	27,402.00	1,673.71	-	1,673.71	25,728.29	6.11%
Contractual Services	762,289.00	134,153.21	26,822.72	160,975.93	601,313.07	21.12%
Audit Fee	2,100.00	0.00	-	0.00	2,100.00	0.00%
Miscellaneous	55,300.00	9,355.99	2,778.92	12,134.91	43,165.09	21.94%
M & G Costs	83,743.00	31,980.51	1,264.06	33,244.57	50,498.43	39.70%
Common Costs	145,380.00	33,364.81	9,462.93	42,827.74	102,552.26	29.46%
Total Budget Expended	2,355,180.00	615,315.33	146,636.46	761,951.79	1,593,228.21	32.35%

New River Valley Planning District Commission

Treasurer's Report

Expenditures as of December 31, 2011

Expense Category	Budget	Previous Total	December Expenditures	YTD Expenditures	Budget Balance	% Budget Expended
Salaries	852,751.00	336,075.15	70,983.94	407,059.09	445,691.91	47.73%
Fringe Benefits	304,338.00	121,311.46	23,837.84	145,149.30	159,188.70	47.69%
Travel	65,459.00	21,183.93	1,968.76	23,152.69	42,306.31	35.10%
Office Space	21,544.00	8,976.50	1,795.30	10,771.80	10,772.20	50.00%
Telephone	6,000.00	3,069.62	536.56	3,606.18	2,393.82	60.10%
Office Supplies	9,754.00	4,875.76	31,861.60	36,737.36	-26,983.36	376.64%
Postage	500.00	594.31	118.72	713.03	-213.03	142.61%
Printing	250.00	0.00	-	0.00	250.00	0.00%
Copies & Copier Maintenance	1,600.00	1,724.31	141.09	1,865.40	-265.40	116.59%
Media Ad	5,500.00	3,576.63	205.00	3,781.63	1,718.37	68.76%
Equipment Rent	1,500.00	616.20	123.24	739.44	760.56	49.30%
Vehicle Fuel	500.00	429.22	224.77	653.99	-153.99	0.00%
Dues	4,745.00	3,165.00	645.00	3,810.00	935.00	80.30%
Publications	0.00	0.00	16.00	16.00	-16.00	0.00%
Training	950.00	375.00	-	375.00	575.00	39.47%
Insurance	1,000.00	0.00	-	0.00	1,000.00	0.00%
Meeting Expense	2,575.00	5,121.84	420.58	5,542.42	-2,967.42	215.24%
Capital Outlay	27,402.00	1,673.71	-	1,673.71	25,728.29	6.11%
Contractual Services	762,289.00	160,975.93	6,086.00	167,061.93	595,227.07	21.92%
Audit Fee	2,100.00	0.00	-	0.00	2,100.00	0.00%
Miscellaneous	55,300.00	12,134.91	1,554.45	13,689.36	41,610.64	24.75%
M & G Costs	83,743.00	33,244.57	3,959.67	37,204.24	46,538.76	44.43%
Common Costs	145,380.00	42,827.74	6,410.01	49,237.75	96,142.25	33.87%
Total Budget Expended	2,355,180.00	761,951.79	150,888.53	912,840.32	1,442,339.68	38.76%

NEW RIVER VALLEY PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION

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Radford, Virginia 24141

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Kevin R. Byrd, AICP
Executive Director

January 26, 2012

Executive Director's Report

Economic Development:

- Held two CEDS Committee/Economic Development Working Group meetings as part of NRV Livability Initiative. Projects lists will be sent to local governments soon for review.

Healthy NRV:

- Digital story telling with youth took place December 16-19. Youth from Eastern Montgomery, Narrows and Pulaski involved with first year. Second year will be three different areas in region. HealthyNRV video will be posted on Livability Initiative website.
- Community Health Working Group first meeting is 1/31 at Pulaski Community Hospital at 12:00. Lunch provided by hospital. RSVP to Tommi Godwin at tgodwin@nrvpdc.org

Local Government Assistance:

- Blacksburg Business Climate Task Force Final Report being presented 1/31 to Council.
- PDC hosted Social Media in Local Government workshop 1/20 at 10:00am
- PDC began coordinating Local Government Managers informal meeting starting in February

Regional:

- Volvo Plant Tour held on December 16th; approximately 25 attendees across region.
- NRV Hazard Mitigation Plan is in process of being approved by local governments.
- Hazard Mitigation Project Proposal: Mapping flash flood prone areas and vulnerable infrastructure. Pre-application due to VA Dept of Emergency Management 1/31.
- Final report for NRV Green Infrastructure Guidebook being prepared for 1/31 deadline.
- Livability Initiative working groups are actively meeting. www.nrvlivability.org for more information about the project and to engage. (see attached)

PDC:

- Started in-house professional development program in December. (see attachment)
- Office Manager hired and will start on February 1st to fill Janet McNew's position following her promotion to Director of Finance and Personnel.
- NRVPC is on Facebook, Twitter and a newly created blog! "Like us"/"Follow us" to receive updates on projects and meetings.

VAPDC:

- Winter Conference held in conjunction with VACO/VML February 9-10 in Richmond. VAPDC portion will be Thursday evening and Friday morning. Commissioners and local governments are encouraged to attend VAPDC.
- HB823 proposes to restrict PDC enabling legislation to solid waste, water supply, other environmental and transportation. (see attached).

Counties:

Floyd, Giles, Montgomery, Pulaski

Towns:

Blacksburg, Christiansburg, Floyd
Pulaski, Narrows, Pearisburg, Rich Creek

Universities:

Radford University
Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University

City:

Radford

Livability Initiative Update January 20, 2012

Working Groups:

We currently have 130 people participating in 6 working groups: Energy, Natural Resources and Water, Housing, Economic Development, Arts and Culture and Transportation. The first Community Health working group meeting will be held at the end of January. The working groups have been focusing their efforts in Phase1 on identifying issues, incorporating citizen feedback, and collecting/analyzing data around priority issues and trends. Each group meets monthly, outside of Housing which meets every other month. The working group schedule and notes are all posted on the Livability Initiative website: www.nrvlivability.org.

Citizen Feedback:

We are currently working to analyze citizen feedback received. We have over 2,600 individual citizen comments generated from our outreach efforts to date. Priority Themes include:

- Expand tourism potential based on our outdoor recreation opportunities and arts and culture;
- Improve and protect water quality;
- Preserve open space, farmland, forests, and scenic landscapes;
- Develop policies that reward energy conservation and efficiency;
- Support and preserve cultural, arts and historic assets
- Support opportunities that increase the viability of farming/agriculture (infrastructure);
- Improve connectivity in our region (transportation and internet access);
- Provide alternative transportation options between localities;
- Foster self-reliance in individuals, communities, and our region.
- Development patterns should preserve natural resources and scenic beauty.

We are starting to plan for the next Phase of Community Engagement and Outreach Efforts. The goals for this next phase include the following:

1. Share information/receive feedback on working group efforts and community input to date.
2. Better understanding of citizen needs, priorities and preferences
3. Increase dialogue, understanding and involvement around planning and local government decision making.

We are exploring the concept of an Open House format in each County in April and the development of an innovative 'planning game' called BUILT in June. BUILT enables citizens to come together and talk about the things that are most important to them when it comes to their neighborhoods and communities. Moving through a series of fun exercises, participants wrestle with their own preferences around different types of things you might find in a typical community – from a neighborhood park to a sports arena to a mobile home park. Since not all people feel the same way about these different land uses, the activities lead to lively discussions as groups attempt to integrate many different "pieces" in a way that honors the preferences and priorities of individuals while creating a community that functions well for a variety of citizens – children, working adults, seniors, etc.

NRVPDC In-house Professional Development

The purpose of this program is to utilize our collective talents and further professional skills within the organization by learning from our colleagues. As a staff we will share responsibility for implementing this program by an individual or a team selecting a topic and presenting best practices or an overview of the subject within 15 minutes. Following the presentation, the professional staff will discuss the issue to further define how best practices fit within PDC context to increase our service delivery. Also, comments on the delivery of the program will be sent to the Executive Director. This anonymous information will be shared confidentially by the Executive Director with the presenter to help build their skills.

Schedule for 2012

January – Presentations (Kevin and Ken)

February – Social Media (Tommi)

March – Meeting Facilitation (Carol)

April – Effective Writing, Press Releases (Christy)

May – Effective Writing, Reports and Grants (Jennifer)

June –Graphic Art Software, Overview and Capabilities (Jan)

July – GIS Overview (Phil and Justin)

August – GMS for Staff Use (Janet)

September – File Management, Individual and Office (Brad)

October – Google Earth, Practical Use in Projects (Eli)

November – Data Visualization (Kim)

December – Observations on Successful Regional Planning (Patrick)

[history](#) | [hilite](#) | [pdf](#)

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HOUSE BILL NO. 823

Offered January 11, 2012

Prefiled January 11, 2012

A BILL to amend and reenact § 15.2-4207 of the Code of Virginia, relating to planning district commissions.

Patron-- Marshall, R.G.

Referred to Committee on Counties, Cities and Towns

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 15.2-4207 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 15.2-4207. Purposes of commission.

A. It is the purpose of the planning district commission to encourage and facilitate local government cooperation and state-local cooperation in addressing on a regional basis problems of greater than local significance. The cooperation resulting from this chapter is intended to facilitate the recognition and analysis of regional opportunities and take account of regional influences in planning and implementing public policies and services. Functional areas warranting regional cooperation ~~may include, but shall not be limited to~~ shall consist of: (i) ~~economic and physical infrastructure development;~~ (ii) solid waste, water supply, and other environmental management; ~~(iii) and (ii) transportation;~~ (iv) ~~criminal justice;~~ (v) ~~emergency management;~~ (vi) ~~human services;~~ and (vii) ~~recreation.~~

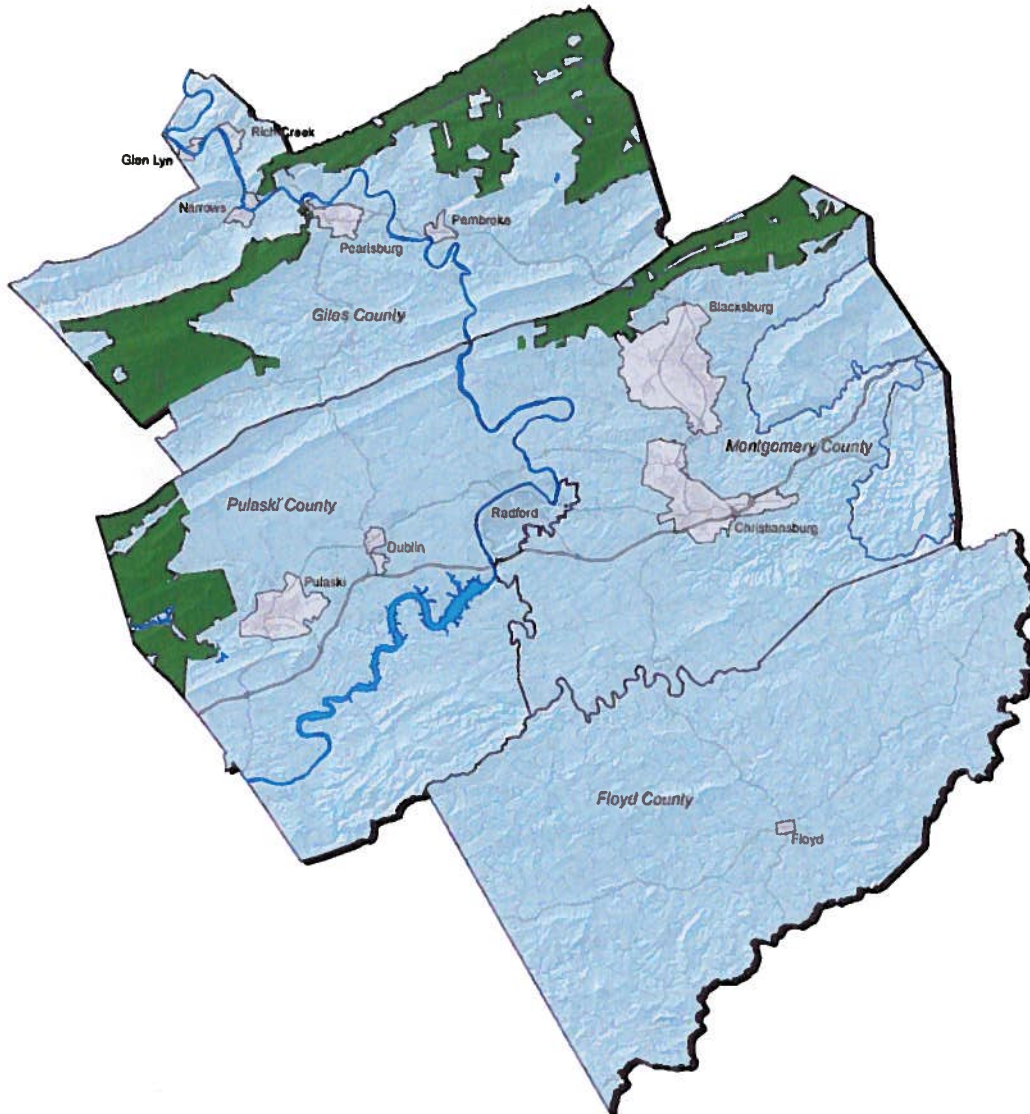
Types of regional cooperative arrangements that commissions may pursue include but are not limited to (i) the facilitation of revenue sharing agreements; (ii) joint service delivery approaches; (iii) joint government purchasing of goods and services; (iv) regional data bases; and (v) regional plans.

B. The planning district commission shall also promote the orderly and efficient development of the physical, social and economic elements of the district by planning, and encouraging and assisting localities to plan, for the future. If requested by a member locality or group of member localities and to the extent the commission may elect to act, the commission may assist the localities by carrying out plans and programs for the improvement and utilization of their physical, social and economic elements. The commission shall not, however, have a legal obligation to perform the functions necessary to implement the plans and policies established by it or to furnish governmental services to the district. Additionally, Planning District Commissions 1, 2, and 13 shall be designated as economic development organizations within the Commonwealth.

C. The authority of the commission includes the power, to the extent the commission may from time to time determine, when requested to do so by a member locality or group of member localities, (i) to participate in the creation or organization of nonprofit corporations to perform functions or operate programs in furtherance of the purposes of this chapter; (ii) to perform such functions and to operate such programs itself; (iii) to contract with nonprofit entities, including localities, performing such functions or operating such programs to provide administrative, management, and staff support, accommodations in its offices, and financial assistance; and (iv) to provide financial assistance, including matching funds, to interdistrict entities which perform governmental or quasi-governmental functions directly benefiting the commission's district and which are organized under authority of the Commonwealth or of the federal government.

D. Nothing herein shall be construed to permit the commission to perform functions, operate programs, or provide services within and for a locality if the governing body of that jurisdiction opposes its doing so.

Regional Transit Organization Study



January XX, 2012

Prepared by: New River Valley Planning District Commission &
Blacksburg-Christiansburg-Montgomery Area Metropolitan Planning Organization

As the interest in public transportation continues to increase in the New River Valley there may be opportunities to create new services, establish partnerships and increase funding competitiveness for the benefit of each community in the region.

Disclaimer

This report was prepared by the staff of the New River Valley Planning District Commission, through funding assistance received from the Federal Highway Administration (FHA), United States Department of Transportation (USDOT), Blacksburg-Christiansburg-Montgomery MPO, and the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT); through VDOT's Rural Transportation Planning Assistance Program.

The contents of this document reflect the views of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official views or policy of the Federal Highway Association or the Virginia Department of Transportation. This document does not constitute standard, specification, or regulation. Federal Highway Association and Virginia Department of Transportation acceptance of this document as partial fulfillment of the work program obligations does not constitute endorsement/approval of the need for any recommended improvements; nor does it constitute commitment to fund any such improvements. Additional project level assessments and/or studies of alternatives may be necessary.

Acknowledgement

Pursuant to the terms and conditions of the Regional Transit Organization Analysis Task Order Agreement between the Blacksburg, Christiansburg, Montgomery MPO and the New River Valley Planning District Commission, approved December 10th, 2010.

This study was approved and endorsed by:

- The Blacksburg-Christiansburg-Montgomery Area Metropolitan Planning Organization on December 1, 2011
- The New River Valley Planning District Commission on January 26, 2012

Study Contributors & Special Thanks

Plan Preparation

Kevin Byrd, NRVPCD – Executive Director
Dan Brugh, BCMMPD – Executive Director
Elijah Sharp, NRVPCD – Regional Transportation Planner
Justin Blackburn, NRVPCD – Cartographer

Regional Stakeholder Committee

Deborah Freed, VT – Alternative Transportation Manager
Barry Helms, Town of Christiansburg – Interim Town Manager
David Ridpath, City of Radford – City Manager
Steven Sandy, Montgomery County – Planning Director
James Hurt, City of Radford – City Engineer
Ranny Akers, Pulaski County – Board of Supervisors
Josh Baker, Community Transit – Director
Gary Heinline, Pulaski Area Transit – Director
Rebecca Martin, Blacksburg Transit – Director
Carl Palmer, Valley Metro – Director
Michael Grega, Community Transit – Transit Manager
Erik Olsen, Blacksburg Transit – Transportation Planner
Tim Witten, Blacksburg Transit – Special Projects Manager
Mark Cox, Helping Hands Transit – Owner

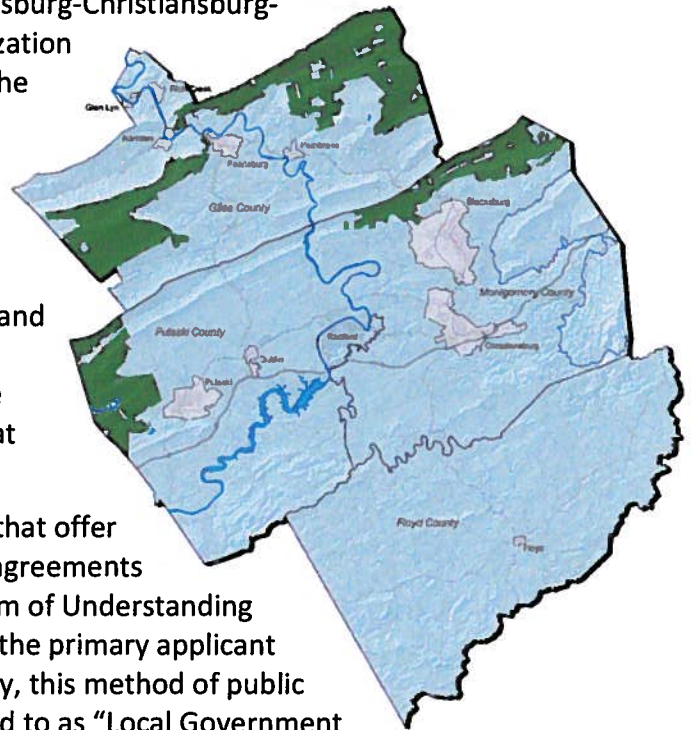
Regional Transit Organization Study

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Executive Summary

The Regional Transit Organization Study was initiated by the New River Valley Planning District Commission (PDC) and the Blacksburg-Christiansburg-Montgomery Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). The purpose of this study is to evaluate the long term organization models identified in the Department of Rail and Public Transportation's (DRPT) *Transit Service Plan for City of Radford/Radford University*, prepared in December 2009, by the KFH Group, under subcontract to Cambridge Systematics. The PDC and MPO are both aware that the interest in public transportation in the region is growing, and there may be opportunities to develop partnerships that would benefit local communities.



Currently, New River Valley communities that offer transit services are responsible for entering into agreements with service providers, developing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) amongst funding partners, and serving as the primary applicant for annual state and federal funding. In this study, this method of public transportation organizational operation is referred to as "Local Government Jurisdiction Operation." In addition to this method, the following alternatives are evaluated:

1. Transportation District
2. Service District
3. Regional Transportation Authority

Each of the alternatives encourages the development of a multi-jurisdictional entity. Although each method is similar, there are distinct differences related to policy and authority, the types of organizations or entities that could participate, whether or not new funding could be generated, and whether or not enabling legislation would be required. Here is a general overview of each organizational option:

- **Local Government Jurisdiction Operation:** A local town, city, or county that is authorized to enter into contracts and agreements to provide public transportation. The locality is responsible for developing MOUs between each funding partner. Typical responsibilities of the local government are to apply for Federal and State funding, contract service operators, purchase and maintain equipment and vehicles, and record ridership as necessary to delineate appropriate funding contributions from each partner.
- **Transportation District:** The Transportation District Act of 1964 and the Virginia Code Chapters 15.2-4504-4526 provide authority for jurisdictions to create a

Transportation District. A Transportation District is established by any two or more counties or cities (would exclude local universities and organizations) created by ordinance, and adopted by the local governing body of each participating jurisdiction. New services and agreements would be developed and managed by the district. The new entity could also provide expertise and leadership to neighboring communities that may be interested in providing new services.

- *Service District:* Virginia Code Chapters 15.2-2400-2403 provides local governments the authority to establish a Service District. Similar to the transportation district, a service district is comprised of any two or more counties or cities (would exclude local universities and organizations) created by ordinance, and adopted by the local governing body of each participating jurisdiction. Service Districts are governed by a development board or other body with responsibilities agreed upon by participating agencies. The creation of a new service district would provide similar opportunities described in the transportation district; however, a key difference is the ability to levy taxes to generate revenue for specific services within the service district boundary.
- *Regional Transportation Authority:* Potentially the most robust of the alternatives; however, the creation of a new authority could have the fewest limitations. A regional authority would require enabling legislation that would clearly define the level of authority and responsibilities. Although it may be the largest undertaking, it would act as a true regional entity. Partners could include local governments, universities, and other interested organizations. The authority could be limited to public transportation or may provide leadership in other areas of transportation as well. Authority could be granted to generate additional revenues, or the new entity could simply be responsible for entering into service agreements.

To determine the advantages and disadvantages of each organizational model, a regional stakeholder committee was developed. The committee was comprised of the Blacksburg-Christiansburg-Montgomery MPO, New River Valley PDC, Montgomery County, Pulaski County, City of Radford, Town of Christiansburg, Town of Blacksburg, Blacksburg Transit, Pulaski Area Transit, Community Transit and the Smart Way (Valley Metro).

In addition to the feedback provided at committee meetings, stakeholder interviews were conducted on a one-on-one basis. The interviews enabled a broader discussion with service providers (local government, university, or organization) and service operators. The next page provides a chart (Table 1) that compares the four organizational models.

2011 Regional Transit Organization Analysis		Method of Operation			
Details Checklist		Local Operation	Transportation District	Service District	Regional Authority
Authority	Prepare a transportation plan	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Construct, acquire, maintain, or operate facilities	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Enter into agreements or leases	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Acquire land by purchase, lease, gift, or condemnation	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Levy and collect transportation service tax	No	No	Yes	Yes
	Limited to Public Transportation	No	Yes	No	No
Composition	Local Government	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Any Two or More Localities	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	University or College	Yes	No	No	Yes
	Community Organizations or Private Entities	Yes	No	No	Yes
Considerations	Enabling Legislation Required?	No	No	No	Yes
	Multijurisdictional Perspective?	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Require establishing a Commission (voting body)?	No	Yes	Yes	Yes

Table 1

Table 1

Based on the feedback from regional stakeholder meetings and individual interviews, there is a desire to evaluate the development of a regional entity. The level of authority or precise role of the new organization is unknown; however, study participants conveyed interest in developing a regional resource. Steps for implementing a new regional entity could include:

1. Determining the organizations authority and structure
2. Obtain endorsement from participating partners
3. Obtaining enabling legislation (depending on level of authority)
4. Developing organizational policies such as by-laws
5. Transfer staff and equipment (depending on level of authority)

The stakeholder committee identified that any future organizational alternatives would need the ability of recognizing all funding partners – specifically universities and supporting agencies. Currently, services are funded through a variety of federal, state, and local sources. A new regional entity would have access to all of the same funds, and the local match would simply shift to the new entity.

The creation of a new authority could also enable a broader range of funding sources. Examples in Virginia include:

- a) **Grantors Tax:** levied when property changes hands – could vary in amount each year depending on sales. Example: \$.40 per \$100 of property value.
- b) **Motor Vehicle Rental Tax:** levied on motor vehicle rental charges – revenues would vary depending on rental volumes. Example: 2%
- c) **Transient Occupancy Tax:** levied to all lodging receipts – revenue would vary depending on visitation levels and lodging rates. Example: 2%
- d) **Safety Inspection Fee:** amount added to the annual safety inspection fee. Example: \$10
- e) **Sales Tax on Auto Repairs:** levied on automobile repair charges – revenue would vary depending on vehicles serviced. Example: 5%
- f) **New Vehicle Registration:** levied on new vehicle registrations – revenue would relate closely with vehicle sales. Example: 1%
- g) **Regional Registration Fee:** levied annually to vehicle registration renewals. Example: \$10
- h) **Motor Fuels Sales Tax:** levied when motor fuel is purchased – estimated per capita. Example: 2%
- i) **Commercial Real Estate Tax:** Levied on all commercial properties within the service area. Example: 10 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation for commercial property.
- j) **Commercial/Residential Impact Fee:** Set at the discretion of local jurisdictions
- k) **Property Tax:** levied on all personal property taxes. Example 1 cent for every \$100 of value.
- l) **Local Sales Tax:** levied on all purchases in the region. Example: 1%

As mentioned earlier, the development of a regional entity's responsibilities can be tailored to meet the needs of the region. The alternative governance structure would create opportunities to provide central staffing for partners, pursue additional funding, and create opportunities to integrate existing systems.

Based on the feedback provided by the Stakeholder Committee and individual interviews, a Regional Transit Coordinating Council should be established. Creating the Council would be the first step towards creating a more inclusive agency and would only require a local agreement between interested stakeholders. Public transit stakeholders should express their interest to the PDC and MPO so that a formal implementation strategy can be developed.

Section 1 – Identifying the Study Area

The study area for this plan includes Montgomery, Pulaski, Floyd and Giles counties, the city of Radford, the towns of Christiansburg, Blacksburg, Pulaski, Dublin, Floyd, Pearisburg, Rich Creek, Glen Lyn, Narrows, and Pembroke, the universities of Virginia Tech and Radford, and the New River Community College. The map below illustrates the study area described:

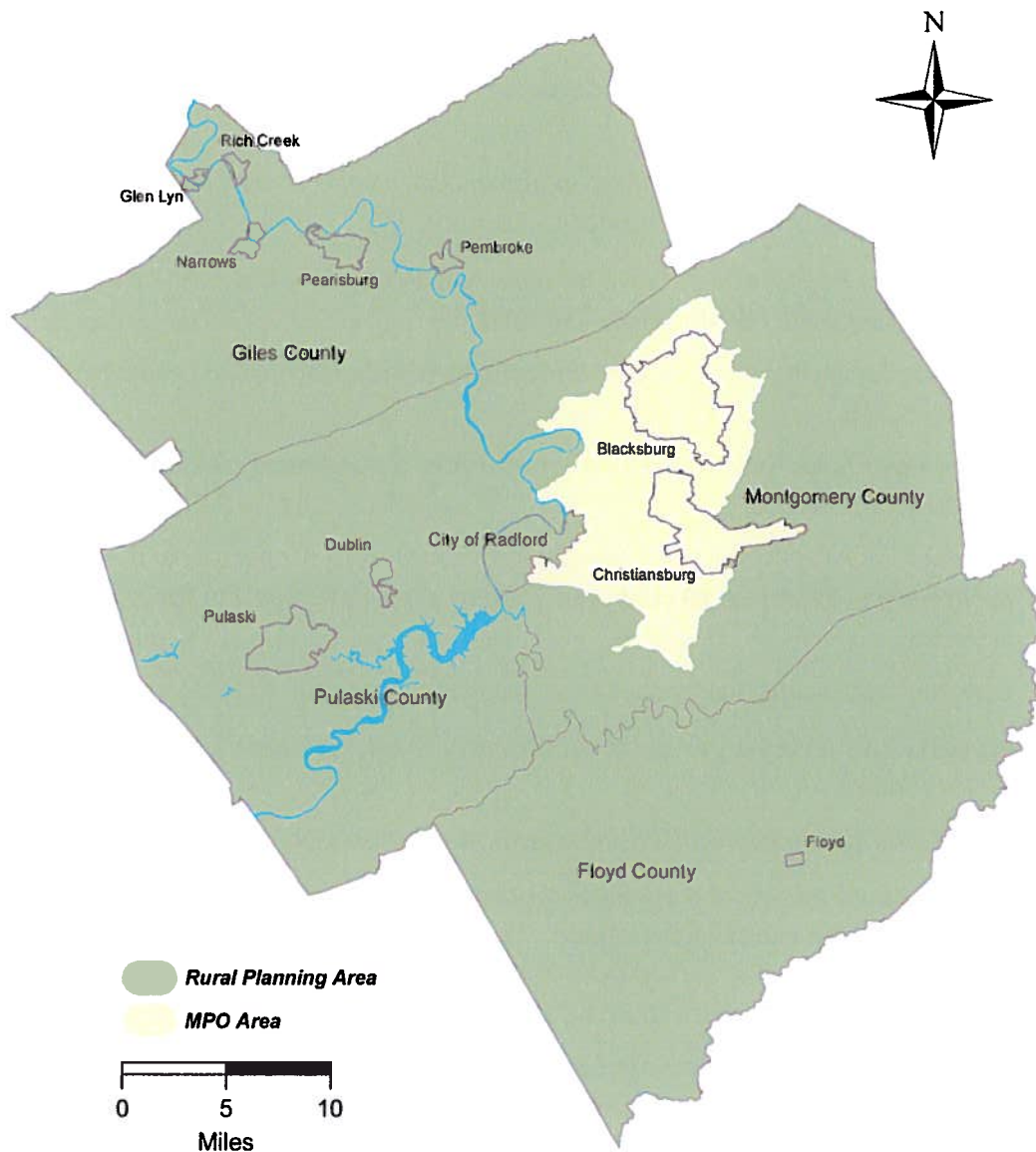


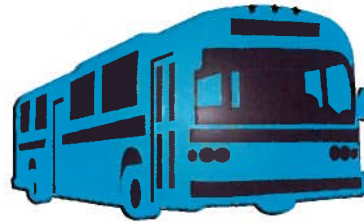
Figure 1

For the purpose of this plan, additional resources and services were also examined for each of the adjoining counties to the region. Intuitively, this concept promotes the continuity of all transportation systems, including public transportation resources.

Section 2 – Introduction

2.1 Purpose

As the interest in public transportation continues to increase in the New River Valley there may be opportunities to create new services, establish partnerships and increase funding competitiveness for the benefit of each community in the region. This study is intended to compliment the Department of Rail and Public Transportation's (DRPT) *Transit Service Plan for City of Radford/Radford University*, prepared in December 2009, by the KFH Group, under subcontract to Cambridge Systematics.



A variety of Organizational alternatives were considered while evaluating new services in the Radford Plan. Chapter 5, Organization Alternatives, reviewed each option and developed potential advantages and disadvantages for each. The organizational models that the study identified were:

1. Local governmental jurisdiction such as a city, town or county
2. Transportation District
3. Service District
4. Regional Transportation Authority

The study that was prepared by DRPT influenced the PDC and MPO to examine each of these models in more detail, in order to develop an organization strategy for public transportation in the future. Many communities in the New River Valley do not have the experience or resources available to operate new transit services. Furthermore, expanding investments is challenging to communicate to the public during a difficult economic climate. Efficiencies in existing systems and opportunities to create transportation alternatives are priorities in the region. This study evaluates each of the organization scenarios outlined, and offers a recommendation based on the feedback provided by a regional stakeholder committee.

2.2 Previous Studies and Local Plans

Over the last 30 years, there have been numerous studies statewide, regionally, and at the local level for the development of public transportation systems. This study builds on existing planning efforts, and incorporates related material as it may pertain to this plan. Previous public transportation planning includes:

- Mobility Resource Manual (2011), *NRVPDC*
- Radford Transit Feasibility Study (2009), *DRPT*
- Employment Mobility Study (2009), *NRVPDC*
- Coordinated Human Services Mobility Plan (2008), *DRPT/NRVPDC*
- New River Valley Transit Study (1998), *NRVPDC*
- Transit Technical Study (1979), *NRVPDC, Center for Urban and Regional Studies VPI & SU*

In 1979, the regional interest in public transportation in the New River Valley was documented. At that time, the following conditions were identified that influenced the preparation of the plan:

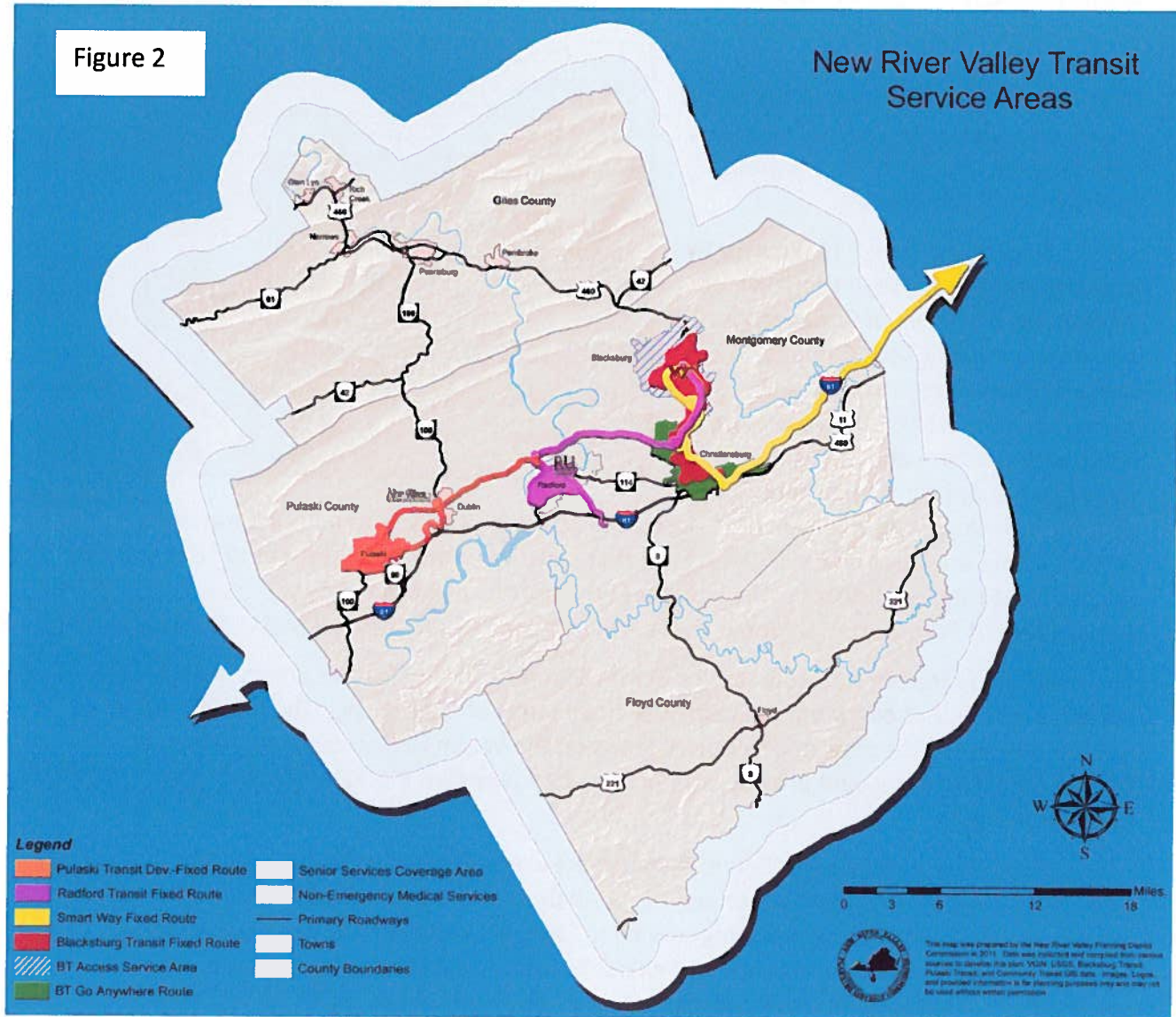
1. People have become more aware of the situation of the poor, elderly and handicapped.
2. Automobile congestion is reaching intolerable levels at some locations.
3. The cost of owning and operating an automobile are rising rapidly.
4. Energy shortages and cost threaten paralysis of the automobile-based transportation system.
5. People are more sensitive of the effects of automobile emissions on health and aesthetics – symbolized by the pall of dirty smog that hangs over urban areas.
6. Parking has become a serious problem in business districts and in and around campuses.
7. Finally, the foregoing interests in the Valley and elsewhere are reflected in emerging state and national policies designed to make community transit efforts more effective.

The way of identifying transportation deficiencies has evolved over time; however, many of the needs are still very relevant today. The plan went on to indicate, “ Our automobile-dominant transportation system, as of 1978, still leaves large segments of the population in the New River Valley communities with unmet needs for transportation – In all of our communities, rural and urban, the elderly, handicapped, and low income are particularly likely to experience severe limitations of mobility.”

Several of the 1979 Plan objectives have been accomplished in the last 30 years, while others need multi-jurisdictional support in order to implement. This plan takes a closer look at the existing services that are provided in the region. The ultimate goal of the plan is to identify organizational alternatives that could enable transportation options in more communities.

2.3 Existing Services

A variety of alternative transportation services and programs are currently offered in the region. The types of services range from fixed route, deviated fixed route, on-demand service, senior's service, non-emergency medical service, low-income or special needs service, to vanpooling and carpooling commuter programs. The map below illustrates the types of services that are provided.



Non-medical emergency services can be provided outside of the region, as long as the originating address is in the New River Valley. Senior Services can be operated throughout the region as well. Recently, services were extended into Giles and Floyd Counties to provide weekly/bi-weekly trips for seniors. Deviated fixed route services are provided predominantly in the communities located along the I-81 corridor. Future plans indicate the expansion of fixed route, and demand response services throughout the region. Section 2.4 describes existing services in more detail.

2.4 Current Service Providers

Currently there are three public transit service operators that are based in the New River Valley: Blacksburg Transit, Community Transit and Pulaski Area Transit. Services are also provided into and out of the region by Valley Metro, which is based out of Roanoke. Each of the public service providers is responsible for operating various services within New River Valley. The table (shown right) provides an overview of the public service providers, the types of services they provide, and the different areas each service is provided.

Blacksburg Transit (BT) currently provides transit service in the Town of Blacksburg, the Town of Christiansburg and on the Virginia Tech Campus. A range of routes are provided throughout the week within the town limits of Blacksburg and Christiansburg to all general public. The current fleet of vehicles includes approximately 44 buses and 15 vans. BT also provides a paratransit service within the town limits of Blacksburg that assists persons who cannot utilize the regular fixed-route bus system, and who meet the criteria established by the US Department of Transportation under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990.

BT also recently started a service in Montgomery County for the Warm Hearth Village, a retirement community outside the town limits of Blacksburg. The new service will operate every Tuesday, and feature 8 stops on the Warm Hearth campus, 2 stops at the LewisGale Hospital, and provide connections to downtown Blacksburg and Christiansburg.

New River Valley Senior Services operates Pulaski Area Transit (PAT) and Med-ride. PAT provides both fixed-route and deviated fixed-route service to the town of Pulaski/Pulaski County area, including service to Fairlawn and the New River Community College in Dublin. The service is open to all public located within the service area. The current fleet of vehicles includes approximately 27 Body on chassis (BOC's) and 27 vans.

PAT also operates the New River Valley Senior Services transportation for the elderly and other special populations program. The service area covers the entire New River Valley area with an originating address in the region. Services can be provided to specific medical sites in Roanoke, Charlottesville and Richmond for persons age 60 or over, or to someone with a physical/sensory disability.

Operator	Service Provided in New River Valley			
	Fixed Route	On Demand	Senior Services	Special Needs
Blacksburg Transit				
Community Transit				
Pulaski Area Transit				
Smart Way				
Area Service (above) Provided				
Floyd County				
Giles County				
Montgomery County				
Pulaski County				
City of Radford				
Town of Blacksburg				
Town of Christiansburg				
Town of Pulaski				

Table 2

PAT also manages the Med-Ride program which offers non-emergency medical transportation for low-income, uninsured and underinsured residents of the region that have no other means of transportation. Services include physician and dentist visits, hospital outpatient services, pharmacy prescription pick-up, health departments, free clinics, dialysis and other necessary health related services. Transportation services for the Med-Ride program are provided by volunteers using their own personal vehicles.

Community Transit (CT) provides non emergency medical trip services for individuals with disabilities and/or special needs. CT is a program operated by the New River Community Service Board, and can provide transportation to any location in Virginia with an originating address in the region.

CT staff also operates the new deviated fixed-route service in the City of Radford (Radford Transit) that started in August 2011. The new service offers services for the residents of Radford and Radford University around the city, to the Carilion hospital, and Fairlawn areas. A future multi jurisdictional connection to Christiansburg, Blacksburg, and Virginia Tech is also planned.

Valley Metro provides fixed-route service that links the Roanoke Valley to the New River Valley via the Smart Way. The Smart Way service begins in downtown Roanoke at Valley Metro's Campbell Court Transportation Center and ends at the Virginia Tech Squires Student Center. The route from the New River Valley to the Roanoke Valley is the exact reverse. The service is open to the general public within Roanoke County, Montgomery County, City of Roanoke, City of Salem, Town of Christiansburg and the Town of Blacksburg located along the route. Valley Metro recently started providing a weekly bus "bridge service" that connects to the Amtrak station in Lynchburg.

2.5 Current Service Challenges

Public Transportation, similar to Virginia's overall transportation network, is reaching funding thresholds. As costs continue to increase for equipment, staff, and fuel – local communities are stretched to find additional revenues to support existing services. In areas where public transportation is successful, often there is not sufficient funding to provide additional services, let alone respond to the existing demand.

Transit operators are finding ways to make existing resources more efficient through technology and improving coordination amongst other providers. During stakeholder interviews, the idea of a mobility manager was prevalent. The creation of the Mobility Resource Manual was the first phase of developing a mobility manager position.

The idea of central dispatching was also shared during stakeholder interviews – to help coordinate services such as paratransit, non-emergency medical trips, and seniors programs. Central dispatching could create a tool for operators that provide similar services at adjoining boundaries.

Areas where services are currently provided would benefit from the support offered by local governments, large employment centers, and private business

contributions. Support from different partners could create a more dynamic alternative transportation system for a variety of users. Establishing a multijurisdictional entity would create a coordinating agency to work with potential partners and existing service operators.

2.6 Potential Future Services

New services have recently started in the town of Christiansburg and the City of Radford. The Christiansburg service was started in 2010 and featured a downtown circulator route, a shopping route, and a very popular go-anywhere route. The service has since evolved to provide commuting services between Blacksburg and Christiansburg.

The City of Radford started a new system in August 2011. The new service provides transportation throughout the city, to Fairlawn, to Carilion, to Christiansburg, to Blacksburg, and circulation around Radford University.

In early 2011, a private organization called Mega Bus started a long distance service. The route predominately follows the I-81 corridor from Knoxville, TN to Christiansburg, VA to Washington, D.C. – offering rates as low as \$1.00.

In addition, the 2035 Virginia Surface Transportation Plan identified the counties of Floyd and Giles as communities that have the characteristics to implement and sustain transit services. Additional studies have not been conducted to determine possible services.

The Department of Rail and Public Transportation is also working with service operators to develop Transit Development Plans (TDPs) that will provide financially constrained and unconstrained plans. TDPs identify coordinated goals to interlink local comprehensive and master plans with transit planning.

Section 3 – Evaluating Organizational Structure Alternatives

3.1 Identifying Models in Virginia

Each of the four models identified in this plan have been successfully implemented in Virginia. Examining models in Virginia, as opposed to nationally or abroad, is important because of existing law and enabling legislation unique to the Commonwealth. Furthermore, established organizations in Virginia could provide guidance for the development of a similar structure in the New River Valley.

1. Local Governmental Jurisdiction Operation

The local government operation model is currently the primary structure for transit services in the New River Valley. An example of local government operation is Radford Transit. The City of Radford serves as the applicant for state/federal funding, and the local match is provided by Radford University and the City to operate services.

In addition to applying for funding, the city owns the vehicles/equipment that operates the system, is responsible for the maintaining vehicles, and establishes contracts with service operators to provide services. The City has established an advisory board to communicate with local partners.

2. Transportation District

An example of a Transportation District in Virginia is the Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission (PRTC) that is comprised of Prince William and Stafford counties, and the cities of Manassas, Manassas Park and Fredericksburg. PRTC currently provides commuter bus service along the I-95 and I-66 corridors, local bus services in Prince William County and the cities of Manassas and Manassas Park. PRTC also offers a ridesharing service called OmniMatch at no cost to participants. Furthermore, in partnership with the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission, the PRTC operates the Virginia Railway Express that provides commuter rail service along the Manassas and Fredericksburg lines.

In 1986, PRTC was established to facilitate regional transportation solutions to problems that transcended beyond a single local government boundary. In addition to overseeing the commuter rail service, PRTC is responsible for bus service implementation as its member governments sees fit.

In FY 2009 PRTC operated an active fleet of 130 buses, carried more than 3.2 million passengers, and had 698,732 participants in affiliated carpools and vanpools. 17 commissioners comprise the PRTC Board as follows: (13) locally appointed representatives, (2) Delegates appointed by the General Assembly, (1) Senator appointed by the General Assembly, and (1) Department of Rail and Public Transportation representative.

Membership allows for the collection of a 2% Motor Fuels Tax that is used for transportation improvements in the region. PRTC provides transportation planning services and operating initiatives for bus, rail and ride matching services, capital project management, policy analysis, and regional coordination. PRTC's member jurisdictions rely heavily on the Motor Fuels Tax to meet their local financial obligations. Other funding sources include passenger fares, federal and state funds, and local funding as necessary.

3. Service District

An example of a Service District in Virginia is the Airport Development Area Special Service District that was created by Campbell County in conjunction with the City of Lynchburg. The Special Service District was created to address anticipated future development within a specific area expected to generate substantial service demands. The City and County identified a specific development area to cooperatively manage the impact and mitigate costs associated with providing public services in connection with future development.

Authorities granted to the Special Service District included economic development services, promotion of businesses and retail development services, construction and maintenance of roadways not operated by VDOT, special services including safety and welfare of the public.

The Campbell County Board of Supervisors was appointed as the governing body of the Special Service District and has the authority to exercise all powers set forth in Virginia Code. Specific initial duties included the planning of a new roadway to access the development area, implementation of other traffic management improvements such as traffic calming measures and create a Development Area Master Plan addressing potential infrastructure improvements.

The Board was also enabled to levy and collect an annual 2% property tax within the Special Service district to assist with the expenses and charges for governmental services. The tax levied was only to be used for constructing, maintaining, and operating facilities within the Special Service District and not permitted outside defined boundary.

The creation of the Special Service District was intended to facilitate orderly development consistent with the Comprehensive Plan and consistent with existing land uses in the area. The goal was to mitigate adverse impact on property owners in the area from projected growth, by adequately addressing increased or changed traffic patterns.

4. Regional Transportation Authority

An example of a Regional Transportation Authority in Virginia is the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) that is comprised of Arlington, Fairfax, Loudon and Prince Williams counties and the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church, Manassas and Manassas Park.

The NVTA is responsible for long-range transportation planning for regional projects in Northern Virginia. On the basis of regional consensus, the authority develops transportation policies and priorities for regional projects. Priorities are guided by performance based criteria such as the ability to improve travel times, reduce delays, connect regional activity centers, improve safety, and improve air quality, all in the most cost effective manner.

The governing authority consists of 17 members: (9) participating locality members, (2) Delegates, (1) Senator, (2) citizens appointed by the Governor, (1) Department of Rail and Public Transportation, (1) Commonwealth Transportation Commissioner or designee, (1) chief elected officer of one town.

3.2 *Organizational Model Details*

Each of the organizational models found in Virginia have a different authority structure and funding mechanisms. The previous section discussed where different models have been implemented. This section evaluates the specifics for each model.

1. Local Governmental Jurisdiction Operation

DRPT requires that the applicant for funding be a local governmental jurisdiction such as a city, town, or county. This model requires service agreements between the applicant and other stakeholders contributing funding or soliciting services. Typically an advisory committee is created to provide guidance on the service. The advisory committee voting structure should commensurate with levels of funding to enable stakeholders the flexibly to adjust routes.

Often this arrangement works well in communities that have universities or large employment centers as partners. By establishing service agreements the local government would be receiving local transit services that would otherwise not be feasible. The University or large employer would have access to federal and state operating dollars to maximize services without bearing the full cost.

2. Create a new Transportation District

The Commonwealth of Virginia offers a variety of ways to create joint enterprises to perform public functions. The Transportation District Act of 1964 and the Virginia Code Chapters 15.2-4504-4526 provide authority to jurisdictions to create a Transportation District.

A Transportation District is established by any two or more counties or cities, created by ordinance and adopted by the local governing body of each participating jurisdiction. Such ordinances must be filed with the Secretary of the Commonwealth.

Members of the established transportation district would need to be appointed by the governing body but are not required to be members of said body. Authorities and functions generally include the preparation of a transportation plan, construction and acquisition of facilities, power to enter into agreements or leases with private companies for operation of facilities, and the ability to contract or agreement within the district regarding operation of services or facilities.

A transportation district would create a strong partnership amongst participating stakeholders. New Services and agreements would be developed and managed by the district and provide sound expertise and leadership to neighboring communities that may be interested in providing new services. Efficiencies would be developed in the process of applying for state and federal funding by consolidating programs and eliminating redundancies in service.

3. Create a new Service District

Virginia Code Chapters 15.2-2400-2403 also provides local governments the authority to establish a Service District. Similar to the transportation district, a service district is comprised of any two or more counties or cities created by ordinance adopted by the local governing body of each participating jurisdiction. Additionally, the ordinances must be filed with the Secretary of the Commonwealth.

The creation of a service district requires a public hearing prior to the creation or it may be created by order of the circuit court by local petition. Service Districts are governed by a development board or other body with responsibilities agreed upon by participating agencies.

Authorities and functions generally include providing transportation services, own facilities, equipment and property to provide such services, contract with any person, municipality or state agency, and the ability to levy and collect property taxes to pay for services.

The creation of a new service district would provide similar opportunities described in the transportation district and also provide the opportunity to generate transportation funding to support local programs.

4. Create a new Regional Transportation Authority

A regional transit authority requires strong regional consensus and would require enabling legislation in Virginia. Examples of legislation enabling the creation of regional authority can be found in Virginia Code 15.2-4829 through 15.2-4840 pertaining to the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority. A regional authority would be comprised of two or more local governing bodies and similar to the transportation and service district require a governing body of appointed officials from each participating jurisdiction.

A Regional Transportation Authority perhaps has the most flexibility and potential to provide the widest range of services. Authorities and functions could be limited to public transportation or they could be expanded to include other transportation services and facilities.

3.3 *Potential Organizational Model Scenarios*

This section takes a hypothetical approach to the four organizational models identified in the study. Actual partners from the New River Valley are utilized to create a more realistic evaluation of the models. The examples are not based on interest from the community or organization that is used in the scenario.

1. Local Governmental Jurisdiction Operation

What if the Town of Pearisburg or Town of Floyd were interested in starting a new service? Ideally community stakeholders would express their interest of in starting a new service to the Town. Once the local interest is identified, the community could request assistance from DRPT to determine the feasibility of public transportation. DRPT would hire a consultant (with potential cost share from locality) to prepare a feasibility study by working closely with a local stakeholder working committee.

The feasibility study would identify potential alternatives and associated costs to operate a new service. Specifically, the plan would develop a needs assessment to analyze population and land use data, along with qualitative data provided by a stakeholder committee. The goal would be to develop a solid understanding of the travel needs and locations of potential transit riders.

Based on the consultation process, a transit service plan would be prepared and presented to the community. If the community agreed to commit the associated funds towards the new service; they would complete federal and state funding applications through DRPT. The local community is then responsible for purchasing and maintaining equipment, coordinating MOU's with additional funding partners, annually applying for state and federal funds, and entering into necessary contracts and agreements to operate the new service.

Depending on the number of local stakeholders, a Transit Advisory Board may need to be created. Representatives of the Board would serve to indicate interests related to the new transit system.

2. Create a new Transportation District

What if Pulaski County, Montgomery County, and the City of Radford wanted to establish a Transportation District? Virginia Code Chapters 15.2-4504-4526 would enable them to do so. Both counties and the city would need to establish an ordinance adopted by the local governing body. The ordinance would then be filed with Secretary of the Commonwealth.

By creating the new District, the jurisdictions could prepare a multijurisdictional transportation plan, construct and acquire facilities, and have the power to enter into contracts/agreements.

Currently public transit is offered within each of the jurisdictions. By working collaboratively, the jurisdictions could eliminate duplicate services. The new Service District could also provide technical assistance, grant writing, enable greater coordination between systems, and potentially offer service providers savings with central dispatching and vehicle maintenance.

Although some of the tools in the Transportation District could be helpful, essential partners such as Virginia Tech, Radford University, towns, and a host of potential future partners would be excluded.

3. Create a new Service District

What if the City of Radford and Montgomery County wanted to create a Service District along the Route 177 Corridor? Virginia Code Chapters 15.2-2400-2403 would enable them to do so. Similar to the transportation district, both the county and the city would need to establish an ordinance adopted by the local governing body. Additionally, the ordinance would need to be filed with Secretary of the Commonwealth.

The creation of a new service district would provide similar opportunities described in the transportation district and also provide the opportunity to generate transportation funding to support local programs.

Creating a Service District could provide a revenue stream to support transit services, bike/ped facilities, or transportation maintenance within the identified area. This model may be particularly helpful to local governments by utilizing future land use plans to identify potential high-growth locations. Adversely, the Service District would be limited to county or city participants.

4. Create a new Regional Transportation Authority

What if the New River Valley wanted to create a new regional entity? Depending on the specific role, three possible versions could be created:

- A Regional Transit Coordinating Council (RTCC): a coordinating entity that would have open participation for all transit stakeholders. The new council would function similar to other regional and local technical committees. The predominant role of the new committee would be to

advise participating transit partners (open to membership). The focus of the RTCC would be specifically on public transportation. No additional funding opportunities would be created and the new committee would serve as advisory only.

- A Regional Transit Authority (Sharing Resources): a coordinating entity that would, in addition to the role described in the RTCC, have the ability to purchase/own property, enter into contracts/agreements, and accept funding to support staff and associated programs. The new Authority would require enabling legislation and a strong consensus amongst stakeholders. The new Authority could focus specifically on public transportation or a broader range of transportation related programs.
- A Regional Transportation Authority (Creating Additional Revenue): requires strong regional consensus and would require enabling legislation. In addition to the abilities described in the RTCC and Authority, powers would be granted to generate revenues to support transportation initiatives. One example of funding distribution in Virginia provides 40% of the revenues directly back into the community it was generated from. The additional 60% of the revenue would be directed by an Authority towards regional initiatives. Specific funding mechanisms would need to be identified in the enabling legislation.

Section 4 – Stakeholder Group Analysis

4.1 Stakeholder Roundtable

As directed by the Task Order Agreement between the MPO and PDC, a broad stakeholder committee was established to support the development of this study. The committee was comprised of local jurisdictional government and current service



provider staff. Membership included: Blacksburg-Christiansburg-Montgomery MPO, New River Valley PDC, Montgomery County, Pulaski County, City of Radford, Town of Christiansburg, Town of Blacksburg, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg Transit, Pulaski Area Transit, Community Transit and the Smart Way (Valley Metro). Radford University was invited, but unable to participate.

The specific roll of the Stakeholder Committee was to provide guidance for developing criteria to weigh advantages/disadvantages of each model, provide previous planning and existing services information, participate in stakeholder interviews, and provide feedback on the draft study.

The PDC and MPO facilitated stakeholder group meetings and provided all necessary materials throughout the planning process. The committee met on January 26th, April 26th, and August 29th.

4.2 Evaluation of Each Model

Each of the four organizational models were introduced and discussed at the April 26, 2011 Stakeholder Committee Meeting. In addition, the organizational models were evaluated at the individual stakeholder meetings. A summary of the feedback that was provided for each model is below.

1. Local Governmental Jurisdiction Operation

In General, this method is works well with local communities that have large employment centers within their jurisdictional boundaries. Universities play a pivotal role in the New River Valley by creating services that a single locality could otherwise not afford. This partnership is two-fold; the University receives more services by contracting through a locality to receive state and federal funds. Although many advantages were identified, this model will make it challenging for communities that do not have large employment centers to provide alternative transportation services.

Advantages:

- Public involvement
- Local relationships
- MPO/PDC are good resources/coordinate local planning
- Keep state/federal funds
- Available resources
- Retain individualism

Disadvantages:

- Local politics/buy-in
- Competing needs
- Cost planning
- Introduction of new jurisdictions/partners

2. Create a new Transportation District

An organizational strategy that allows multiple jurisdictions (a county or city) to establish a new entity. The Transportation District would create opportunities for central staffing, planning, and coordination resources. In addition, it would have the ability to enter into contracts/agreements and own property – removing a single local government’s need to provide the services. The major disadvantage is that existing VA Code states that the District is comprised of any two or more counties or cities, thus excluding important regional partners such as universities and towns.

Advantages:

- Create a multijurisdictional entity
- Eliminate duplication of services

Disadvantages:

- Exclusion of non-governmental partners
- Financial administration?

3. Create a new Service District

A Service District is not regularly used in Virginia. Predominantly, the model works well for undeveloped future high-growth areas. The model enables a jurisdiction(s) to levy new taxes and fees to support transportation initiatives. Again, the major disadvantage is that VA Code states that it must be comprised of any two or more counties or cities. This model was not determined appropriate at the regional level; however, it does offer some advantages that should be considered further by local governments.

Advantages:

- Create a multijurisdictional entity
- Have the ability to generate additional transportation revenue

Disadvantages:

- No large scale example provided in Virginia
- Could create a cross/duplication of services
- Exclusion of non-governmental partners

4. Create a new Regional Transportation Authority

The creation of a new authority affords the widest range of possibilities. Whether regional partners prefer a coordinating, contracting, or legislatively enabled entity – a Regional Authority can provide powers/duties that are

tailored to local desires. The stakeholder review process revealed three potential phases of the new entity that are further described in section 4.3-9.

Advantages:

- Create a rural/urban area partnership
- Identify regional priorities
- Create an interface between existing systems
- Have the ability to purchase equipment
- Opportunity to create a coordinating entity/association
- Would be open to all stakeholders and funding partners
- Economies of scale when it comes to staff, maintenance garages, purchasing, health insurance, etc.

Disadvantages:

- Local politics/buy-in
- Concern for losing individualism
- If revenues were generated how would they be spent?
- Increased responsibility for small staff
- Potential new costs to operate services

4.3 Interview Results

In order to gain additional project insights, the PDC interviewed a variety of stakeholders including: local governments, transit operators, universities, and participating agencies. Below are the questions that were asked during the interview and the responses that were provided.

General Information:

1. I am responding to the survey from this perspective:

☒ Local Government	40%
☒ University or College	15%
☐ Employment Center	0%
☒ Service Operator	40%
☐ Other	0%
2. I currently contribute funding to provide transit?

☒ Yes (100%)	☐ No (0%)
3. I currently contribute staff towards transit?

☒ Yes (55%)	☐ No (45%)
4. I feel knowledgeable about state/federal funding and potential opportunities?

☐ Yes (45%)	☒ No (55%)
5. I can currently utilize public transportation services as a means of alternative transportation in my community?

☒ Yes (60%)	☒ No (40%)

*Note: Yes Respondents were all residents of Blacksburg or Christiansburg – convenience factor limits people to actually use the services although they are available. Those responding “No” lived outside of the Town Limits of the nearest community.

6. I feel that the current level of alternative transportation offered in the NRV is adequate.

☒ Yes (10%) ☒ No (90%)

*Note: Yes Respondents indicated ability to afford additional services in the Region as a limiting factor.

7. There needs to be more choices in the area of:

☒ Fixed-Route ☒ On Demand
☒ Programs ☒ Private Services
☒ Bike/Ped System

*Note: On Demand also reflects the Demand-Response services. A comment was noted that indicated improvements were need in all areas to make alternative transportation an attractive option for the public. Additional comments suggested that private service providers would have limited abilities and market to provide services.

Organizational Structuring:

8. There are foreseeable issues with organizational models in the region?

☒ Yes (100%) ☐ No

*Note: Majority of respondents indicated a need for multijurisdictional leadership and resources for communities and service providers. Other concerns involved the expansion of local government services expanding beyond their respective jurisdictions. In addition, coordination for multiple services and addressing intergovernmental issues will become challenging.

9. In the future, I feel that this organizational alternative may be valuable:

☒ Local Government Operation	100%
☐ Transportation District	
☐ Service District	
☒ Regional Authority	100%
☒ Others: Expanded PDC/MPO roles, coordinating entity	100%

*Note: A series of three steps was recommended to develop a regional entity over time – as needed: (1) Establish a Regional Transit Coordinating Council to serve in an advisory role to local partners; (2) Create a Regional Authority that would have the ability to purchase equipment, enter into contracts and agreements, and accept funding from participating stakeholders and agencies; (3) Create a Regional Authority that could have the ability to work with participating stakeholders to levy transportation revenue, and establish a board to administer funding towards transportation improvements in the region.

10. Of the models being evaluated, these should be avoided:

☐ Local Government Operation	
☒ Transportation District	100%
☒ Service District	100%
☐ Regional Authority	

*Note: Transportation and Service Districts omit partners/stakeholders that are not a county, city or town.

11. Perhaps the greatest challenge in the future is:

☒ Local Match – Funding	40%
☒ Education – Encouraging Ridership	20%
☒ State Administered Funding	25%
☒ Expanding Systems/Programs	10%
☒ Other: Multi-jurisdictional cooperation/ coordination, Federal Funding and Programs	5%

*Note: The unpredictable nature of state and federal funding was a common concern among survey respondents. In addition, increasing energy costs tend to increase the demand for public transportation. The increasing energy costs also have impacts on operating systems.

12. What potential threats could be imposed on agencies or local governments by creating a new entity?

- Potential loss of control – level of authority
- Would funding be utilized in the area it was received or be open for membership area?
- Cost to participating stakeholders – potential administration costs
- Increased responsibilities for same staff
- Service providers may have concerns about control/boundaries

13. What would be considered the tipping point to initiate the conversation of creating a new entity?

- Ultimately, where can saving occur to benefit local communities and multijurisdictional providers?
- Now – may improve existing multijurisdictional partnerships
- If the Urban area increases into additional jurisdictions
- If the MPO dissolves in the new Surface Transportation legislation
- Changes to formulas for funding
- If the price of fuel increases substantially
- As more routes are created that interconnect neighboring jurisdictions
- If services are started in Giles and Floyd
- A tipping point is not needed to guide redirection – new revenue options may bring more folks to the table

14. Ideas/position for creating educational opportunities for the public?

- Socionomics exposure – breakdown the fundamentals of public transportation to encourage ridership. Locations, where to put bus fare, what is a time check, how to request a stop, and other basics.
- Participate in community weekly/monthly events – provide a staff person and piece of equipment for a demonstration to increase public awareness.
- Local advertising on radio, newspaper/newsletters, and tv.
- Student and Faculty listserves.
- Ride Solutions reach out.
- Continue to develop TDP's to engage transit service provider/local conversations.
- Educating local government councils.
- Educate planning process to the general public.
- Word of mouth – providing good services and allowing the public to spread the word.
- Speaking/providing presentations at local community meetings

Section 5 – Plan Recommendations

5.1 Organization Model Recommendation

This study recognizes that there are currently no major issues with the existing organizational methods; however, as the interest in transit grows, a single local government's resources may become limited – unless they desire to be in the business of transit. Furthermore, the New River Valley has two major Universities that make substantial contributions to public transportation systems. Although many routes are intended for student or faculty use, routes are also provided to connect key activity and employment centers that benefit the general public. Because of this important partnership, the stakeholder committee identified that any future organizational alternatives need the ability of recognizing all funding partners.

In addition to the feedback provided at committee meetings, stakeholder interviews were conducted on a one-on-one basis. The interviews enabled a broader discussion with service providers (local government, university, or organization) and service operators. Below is a chart that compares the four organizational models in more detail.

2011 Regional Transit Organization Analysis		Method of Operation			
Details Checklist		Local Operation	Transportation District	Service District	Regional Authority
Authority	Prepare a transportation plan	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Construct, acquire, maintain, or operate facilities	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Enter into agreements or leases	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Acquire land by purchase, lease, gift, or condemnation	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Levy and collect transportation service tax	No	No	Yes	Yes
	Limited to Public Transportation	No	Yes	No	No
Composition	Local Government	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Any Two or More Localities	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	University or College	Yes	No	No	Yes
	Community Organizations or Private Entities	Yes	No	No	Yes
Considerations	Enabling Legislation Required?	No	No	No	Yes
	Multijurisdictional Perspective?	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Require establishing a Commission (voting body)?	No	Yes	Yes	Yes

Table 1

Based on the individual interviews and general stakeholder feedback, the creation of a regional entity may be valuable. The creation of a new regional entity would create a few changes in the existing MOU-styled structure of providing transit. Currently, services are funded through a variety of federal, state, and local sources. A new regional entity would have access to all of the same funds, and the local match would shift to the new entity – as opposed to another local government. The creation of a new entity could also enable a broader range of funding sources. Examples in Virginia include:

- a) Grantors Tax: levied when property changes hands – could vary in amount each year depending on sales. Example: 40 cents per \$100 of property value.
- b) Motor Vehicle Rental Tax: levied on motor vehicle rental charges – revenues would vary depending on rental volumes. Example: 2%
- c) Transient Occupancy Tax: levied to all lodging receipts – revenue would vary depending on visitation levels and lodging rates. Example: 2%
- d) Safety Inspection Fee: amount added to the annual safety inspection fee. Example: \$10
- e) Sales Tax on Auto Repairs: levied on automobile repair charges – revenue would vary depending on vehicles serviced. Example: 5%
- f) New Vehicle Registration: levied on new vehicle registrations – revenue would relate closely with vehicle sales. Example: 1%
- g) Regional Registration Fee: levied annually to vehicle registration renewals. Example: \$10
- h) Motor Fuels Sales Tax: levied when motor fuel is purchased – estimated per capita. Example: 2%
- i) Commercial Real Estate Tax: Levied on all commercial properties within the service area. Example: 10 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation for commercial property.
- j) Commercial/Residential Impact Fee: Set at the discretion of local jurisdictions
- k) Property Tax: levied on all personal property taxes. Example 1 cent for every \$100 of value.
- l) Local Sales Tax: levied on all purchases in the region. Example: 1%

As mentioned earlier, the development of a regional entity could have little impact on funding or authority. However, the alternative governance structure creates substantial opportunities for multiple communities to share resources, better coordinate systems, and potentially create additional funding.

Revenue projections were calculated utilizing the examples implemented in Virginia. The Commissioner of Revenue for each county and city within the region was contacted in order to obtain the latest annual revenue data. Below is a chart that shows

existing revenue by jurisdiction. The chart identifies the amount of funding that could be generated to support transportation initiatives:

2011 Regional Transit Organization Analysis		Jurisdiction				
Details Checklist		City of Redford	Floyd County	Gilles County	Montgomery County	Pulaski County
Annual Revenues by Classification (2008 or Newer Data)	Population	15,142	15,418	16,648	94,392	34,167
	Taxable Property Values	\$795,229,090	\$1,685,064,100	\$1,189,906,800	\$7,159,568,600	\$2,835,258,000
	Taxable Retail Sales	\$70,000,000	\$60,000,000	\$125,000,000	\$900,000,000	\$290,000,000
	Real Estate	NR	\$437,159	NR	\$6,996,211	\$1,442,499
	Accommodation	\$3,295,708	\$875,788	\$2,334,232	\$14,912,949	\$5,883,733
	Repair and Maintenance	\$1,972,925	\$2,890,531	\$2,628,373	\$11,503,860	\$2,057,069
	Gasoline Stations	\$2,446,856	\$2,158,817	\$3,564,153	\$24,604,655	\$17,470,127
	Motor Vehicle Parts Dealers	\$3,084,926	\$1,004,365	\$2,717,724	\$21,426,976	\$5,343,057
	Rental and Leasing Services	\$446,041	\$337,118	\$489,326	\$9,856,461	\$2,002,145
	Food Services and Drinking Places	\$18,106,473	\$6,277,195	\$11,488,058	\$134,735,769	\$34,491,474
	Tourism/Visitor Expenditures	\$12,986,104	\$17,921,421	\$21,930,010	\$111,192,107	\$46,694,735
Potential Funding Projection	Grantors Tax (\$.40/100)	NR	\$1,749	NR	\$27,985	\$5,770
	Motor Vehicle Rental Tax (2%)	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
	Transient Occupancy Tax (2%)	\$65,914	\$17,516	\$46,685	\$298,259	\$117,675
	Safety Inspection Fee (\$10)	\$75,710	\$77,090	\$83,240	\$471,960	\$170,835
	Sales Tax on Auto Repairs (5%)	\$154,246	\$50,218	\$135,886	\$1,071,349	\$267,153
	New Vehicle Registration (1%)	\$61,400	\$67,200	\$80,800	\$372,000	\$151,200
	Regional Registration Fee (\$10)	\$103,268	\$105,151	\$113,539	\$643,753	\$233,019
	Motor Fuels Sales Tax (2%)	\$48,937	\$43,176	\$71,283	\$492,093	\$349,403
	Commercial Real Estate Tax (\$.10/\$100)	\$99,891	NR	\$137,570	\$1,234,238	\$418,230
	Commercial/Residential Impact Fee	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
	Property Tax (\$.01/\$100)	\$79,523	\$168,506	\$118,991	\$715,957	\$283,526
	Local Sales Tax (1%)	\$700,000	\$600,000	\$1,250,000	\$9,000,000	\$2,900,000
	Local Meals Tax (1%)	\$129,861	\$179,214	\$219,300	\$1,111,921	\$466,947
NR = Not Recorded or the information was not provided with the original request						

Table 3

Based on the existing State and Federal Transit Programs, each \$10,000 could support 525 hours of service or 10 hours per week/annually in areas within the MPO (assumes \$40 per hour operating rate, 50% federal, 2.85% fare box and excludes

capital). For areas outside of the MPO, each \$10,000 could support 775 hours of service or 15 hours per week (assumes \$40 per hour operating rate, 50% federal, 17% state, 2.85% fare box and excludes capital). The difference in funding is related to the delineation of urban vs. rural funds. The new funding could be used to support existing transportation programs/services or to explore new alternatives.

Major differences in urban vs. rural transit funding lie within capital costs. In the urban areas a 50% federal match is provided for vehicles. Whereas the rural areas receive an 80% federal match along with a 13% state match in funding. For example, a small body on chassis, 20 passenger transit bus, costs \$65,000. Urban areas would be responsible for \$32,500, while the rural areas would only need \$4,550. Depending on new service frequencies, new vehicles and associated equipment may not be needed for every route. A regional entity could own equipment for specific services that could be utilized throughout the participating area.

In addition to purchasing equipment or operating services, the newly generated revenue could also be used to support transportation planning, and investments in other transportation related infrastructure or educational programs. A new regional transportation entity could provide a range of opportunities for the communities in the region.

5.2 Steps for Implementation

The level of authority or precise role of a newly recognized regional entity is unknown; however, study participants conveyed interest in developing a regional resource. Steps for implementing a new regional entity would include:

1. Determining the organizations authority and structure
2. Obtain endorsement from participating partners
3. Obtaining enabling legislation (depending on level of authority)
4. Developing organizational policies such as by-laws
5. Transfer staff and equipment (depending on level of authority)

The initial steps could seem challenging at first; however, there are examples of regional entities in Virginia that could provide implementation guidance. The Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission recently completed a Charlottesville-Albemarle Regional Transit Authority Plan. The plan identified the following issues that needed resolved prior to initiating the Authority in the Charlottesville area:

- Do the stakeholders want to establish details for cost sharing prior to establishing the Authority?
- Would participating stakeholders accept the cost of providing the new services?
- What topics should be addressed in the Memorandum of Understanding:
 - Composition of Board Members:

- i. Elected officials only?
 - ii. Contributing stakeholders only?
 - iii. Ex-officio representation for citizens, state and federal partners?
 - iv. Can Board Members designate alternates?
 - v. What is the term for members?
 - vi. Voting – 1/person, 1/jurisdiction, proportional to population, or proportional to contribution to Authority?
- Procedures:
 - i. Simple majority vote to approve measures?
 - ii. Action items require a vote from each member or stakeholder group?
 - iii. How are ties broken?
 - iv. What is the frequency of meetings?
- Services:
 - i. Where is the new Authority housed/located?
 - ii. Is the new Authority a fully independent entity or are services contracted by participating stakeholders?
- Employment and Staffing Needs:
 - i. Would current staff be transferred to the Authority?
 - ii. Would current staff retain seniority and benefits?
- Cost and Revenue Allocations:
 - i. How are costs for providing services allocated to stakeholders?
 - ii. How are costs of capital equipment and facilities allocated to stakeholders?
 - iii. Can in-kind services fulfill stakeholder funding obligations?
 - iv. How are in-kind services valued?
 - v. How are revenues received from state and federal programs?
 - vi. How are revenues accruing to the Authority allocated?
- How are decisions made that affect planning or implementing new services?
- Provision for expansion or contraction of membership:
 - i. Can other entities join the Authority?

- ii. What is the procedure for a stakeholder to withdraw from the Authority – how are financial obligations treated?
 - Do all issues need to be resolved prior to forming or requesting legislation to authorize the authority?
 - What revenue sources should be requested in authorizing legislation?
 - Currently, funding for transit programs are distributed to a local government, which has the sole authority to decide how funding is utilized.
 - Are local jurisdictions willing to cede this authority?
 - Are stakeholders willing to continue allocating funds to a new authority?

Once legislation has been approved to create the new Authority, participating stakeholders will need to appoint members to the governing board. The first action should be to create bylaws that address revenues obtained by the authority, procedures for services provided, responsibilities of participating stakeholders, authority activities, and personnel policies. Working committees can be established and assisted by a professional facilitator to resolve issues.

After the bylaws have reached an agreement, each participating stakeholder will need to take formal action to join the Authority. Once membership has been authorized the Authority can be formally implemented.

5.3 Conclusion

Based on the feedback provided by the Stakeholder Committee and individual interviews, a Regional Transit Coordinating Council should be established. Most stakeholders believe that current arrangements meet local needs; however, as public transportation continues to expand a more robust entity will be needed.

A Regional Transit Coordinating Council is recommended as the first step towards creating more dialog across the region. Generally, the new Council would meet on a regular basis to discuss public transportation in the region and serve as a coordinating entity to support local governments, partnering stakeholders, and service providers.

The new Council would be very simple to implement and offers the flexibility needed to include all of the region's existing public transportation partners. The Council would provide a stronger multi-jurisdictional/multi-system perspective than at present. A disadvantage to this approach is that no new revenue sources would be created and that it would strictly be to advise rather than determine policy.

If the recommendation is favorable amongst regional transit partners, the Council may be created through an agreement between interested stakeholders. Below is a list of potential representation for the new Council (additional membership could be added as needed):

- 1 representative from Radford University
- 1 representative from Virginia Tech

- 1 representative from New River Community College
- 1 representative from the Floyd Area
- 1 representative from the Giles Area
- 1 representative from the Montgomery Area
- 1 representative from the Pulaski Area
- 1 representative from the Radford Area
- 1 representative from the Blacksburg Area
- 1 representative from the Christiansburg Area
- 1 representative from the Blacksburg-Christiansburg-Montgomery MPO
- 1 representative from the NRVPC
- 1 representative from VADRPT
- 1 representative from VDOT
- 1 representative from Blacksburg Transit
- 1 representative from Community Transit
- 1 representative from Pulaski Area Transit
- 1 representative from Valley Metro
- 1 representative from a private transportation related business

The Council could initially be staffed by the New River Valley Planning District Commission, in cooperation with the MPO, utilizing existing programs and resources. Additional funding assistance would be sought through the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation's Technical Assistance Program. Through leadership provided by DRPT, the committee would collaborate to recommend improvements to existing resources, interconnectivity of multiple systems and programs, identify supporting facilities, and create a regional transit plan.

REFERENCES

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- Nelson/Nygaard Consulting Associates, under subcontract to Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc, (August 2008). *Charlottesville-Albemarle Regional Transit Authority Plan*. 10 High Street, Suite 903, Boston, MA 02110. Retrieved from the Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission website: <http://www.tjpd.org/transportation/rta.asp>
- US Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, Office of Highway Policy Information, Highway Statistics. *Our Nation's Highways: 2010, Figure 4-2. Licensed Drivers per 1,000 Residents by State: 2008*. 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE, Washington, DC 20590.
- US Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, Office of Highway Policy Information, Highway Statistics. *Our Nation's Highways: 2010, Figure 3-2. Vehicles Per Capita by State: 2008*. 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE, Washington, DC 20590.

Devolution of Secondary Roads in Virginia

Comments below from VACO report of March 12, 2011 and NRV Transportation Advisory Committee July 12, 2011.

Position of Localities:

- Most feel that the roadway system is in moderate to good condition
- Most feel the priority for funding should be maintenance
- In general, communities are interested in a greater role or willing to learn about options/partnerships if additional resources are provided.
- Substantial revenue (primary resource) would be needed for localities to support the local transportation system. Including the ability to acquire new revenues.
- New River Valley communities do not have the ability to provide transportation services with the current organizational structure/staff.

Regional Concerns:

- The existing arrangement works well; however, there is a need for additional resources at the State level. Before imposing the burden on someone else, that has even fewer resources, what are the needs at the State level?
- Removing the Secondary network from the State maintained system would not eliminate VDOT's need for existing equipment and facilities – they would need all existing assets to maintain the primary system.
- What would be the most effective use of taxpayer dollars: (1) providing additional resources to the existing State structure; or (2) building each jurisdiction's abilities to maintain the transportation system from the ground up?
- If additional revenue is provided to local governments, how would it be distributed? Rural areas tend to have smaller populations and may not receive sufficient funding to maintain existing assets (based on a population distribution formula).
- There needs to be a formalized plan for maintaining Virginia's existing infrastructure. If secondary roadways are imposed on localities now; how will the same effect on primary roads be prevented in 30 - 50 years? Certain amounts of funding can only maintain a certain amount of infrastructure.
- If the State has reached the maximum threshold for the amount of infrastructure it can maintain; the public needs to know that the system cannot be expanded without additional resources.

NEW RIVER VALLEY PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION

FINANCIAL REPORT

FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2011

**NEW RIVER VALLEY PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION
FINANCIAL REPORT
FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2011**

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Financial Section

ROBINSON, FARMER, COX ASSOCIATES

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

A PROFESSIONAL LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Independent Auditors' Report

To the Members of the Board
New River Valley Planning District Commission
Radford, Virginia

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities and each major fund of the New River Valley Planning District Commission, as of and for the year ended June 30, 2011, which collectively comprise the Commission's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents. These financial statements are the responsibility of the New River Valley Planning District Commission's management. Our responsibility is to express opinions on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America; the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States; and the *Specifications for Audits of Authorities, Boards and Commissions*, issued by the Auditor of Public Accounts of the Commonwealth of Virginia. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and the significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinions.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities and each major fund of the New River Valley Planning District Commission, as of June 30, 2011, and the changes in financial position, thereof for the year then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

As described in Note 1 to the financial statements, the New River Valley Planning District Commission adopted the provisions of GASB Statement No. 54, *Fund Balance Reporting and Governmental Fund Type Definitions*, effective July 1, 2010.

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated November 30, 2011, on our consideration of the New River Valley Planning District Commission's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* and should be considered in assessing the results of our audit.

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the budgetary comparison information and schedules of pension and OPEB funding progress be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited

procedures to the schedules of funding progress in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the schedules of funding progress because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance. The budgetary comparison information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and, in our opinion, is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole.

Management has omitted the management's discussion and analysis that accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require to be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such missing information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. Our opinion on the basic financial statements is not affected by the missing information.

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise the New River Valley Planning District Commission's financial statements as a whole. The accompanying schedule of expenditures of federal awards is presented for purposes of additional analysis as required by U.S. Office of Management and Budget Circular A-133, *Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations*, and is not a required part of the financial statements. The schedule of expenditures of federal awards is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relate directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the information is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the financial statements as a whole.

Robinson, Turner, Co. Associates

Christiansburg, Virginia
November 30, 2011

Basic Financial Statements

NEW RIVER VALLEY PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION
Statement of Net Assets
June 30, 2011

		Primary Government Governmental Activities
ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$	347,220
Accounts receivable		199,396
Due from governmental units		459,397
Capital assets (net of accumulated depreciation):		
Vehicles and equipment		2,169
Total assets	\$	1,008,182
LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable	\$	474,798
Accrued unemployment liability		18,585
Noncurrent liabilities:		
Due within one year		28,084
Due in more than one year		82,051
Total liabilities	\$	603,518
NET ASSETS		
Invested in capital assets, net of related debt	\$	2,169
Unrestricted		402,495
Total net assets	\$	404,664

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

NEW RIVER VALLEY PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION
Statement of Activities
For the Year Ended June 30, 2011

	Program Revenues			Net (Expense) Revenue and Changes in Net Assets
	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Charges for Services</u>	<u>Operating Grants and Contributions</u>	
<u>Functions/Programs</u>				<u>Governmental Activities</u>
Primary Government:				
Governmental activities:				
Health and welfare	\$ 2,909,565	\$ -	\$ 2,909,565	\$ -
Community development	1,365,186	830,571	299,310	(235,305)
Total governmental activities	<u>\$ 4,274,751</u>	<u>\$ 830,571</u>	<u>\$ 3,208,875</u>	<u>\$ (235,305)</u>
Total Planning District Commission	<u>\$ 4,274,751</u>	<u>\$ 830,571</u>	<u>\$ 3,208,875</u>	<u>\$ (235,305)</u>
General revenues:				
Contributions from jurisdictions			\$	203,131
Unrestricted revenues from use of money and property				62
Miscellaneous				20,198
Gain on sale of capital assets				222
Total general revenues			\$	<u>223,613</u>
Change in net assets				<u>(11,692)</u>
Net assets - beginning				<u>416,356</u>
Net assets - ending			\$	<u><u>404,664</u></u>

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

NEW RIVER VALLEY PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION
Balance Sheet
Governmental Funds
At June 30, 2011

ASSETS	<u>General</u>	<u>WIA Fund</u>	<u>ARC Fund</u>	<u>Total</u>
Current assets:				
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 347,219	\$ 1	\$ -	\$ 347,220
Accounts receivable	199,396	-	-	199,396
Due from governmental units	<u>-</u>	<u>459,397</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>459,397</u>
 Total assets	 <u>\$ 546,615</u>	 <u>\$ 459,398</u>	 <u>\$ -</u>	 <u>\$ 1,006,013</u>
 LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE				
Current liabilities:				
Accounts payable	\$ 15,401	\$ 459,397	\$ -	\$ 474,798
Accrued unemployment liability	<u>18,585</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>18,585</u>
 Total liabilities	 <u>\$ 33,986</u>	 <u>\$ 459,397</u>	 <u>\$ -</u>	 <u>\$ 493,383</u>
 Fund balance:				
Committed	\$ -	\$ 1	\$ -	\$ 1
Unassigned	<u>512,629</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>512,629</u>
 Total fund balance	 <u>\$ 512,629</u>	 <u>\$ 1</u>	 <u>\$ -</u>	 <u>\$ 512,630</u>
 Total liabilities and fund balance	 <u>\$ 546,615</u>	 <u>\$ 459,398</u>	 <u>\$ -</u>	 <u>\$ 1,006,013</u>

The accompanying notes to financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

NEW RIVER VALLEY PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION
Reconciliation of the Balance Sheet of Governmental Funds
To the Statement of Net Assets
June 30, 2011

Amounts reported for governmental activities in the statement of net assets are different because:

Total fund balances per Exhibit 3 - Balance Sheet	\$ 512,630
Capital assets used in governmental activities are not financial resources and, therefore, are not reported in the funds.	2,169
Long-term liabilities are not due and payable in the current period and therefore are not reported in the funds.	<u>(110,135)</u>
Net assets of governmental activities	<u>\$ 404,664</u>

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

NEW RIVER VALLEY PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance
Governmental Funds
Year Ended June 30, 2011

Revenues:	General	WIA Fund	ARC Fund	Total
Revenue from use of money and property	\$ 62	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 62
Charges for services	830,571	-	-	830,571
Sale of surplus equipment	222	-	-	222
Contributions from localities	203,131	-	-	203,131
Miscellaneous	20,198	-	-	20,198
Intergovernmental	216,613	2,909,565	82,697	3,208,875
Total revenues	\$ 1,270,797	\$ 2,909,565	\$ 82,697	\$ 4,263,059
Expenditures:				
Public Safety:				
Personnel	\$ 651,233	\$ -	\$ 92,997	\$ 744,230
Fringe benefits	245,395	-	30,590	275,985
Office rent	53,582	-	-	53,582
Telephone	10,098	-	313	10,411
Office supplies	25,559	-	282	25,841
Postage	3,325	-	1,957	5,282
Printing	4,229	-	1,901	6,130
Advertising	4,615	-	99	4,714
Travel	38,518	-	3,237	41,755
Equipment maintenance and rent	13,648	-	-	13,648
Dues and publications	6,928	-	750	7,678
Training	1,225	-	-	1,225
Meeting expense	4,958	-	-	4,958
Insurance	4,875	-	-	4,875
Capital outlay	3,013	-	-	3,013
Contractual services	63,023	-	2,213	65,236
Audit fee	7,475	-	-	7,475
Miscellaneous	53,900	-	21	53,921
Administrative grant costs	-	196,424	-	196,424
Program grant costs	-	2,713,141	-	2,713,141
Total expenditures	\$ 1,195,599	\$ 2,909,565	\$ 134,360	\$ 4,239,524
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenditures	\$ 75,198	\$ -	\$ (51,663)	\$ 23,535
Other financing sources (uses)				
Transfers to(from) other funds	\$ (51,663)	\$ -	\$ 51,663	\$ -
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenditures	\$ 23,535	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 23,535
Fund balance, beginning of year	489,094	1	-	489,095
Fund balance, end of year	\$ 512,629	\$ 1	\$ -	\$ 512,630

The accompanying notes to financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

NEW RIVER VALLEY PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION
Reconciliation of Statement of Revenues,
Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances of Governmental Funds
To the Statement of Activities
For the Year Ended June 30, 2011

Amounts reported for governmental activities in the statement of activities are different because:

Net change in fund balances - total governmental funds	\$ 23,535
Governmental funds report capital outlays as expenditures. However, in the statement of activities the cost of those assets is allocated over their estimated useful lives and reported as depreciation expense. This is the amount by which the depreciation exceeded capital asset purchases in the current period.	(2,892)
Some expenses reported in the statement of activities do not require the use of current financial resources and, therefore are not reported as expenditures in governmental funds.	<u>(32,335)</u>
Change in net assets of governmental activities	<u>\$ (11,692)</u>

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

NEW RIVER VALLEY PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
JUNE 30, 2011

Note 1-Summary of Significant Accounting Policies:

The financial statements of the New River Valley Planning District Commission (the Commission) conform to generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) applicable to governmental units promulgated by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB). The following is a summary of the more significant policies:

A. Reporting Entity

The New River Valley Planning District Commission was formed pursuant Title 15.2, Chapter 42 of the *Code of Virginia, (1950) as amended*, to encourage and facilitate local government cooperation and state-local cooperation in addressing on a regional basis problems of greater than local significance. Functional areas in which the Commission may assist participating jurisdictions include, but are not limited to: (i) economic and physical infrastructure development; (ii) solid waste, water supply and other environmental management; (iii) transportation; (iv) criminal justice; (v) emergency management; (vi) human services; and (vii) recreation. The Commission was formed to serve the towns of Blacksburg, Christiansburg, Floyd, Narrows, Pearisburg, Pulaski and Rich Creek; the counties of Floyd, Giles, Montgomery and Pulaski; and the City of Radford.

The New River Valley Planning District Commission's financial statements include the accounts of all the Commission's operations. The criteria for including organizations as component units within the Commission's reporting entity, as set forth in Section 2100 of GASB's Codification of Governmental Accounting and Financial Reporting Standards, include whether:

- the organization is legally separate (can sue and be sued in their own name)
- the Commission holds the corporate powers of the organization
- the Commission appoints a voting majority of the organization's board
- the Commission is able to impose its will on the organization
- the organization has the potential to impose a financial benefit/burden on the Commission
- there is fiscal dependency by the organization on the Commission

Based on the aforementioned criteria, the Commission has no component units.

B. Government-wide and fund financial statements

The government-wide financial statements (i.e., the statement of net assets and the statement of activities) report information on all of the nonfiduciary activities of the Commission (primary government). For the most part, the effect of interfund activity has been removed from these statements. Exceptions to this general rule are other charges between the Commission's functions. Elimination of these charges would distort the direct costs and program revenues reported for the various functions concerned.

Note 1-Summary of Significant Accounting Policies: (continued)

B. Government-wide and fund financial statements (continued)

The statement of activities demonstrates the degree to which the direct expenses of a given function or segment are offset by program revenues. *Direct expenses* are those that are clearly identifiable with a specific function or segment. *Program revenues* include 1) charges to customers or applicants who purchase, use, or directly benefit from goods, services, or privileges provided by a given function or segment and 2) grants and contributions that are restricted to meeting the operational or capital requirements of a particular function or segment. Other items not properly included among program revenues are reported instead as *general revenues*.

Major individual governmental funds are reported as separate columns in the fund financial statements.

C. Measurement focus, basis of accounting, and financial statement presentation

The government-wide financial statements are reported using the *economic resources measurement focus* and the *accrual basis of accounting*. Revenues are recorded when earned and expenses are recorded when a liability is incurred, regardless of the timing of related cash flows. Grants and similar items are recognized as revenue as soon as all eligibility requirements imposed by the provider have been met.

Governmental fund financial statements are reported using the *current financial resources measurement focus* and the *modified accrual basis of accounting*. Revenues are recognized as soon as they are both measurable and available. Revenues are considered to be *available* when they are collectible within the current period or soon enough thereafter to pay liabilities of the current period. For this purpose, the government considers revenues to be available if they are collected within 60 days of the end of the current fiscal period. Expenditures generally are recorded when a liability is incurred, as under accrual accounting. However, debt service expenditures, as well as expenditures related to compensated absences and claims and judgments, are recorded only when payment is due.

Intergovernmental revenues, consisting primarily of federal, state and other grants for the purpose of funding specific expenditures, are recognized when earned or at the time of the specific expenditure. Revenues from general-purpose grants are recognized in the period to which the grant applies. All other revenue items are considered to be measurable and available only when the government receives cash.

Private-sector standards of accounting and financial reporting issued prior to December 1, 1989, generally are followed in the government-wide financial statements to the extent that those standards do not conflict with or contradict guidance of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board.

When both restricted and unrestricted resources are available for use, it is the government's policy to use restricted resources first, and then unrestricted resources as they are needed.

Note 1-Summary of Significant Accounting Policies: (continued)

C. Measurement focus, basis of accounting, and financial statement presentation (continued)

The Commission reports the following major governmental funds:

The General Fund is the Commission's primary operating fund. It accounts for and reports all financial resources of the Commission, except those required to be accounted for in other funds.

The ARC Fund accounts for the deposit and expenditure of ARC grant funds.

The Workforce Investment Act Fund accounts for the deposit and expenditure of grant proceeds under the Workforce Investment Act programs.

D. Assets, liabilities, and net assets or equity

1. *Deposits and investments*

The Commission's cash and cash equivalents are considered to be cash on hand, demand deposits, and short-term investments with original maturities of three months or less from the date of acquisition.

2. *Receivables and payables*

Activity between funds that are representative of lending/borrowing arrangements outstanding at the end of the fiscal year are referred to as either "due to/from other funds" (i.e., the current portion of interfund loans) or "advances to/from other funds" (i.e., the non-current portion of interfund loans). All other outstanding balances between funds are reported as "due to/from other funds."

Advances between funds, as reported in the fund financial statements, are offset by a fund balance reserve account in applicable governmental funds to indicate that they are not available for appropriation and are not expendable available financial resources.

3. *Allowance for Uncollectible Accounts*

Accounts receivable are stated at book value utilizing the direct write-off method for uncollectible accounts. Uncollected balances have not been significant and no allowance for uncollectible accounts has been recorded. For the year ended June 30, 2011, write-offs totaled \$7,965.

4. *Use of Estimates*

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect certain reported amounts and disclosures. Accordingly, actual results could differ from those estimates.

Note 1-Summary of Significant Accounting Policies: (continued)

D. Assets, liabilities, and net assets or equity (continued)

5. *Capital assets*

Capital assets, which include property, plant, and equipment, are reported in the governmental activities column in the government-wide financial statements. Capital assets are defined by the Commission as assets with an initial, individual cost of more than \$5000 (amount not rounded) and an estimated useful life in excess of one year. Such assets are recorded at historical cost or estimated historical cost if purchased or constructed. Donated capital assets are recorded at estimated fair market value at the date of donation.

The costs of normal maintenance and repairs that do not add to the value of the asset or materially extend the asset's life are not capitalized. Major outlays for capital assets and improvements are capitalized as projects are constructed. Property, plant, and equipment of the Commission are depreciated using the straight line method over the following estimated useful lives:

<u>Assets</u>	<u>Years</u>
Computer and related equipment	3-5
Furniture and fixtures	10
Vehicles	5

6. *Compensated Absences*

Vested or accumulated vacation leave that is expected to be liquidated with expendable available financial resources is reported as an expenditure and a fund liability of the governmental fund that will pay it. In accordance with the provisions of Government Accounting Standards No. 16, *Accounting for Compensated Absences*, no liability is recorded for non-vesting accumulating rights to receive sick pay benefits. The Commission accrues salary-related payments associated with the payment of compensated absences. All vacation pay is accrued when incurred in the government-wide financial statements.

7. *Long-term obligations*

In the government-wide financial statements, long-term debt and other long-term obligations are reported as liabilities in the statement of net assets. In the fund financial statements, the face amount of debt issued is reported as other financing sources in the statement of revenues, expenditures and changes in fund balance and is not presented as a liability in the balance sheet.

Note 1-Summary of Significant Accounting Policies: (continued)

D. Assets, liabilities, and net assets or equity (continued)

8. *Fund equity*

Beginning with fiscal year 2011, the New River Valley Planning District Commission implemented GASB Statement 54, *Fund Balance Reporting and Governmental Fund Type Definitions*. The Statement provides more clearly defined fund balance categories to make the nature and extent of the constraints placed on a government's fund balance more transparent. The following classifications describe the relative strength of the spending constraints placed on the purposes for which resources can be used:

- Nonspendable fund balance – amounts that are not in spendable form (such as inventory and prepaids) or are required to be maintained intact (corpus of a permanent fund);
- Restricted fund balance – amounts constrained to specific purposes by their providers (such as grantors, bondholders, and higher levels of government), through constitutional provisions, or by enabling legislation;
- Committed fund balance – amounts constrained to specific purposes by a government itself, using its highest level of decision-making authority; to be reported as committed, amounts cannot be used for any other purpose unless the government takes the same highest level action to remove or change the constraint;
- Assigned fund balance – amounts a government intends to use for a specific purpose; intent can be expressed by the governing body or by an official or body to which the governing body delegates the authority;
- Unassigned fund balance – amounts that are available for any purpose; positive amounts are only reported in the general fund.

When fund balance resources are available for a specific purpose in more than one classification, it is the New River Valley Planning District Commission's policy to use the most restrictive funds first in the following order: restricted, committed, assigned, and unassigned as they are needed.

New River Valley Planning District Commission establishes (and modifies or rescinds) fund balance commitments by passage of a resolution. This is typically done through adoption and amendment of the budget. A fund balance commitment is further indicated in the budget document as a designation or commitment of the fund (such as for special incentives). Assigned fund balance is established by the Board of Directors through adoption or amendment of the budget as intended for specific purpose (such as the purchase of capital assets, construction, debt service, or for other purposes).

9. *Net Assets*

Net assets are the difference between assets and liabilities. Net assets invested in capital assets represent capital assets, less accumulated depreciation, less any outstanding debt related to the acquisition, construction or improvement of those assets.

Note 2-Reconciliation of Government-Wide and Fund Financial Statements:

- A. Explanation of certain differences between the governmental fund balance sheet and the government-wide statement of net assets.

Exhibit 4 provides a reconciliation between *fund balance-total governmental funds* and *net assets-governmental activities* as reported in the government-wide statement of net assets. One element of that reconciliation explains that long-term liabilities are not due and payable in the current period and therefore are not reported in the funds. The details of this \$(110,135) difference for the primary government are as follows:

	Primary Government
Compensated absences	\$ (37,445)
Other post employment benefits	<u>(72,690)</u>
Net adjustment to reduce <i>fund balance-total governmental funds</i> to arrive at <i>net assets-governmental activities</i>	<u>\$ (110,135)</u>

- B. Explanation of certain differences between the governmental fund statement of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balances and the government-wide statement of activities.

Exhibit 6 provides a reconciliation between *net changes in fund balances-total governmental funds* and *changes in net assets of governmental activities* as reported in the government-wide statement of activities. One element of that reconciliation explains, "Governmental funds report capital outlays as expenditures. However, in the statement of activities the cost of those assets is allocated over their estimated useful lives and reported as depreciation expense." The details of this \$(2,892) are as follows:

	Primary Government
Depreciation expense	\$ <u>(2,892)</u>
Net adjustment to increase (decrease) <i>net changes in fund balances - total governmental funds</i> to arrive at <i>changes in net assets of governmental activities</i>	<u>\$ (2,892)</u>

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Note 2-Reconciliation of Government-Wide and Fund Financial Statements: (Continued)

B. Explanation of certain differences between the governmental fund statement of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balances and the government-wide statement of activities (continued)

Another element of that reconciliation states, "Some expenses reported in the statement of activities do not require the use of current financial resources and therefore are not reported as expenditures in governmental funds." The details of this \$(32,335) difference for the primary government are as follows:

		<u>Government</u>
Decrease in compensated absences	\$	4,014
Increase in Other Post Employment Benefits		<u>(36,349)</u>
Net adjustment to increase (decrease) <i>net changes in fund balances-total governmental funds</i> to arrive at <i>changes in net assets of governmental activities</i>	\$	<u>(32,335)</u>

Note 3-Deposits and Investments:

Deposits: Deposits with banks are covered by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) and collateralized in accordance with the Virginia Security for Public Deposits Act (the "Act"), Section 2.2-4400 et. seq. of the Code of Virginia . Under the Act, banks and savings institutions holding public deposits in excess of the amount insured by the FDIC must pledge collateral to the Commonwealth of Virginia Treasury Board. Financial Institutions may choose between two collateralization methodologies and depending upon that choice, will pledge collateral that ranges in the amounts from 50% to 130% of excess deposits. Accordingly, all deposits are considered fully collateralized.

Investments: Statutes authorize local governments and other public bodies to invest in obligations of the United States or agencies thereof, obligations of the Commonwealth of Virginia or political subdivisions thereof, obligations of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (World Bank), the Asian Development Bank, the African Development Bank, "prime quality" commercial paper and certain corporate notes, banker's acceptances, repurchase agreements, and the State Treasurer's Local Government Investment Pool (LGIP). As of June 30, 2011 and for the year then ended the Commission did not have any investments

Note 4-Due from Other Governmental Units:

The following amount represents payments due from other governmental units at year end:

<u>U.S Department of Labor</u>	<u>Amount Due</u>
Pass through the Commonwealth of Virginia:	
Virginia Community College System	
Workforce Investment Act	\$ <u>459,397</u>

New River Valley Planning District Commission
Notes to the Financial Statements
June 30, 2011

Note 5-Long-Term Obligations:

The following is a summary of long-term obligation transactions of the Commission for the year ended June 30, 2011.

	Balance July 1, 2010	Issuances	Retirements	Balance June 30, 2011	Amount Due Within One Year
Other Post Employment Benefits	\$ 36,341	\$ 51,170	\$ (14,821)	\$ 72,690	\$ -
Compensated Absences	41,459	27,080	(31,094)	37,445	28,084
Total	\$ 77,800	\$ 78,250	\$ (45,915)	\$ 110,135	28,084

Note 6-Employee Retirement System and Pension Plans:

A. Plan Description

Name of Plan: Virginia Retirement System (VRS)
Identification of Plan: Agent Defined Benefit Pension Plan
Administering Entity: Virginia Retirement System (System)

All full-time, salaried permanent (professional) employees of participating employers are automatically covered by VRS upon employment. Benefits vest after five years of service credit. Members earn one month of service credit for each month they are employed and their employer is paying into the VRS. Members are eligible to purchase prior public service, active duty military service, certain periods of leave and previously refunded VRS service as credit in their plan.

VRS administers two defined benefit plans for local government employees – Plan 1 and Plan 2:

- Members hired before July 1, 2010 and who have service credits before July 1, 2010 are covered under Plan 1. Non-hazardous duty members are eligible for an unreduced retirement benefit beginning at age 65 with at least five years of service credit or age 50 with at least 30 years of service credit. They may retire with a reduced benefit early at age 55 with at least 10 years of service credit or age 50 with at least five years of service credit.
- Members hired or rehired on or after July 1, 2010 and who have no service credits before July 1, 2010 are covered under Plan 2. Non-hazardous duty members are eligible for an unreduced benefit beginning at their normal Social Security retirement age with at least five years of service credit or when the sum of their age and service equals 90. They may retire with a reduced benefit as early as age 60 with at least five years of service credit.
- Eligible hazardous duty members in Plan 1 and Plan 2 are eligible for an unreduced benefit beginning at age 60 with at least 5 years of service credit or age 50 with at least 25 years of service credit. These members include sheriffs, deputy sheriffs and hazardous duty employees of political subdivisions that have elected to provide enhanced coverage for hazardous duty service. They may retire with a reduced benefit as early as age 50 with at least five years of service credit. All other provisions of the member's plan apply.

Note 6-Employee Retirement System and Pension Plans: (Continued)

A. Plan Description (continued)

The VRS Basic Benefit is a lifetime monthly benefit based on a retirement multiplier as a percentage of the member's average final compensation multiplied by the member's total service credit. Under Plan 1, average final compensation is the average of the member's 36 consecutive months of highest compensation. Under Plan 2, average final compensation is the average of the member's 60 consecutive months of highest compensation. The retirement multiplier for non-hazardous duty members is 1.70 %. The retirement multiplier for sheriffs and regional jail superintendents is 1.85%. The retirement multiplier for eligible political subdivision hazardous duty employees other than sheriffs and jail superintendents is 1.70% or 1.85% as elected by the employer. At retirement, members can elect the Basic Benefit, the Survivor Option, a Partial Lump-Sum Option Payment (PLOP) or the Advance Pension Option. A retirement reduction factor is applied to the Basic Benefit amount for members electing the Survivor Option, PLOP or Advance Pension Option or those retiring with a reduced benefit.

Retirees are eligible for an annual cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) effective July 1 of the second calendar year of retirement. Under Plan 1, the COLA cannot exceed 5.00%; under Plan 2, the COLA cannot exceed 6.00%. During years of no inflation or deflation, the COLA is 0.00%. The VRS also provides death and disability benefits. Title 51.1 of the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended, assigns the authority to establish and amend benefit provisions to the General Assembly of Virginia.

The system issues a publicly available comprehensive annual financial report that includes financial statements and required supplementary information for VRS. A copy of the report may be obtained from the VRS Web site at <http://www.varetire.org/Pdf/Publications/2010-annual-report.pdf> or by writing to the System's Chief Financial Officer at P.O. Box 2500, Richmond, VA, 23218-2500.

B. Funding Policy

Plan members are required by Title 51.1 of the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended, to contribute 5.00% of their compensation toward their retirement. All or part of the 5.00% member contribution may be assumed by the employer. In addition, the New River Valley Planning District Commission is required to contribute the remaining amounts necessary to fund its participation in the VRS using the actuarial basis specified by the Code of Virginia and approved by the VRS Board of Trustees. The New River Valley Planning District Commission's contribution rate for the fiscal year ended 2011 was 0.99% of annual covered payroll.

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Note 6-Employee Retirement System and Pension Plans: (Continued)

C. Annual Pension Cost

For fiscal year 2011, New River Valley Planning District Commission's annual pension cost of \$6,261 was equal to the New River Valley Planning District Commission's required and actual contributions.

Three - Year Trend Information			
Fiscal Year Ending	Annual Pension Cost (APC)	Percentage of APC Contributed	Net Pension Obligation
6/30/2011	\$ 6,261	100.00%	\$ -
6/30/2010	\$ 22,330	100.00%	-
6/30/2009	24,132	100.00%	-

The FY 2011 required contribution was determined as part of the June 30, 2009 actuarial valuation using the entry age actuarial cost method. The actuarial assumptions at June 30, 2009 included (a) an investment rate of return (net of administrative expenses) of 7.50%, (b) projected salary increases ranging from 3.75% to 5.60% per year for general government employees and 3.50% to 4.75% for employees eligible for enhanced benefits available to law enforcement officers, firefighters, and sheriffs, and (c) a cost-of-living adjustment of 2.50% per year. Both the investment rate of return and the projected salary increases include an inflation component of 2.50%. The actuarial value of the New River Valley Planning District Commission's assets is equal to the modified market value of assets. This method uses techniques that smooth the effects of short-term volatility in the market value of assets over a five-year period. The New River Valley Planning District Commission's unfunded actuarial accrued liability is being amortized as a level percentage of projected payroll on an open basis. The remaining amortization period at June 30, 2009 for the Unfunded Actuarial Accrued Liability (UAAL) was 20 years.

D. Funded Status and Funding Progress

As of June 30, 2010, the most recent actuarial valuation date, the plan was 98.78% funded. The actuarial accrued liability for benefits was \$1,563,460, and the actuarial value of assets was \$1,544,406, resulting in an unfunded actuarial accrued liability (UAAL) of \$19,054. The covered payroll (annual payroll of active employees covered by the plan) was \$592,597, and ratio of the UAAL to the covered payroll was 3.22%.

The schedule of funding progress, presented as Required Supplementary Information following the notes to the financial statements, presents multiyear trend information about whether the actuarial value of plan assets is increasing or decreasing over time relative to the actuarial accrued liability (AAL) for benefits.

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New River Valley Planning District Commission
Notes to the Financial Statements
June 30, 2011

Note 7-Capital Assets:

Capital asset activity for the year ended June 30, 2011 was as follows:

	Beginning Balance	Increases	Decreases	Ending Balance
Capital assets, being depreciated:				
Automobiles	\$ 96,041	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 96,041
Furniture, fixtures and equipment	37,611	-	-	37,611
Total capital assets being depreciated	<u>\$ 133,652</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 133,652</u>
Less: accumulated depreciation for:				
Automobiles	\$ (90,981)	\$ (2,892)	\$ -	\$ (93,873)
Furniture, fixtures and equipment	(37,610)	-	-	(37,610)
Total accumulated depreciation	<u>\$ (128,591)</u>	<u>\$ (2,892)</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ (131,483)</u>
Total capital assets, net	<u>\$ 5,061</u>	<u>\$ (2,892)</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 2,169</u>

All depreciation expense was charged to the Community Development function in the Statement of Activities.

Note 8-Risk Management:

The Commission is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts; theft of, damage to, and destruction of assets; errors and omissions; injuries to employees; and natural disasters. The Commission participates with other government entities in a public entity risk pool for their coverage of public officials and liability insurance with the Virginia Municipal Liability Pool. Each member of this risk pool jointly and severally agrees to assume, pay and discharge any liability. The Commission pays the Virginia Municipal Group contributions and assessments based upon classification and rates into a designated cash reserve fund out of which expenses of the pool, claims and awards are to be paid. In the event of a loss, deficit, or depletion of all available excess insurance, the pool may assess all members in the proportion in which the premium of each bears to the total premiums of all members in the year in which such deficit occurs.

Note 9-Compensated Absences:

Commission employees earn vacation leave each month at a scheduled rate in accordance with years of service. Accumulated unpaid vacation is accrued when incurred. Commission employees also earn credit for vacation pay if they work on holidays recognized by the Commission. Accumulated holiday pay is accrued when incurred. At June 30, 2011 the liability for accrued vacation and holiday pay totaled \$37,445.

Note 10-Other Post Employment Benefits Program (OPEB):

The Commission recognizes the cost of retiree health benefits during the period of active employment, while the benefits are being earned, and discloses the unfunded actuarial accrued liability (UAAL) in order to accurately account for the total future cost of post-employment benefits and the financial impact on the Commission. As the Commission has less than 100 employees and is not required to have an actuarial valuation performed, the alternative measurement method was utilized to determine the amounts that follow.

Note 10-Other Postemployment Benefits Program (OPEB): (Continued)

A. Plan Description

The Commission allows retirees to participate in health insurance programs offered by the Commission. To participate, a retiree must have reached age 55 and completed at least 5 years of full-time service with the Commission. Retirees are required to contribute 100% of their health insurance premiums to the Commission. The retirees' health insurance rates are not age adjusted; rather the retirees pay the same premium as active employees.

B. Funding Policy

The contribution requirements of the plan members and the Commission are established and may be amended by the Commission. The Commission currently pays for post-retirement health care benefits on a pay-as-you-go basis. The Commission has one retired employee who is eligible for the program. Retirees are responsible for the payment of 100% of the health care insurance rates shown below:

Participants	Monthly Premium
Employee	\$ 520.00
Employee / Spouse	962.00
Family	1,404.00

C. Annual OPEB Cost and Net OPEB Obligation

The Commission is required to compute the annual required contribution of the employer (ARC), an amount actuarially determined in accordance with the parameters of GASB Statement 45. The ARC represents a level of funding that, if paid on an ongoing basis, is projected to cover normal costs each year and amortize any unfunded actuarial liabilities (or funding excess) over a period not to exceed thirty years. The following table shows the components of the Commission's annual OPEB costs for the year, the amount actually contributed to the plan, and the changes in the net OPEB obligations:

Annual required contribution	\$ 51,170
Contributions made	(14,821)
Increase in net OPEB obligation	36,349
Net OPEB obligation - beginning of year	36,341
Net OPEB obligation - ending of year	\$ 72,690

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Note 10-Other Postemployment Benefits Program (OPEB): (Continued)

C. Annual OPEB Cost and Net OPEB Obligation (continued)

The Commission's annual OPEB cost, the percentage of annual OPEB cost contributed to the plan, and the net OPEB obligation were as follows:

Fiscal Year Ended*	Annual OPEB Cost	Percentage of Annual OPEB Cost Contributed	Net OPEB Obligation
6/30/2009	\$ 51,169	22.65%	\$ 75,920
6/30/2010	51,103	28.89%	36,341

D. Funded Status and Funding Progress

The funded status of the Plan as of June 30, 2010, the most recent valuation date was as follows:

Actuarial accrued liability (AAL)	\$ 252,877
Actuarial value of plan assets	-
Unfunded actuarial accrued liability (UAAL)	<u>\$ 252,877</u>
Funded ratio (actuarial value of plan assets/AAL)	0.00%
Covered payroll (active plan members)	\$ 706,240
UAAL as a percentage of covered payroll	35.81%

Actuarial valuations of an ongoing plan involve estimates of the value of reported amounts and assumptions about the probability of occurrence of events far in the future. Examples include assumptions about future employment, mortality, and inflation. Amounts determined regarding the funded status of the plan and the annual required contributions of the employer are subject to continual revision as actual results are compared with past expectations and new estimates are made about the future. The schedule of funding progress, presented as required supplementary information following the notes to the financial statements, will present multiyear trend information, as it becomes available, about whether the actuarial value of plan assets is increasing or decreasing over time relative to the actuarial accrued liabilities for benefits.

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Note 10-Other Postemployment Benefits Program (OPEB): (Continued)

E. Actuarial Methods and Assumptions

Projections of benefits for financial reporting purposes are based on the substantive plan and include the types of benefits provided at the time of each valuation and the historical pattern of sharing of benefit costs between the employer and plan members to that point. The actuarial methods and assumptions used include techniques that are designed to reduce the effects of short-term volatility in actuarial accrued liabilities and the actuarial value of assets, consistent with the long-term perspective of the calculations. In the June 30, 2010 actuarial valuation, the entry age actuarial cost method was used. Under this method, future benefits are projected and the present value of such benefits is allocated from date of hire to date of eligibility. The actuarial assumptions for the Commission include:

	<u>Assumptions</u>
Amortization period	30 years
Investment rate of return	4%
Payroll growth	3.30%
Age adjustment factor	2.278768

The UAAL is being amortized as a level percentage of payroll over the remaining amortization period, which at June 30, 2010, was 30 years. Amortizations are open ended in that they begin anew at each valuation date.

Required Supplementary Information

NEW RIVER VALLEY PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION

Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances -- General Fund
Budget and Actual
Year Ended June 30, 2011

	Budgeted Amounts		Actual	Variance with
	Original	Final	Amounts	Final Budget- Positive (Negative)
Revenues:				
Revenue from local sources:				
Interest Income	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 62	\$ 62
Charges for Services	875,182	911,362	830,571	(80,791)
Sale of Surplus Property	-	-	222	222
Contributions from Local Governments	203,130	203,130	203,131	1
Miscellaneous Revenue	-	19,608	20,198	590
Total revenue from local sources	<u>\$ 1,078,312</u>	<u>\$ 1,134,100</u>	<u>\$ 1,054,184</u>	<u>\$ (79,916)</u>
Revenue from the Commonwealth:				
Categorical aid:				
DHCD Grants (Administrative)	\$ 66,062	\$ 66,062	\$ 66,062	\$ -
Virginia Tech Rideshare Program	-	-	5,000	5,000
Virginia Department of Transportation	58,000	58,000	58,004	4
Total revenue from the Commonwealth	<u>\$ 124,062</u>	<u>\$ 124,062</u>	<u>\$ 129,066</u>	<u>\$ 5,004</u>
Revenue from the Federal Government:				
Categorical aid:				
EDA	\$ 70,000	\$ 70,000	\$ 87,547	\$ 17,547
Total revenue from the Federal Government	<u>\$ 70,000</u>	<u>\$ 70,000</u>	<u>\$ 87,547</u>	<u>\$ 17,547</u>
Total operating revenues	<u><u>\$ 1,272,374</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 1,328,162</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 1,270,797</u></u>	<u><u>\$ (57,365)</u></u>

Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances -- General Fund

Budget and Actual

Year Ended June 30, 2011 (Continued)

	Original Budget	Final Budget	Actual	Variance Favorable (Unfavorable)
Expenditures:				
Personnel	\$ 742,257	\$ 716,305	\$ 651,233	\$ 65,072
Fringe benefits	264,967	239,550	245,395	(5,845)
Office rent	53,584	53,584	53,582	2
Telephone	10,278	10,936	10,098	838
Office supplies	22,471	29,020	25,559	3,461
Postage	6,628	4,705	3,325	1,380
Printing	2,579	4,324	4,229	95
Advertising	2,018	8,245	4,615	3,630
Travel	67,924	65,650	38,518	27,132
Equipment maintenance and rent	20,854	21,256	13,648	7,608
Dues and publications	8,600	9,580	6,928	2,652
Training	1,100	1,725	1,225	500
Meeting expense	136	2,499	4,958	(2,459)
Insurance	8,700	5,934	4,875	1,059
Capital outlay	17,011	5,000	3,013	1,987
Contractual services	23,514	48,509	63,023	(14,514)
Audit fee	8,295	8,295	7,475	820
Miscellaneous	62,639	59,150	53,900	5,250
Total expenditures	\$ 1,323,555	\$ 1,294,267	\$ 1,195,599	\$ 98,668
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenditures	\$ (51,181)	\$ 33,895	\$ 75,198	\$ 41,303
Other financing sources (uses)				
Transfers (to)from other funds	\$ (76,092)	\$ (68,876)	\$ (51,663)	\$ 17,213
Net change in fund balance	\$ (127,273)	\$ (34,981)	\$ 23,535	\$ 58,516
Fund balance, beginning of year	145,853	47,536	489,094	441,558
Fund balance, end of year	\$ 18,580	\$ 12,555	\$ 512,629	\$ 500,074

NEW RIVER VALLEY PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION

Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances -- WIA Fund
Budget and Actual
Year Ended June 30, 2011

	Budgeted Amounts		Actual	Variance with
	Original	Final	Amounts	Final Budget- Positive (Negative)
Revenues:				
Revenue from the Federal Government:				
Categorical aid:				
Workforce Investment Act	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,909,565	\$ 2,909,565
Total revenue from the Federal Government	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,909,565	\$ 2,909,565
Total operating revenues	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,909,565	\$ 2,909,565
Expenditures:				
Administrative	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 196,424	\$ (196,424)
Program	-	-	2,713,141	(2,713,141)
Total expenditures	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,909,565	\$ (2,909,565)
Net change in fund balance	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Fund balance, beginning of year	-	-	1	1
Fund balance, end of year	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1	\$ 1

NEW RIVER VALLEY PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION

Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances -- ARC Fund
Budget and Actual
Year Ended June 30, 2011

	Budgeted Amounts		Actual	Variance with
	Original	Final	Amounts	Final Budget- Positive (Negative)
Revenue from the Federal Government:				
Categorical aid:				
Appalachian Regional Commission	\$ 70,072	\$ 68,876	\$ 82,697	\$ 13,821
Total operating revenues	<u>\$ 70,072</u>	<u>\$ 68,876</u>	<u>\$ 82,697</u>	<u>\$ 13,821</u>
Expenditures:				
Personnel	\$ 94,812	\$ 96,591	\$ 92,997	\$ 3,594
Fringe benefits	35,693	29,624	30,590	(966)
Telephone	97	319	313	6
Office supplies	2,683	340	282	58
Postage	2,729	1,972	1,957	15
Printing	1,977	1,901	1,901	-
Advertising	-	99	99	-
Travel	4,498	3,550	3,237	313
Dues and publications	500	750	750	-
Contractual services	3,175	2,585	2,213	372
Miscellaneous	-	21	21	-
Total expenditures	<u>\$ 146,164</u>	<u>\$ 137,752</u>	<u>\$ 134,360</u>	<u>\$ 3,392</u>
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenditures	<u>\$ (76,092)</u>	<u>\$ (68,876)</u>	<u>\$ (51,663)</u>	<u>\$ 17,213</u>
Other financing sources (uses)				
Transfers (to)from other funds	\$ 76,092	\$ 68,876	\$ 51,663	\$ (17,213)
Net change in fund balance	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Fund balance, beginning of year	-	-	-	-
Fund balance, end of year	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>

New River Valley Planning District Commission
Schedule of Pension and Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB) Funding Progress
As of June 30, 2011

Planning District Commission Retirement Plan

Actuarial Valuation Date	Actuarial Value of Assets	Actuarial Accrued Liability (AAL)	Unfunded AAL (UAAL) (3) - (2)	Funded Ratio Assets as % of AAL (2) / (3)	Annual Covered Payroll	UAAL as a % of Covered Payroll (4) / (6)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
6/30/2010	\$ 1,544,406	\$ 1,563,460	19,054	98.78%	\$ 592,597	3.22%
6/30/2009	1,500,760	1,301,987	(198,773)	115.27%	583,083	-34.09%
6/30/2008	1,398,024	1,205,446	(192,578)	115.98%	526,669	-36.57%

OPEB Healthcare Plan:

Actuarial Valuation Date	Actuarial Value of Assets	Actuarial Accrued Liability (AAL)	Unfunded AAL (UAAL) (3) - (2)	Funded Ratio Assets as % of AAL (2) / (3)	Annual Covered Payroll	UAAL as a % of Covered Payroll (4) / (6)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
June 30, 2010 *	\$ -	\$ 252,877	252,877	0%	\$ 706,240	35.81%

*Only available for one year

Compliance Section

ROBINSON, FARMER, COX ASSOCIATES

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

A PROFESSIONAL LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters Based on an Audit of Financial Statements Performed in Accordance With *Government Auditing Standards*

To the Members of the Board
New River Valley Planning District Commission
Radford, Virginia

We have audited the financial statements of the governmental activities and each major fund of the New River Valley Planning District Commission as of and for the year ended June 30, 2011, which collectively comprise the New River Valley Planning District Commission's basic financial statements and have issued our report thereon dated November 30, 2011. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America; Specifications for Audits of Authorities, Boards, and Commissions, issued by the Auditor of Public Accounts of the Commonwealth of Virginia; and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit, we considered the New River Valley Planning District Commission's internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the New River Valley Planning District Commission's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the New River Valley Planning District Commission's internal control over financial reporting.

Our consideration of internal control over financial reporting was for the limited purpose described in the preceding paragraph and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that might be significant deficiencies or material weaknesses and therefore, there can be no assurance that all deficiencies, significant deficiencies, or material weaknesses have been identified. However, as described in the accompanying schedule of findings and questioned costs, we identified certain deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that we consider to be material weaknesses.

A *deficiency in internal control* exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct misstatements on a timely basis. A *material weakness* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected on a timely basis. We consider the deficiency described in the accompanying schedule of findings and responses (reference 2011-1) to be a material weakness.

Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the New River Valley Planning District Commission's financial statements are free of material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit, and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our

tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

The New River Valley Planning District Commission's response to the findings identified in our audit is described in the accompanying schedule of findings and questioned costs. We did not audit the Commission's response and, accordingly, we express no opinion on it.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the Board of Directors, management, others within the Commission, federal awarding agencies and pass-through entities and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Robinson, Farmer, Cox Associates

Robinson, Farmer, Cox Associates
November 30, 2011

ROBINSON, FARMER, COX ASSOCIATES

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

A PROFESSIONAL LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Independent Auditors' Report on Compliance with Requirements That Could Have a Direct and Material Effect on Each Major Program and on Internal Control Over Compliance in Accordance with OMB Circular A-133

To the Members of the Board
New River Valley Planning District Commission
Radford, Virginia

Compliance

We have audited the New River Valley Planning District Commission's compliance with the types of compliance requirements described in the *OMB Circular A-133 Compliance Supplement* that could have a direct and material effect on each of the New River Valley Planning District Commission's major federal programs for the year ended June 30, 2011. The New River Valley Planning District Commission's major federal programs are identified in the summary of auditor's results section of the accompanying schedule of findings and questioned costs. Compliance with the requirements of laws, regulations, contracts, and grants applicable to each of its major federal programs is the responsibility of the New River Valley Planning District Commission's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the New River Valley Planning District Commission's compliance based on our audit.

We conducted our audit of compliance in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America; the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States; and OMB Circular A-133, *Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations*. Those standards and OMB Circular A-133 require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether noncompliance with the types of compliance requirements referred to above that could have a direct and material effect on a major federal program occurred. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence about the New River Valley Planning District Commission's compliance with those requirements and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion. Our audit does not provide a legal determination of the New River Valley Planning District Commission's compliance with those requirements.

In our opinion, the New River Valley Planning District Commission complied, in all material respects, with the compliance requirements referred to above that could have a direct and material effect on each of its major federal programs for the year ended June 30, 2011.

Internal Control Over Compliance

Management of the New River Valley Planning District Commission is responsible for establishing and maintaining effective internal control over compliance with the requirements of laws, regulations, contracts, and grants applicable to federal programs. In planning and performing our audit, we considered the New River Valley Planning District Commission's internal control over compliance with the requirements that could have a direct and material effect on a major federal program to determine the auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinion on compliance and to test and report on internal control over compliance in accordance with OMB Circular A-133, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control over compliance. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Commission's internal control over compliance.

A *deficiency in internal control over compliance* exists when the design or operation of a control over compliance does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, noncompliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal program on a timely basis. A *material weakness in internal control over compliance* is a deficiency, or combination of deficiencies, in internal control over compliance, such that there is a reasonable possibility that material noncompliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal program will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis.

Our consideration of internal control over compliance was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be deficiencies, significant deficiencies, or material weaknesses. We did not identify any deficiencies in internal control over compliance that we consider to be material weaknesses, as defined above.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the Board of Directors, management, others within the organization, federal awarding agencies and pass-through entities and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Robinson, Faure, Cox Associates

Christiansburg, Virginia
November 30, 2011

NEW RIVER VALLEY PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION

Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards
Year Ended June 30, 2011

Federal Grantor/ Pass-through Grantor/ Program or Cluster Title	Federal CFDA Number	Pass-through Entity Identifying Number	Federal Expenditures
U.S. Department of Labor:			
Pass-through payments from:			
Virginia Community College System:			
Workforce Investment Act (Cluster)			
Adult Program	17.258	LWA 2-10-02, LWA 2-10-03 \$	782,952
ARRA-Adult Program	17.258	ARRA 02	123,343 \$
Youth Activities	17.259	LWA 2-10-01, LWA 2-11-01 \$	885,521
ARRA-Youth Activities	17.259	ARRA 02, ARRA 02-02	89,040
Dislocated Workers	17.278	LWA 2-10-02, LWA 2-10-03 \$	776,113
ARRA-Dislocated Workers	17.278	ARRA 02, ARRA 02-02	252,596
			<u>1,028,709</u>
Total U.S. Department of Labor			\$ <u>2,909,565</u>
Appalachian Regional Commission - Direct Payments:			
Appalachian Local Development District Assistance	23.009	N/A	\$ <u>82,697</u>
Department of Commerce - Direct Payments:			
Economic Development - Support for Planning Operations	11.302	N/A	\$ <u>87,547</u>
Total Expenditures of Federal Awards			\$ <u><u>3,079,809</u></u>

See accompanying notes to schedule of expenditures of federal awards.

Note A-Basis of Presentation

The accompanying schedule of expenditures of federal awards (the Schedule) includes the federal grant activity of the New River Valley Planning District Commission under programs of the federal government for the year ended June 30, 2011. The information in the Schedule is presented in accordance with the requirements of OMB Circular A-133, *Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations*. Because the Schedule presents only a selected portion of the operations of the New River Valley Planning District Commission, it is not intended to and does not present the financial position, changes in net assets, or cash flows of the New River Valley Planning District Commission.

Note B-Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

(1) Expenditures reported on the Schedule are reported on the accrual basis of accounting. Such expenditures are recognized following the cost principles contained in OMB Circular A-87, *Cost Principles for State, Local, and Indian Tribal Governments*, wherein certain types of expenditures are not allowed or are limited as to reimbursement.

NEW RIVER VALLEY PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION

Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs Year Ended June 30, 2011

Section I - Summary of Auditor's Results

Financial Statements

Type of auditor's report issued:	Unqualified
Internal control over financial reporting:	
Material weaknesses identified?	Yes
Significant deficiencies identified ?	None reported
Noncompliance material to financial statements noted?	No

Federal Awards

Internal control over major programs:	
Material weaknesses identified?	No
Significant deficiencies identified?	None reported
Type of auditor's report issued on compliance for major programs:	Unqualified
Any audit findings disclosed that are required to be reported in accordance with Circular A-133 Section 510 (a)?	No

Identification of major programs:

CFDA #	Name of Federal Program or Cluster
17.258	Workforce Investment Act Cluster - Adult Program
17.259	Workforce Investment Act Cluster - Youth Activities
17.278	Workforce Investment Act Cluster - Dislocated Workers
17.258	Workforce Investment Act Cluster - ARRA Adult Program
17.259	Workforce Investment Act Cluster - ARRA Youth Activities
17.278	Workforce Investment Act Cluster - ARRA Dislocated Workers

Dollar threshold used to distinguish between Type A and Type B programs	\$300,000
Auditee qualified as low-risk auditee?	No

NEW RIVER VALLEY PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION

Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs Year Ended June 30, 2011

Section II - Financial Statement Findings

2011-1

Condition: The auditee does not possess sufficient expertise in the selection and application of accounting principles to ensure the annual financial report meets all applicable standards promulgated by Generally Accepted Accounting Standards (GAAS), the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) and the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB).

Criteria: Per Statement on Auditing Standards 115, an auditee should have sufficient expertise in the selection and application of accounting principles used in the preparation of the annual financial report.

Effect: There is more than a remote likelihood that a material misstatement of the financial statements will not be prevented or detected by the entity's internal controls over financial reporting.

Management's Response To comply with Standard 115, we would be required to hire staff and/or consultants with expertise in the preparation of financial statements using standards referred to above. The additional cost required exceeds any identified benefits. As such, management does not propose to take any action regarding Standard 115.

Section III - Federal Award Findings and Questioned Costs

There are no federal award findings and questioned costs to report.

Section IV - Status of Prior Audit Findings and Questioned Costs

There were no prior audit findings related to federal awards.

2012 Legislative Program adopted by VACo Membership

By Ted McCormack
tmccormack@vaco.org

The membership adopted VACo's 2012 Legislative Program during the annual business meeting on Nov. 15 in Bath County.

The new program contains timely and targeted policy positions intended to assist counties with existing mandates and on-going state budget reductions.

The annual program guides the leadership, membership and VACo staff during the 2012 legislative year. The adopted document will be posted on VACo's Web site by Dec. 5.

VACo also prints and mails the priority statements in the program to the members, governor, and legislators prior to the beginning of the General Assembly on Jan. 11, 2012.

The 2012 Legislative Program contains an overarching priority statement on reaffirming the state-local relationship:

"The state, working with local government, must reaffirm the partnership and program viability of core services through transparency, fiscal responsibility and service delivery."

"VACo stands ready to partner with the Commonwealth to better serve the citizens of Virginia."

"VACo is committed to protecting the reliability and sustainability of the Commonwealth's general fund. The general fund supports most of the core government functions, including public education (K-12 and higher education), the Comprehensive Services Act and human services, public safety, natural resources and environmental services."

"VACo calls on the Commonwealth to support the general fund by initiating state tax reform. State tax reform should include a restructuring of the state income and sales and use taxes to increase revenues in order to meet current and foreseeable core service demands. Tax reform takes pressure off of local leaders to raise the real estate tax to meet mandated services."

"VACo supports expanded local tax and fee authority. Local governments require sufficient revenue streams in addition to the real estate tax to provide cost-effective and quality services."

"VACo opposes legislative or administrative initiatives that would transfer state services and responsibilities to counties, such as line of duty, construction and maintenance of new and existing roads, or any other unfunded or underfunded mandates."

"VACo calls on the Commonwealth to restore all funding lost due to cuts made in aid to localities."

In addition to key perennial recommendations, the adopted document includes several important new policies. Highlights and excerpts from VACo's 2012 Legislative Program:

Devolution of Secondary Roads –

"VACo vigorously opposes legislative or administrative initiatives that would require, or result in, the transfer of responsibility to counties for construction, maintenance or operation of new and existing roads."

Eminent Domain – "VACo supports preserving eminent domain authority of local governments, governmental agencies and governmental authorities. VACo opposes legislation that will limit the use and increase the expense of eminent domain."

Funding and Staffing of Courts, Constitutional Officers and State-Mandated Positions – "VACo opposes any change to local ordinance violation penalties that attempt to relieve the localities of a source of revenue. Localities are able to collect revenues only as allowed by state law. Should the state eliminate a source of revenue for local governments, the local governments will have to make up for the loss of revenue elsewhere by increasing fees or taxes that remain enabled by state law. Further, VACo urges the



Commonwealth to meet its full funding obligations for constitutional officers and other state mandated positions. Any change to the definition of state responsible prisoner or other terms that result in increased cost or operational problems such as capacity for localities should be fully funded by the state."

VACo's process for the development and adoption of annual legislative program:

1. Spring regional meetings: In even number years VACo members are invited to attend regional meetings to identify and discuss key statewide legislative and policy issues.
2. Resolutions Committee meetings: The committee oversees the development of the annual Legislative Program. The meetings occur in early fall, and during the annual conference in November. The committee receives regular legislative updates, via conference call, during the regular legislative session in the winter.
3. Steering Committees meet at least twice: Late summer and November during the annual conference. The Steering Committees develop their policy sections in the annual Legislative Program.
4. The membership is asked to adopt the new legislative program during the annual business meeting. The meeting occurs on the last day of the annual conference in November.

NEW RIVER VALLEY PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION
AGENDA

February 23, 2012

6:00 p.m.—New River Valley Competitiveness Center, Fairlawn

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. CONSENT AGENDA
 - A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR JANUARY
 - B. APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORTS FOR JANUARY
- III. CHAIR'S REPORT
- IV. PUBLIC ADDRESS
- V. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE'S REPORT
- VI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT (enclosed)
- VII. OLD BUSINESS
 - A. Review/Endorsement of Regional Transit Organization Analysis
- VIII. NEW BUSINESS
 - A. Setting of Community Development Block Grant Priorities for 2012 (enclosed)
 - B. Update on CEDS Process (enclosed)
 - C. Healthy NRV Project Update (enclosed)
 - Presentation: Tommi Godwin
 - Commission Discussion
- IX. OTHER BUSINESS
- X. REVIEW OF MUTUAL CONCERNS AND COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS
- XI. COMMONWEALTH INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS
 - A. Projects (Signed-off by the staff)
 - 1. New River Valley Community Services vehicle purchase - DRPT
 - B. Regular Project Review
 - None
 - C. Environmental Project Review
 - 1. Reissuance of VPDES Permit No. VA 0052850 Blacksburg-Christiansburg-VPI Water Authority Water Treatment Plant
 - 2. Va. Tech-Montgomery Executive Airport Runway Extension

All meeting materials posted on PDC website www.nrvpdc.org

New River Valley Planning District Commission
Treasurer's Report
Expenditures as of January 31, 2012

Expense Category	Budget	Previous Total	January Expenditures	YTD Expenditures	Budget Balance	% Budget Expended
Salaries	852,751.00	407,059.09	68,675.79	475,734.88	377,016.12	55.79%
Fringe Benefits	304,338.00	145,149.30	24,013.66	169,162.96	135,175.04	55.58%
Travel	65,959.00	23,152.69	3,930.96	27,083.65	38,875.35	41.06%
Office Space	21,544.00	10,771.80	1,795.30	12,567.10	8,976.90	58.33%
Telephone	6,000.00	3,606.18	530.23	4,136.41	1,863.59	68.94%
Office Supplies	9,754.00	36,737.36	2,230.55	38,967.91	-29,213.91	399.51%
Postage	500.00	713.03	40.47	753.50	-253.50	150.70%
Printing	250.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	250.00	0.00%
Copies & Copier Maintenance	1,600.00	1,865.40	484.32	2,349.72	-749.72	146.86%
Media Ad	5,500.00	3,781.63	496.72	4,278.35	1,221.65	77.79%
Equipment Rent	1,500.00	739.44	123.24	862.68	637.32	57.51%
Vehicle Fuel	0.00	653.99	185.85	839.84	-839.84	0.00%
Dues	4,745.00	3,810.00	0.00	3,810.00	935.00	80.30%
Publications	0.00	16.00	0.00	16.00	-16.00	0.00%
Training	950.00	375.00	0.00	375.00	575.00	39.47%
Insurance	1,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,000.00	0.00%
Meeting Expense	2,575.00	5,542.42	250.71	5,793.13	-3,218.13	224.98%
Capital Outlay	27,402.00	1,673.71	0.00	1,673.71	25,728.29	6.11%
Contractual Services	762,289.00	167,061.93	6,115.92	173,177.85	589,111.15	22.72%
Audit Fee	2,100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,100.00	0.00%
Miscellaneous	55,300.00	13,689.36	549.41	14,238.77	41,061.23	25.75%
M & G Costs	83,743.00	37,204.24	9,712.80	46,917.04	36,825.96	56.03%
Common Costs	145,380.00	49,237.75	6,963.15	56,200.90	89,179.10	38.66%
	2,355,180.00	912,840.32	126,099.08	1,038,939.40	1,316,240.60	44.11%

NEW RIVER VALLEY PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION

6580 Valley Center Drive, Suite 124
Radford, Virginia 24141

Phone: (540) 639-9313

Fax: (540) 831-6093

E-Mail: nrvpdc@nrvpdc.org

Website: www.nrvpdc.org



Kevin R. Byrd, AICP
Executive Director

February 23, 2012

Executive Director's Report

Economic Development:

- NRV Revolving Loan Fund was featured on WSLs 10, see NRVpDC facebook page for link to the video.
- Memo regarding status of CEDS update for 2012 enclosed. Local governments will receive correspondence on identifying CEDS projects in February.

Transportation:

- I-95 tolling study underway and should be complete by September. I-95 tolling will preclude I-81 from being tolled in the future. Only 1 interstate facility per state can be tolled at a time. Legislation introduced for Tolling Authority, so non-interstate facilities can be tolled locally.
- State is continuing to pursue "P3" projects (public-private partnerships) in light of decreasing construction dollars. Let PDC know of local project ideas.
- JLARC Audit recommended 1)VDOT increase working relations with PDCs/MPOs, 2)re-prioritize projects based on performance-driven (buildable projects) versus data-driven (fatality figures or level of service). Money is sitting on non-buildable projects. 3)Align two planning documents, SYIP and STIP.

Regional:

- Virginia Tourism Corporation creating Statewide Tourism Plan. Stakeholder input session held in Wytheville 2/8. Sub-regional plans may be a product of state plan.
- Hazard Mitigation Project Proposal: mapping flash flood prone areas and vulnerable infrastructure. Passed pre-application stage. Full application due April 30. PDC will discuss participation with localities in more detail in March.
- Livability Initiative working groups are actively meeting. www.nrvlivability.org for more information about the project and to engage. (see attached)
- ARC/Oak Ridge National Laboratory Residential Science Academy in July. Seeking middle school students and high school students and teachers. (see attached)

PDC:

- Continuing conversation with Jim Yougquist with Southeast Regional Directors Institute (SERDI) regarding NRVpDC Strategic Plan/Assessment.
- Evaluating Google Business for PDC email, central calendaring, central contacts, etc.

VAPDC:

- HB823 was proposed to restrict PDC enabling legislation to solid waste, water supply, other environmental and transportation was amended prior to sub-committee meeting to remove non-elected officials from PDC Boards. Also, introduced legislation to remove Virginia Tech and Radford University from PDC 4 (NRVPDC). The bill was passed-by indefinitely in sub-committee and was not reintroduced at full committee. NRVpDC met with legislators to discuss implications of the bill.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Date: December 14, 2011

Subject: Appalachian Regional Commission/Oak Ridge National Laboratory 2012 High School Summer Math-Science-Technology Institute for students and teachers

To: Interested Persons

The Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) is pleased to announce that it is collaborating with the U.S. Department of Energy's Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) and the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (ORISE) in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, to provide a two-week residential hands-on learning institute focusing on math, science, and technology for high school students and teachers from **July 7 to 20, 2012**.



Twenty-six students and twenty-six teachers from throughout Appalachia will participate in a hands-on learning program that will focus on the application of math and science principles in the world of work. See attached *Criteria for Selection of Participants* for specific eligibility requirements. (Participating Appalachian states may have additional criteria for selection of participants in their state.)

ORNL is one of the largest U.S. Department of Energy research facilities in the United States. It is devoted to multi-purpose research and development and is located approximately 20 miles northwest of Knoxville, Tennessee, near the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. ORNL is a U.S. Department of Energy facility managed by UT-Battelle. ORISE is managed by Oak Ridge Associated Universities (ORAU). ORAU has a diverse array of complementary, and often unique, science education programs.



The ARC/ORNL Institute is a unique opportunity for students and teachers to work with research scientists on relevant math and scientific topics facing the world in the 21st century. Students and teachers work in teams on research projects during the two-week institute, with each team comprising three to six students or teachers. The team approach provides an opportunity to conduct research activities and solve problems in a group setting. Examples of the research and other activities engaged in during previous summer institutes can be seen at:

<http://www.ornl.gov/~lxi/arc2007/index.shtml>

<http://www.ornl.gov/~lxi/arc2007/index.shtml>

<http://www.ornl.gov/~lxi/arc2007/index.shtml>

<http://www.ornl.gov/~lxi/arc2007/index.shtml>

<http://www.ornl.gov/~lxi/arc2007/index.shtml>

The summer 2012 participants will be housed at a hotel in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, near ORNL and ORISE facilities. Student participants will be chaperoned 24 hours a day by experienced teachers who have worked with ORNL programs for several years. Participant teachers will not be responsible for chaperoning students.

All major expenses, including meals, lodging, transportation to and from the participant's home, and local transportation, will be covered for all participants. Teacher participants will receive a stipend.

The participants will spend most days in one of several ORNL research laboratories, but field trips to nearby industries, universities, and museums will illustrate the applications of math and science in the real world and provide participants with opportunities to learn more about Appalachia and some of its unique characteristics.

Applications must be submitted to the ARC State Program Manager of the state where the participant's school is located by **March 2, 2012**.

A list of all ARC State Program Managers, application forms, and further information are available on the ARC web site at www.arc.gov

Program is dependent upon availability of funding.

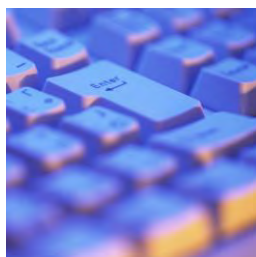
ANNOUNCEMENT

Date: December 14, 2011

Subject: Appalachian Regional Commission/Oak Ridge National Laboratory/Oak Ridge Associated Universities 2012 Middle School Summer Science Academy for students

To: Interested Persons

The Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) is pleased to announce that it is collaborating with the U.S. Department of Energy's Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) and Oak Ridge Associated Universities (ORAU) in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, to provide a one-week residential hands-on science academy focusing on math, science, and technology for middle school students from **July 15 to 20, 2012**.



Twenty-six students from throughout Appalachia will be selected to participate in a hands-on learning program that will focus on the application of math and science principles in the world of work. See *Criteria for Selecting Participants* for specific eligibility requirements. (Participating Appalachian states may have additional criteria for selecting participants in their state.)

ORNL is one of the largest U.S. Department of Energy research facilities in the United States. It is devoted to multi-purpose research and development and is located approximately 20 miles northwest of Knoxville, Tennessee, near the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. ORNL is a U.S. Department of Energy facility managed by UT-Battelle. ORAU has a diverse array of complementary, and often unique, science education programs.



The ARC/ORNL/ORAU Summer Science Academy is a unique opportunity for students to work with research scientists on relevant math and scientific topics facing the world in the 21st century. Students work in teams on research projects during the one-week academy, with each team comprising three to six students. The team approach provides an opportunity to conduct research activities and solve problems in a group setting. Research topics and activities may include such areas as:

- Biofuels and Alternative Energy
- Climate Change and Global Warming
- Robotics
- Our Environment

The summer 2012 participants will be housed at a hotel in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, near ORNL and ORAU facilities. Students will be chaperoned 24 hours a day by experienced teachers.

All major expenses, including meals, lodging, transportation to and from the participant's home, and local transportation, will be covered for participants.

Participants will tour ORNL research facilities, use a variety of technologies to solve problems in ORAU's learning center, and participate in field trips to nearby industries, universities, and museums. Field trips will illustrate the applications of math and science in the real world and provide participants with opportunities to learn more about Appalachia and its unique characteristics.

Applications must be submitted to the ARC State Program Manager of the state where the participant's school is located by **March 2, 2012**.

A list of all ARC State Program Managers, application forms, and further information will be available on the ARC web site at (www.arc.gov).

Program is dependent upon availability of funding.

NEW RIVER VALLEY PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION

6580 Valley Center Drive, Suite 124
Radford, Virginia 24141

Phone: (540) 639-9313

Fax: (540) 831-6093

E-Mail: nrvpdc@nrvpdc.org

Website: www.nrvpdc.org



Kevin R. Byrd, AICP
Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

To: Planning District Commissioners

From: Kevin R. Byrd, Executive Director

Date: February 15, 2012

Re: Setting of 2012 Community Development Block Grant Priorities

The Block Grant Priorities for 2011 are listed in the left column and suggestions for 2012 priorities based on identified projects are listed in the right column. Also, DHCD has requested a list of grant proposals which may be submitted by localities in the District for 2012. Projects which the PDC is aware of are listed below; if you know more please let me know at the meeting.

2011 Priorities

Priority #1

Community Facility
Economic Development-Business District Revitalization
Housing- Housing Rehabilitation

Priority #2

Comprehensive Community Development
Economic Development- Job Creation and Retention
Economic Development- Development Readiness

Priority #3

Housing- Housing Production Assistance
Development- Site Redevelopment
Community Service Facility

Known potential projects are as follows:

Construction:

East Main Street Revitalization – Town of Pulaski
Adult Day Care Facility – Pulaski County
Price's Fork Connection to Rt. 114 – Montgomery Co (water)
Walton Road to Plum Creek from Rt. 114 – Montgomery Co (water)
Lafayette – Montgomery Co (water)
Belview(Bradford Lane/Walton Road/Morning Glory Drive) – Mont. Co. (water)

2012 Suggested Priorities

Priority #1

Comprehensive Community Development
Economic Development-Business District Revitalization
Housing- Housing Rehabilitation

Priority #2

Community Service Facility
Economic Development- Job Creation and Retention
Economic Development- Development Readiness

Priority #3

Housing- Housing Production Assistance
Development- Site Redevelopment
Community Facility

Planning:

Comprehensive Comm. Devel. – Floyd Co.
Narrows Economic Strategy – Town of Narrows
Econ.Devel. architect/engineer – Floyd Co.
Rich Creek Comm. Building Revital. –Rich Creek
Water/Sewer extension - Glen Lyn
Rt. 99 Utility Service – Pulaski Twn/Co

Counties:

Floyd, Giles, Montgomery, Pulaski

Towns:

Blacksburg, Christiansburg, Floyd
Pulaski, Narrows, Pearisburg, Rich Creek

Universities:

Radford University
Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University

City:

Radford

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Kevin R. Byrd, AICP
Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

To: Planning District Commissioners

From: Kevin R. Byrd, Executive Director

Date: February 15, 2012

Re: 2012 Update - Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)

Each year the New River Valley Planning District Commission reviews and updates the region's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). The purpose of the CEDS is to continue federal and local partnerships to address the economic development in the region. The CEDS also serves the planning needs required by the Economic Development Administration and the Appalachian Regional Commission.

Below is a schedule for the remainder of the 2012 CEDS update outlining the roles of the CEDS Committee and the Planning District Commission. The CEDS Committee, combined with participants in the NRV Livability Initiative Economic Development Working Group, has met four times, beginning in November, to discuss potential economic development projects within the New River Valley.

Month	CEDS Committee/Livability Working Group	Planning District Commission
February	Strengths – Project List	Update on this year's activities
March	Goals & Objectives and Ranking Criteria	Project List Review and Comments
April		Goals & Objectives and Ranking Criteria Review and Comments
May	Draft Review – Comments	Full Report Review and Comments
June	Submit final version to Economic Development Administration	

Please contact me with any questions or if you would like to discuss the CEDS process in greater detail.

Counties:
Floyd, Giles, Montgomery, Pulaski

Towns:
Blacksburg, Christiansburg, Floyd
Pulaski, Narrows, Pearisburg, Rich Creek

Universities:
Radford University
Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University

City:
Radford

Community Health

In the New River Valley

Prepared by T. Godwin for the NRVPOC, January 2012

Poor Health

13%

Of people in **Virginia** report themselves as having poor or fair health

21%

Of people in **Giles** and **Pulaski** counties report themselves as having poor or fair health

12%, 13%, 17%

Of people report themselves as having poor or fair health in **Montgomery**, **Floyd**, and City of **Radford** respectively

Source:
County Health Rankings 2011. University of Wisconsin. Population Health Institute. Retrieved from <http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/>

Nutrition



88%

of Children (age 10-17) in the **New River Valley** do not consume their target amount of daily fruits and vegetables

Source:
Virginia Atlas of Community Health, March 2011. Virginia Center for Healthy Communities. Adult Health Risk Profile Estimates. Retrieved from <http://home.spatialinsights.com/host/chrc/>

Death from Drugs

In the New River Valley, deaths from prescription drugs

Fentanyl [Sublimaze, Actiq, Duragesic | Apache, China Girl, China White, Synthetic Heroin, Perc-a-pop, Murder 8, TNT]

Hydrocodone [Vicodin, Lorcet, Lortab | Vikes, Viko, Hydro, Norco]

Methadone [Methadose, Dolophine | Fizzies, Amidone, Chocolate Chip Cookies]

Oxycodone [Tylox, Percocet, OxyCotin | Ox, OC, Oxy]

are **Three Times Higher** than the state of Virginia

Source:
O'Dell, M. and P. Bordwine. 2010. New River Valley Community Health Digest. New River Health District. Based on FPMQ Death Rates per 100,000. Retrieved from <http://www.vdh.state.va.us/LHD/newriver/CommunityHealthDigest.htm>

Deaths from

Fentanyl [Sublimaze, Actiq, Duragesic | Apache, China Girl, China White, Synthetic Heroine, Perc-a-pop, Murder 8, TNT]

Hydrocodone [Vicodin, Lorcet, Lortab | Vikes, Viko, Hydro, Norco]

Methadone [Methadose, Dolophine | Fizzies, Amidone, Chocolate Chip Cookies]

Oxycodone [Tylox, Percocet, OxyCotin | Ox, OC, Oxy]

are

Four Times Higher in **Giles County**
and
Six Times Higher in **Pulaski County**

...than the state of **Virginia**

Sources:
O'Dell, M. and P. Bordwine. 2010. New River Valley Community Health Digest. New River Health District. Based on FHMO Death Rates per 100,000. Retrieved from <http://www.vdh.state.va.us/LHD/newriver/CommunityHealthDigest.htm>



Teen Pregnancies

9%

Of pregnancies in **Virginia** are to a teenager (age 15 to 19)

13%

Of pregnancies in **Floyd** and **Giles** Counties and the City of **Radford** are to a teenager (age 15 to 19)

9%

Of pregnancies in **Montgomery** County are to a teenager (age 15 to 19)

21%

Of pregnancies in **Pulaski** County are to a teenager (age 15 to 19)

Sources:
Virginia Atlas of Community Health, March 2011. Virginia Center for Healthy Communities. Retrieved from <http://home.spatialinsights.com/host/chrc/>

Smoking



As many as
30%
of Adults in **New River Valley**
counties are smokers*

The statewide average for **Virginia** is 20%.
The national average for the **United States** is 19%.

Sources:
O'Dell, M. and P. Bordwine. 2010. New River Valley Community Health Digest. New River Health District. Based on County Health Rankings reported by University of Wisconsin. "Smoking" includes adults who have smoked at least 100 cigarettes and are currently smoking. *Smoking rates reported for Montgomery (15%), Giles (26%), and Pulaski (30%) Counties. Retrieved from <http://www.vdh.state.va.us/LHD/newriver/CommunityHealthDigest.htm>
"Smoking." 2010. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. National Center for Health Statistics. Retrieved from <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/facts/smoking.htm>

HealthyNRV Videos

"NRVHEALTHY" – by Thenmozhi Soundararajan

Created for youth digital storytelling workshop, held December 17-19, 2011

<http://youtu.be/HdBS07xAxws>

Digital Stories – collected, created, and performed by NRV youth
<http://www.youtube.com/user/HealthyNRV>

References

New River Valley Community Health Digest
<http://www.vdh.state.va.us/LHD/newriver/CommunityHealthDigest.htm>

"Smoking." 2010. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
National Center for Health Statistics.
<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/smoking.htm>

Virginia Atlas of Community Health, March 2011. Virginia
Center for Healthy Communities.
<http://home.spatialinsights.com/host/chrc/>

Student Assignment

Take local pictures related to health in your community in the following categories:

Housing
Environment
Substance Abuse
Access to Medical Care
Poverty
Healthy Living
Relationships

Take at least 1 photo per category with a focus on how these areas impact YOUR health.

COMMONWEALTH INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW MEMORANDUM

TO: Planning Commission Members

FROM: Kevin R. Byrd, Executive Director

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

CIRP Review

February 8, 2012

PROJECT: Reissuance of Permit VA000052850 Blacksburg-Christiansburg-VPI Authority Water Treatment Plant

SUBMITTED BY: Department of Environmental Quality

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Department of Environmental Quality has requested comment on the reissuance of a permit for the Blacksburg-Christiansburg-VPI Authority Water Treatment Plant. The applicant proposes to release treated wastewater into a water body in Montgomery County, Virginia.

PROJECT SENT FOR REVIEW TO: F. Craig Meadows, Montgomery County

COMMENTS: As of this mailing no comment has been received from Montgomery County.

STAFF COMMENT: The staff has reviewed the appropriate plans (Land Use, Water Quality Management, Regional Solid Waste Management, Vision 2020, and the Economic Development plans) and finds that this project does not conflict with the plans or regional policies and goals.

COMMONWEALTH INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW MEMORANDUM

TO: Planning Commission Members

FROM: Kevin R. Byrd, Executive Director

AGENDA ITEM: XI. Intergovernmental Review Process, C. Environmental Project Review, Item #2

CIRP Review

February 14, 2012

PROJECT: Va. Tech-Montgomery Executive Airport Runway Expansion

SUBMITTED BY: DEQ

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Department of Environmental Quality has requested comment on the Environmental Impact Report for the referenced project for the following project elements, without regard to phasing or priority, 1870-foot runway extension of RW 12 end (w/1,070-foot Westward Shift From End of Pavement including the 150' relocated threshold of RW 30), Parallel Taxiway & C-II RSA, Improved Terminal Area Facilities, Relocated Navigational Aids, Road/Trail Realignment, Land and Easement Acquisitions, Part 77 Obstruction Removal, Removal of Ultimate Runway Protection Zone (RPZ) Buildings.

PROJECT SENT FOR REVIEW TO: Anne McClung & Karen Drake, Town of Blacksburg; Steve Sandy, Montgomery County; and Dan Brugh, Metropolitan Planning Organization

COMMENTS: As of this date no comments have been received from Montgomery County, Town of Blacksburg, or the Metropolitan Planning Organization.

STAFF COMMENT: The staff has reviewed the appropriate plans (Land Use, Water Quality Management, Regional Solid Waste Management, Vision 2020, and the Economic Development plans) and finds that this project does not conflict with the plans or regional policies and goals.

NEW RIVER VALLEY PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION
AGENDA

March 22, 2012

6:00 p.m.—New River Valley Competitiveness Center, Fairlawn

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. CONSENT AGENDA
 - A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR FEBRUARY
 - B. APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORTS FOR FEBRUARY
- III. CHAIR'S REPORT
- IV. PUBLIC ADDRESS
- V. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE'S REPORT
- VI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT (enclosed)
- VII. OLD BUSINESS
 - None
- VIII. NEW BUSINESS
 - A. Approval of Rural Transportation Work Program FY13
Presentation: Elijah Sharp
 - B. Review CEDS Goals, Objectives and Ranking Criteria
Presentation: Brad Mecham
 - C. NRVPDC Economic Development Program Overview
Presentation: Brad Mecham
 - D. Memorial Resolution Honoring Malvin L. "Pug" Wells
- IX. OTHER BUSINESS
- X. REVIEW OF MUTUAL CONCERNS AND COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS
- XI. COMMONWEALTH INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS
 - A. Projects (Signed-off by the staff)
 - 1. Hotel Feasibility Study – RBEG Application
 - 2. EDA of Floyd County RBEG Application to recapitalize local small business loan pool
 - B. Regular Project Review
 - None
 - C. Environmental Project Review
 - 1. Management of Vulture Damage in Virginia
 - 2. [12-12] FY 2012 Sec 103 PM 2.5 Air Monitoring Program
 - 3. Falling Branch-Merrimac 138 kV Transmission Line Project, PUE 201-0007

All meeting materials posted on PDC website www.nrvpdc.org

New River Valley Planning District Commission
Treasurer's Report
Expenditures as of February 29, 2012

Expense Category	Budget	Previous Total	February Expenditures	YTD Expenditures	Budget Balance	% Budget Expended
Salaries	852,751.00	475,734.88	70,093.52	545,828.40	306,922.60	64.01%
Fringe Benefits	304,338.00	169,162.96	22,465.58	191,628.54	112,709.46	62.97%
Travel	65,959.00	27,083.65	3,874.14	30,957.79	35,001.21	46.93%
Office Space	21,544.00	12,567.10	1,795.30	14,362.40	7,181.60	66.67%
Telephone	6,000.00	4,136.41	449.90	4,586.31	1,413.69	76.44%
Office Supplies	9,754.00	38,967.91	766.54	39,734.45	-29,980.45	407.37%
Postage	500.00	753.50	88.10	841.60	-341.60	168.32%
Printing	250.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	250.00	0.00%
Copies & Copier Maintenance	1,600.00	2,349.72	245.71	2,595.43	-995.43	162.21%
Media Ad	5,500.00	4,278.35	654.08	4,932.43	567.57	89.68%
Equipment Rent	1,500.00	862.68	123.24	985.92	514.08	65.73%
Vehicle Fuel	0.00	839.84	257.40	1,097.24	-1,097.24	0.00%
Dues	4,745.00	3,810.00	-2,665.00	1,145.00	3,600.00	24.13%
Publications	0.00	16.00	0.00	16.00	-16.00	0.00%
Training	950.00	375.00	0.00	375.00	575.00	39.47%
Insurance	1,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,000.00	0.00%
Meeting Expense	2,575.00	5,793.13	526.19	6,319.32	-3,744.32	245.41%
Capital Outlay	27,402.00	1,673.71	0.00	1,673.71	25,728.29	6.11%
Contractual Services	762,289.00	173,177.85	25,552.96	198,730.81	563,558.19	26.07%
Audit Fee	2,100.00	0.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	-400.00	119.05%
Miscellaneous	55,300.00	14,238.77	341.46	14,580.23	40,719.77	26.37%
M & G Costs	83,743.00	46,917.04	8,017.64	54,934.68	28,808.32	65.60%
Common Costs	145,380.00	56,200.90	16,589.94	72,790.84	72,589.16	50.07%
	2,355,180.00	1,038,939.40	151,676.70	1,190,616.10	1,164,563.90	50.55%

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Kevin R. Byrd, AICP
Executive Director

March 22, 2012

Executive Director's Report

Economic Development:

- ARC Grant awards for 2012 announced:
 - Giles County Tourism Enhancement, \$76,000
 - Floyd County EDA-Two Clean Room Environments, \$369,000
 - Jacksonville Center for the Arts-Capacity Building Capital Improvements, \$157,000
 - Friends of Southwest Virginia-Creative Economy Foundation, \$500,000
- Rural Jobs and Innovation Accelerator Grant Notice released. PDC will be convening partners to discuss potential grant application to support the development of industry clusters in the region. Primary funding agencies include EDA, USDA and ARC. Grant indicates clusters may include, but not limited to, renewable energy, food production, rural tourism, natural resources and advanced manufacturing.

Transportation:

- Rural transportation work program is in packet for review at 3/22 Commission meeting.
- Staff is providing technical support to Montgomery County for Safe Routes to School grant program. Grants are being prepared for Belview Elementary and Auburn schools to improve bike/pedestrian access to schools and education for children how to use safely.

Regional:

- Ribbon cutting for Broadband project is scheduled for April 25th afternoon. Invitations will be sent to all Commissioners and local, state and federal elected officials.
- Digital story telling video training taking place March 22-24. NRV Livability Initiative coordinated training with a remarkable interest from the community to learn this skill/art.
- Hazard Mitigation Project Proposal: mapping flash flood prone areas and vulnerable infrastructure. Passed pre-application stage. Full application due April 30. PDC will discuss participation with localities in more detail in coming weeks.
- Livability Initiative: See attached March Project Update along with Core Priorities and Values from Public Input Report. 2 PDC staff members along with Robert Hiss, Pulaski County Assistant County Administrator, Jessica Wirgau, Executive Director NRV Community Foundation and Lydeana Martin, Floyd County Community Development Director attended convening of rural grantees for sustainable communities program. Significant opportunity to exchange ideas on how best to engage public and ensure work of NRV Livability Initiative is locally driven. www.nrvlivability.org for more information about the project and to engage.

PDC:

- Successfully transitioned PDC to Google Business. Accomplishes shared calendaring, email, central contacts and many more uses. Alleviates significant internal communication challenges regarding scheduling, shared equipment and vehicles.

NRV Livability Initiative Project Update March 2012

A. Working Groups Update:

The **Housing** working group reviewed and identified the most compelling housing and demographic data pulled together by the Virginia Tech's Center for Housing Research. The group also developed goals around six priority themes: support for an aging population, development patterns and new construction, housing affordability, existing housing stock, and a better jobs and housing balance.

The **Natural Resources** working group reviewed natural resource data on biodiversity, biomass energy, forest cover, intact landscapes, and air quality and also developed initial goals for these natural resource features.

The **Economic Development** working group reviewed proposed changes to the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies (CEDS) project ranking criteria and goals and objectives.

The **Community Health** working group identified four core community health themes, which include chronic conditions/prevention, access to care, healthy behaviors, knowledge and education. The group decided to focus their efforts next on developing goals and strategies around these four core themes.

The **Arts and Culture** working group developed goals around arts education, tourism marketing, increasing dialogue and collaboration, the role of arts in building community character, and increasing funding support.

B. Outreach Update:

We are currently in the planning phase for our next series of outreach activities, which will begin in April with a series of digital stories and summary factsheets by topic area.

We are currently planning a digital storytelling workshop, which will be held March 22-24th at Virginia Tech. Digital storytelling is a compelling tool for education, outreach, and engagement. 15 "Teams" will be participating in the workshop, representing the ten element areas of the Livability Initiative as well as the localities that comprise the NRV. Participants include consortium partners, advisory members, and citizens who have been engaged in this process. Each team will be working to develop a 3-5 minute video that speaks to important issues citizens of the NRV are grappling with as well as some of the data emerging from the various working groups. These digital storytelling techniques are being offered as a capacity-building opportunity for the whole region- to create new tools for communicating issues of community importance to a wider audience.

C. Review of Citizen Comments: Core Priorities and Values

Sara Cobb, the Director of the Center for the Study of Narrative and Conflict Resolution at George Mason University this past semester worked with a team of graduate students to analyze the citizen feedback received through the Livability Initiative to-date. The full report is attached.



Core Priorities and Values of Livability Initiative Public Input

By Kristin Dorage and Jason Reader
George Mason University

In the fall of 2011 and winter of 2012, Sara Cobb, the Director of the Center for the Study of Narrative and Conflict Resolution at George Mason University worked with a team of graduate students to analyze citizen feedback received through the Livability Initiative through winter of 2012. As part of this student project, the group analyzed well over 2,000 citizen comments and identified the following key themes: **self-sufficiency, self-reliance, independence, sustainability, preservation, and innovation**. This review helps to better inform the project goals and strategy development around key issues emerging from the Livability Initiative planning process. The full report follows.

Introduction

The Livability Initiative is a three-year regional planning process that works to improve the quality of life for residents in Virginia's New River Valley. The New River Valley region is composed of communities in Southwest Virginia, which are connected by a common cultural heritage, beautiful mountainous scenery, and the New River itself. The New River Valley Livability Initiative aims to encourage collaboration among neighboring communities and "increase genuine and meaningful citizen involvement to make the entire region more self reliant".¹ Over the past six months, the Livability Initiative has hosted a series of workshops with the region's residents to discuss their concerns on a variety of issues, such as Agriculture, Arts and Culture, Aging, Community Health, Economic Development, Energy, Housing, Internet Access, Natural Resources, Transportation and Water. In this paper we will explore some of the overarching themes that emerged from residents' narratives in order to better understand citizens' preferences, priorities and needs. It is our hope that by sharing this information decision-makers will be better equipped to shape the trajectory of future developments in the New River Valley.

Independence

The spirit of independence, as a frame of mind, is alive and well in the New River Valley. This desire for freedom takes several forms in the Livability Initiative's story of improving the quality of life for the region's residents. One desire is to be free and independent from the constant struggle of 'making ends meet'; this desire can be seen in the residents' demand for greater economic autonomy, in a call for localizing farming and manufacturing, as well as satisfying the residents' desire for cultural attractions and specialized services or resources, such as adequate health-care and renewable energy.

¹ New River Valley Livability Initiative website: <http://www.nrvlivability.org/faq>

Another desire is to be free and independent from outside control over the affairs of the New River Valley; this desire is reflected in the distrust of regulations that hold back economic development or prevent residents from achieving self-sufficiency in economic and agricultural production, sustainability in healthy living circumstances, and preserving the natural beauty of the New River Valley.

Self-reliance

A mindset of self-reliance presents itself throughout the narratives by way of the residents' desire for the region to take charge of its own future without hindrance from political forces in Richmond or Washington. Self-reliance is more than a belief in self-governance; it represents a desire to obtain the knowledge, innovations, culture, and policies to build communities that can be independent from larger socio-economic forces by being sustainable in the long-term with plenty of jobs, good education and health-care, clean and renewable energy, and access to locally grown agriculture. Another example of self-reliance at work in the region is the desire of residents for increased connectivity between the various communities, towns, and cities; such connectivity, through a greater variety of transportation options, shared cultural events, and improved regional social networking, would have the effect of not only improving the quality of life, but also building more durable communities that are able to better withstand external economic crises and cultural pressures.

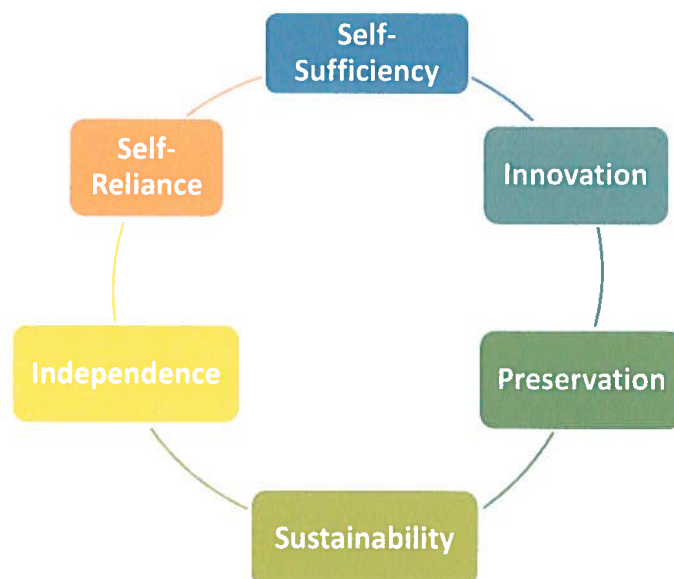
Self-sufficiency

By seeking self-sufficiency, a tangible and material kind of economic autonomy, the residents of the New River Valley desire that the region obtain a degree of aptitude at being able to produce locally what it needs, through agriculture, manufacturing, and fine arts, to sustain an improved quality of life. Self-sufficiency takes shape as the desire of the residents' to be free from need and want. Self-sufficiency entails a desire to be free of economic dependency on the outside world; in other words, the residents desire enough good jobs to provide for an improved quality of life. Self-sufficiency, also, entails a community's ability to sustainably produce the resources, such as energy, culture, and food, which provide the improved quality of life. Self-sufficiency, like self-reliance, entails that the residents' would rather the region not seek help from the outside world to provide for their improved quality of life. Taken together, self-reliance and self-sufficiency form the basis and foundation of sustainability sought after by the residents of the New River Valley.

Sustainability

Residents want to make changes in the New River Valley that have a positive, lasting effect. Supporting renewable energy initiatives and promoting policies that reward energy conservation and efficiency should be made a priority. Residents want to encourage development patterns that promote active lifestyles and healthy living by having more bike and pedestrian-friendly communities and access to natural areas. In the interest of promoting long-term community health, residents want to address polluting industries that impact air and water quality. Transportation designs should be forward-thinking and take into account low-income communities and elderly populations. Buildings and infrastructure should be improved in sustainable ways as well, to be safe, energy-efficient, foster a community atmosphere, and take

into account residents' needs. Residents want to have sustainable agriculture that provides high-quality local food and helps secure food independence for the area. Sustainability of agricultural knowledge was also discussed in the workshops; through community development initiatives and education about agricultural issues, the community wants to help farmers expand their yields and attract more young people to the industry.



Innovation

In order to address the challenges facing the community and actualize the New River Valley residents' dreams, innovative thinking and new technologies will have to be employed. New development patterns that preserve ecosystems and support health will have to be explored. Research must be done on renewable energy and ways to make the community more energy efficient. Areas in which there need to be improvements, such as energy and transportation that could tie into potential economic growth opportunities should be leveraged. Innovative methods for preserving the natural landscape through Eco-tourism and other initiatives should also be considered. Many residents are concerned about Internet speed and connectivity in rural areas, and want to explore new technologies to assist with this issue. Aside from technology, there are innovative ways to enhance the desirability of the New River Valley, such as through art and music festivals and other cultural events that showcase not only the history of the region, but also the cultures of its current residents.

Preservation

New River Valley residents believe that by preserving natural landscapes and resources, communities in this region will have a higher quality of life. Workshop participants stated they want to preserve Appalachian culture and the natural beauty of the New River Valley in order to maintain the region's individuality, attract newcomers and boost tourism. Residents voiced their desire to preserve the New River Valley's tradition of agriculture and increase support for local farms in order to supply the population with affordable, healthy food. They want to pursue a strategy that increases economic growth and maintains the region's natural assets in order to make the region an attractive place for people to live.

A standard academic or news article would end with concluding remarks; however, conclusions suggest finality while the Livability Initiative represents the exact opposite. The Livability Initiative, in its pursuit of an improved quality of life for the residents of the New River Valley, seeks out new prospects and new possibilities for growth. These prospects are made possible by the region's immensely creative potential, as reflected by the Livability Initiative's workshops. By addressing residents' concerns in creative, innovative ways, the New River Valley region can, indeed, become a leader in sustainable community-based development, and further enhance its image as a desirable and prosperous place to live.

New River Valley Planning District Commission

Transportation Planning Work Program FY 2013



March 2012

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Introduction

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) allocates part of the State Planning and Research (SPR) funding to provide annual transportation planning assistance for non-urbanized areas within the Commonwealth. The Rural Transportation Planning (RTP) Program was created to aid the State in fulfilling the requirements of the State Planning Process to address the transportation needs of non-metropolitan areas. Funds appropriated under 23 U.S.C. 307(c) (SPR funds) are used in cooperation with the Department of Transportation, Commonwealth of Virginia for transportation planning as required by Section 135, Title 23, U.S. Code. These Federal funds provide 80 percent funding and require a 20 percent local match.

In FY-2013 each planning district commission / regional commission will receive \$58,000 from VDOT's Rural Transportation Planning Assistance Program and each planning district commission / regional commission will provide a local match of \$14,500 to conduct rural transportation planning activities. This resource may be supplemented with additional planning funds, all such funds requires the development of a scope of work, approval and other coordination in administrative work programs.

The scope of work shall include specific activities as requested by VDOT and/or the Federal Highway Administration. The scope of work may also include activities or studies addressing other transportation planning related issues that may be of specific interest to the region. The criteria for the determination of eligibility of studies for inclusion as part of this work program are based upon 23 U.S.C. 307 (c), State Planning and Research (SPR).

Use of these funds by the New River Valley Planning District Commission (NRVPDC) is identified in and guided by an annual scope of work, also referred to as a work program. The work program details the transportation planning activities to be carried out by the NRVPDC under the Rural Transportation Planning Assistance Program in the upcoming fiscal year.

Local government staff and the NRVPDC's Transportation Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) participate in the development of the work program, which must be approved/endorsed by the Planning District Commission.

For FY-2013 the NRVPDC proposes to utilize the SPR funds to undertake activities in the three general areas: Regional Transportation Program Administration, Regional Projects, and Statewide Projects.

Program Administration

Objective and Background: The purpose of this work element is to cover the administrative and general costs associated with the project.

Work Elements: This includes the financial management and quarterly reporting, office supplies, meeting materials, and other general program costs. Activities include:

- Provide fiscal accountability of State Planning and Research (SPR) fund expenditures through regular quarterly reporting to VDOT.
- Provide adequate and appropriate public notice of meetings.
- Maintain contact with a regional network of local government officials, region-wide agencies and organizations, neighboring PDCs, VDOT representatives, and other applicable federal, state and local agencies concerning transportation issues.

Products: Quarterly financial reporting, mailings/notices, meeting documentation/minutes, preparation of quarterly activity reports.

Regional Transportation Planning Program Administration Budget:

<u>Total</u>	<u>SPR (80%)</u>	<u>PDC Match (20%)</u>
\$7,500.00	\$6,000.00	\$1,500.00

New River Valley Regional Projects

Objective and Background: Address regional transportation issues identified by the Transportation Committees and the Planning District Commission. Individual projects and work elements are described below:

Work Elements:

- (a) **(\$10,000) Regional Transportation Leadership** - The purpose of this work element is to facilitate regional participation and consensus building on transportation-related issues through a continuing, comprehensive, and coordinated planning process. The Transportation Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) is the foundation of the PDC's transportation planning program.

Task 1: Regional Transportation Technical Advisory Committee

Products: TAC is composed of administrators and professional staff from local governments and institutions/agencies within the New River Valley Planning District service area. TAC serves as an advisory body to the PDC on transportation issues. The TAC has grown into a group that supports local needs while maintaining a regional perspective.

Benchmarks/Milestones (throughout year):

- Provide staff assistance for 6 meetings
- Prepare meeting minutes, agendas, and presentation materials
- Maintain a website to post relevant transportation related information
- Review and provide input for regional and statewide planning efforts

Task 2: Regional Bikeway, Walkway, Blueway Committee

Products: The Regional Bikeway, Walkway, Blueway Committee reports to the TAC regarding specific recommendations within the topical areas of active and recreational transportation. The group is comprised of professional staff from local governments, local business owners, local organizations, and community representatives.

Benchmarks/Milestones (throughout year):

- Provide guidance for the development and maintenance of the Regional Bikeway, Walkway, Blueway Plan
- Provide staff assistance for 3 meetings + 1 multi-regional event
- Prepare meeting notes, agendas, and presentation materials

Task 3: Regional Transit Coordinating Council

Products: The council meets on a regular basis to discuss public transportation in the region and serves as a coordinating entity to support local governments, partnering stakeholders, and service providers. The council is comprised of all the region's public transportation partners and provides a strong multi-jurisdiction/multi-system forum for transit.

Benchmarks/Milestones (throughout year):

- Provide staff assistance for 3 meetings
- Prepare meeting minutes, agendas, and presentation materials
- Create council bylaws and establish membership
- Discuss existing transit services and TDPs
- Identify potential common interests
- Develop strategies and recommendations
- Identify funding sources

- (b) **(\$37,500) Regional Technical Transportation Planning Assistance** - Activities typically include assistance in the areas of: highway safety/congestion, bicycle/pedestrian improvements, access management, public transportation, freight movement, hazard mitigation, infrastructure evaluations, stormwater management, recreation, or transportation as it relates to other elements such as: housing, economic development, and energy. FY 2013 Program Tasks include, but are not limited to:

Task 1: Regional Livability Initiative Transportation Plan

Products: Provide assistance to the Livability Initiative coordinators to develop the transportation component of the regional plan.

Benchmarks/Milestones (throughout year):

- Coordinate and lead monthly committee meetings
- Attend and participate in meetings
- Provide staffing and technical planning assistance in the area of transportation
- Develop an interactive transportation website

Task 2: Route 100 Corridor Analysis, Pulaski County

Products: Provide assistance to Pulaski County to develop a corridor master plan.

Benchmarks/Milestones (throughout year):

- Participate in stakeholder group meetings
- Collect and evaluate transportation data
- Develop a needs assessment
- Prepare a formal report

(c) (\$10,000) Project Implementation, Grant-Writing Assistance & Professional Development

Products: Assist local applicants to prepare transportation related grant funding applications. Provide grant-writing assistance for a maximum of five projects. Additional assistance will be offered depending on staff availability.

Benchmarks/Milestones (throughout year):

- **Schedule a meeting with CTB representative**

Status: Complete by September 2012

- **Submit Enhancement Applications**

Status: Complete by November 1, 2012

- **Safe Routes to School Program Development Assistance** – Provide support to local governments during the application development.

Status: Complete by April 2013

- **Attend Conferences/Professional Development** – Attend national or statewide conferences (maximum of 2), and participate in transportation related professional development courses (maximum of 2).

Status: Complete by June 2013

(d) (\$7,500) Statewide Projects and Core Program Requirements

Products: The purpose of this work element is to provide assistance to the Virginia Department of Transportation for statewide planning on behalf of the New River Valley. Furthermore, provide local technical assistance required to fulfill statewide planning and policy efforts.

Benchmarks/Milestones (throughout year):

- **Participate in outreach meetings and review data as requested by VDOT throughout the fiscal year pertaining to:** VTrans Update, Functional Classification Update, Virginia's Surface Transportation Plan Update, Park and Ride Lots Inventory/Study, Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning, and Freight Planning.

Status: Complete by June 2013

New River Valley Regional Projects Budget:

<u>Total</u>	<u>SPR (80%)</u>	<u>PDC Match (20%)</u>
\$65,000.00	\$52,000.00	\$13,000.00

**Budget Summary
FY 2013 Work Program**

<u>Project</u>	<u>SPR (80%)</u>	<u>PDC (20%)</u>	<u>Total</u>
Program Administration	\$6,000.00	\$1,500.00	\$7,500.00
NRV Regional Projects	\$52,000.00	\$13,000.00	\$65,000.00
TOTAL	\$58,000	\$14,500.00	\$72,500.00

NEW RIVER VALLEY PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION

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Website: www.nrvpdc.org



Kevin R. Byrd, AICP
Executive Director

RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR FY 2013 TRANSPORTATION PLANNING WORK PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the New River Valley Planning District Commission is eligible to receive State Planning and Research (SPR) funds through VDOT's Rural Transportation Planning Assistance Program; and

WHEREAS, the proposed FY 2013 Transportation Planning Work Program represents the interests of the New River Valley region; and

WHEREAS, the New River Valley Planning District Commission has reviewed the Transportation Planning Work Program and agrees with the projected work elements for the 2012-2013 fiscal year.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the New River Valley Planning District Commission that this Commission adopts and supports the FY 2013 Transportation Planning Work Program - Rural Planning Organization Staff Budget.

Adopted this 22nd day of March, 2012.

Holly Lesko, Chair

NEW RIVER VALLEY PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION

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Kevin R. Byrd, AICP
Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

To: Planning District Commissioners

From: Kevin R. Byrd, Executive Director (KB)

Date: March 15, 2012

Re: 2012 Goals & Objectives and Project Ranking Criteria Update: Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)

The purpose of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) is to continue federal and local partnerships to address economic development in the region. The CEDS also serves the planning needs required by the Economic Development Administration and the Appalachian Regional Commission.

Contained in this packet are the 2012 CEDS updates for two sections; Goals and Objectives and Project Ranking Criteria. The CEDS Committee, combined with representatives from the NRV Livability Initiative Economic Development Working Group, has met five times, beginning in November, to discuss changes to be made in these sections and others. The changes reflect discussions of the CEDS Committee, Economic Development Working Group, and citizen feedback via public meetings. Following is a key to track the changes made in these sections.

- New goal, objective, or new/modified project ranking criteria: *Underlined and Italicized*
 - If project was moved to another priority level, its previous level is recorded in (parentheses)
- Goal or objective moved: *Italicized*
- Word or phrase removed: ~~Strikethrough~~
 - If a word or phrase was moved, the original received a strikethrough with a note in (parentheses) indicating its new position.

At the April Commissioner Meeting, the final CEDS Project List will be submitted for review.

Please contact me with any questions prior to the March meeting, or if you would like to discuss the CEDS process in greater detail.

Counties:
Floyd, Giles, Montgomery, Pulaski

Towns:
Blacksburg, Christiansburg, Floyd
Pulaski, Narrows, Pearisburg, Rich Creek

Universities:
Radford University
Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University

City:
Radford

Project Evaluation Criteria - Revised March 2012

As stated in the Organization and Management section of this report, the PDC Board members reviewed and updated the project evaluation criteria.

PROJECT TYPE (Points)

Priority Level 1 (8)

- Water, sewer and communication utilities
- Employment Creation/Retention
 - Technology and Industrial
- Entrepreneurial/Small Business Assistance
- Regional/Local School & Educational Facilities & Programs (combined)
- Transportation Planning (new)
- Housing Production
- Technology Career Facilities
- Clean Energy Projects
- Tourism
- Community Facilities¹
- Marketing/Promotion of Assets (new)
- Senior Care Facilities (3)

Priority Level 2 (6)

- Primary/Arterial Roads & Transportation Maintenance(1)
- Passenger Rail and Airport Service
- Facilities for Protected Populations
- Comprehensive Community Development²
- Employment Creation/ Retention-Commercial (4)
- Mixed Use Development
- Central Business District Revitalization
- Green ~~Infrastructure~~ Building Projects and Natural/Cultural Resources Protection (3)
- ~~Interstate~~ Public Transportation Connections

Priority Level 3 (4)

- ~~Sheltered Workshop~~
- Secondary Roads (2)
- Community Centers/Recreation
- Other Economic Development
- Homeownership Program
- Drainage/Flood Control (2)

Priority Level 4 (2)

- Other Housing
- Other Community Facilities
- Other Community Services Facilities³
- Community Development Programs
- Drought Management (2)

¹ Water services, wastewater services, drainage improvements, and street improvements.

² Targets neighborhood improvements including; housing, water, sewer, streets, drainage, sidewalks, solid waste/garbage, debris removal, street lighting, recreation, police/fire protection, and other neighborhood specific items.

³ Targets LMI persons needs for day care facilities, facilities for protected populations, community centers, health clinics, hospitals, and skill-building facilities for youth and the unemployed.

OTHER CRITERIA

While “project type” links the project criteria to the CEDS’ Goals and Strategies, there are other important factors in ranking individual projects. These factors are represented in the criteria listed below:

- Investment Relationship
- Regional Participation
- Relationship
- Per Capita Income
- Unemployment Rate
- Relative Jurisdictional Stress
- Relationship to Private Investments
- Relationship to Previous Investments
- Readiness to Initiate Project
- Public Private Partnership
- Relationship to “Green”

1. Investment Relationship: The project is a significant investment in relation to the economy of the Planning District.

Points

- 4 A. Proposed investment directly supports high skill/high wage jobs.
- 3 B. Proposed investment results in an environment to support high skill/high wage jobs.
- 2 C. Proposed investment results in jobs having a regional average wage.
- 1 D. Proposed investment is to support high skill/high wage jobs.
- 0 E. Does not support job creation with above average wages.

2. Regional Significance: The significance of a project is in relation to the number of jurisdictions participating or impacted in reference to services and money invested.

Points

- 5 A. Four or More Jurisdictions Participating or Impacted
- 3 B. Three Jurisdictions Participating or Impacted
- 2 C. Two Jurisdictions Participating or Impacted
- 1 D. One Jurisdiction Participating or Impacted

3. Proposed Investment is Proactive: The proposed investment looks beyond the immediate economic horizon and is aimed at strengthening the relationships among business clusters.

Points

- 5 A. Project Relates Directly to Two or More existing or emerging Regional Economic Clusters
- 2 B. Project Relates Directly to One existing or emerging Regional Economic Cluster.
- 0 C. Project Does not Relate to a Regional Economic Cluster

4. Per Capita Income: Utilizing the latest available data, per capita income will be used in evaluating project significance. City-County/Town rank will be utilized, while in cases of multiple jurisdictions, the average rank will be determined.

Points

- 3 A. If less than or equal to 60% of State per capita income
- 2 B. If 61 - 74% of State per capita income
- 1 C. If 75 - 99% of State per capita income
- 0 D. If greater than or equal to the State per capita income

5. Unemployment Rate: Utilizing the latest annual average figures available, unemployment rates will be used in evaluating project significance. City-County/Town will be utilized, while in cases of multiple jurisdictions, the average rank will be determined.

Points

- 3 A. If 10% or more above State average (formerly 50%)
- 2 B. If 5 - 10% above State average (formerly 25-49%)
- 1 C. If 1 - 5% above State average (formerly 1-24%)
- 0 D. If equal to or below State average

6. Relative Jurisdictional Stress: A composite index prepared by the Commission on Local Government to compare the relative strengths of the jurisdictions in the State.

Points

- 2 A. High stress
- 1 B. Above average stress
- 0 C. Below average stress

7. Relationship to Private Investments: Capital investments from private sources relate to the significance of the project.

Points

- 5 A. Direct Private Capital Investment
- 3 B. Direct Relationship to Private Capital Investment
- 2 C. Indirect Relationship to Private Capital Investment
- 1 D. Minimal Indirect Relationship to Private Capital Investment

8. Relationship to Previous Investment

Points

- 2 A. New Service or Facility; Expansion of Service from an Existing Service
- 1 B. Replacement of Existing Service or Facility

9. Readiness to Initiate Project

Points

- 5 A. Jurisdictional Commitment and Final Plans and Specifications-Application Filed
- 4 B. Jurisdictional Commitment - Preliminary Plans and Specifications-Pre-application Filed
- 2 C. Jurisdictional Commitment, but no Plans and Specifications-Desired Project
- 1 D. No Jurisdictional Commitment, but Preliminary Plans and Specifications- Pre-application/Application
- 0 E. No Jurisdictional Commitment and no Plans and Specifications- No Pre-application/Application

10. Public Private Partnership

Points

- 3 A. Significant Public Private Partners
- 1 B. A Public Private Partner
- 0 C. No Public Private Partner

11. Relationship to "Green" Practices

Points

- 5 A. Project directly creates "green" jobs
- 4 B. Project implements "green ~~technologies~~ practices" with certification
- 2 C. Project implements "green ~~technologies~~ practices"
- 1 D. Project results in recycling or reuse
- 0 E. Little or no "green" commitment

12. Relationship to Natural Resources

Points

- 5 A. Project sets aside land for conservation
- 3 B. Project compliments natural assets
- 0 C. Project does not benefit natural resources
- 2 D. Project is a detriment to natural resources

In addition to the above criteria, all of the projects are reviewed for relationships to regional markets in order to maximize the return on taxpayer investment. Proposed projects are proactive trying to anticipate the economic changes in the region and continue to diversify the economy.

The environmental impact of each project will be evaluated on a project-by-project basis.

Evaluating Projects

Projects remaining from the 2012 Project package as well as new project ideas are evaluated and ranked using the above criteria. While all the criteria are important, several are based directly on the most current economic data. For a summary of that data, see Tables 1, 2 and 3 below. For the scores and ranked projects, see the **New River Valley 2013 Annual Project Package**, page 36. (To see the short-range vs. long-range breakdown, see **New River Valley 2013 Annual Project Package in Time Order**, page 44).

Table 1
Per Capita Income

Jurisdiction	2006-2010	% of VA	Population
Floyd County	\$21,425	66.7%	15,030
Giles County	\$20,985	65.3%	17,205
Montgomery County	\$22,040	68.6%	92,527
Pulaski County	\$20,976	65.3%	34,963
City of Radford	\$16,496	51.3%	16,318
New River Valley	\$21,159	65.8%	176,043
Virginia	\$32,145	100%	7,841,754

Source: 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5 Year Estimates

Table 2
2011 Unemployment Rates

Jurisdiction	Percent
Floyd County	6.4%
Giles County	7.0%
Montgomery County	6.0%
Pulaski County	6.1%
City of Radford	7.0%
New River Valley	6.3%
Virginia	6.1%

Source: Virginia Workforce Connection

Note: 10% above the Virginia Level would be 6.71%
or more; 5-10% would be 6.405% to 6.709%

Table 3
2010 Fiscal Stress Scores by Locality

Jursidiction	Fiscal Stress
Floyd County	Below Average
Giles County	Above Average
Montgomery County	Above Average
Pulaski County	Above Average
City of Radford	High

Source: Virginia Commission on Local Governments, January 2012.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Virginia's New River Valley

VISION 2020

"Community First...Regional Partners in a Global Marketplace"

Updated March 2012

The New River Valley Planning District Commission (Economic Development District) leads the continuous planning process for economic development in *Virginia's* New River Valley region.

A major update to *Vision 2020* was completed in 2003. The process started with a Celebration of the accomplishments in the Region since the 1995 version of the regional strategic planning document was prepared, and "Community First" emerged as a theme. During 2009 the Commission undertook the second major update of *Vision 2020*. There was considerable concern about the global economy, the decline in manufacturing, and the focus of education. "Community First" continued to be relevant, however it was broadened into a regional context recognizing the need to be both a supplier as well as a consumer in the global marketplace. *Vision 2020* has since taken on the title "*Community First...Regional Partners in a Global Marketplace*".

The Economic Development District works closely with localities and several regional groups that take key roles in pursuing economic development projects and funding to advance the quality of life in the New River Valley. The Goals and Objectives from the 2009 *Vision 2020* update were revised in April 2011 and are presented here in the four interrelated categories of People, Business/Industry and Employment, Natural and Cultural Resources, and Physical Infrastructure.

Goals and Objectives

PEOPLE

The New River Valley sees its people as its greatest resource for economic sustainability. We recognize that in order for our area to be prosperous, our people must have the tools, resources, and education necessary to reach their full potential as citizens, workers and leaders.

P-1 Goal: To create educational programs that transcend school district lines to maximize available resources and eliminate inequity.

Objective: Use multi-media, distance learning and other technologies in the classroom to share instructional resources and delivery and to access to information throughout the region, focusing on dual-enrollment and AP programs.

Objective: Allocate resources equitably to ensure that students from all economic and basic skill groups in school are prepared, encouraged, and ready to learn.

Objective: Encourage State recognition of the need for a funding formula fostering regional cooperation among public schools in technology training and education.

P-2 Goal: To improve the Industry / Education interface at all levels.

Objective: To establish partnerships between industry/business and all levels of education by implementing an integrated workforce curriculum that provides students with more "real world" learning opportunities and promotes the importance of skill development in order to prepare them to compete in a global economy.

Objective: Provide nurturing environment to all children that stresses "employability skills" including work ethic.

Objective: Expand mentoring and "shadow" programs.

Objective: Establish as an outcome of education and training programs preparation for business ownership.

Objective: *Create apprenticeship program to train New River Valley residents in trade-specific skills.*

P-3 Goal: To increase literacy rates among the region's children and adults (90% with High School Diploma or equivalent).

Objective: Expand programs to teach basic literacy skills.

Objective: Offer more on-site literacy training opportunities to local businesses and industries.

P-4 Goal: To create life-long learning opportunities for New River Valley residents.

Objective: Expand educational curriculum, operating hours, use of technology, and location of programming to offer non-traditional students educational opportunities to meet the needs of all of the region's residents.

Objective: Provide affordable, diverse, and accessible continuing education opportunities.

P-5 Goal: To train and re-train workers for higher skills and productivity in the 21st Century economy.

Objective: Train managers and workers to meet the current and future challenges of a competitive marketplace.

Objective: Expand existing and explore new opportunities for corporate business training and professional development programs (i.e. CREATES).

Objective: Encourage the "one stop career shop" to program services based on economic opportunities of the region and geared to providing skills and assistance necessary to compete in the global marketplace.

Objective: Implement an integrated workforce curriculum for 9th through 12th grades to prepare students for technical careers that will support the recruitment of high technology, bio-technology and/or nano-technology industries to the New River Valley.

P-6 Goal: To enhance and link the region's labor skills and technology advantages to improve wage levels.

Objective: Link local industries with technology and research capabilities of Virginia Tech, Radford University, and New River Community College.

Objective: Expand the Virginia Tech Corporate Research Center's programs to include a strong technology transfer component.

Objective: Encourage alternative education in vocational programs, marketable skills, including business skills.

Objective: Market the region's specialty skill base to prospective industries.

Objective: Support research and development at all higher education institutions.

P-7 Goal: To foster inter-agency cooperation in the delivery of human services.

Objective: Devise an easily available system for the delivery of human services.

Objective: Strengthen client awareness of available services through better use of media, technology, and volunteer care networks, and the grouping of social service agency representatives and informational material within the one stop center.

P-8 Goal: To provide affordable and accessible human services to all New River Valley citizens.

Objective: Make high quality services available in the New River Valley.

Objective: Target the needs of "high risk" persons of the region in order to allow greater participation of these persons in the workforce and community.

Objective: Encourage and improve volunteer involvement in the delivery of human services.

P-9 Goal: To create an affordable, accessible public transportation system for all citizens.

Objective: Coordinate and maximize the use of existing public and private transportation resources focused on employment mobility.

Objective: Target and coordinate the expansion of currently available and on demand transportation services to fill the needs of elderly, disabled, and disadvantaged citizens.

Objective: Plan and coordinate the expansion of the existing public transportation network to incorporate the entire New River Valley.

Objective: Support volunteer-based transportation alternatives (e.g. ~~Access to Rides~~ RIDE Solutions).

P-10 Goal: To expand the region's child and adult daycare network.

Objective: Support the development of an integrated network of private and public child and adult day care providers to assist families twenty-four hours a day.

P-11 Goal: To ensure the safety of the region's citizens.

Objective: Improve the region's preparedness and ability to respond to natural crisis and man-made emergencies.

Objective: Reduce police, fire, and Emergency Medical Service response times throughout the New River Valley.

P-12 Goal: To provide youth programs and support.

Objective: Provide access to family basics training.

Objective: Encourage a system of after school programs (e.g., boys and girls clubs).

Objective: Support the provision of youth shelter(s).

P-13 Goal: To recognize and celebrate the emerging cultural diversity.

Objective: Recognize the cultural diversity that is the New River Valley.

- Objective:** Integrate emerging cultural diversity.
- P-14 Goal:** To train, inspire, support and deploy qualified leadership for all sectors and programs in the region.
- Objective:** Support Leadership Development Programs.
- Objective:** Develop regional leadership organization and certification programs.
- P-15 Goal:** To establish youth involvement in the regional community.
- Objective:** Establish youth leadership training.
- Objective:** Seek youth participation in programs and provide recognition.
- Objective:** Create youth-specific seats on local councils, boards, and committees.
- Objective:** Create a Youth Entrepreneurial Center for business and civic development and practice.
- Objective:** Establish youth leadership recognition program.
- P-16 Goal:** To enhance public understanding of organizations and their functions.
- Objective:** Community awareness workshops for corporate leaders and elected officials.
- Objective:** Establish a mechanism to foster regional coordination among government agencies and organizations.
- Objective:** Research and publicize non-profit and public contributions to community development efforts.
- Objective:** Quarterly human service community meetings to discuss service delivery and system constraints and promote community input and collaborative problem solving.
- P-17 Goal:** To promote and support organizational development and engagement in regional cooperation and collaboration.
- Objective:** Strengthen Non-profit corporate governance.
- Objective:** Promote local philanthropy to enhance community investment and commitment to local development.
- Objective:** Support regional coordination within and between government agencies.
- Objective:** Support partnerships between government agencies and Non-profits.
- P-18 Goal:** To assist in establishment of a regional system to protect the region's physical and economic security.
- Objective:** Encourage the training of law enforcement departments in Homeland Security.

Objective: Assist localities in meeting homeland planning requirements.

Objective: Support communication interoperability among first responders.

P-19 Goal: Support the changing needs and preferences of housing with respect to current and projected demographic shifts within the New River Valley.

Objective: Collect data related to aging in place within the region.

Objective: Develop training programs to develop workforce skills in home modifications and retrofits

BUSINESS/INDUSTRY AND EMPLOYMENT

The New River Valley has a diverse economic base, from emerging high technology industries to traditional family farms, all of which need to be supported and developed so that they can continue to provide high quality jobs and regional investment.

BI-1 Goal: To expand the use of green, bio, and nano technologies as a basis for entrepreneurial ventures.

Objective: Encourage the use of locally developed technology in manufacturing and other industry.

Objective: Support the development of E-commerce and business-to-business ventures.

Objective: Encourage the formation of programs to develop green/bio/nano technology based businesses.

Objective: Broaden the availability of educational programs that support green/bio/nano technology based business ventures.

BI-2 Goal: To increase the number of jobs created through entrepreneurial start-ups and expansions in the New River Valley.

Objective: *Optimize existing resources for entrepreneurs and promote collaboration between those resources (SBDC, VTKnowledgeWorks, NRVCC, etc.)*

Objective: Organize creative financing programs and improve entrepreneurs' access to capital.

Objective: Strengthen the New River Valley's capacity to assist in the creation and expansion of businesses that are competitive locally, nationally, and globally.

Objective: Support the business incubators, and their services to new businesses including the development of corporate structures.

Objective: Business establishment as an educational outcome.

Objective: *Increase small business support services through provision of community e-commerce space as well as trainings (social media, computer, etc.) and connections between interns and employers.*

BI-3 Goal: To increase the development and support of local family farms.

Objective: Develop educational, networking and mentoring programs to support and encourage the continuation of family farms.

Objective: Expand the availability and networking of "farmers markets" for selling of local produce and farming products (i.e. eggs, meats, wool, etc).

Objective: Develop and expand the availability of processing and aggregation facilities for local farm products (i.e. meats, dairy, vegetables, etc).

Objective: Implement "Farms to School" programs, which would widen the market for locally grown produce and products and provide our children with better quality food.

Objective: Incorporate into secondary and post-secondary agricultural programs opportunities for learning about organic and "green" methods and technologies.

Objective: Encourage cooperation between farmers and their public and private sector partners.

Objective: Support local foods as part of economic growth and diversity.

BI-4 Goal: To encourage "would be" entrepreneurs through education and enhanced opportunities.

Objective: Provide alternate educational opportunities and support to encourage self-employment.

Objective: Encourage and acknowledge entrepreneurial efforts in established local industries and businesses.

Objective: Encourage home-based, community-based business zoning.

Objective: Explore the establishment of a youth entrepreneurial center.

BI-5 Goal: To expand the region's economic base without compromising the high quality of life.

Objective: Recruit environmentally responsible companies that are utilizing green technology and infrastructure.

Objective: Utilize appropriate land use controls and utility availability to direct business to appropriate locations.

Objective: Develop and promote micro-business opportunities for recycled products to enhance local utilization of recycled materials.

BI-6 Goal: To improve the region's ability to market itself and respond to the needs of new industrial, research, and technological prospects.

Objective: Market the region's ~~existing~~ current projects and create a database of available industrial, technology, and research space and services.

Objective: Expand multi-regional marketing campaigns involving the New River Valley Economic Development Alliance, and similar organizations throughout Western Virginia.

BI-7 Goal: To strengthen the economic position of downtown commercial districts.

Objective: Enhance the diversity of the region's shopping opportunities.

- Objective:** Improve the competitiveness of downtown business districts.
- Objective:** Seek diversification and mixed use redevelopment of commercial districts.
- Objective:** Support downtown revitalization goals within each New River Valley community.

BI-8 Goal: To improve the customer service quality of local businesses.

- Objective:** Provide service instruction to employees.
- Objective:** Improve the region's ability to provide basic travel information to visitors through regional collaboration on marketing initiatives and a regional website.

BI-9 Goal: To improve the region's tourism development potential and ability to market itself as a tourism destination.

- Objective:** Develop a feasibility report on the appropriate Tourism Marketing Organizations to market the Region.
- Objective:** Increase the region's tourism readiness and marketing capacity by developing a process to better utilize media for region wide initiatives. (*Combined below)
- Objective:** Develop a process for coordination of regional events to incorporate tours, sites, weekend packages that would include multiple NRV localities.
- ~~**Objective:** Develop a process to better utilize current marketing resources (radio, internet, print, etc) for region wide initiatives. (*Combined above)~~
- Objective:** Attract support services.
- Objective:** Participate, support, and encourage southwestern Virginia initiatives such as 'Round the Mountain, Crooked Road, and Heartwood Center.

BI-10 Goal: To attract new industries that will complement the region's economy, strengthen inter-industry linkages, and utilize the region's labor force.

- Objective:** Seek firms with an international focus to utilize the strategic assets of the New River Valley International Airport, Foreign Trade Zone and Commerce Park.
- Objective:** Pursue a targeted and coordinated approach to economic development.
- Objective:** Recruit outside firms seeking a trained and skilled labor force, low utility costs, high quality industrial space, and convenient highway access.
- Objective:** Recruit outside firms that currently have significant vendor relationships with New River Valley companies.
- Objective:** Utilize Virginia's First to provide creative public incentives to encourage private investment.

Objective: Foster partnerships among localities with common needs (including non-adjacent counties).

BI-11 Goal: To enhance the financial resources of local governments through tax restructuring.

Objective: Encourage the State to share income taxes and revenue growth with localities.

Objective: Encourage the state to allow more flexible local revenue strategies.

BI-12 Goal: To bring a voice to the policy table on behalf of the region.

Objective: Seek representation on State Commissions and Committees.

Objective: Provide input to State from regional economic development organizations and planning districts.

BI-13 Goal: To improve the ability of local firms to strengthen industry relationships, access product and/or consumer markets, and become globally competitive.

Objective: Develop a "Corporate Team" program to encourage local businesses to work together to pursue joint markets and/or federal contracts.

Objective: E-business support and development.

Objective: Develop regional marketing initiatives to promote New River Valley products to other state, national, and international markets.

BI-14 Goal: To develop and strengthen the role of international trade and commerce in the economy of the New River Valley.

Objective: Coordinate with existing international trade promotion, training and networking efforts/initiatives.

Objective: Market the advantages and promote the use of the Foreign Trade Zone and Customs Office at the New River Valley International Airport.

Objective: Use Foreign Trade Zone status as a tool in recruiting new industries and diversifying the New River Valley's economy.

BI-15 Goal: To improve the region's ability to support and respond to the needs of local industries.

Objective: Create a more supportive and open relationship between industry, government, and educational institutions.

Objective: Utilize the Community College or the One-stop Centers to assist businesses seeking trained employees or training of employees requiring enhanced skills.

Objective: Provide intermediary between industry and social services.

BI-16 Goal: To improve the corporate profitability of existing firms in order to encourage capital investment and job creation.

Objective: Evaluate the opportunity to create a New River Business Development Fund within the Community Foundation.

Objective: Create new and support existing financing opportunities for business/industry expansion.

Objective: Assist the commercialization of innovative technology and non-technology-based enterprises.

Objective: Develop more value-added processes for products developed locally.

Objective: Encourage recruitment of local college graduates.

BI-17 Goal: To develop opportunities with international firms.

Objective: Identify potential international partners for local firms.

Objective: Evaluate the opportunities to locate a multi-modal transportation facility in the region.

Objective: Support location of international firms in the region.

BI-18 Goal: To capitalize on the region's unique human resources.

Objective: Utilize specialty training (e.g. engineers, agriculture, telecommunication, and bio/nano/green technology).

Objective: Utilize specialty skills (e.g. artists and artisans).

Objective: Utilize basic skills in newer industries (e.g. hand dexterity).

BI-19 Goal: To increase the financial wellbeing of the region's citizens and businesses.

Objective: Provide information on the impacts of various financial programs to enhance wellbeing, including credit card debt, reverse mortgages, payday checks, equity loans.

Objective: Assist businesses in understanding financing options and programs.

NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

The New River Valley is an attractive and desirable place to live, work, and visit.

NR-1 Goal: To develop ~~eco-~~ tourism opportunities in the New River Valley

- Objective:** Design and market a series of travel packages for different recreational consumers.
- Objective:** Institute measures to protect critical areas from inappropriate development.
- Objective:** Inventory cultural sites and artisan shops throughout the region, and establish loop trails off the Blue Ridge Parkway.
- Objective:** Develop nature-based recreational opportunities, including a network of trails for hiking and biking.
- Objective:** *Identify, develop, and package the region's inventory of historical assets cultural and arts and cultural activities, natural features, and events ~~market to outside markets~~ to support external marketing.*
- Objective:** *Examine opportunities to attract travelers from the Blue Ridge Parkway.*
- Objective:** *Develop a blueway along the New River, regionally.*
- Objective:** *Seek inter-regional partnerships with other Virginia communities, West Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee, and Kentucky to enhance the region as a tourism destination.*

NR-2 Goal: To manage the impacts of existing and future development land uses in order to preserve the character and quality of the regional environment.

- Objective:** Improve land use planning and practices to preserve the region's rural character and ensure that critical or high risk areas are protected from inappropriate development.
- Objective:** Educate the public on the issues of land use planning and ~~controls~~ tools.
- Objective:** Encourage the development of recreational amenities in conjunction with all development throughout the region.
- Objective:** Collaborate with the New River Valley Land Trust and other groups to educate landowners regarding voluntary conservation easements and their financial benefits.
- Objective:** Promote local comprehensive plans and zoning ordinances that support preservation and conservation efforts.
- Objective:** Encourage a wide variety of development patterns, with emphasis on density, to preserve regional character.
- Objective:** Minimize the effect of existing and future polluting industries
- Objective:** Evaluate the region for implementation of alternative energy developments and investigate consumer interest and demand for energy efficiency and renewables.

- Objective:** *Promote and support "green" development practices.*
- Objective:** *Continue and further develop a communication method/process by which all organizations/agencies that are promoting and using conservation, green technology, and alternative energy sources can share information with each other and the public.*
- Objective:** *Implement educational programs in the K-12 system that teach and promote conservation, alternative energy, and recycling (like the NEED Program).*
- Objective:** *Create incentives for energy retrofits for homes and businesses while supporting renewable and alternative energy options.*
- Objective:** *Centralize marketing of energy efficiency options.*
- Objective:** *Continue public awareness of benefits and needs for recycling.*
- Objective:** *Develop convenient means to recycle throughout the New River Valley.*

NR-3 Goal: To increase the awareness of educational and cultural programs in the region.

- Objective:** *Promote the enhancement of educational and cultural amenities, to include cultural libraries.*
- Objective:** *Coordinate and cooperatively market local events regionally.*

NR-4 Goal: Develop a regional identity/brand to increase the marketability of the region.

- Objective:** *Create and support a regional tourism agency/organization to promote the New River Valley as a whole in partnership with each locality and other regional promotion organizations.*
- Objective:** *Support creative economy highlighting skills endogenous to the Appalachian Mountains.*
- Objective:** *Support existing agriculture and forestry operations and assist in developing alternative agriculture opportunities.*

~~**Goal: To encourage regional recycling as a way to reduce demand for new or expanded solid waste facilities.**~~

- ~~**Objective:** Continue public awareness of benefits and needs for recycling.~~
- ~~**Objective:** Develop convenient means to recycle throughout the New River Valley.
(Combined with NR-2 goal)~~

~~**Goal: To develop activities and attractions that would better utilize the tourism potential of the New River Valley.**~~

- ~~**Objective:** Develop a regional identity/brand to increase the marketability of the region.~~
- ~~**Objective:** Examine opportunities to attract travelers from the Blue Ridge Parkway.~~

- ~~Objective: Create and support a regional tourism agency/organization to promote the New River Valley as a whole in partnership with each locality and other regional promotion organizations.~~
- ~~Objective: Develop a blueway along the New River, regionally.~~
- ~~Objective: Seek inter regional partnerships with other Virginia communities, West Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee, and Kentucky to enhance the region as a tourism destination.~~
- ~~Objective: Support creative economy highlighting skills endogenous to the Appalachian Mountains. (Combined with NR-1 Goal for Tourism)~~

~~**Goal: To encourage conservation of natural resources and develop alternative energy resources.**~~

- ~~Objective: Evaluate the region for implementation of alternative energy developments and investigate consumer interest and demand for energy efficiency and renewables.~~
- ~~Objective: Promote and support "green" development practices.~~
- ~~Objective: Continue and further develop a communication method/process by which all organizations/agencies that are promoting and using conservation, green technology, and alternative energy sources can share information with each other and the public.~~
- ~~Objective: Implement educational programs in the K-12 system that teach and promote conservation, alternative energy, and recycling (like the NEED Program).~~
- ~~Objective: Create incentives for energy retrofits for homes and businesses while supporting renewable and alternative energy options.~~
- ~~Objective: Centralize marketing of energy efficiency options.~~
- ~~Objective: Continue public awareness of benefits and needs for recycling.~~
- ~~Objective: Develop convenient means to recycle throughout the New River Valley.~~
(Moved to NR-2)

PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

The New River Valley has complete and quality infrastructure to support the goals, needs, and aspirations of the regional community.

PI-1 Goal: To improve the capacity, condition, connectivity and efficiency of inter- and intra-regional transportation systems.

- Objective:** Seek the commitment of government and private interests to improve the capacity, efficiency, and condition of the regional transportation network.
- Objective:** Increase the capacity and utilization of existing air service facilities in the New River Valley.
- Objective:** Support passenger rail service for the New River Valley.
- Objective:** Increase interstate connections.
- Objective:** Seek opportunities to implement multi-modal services and facilities.
- Objective:** Seek to expand public transportation services and private transportation providers.

PI-2 Goal: To ensure adequate, reliable, and safe delivery of all utilities in the New River Valley.

- Objective:** Interconnect water and sewer systems regionally where possible to improve reliability, safety, and water quality.
- Objective:** Examine the potential of the New River as an alternative source of water for communities using springs and wells.
- Objective:** Encourage AEP to build redundancy in electrical service to eliminate blackout/brownouts.
- Objective:** Deploy a network of fiber optics throughout the region.
- Objective:** Establish a regional stormwater management and utility program.
- Objective:** Create utility standards for service providers to follow and coordinate public digging to minimize costs and disturbances.
- Objective:** Encourage renewable energy generation as a sustainable option for New River Valley Energy Infrastructure (i.e. wind, solar, landfill methane capture, cogeneration facilities, etc.)

PI-3 Goal: To plan for the systematic construction, replacement, and repair of public infrastructure to meet future needs and ensure fiscal responsibility.

- Objective:** Encourage the development and updating of Capital Improvement Programs (CIP).
- Objective:** Seek creative and alternative funding sources for eligible capital improvement projects.

Objective: Seek creative and cooperative regional financing strategies for major infrastructure needs.

PI-4 Goal: To improve the region's telecommunication network to attract new firms, assist existing firms, and educate citizens.

Objective: Complete Broadband linkage throughout the NRV (affordable broadband available for every home and business).

Objective: Support and expand the New River Valley Wireless Authority to provide broadband infrastructure and evaluate needs and recommend strategies to expand the community network.

Objective: Promote the expansion and use of the "Electronic Classroom" at Virginia Tech, Radford University, New River Community College and primary and secondary schools.

Objective: Pursue direct electronic links to marketing information and market sources for advancing the region.

Objective: Establish a regional communications program for marketing and other outreach programs.

Objective: Enhance or replace obsolete telecommunications infrastructure.

PI-5 Goal: To enhance regional solutions to solid waste disposal and recycling.

Objective: Reduce the amount of waste added to the waste stream.

Objective: Seek inter-and intra-regional cooperation regarding the disposal of solid waste.

Objective: Pursue markets for recycled and reused products and materials.

PI-6 Goal: To assure that the region has ~~an ample~~ **a diverse and ample** supply of affordable housing to meet the needs of people in all income ranges and lifestyles.

Objective: Coordinate and adopt creative approaches to encourage the creation of affordable housing.

Objective: Promote the HOME program for providing low to moderate income individuals with opportunities for affordable home ownership.

Objective: Determine appropriate and cost-effective means for providing shelter for all residents.

Objective: Seek to establish phased retirement centers.

Objective: Support opportunities for affordable housing in close proximity to major employment centers.

Objective: Encourage a range of housing options that meet the housing needs and preferences across a person's lifespan.

PI-7 Goal: To increase the region's supply of ready and available industrial and other economic development properties.

- Objective:** Coordinate and evaluate the development of the New River Valley International Airport and the New River Valley Commerce Park to provide property for air related development.
- Objective:** Identify, evaluate, and negotiate the acquisition and/or reserved use of industrial and business property within the region.
- Objective:** Develop regional properties tailored to the needs of targeted industries.
- Objective:** Utilize Virginia's First Regional Industrial Facilities Authority to cooperatively develop properties and locate business and industry.
- Objective:** Develop public/private partnerships to meet space needs of targeted economic projects.

PI-8 Goal: To increase the commercialization of intellectual properties.

- Objective:** Support the implementation of programs and facilities which support companies in their development and utilization of intellectual properties. (e.g., VT KnowledgeWorks).

PI-9 Goal: To increase the mobility of the region's citizens, with particular focus on affordability.

- Objective:** Increase access to jobs from all parts of the region.
- Objective:** Create interconnectivity among transit and human resource transportation provides.
- Objective:** Enable access to encourage employee telecommuting.
- Objective:** System design should support the transportation needs of both citizens and visitors.
- Objective:** Encourage community design that fosters active living.

NEW RIVER VALLEY PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION

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Website: www.nrvpdc.org



Kevin R. Byrd, AICP
Executive Director

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION HONORING Malvin L. "Pug" Wells

WHEREAS, the New River Valley Planning District Commission expresses its deep sadness of the passing of our colleague Malvin L. "Pug" Wells on March 7, 2012; and

WHEREAS, Pug was a native of Eastern Montgomery County who utilized his talents perpetually serving his community; and

WHEREAS, Pug was dedicated to the betterment of the New River Valley with a passion that widely impacted citizens of the region; and

WHEREAS, his leadership and diligence while serving on the Montgomery County Planning Commission for 31 years benefitted citizens throughout Montgomery County and the New River Valley; and

WHEREAS, Pug's commitment to community service will remain in the minds of those who stood side by side with him; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the New River Valley Planning District Commission recognizes Pug for his service and commitment to the citizens of the New River Valley;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be presented to his family as recognition of his dedication, and as a thank you for his active involvement community service.

Adopted March 22, 2012

Holly Lesko, Chair

NEW RIVER VALLEY PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION

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Kevin R. Byrd, AICP
Executive Director

COMMONWEALTH INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW MEMORANDUM

TO: Planning Commission Members
FROM: Kevin R. Byrd, Executive Director
AGENDA ITEM: XI. Intergovernmental Review Process, C. Environmental Project Review, Item #1

CIRP Review

March 9, 2012

PROJECT: **Management of Vulture Damage in Virginia**

SUBMITTED BY: USDA/Animal & Plant Health Inspection Services/WS

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Department of Environmental Quality has requested comment on the Environmental Assessment of the above referenced project.

PROJECT SENT FOR REVIEW TO: Planning Commission members, not individual localities.

STAFF COMMENT: The staff has reviewed the appropriate plans (Land Use, Water Quality Management, Regional Solid Waste Management, Vision 2020, and the Economic Development plans) and finds that this project does not conflict with the plans or regional policies and goals.

Counties:
Floyd, Giles, Montgomery, Pulaski

Towns:
Blacksburg, Christiansburg, Floyd
Pulaski, Narrows, Pearisburg, Rich Creek

Universities:
Radford University
Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University

City:
Radford

**SUPPLEMENT TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT:
MANAGEMENT OF VULTURE DAMAGE IN THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA**

**United States Department of Agriculture
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
Wildlife Services**

February 2012

INTRODUCTION

An environmental assessment (EA) was prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Wildlife Services (WS) program, in cooperation with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF), to evaluate alternatives for the reduction of black vulture (*Coragyps atratus*) and turkey vulture (*Cathartes aura*) damage to property, agricultural resources, and threats to public health and safety in the Commonwealth of Virginia (USDA 2002). The EA evaluated the need for WS' activities and the relative effectiveness of five alternatives to meet that proposed need, while accounting for the potential environmental effects of those activities. The proposed action in the EA evaluates an integrated damage management program in the Commonwealth to fully address the need for resolving damage caused by vultures while minimizing impacts to the human environment.

Comments from the public involvement process were reviewed for substantive issues and alternatives which were considered in developing the Decision for the EA. After consideration of the analysis contained in the EA and review of public comments, a Decision and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the EA was issued on January 15, 2003. The Decision and FONSI selected the proposed action alternative to implement an integrated damage management program using multiple methods to adequately address the need for vulture damage management. An amendment to the EA¹ was developed in 2004 (USDA 2004) and a new Decision and FONSI were issued on February 10, 2005. The amendment to the EA addressed additional information on vultures and additional comments received after the close of the public involvement period for the EA.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the EA will remain as addressed in section 1.2 of the EA (USDA 2002). The amendment to the EA developed in 2004 addresses public comments received after the Decision and FONSI were signed for the EA and updates the data and population impact analysis in the original EA (USDA 2004). This supplement to the EA examines potential environmental impacts of WS' program as it relates to: 1) new information that has become available from research findings and data gathering since the issuance of the Decision and FONSI in 2005, 2) an increase in the number of requests for assistance to manage vulture damage and threats in Virginia, and 3) the analyses of WS' vulture damage management activities in Virginia since the Decision/FONSI was issued in 2005 to ensure program activities were within the impact parameters analyzed in the EA.

NEED FOR ACTION

A description of the need for action to address damage and threats associated with vultures in Virginia is provided in section 1.3 of the EA (USDA 2002) and in the amendment to the EA (USDA 2004). The need for action addressed in the EA and the amendment remains applicable to this supplement to the EA.

¹ The 2004 Supplement to the EA was titled as an Amendment. The terms Supplement and Amendment are used interchangeably in these NEPA documents.

The need for action to manage damage and threats associated with vultures in Virginia arises from requests for assistance² received by WS to reduce and prevent damage associated with vultures from occurring to four major categories: agricultural resources, property, and threats to human safety. From federal fiscal year³ (FY) 2006 through FY 2011, WS conducted 1,054 technical assistance projects involving black vultures and 298 technical assistance projects involving turkey vultures. Technical assistance is provided by WS to those persons requesting assistance with resolving damage or the threat of damage by providing information and recommendations on vulture damage management activities that can be conducted by the requestor without WS' direct involvement in managing or preventing the damage. The technical assistance projects conducted by WS are representative of the damage and threats that are caused by vultures in Virginia. WS' technical assistance activities are discussed further in Chapter 3 of the EA (USDA 2002, USDA 2004). Technical assistance projects do not include projects involving direct operational assistance provided by WS in which WS was requested to provide direct assistance with managing damage or threats of damage. Direct operational assistance provided by WS is discussed further in Chapter 3 of the EA (USDA 2002, USDA 2004).

During requests for assistance received by WS, cooperators often report or WS verifies through site visits, damage associated with vultures. Since FY 2006, damage has been reported to WS or WS has verified a total of \$570,186 in damages caused by vultures in the Commonwealth. Damages have been reported or verified as occurring primarily to property and agricultural resources. Monetary losses reported only reflect damage that has been reported to or verified by WS based on requests received for assistance. Assigning monetary damage to resources can be difficult especially when factoring in the lost aesthetic value. Similarly, placing a monetary value on threats to human safety can be difficult. The monetary damage reported reflects damage that has occurred and that has been reported to or verified by WS, but is not reflective of all vulture damage occurring in Virginia since not all damage or threats are reported to WS.

Table 1 – Vulture damage losses reported to or verified by WS in Virginia, FY 2006 – FY 2011.

Species	Fiscal Year						TOTAL
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011 [†]	
Black Vultures	\$143,245	\$58,238	\$65,421	\$117,202	\$75,900	\$61,150	\$521,156
Turkey Vultures	\$5,900	\$2,250	\$10,750	\$9,130	\$5,500	\$15,500	\$49,030
TOTAL	\$149,145	\$60,488	\$76,171	\$126,332	\$81,400	\$76,650	\$570,186

[†] Data for FY 2011 is preliminary

Economic damage to agricultural resources can occur from vultures feeding on livestock and from the increased risks of disease transmission associated with large concentrations of vultures. Although individual or small groups of vultures can cause economic damage to livestock producers, most economic damage occurs when vultures congregate in large flocks at livestock operations. According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), the market value of livestock, poultry, and their products in the Commonwealth during 2007 was estimated at over \$2 billion (NASS 2009). The cattle and calf inventory in Virginia during 2007 was nearly 1.6 million head with an estimated 371,000 hogs (NASS 2009).

Predation by black vultures on livestock has been reported since the 1930s including domestic pigs in Kentucky (Lovell 1947, Lovell 1952) and Texas (Parmalee 1954), lambs in West Virginia (Roads 1936)

² WS only conducts damage management activities after receiving a request for assistance. Before initiating activities, a Memorandum of Understanding, cooperative service agreement, or other comparable document must be signed between WS and the cooperating entity which lists all the methods the property owner or manager will allow to be used on property they own and/or manage.

³ The federal fiscal year begins on October 1 and ends on September 30 the following year.

and Ohio (Sprunt 1946), and cattle in Texas (Parmalee 1954). Black vultures are gregarious and groups averaging 20 to 60 individuals attack prey animals (Lowney 1999). Vultures can cause injuries and death to newborn lambs and calves during the birth of the animals. Vultures often attack the soft tissue areas of newborns as they are being expunged from the female. During the birthing process, newborns and mothers are vulnerable and often unable to prevent attacks by large groups of vultures. Vultures often attack the eyes and rectal area of newborns during delivery that results in serious injury to the lamb or calf which often leads to the death of the animal.

Livestock producers in the United States reported the loss of 11,900 head of cattle and calves from vultures in 2010 valued at \$4.6 million (NASS 2011). Livestock producers in Virginia reported that of those cattle and calves lost due to predators in 2010, 7.8% of the cattle and 12.9% of the calves were lost due to vultures (NASS 2011). Of all the cattle and calves reported as lost due to predators in Virginia during 2010, vultures were identified as the second leading cause of predation by predators behind only the coyote (*Canis latrans*) (NASS 2011).

In a study conducted by Milleson et al. (2006), Florida ranchers were surveyed to the extent and severity of cattle losses associated with vultures. Respondents of the survey reported that 82.4% of all livestock losses attributed to vultures were newborn calves which exceed the reported predation of all other livestock species and livestock age classes (Milleson et al. 2006). Ranchers reported during the survey period a total loss of 956 calves, 25 yearlings (cattle), and 101 adult cattle with a total value estimated at \$316,570 and a mean value lost estimated at \$2,595 (Milleson et al. 2006). Predation associated with vultures was reported to occur primarily from November through March, but predation was reported to occur throughout the year (Milleson et al. 2006).

Vultures are gregarious species (*i.e.*, form large flocks) especially during the fall and spring migration periods. Although damage and threats can occur throughout the year, damage is highest during those periods when vultures are concentrated into large flocks such as migration periods and during winter months when food sources are limited. The flocking behavior of vultures during migration periods can pose increased risks when those species occur near or on airport properties. Aircraft striking multiple birds not only increases the damage to the aircraft but can also increase the risk that a catastrophic failure of the aircraft might occur, especially if multiple birds are ingested into aircraft engines.

Vultures when in large flocks entering or exiting a roost at or near airports present a safety threat to aviation. Vultures can also present a risk to aircraft because of their large body mass and slow-flying or soaring behavior. Vultures are considered to be the most hazardous bird for an aircraft to strike based on the frequency of strikes, effect on flight, and amount of damage caused by vultures throughout the country (Dolbeer et al. 2000).

Proposed Supplement to the EA

WS continues to receive requests for assistance to manage damage to property, agricultural resources, and threats to human safety caused by vultures in Virginia. This supplement to the EA analyzes the affected environment and potential impacts as the proposed activities relate to the need for an increase in damage management activities to address increasing vulture populations. To assist with communicating to the public the individual and cumulative impacts associated with managing increasing damage and threats associated with vultures; those activities are being further analyzed and addressed in this supplement to the EA.

Between 1966 and 2009, the number of vultures observed in the State has increased (National Audubon Society 2010, Sauer et al. 2011). As the statewide population of vultures continues to increase, the number of vultures managed by WS to address requests for assistance is also likely to increase. Under the

proposed action alternative, WS would continue to employ non-lethal and lethal methods in an integrated approach to resolving requests for assistance associated with vultures in the Commonwealth. Therefore, if the number of vultures managed by WS annually continues to increase, the number of vultures addressed using lethal and non-lethal methods is also likely to increase.

Based on requests for assistance received by WS prior to the development of the EA and after further analysis in the amendment to the EA, WS anticipated that up to 1,000 black vultures could be lethally taken in the Commonwealth to address damage and threats of damage occurring, when requested (USDA 2002, USDA 2004). As the statewide population of black vultures has increased, the number of vultures addressed by WS to alleviate damage and threats has increased. In FY 2011, WS addressed a total of 7,231 black vultures in the Commonwealth using lethal and non-lethal methods to alleviate damage based on requests for assistance received. In comparison, during FY 2006, WS addressed a total of 821 black vultures to alleviate damage. Therefore, the number of black vultures addressed by WS during FY 2011 increased 781% from the number addressed in FY 2006. WS addressed a total of 1,774 black vultures using lethal and non-lethal methods during FY 2010; therefore, the number of vultures addressed by WS during FY 2011 represented an increase of nearly 308% compared to the number addressed in FY 2010.

WS' previous management actions have included non-lethal and lethal efforts to address requests to manage damage and threats as described under the proposed action alternative in the EA (USDA 2002, USDA 2004). As part of the requests for assistance, WS reasonably anticipates an increase in the number of birds requested to be lethally removed as part of an integrated damage management strategy to reducing damage and threats. Based on the anticipated need to address an increasing number of black vultures using lethal methods, WS anticipates that up to 2,500 black vultures could be lethally removed annually in the Commonwealth to address requests for assistance. WS also anticipates an increase in the need to non-lethally harass and disperse vultures as part of the increasing requests for assistance.

Although the number of turkey vultures observed in the State are also showing increasing trends (National Audubon Society 2010, Sauer et al. 2011), WS does not anticipate the number turkey vultures addressed annually to increase above those levels analyzed during the development of the EA and amendment to the EA. Although turkey vultures are known to cause damage to resources and pose threats to human safety, most requests for assistance received by WS are associated with black vultures or with mixed flocks of vultures that are dominated by the presence of black vultures. Therefore, lethal take of turkey vultures is not expected to exceed the level analyzed in the amendment to the EA (USDA 2004).

This supplement to the EA will evaluate the issues associated with an increase in the number of black vultures addressed by WS annually in the Commonwealth to address damage and threats associated with requests for assistance. The increase in the need to address black vultures in this supplement to the EA would allow WS to adequately address requests as needs are identified, as requested by cooperators experiencing threats to human safety and/or damage due to black vultures, and as funding permits. In addition, the use of paintballs to manage damage will be analyzed in this supplement to the EA.

RELATIONSHIP OF THIS DOCUMENT TO OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS

WS has developed a programmatic Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) that addresses the need for wildlife damage management in the United States (USDA 1997). The FEIS contains detailed discussions of potential impacts to the human environment from wildlife damage management methods used by WS. In addition, the FEIS contains a detailed risk assessment of many of the methods that would be available to WS to manage wildlife damage, including vulture damage management. Pertinent information available in the FEIS has been incorporated by reference into the EA and this supplement to the EA.

DECISIONS TO BE MADE

Based on the scope of the EA, the 2004 amendment, and this supplement to the EA, the decisions to be made are: 1) should WS continue to conduct vulture damage management to alleviate damage to agriculture, property, natural resources, and threats to human safety, 2) should WS continue to implement an integrated wildlife damage management strategy (proposed action), including technical assistance and direct operational assistance, to meet the need for vulture damage management in Virginia, 3) if not, should WS attempt to implement one of the alternatives to an integrated damage management strategy as described in the EA, and 4) would continuing the proposed action alternative or the alternatives under this supplement result in adverse impacts to the environment requiring the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) based on activities conducted since the completion of the EA and/or based on new information available.

RELATIONSHIPS OF AGENCIES DURING PREPARATION OF THIS EA SUPPLEMENT

Based on agency relationships, Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs), and legislative authorities, WS was the lead agency during the development of the EA and the amendment to the EA, and therefore, was responsible for the scope, content, and decisions made. Management of migratory birds is the responsibility of the USFWS under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. As the authority for the management of migratory bird populations, the USFWS was involved in the development of the EA and provided input throughout the EA preparation process to ensure an interdisciplinary approach according to the NEPA and agency mandates, policies, and regulations. The take of migratory, native bird species can only occur pursuant to the Migratory Bird Treaty Act when authorized through the issuance of a depredation permit by the USFWS; therefore, the take of vultures by WS to alleviate damage or reduce threats of damage would only occur at the discretion of the USFWS. In addition, any lethal take of vultures to alleviate damage or threats of damage would only occur at levels authorized by the USFWS as specified in depredation permits. The VDGIF is responsible for managing wildlife in the Commonwealth of Virginia, including vultures. Any activities conducted by WS to reduce and/or prevent vulture damage in the Commonwealth would be coordinated with the USFWS which ensure WS' actions would be incorporated into population objectives established by the USFWS for vulture populations in Virginia.

SCOPE OF ANALYSIS

The EA, the amendment to the Ea, and this supplement to the EA evaluate vulture damage management activities in the Commonwealth of Virginia to reduce damage to property, agriculture, and threats to human safety associated with vultures in the Commonwealth. The scope of analysis remains valid as addressed in the EA and the amendment to the EA unless otherwise discussed in this supplement.

Actions Analyzed

The EA and the amendment evaluate the need for vulture damage management to reduce threats and damage occurring to property, human health and safety, and agricultural resources on private or public land within the Commonwealth wherever such management is requested from the WS program (USDA 2002, USDA 2004). The EA, the amendment to the EA, and this supplement discuss the issues associated with conducting vulture damage management in the Commonwealth to meet the need for action and evaluate different alternatives to meeting that need while addressing those issues.

WS uses a decision model based on a publication by Slate et al. (1992) which involves evaluating each threat or damage situation, taking action, evaluating the action, and monitoring results of the actions taken. The published article provides more detail on the processes used in WS' Decision Model. WS' programmatic FEIS (USDA 1997) provides more detail and examples of how the model is used. WS'

personnel use the Decision Model to develop the most appropriate strategy to reduce damage and to determine potential environmental effects from damage management actions (Slate et al. 1992, USDA 1997, USDA 2002).

The methods available for use under the alternatives evaluated are provided in Appendix B of the EA. The alternatives and Appendix B in the EA also discuss how methods would be employed to manage damage and threats associated with vultures in the Commonwealth. Therefore, the actions evaluated in the EA and this supplement to the EA are the use of those methods available under the alternatives and the employment of those methods by WS to manage or prevent damage associated with vultures from occurring when permitted by the USFWS.

The MBTA makes it unlawful to pursue, hunt, take, capture, kill, possess, import, export, transport, sell, purchase, barter, or offer for sale, purchase, or barter, any migratory bird, or their parts, nests, or eggs (16 U.S.C 703-711). A list of bird species protected under the MBTA can be found in 50 CFR 10.13.

The MBTA does allow for the lethal take of those bird species listed in 50 CFR 10.13 when depredation occurs through the issuance of depredation permits or the establishment of depredation orders. Under authorities in the MBTA, the USFWS is the federal agency responsible for the issuance of depredation permits or the establishment of depredation orders for the take of those protected bird species when damage or threats of damage are occurring. Information regarding migratory bird permits can be found in 50 CFR 13 and 50 CFR 21.

The USFWS is a cooperating agency on this supplement to the EA to analyze cumulative take of those vultures from the issuance of depredation permits to entities within the Commonwealth. The USFWS has jurisdiction over the management of migratory birds and has specialized expertise in identifying and quantifying potential adverse effects to the human environment from bird damage management activities. The analyses in this supplement to the EA and the analyses in the EA and the amendment to the EA would ensure the compliance of the USFWS with the NEPA for the issuance of depredation permits for the take of vultures in the Commonwealth.

Native American Lands and Tribes

The WS program in Virginia would only conduct damage management activities on Native American lands when requested by a Native American Tribe and only after a MOU or cooperative service agreement has been signed between WS and the Tribe requesting assistance. Therefore, the Tribe would determine when WS' assistance is required and what activities would be allowed. Because Tribal officials would be responsible for requesting assistance from WS and determining what methods would be available to alleviate damage, no conflict with traditional cultural properties or beliefs would be anticipated. Those methods available to alleviate damage associated with vultures on federal, Commonwealth, county, municipal, and private properties under the alternatives analyzed in the EA, the amendment to the EA, and this supplement to the EA would also be available for use to alleviate damage on Tribal properties when the use of those methods have been approved for use by the Tribe requesting WS' assistance. Therefore, the activities and methods addressed under the alternatives would include those activities that could be employed on Native American lands, when requested and agreed upon.

Federal, Commonwealth, County, City, and Private Lands

Under four of the alternatives analyzed in detail, WS could continue to provide vulture damage management activities on federal, Commonwealth, county, municipal, and private land in Virginia when a request is received for such services by the appropriate property owner or manager. In those cases where a federal agency requests WS' assistance with managing damage caused by vultures, the requesting

NEW RIVER VALLEY PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION

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E-Mail: nrvpdc@nrvpdc.org

Website: www.nrvpdc.org



Kevin R. Byrd, AICP
Executive Director

COMMONWEALTH INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW MEMORANDUM

TO: Planning Commission Members
FROM: Kevin R. Byrd, Executive Director
AGENDA ITEM: XI. Intergovernmental Review Process, C. Environmental Project Review, Item #2

CIRP Review

March 12, 2012

PROJECT: **FY2012 Sec 103 PM 2.5 Air Monitoring Program
VA120312-01100400999**

SUBMITTED BY: Department of Environmental Quality

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Department of Environmental Quality has requested comment on the Application of the above referenced project.

PROJECT SENT FOR REVIEW TO: Planning Commission members, not individual localities.

STAFF COMMENT: The staff has reviewed the appropriate plans (Land Use, Water Quality Management, Regional Solid Waste Management, Vision 2020, and the Economic Development plans) and finds that this project does not conflict with the plans or regional policies and goals.

Counties:
Floyd, Giles, Montgomery, Pulaski

Towns:
Blacksburg, Christiansburg, Floyd
Pulaski, Narrows, Pearisburg, Rich Creek

Universities:
Radford University
Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University

City:
Radford

ASSISTANCE PROPOSAL FOR
PM 2.5 AMBIENT AIR MONITORING PROGRAM
FOR THE PERIOD APRIL 1, 2012 TO MARCH 31, 2013

FEDERAL GRANT PROGRAM:

Air Pollution Control Program Support - Funds are appropriated by Congress under §103 of the Clean Air Act to assist States in the establishment and operation of a small particulate (PM 2.5) ambient air-monitoring network in response to revised national air quality standards for particulate matter.

PURPOSE OF PROPOSAL:

DEQ will utilize this funding mechanism for the operation and maintenance of the existing PM 2.5 monitoring network. The budget period is for a year from April 1, 2012 to March 31, 2013.

FUNDING REQUEST:

Based on formula funding, Federal funds requested total \$572,683. Of the total, DEQ will receive \$487,631 direct. EPA will tap \$85,052 from this award to pay for portions of the program that are supported by national procurement contracts and national service contracts. No State cost share is required. The award will support approximately 3.93 FTEs.

ANTICIPATED RESULTS:

Submission, and subsequent approval, of this proposal will enable DEQ to continue implementation of the PM2.5 ambient air monitoring network and comply with the Federal standards for particulate monitoring.

PROJECT MANAGER:

Charles Turner, Phone: 527-5178

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424		
* 1. Type of Submission: ☐ Preapplication ☒ Application ☐ Changed/Corrected Application		
* 2. Type of Application: ☒ New ☐ Continuation ☐ Revision		
* If Revision, select appropriate letter(s): * Other (Specify): 		
* 3. Date Received: Completed by Grants.gov upon submission		4. Applicant Identifier:
5a. Federal Entity Identifier: 		5b. Federal Award Identifier:
State Use Only:		
6. Date Received by State: 		7. State Application Identifier:
8. APPLICANT INFORMATION:		
* a. Legal Name: Virginia Department of Environmental Quality		
* b. Employer/Taxpayer Identification Number (EIN/TIN): 54-1661753		* c. Organizational DUNS: 8097437680000
d. Address:		
* Street1: 629 East Main Street		
Street2:		
* City: Richmond		
County/Parish:		
* State: VA: Virginia		
Province:		
* Country: USA: UNITED STATES		
* Zip / Postal Code: 23219-2405		
e. Organizational Unit:		
Department Name: Air Quality Monitoring		Division Name: Air Division
f. Name and contact information of person to be contacted on matters involving this application:		
Prefix: Mr.		* First Name: Charles
Middle Name:		
* Last Name: Turner		
Suffix:		
Title: Director of Air Quality Monitoring		
Organizational Affiliation: 		
* Telephone Number: 804 527-5178		Fax Number:
* Email: charles.turner@deq.virginia.gov		

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424

*** 9. Type of Applicant 1: Select Applicant Type:**

A: State Government

Type of Applicant 2: Select Applicant Type:

Type of Applicant 3: Select Applicant Type:

*** Other (specify):**

*** 10. Name of Federal Agency:**

Environmental Protection Agency

11. Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number:

66.034

CFDA Title:

Surveys, Studies, Research, Investigations, Demonstrations, and Special Purpose Activities
Relating to the Clean Air Act

*** 12. Funding Opportunity Number:**

EPA-R3-001

*** Title:**

Region 3 Noncompetitive Announcement

13. Competition Identification Number:

Title:

14. Areas Affected by Project (Cities, Counties, States, etc.):

Add Attachment

Delete Attachment

View Attachment

*** 15. Descriptive Title of Applicant's Project:**

Section 103 PM 2.5 Air Monitoring Program

Attach supporting documents as specified in agency instructions.

Add Attachments

Delete Attachments

View Attachments

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424**16. Congressional Districts Of:*** a. Applicant **VA-003**b. Program/Project **VA-A11**

Attach an additional list of Program/Project Congressional Districts If needed.

Add Attachment

Delete Attachment

View Attachment

17. Proposed Project:* a. Start Date: **04/01/2012*** b. End Date: **03/31/2013****18. Estimated Funding (\$):**

* a. Federal	487,631.00
* b. Applicant	0.00
* c. State	0.00
* d. Local	0.00
* e. Other	85,052.00
* f. Program Income	0.00
* g. TOTAL	572,683.00

*** 19. Is Application Subject to Review By State Under Executive Order 12372 Process?**

- ☒ a. This application was made available to the State under the Executive Order 12372 Process for review on **3/12/12**
- ☐ b. Program is subject to E.O. 12372 but has not been selected by the State for review.
- ☐ c. Program is not covered by E.O. 12372.

*** 20. Is the Applicant Delinquent On Any Federal Debt? (If "Yes," provide explanation in attachment.)**☐ Yes ☒ No

If "Yes", provide explanation and attach

Add Attachment

Delete Attachment

View Attachment

21. *By signing this application, I certify (1) to the statements contained in the list of certifications** and (2) that the statements herein are true, complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I also provide the required assurances** and agree to comply with any resulting terms if I accept an award. I am aware that any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statements or claims may subject me to criminal, civil, or administrative penalties. (U.S. Code, Title 218, Section 1001)

☒ ** I AGREE

** The list of certifications and assurances, or an internet site where you may obtain this list, is contained in the announcement or agency specific instructions.

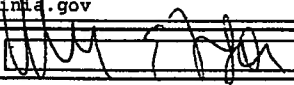
Authorized Representative:

Prefix: **Ms.** * First Name: **Valerie**

Middle Name:

* Last Name: **Thomson**

Suffix:

* Title: **Director of Administration*** Telephone Number: **804 698-4157**Fax Number: **804 698-4178*** Email: **valerie.thomson@deq.virginia.gov*** Signature of Authorized Representative: * Date Signed: **3/9/12**

NEW RIVER VALLEY PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION

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Website: www.nrvpdc.org



Kevin R. Byrd, AICP
Executive Director

COMMONWEALTH INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW MEMORANDUM

TO: Planning Commission Members

FROM: Kevin R. Byrd, Executive Director

AGENDA ITEM: XI. Intergovernmental Review Process, C. Environmental Project Review, Item #3

CIRP Review

March 13, 2012

PROJECT: **Falling Branch-Merrimac 138 kV Transmission Line Project, PUE 2012-0007 ENV12-048S**

SUBMITTED BY: Department of Environmental Quality

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Department of Environmental Quality has requested comment on the Application of the above referenced project.

PROJECT SENT FOR REVIEW TO: Barry Helms, Town of Christiansburg
Steve Sandy, Montgomery County

COMMENTS: Montgomery County's response is attached. As of this date no comments have been received from the Town of Christiansburg.

STAFF COMMENT: The staff has reviewed the appropriate plans (Land Use, Water Quality Management, Regional Solid Waste Management, Vision 2020, and the Economic Development plans) and finds that this project does not conflict with the plans or regional policies and goals.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REVIEW
ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW REQUEST FORM

1/12

DATE: March 1, 2012 PROJECT NUMBER (STATE/FEDERAL): 12-048S

PROJECT TITLE: Falling Branch-Merrimac 138 kV Transmission Line
Project, PUE 2012-00007

PROJECT SPONSOR: State Corporation Commission

TYPE OF DOCUMENT: ☐ Environmental Impact Report (State)
☐ Environmental Assessment (Federal)
☐ Environmental Impact Statement (Federal)
☐ Draft ☐ Final ☐ Supplemental
☐ Programmatic
☐ Consistency Determination/Certification
☒ Other SCC Application Vols. 1 & 2

ROUTING OF DOCUMENT: ☒ Enclosed ☒ DOCUMENT ☒ CD ☒ ONLINE ☒ EMAIL/
☐ Sent directly to you by sponsoring agency. Please call the agency's project contact if you have not received the document.

NOTES: <http://www.appalachianpower.com/go/fallingbranch>

DOCUMENT REFERRED FOR COMMENT TO:

☒ Department of Game & Inland Fisheries	☒ Department of Historic Resources
☒ Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services	☒ Department of Mines, Minerals, & Energy
☒ Department of Conservation & Recreation	☐ Virginia Institute of Marine Science
☒ Department of Health	☒ Department of Forestry
☒ DEQ-Tech. Asst/Waste	☐ Chesapeake Bay Local Asst
☒ DEQ-Air Data Analysis	☒ Planning District Commission: <u>New River Valley</u>
☐ DEQ-Wetlands & Stream Protection	
☐ DEQ-Water Resources Div.	☒ Locality: <u>Town of Christiansburg, Montgomery County</u>
☒ DEQ-Regional Office <u>Blue Ridge-Roanoke</u>	
☒ Department of Transportation	☒ Others: <u>Va. Dept of Aviation Rail & Public Transportation, Virginia Outdoors Foundation</u>
☒ Marine Resources Commission	

DEADLINE FOR COMMENTS: APRIL 4, 2012

If you cannot meet the deadline, please notify JULIA H. WELLMAN at 804/698-4326 prior to the date given. Arrangements will be made to extend the date for your review if possible. An agency will not be considered to have reviewed a document if no comments are received (or contact is made) within the period specified.

REVIEW INSTRUCTIONS:

- A. Please review the document carefully. If the proposal has been reviewed earlier (i.e. if the document is a federal Final EIS or a state supplement), please consider whether your earlier comments have been adequately addressed.
- B. Prepare your agency's comments in a form which would be acceptable for responding directly to a project proponent agency.
- C. Use your agency stationery or the space below for your comments. **IF YOU USE THE SPACE BELOW, THE FORM MUST BE SIGNED AND DATED.**

Please return your comments to:

MS. JULIA H. WELLMAN
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REVIEW
629 EAST MAIN STREET, SIXTH FLOOR
RICHMOND, VA 23219
FAX #804/698-4319
Julia.Wellman@deq.virginia.gov


JULIA H. WELLMAN
ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM PLANNER

COMMENTS The proposed route has the potential to impact the following:

- Two(2) historic properties (DHR #060-0466 & #060-0547)
- AFD lands
- Bikeway Route 76
- Natural Gas Transmission Line operated by Spectra Energy
- Seven(7) Known Cemeteries

(signed) Steven M. Sandy (date) 3/12/12
(title) Planning Director
(agency) Montgomery County

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Kevin R. Byrd, AICP
Executive Director

March 6, 2012
SENT VIA EMAIL

TO: Barry Helms, Town of Christiansburg
Steve Sandy, Montgomery County

FROM: Kevin R. Byrd, Executive Director

RE: Commonwealth Intergovernmental Review

PROJECT NAME & NUMBER: **Falling Branch-Merrimac 138 kV Transmission Line Project, PUE 2012-00007 ENV12-048S**

SUBMITTED BY: Appalachian Power Company

Please be advised this office has received from the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) the SCC Application Vols. 1 & 2 for the above referenced project. In accordance with Commonwealth Intergovernmental Review Process requirements, a copy of this report is enclosed for your review and comments (see note)* DEQ has requested comments returned to them by April 4, 2012. **This project will be reviewed by the Commission at their March 22, 2012 meeting. Please address your locality comments directly to DEQ and submit a copy to the Planning District Commission prior to this meeting.**

*NOTE: DEQ has indicated the full report has been submitted directly to the chief administrative officers of the Town of Christiansburg and Montgomery County, therefore a copy is not enclosed.

CHECK ONE

- ☒ This agency finds no conflict between this project and its plans, policies and goals. *(See attached DEQ form)*
Montgomery County commented on proposal on July 14, 2008 (see attached). This proposal does not require under 15.2-2232 (VA Code) or any local zoning ordinance.
- ☐ This agency wishes to make the following comments. (Use back of this form or additional sheets for comments.)

☐ This agency presently provides or plans to provide services, which will conflict with or be duplicated by this project and therefore requests a conference. (Briefly state the nature of the conflict on the back of this form.)

Steven M. Sandy 3/12/12
Planning Director, Montgomery County

Counties:
Floyd, Giles, Montgomery, Pulaski

Towns:
Blacksburg, Christiansburg, Floyd
Pulaski, Narrows, Pearisburg, Rich Creek

Universities:
Radford University
Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University

City:
Radford

AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY
OF MONTGOMERY, VIRGINIA HELD ON THE 14th DAY OF JULY, 2008 AT 6:00 P.M.
IN THE BOARD CHAMBERS, MONTGOMERY COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER, 755
ROANOKE STREET, CHRISTIANSBURG, VIRGINIA:

R-FY-09-04
APPALACHIAN POWER COMPANY
FALLING BRANCH-MERRIMAC
138 kV TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT

On a motion by James D. Politis, seconded by Gary D. Creed and carried unanimously,

WHEREAS, Appalachian Power Company (APCO) is in the preliminary stages of identifying proposed study routes for the Falling Branch-Merrimac 138 kV transmission line project; and

WHEREAS, The Falling Branch-Merrimac 138 kV transmission line project is proposed to be approximately 8 miles long beginning at APCo's existing Merrimac Substation (south of Blacksburg), traveling through the existing Hans Meadow Substation (Christiansburg) and terminating at the existing Falling Branch Substation (east of Christiansburg); and

WHEREAS, APCo is accepting comments and suggested alternative routing options through July 18, 2008; and

WHEREAS, The Montgomery County Planning Department has reviewed the maps and other available information provided by APCo with regard to the Falling Branch-Merrimac 138 kV Transmission Line Project and there are numerous potential routes identified by APCo that are located within the Towns of Christiansburg and Blacksburg as well as the unincorporated area of Montgomery County; and

WHEREAS, There are segments of these proposed routes that could potentially impact existing businesses, residences and view sheds in the County; and

WHEREAS, There are segments of these proposed routes that appear to follow existing rail road and power line right of ways; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Supervisors request that APCo review and consider the proposed more northern routes that will have the least amount of impact on existing businesses, residences and view sheds in the County and when possible for those proposed routes to follow existing railroad and power line right of ways; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Supervisors request that APCo notify the property owners that may be effected directly or by adjoining the proposed study routes as soon as possible so that they may be informed and able to comment and be involved in the selection process.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, By the Board of Supervisors of the County of Montgomery, Virginia that the Board hereby requests that APCo review and consider proposed more northern routes to locate the Falling Branch-Merrimac 138 kV line project in Montgomery County that will have the least impact on existing businesses, residences and view sheds and when possible for those proposed routes to follow existing railroad and power line right of ways.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, By the Board of Supervisors of the County of Montgomery, Virginia, that the Board hereby further requests that APCo notify all property owners that may be effected directly or by adjoining the proposed study routes as soon as possible so that the property owners may be informed and able to comment and be involved in the process.

The vote on the foregoing resolution was as follows:

<u>AYE</u>	<u>NAY</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
Gary D. Creed	None	Mary W. Biggs
James D. Politis		John A. Muffo
William H. Brown		Annette S. Perkins
Doug Marrs		

ATTEST: B. Clayton Goodman, III
B. Clayton Goodman, III
County Administrator

NEW RIVER VALLEY PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION
AGENDA

April 26, 2012

6:00 p.m.—New River Valley Competitiveness Center, Fairlawn

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. CONSENT AGENDA
 - A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR MARCH
 - B. APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORTS FOR MARCH
- III. CHAIR'S REPORT
- IV. PUBLIC ADDRESS
- V. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE'S REPORT
- VI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT (enclosed)
- VII. OLD BUSINESS
 - A. Regional Transit Organization Analysis – Resolution of Endorsement
- VIII. NEW BUSINESS
 - A. Stormwater Regulation Overview-Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation
Presentation: Chuck Dietz
 - B. Review CEDS Projects
 - C. Memorial Resolution Honoring David W. Ratcliff, Jr.
- IX. OTHER BUSINESS
- X. REVIEW OF MUTUAL CONCERNS AND COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS
- XI. COMMONWEALTH INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS
 - A. Projects (Signed-off by the staff)
 - 1. DHCD CDBG Application for Skyview Subdivision Sewer-Phase II
 - 2. Application to Economic Development Administration-Economic Development Planning Assistance
 - B. Regular Project Review
None
 - C. Environmental Project Review
 - 1. Reissuance of VPA Permit No. VPA02058 Mountain Lake Hotel
 - 2. DEQ Grant Application for Federal funding assistance for FY2013 Chesapeake Bay Monitoring Program (CWA 117(e)(1)(B))
 - 3. DEQ Grant Application for Federal funding assistance for FY2013 Chesapeake Bay Monitoring Program (CWA 117d)

New River Valley Planning District Commission
Treasurer's Report
Expenditures as of March 31, 2012

Expense Category	Budget	Previous Total	March Expenditures	YTD Expenditures	Budget Balance	% Budget Expended
Salaries	852,751.00	545,828.40	67,749.20	613,577.59	239,173.41	71.95%
Fringe Benefits	304,338.00	191,628.54	23,414.14	215,042.67	89,295.33	70.66%
Travel	65,959.00	30,957.79	3,297.64	34,255.43	31,703.57	51.93%
Office Space	21,544.00	14,362.40	1,795.30	16,157.70	5,386.30	75.00%
Telephone	6,000.00	4,586.31	535.80	5,122.11	877.89	85.37%
Office Supplies	9,754.00	39,734.45	668.83	40,403.28	(30,649.28)	414.22%
Postage	500.00	841.60	28.45	870.05	(370.05)	174.01%
Printing	250.00	-	-	-	250.00	0.00%
Copies & Copier Maintenance	1,600.00	2,595.43	315.36	2,910.79	(1,310.79)	181.92%
Media Ad	5,500.00	4,932.43	89.49	5,021.92	478.08	91.31%
Equipment Rent	1,500.00	985.92	123.24	1,109.16	390.84	73.94%
Vehicle Fuel	-	1,097.24	310.64	1,407.88	(1,407.88)	0.00%
Dues	4,745.00	1,145.00	45.00	1,190.00	3,555.00	25.08%
Publications	-	16.00	-	16.00	(16.00)	0.00%
Training	950.00	375.00	25.00	400.00	550.00	42.11%
Insurance	1,000.00	-	-	-	1,000.00	0.00%
Meeting Expense	2,575.00	6,319.32	10,666.28	16,985.60	(14,410.60)	659.63%
Capital Outlay	27,402.00	1,673.71	644.84	2,318.55	25,083.45	8.46%
Contractual Services	762,289.00	198,730.81	186,014.23	384,745.04	377,543.96	50.47%
Audit Fee	2,100.00	2,500.00	-	2,500.00	(400.00)	119.05%
Miscellaneous	55,300.00	14,580.23	578.44	15,158.67	40,141.33	27.41%
Uncollectible Receivable	-	-	2,660.63	2,660.63	(2,660.63)	0.00%
M & G Costs	83,743.00	54,934.68	6,742.65	61,677.33	22,065.67	73.65%
Common Costs	145,380.00	72,790.84	4,905.90	77,696.74	67,683.26	53.44%
	2,355,180.00	1,190,616.10	310,611.06	1,501,227.14	853,952.86	63.74%

NEW RIVER VALLEY PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION

6580 Valley Center Drive, Suite 124
Radford, Virginia 24141

Phone: (540) 639-9313

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E-Mail: nrvpdc@nrvpdc.org

Website: www.nrvpdc.org



Kevin R. Byrd, AICP
Executive Director

April 26, 2012

Executive Director's Report

Economic Development:

- Rural Jobs and Innovation Accelerator Grant: PDC may partner with Southwest Virginia Cultural Heritage Commission for grant application. No PDC match is anticipated. PDC involvement would be facilitating discussions with stakeholders about downtown/village revitalization to identify assets and potential projects in communities. A portion of the proposed project includes establishing a network of downtown theaters in Southwest VA.
- Brad Mecham is attending Economic Development Financing training by NADO to learn more about revolving loan fund administration and other business finance options the PDC or other partners could offer in the region.
- Attended ARC conference on Local Food Economy in Appalachia. It appears the NRV and surrounding counties have a significant opportunity to keep agriculture thriving well into the future, provided the area is well networked with food aggregation, distribution and other infrastructure. There are multitudes of partners in agriculture and they should be discussing this topic to ensure future success.

Transportation:

- Regional Transit Analysis Resolution of Endorsement is in packet for consideration. This resolution follows a meeting with university commission members who expressed a desire to discuss the report with PDC staff prior to consideration of the resolution.

Regional:

- Ribbon cutting for Broadband project is scheduled for April 25th at 1:00. At same event there will be recognition of name change for the NRV Competitiveness Center to NRV Business Center. Be on the lookout for new signage! Invitations were be sent to all Commissioners and local, state and federal elected officials.
- Hazard Mitigation Project Proposal: PDC hosted an interest meeting on 4/17. Commitments from Montgomery County, Pulaski County, Pulaski Town and Narrows as of 4/20. The project will involve mapping flash flood prone areas and vulnerable infrastructure. Full application due April 30.
- Livability Initiative: April Project Update will be distributed at the Commission meeting and posted on project website. Recently began talking with leaders at Farm Bureau about partnering on an agricultural survey to better understand future needs/desires in agricultural industry. Hope to launch survey in fall while taking time in summer to build relationship with Farm Bureau offices. www.nrvlivability.org for more information about the project and to engage.
- PDC is continuing to coordinate the New River Valley Local Government Managers meetings. Next meeting scheduled for 5/3 with very positive attendance/participation across the region.

Counties:

Floyd, Giles, Montgomery, Pulaski

Towns:

Blacksburg, Christiansburg, Floyd
Pulaski, Narrows, Pearisburg, Rich Creek

Universities:

Radford University
Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University

City:

Radford

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Kevin R. Byrd, AICP
Executive Director

RESOLUTION OF ENORSEMENT Regional Transit Organization Study

WHEREAS, the New River Valley Planning District Commission (NRVPDC) participated in a joint Regional Transit Organization Study with the Blacksburg/Christiansburg/Montgomery Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (BCM MPO) to evaluate transit organization structures enabled by the Code of Virginia; and

WHEREAS, this study was completed with the input of a regional stakeholders committee; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Department of Transportation and the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transit concurred with the findings of this study; and

WHEREAS, the BCM MPO reviewed and accepted the final report on December 1, 2011; and

WHEREAS, the NRVPDC reviewed the study and supports regional transportation planning; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the NRVPDC endorses the Regional Transit Organization Study with the understanding the only option to actively pursue at this time is the creation of a Regional Transit Coordinating Council.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Regional Transit Coordinating Council purpose is to increase dialogue and coordination among transit providers, funding entities and citizens. The Coordinating Council shall convene for a period of 12 months beginning in July 2012. The NRVPDC will reevaluate the Coordinating Council's purpose and function on an annual basis with the first review occurring on or about August 2013.

Adopted April 26, 2011

Holly Lesko, Chair

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Kevin R. Byrd, AICP
Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

To: Planning District Commissioners

From: Kevin R. Byrd, Executive Director *KB*

Date: April 20, 2012

Re: Projects and Rankings 2012, Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)

As a part of this year's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) update, staff reviewed and ranked the CEDS Project List as developed by the CEDS committee. These ranked projects within the CEDS will be important when applying for project funding through the Economic Development Administration and the Appalachian Regional Commission.

Attached is a draft Project List with rankings for your review. The projects identified by localities in the region and the CEDS Committee are ranked based on the Project Evaluation Criteria as discussed at the March Commission meeting. Please review the Project List and evaluate whether the highest priority projects are reflected in the rankings.

The Commission will review Project List and rankings during the April meeting. In May, the Commission will review the final draft of the CEDS for adoption.

Counties:
Floyd, Giles, Montgomery, Pulaski

Towns:
Blacksburg, Christiansburg, Floyd
Pulaski, Narrows, Pearisburg, Rich Creek

Universities:
Radford University
Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University

City:
Radford

Rank	Area	Description	Fed. \$	State \$	Local \$	Total Funding	Const. Date	Responsible Agency
44	Giles County	Giles Multi-tenant Business Facility (Giles Co) A facility located in the Wheatland Eco Park.				\$2,000,000	2013	Giles County IDA
43	NRV	NRV Community Regional Broadband Network Interconnect government facilities, schools, industrial parks and businesses so that residents may be able to have advanced telecommunication services.	\$9,200,000		\$2,000,000	\$11,200,000	2012	New River Valley Wireless Authority
42	Blacksburg	Virginia Tech Corporate Research Center, Phase II Construction of support infrastructure for Phase II of Virginia Tech's CRC.	\$1,980,000		\$1,980,000	\$3,960,000	2010-2012	Virginia Tech Foundation
42	NRV	New River Valley Development Revolving Loan Fund Fund to provide assistance for business and non-profit development.	\$25,000		\$25,000	\$50,000	2012	New River Valley Development Corporation
41	NRV	Implementing Project NEEMO To further the commercialization of nanotech research and development focusing on smaller specialty materials companies.	\$7,000,000	\$6,000,000	\$8,000,000	\$21,000,000	2013	VA's First Regional Industrial Facility Authority-Participation Committee
38	Giles County	Hoges Chapel Water Tank Replacement Project Replacement of 40 year old water tank and 23,000 feet of 10 inch water line		\$2,600,000		\$2,600,000	2012-2013	Giles County
37	NRV	Broadband Infrastructure Deploy last mile fiber.				\$8,000,000	2013-2015	New River Wireless Authority
35	NRV	New River Valley Commerce Park-Water and Sewer Project To provide water and sewer and support other economic development.	\$2,500,000		\$2,500,000	\$6,000,000	2012	Virginia's First

 New
 Funded

Rank	Area	Description	Fed. \$	State \$	Local \$	Total Funding	Const. Date	Responsible Agency
34	Christiansburg	Christiansburg Institute Cultural Experience, Cultural Learning Curriculum, Oral History, and Site preservation.	\$1,500,000		\$1,500,000	\$3,000,000	2012	Christiansburg Institute
34	NRV	Regional Conference/Civic Center Determine feasibility and appropriate site, engineering and architectural plans for regional conference center.	\$7,000,000		\$8,000,000	\$15,000,000	2015	Virginia's First and Partners
34	NRV	Develop a Career Pathways Task Force Investigate emerging sectors in the economy, develop multi-stage career development pathways with a range of entry/training and exit/career points to match those emerging employment sectors, and integrate the targeted career pathways approach within the public and post-secondary educational institutions.						WIB, Education Providers
34	NRV	Small Business Development (Green/Nano/Bio) Program Develop educational program through the community college and university that support the development and/or recruitment of small businesses/industries in the green, nano and/or bio technology fields.	\$500,000		\$500,000	\$1,000,000	2013	Universities, NRCC, School Divisions
33	Pulaski Town	Brownfields Redevelopment Redevelopment of existing industry and housing.	\$500,000		\$500,000	\$1,000,000	2014	Pulaski Town and EPA
33	Pulaski Town	Town of Pulaski Business Park Expansion The acquisition and site preparation of greenspace for industrial growth.	\$1,000,000		\$1,000,000	\$2,000,000	2015	EDA, Town of Pulaski
33	NRV	Create a Consortium of School Districts, Community College, Economic Development and Local Business Representatives - Develop a Pilot Program Integrated Workforce Curriculum To develop an integrated workforce curriculum focusing on current/future business and industry needs (including Career Pathways development).				\$250,000	2012	
32	Floyd County	Rocky Knob Interpretative Ctr. & Lodge, Reg. Collaborative (Floyd Co) A bi-county commission is working on the development of a major tourism destination along the Blue Ridge Parkway. A lodge and interpretive center are planned.	\$8,000,000		\$2,000,000	\$10,000,000	2015	Rocky Knob

 New

 Funded

Rank	Area	Description	Fed. \$	State \$	Local \$	Total Funding	Const. Date	Responsible Agency
32	NRV	Network of Manufacturing Companies Development of companies.	\$500,000	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$1,000,000	2012	NRVDC
32	NRV	Technology Magnet School: Workforce Development Designed to develop a specialized workforce in the NRV by providing advanced technology education to secondary schools. Federal funds will be used to purchase training equipment and construction of a facility.	\$4,000,000	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000	\$8,000,000	2015	New River Community College & School Div's
31	Christiansburg	Phase II of the Route 114 widening project Widening Route 114 from Walters Drive Area to the New River Valley Mall Area		\$23,690,000		\$23,690,000	2014	VDOT, Christiansburg
31	Floyd County	Jacksonville Center E-Commerce Project (Floyd Co) Establishment of an e-commerce catalog of crafts and products.				\$50,000	2012	Jacksonville Center, Inc.
31	Floyd County	Floyd Revolving Loan Fund Establish microlending fund for small businesses within Floyd County.	\$200,000			\$200,000	2013	Floyd IDA
31	Giles County	Public Transportation Connections to Blacksburg, Virginia Tech, and other major employment centers.	\$1,600,000		\$400,000	\$2,000,000	2013	Giles County
31	Pulaski County	Radford Army Ammunition Plant Infrastructure Improvements Water, sewer, road, and rail upgrades at the New River site.	\$36,000,000			\$36,000,000	2012	Virginia's First
31	Pulaski County	Green Challenge Waste to Energy - Work with New River Resources Authority (NRRA) contractor to identify method of providing methane gas to commerce park.	\$1,000,000		\$1,000,000 (private)	\$2,000,000	2012	V.A's First Regional Industrial Facility Authority

 New
 Funded

Rank	Area	Description	Fed. \$	State \$	Local \$	Total Funding	Const. Date	Responsible Agency
31	NRV	Intermodal Transportation Center Further explore the possibility of developing an intermodal transportation site on under-utilized US Army property near Dublin, Virginia.	\$4,000,000		\$4,000,000	\$8,000,000	2012	VA's First/US Army
31	NRV	Tap into Additional Networks and Professional Organizations Research and encourage "continuing ed" requirements or periodic recertification so that the workforce can build their skill sets around emerging economic sectors.						WTB, Local Businesses
31	NRV	Creation of a Destination Marketing Organization (DMO) Raise awareness of New River Valley assets						
31	NRV	Regional Networking and Marketing of the Arts via Destination Marketing Organization (DMO) Use DMO to create a network of artisans and venues to promote New River Valley assets.						
30	Christiansburg	Interchange ramp at Route 460 Bypass and N. Franklin Street Connection of east bound 460 Bypass to west bound Business 460		\$1,000,000		\$1,000,000	2012	VDOT, Christiansburg
30	Pulaski County	Pulaski County School Construction Replace middle school.			\$34,000,000	\$34,000,000	2010-13	Pulaski County
30	Pulaski Town	Dora Hwy Neighborhood Revitalization This neighborhood project grant is under consideration by the Department of Housing and Community Development; Comprehensive community project-sewer, water, street, new housing infill.				\$3,000,000	2013	Town of Pulaski, DHCD, CHP
30	NRV	Develop/Implement a Regional Glass Recycling Program Build first glass recycling facility within the region.					2012	

 New
 Funded

Rank	Area	Description	Fed. \$	State \$	Local \$	Total Funding	Const. Date	Responsible Agency
30	NRV	Implement the Farms to School Program with at Least 1 School District by 2012. Create education opportunities for students and support a supply of fresh foods from local farmers.				\$20,000	2012	
30	NRV	NRV Airport Parallel Taxiway To provide taxiway parallel to runway and offer an opportunity to provide air access to the Industrial Park (NRV Commerce Park).	\$5,880,000		\$120,000	\$6,000,000	2013	Airport Commission
30	NRV	Regional Tourism Entity Establish an organization that leads tourism development and initiatives in the region.		\$30,000	\$30,000	\$60,000	2013	Chambers and Local Government
30	NRV	Support Tower Infrastructure for Wireless Internet Connectivity Tower placement studies and streamlining of the zoning process						
29	Floyd County	Marketing Floyd County Regional Commerce Center As a locality that already has advanced telecommunications infrastructure, access to higher education opportunities, available and affordable workforce, and available industrial space, Floyd County is seeking funding to create a model of promotion for Southwest Virginia.			\$50,000	\$50,000	2012	Floyd County
29	Floyd County	Multi-Tenant Facility for Floyd County To house growing businesses as well as meet space needs for governmental agencies and non-profits.	\$1,600,000	\$200,000	\$300,000	\$2,000,000	2013	Floyd County
29	Pulaski County	County Administration Building Renovations Energy efficiency improvements to the Pulaski County Administration Building (i.e. window replacement and insulation)			\$150,000	\$150,000	2011-2012	Pulaski County
29	Rich Creek	Rich Creek Downtown Enhancement Project Ensure the stability and success of downtown Rich Creek.		\$1,000,000	\$250,000	\$1,250,000	2012	Rich Creek Town

 New

 Funded

Rank	Area	Description	Fed. \$	State \$	Local \$	Total Funding	Const. Date	Responsible Agency
29	NRV	Implement K-12 Curriculum on Organic Food Production				\$50,000	2012	
29	NRV	Promote Civil War Historical Sites To promote civil war historical sites throughout the NRV.					2012	Southwest Virginia Cultural Heritage Foundation
29	NRV	New River Valley Park and Ride Lot Development Development of new park and ride facilities.	\$750,000	\$750,000		\$1,500,000	2013	VDOT
29	NRV	Route 114 Bridge To replace the Route 114 bridge that has structural damage.		\$20,000,000		\$20,000,000	2012	VDOT
28	Floyd County	Phase II Development of Floyd Regional Commerce Center Grade lots 1 and 2.	\$1,000,000		\$1,000,000	\$2,000,000	2012	Floyd County
28	Glen Lyn	Glen Lyn Regional Wastewater Facility To combine wastewater from Rich Creek and Glen Lyn into a single operation. The Towns will undertake the project.				\$3,000,000	2012	Glen Lyn
28	Pearisburg	Development of Route 177 Corporate Park	\$15,000,000	\$4,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$20,000,000	TBD	Montgomery County EDA
28	Pearisburg	Whitt-Riverbend Park Trail Construct 1.1 mile loop trail and rest room.		\$60,000	\$20,000	\$80,000	2012	Pearisburg Town

 New
 Funded

Rank	Area	Description	Fed. \$	State \$	Local \$	Total Funding	Const. Date	Responsible Agency
28	Pulaski Town	Raymond F. Ratcliff Memorial Museum Construction of transportation museum to house Brockmeyer train set and historic vehicles.				\$1,000,000	2013	Town of Pulaski, VDOT
28	NRV	Youth Planning Council Involve youth in discussing regional development issues.	\$10,000		\$10,000	\$20,000	2013	NRVDC
28	NRV	Promote Agricultural Tourism Program to encourage farmers to evaluate agricultural tourism to enhance incomes.					2012	Virginia Tourism Corporation/Round the Mountain
28	NRV	Connectivity of Trails, Regional Trail System Interconnect various local, state and federal trails to create a continuous network in southwest Virginia.	\$400,000		\$400,000	\$800,000	2012	Trail Operators
28	NRV	Increase Shell Building Inventory Construct modern shell buildings to market to relocating or expanding businesses.						
28	NRV	Support Public Private Partnerships for Agriculture Infrastructure Needs						
27	Blacksburg	Huckleberry Trail Extension Assist in the construction of the Huckleberry Trail extension from Prices Fork to Glade Road. Will connect the Hedwood Community to the Heritage Park and then link to the National Forest. Grading, site amenities, and surfacing are needed for this project.			\$100,000	\$100,000	2013	Town of Blacksburg
27	Christiansburg	Upgrade of Waste Water Plant Upgrade waste water plant to accommodate 8 million gallons per day	\$10,000,000			\$10,000,000	2012	Christiansburg

 New
 Funded

Rank	Area	Description	Fed. \$	State \$	Local \$	Total Funding	Const. Date	Responsible Agency
27	Floyd County	Route 8 Improvements (South) (Floyd Co) Road Improvements on Route 8 southbound from Floyd, South.		\$1,500,000		\$1,500,000	2012	VDOT
27	Floyd County	East Floyd Truck Route Develop east Floyd industrial route.		\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000	\$4,000,000	2015	Floyd County/VDOT
27	Floyd County/Floyd Town	Affordable Housing Implementation Construction and rehabilitation of affordable housing withing Floyd County and Town.	\$340,000			\$340,000	2012-2013	Floyd County, Floyd Town, and HOME
27	Radford	Passenger Rail Station in Radford To develop a passenger rail station in the City of Radford.				\$10,000,000	2020	Radford City
27	NRV	Develop a Regional Meat Processing Plant for Organic Meat Processing and Production Develop facility to support local farmers					2013	Rural Development-Sustain Floyd Planning Grant
27	NRV	Implement the National Energy Education Development (NEED) Program in Regional K-12 Schools Energy education in our schools.				\$100,000	2013	
27	NRV	Develop Region-Wide Bike Paths Used as both a tourism asset and an alternative/green method of transportation.	\$5,000,000		\$5,000,000	\$10,000,000	2014	NRVPDC, Localities
27	NRV	Support Farms to School program throughout the New River Valley Provide educational opportunities and serve healthy meals in schools through a network of local farmers						

 New

 Funded

Rank	Area	Description	Fed. \$	State \$	Local \$	Total Funding	Const. Date	Responsible Agency
27	NRV	Create Regional Revolving Loan Fund for Energy Audits and Retrofits Fund for New River Valley businesses.						
27	NRV	Support Carpooling Efforts/Initiatives throughout the New River Valley Support the expansion and marketing of Ride Solutions while exploring potential for carpooling app						
26	Christiansburg	Phase II, Huckleberry Trail Extension Extension of the existing Huckleberry Trail from the present terminus at the New River Valley Mall to the south side of Route 114, including pedestrian bridge.	\$657,844		\$164,461	\$822,305	2012	Montgomery County and Town of Christiansburg
26	Christiansburg	Phase III, Huckleberry Trail Extension Extension of Huckleberry Trail from the south side of Route 114 near the New River Valley Mall to the Christiansburg Recreation Center	\$228,000		\$912,000	\$1,140,000	2014	Montgomery County, Town of Christiansburg
26	Floyd County	Regional Food Aggregating/Processing Center Value-added processing center for local produce and potentially local milk. The facility would serve as aggregator for larger buyers, as well as provide co-packing facilities and a commercial kitchen leaseable by local food businesses.	\$1,000,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$2,000,000	2014	Floyd County
26	Pulaski County	Exit 101 Interchange Improvements and Connector Route 11 Provide interstate access to the proposed Veteran's Cemetery and Route 11 with an urban 3 lane typical on 4 lane right of way.	\$2,000,000	\$1,000,000		\$16,500,000	2014	Virginia's First Army
26	Pulaski County	NRV Commerce Park Electric Transmission Extension – Extension of 138kVA electric transmission line approximately two miles from the current crossing of Lee Highway. Route 11, near Morgan's Cut in Pulaski County, west along Route 11 and north to the Commerce Park site, south of the New River Valley Airport.	\$1,250,000	\$1,000,000	\$250,000	\$2,500,000	2013	VA's First Regional Industrial Facility Authority
26	Pulaski County	Additional resources for power to the Commerce Park Extend power to the NRV Commerce Park to attract businesses.						

 New

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Rank	Area	Description	Fed. \$	State \$	Local \$	Total Funding	Const. Date	Responsible Agency
26	Pulaski County	Extension of Rail to Commerce Park Rail siding extension from Norfolk Southern mainline about 3,500 feet to the Commerce Park boundary and 3,500 feet to a potential building site.	\$2,300,000	\$750,000	\$1,210,000	\$4,600,000	2014	Virginia's First Regional Industrial Facilities Authority
26	NEW	Create a Network of Growers and Producers in the Region Link New River Valley farmers markets to increase profitability.						
25	Christiansburg	Emergency Services Station Emergency Services Station located on Quin W. Stuart Blvd	\$3,000,000			\$2-\$3,000,000	2014	Christiansburg
25	Christiansburg	Railroad Street Water Extension Installation of 400 LF of 6-inch water main				\$25,000	2013	Christiansburg
25	Narrows	Replace Existing Water Lines that are Deteriorating The Town went online with the Giles County Public Service Authority and in response to the increased cost of purchasing water from the GCPSA, the Town has invested millions in improvements to their system to bring water loss down.				\$2,200,000	2012	Town of Narrows
25	Pulaski County	Shell Building-Industrial Park Construction of a shell building at the New River Valley Commerce Park	\$750,000	\$750,000		\$1,500,000	2012	Pulaski County
25	Pulaski Town	Calfee Park Renovations (Pulaski Town) Improvements to bring the facility up to baseball standards. Visitor dugouts, dressing rooms, and infrastructure improvements are needed.	\$1,000,000			\$1,000,000	2013	Pulaski Town
25	Radford	High Meadows Development (Radford) Improve the water system to include line work and a water tank.			\$806,000	\$806,000	2012	Radford

 New

 Funded

Rank	Area	Description	Fed. \$	State \$	Local \$	Total Funding	Const. Date	Responsible Agency
25	NRV	Create Formal Regional Leadership Organization Create formal leadership organization, hold community awareness workshop, and establish certified leadership development program.				\$20,000	2013	Leadership Organizations
25	NRV	Business Retreat Support local businesses in creating corporate retreat centers.				\$4,000,000	2012-2015	Local Businesses
25	NRV	Integrate approach to workforce development from K-12 vs. post-secondary to a more robust "K-20" approach Create workforce training in partnership with schools from Kindergarten through graduate school.						Local Schools
25	NRV	Centralize Marketing of Energy Efficiency Options Create a "one stop shop" where people can evaluate typical "payback" on upgrades, find a qualified energy auditor/retrofitter, navigate various funding/financing options.						
25	NRV	Study Data from Various Wind/Solar Demonstration Projects around the NRV Evaluate effectiveness of wind and solar projects to inform potential future projects.						
24	Floyd Town	Floyd Town Trails Program (final phase) New and upgraded sidewalks within the town.	\$240,000		\$60,000	\$300,000	2013	Floyd Town
24	Giles County	Eggleston Water Extension Phase 2 (Giles Co) Extend water service to 160 residences.	\$1,400,000			\$1,400,000	2012	Giles County
24	Giles County	Route 635 Water Extension (Giles Co) Provide public water to approximately 150 residents in the Big Stony Community of Giles County.	\$2,000,000	\$1,000,000		\$3,000,000	2012	Giles County

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Rank	Area	Description	Fed. \$	State \$	Local \$	Total Funding	Const. Date	Responsible Agency
24	Montgomery County	Rt. 114 Widening From Christiansburg Town limits to Radford Army Ammunition Plant	\$50,400,000	\$12,600,000		\$63,000,000	2014	
24	Montgomery County	Falling Branch Corporate Park - Stormwater Pond Stormwater pond for the Falling Branch Corporate Park in Montgomery County.	\$175,000		\$175,000	\$350,000	2013	VDOT/Montgomery County Montgomery County
24	Montgomery County	Expansion of Falling Branch Industrial Park Water, sewer, roads, and grading improvements	\$19,500,000	\$5,200,000	\$1,300,000	\$26,000,000	2015	Montgomery County EDA
24	Narrows	Replace Existing Collection System Piping and Upgrade Wastewater Plant Collection system piping is leaking and/or broken.				\$2,200,000	2012	Town of Narrows
24	Pearisburg	Pearisburg Fire Station Construct new fire station in Pearisburg.				\$1,500,000	2012	Pearisburg Town
24	Pulaski County	New Facility, Sheriff's Department New Sheriff's Department facility for Pulaski County.				\$900,000	2012	Pulaski County - Sheriff
24	Radford	Arnold and Pershing Sewer Line Replacement 525 linear feet of 8" sanitary line would be replaced in an existing easement between Arnold Avenue and Pershing Avenue.					2014	City of Radford
24	Radford	Radford Village Water Line Replacement 3,225 linear feet of 6" main water line would be replaced with an 8" service throughout the Radford Village residential area improving service reliability and water flow to forty homes.				\$96,750	2012	City of Radford
						\$117,500		

 New
 Funded

Rank	Area	Description	Fed. \$	State \$	Local \$	Total Funding	Const. Date	Responsible Agency
24	NRV	Incorporate "Green" Training into Secondary and Post-secondary Vocational Construction Programs Change current curriculum in Construction Trades to include "retro fitting" remodeling for energy efficiency in homes.				\$500,000	2013	CTE Directors, Community College Workforce Departments
24	NRV	Creation of Downtown Revitalization Goals and Strategies for NRV Communities Support each community's efforts to revitalize their downtown.						
24	NRV	Increase Support to Small Businesses Emphasis on marketing current resources available to small businesses while exploring potential for virtual office space						
24	NRV	Conduct Farming Visioning with Agriculture Stakeholders, Farm Bureau and Extension						
24	NRV	Creation of a Slaughterhouse Facility Construction of a slaughterhouse to support local farmers.						
23	Blackburn	Market and support VT KnowledgeWorks Global Partnership						VT KnowledgeWorks
23	Christiansburg	Phase IB of the Downtown Enhancement Project South side of East Main Street - new sidewalks, planting, paving.	\$1,191,718		\$297,929	\$1,489,647.36	2012	Town of Christiansburg, Gay and Neel, Inc.
23	Floyd County	Trails for Floyd (pedestrian, biking, and hiking) Extension of trail corridors from the town to the county as outlined in the comprehensive plan.	\$2,500,000		\$2,500,000	\$5,000,000	2013	Floyd County

 New
 Funded

Rank	Area	Description	Fed. \$	State \$	Local \$	Total Funding	Const. Date	Responsible Agency
23	Narrows	Town's Recreation Department (Old Narrows Gym Facility) This site is used by the Town's recreation department and the athletics department at Narrows High School.				\$1,101,675	2013	Town of Narrows
23	Pulaski County	Skyview Subdivision/Fairgrounds Area Sewer (Pulaski Co) Provide sewer to NRV Fairgrounds & 148 residences.	\$500,000			\$500,000	2012	Pulaski County
23	Pulaski County	New Facility for Pulaski Library To replace existing building.		\$1,000,000	\$2,000,000	\$3,000,000	2012	Pulaski County
23	Pulaski County	Newbern Area Enhancements Creation of Wilderness Road Exhibit and other area enhancements.		\$53,387	\$21,613	\$75,000	2012	Pulaski County
23	Pulaski County	Pulaski County Dispatch/Communications To upgrade Pulaski County's dispatch/communications system.				\$1,600,000	2013	Pulaski County
23	NRV	Support "Communities in Schools" Program Connect community resources with schools to help students achieve success.						
23	NRV	Develop and Implement a Program to Support Small Family Farms Using "Cultivating Success" Farm Mentoring Project as a model.					2013	
23	NRV	Support Online Businesses Create public computer access points in community centers, schools and other public buildings while encouraging community organizations to do computer and social media trainings for small businesses.						Localities

 New
 Funded

Rank	Area	Description	Fed. \$	State \$	Local \$	Total Funding	Const. Date	Responsible Agency
23	NEW	Creation of Utility Standards Create utility standards for service providers to follow while coordinating digging between localities and service providers to install conduits or other potential uses						
23	NEW	Market Buying Local Goods to Support Local Economic Growth						
22	Christiansburg	Passenger Rail Station in Christiansburg To develop a passenger rail station in the Town of Christiansburg.				\$10,000,000	2020	Christiansburg Town
22	Floyd County	Floyd County Health and Human Services Complex One-stop-shop in Floyd that would enable citizens to access needed services				\$2,000,000	2015	Floyd County
22	Floyd County	Geo-engineering Studies Groundwater Resources in Floyd County To identify groundwater resources and calculate carrying capacity. Recharge areas and other important water resource areas would be mapped.	\$250,000			\$250,000	2013	Floyd County
22	Madison County and Radford	Improve Road Infrastructure of Blacksburg-Christiansburg-Radford MSA Expansion and creation of 4-lane roads						MPO
22	Pulaski County	Maple Shade Government Center Complete renovation.			\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000	2012	Pulaski County
22	Radford	Wildwood Park Entrance Improve the Park entrance with parking facilities, a kiosk, pergola, new gate, and interpretive exhibits.	\$100,000		\$50,000	\$150,000	2013	Radford

 New
 Funded

Rank	Area	Description	Fed. \$	State \$	Local \$	Total Funding	Const. Date	Responsible Agency
22	Radford	Miscellaneous drainage project Design and construction of drainage improvements identified in 1993 Facility Plan in various locations throughout the city. The improvements would prevent runoff damage to public and private properties.				\$75,000	2010-2014	City of Radford
22	NRV	Build & Coordinate Regional Art Initiatives (Groups & Trails) Connect and/or build off of current local and regional art & music initiatives.					2014	Art Community (Round the Mtn. Crooked Road, Jax Center & other local art groups)
22	NRV	Implement Employment Mobility Study Connect residential with employment						
22	NRV	Creation of a Fund to Remove Derelict Structures Tax advantages to remove structures alongside an education program on "how to"						
21	Montgomery County	Southgate Parkway Construction of ramps on Route 460 at Southgate Parkway entrance to Virginia Tech.	\$124,000,000	\$31,000,000		\$155,000,000	TBD	VDOT
21	Pulaski County	Snowville Fire Department Fire Station replacement	\$1,680,000		\$420,000	\$2,100,000	2013	Pulaski County
21	Pulaski Town	Intensifying Blight Elimination Program The Town was awarded an EPA Brownfields Grant application in 2010.	\$200,000			\$200,000	2013	Town of Pulaski, EPA

 New
 Funded

Rank	Area	Description	Fed. \$	State \$	Local \$	Total Funding	Const. Date	Responsible Agency
21	Radford	Smartway Service Extension to the City of Radford and Radford University To connect Radford and Radford University to the existing network.						
21	NRV	Integrate WIB and Economic Development Efforts.						NRV/MR WIB. NRV/PDC. Economic Development Alliance
21	NRV	Access to Capital Host workshops to educate businesses on capital access opportunities in the region. i.e. 460 Angels						
20	Dublin	Dublin Fire Department Expansion To add two bays.	\$730,000			\$730,000	2012	Dublin Town/Pulaski County
20	Floyd County	Trail Around Floyd Commerce Center To develop a walking trail around the new Commerce Center in Floyd.	\$200,000		\$200,000	\$400,000	2013	Floyd County
20	Giles County	Glendennin Water Extension (Giles Co) Provide public water to approximately 50 residents in the Glendennin community of Giles County.	\$2,000,000			\$2,000,000	2012	Giles County
20	Glen Lyn	Glen Lyn Park Modern bathroom, wastewater hook ups, information center, and open-air theater. Also a new location for a boat ramp and sidewalk connecting the Park to the Municipal Building.				\$800,000	2015	Glen Lyn
20	Pulaski	Water and Sewer Improvements Tie into Riverbend water tank. Upgrade lines to Riverbend and Virginia Heights. Water and sewer replacement on Easton Road and various other water line improvements.						

 New
 Funded

Rank	Area	Description	Fed.\$	State\$	Local\$	Total Funding	Const. Date	Responsible Agency
20	Watauga County	Dalton Building Reuse Update Dalton Building into a hotel and restaurant						
20	NRV	TransDomination Express - Capital Costs A statewide project to provide passenger rail transportation from Bristol through the New River Valley, and on to Richmond and Washington, D.C.		\$9,300,000		\$9,300,000	2015	VA Department of Rail and Public Transportation
20	NRV	Support Co-Working Spaces for Businesses Utilization of underused facilities						
20	NRV	Revolving Loan Fund or Other Capital Support to Help with Farm Start-up						
20	NRV	Create and support networking event for local farmers and potential buyers						
19	Christiansburg	Public Works Complex Moving current complex out of the floodplain	\$10,000,000			\$10,000,000	2012	Christiansburg
19	Floyd County	Engineering Studies on Extending Water and Sewer to areas of Floyd Co. To study water and sewer extensions and to understand hydrogeologic systems resources. Include protecting critical recharge and well-head areas.	\$1,200,000	\$200,000	\$100,000	\$1,500,000	2012	Floyd County
19	Giles County	Ingram Village Sewer (Giles Co) Put in sewer lines.	\$750,000		\$1,250,000	\$2,000,000	2015	Giles County

 New
 Funded

Rank	Area	Description	Fed. \$	State \$	Local \$	Total Funding	Const. Date	Responsible Agency
19	Montgomery County	Route 8 Widening Project Widening Route 8 from the Montgomery and Floyd County line to the Town of Christiansburg.	\$60,000,000	\$15,000,000		\$75,000,000	TBD	VDOT
19	Montgomery County	Route 177 Water and Sewer Improvements	\$4,800,000	\$1,200,000		\$6,000,000	2013	PSA
19	Pulaski County	Rt. 99 Water/Sewer Extension Extend water and sewer lines to Exit 94, to encourage commercial development.	\$1,500,000			\$1,500,000	2012	Town of Pulaski, Pulaski County
19	Pulaski Town	Public Safety Facility A modern centralized facility located out of the flood plain and away from rail tracks.	\$5,000,000			\$5,000,000	2015	Town of Pulaski
18	Floyd Town	Lineberry Memorial Park Development Design and construction of stage for performances.	\$725,000		\$725,000	\$1,500,000	2012	Floyd Town
18	Pulaski County	Riverbend Subdivision Sewer (Pulaski Co) Provide sewer services to 45 residences.	\$1,000,000			\$1,000,000	2015	Pulaski County
18	Pulaski Town	Sewer Collection/Pump Station Improvements Infrastructure improvements at Stations 4A and SB		\$1,500,000	\$500,000	\$2,000,000	2013	Town of Pulaski, Peppers Ferry Regional Wastewater Treatment Authority
18	Pulaski Town	Water Filtration Plant Improvements Modernization of the current water filtration plant.	\$500,000		\$500,000	\$1,000,000	2012	Town of Pulaski

 New

 Funded

Rank	Area	Description	Fed. \$	State \$	Local \$	Total Funding	Const. Date	Responsible Agency
18	Radford	University Drive Bridge Improvements and repairs needed to the 25 year old University Drive Bridge which includes deck repairs, waterproofing, painting, fencing, and sidewalk repairs and corrosion maintenance.				\$531,000	2011-2012	Radford
18	Radford	Street Rebuild - Park/Second Avenue Park Road and Second Avenue would be rebuilt from Walker Street to Windstream Court. Improvements would include safety improvements, bike lanes, sidewalks, curb and gutter, turn-lanes, storm drainage, etc.	\$1,500,000			\$6,055,705	2011-2013	Radford
18	Radford	Soccerfield/Football field To construct two playing fields adjacent to the Radford Riverfront.	\$200,000		\$200,000	\$400,000	2012	Radford
18	New	Creation of an Interactive CEDS Map with Project Identification GIS map to track progress of CEDS projects within the region.						
17	Narrows	Renovation of 12,000 sq. ft. Furniture Store Renovation of commercial space. Town hall administration and eight LMI residential second story units.	\$750,000		\$750,000	\$1,500,000	2013	Town of Narrows
17	Pulaski County	Pulaski Health Department Facility New building for Pulaski Health Dept.		\$1,250,000	\$1,250,000	\$2,500,000	2012	Pulaski County
17	Pulaski Town	Analysis of Potential Boundary Line Adjustment In cooperation with Tischler Bise, the Town plans studied a boundary line adjustment in Pulaski County. The Town has funded that feasibility study.					2013	
17	Pulaski Town	Enhance Bob White Boulevard and East Main Street Intersection						

 New
 Funded

Rank	Area	Description	Fed. \$	State \$	Local \$	Total Funding	Const. Date	Responsible Agency
17	Radford	Third Avenue Parking Lot The public parking lot located adjacent to Grove Avenue and Third Avenue would be improved to include a stormwater system, paving, landscaping, traditional light poles and hanging baskets. This project is needed to improve the lot's aesthetic appeal.				\$250,000	2014	City of Radford
17	Radford	Radford Ingles Overlook and Amphitheater Amphitheater engineering and construction for outdoor events.						
16	Floyd Town	Jacksonville Center Amphitheater The Jacksonville Center will continue development of its campus, including an amphitheater	\$250,000			\$250,000	2012	Jacksonville Center, Inc.
16	Pulaski County	Indoor Recreation - Wellness Center Indoor Recreation-Wellness Center for the citizens of Pulaski County.			\$7,000,000	\$7,000,000	2012	Pulaski County-Recreation
16	IPDCs 1-4	Continuum of Care To address the needs of homeless and at-risk homeless persons in the region.	\$906,000	\$294,000		\$1,200,000	2012	State
15	Pulaski Town	Bicycle Lane and Trail Improvements Improving bike accessibility for critical pathways throughout the Town.		\$750,000	\$250,000	\$1,000,000	2015	Town of Pulaski
14	Floyd County/Town	Floyd Public Transit Study viability of public transit in county/town		\$20,000	\$5,000	\$25,000	2013	Floyd County/Town
14	Floyd Town	Attract Restaurants to Downtown Floyd Study market viability of restaurants downtown.						Floyd Town

 New
 Funded

NEW RIVER VALLEY PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION

6580 Valley Center Drive, Suite 124
Radford, Virginia 24141

Phone: (540) 639-9313

Fax: (540) 831-6093

E-Mail: nrvpdc@nrvpdc.org

Website: www.nrvpdc.org



Kevin R. Byrd, AICP
Executive Director

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION HONORING David W. Ratcliff, Jr.

WHEREAS, the New River Valley Planning District Commission expresses its deep sadness of the passing of our colleague David W. Ratcliff, Jr. on April 16, 2012; and

WHEREAS, David was a native of Pulaski who utilized his talents perpetually serving his community; and

WHEREAS, David was dedicated to the betterment of the New River Valley with a passion that widely impacted citizens of the region; and

WHEREAS, his commitment and willingness to do whatever it took to ensure success in the region while working for the New River Valley Planning District Commission from February, 2007 through April, 2012 benefitted citizens throughout the New River Valley; and

WHEREAS, David's commitment to his community will remain in the minds of those who stood side by side with him; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the New River Valley Planning District Commission recognizes David for his service to the Commission and commitment to the New River Valley;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be presented to his family as recognition of his dedication, and as a thank you for his service to the New River Valley Planning District Commission.

Adopted April 26, 2012

Holly Lesko, Chair

NEW RIVER VALLEY PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION

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Radford, Virginia 24141

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Kevin R. Byrd, AICP
Executive Director

COMMONWEALTH INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW MEMORANDUM

TO: Planning Commission Members
FROM: Kevin R. Byrd, Executive Director
AGENDA ITEM: XII. Intergovernmental Review Process, C. Environmental Project Review, Item #1

CIRP Review

April 18, 2012

PROJECT: Reissuance of VPA Permit No. VPA02058, Mountain Lake Hotel

SUBMITTED BY: Department of Environmental Quality

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Department of Environmental Quality has requested comment on the reissuance of a permit that will allow the management of pollutants from a wastewater treatment system serving Mountain Lake Hotel in Giles County.

PROJECT SENT FOR REVIEW TO: Planning Commission members, not individual localities.

STAFF COMMENT: The staff has reviewed the appropriate plans (Land Use, Water Quality Management, Regional Solid Waste Management, Vision 2020, and the Economic Development plans) and finds that this project does not conflict with the plans or regional policies and goals.

PUBLIC NOTICE – Environmental Permit

PURPOSE OF NOTICE: To seek public comment on a draft permit from the Department of Environmental Quality that will allow the management of pollutants from a wastewater treatment system serving Mountain Lake Hotel in Giles County.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: April 19, 2012 through 4:30 pm of May 18, 2012

PERMIT NAME: Virginia Pollutant Abatement Permit – Wastewater issued by DEQ, under the authority of the State Water Control Board

APPLICANT NAME, ADDRESS, AND PERMIT NUMBER: Mary Moody Northen Endowment , 2628 Broadway Street, Galveston, Texas 77550, VPA02058

FACILITY NAME AND LOCATION: Mountain Lake Hotel WWTP, 115 Hotel Circle, Pembroke, VA 24136

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Mary Moody Northen Endowment as applied for a reissuance of a permit for the management of pollutants from a wastewater treatment facility. The permit activity consists of storage and land application of municipal sewage effluent. The permit contains soil and ground water monitoring.

HOW TO COMMENT: DEQ accepts comments by e-mail, fax, or postal mail. All comments and requests must be in writing and be received by DEQ during the comment period. Submittals must include the names, mailing addresses and telephone numbers of the commenter/requester and of all persons represented by the commenter/requester. A request for a public hearing must also include: 1) The reason why a public hearing is requested. 2) A brief, informal statement regarding the nature and extent of the interest of the requester or of those represented by the requestor, including how and to what extent such interest would be directly and adversely affected by the permit. 3) Specific references, where possible, to terms and conditions of the permit with suggested revisions. DEQ may hold a public hearing, including another comment period, if a public response is significant and there are substantial, disputed issues relevant to the permit

CONTACT FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS, DOCUMENT REQUESTS, AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

NAME: Becky L. France; **ADDRESS:** Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, West Central Regional Office, 3019 Peters Creek Road, Roanoke, VA 24019-2738; **PHONE:** (540) 562-6700; **E-MAIL ADDRESS:** becky.france@deq.virginia.gov

FAX: (540) 562-6725. The public may review the draft permit and application at the DEQ office named above by appointment.

NEW RIVER VALLEY PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION

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Website: www.nrvpdc.org



Kevin R. Byrd, AICP
Executive Director

COMMONWEALTH INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW MEMORANDUM

TO: Planning Commission Members
FROM: Kevin R. Byrd, Executive Director
AGENDA ITEM: XII. Intergovernmental Review Process, C. Environmental Project Review, Item #2

CIRP Review

April 19, 2012

PROJECT: Grant Application for Federal funding assistance for FY2013 Chesapeake Bay Monitoring Program (CWA 117(e)(1)(B))

SUBMITTED BY: Department of Environmental Quality

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Department of Environmental Quality has requested comment on the application for Federal funding assistance for FY2013 Chesapeake Bay Monitoring Program (CWA 117(e)(1)(B)).

PROJECT SENT FOR REVIEW TO: Planning Commission members, not individual localities.

STAFF COMMENT: The staff has reviewed the appropriate plans (Land Use, Water Quality Management, Regional Solid Waste Management, Vision 2020, and the Economic Development plans) and finds that this project does not conflict with the plans or regional policies and goals.

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424

*** 1. Type of Submission:**

- ☐ Preapplication
☒ Application
☐ Changed/Corrected Application

*** 2. Type of Application:**

- ☐ New
☒ Continuation
☐ Revision

*** If Revision, select appropriate letter(s):**

*** Other (Specify):**

*** 3. Date Received:**

Completed by Grants.gov upon submission.

4. Applicant Identifier:

5a. Federal Entity identifier:

5b. Federal Award identifier:

CB-97363004-1

State Use Only:

6. Date Received by State:

7. State Application Identifier:

8. APPLICANT INFORMATION:

*** a. Legal Name:** Virginia Department of Environmental Quality

*** b. Employer/Taxpayer Identification Number (EIN/TIN):**

54-1661753

*** c. Organizational DUNS:**

8097437680000

d. Address:

*** Street1:**

629 East Main Street

Street2:

*** City:**

Richmond

County/Parish:

*** State:**

VA: Virginia

Province:

*** Country:**

USA: UNITED STATES

*** Zip / Postal Code:**

23219-2405

e. Organizational Unit:

Department Name:

Water Monitoring & Assessment

Division Name:

Water Division

f. Name and contact information of person to be contacted on matters involving this application:

Prefix:

Mr.

*** First Name:**

Donald

Middle Name:

*** Last Name:**

Smith

Suffix:

Title:

Grant Manager

Organizational Affiliation:

*** Telephone Number:**

804 698-4429

Fax Number:

*** Email:**

Donald.Smith@deq.virginia.gov

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424

*** 9. Type of Applicant 1: Select Applicant Type:**

A: State Government

Type of Applicant 2: Select Applicant Type:

Type of Applicant 3: Select Applicant Type:

*** Other (specify):**

*** 10. Name of Federal Agency:**

Environmental Protection Agency

11. Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number:

66.466

CFDA Title:

Chesapeake Bay Program

*** 12. Funding Opportunity Number:**

EPA-R3-001

*** Title:**

Region 3 Noncompetitive Announcement

13. Competition Identification Number:

Title:

14. Areas Affected by Project (Cities, Counties, States, etc.):

Add Attachment

Delete Attachment

View Attachment

*** 15. Descriptive Title of Applicant's Project:**

VADEQ FY2013 Chesapeake Bay Monitoring Program CWA 117(e)(1)(B)

Attach supporting documents as specified in agency instructions.

Add Attachments

Delete Attachments

View Attachments

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424

16. Congressional Districts Of:

* a. Applicant VA-001

b. Program/Project VA-A11

Attach an additional list of Program/Project Congressional Districts if needed.

Add Attachment

Delete Attachment

View Attachment

17. Proposed Project:

* a. Start Date: 07/01/2012

* b. End Date: 06/30/2013

18. Estimated Funding (\$):

* a. Federal	772,478.00
* b. Applicant	772,470.00
* c. State	0.00
* d. Local	0.00
* e. Other	0.00
* f. Program Income	0.00
* g. TOTAL	1,544,956.00

* 19. Is Application Subject to Review By State Under Executive Order 12372 Process?

- ☒ a. This application was made available to the State under the Executive Order 12372 Process for review on 4/19/2012.
- ☐ b. Program is subject to E.O. 12372 but has not been selected by the State for review.
- ☐ c. Program is not covered by E.O. 12372.

* 20. Is the Applicant Delinquent On Any Federal Debt? (If "Yes," provide explanation in attachment.)

☐ Yes ☒ No

If "Yes", provide explanation and attach

Add Attachment

Delete Attachment

View Attachment

21. *By signing this application, I certify (1) to the statements contained in the list of certifications** and (2) that the statements herein are true, complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I also provide the required assurances** and agree to comply with any resulting terms if I accept an award. I am aware that any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statements or claims may subject me to criminal, civil, or administrative penalties. (U.S. Code, Title 218, Section 1001)

☒ ** I AGREE

** The list of certifications and assurances, or an internet site where you may obtain this list, is contained in the announcement or agency specific instructions.

Authorized Representative:

Prefix: Ms. * First Name: Valerie

Middle Name:

* Last Name: Thomson

Suffix:

* Title: Director of Administration

* Telephone Number: 804 698-4157

Fax Number: 804 698-4178

* Email: valerie.thomson@deq.virginia.gov

* Signature of Authorized Representative:

Valerie F. Thomson

* Date Signed:

4/17/12

SECTION B - BUDGET CATEGORIES

6. Object Class Categories	GRANT PROGRAM, FUNCTION OR ACTIVITY				Total (5)
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	
	Chesapeake Bay Monitoring Program	Chesapeake Bay Monitoring Program Match			
a. Personnel	\$	\$ 89,134.00	\$	\$	\$ 89,134.00
b. Fringe Benefits					27,569.00
c. Travel		5,000.00			5,000.00
d. Equipment					
e. Supplies					
f. Contractual			101,412.00		101,412.00
g. Construction					
h. Other		767,478.00	528,960.00		1,296,438.00
i. Total Direct Charges (sum of 6a-6h)		772,478.00	747,075.00		1,519,553.00
j. Indirect Charges			25,403.00		25,403.00
k. TOTALS (sum of 6i and 6j)	\$	772,478.00	\$ 772,478.00	\$	1,544,956.00
7. Program Income	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$

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Prescribed by OMB (Circular A -102) Page 1A

SECTION C - NON-FEDERAL RESOURCES					
(a) Grant Program	(b) Applicant	(c) State	(d) Other Sources	(e) TOTALS	
8. Chesapeake Bay Monitoring Program Hatch	\$ 772,478.00	\$	\$	\$	772,478.00
9.					
10.					
11.					
12. TOTAL (sum of lines 8-11)	\$ 772,478.00	\$	\$	\$	772,478.00
SECTION D - FORECASTED CASH NEEDS					
	Total for 1st Year	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter
13. Federal	\$ 772,478.00	\$ 193,119.00	\$ 193,119.00	\$ 193,119.00	\$ 193,121.00
14. Non-Federal	\$ 772,478.00	\$ 193,119.00	\$ 193,119.00	\$ 193,119.00	\$ 193,121.00
15. TOTAL (sum of lines 13 and 14)	\$ 1,544,956.00	\$ 386,238.00	\$ 386,238.00	\$ 386,238.00	\$ 386,242.00
SECTION E - BUDGET ESTIMATES OF FEDERAL FUNDS NEEDED FOR BALANCE OF THE PROJECT					
(a) Grant Program	FUTURE FUNDING PERIODS (YEARS)				
	(b) First	(c) Second	(d) Third	(e) Fourth	
16. Chesapeake Bay Monitoring Program	\$ 795,652.00	\$ 819,522.00	\$	\$	\$
17.					
18.					
19.					
20. TOTAL (sum of lines 16 - 19)	\$ 795,652.00	\$ 819,522.00	\$	\$	\$
SECTION F - OTHER BUDGET INFORMATION					
21. Direct Charges: \$ 1,519,553	22. Indirect Charges: \$25,403 (28.5% fixed rate based on direct salaries)				
23. Remarks:					

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BUDGET INFORMATION - Non-Construction Programs

OMB Number: 4040-0006
Expiration Date: 06/30/2014

SECTION A - BUDGET SUMMARY

Grant Program Function or Activity (a)	Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number (b)	Estimated Unobligated Funds		New or Revised Budget		
		Federal (c)	Non-Federal (d)	Federal (e)	Non-Federal (f)	Total (g)
1. Chesapeake Bay Monitoring Program	66.466	\$	\$	772,478.00	\$	772,478.00
2. Chesapeake Bay Monitoring Program Match					772,478.00	772,478.00
3.						
4.						
5. Totals		\$	\$	772,478.00	\$	1,544,956.00

EPA KEY CONTACTS FORM

Authorized Representative: *Original awards and amendments will be sent to this individual for review and acceptance, unless otherwise indicated.*

Name: Prefix: Ms. First Name: Valerie Middle Name:
 Last Name: Thomson Suffix:
Title: Director of Administration
Complete Address:
 Street1: 629 East Main Street
 Street2:
 City: Richmond State: VA: Virginia
 Zip / Postal Code: 23219-2405 Country: USA: UNITED STATES
Phone Number: 804 698-4157 **Fax Number:** 804 698-4178
E-mail Address: valerie.thomson@deq.virginia.gov

Payee: *Individual authorized to accept payments.*

Name: Prefix: Mr. First Name: W. Middle Name: Chris
 Last Name: Moore Suffix:
Title: Director of Financial Management
Complete Address:
 Street1: 629 East Main Street
 Street2:
 City: Richmond State: VA: Virginia
 Zip / Postal Code: 23219-2405 Country: USA: UNITED STATES
Phone Number: 804 698-4363 **Fax Number:**
E-mail Address: chris.moore@deq.virginia.gov

Administrative Contact: *Individual from Sponsored Programs Office to contact concerning administrative matters (i.e., indirect cost rate computation, rebudgeting requests etc).*

Name: Prefix: Mrs. First Name: Patty Middle Name:
 Last Name: Walsh Suffix:
Title: Grants Administrative Manager
Complete Address:
 Street1: 629 East Main Street
 Street2:
 City: Richmond State: VA: Virginia
 Zip / Postal Code: 23219-2405 Country: USA: UNITED STATES
Phone Number: 804 698-4173 **Fax Number:** 804 698-4178
E-mail Address:

EPA KEY CONTACTS FORM

Project Manager: *Individual responsible for the technical completion of the proposed work.*

Name:	Prefix: Mr.	First Name: Donald	Middle Name:
	Last Name: Smith		Suffix:
Title:	Grant Manager		
Complete Address:			
Street1:	629 East Main Street		
Street2:			
City:	Richmond	State:	VA: Virginia
Zip / Postal Code:	23219-2405	Country:	USA: UNITED STATES
Phone Number:	804 698-4429	Fax Number:	
E-mail Address:	Donald.Smith@deq.virginia.gov		

OVERALL GRANT BUDGET DETAIL

PERSONNEL					
TITLE	SALARY	%TIME	FEDERAL SHARE	NONFED -SHARE	TOTAL
Env. Prog. Spec (Cindy Johnson) (Objective 5)	\$56,160	37.00%	\$0	\$20,779	\$20,779
Env. Prog. Spec (Wick Harlan) (Objective 5)	\$74,880	23.00%	\$0	\$17,222	\$17,222
Env. Prog. Spec (Cory Routh) (Objective 5)	\$56,160	30.00%	\$0	\$16,848	\$16,848
Scientist II (Tony Silvia) (Objective 5)	\$62,400	8.14%	\$0	\$5,082	\$5,082
Env. Prog. Spec (Lou Seivard) (Objective 5)	\$74,880	39.00%	\$0	\$29,203	\$29,203
Total Personnel			\$0	\$89,134	\$89,134
FRINGE BENEFITS: 30.93% of Basic Salary (Includes Retirement, Annual and Sick Leave, Life Insurance, Health Benefits)			\$0	\$27,569	\$27,569
INDIRECT COST: 28.5% of Basic Salary (Includes Rent and Workers Comp. Insurance)			\$0	\$25,403	\$25,403
CONTRACTUAL					
Characterize Current Water and Habitat Quality Conditions in the VA Chesapeake Bay Tributaries (Fixed Stations) (Objective 5) DCLS			\$0	\$101,412	\$101,412
TOTAL CONTRACTUAL			\$0	\$101,412	\$101,412
OTHER					
Characterize Current Water and Habitat Quality Conditions in the VA Mainstem Chesapeake Bay (Objective 1) ODU			\$537,873	\$103,020	\$640,893
Characterize Current Water And Habitat Quality Conditions In The Virginia Tidal Tributaries (Continuous Monitoring and Dataflow) (Objective 2) VIMS			\$229,605	\$141,935	\$371,540
Characterize Benthic Communities in the VA Mainstem Chesapeake Bay and Tidal Tributaries (Objective 3) ODU			\$0	\$178,554	\$178,554
Characterize Phytoplankton Communities in the VA Mainstem Chesapeake Bay and Tidal Tributaries (Objective 4) ODU			\$0	\$83,451	\$83,451
Characterize Submerged Aquatic Vegetation Distribution And Abundance In The Upper James, York, And Rappahannock Rivers (Objective 6) VIMS			\$0	\$22,000	\$22,000
TOTAL OTHER			\$767,478	\$528,960	\$1,296,438
TRAVEL (Objective 1)			\$5,000	\$0	\$5,000
GRANT TOTAL			\$772,478	\$772,478	\$1,544,956

SUMMARY OF STAFF FUNDED	
Name	Percent of salary paid by Project (State Funds)
Env. Prog. Spec (Cindy Johnson) (Objective 5)	37.00%
Env. Prog. Spec (Wick Harlan) (Objective 5)	23.00%
Scientist II (Tony Silvia) (Objective 5)	8.14%
Env. Prog. Spec (Cory Routh) (Objective 5)	30.00%
Env. Prog. Spec (Lou Seivard) (Objective 5)	39.00%

NAME OF ORGANIZATION & APPROPRIATE PROGRAM GRANT TITLE

VADEQ

**Chesapeake Bay Monitoring Program CWA 117(e) (1) (B)
Grant Workplan for 7/1/2012 – 6/30/2013**

INTRODUCTION

A five-year EPA study completed in 1982 identified widespread declines in the water quality and living resources of Chesapeake Bay. The 1985 Chesapeake Bay Restoration and Protection Plan identified the need for restoration activities and a monitoring program to measure the success of these activities. On June 28, 2000, the Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) adopted a new Bay agreement, "Chesapeake 2000: A Watershed Partnership" (C2K) that would guide the next decade of restoration in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Two main goals in the new agreement are 1) "Achieve and maintain the water quality necessary to support the aquatic living resources of the Bay and its tributaries and to protect human health" and 2) "Restore, enhance and protect the finfish, shellfish and other living resources, their habitats and ecological relationships to sustain all fisheries and provide for a balanced ecosystem". More recently, The Chesapeake Bay Program and its partners have developed the Chesapeake Action Plan (CAP) to strengthen and expand partnerships in the watershed, enhance coordination of restoration activities, and increase the collective accountability for protecting the Chesapeake Bay. The individual projects funded by this grant support these goals by monitoring traditional water quality indicators as well as living resource components of the Bay ecosystem like plankton and benthos, which support fisheries. The specific C2k goals, CAP activities, and EPA strategic goals addressed by each objective are identified in each project description.

As described in the Chesapeake Bay Monitoring Strategy, monitoring water quality is necessary for three principal reasons: 1) to determine if water quality conditions meet water quality goals established to protect living resources from nutrient and sediment impacts, 2) to diagnose the likely causes of non-attainment and assess progress towards improvements still needed to meet the tidal water quality goals, and 3) to support continued refinement, calibration and validation of the Chesapeake Bay Water Quality Model and multi-species management models. Information on benthos and phytoplankton species abundances, distributions, and composition are needed to ensure that food of sufficient quality and quantity are available to sustain targeted fish populations and to support refinement, calibration and validation of multi-species management models.

The Virginia Chesapeake Bay Monitoring Program is a multi-investigator program which includes the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Old Dominion University (ODU), and the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS). Overall program coordination and portions of the tidal fixed station water quality monitoring will be performed by the DEQ. The Mainstem water quality monitoring component and biological monitoring components (e.g. benthic and phytoplankton) are performed by ODU. The Water and habitat monitoring aspects of continuous monitoring and dataflow are performed by VIMS. The technical approach of all these programs has been developed and undergoes continuous review and enhancement through the structure of the Federal-Interstate Chesapeake Bay Program. Overall quality assurance activities under this grant are covered by a DEQ Quality Management Plan (Quality Management Plan for the Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Water Quality Programs., VA DEQ WQMA\007, 12/15/2010). Individual QA Project plans are discussed in each section of this workplan.

The overall grant budget for this workplan is provided on page 26 of this workplan. This grant budget and workplan period will be July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013. The VADEQ personnel match has decreased by 25% from the previous budget period. There have always been more DEQ personnel time spent on these grant activities than necessary for meeting match requirements. Thus this personnel match decrease is not because changed DEQ personnel resources will be used for grant activities but is only to limit the total match amount to the necessary 50% grant match requirement.

Pre-award costs are requested for the period beginning July 1, 2012 and ending when official award is received.

NEW RIVER VALLEY PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION

6580 Valley Center Drive, Suite 124
Radford, Virginia 24141

Phone: (540) 639-9313

Fax: (540) 831-6093

E-Mail: nrvpdc@nrvpdc.org

Website: www.nrvpdc.org



Kevin R. Byrd, AICP
Executive Director

COMMONWEALTH INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW MEMORANDUM

TO: Planning Commission Members

FROM: Kevin R. Byrd, Executive Director

AGENDA ITEM: XII. Intergovernmental Review Process, C. Environmental Project Review, Item #3

CIRP Review

April 19, 2012

PROJECT: Grant Application for Federal funding assistance for FY2013 Chesapeake Bay Monitoring Program (CWA 117d)

SUBMITTED BY: Department of Environmental Quality

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Department of Environmental Quality has requested comment on the application for Federal funding assistance for FY2013 Chesapeake Bay Monitoring Program (CWA 117d).

PROJECT SENT FOR REVIEW TO: Planning Commission members, not individual localities.

STAFF COMMENT: The staff has reviewed the appropriate plans (Land Use, Water Quality Management, Regional Solid Waste Management, Vision 2020, and the Economic Development plans) and finds that this project does not conflict with the plans or regional policies and goals.

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424

* 1. Type of Submission:

- ☐ Preapplication
☒ Application
☐ Changed/Corrected Application

* 2. Type of Application:

- ☐ New
☒ Continuation
☐ Revision

* If Revision, select appropriate letter(s):

* Other (Specify):

* 3. Date Received:

Completed by Grants.gov upon submission.

4. Applicant Identifier:

5a. Federal Entity Identifier:

5b. Federal Award Identifier:

CB-97363004-1

State Use Only:

6. Date Received by State:

7. State Application Identifier:

8. APPLICANT INFORMATION:

* a. Legal Name: Virginia Department of Environmental Quality

* b. Employer/Taxpayer Identification Number (EIN/TIN):

54-1661753

* c. Organizational DUNS:

8097437680000

d. Address:

* Street1:

629 East Main Street

Street2:

* City:

Richmond

County/Parish:

* State:

VA: Virginia

Province:

* Country:

USA: UNITED STATES

* Zip / Postal Code:

23219-2405

e. Organizational Unit:

Department Name:

Water Monitoring & Assessment

Division Name:

Water Division

f. Name and contact information of person to be contacted on matters involving this application:

Prefix:

Ms.

* First Name:

Cindy

Middle Name:

* Last Name:

Johnson

Suffix:

Title: Grant Manager

Organizational Affiliation:

Office of Water Monitoring and Assessment

* Telephone Number:

804 698-4385

Fax Number:

* Email:

Cindy.Johnson@deq.virginia.gov

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424

*** 9. Type of Applicant 1: Select Applicant Type:**

A: State Government

Type of Applicant 2: Select Applicant Type:

Type of Applicant 3: Select Applicant Type:

*** Other (specify):**

*** 10. Name of Federal Agency:**

Environmental Protection Agency

11. Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number:

66.466

CFDA Title:

Chesapeake Bay Program

*** 12. Funding Opportunity Number:**

EPA-R3-001

*** Title:**

Region 3 Noncompetitive Announcement

13. Competition Identification Number:

Title:

14. Areas Affected by Project (Cities, Counties, States, etc.):

Add Attachment

Delete Attachment

View Attachment

*** 15. Descriptive Title of Applicant's Project:**

VADEQ Monitoring Technical and Scientific Support Services

Attach supporting documents as specified in agency instructions.

Add Attachments

Delete Attachments

View Attachments

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424

16. Congressional Districts Of:

* a. Applicant VA-001

b. Program/Project VA-A11

Attach an additional list of Program/Project Congressional Districts if needed.

Add Attachment

Delete Attachment

View Attachment

17. Proposed Project:

* a. Start Date: 07/01/2012

* b. End Date: 06/30/2013

18. Estimated Funding (\$):

* a. Federal	557,788.00
* b. Applicant	247,917.00
* c. State	0.00
* d. Local	0.00
* e. Other	0.00
* f. Program Income	0.00
* g. TOTAL	805,705.00

* 19. Is Application Subject to Review By State Under Executive Order 12372 Process?

- ☒ a. This application was made available to the State under the Executive Order 12372 Process for review on 4/19/12.
- ☐ b. Program is subject to E.O. 12372 but has not been selected by the State for review.
- ☐ c. Program is not covered by E.O. 12372.

* 20. Is the Applicant Delinquent On Any Federal Debt? (If "Yes," provide explanation in attachment.)

☐ Yes ☒ No

If "Yes", provide explanation and attach

Add Attachment

Delete Attachment

View Attachment

21. *By signing this application, I certify (1) to the statements contained in the list of certifications** and (2) that the statements herein are true, complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I also provide the required assurances** and agree to comply with any resulting terms if I accept an award. I am aware that any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statements or claims may subject me to criminal, civil, or administrative penalties. (U.S. Code, Title 218, Section 1001)

☒ ** I AGREE

** The list of certifications and assurances, or an internet site where you may obtain this list, is contained in the announcement or agency specific instructions.

Authorized Representative:

Prefix: Ms. * First Name: Valerie

Middle Name:

* Last Name: Thomson

Suffix:

* Title: Director of Administration

* Telephone Number: 804 698-4157 Fax Number: 804 698-4178

* Email: valerie.thomson@deq.virginia.gov

* Signature of Authorized Representative:

* Date Signed: 4/17/12

BUDGET INFORMATION - Non-Construction Programs

OMB Number: 4040-0006
Expiration Date: 06/30/2014

SECTION A - BUDGET SUMMARY

Grant Program Function or Activity (a)	Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number (b)	Estimated Unobligated Funds		New or Revised Budget		Total (g)
		Federal (c)	Non-Federal (d)	Federal (e)	Non-Federal (f)	
1. Chesapeake Bay Program	66.466	\$	\$	\$ 557,788.00	\$ 247,917.00	\$ 805,705.00
2.						
3.						
4.						
5. Totals		\$	\$	\$ 557,788.00	\$ 247,917.00	\$ 805,705.00

SECTION B - BUDGET CATEGORIES

6. Object Class Categories	GRANT PROGRAM, FUNCTION OR ACTIVITY				Total (5)
	(1) Chesapeake Bay Program	(2)	(3)	(4)	
a. Personnel	\$ 18,559.00	\$	\$	\$	18,559.00
b. Fringe Benefits	5,740.00				5,740.00
c. Travel	0.00				
d. Equipment	0.00				
e. Supplies	7,500.00				7,500.00
f. Contractual	68,109.00				68,109.00
g. Construction	0.00				
h. Other	700,508.00				700,508.00
i. Total Direct Charges (sum of 6a-6h)	800,416.00			\$	800,416.00
j. Indirect Charges	5,289.00			\$	5,289.00
k. TOTALS (sum of 6i and 6j)	805,705.00	\$	\$	\$	805,705.00
7. Program Income	\$	\$	\$	\$	

Authorized for Local Reproduction

SECTION C - NON-FEDERAL RESOURCES					
(a) Grant Program	(b) Applicant	(c) State	(d) Other Sources	(e) TOTALS	
8.	\$ 247,917.00	\$	\$	\$	247,917.00
9.					
10.					
11.					
12. TOTAL (sum of lines 8-11)	\$ 247,917.00	\$	\$	\$	247,917.00

SECTION D - FORECASTED CASH NEEDS				
Total for 1st Year	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter
13. Federal \$ 557,788.00	\$ 139,447.00	\$ 139,447.00	\$ 139,447.00	\$ 139,447.00
14. Non-Federal \$ 247,917.00	\$ 61,979.00	\$ 61,979.00	\$ 61,979.00	\$ 61,980.00
15. TOTAL (sum of lines 13 and 14) \$ 805,705.00	\$ 201,426.00	\$ 201,426.00	\$ 201,426.00	\$ 201,427.00

SECTION E - BUDGET ESTIMATES OF FEDERAL FUNDS NEEDED FOR BALANCE OF THE PROJECT				
(a) Grant Program	FUTURE FUNDING PERIODS (YEARS)			
	(b) First	(c) Second	(d) Third	(e) Fourth
16. Chesapeake Bay Program	\$ 574,522.00	\$ 591,757.00	\$	\$
17.				
18.				
19.				
20. TOTAL (sum of lines 16 - 19)	\$ 574,522.00	\$ 591,757.00	\$	\$

SECTION F - OTHER BUDGET INFORMATION	
21. Direct Charges: \$800,416	22. Indirect Charges: \$5,289 +28.5% on salaries and wages only
23. Remarks:	

EPA KEY CONTACTS FORM

Authorized Representative: *Original awards and amendments will be sent to this individual for review and acceptance, unless otherwise indicated.*

Name: Prefix: First Name: Middle Name:
Last Name: Suffix:
Title:
Complete Address:
Street1:
Street2:
City: State:
Zip / Postal Code: Country:
Phone Number: **Fax Number:**
E-mail Address:

Payee: *Individual authorized to accept payments.*

Name: Prefix: First Name: Middle Name:
Last Name: Suffix:
Title:
Complete Address:
Street1:
Street2:
City: State:
Zip / Postal Code: Country:
Phone Number: **Fax Number:**
E-mail Address:

Administrative Contact: *Individual from Sponsored Programs Office to contact concerning administrative matters (i.e., indirect cost rate computation, rebudgeting requests etc).*

Name: Prefix: First Name: Middle Name:
Last Name: Suffix:
Title:
Complete Address:
Street1:
Street2:
City: State:
Zip / Postal Code: Country:
Phone Number: **Fax Number:**
E-mail Address:

EPA KEY CONTACTS FORM

Project Manager: *Individual responsible for the technical completion of the proposed work.*

Name: Prefix: First Name: Middle Name:
Last Name: Suffix:

Title:

Complete Address:

Street1:

Street2:

City:

State:

Zip / Postal Code:

Country:

Phone Number:

Fax Number:

E-mail Address:

BUDGET DETAIL

PERSONNEL						
TITLE	ANNUAL SALARY	%TIME	FEDERAL SHARE	NONFED -SHARE	TOTAL GRANT	
Env. Prog. Spec (Cindy Johnson, DEQ) (Objective 3)						
Env. Prog. Spec (Phillip Hurst, DEQ) (Objective 3)	\$56,160	22.00%	\$0	\$12,355	\$12,355	
TOTAL PERSONNEL	\$52,000	11.93%	\$0	\$6,204	\$6,204	
FRINGE BENEFITS: 30.93% of Basic Salary during (Includes Retirement, Annual and Sick Leave, Life Insurance, Health Benefits) (1)						
INDIRECT COST: 28.5% of Basic Salary (Includes Rent and Workers Comp. Insurance)			\$0	\$18,559	\$18,559	
			\$0	\$5,740	\$5,740	
SUPPLIES			\$0	\$5,289	\$5,289	
Bay Watershed Non-Tidal Water Quality Monitoring Network (includes field supplies such as electronic meters, cables, waders, sampling equipment, mini-cranes, bottles, fixatives, filters, equipment repair and maintenance, all items <\$5,000 each) (Objective 3) (DEQ)						
TOTAL SUPPLIES			\$7,500	\$0	\$7,500	
CONTRACTUAL (2)						
Baseline status and trend analyses for Chesapeake Bay Program management decisions (Objective 1, Tasks 1 and 2) (Elgin Perry, Statistician; and Chesapeake Environmental Communications)			\$12,500	\$0	\$12,500	
Further development of Bay criteria assessment methods and tools (Objective 2, Task 1) (Elgin Perry, Statistician; and Chesapeake Environmental Communications)			\$12,500	\$0	\$12,500	
Laboratory Analysis (Objective 3) (VA Department of Consolidated Laboratory Services)			\$15,280	\$27,829	\$43,109	
TOTAL CONTRACTUAL			\$40,280	\$27,829	\$68,109	
OTHER (sub-awardees)						
Bay Watershed Non-Tidal Water Quality Monitoring Network (Objective 3) (USGS)						
Baseline status and trend analyses for Chesapeake Bay Program management decisions (Objective 1, Tasks 1, 2 and 3) (Old Dominion University)			\$415,824	\$190,500	\$606,324	
TOTAL OTHER			\$94,184	\$0	\$94,184	
GRANT TOTAL			\$510,008	\$190,500	\$700,508	
1) All contractors have been selected and awarded following all applicable Commonwealth of Virginia procurement policies and procedures.						
			\$557,788	\$247,917	\$805,705	

SUMMARY OF STAFF FUNDED

Name	Percent of salary paid by Project (State Funds)
Env. Prog. Spec (Cindy Johnson, DEQ) (Objective 3)	22.00%
Env. Prog. Spec (Phillip Hurst, DEQ) (Objective 3)	11.93%

**Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Chesapeake Bay Monitoring Technical and Scientific Support Services
CWA 117(d) Grant for 2/1/2012 – 6/30/2013**

INTRODUCTION

A five-year EPA study completed in 1982 identified widespread declines in the water quality and living resources of Chesapeake Bay. The 1985 Chesapeake Bay Restoration and Protection Plan identified the need for restoration activities and a program to measure the success of these activities. On June 28, 2000, the Chesapeake Bay Program's governing Chesapeake Executive Council signed an agreement, known as *Chesapeake 2000: A Watershed Partnership* (Chesapeake 2000). *Chesapeake 2000* is one of the most aggressive and comprehensive watershed restoration plans ever developed for the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The agreement was the result of a comprehensive three-year stakeholder-driven process involving more than 300 scientists, resource managers, policymakers and citizens from all parts of the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The agreement consolidated prior commitments and established new goals and deadlines for protecting and restoring the Chesapeake Bay's living resources, water quality, and vital habitats, promoting sound land use, and engaging communities beyond 2000. This cooperative agreement will help fulfill the commitments of the *Chesapeake 2000*, Goal # 3, Water Quality Protection and Restoration. Projects will create results that track progress towards water quality goals on an annual basis, collaborating with Chesapeake Bay Program partners to continually improve the efficiency of our efforts leading to the restoration of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries.

More recently, The Chesapeake Bay Program and its partners have developed the Chesapeake Action Plan (CAP) with goals of Fisheries Management, Maintaining Healthy Watersheds, and Vital Water Quality of Chesapeake Bay to strengthen and expand partnerships in the watershed, enhance coordination of restoration activities, and increase the collective accountability for protecting the Chesapeake Bay. The specific C2k goals, CAP activities, and EPA strategic goals addressed by each objective are identified in each project description.

This multi-investigator program includes the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Old Dominion University (ODU), and the United States Geological Survey (USGS) and contracted data analysts. Overall program coordination and strategic participation will be performed by the DEQ. Data analysis activities will be carried out by ODU, USGS and two contractors (Elgin Perry, Statistician; and Chesapeake Environmental Communications). Non-tidal field water quality monitoring will be performed by the USGS and DEQ. The technical approach of all these programs will be developed and undergoes continuous review and enhancement through the structure of the Federal-Interstate Chesapeake Bay Program. Overall quality assurance activities under this grant are covered by a DEQ Quality Management Plan (Quality Management Plan for the Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Water Quality Programs., VA DEQ WQMA\007, 12/15/2011).

Pre-award costs are requested for the period beginning July 1, 2012 and ending when final award is received.

NEW RIVER VALLEY PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION
AGENDA

May 24, 2012

6:00 p.m.—New River Valley Competitiveness Center, Fairlawn

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. CONSENT AGENDA
 - A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR APRIL
 - B. APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORTS FOR APRIL
- III. CHAIR'S REPORT
- IV. PUBLIC ADDRESS
- V. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE'S REPORT
- VI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT (enclosed)
- VII. OLD BUSINESS
- VIII. NEW BUSINESS
 - A. Revised Budget for FY 12 (enclosed)
Commission Action Needed
 - B. VRS Employer Contribution Rate Resolution (enclosed)
Commission Action Needed
 - C. CEDS 2013 Project Package and Report
Commission Action Needed
 - D. New River Valley Bikeway, Walkway, Blueway Plan (partial plan enclosed)
 - a. Presentation: Elijah Sharp
 - E. New River Valley Rural Long Range Transportation Plan (plan distributed at meeting)
 - a. Presentation: Elijah Sharp
 - F. MPO Boundary Adjustment (enclosed)
- IX. OTHER BUSINESS
- X. REVIEW OF MUTUAL CONCERNS AND COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS
- XI. COMMONWEALTH INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS
 - A. Projects (Signed-off by the staff)
 - 1. VHD Safe Drinking Water Act – FY2013 Public Water System Supervision Grant
 - B. Regular Project Review
None
 - C. Environmental Project Review
 - 1. DEQ Technical Review and Services for DERP Activities at Active DoD Facilities and Environmental Restoration at Base Closure Sites
 - 2. DEQ FY2012 State Revolving Loan Funds Capitalization Application
 - 3. RfAAP Nitrocellulose Plant

New River Valley Planning District Commission
Treasurer's Report
Expenditures as of April 30, 2012

Expense Category	Budget	Previous Total	April Expenditures	YTD Expenditures	Budget Balance	% Budget Expended
Salaries	763,211.00	613,577.59	65,524.34	679,101.93	84,109.07	88.98%
Fringe Benefits	261,184.00	215,042.67	23,025.15	238,067.82	23,116.18	91.15%
Travel	71,038.00	34,255.43	3,765.66	38,021.09	33,016.91	53.52%
Office Space	21,544.00	16,157.70	1,795.30	17,953.00	3,591.00	83.33%
Telephone	7,399.00	5,122.11	576.65	5,698.76	1,700.24	77.02%
Office Supplies	43,024.00	40,403.28	339.70	40,742.98	2,281.02	94.70%
Postage	1,183.00	870.05	34.10	904.15	278.85	76.43%
Printing	250.00	-	-	-	250.00	0.00%
Copies & Copier Maintenance	3,931.00	2,910.79	359.20	3,269.99	661.01	83.18%
Media Ad	10,460.00	5,021.92	2,060.53	7,082.45	3,377.55	67.71%
Equipment Rent	1,500.00	1,109.16	123.24	1,232.40	267.60	82.16%
Vehicle Fuel	2,200.00	1,407.88	386.71	1,794.59	405.41	81.57%
Dues	3,890.00	1,190.00	-	1,190.00	2,700.00	30.59%
Publications	16.00	16.00	-	16.00	-	100.00%
Training	875.00	400.00	-	400.00	475.00	45.71%
Insurance	1,000.00	-	-	-	1,000.00	0.00%
Meeting Expense	20,795.00	16,985.60	1,902.34	18,887.94	1,907.06	90.83%
Capital Outlay	26,402.00	2,318.55	-	2,318.55	24,083.45	8.78%
Contractual Services	623,168.00	384,745.04	14,163.70	398,908.74	224,259.26	64.01%
Audit Fee	2,500.00	2,500.00	-	2,500.00	-	100.00%
Miscellaneous	59,102.00	15,158.67	4,451.80	19,610.47	39,491.53	33.18%
Uncollectible Receivable	-	2,660.63	-	2,660.63	(2,660.63)	0.00%
M & G Costs	91,647.00	61,677.33	6,860.66	68,537.99	23,109.01	74.78%
Common Costs	156,196.00	77,696.74	6,206.15	83,902.89	72,293.11	53.72%
	2,172,515.00	1,501,227.14	131,575.23	1,632,802.37	539,712.63	75.16%

NEW RIVER VALLEY PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION

6580 Valley Center Drive, Suite 124
Radford, Virginia 24141

Phone: (540) 639-9313

Fax: (540) 831-6093

E-Mail: nrvpdc@nrvpdc.org

Website: www.nrvpdc.org



Kevin R. Byrd, AICP
Executive Director

May 24, 2012

Executive Director's Report

Economic Development:

- Full CEDS project package for 2013 is on agenda for review and approval. Due to EDA by June 30.
- The NRVPCD is an Economic Development District with the U.S. Department of Commerce-Economic Development Administration and our 3 year program review is forthcoming. Primarily, it is an opportunity to work with EDA and a peer regional council on best practices.

Transportation:

- Several transportation items on the agenda to include the NRV Bikeway, Walkway, Blueway Plan (BW-WW-BW), Rural Long Range Transportation Plan and the MPO expansion. Since the BW-WW-BW plan is lengthy and graphic heavy with maps, please visit the project website for more detail www.nrvpdc.org/Transportation/bwwwbw.html
- The BW-WW-BW Plan won an Excellence in Regional Transportation Award from National Association of Development Organizations. This is the fourth consecutive year the NRVPCD was recognized by NADO for one of our projects or programs.

Regional:

- Regional Learning Experience – June 22nd 1:30-3:30 New River Community College Renewable Energy Training Facility. Includes both wind and solar skills training. Let PDC staff know your intentions to attend by May 31st.
- Planning Commissioner/Local Government Training on Historic Structure/District Revitalization at the PDC on May 23rd. Panelist include local contractor, financial advisor and architectural historian. All three are key players in successful revitalization efforts.
- Livability Initiative: May Project Update is attached to this report. As you will read, the focus for May was on preparing for the next round of public engagement. The next Livability Consortium meeting is scheduled for May 31st at 9:00 am. Visit www.nrvlivability.org for more information about the project and to engage.
- Mr. Dietz with the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation who provided the stormwater presentation last month responded recently regarding the definition of land disturbing activity. This was discussed at the Commission meeting, particularly in relation to agriculture. Attached is Mr. Dietz email with more information.
- NRVPCD is overhauling our website! We will preview at the May 24th Commission meeting.

VAPDC:

- JLARC is conducting a study on regional incentives and cooperation. Involves interviews of 6 PDCs in the state, which NRVPCD was one. Also involves extensive surveys of state and local elected officials, businesses and state agencies. Should conclude in the fall with results soon thereafter.
- Summer Conference is scheduled for July 26-28 in Virginia Beach.

Counties:

Floyd, Giles, Montgomery, Pulaski

Towns:

Blacksburg, Christiansburg, Floyd
Pulaski, Narrows, Pearisburg, Rich Creek

Universities:

Radford University
Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University

City:

Radford



NRV Livability Initiative Project Update May 2012

BUILT

We need **YOUR** help identifying and introducing us to groups in your community who may be interested in playing **BUILT** our regional planning game! This is a great and FUN opportunity to get community groups involved in the Livability Initiative planning process. This game enables citizens to come together and talk about the things that are most important to them when it comes to their neighborhoods and communities. Moving through a series of hands-on, interactive exercises, participants wrestle with their own priorities and preferences, while examining how well their preferences “work” for different sectors of the community. This game also provides an interactive forum for grappling with resource constraints or fiscal considerations around public infrastructure. Carol Davis, our Outreach Coordinator is currently working to set up events in the New River Valley with two already planned in Giles and two in the Town of Blacksburg. We would like to hold 2-3 events in each County during June and through mid-July. Please contact her at cdavis@nrvpdc.org, 540-639-9313 ext. 222 if you would like to help set up an event in your locality. Attached is a flier which provides more details.

Whether System

Since January 2011, the Building Home Team of actors and musicians with Virginia Tech’s Performing Arts program, has been conducting interactive theatre and music events with communities throughout the New River Valley. These gatherings use art as a medium for community visioning and dialogue; local citizens sing, share stories, and act out their perspectives on life in the NRV, as it is now and how they imagine it could be in the future. The stories and perspectives collected through Building Home are directly contributing to the Livability Initiative.

This past April, members of the Building Home team, created "Whether System: A Town Hall Event" in response to stories and perspectives collected from Building Home's 20+ community gatherings in the City of Radford and the counties of Giles, Pulaski, Montgomery, and Floyd. The interactive performance which blended storytelling, music, theatre, and culminated in a "town hall event"-- to build awareness and invite healthy, productive public dialogue--was held from April 20-25th at Theatre 101 at Virginia Tech. Over 180 people attended these performances.

The Building Home team will be working on a modified version that they can take on the road this Fall to groups in each locality to start talking about strategies for addressing the issues identified in the first phase of their work.

Kevin Byrd

From: Dietz, Chuck (DCR)
Sent: Wednesday, May 16, 2012 9:51 AM
To: Byrd, Kevin
Cc: Echols, Jim (DCR)
Subject: Land Disturbance

Kevin,

Following is a brief explanation of what constitutes a "land disturbance" under the VA Erosion and Sediment Control (ESC) Laws and Regulations and the Virginia Stormwater Management (SWM) Laws and Regulations. As your commission has recognized, the definition of "disturbed area" is critical, because land development projects are regulated only if their total disturbed area reaches or exceeds certain thresholds. These are *typically* 10,000 square feet for ESC and 1 acre for SWM.

Following are the formal definitions of "land-disturbing activity" for ESC and SWM, respectively:

"Land-disturbing activity" means any man-made change to the land surface that may result in soil erosion from water or wind and the movement of sediments into state waters or onto lands in the Commonwealth, including, but not limited to, clearing, grading, excavating, transporting and filling of land...

"Land-disturbing activity" means a man-made change to the land surface that potentially changes its runoff characteristics including any clearing, grading, or excavation associated with a construction activity regulated pursuant to the federal Clean Water Act...

What are "clearing, grading, excavating, transporting and filling of land"? Let's say you own a wooded lot where you want to build a home.

You will need to *clear* the land of trees, brush and grass in order to construct your driveway, house, and yard.

You may have to take a bulldozer and *grade* the land to create a flat driveway, *cutting* into the hills and *filling* in the depressions. You may need to *grade* out a flat area where you will build your home.

You may have to *excavate* a foundation for your home and *excavate* the trenches for your water and sewer lines or perhaps a septic tank and a drainfield.

If you take some of the dirt from your property and need to *transport* it and dispose of it elsewhere, the location where you dump it is also considered to be disturbed.

All of these activities have the potential to impact your neighbors by (1) transporting sediment onto their property and (2) eroding channels on their property from an increase in stormwater runoff. That is why these activities are regulated.

Who makes the determination of what land is disturbed? The Owner of the property calculates the total disturbed area of the project. It is up to the Administrator of the local ESC or SWM program to verify it and sign off on it. On commercial and industrial projects, the Engineer will typically draw a "Limit of Disturbance" line on the plan that shows the disturbed area.

Please let me know if anyone has any questions about this explanation. Thank you.

Chuck Dietz

New River Valley Planning District Commission
Revised Budget FY12

	Housing Total	Transportation Total	Planning/Grant Admin Total	Workforce Total	Development Total	Other Total	Total Direct	Common	M&G	Total Agency
Salary	35,756	83,904	169,761	241,235	179,829	52,726	763,211	17,559	55,505	836,275
Fringe	11,481	27,277	55,569	85,371	62,859	18,627	261,184	6,532	15,182	282,898
Total Salaries & Fringe	47,237	111,181	225,330	326,607	242,688	71,353	1,024,395	24,091	70,687	1,119,172
Travel	1,220	7,079	6,114	40,000	14,401	2,225	71,038		6,043	77,081
Office Space	-	-	-	21,544	-	-	21,544	32,039		53,583
Telephone	-	-	-	7,200	199	-	7,399	5,264		12,663
Office Supplies	68	380	5,150	5,500	23,976	7,951	43,024	23,932		66,956
Postage	-	-	329	500	350	4	1,183	4,746		5,928
Printing	-	-	-	250	-	-	250	75		325
Copies & Copier Maintenance	-	-	2,331	1,600	-	-	3,931	5,740		9,671
Media Advertising	-	2,428	-	3,334	4,698	-	10,460	1,205		11,665
Equipment Rent - Copier	-	-	-	1,500	-	-	1,500	5,833		7,333
Equipment Maintenance - Vehicles	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9,594		9,594
Dues	-	850	-	500	2,556	-	3,906	5,100		9,006
Training - Staff Development	-	-	-	500	375	-	875		150	1,025
Meeting Costs	-	324	4,500	15,000	851	120	20,795	200		20,995
Insurance	-	-	-	1,000	-	-	1,000	7,300	400	8,700
Publications	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,000		1,000
Equipment / Vehicle	-	-	-	5,000	21,402	-	26,402			26,402
Contractual Service	-	385,974	169,165	1,000	10,500	56,529	623,168	20,721		643,889
Audit Fee	-	-	-	2,500	-	-	2,500	6,195		8,695
Misc. (WIB Admin & PDC Mtg)	-	-	-	55,000	4,102	-	59,102	3,162		62,264
Total Non-Personnel Costs	1,287	397,034	187,588	161,928	83,409	66,829	898,076	132,105	6,593	1,036,775
Total Personnel & Non-Personnel	48,524	508,216	412,918	488,535	326,096	138,182	1,922,471	156,196	77,280	2,155,947
Common Costs	9,601	22,600	45,801		49,327	14,504	141,833		14,367	14,367
M&G Costs	6,204	14,602	29,594		31,875	9,371	91,646		91,647	
Total Program Costs	64,329	545,418	488,313	488,535	407,298	162,057	2,155,950			2,170,314



Virginia
Retirement
System

P.O. Box 2500, Richmond, Virginia 23218-2500
Toll free: 1-888-VARETIRE (827-3847)
Web site: www.varetire.org
E-mail: vrs@varetire.org

RECEIVED

April 30, 2012

MAY 05 2012

NRVPDC

New River Valley Planning District Commission 55451

Recent legislation calls for localities to make certain decisions by July 1, 2012 regarding employer and member retirement contributions. These include:

- Election/certification by your local governing body of your employer retirement contribution rate for 2012-2014, using one of the options allowed in the 2012 Appropriation Act, Item 468(H). We will keep you apprised of any amendments that would change these options.
- Election/certification by your local governing body of the member contribution your current employees will be required to pay beginning July 1, 2012 and the corresponding salary increase, as provided in Chapter 822 of the 2012 Acts of Assembly (Senate Bill 497).

I am pleased to provide you this resolution packet to assist you and your local governing body in the election process for these contributions. Your packet includes:

- Resolutions to be completed and returned to VRS
- Copy of Item 468(H)
- Copy of Chapter 822 (SB 497)

Resolution 1: Employer Retirement Contribution Rate Election

By no later than July 1, 2012, your local governing body must approve one of the following employer contribution rate options for the defined benefit retirement plan in the biennium beginning July 1, 2012:

- 6.94% – the rate certified by the VRS Board of Trustees for the 2012-2014 biennium; or
- 4.86% – the alternate rate, which is the higher of the current rate certified by the VRS Board for FY 2011-2012 or 70 percent of the VRS Board-certified rate for 2012-2014.

As a reminder, effective July 1, 2012, your contribution rates for Group Life Insurance and the Health Insurance Credit, as applicable, are:

- N/A – Group Life Insurance
- N/A – Health Insurance Credit

Considerations in Electing Your Contribution Rate

The intent of the language in the 2012 Appropriation Act, Item 468(H), is to offer localities and schools some budget relief for the coming fiscal year with respect to the amount of their retirement contributions. However, this does not change the Board-certified rate or the Annual Required Contribution (ARC). Therefore, if you are considering using the Alternate Rate, please be aware that doing so will:

- Reduce contributions to your employer account and the investment earnings they would have generated, which will mean there will be fewer assets available for benefits.
- Result in a lower funded ratio when the next Actuarial Valuation is performed and, thus, a higher calculated contribution rate at that time.
- Require that you include the Net Pension Obligation (NPO) under GASB Standards in the notes to your financial statements.

Resolution 2: Member Contribution Election

As provided under Chapter 822 of the 2012 Acts of Assembly (SB 497), all Plan 1 and Plan 2 school division and political subdivision employees must begin paying the 5 percent member contribution effective July 1, 2012. All employees hired on or after July 1, 2012 must pay the full 5 percent upon employment with no phase-in allowed. For current employees, the bill allows governing bodies to phase in the member contribution in each of the next five years or until current employees are paying the full 5 percent contribution, whichever is earlier. Phase-in increases must be in whole percentages of at least 1 percent of creditable compensation per year, with comparable offsetting salary increases.

By no later than July 1, 2012, your local governing body must approve the amount of the member contribution that current employees will pay beginning July 1. Your governing body also must certify that employees will receive a comparable offsetting salary increase effective July 1 of each year of the phase-in period.

Deadline for Resolutions

VRS must receive formal signed resolutions for the employer retirement contribution rate election and the member contribution election **by no later than July 10, 2012**.

Employer Webinar Scheduled for May 2 and May 3

To assist you with the election process, I would like to invite you to register for the “Upcoming Changes to VRS Contribution Rates” webinar. There are two sessions available:

- Wednesday, May 2, 2:00-3:00 p.m.
- Thursday, May 3, 10:00-11:00 a.m.

Online registration is available at www.varetire.org/RateChangeWebinar. The webinar also will be recorded and posted on the VRS website.

Meanwhile, if you have any questions about the information in this packet, please contact Ms. ZaeAnne Sferra, Employer Coverage Coordinator, at zsferra@varetire.org or (804) 775-3514.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert P. Schultze", written in a cursive style.

Robert P. Schultze
Director

Employer Contribution Rates for Counties, Cities,
Towns, School Divisions and Other Political Subdivisions
(In accordance with the 2012 Appropriation Act Item 468(H))

Resolution

BE IT RESOLVED, that the New River Valley Planning District Commission 55451 does hereby acknowledge that its contribution rates effective July 1, 2012 shall be based on the higher of a) the contribution rate in effect for FY 2012, or b) seventy percent of the results of the June 30, 2011 actuarial valuation of assets and liabilities as approved by the Virginia Retirement System Board of Trustees for the 2012-14 biennium (the "Alternate Rate") provided that, at its option, the contribution rate may be based on the employer contribution rates certified by the Virginia Retirement System Board of Trustees pursuant to Virginia Code § 51.1-145(I) resulting from the June 30, 2011 actuarial value of assets and liabilities (the "Certified Rate"); and

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED, that the New River Valley Planning District Commission 55451 does hereby certify to the Virginia Retirement System Board of Trustees that it elects to pay the following contribution rate effective July 1, 2012:

(Check only one box)

☐ The Certified Rate of 6.94%

☐ The Alternate Rate of 4.86%; and

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED, that the New River Valley Planning District Commission 55451 does hereby certify to the Virginia Retirement System Board of Trustees that it has reviewed and understands the information provided by the Virginia Retirement System outlining the potential future fiscal implications of any election made under the provisions of this resolution; and

NOW, THEREFORE, the officers of New River Valley Planning District Commission 55451 are hereby authorized and directed in the name of the New River Valley Planning District Commission to carry out the provisions of this resolution, and said officers of the New River Valley Planning District Commission are authorized and directed to pay over to the Treasurer of Virginia from time to time such sums as are due to be paid by New River Valley Planning District Commission for this purpose.

Governing Body/School Division Chairman

CERTIFICATE

I, _____, Clerk of the New River Valley Planning District Commission, certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution passed at a lawfully organized meeting of the New River Valley Planning District Commission held at _____, Virginia at _____ o'clock on _____, 2012. Given under my hand seal of the New River Valley Planning District Commission this _____ day of _____, 2012.

Clerk

**This resolution must be passed prior to July 1, 2012 and
received by VRS no later than July 10, 2012.**

Member Contributions by Salary Reduction for Counties, Cities, Towns, and Other Political Subdivisions

(In accordance with Chapter 822 of the 2012 Acts of Assembly (SB497))

Resolution

WHEREAS, the New River Valley Planning District Commission 55451 employees who are Virginia Retirement System members who commence or recommence employment on or after July 1, 2012 ("FY2013 Employees" for purposes of this resolution), shall be required to contribute five percent of their creditable compensation by salary reduction pursuant to Internal Revenue Code § 414(h) on a pre-tax basis upon commencing or recommencing employment; and

WHEREAS, the New River Valley Planning District Commission 55451 employees who are Virginia Retirement System members and in service on June 30, 2012, shall be required to contribute five percent of their creditable compensation by salary reduction pursuant to Internal Revenue Code § 414(h) on a pre-tax basis no later than July 1, 2016; and

WHEREAS, such employees in service on June 30, 2012, shall contribute a minimum of an additional one percent of their creditable compensation beginning on each July 1 of 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, and 2016, or until the employees' contributions equal five percent of creditable compensation; and

WHEREAS, the New River Valley Planning District Commission 55451 may elect to require such employees in service on June 30, 2012, to contribute more than an additional one percent each year, in whole percentages, until the employees' contributions equal five percent of creditable compensation; and

WHEREAS, the second enactment clause of Chapter 822 of the 2012 Acts of Assembly (SB497) requires an increase in total creditable compensation, effective July 1, 2012, to each such employee in service on June 30, 2012, to offset the cost of the member contributions, such increase in total creditable compensation to be equal to the difference between five percent of the employee's total creditable compensation and the percentage of the member contribution paid by such employee on January 1, 2012.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the New River Valley Planning District Commission 55451 does hereby certify to the Virginia Retirement System Board of Trustees that it shall effect the implementation of the member contribution requirements of Chapter 822 of the 2012 Acts of Assembly (SB497) according to the following schedule for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2012 (i.e., FY2013):

Type of Employee	Employer Paid Member Contribution	Employee Paid Member Contribution
Plan 1	%	%
Plan 2	%	%
FY2013 Employees	0%	5%

(Note: Each row must add up to 5 percent.); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that such contributions, although designated as member contributions, are to be made by the New River Valley Planning District Commission in lieu of member contributions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that pick up member contributions shall be paid from the same source of funds as used in paying the wages to affected employees; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that member contributions made by the New River Valley Planning District Commission under the pick up arrangement shall be treated for all purposes other than income taxation, including but not limited to VRS benefits, in the same manner and to the same extent as member contributions made prior to the pick up arrangement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that nothing herein shall be construed so as to permit or extend an option to VRS members to receive the pick up contributions made by the New River Valley Planning District Commission directly instead of having them paid to VRS; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that notwithstanding any contractual or other provisions, the wages of each member of VRS who is an employee of the New River Valley Planning District Commission shall be reduced by the amount of member contributions picked up by the New River Valley Planning District Commission on behalf of such employee pursuant to the foregoing resolutions.

NOW, THEREFORE, the officers of New River Valley Planning District Commission 55451 are hereby authorized and directed in the name of the New River Valley Planning District Commission to carry out the provisions of this resolution, and said officers of the New River Valley Planning District Commission are authorized and directed to pay over to the Treasurer of Virginia from time to time such sums as are due to be paid by the New River Valley Planning District Commission for this purpose.

Governing Body Chairman

CERTIFICATE

I, _____, Clerk of the New River Valley Planning District Commission, certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution passed at a lawfully organized meeting of the New River Valley Planning District Commission held at _____, Virginia at _____ o'clock on _____, 2012. Given under my hand and seal of the New River Valley Planning District Commission this _____ day of _____, 2012.

Clerk

**This resolution must be passed prior to July 1, 2012 and
received by VRS no later than July 10, 2012.**

VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY -- 2012 RECONVENED SESSION

CHAPTER 822

An Act to amend and reenact § 51.1-144 of the Code of Virginia, relating to Virginia Retirement System employee contributions; local employees; school board employees.

[S 497]

Approved April 18, 2012

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 51.1-144 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 51.1-144. Member contributions.

A. Each member shall contribute five percent of his creditable compensation for each pay period for which he receives compensation.

The employer shall deduct the contribution payable by the member. Every employee accepting employment shall be deemed to consent and agree to any deductions from his compensation required by this chapter. No deduction shall be taken from the compensation of a member after his normal retirement date if the member elects not to contribute.

B. In determining the creditable compensation of a member in a payroll period, the Board may consider the rate of compensation payable to the member on the date of entry or removal of his name from the payroll as having been received throughout the month if service for the month is creditable. If service for the month is not creditable, the Board may consider any compensation payable during the month as not being creditable compensation.

C. The minimum compensation provided by law for any member shall be reduced by the deduction required by this section. Except for any benefits provided by this chapter, payment of compensation minus the deductions shall be a full and complete discharge of all claims for services rendered by the member during the period covered by the payment.

D. No deduction shall be made from any member's compensation if the employer's contribution is in default.

E. The Board may modify the method of collecting the contributions of members so that the employer may retain the amounts deducted from members' salaries and have a corresponding amount deducted from state funds otherwise payable to the employer.

F. 1. Except as provided in ~~subdivision~~ *subdivisions 2, 3 and 4*, any employer may elect to pay an equivalent amount in lieu of all member contributions required of its employees. Such payments shall be credited to the members' contribution account. These contributions shall not be considered wages for purposes of Chapter 7 (§ 51.1-700 et seq.) of this title, nor shall they be considered to be salary for purposes of this chapter.

2. A person who becomes a member on or after July 1, 2010, shall be required to pay member contributions on a salary reduction basis in accordance with § 414(h) of the Internal Revenue Code in the amount of five percent of creditable compensation if the person is (i) a member covered by the defined benefit plan established under this chapter, (ii) a member of the State Police Officers' Retirement System under Chapter 2 (§ 51.1-200 et seq.), (iii) a member of the Virginia Law Officers' Retirement System under Chapter 2.1 (§ 51.1-211 et seq.), (iv) a member of the Judicial Retirement System under Chapter 3 (§ 51.1-300 et seq.), or (v) earning the benefits permitted by § 51.1-138.

~~Each county, city, town, local public school board, or other local employer may elect to pay an equivalent amount in lieu of the member contributions required of its employees described in this subdivision. The county, city, town, local public school board, or other local employer may pay, in whole percentages, up to five percent of the creditable compensation otherwise required of such employees, provided that the employer pays the same percentage of creditable compensation for all such employees, and is paying all member contributions required under this section for all of its other member employees not described in this subdivision. Any portion of the five percent of creditable compensation required of a person who becomes a member on or after July 1, 2010, that is not paid by the county, city, town, local public school board, or other local employer, shall be paid by such person.~~

~~No employer other than a county, city, town, local public school board, or other local employer shall be allowed to elect to pay any amount of the member contributions required of a person who becomes a member on or after July 1, 2010.~~

3. A member who is an employee of a county, city, town, or other local employer other than a local public school board, regardless of whether the member is a person who becomes a member on or after July 1, 2010, shall be required to pay member contributions on a salary reduction basis in accordance with § 414(h) of the Internal Revenue Code in the amount of five percent of creditable compensation as follows: (i) any member who commences or recommences employment on or after July 1, 2012, shall be required to contribute five percent of his creditable compensation upon commencing or recommencing

2012 Appropriation Act Item 468(H)

Central Appropriations Language

“H.1. Except as authorized in Paragraph H.2. of this Item, rates paid to the VRS on behalf of employees of participating (i) counties, (ii) cities, (iii) towns, (iv) local public school divisions (only to the extent that the employer contribution rate is not otherwise specified in this act), and (v) other political subdivisions shall be based on the higher of: a) the contribution rate in effect for FY 2012, or b) seventy percent of the results of the June 30, 2011 actuarial valuation of assets and liabilities as approved by the Virginia Retirement System Board of Trustees for the 2012-14 biennium, eighty percent of the results of the June 30, 2013 actuarial valuation of assets and liabilities as approved by the Virginia Retirement System Board of Trustees for the 2014-16 biennium, ninety percent of the results of the June 30, 2015 actuarial valuation of assets and liabilities as approved by the Virginia Retirement System Board of Trustees for the 2016-18 biennium, one-hundred percent of the results of the June 30, 2017 actuarial valuation of assets and liabilities as approved by the Virginia Retirement System Board of Trustees for the 2018-20 biennium.

2. Rates paid to the VRS on behalf of employees of participating (i) counties, (ii) cities, (iii) towns, (iv) local public school divisions (only to the extent that the employer contribution rate is not otherwise specified in this act), and (v) other political subdivisions may, at each participating employers option, be based on the employer contribution rates certified by the Virginia Retirement System (VRS) Board of Trustees pursuant to § 51.1-145(I), Code of Virginia.

3. Every participating employer must certify to the board of the Virginia Retirement System by resolution adopted by its local governing body that it: has reviewed and understands the information provided by the Virginia Retirement System outlining the potential future fiscal implications of electing or not electing to utilize the employer contribution rates certified by the Virginia Retirement System (VRS) Board of Trustees, as provided for in paragraph H.2.

4. Prior to electing to utilize the employer contribution rates certified by the Virginia Retirement System (VRS) Board of Trustees, as authorized in paragraph H.2, local public school divisions must receive the concurrence of the local governing body. Such concurrence must be documented by a resolution of the governing body.

5. The board of the Virginia Retirement System shall provide all employers participating in the Virginia Retirement System with a summary of the implications inherent in the use of the employer contribution rates certified by the Virginia Retirement System (VRS) Board of Trustees set out in paragraph H.2, and the alternate employer contribution rates set out in paragraph H.1.”

Explanation:

(This amendment allows for the phase-in of the VRS Board-approved employer contribution rates for local employers over three biennia.)

NEW RIVER VALLEY PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION

6580 Valley Center Drive, Suite 124
Radford, Virginia 24141

Phone: (540) 639-9313

Fax: (540) 831-6093

E-Mail: nrvpdc@nrvpdc.org

Website: www.nrvpdc.org



Kevin R. Byrd, AICP
Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

To: Planning District Commissioners

From: Kevin R. Byrd, Executive Director

Date: May 17, 2012

Re: Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)

As a part of this year's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) annual update, staff has updated the Goals and Objectives as well as the Project Ranking Criteria. Staff has also reviewed and ranked the CEDS Project List. These ranked projects within the CEDS will be important when applying for project funding through the Economic Development Administration and the Appalachian Regional Commission.

Attached is a draft of the final CEDS for your review. The projects currently being identified by the localities in the region and the CEDS Committee are ranked based on the Project Evaluation Criteria as discussed in previous meetings. Please review the document and prepare recommendations for additions, subtractions, or other changes.

Upon Commission approval, the CEDS will be submitted to the Economic Development Administration. A consumer version of the CEDS will be presented to the Commission in June.

Counties:
Floyd, Giles, Montgomery, Pulaski

Towns:
Blacksburg, Christiansburg, Floyd
Pulaski, Narrows, Pearisburg, Rich Creek

Universities:
Radford University
Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University

City:
Radford

2012

Virginia's New River Valley: Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy 2012 Annual Report and 2013 Project Package



New River Valley Planning District Commission

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INTRODUCTION

The New River Valley Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) documents the region's economic development program to help continue federal and local partnerships address the economic development of the region. The CEDS process includes analysis, vision, action plan, and evaluation. This process provides a program that helps create jobs, foster a more stable and diversified economy, and improve living conditions in the region.

This annual report summarizes the changing conditions in the region during fiscal year 2012. As a regional development strategy, Virginia's New River Valley Strategic Plan (Vision 2020: *Community First, prepared in 2003*) addresses the planning needs of the CEDS for the Economic Development Administration and the Area-wide Action Plan for the Appalachian Regional Commission. Figure 1 attempts a graphic depiction of the myriad of community and organization involvement necessary for the development of the regional strategic plan. Though no organization has this planning process as their central activity – strategic planning is a collaborative effort with all of these organizations and groups represented and actively engaged.

CEDS emerges from a continuous planning process. This Annual Report of the New River Valley CEDS seeks to document and evaluate the process, effectively updating the CEDS, while responding to the reporting requirements, review, and critique of the previous CEDS for the Economic Development Administration. Rather than a single stand-alone section, evaluation is integrated as a continuous feedback loop in each part of the process and report.

The CEDS Committee includes the Principles of the Investment Policy Guidelines in its project evaluation process. The Guidelines continue to be utilized in the development of CEDS projects.

Included in the FY09 work program was the preparation of the FY 09 major update of Vision 2020. The "new" CEDS, *Community First...Regional Partners in a Global Marketplace*, was led by the Commission and a Vision 2020 Steering Committee made up of 18 community and civic leaders. This year's (FY13) update was developed based on the goals, objectives, strategies, and projects related to the categories of People, Business/Industry and Employment, Natural and Cultural Resources, and Physical Infrastructure.

ORGANIZATION AND MANAGEMENT

The New River Valley Planning District Commission (PDC) was created in September 1969 by the City of Radford, the Counties of Floyd, Giles, Montgomery, and Pulaski, and the Towns of Blacksburg, Christiansburg, and Pulaski. As key players in the regional economy, Virginia Tech and Radford University joined the Commission in July 2000 along with the Towns of Floyd, Narrows, Pearisburg, and Rich Creek. Twenty-four representatives of these entities make up the Board of Commissioners.

A CEDS Committee was formed with the approval of the PDC in FY 11. Fifteen public and private representatives from the New River Valley were identified and invited to participate on the CEDS Committee originally. Five new members were added to the CEDS Committee in FY 2012. The CEDS Committee was charged with the task of identifying projects, reviewing goals and objectives, and reviewing the projects and ranking criteria for those projects. Upon completing those tasks, the CEDS Committee made recommendations to the PDC for final approval of the CEDS. The PDC works closely with several other regional groups that take leading roles in pursuing economic development projects and funding to advance the quality of life in the New River Valley (see Figure 1, page 6). These include the New River Valley Economic Development Alliance, the New River/Mount Rogers Workforce Investment Board, the Partners for Self Sufficiency (an organization formed by the local departments of social services in the region), Virginia's First Regional Industrial Facility Authority, the New River Valley Land Trust, and the Community Foundation of the New River Valley.

This spring, memoranda were sent to all the localities that participate in the New River Valley Planning District (PDC), and to collaborative partners. Each was asked to submit a list of projects that they were working on or considering. Then each group reviewed the status of current projects, and planning for the future. Staff at the PDC compiled the information for this report. The minutes of the CEDS Committee and PDC meetings are attached in Appendix I. All of the Economic Development District's Board minutes are available on the web at www.nrvpdc.org.

New projects and programs emerged and were refined this year. These are included in this document. In addition to projects, the Goals and Objectives for the Vision 2020 process were updated. The updated Goals and Objectives are on the following pages, and the revised evaluation criteria are included in the Annual Project Package Report Section.

The staff for the CEDS Committee includes Kevin Byrd, Executive Director of the Planning District Commission; Bradley Mecham, Regional Planner; Kim Thurlow, Project Coordinator; and Carol Davis, Community Outreach Facilitator.

A list and description of the current CEDS Committee and PDC membership and current letters/resolutions from each of the localities that have participated in and supported the planning process are also attached in Appendices II and III, respectively.

Figure 1
CEDS Strategy Participants 2012



GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Virginia's New River Valley

VISION 2020

“Community First...Regional Partners in a Global Marketplace”

Updated March 2012

The New River Valley Planning District Commission (Economic Development District) leads the continuous planning process for economic development in Virginia’s New River Valley region.

A major update to Vision 2020 was completed in 2003. The process started with a Celebration of the accomplishments in the Region since the 1995 version of the regional strategic planning document was prepared, and “Community First” emerged as a theme. During 2009 the Commission undertook the second major update of Vision 2020. There was considerable concern about the global economy, the decline in manufacturing, and the focus of education. “Community First” continued to be relevant, however it was broadened into a regional context recognizing the need to be both a supplier as well as a consumer in the global marketplace. Vision 2020 has since taken on the title “Community First...Regional Partners in a Global Marketplace”.

The Economic Development District works closely with localities and several regional groups that take key roles in pursuing economic development projects and funding to advance the quality of life in the New River Valley. The Goals and Objectives from the 2009 Vision 2020 update were revised in April 2012 and are presented here in the four interrelated categories of People, Business/Industry and Employment, Natural and Cultural Resources, and Physical Infrastructure.

Goals and Objectives

PEOPLE

The New River Valley sees its people as its greatest resource for economic sustainability. We recognize that in order for our area to be prosperous, our people must have the tools, resources, and education necessary to reach their full potential as citizens, workers and leaders.

P-1 Goal: To create educational programs that transcend school district lines to maximize available resources and eliminate inequity.

Objective: Use multi-media, distance learning and other technologies in the classroom to share instructional resources and deliver access to information throughout the region, focusing on dual-enrollment and AP programs.

Objective: Allocate resources equitably to ensure that students from all economic and basic skill groups in school are prepared, encouraged, and ready to learn.

Objective: Encourage State recognition of the need for a funding formula fostering regional cooperation among public schools in technology training and education.

P-2 Goal: To improve the Industry / Education interface at all levels.

Objective: To establish partnerships between industry/business and all levels of education by implementing an integrated workforce curriculum that provides students with more "real world" learning opportunities and promotes the importance of skill development in order to prepare them to compete in a global economy.

Objective: Provide nurturing environment to all children that stresses "employability skills" including work ethic.

Objective: Expand mentoring and "shadow" programs.

Objective: Establish as an outcome of education and training programs preparation for business ownership.

Objective: Create apprenticeship program to train New River Valley residents in trade-specific skills.

P-3 Goal: To increase literacy rates among the region's children and adults (90% with High School Diploma or equivalent).

Objective: Expand programs to teach basic literacy skills.

Objective: Offer more on-site literacy training opportunities to local businesses and industries.

P-4 Goal: To create life-long learning opportunities for New River Valley residents.

Objective: Expand educational curriculum, operating hours, use of technology, and location of programming to offer non-traditional students educational opportunities to meet the needs of all of the region's residents.

Objective: Provide affordable, diverse, and accessible continuing education opportunities.

P-5 Goal: To train and re-train workers for higher skills and productivity in the 21st Century economy.

Objective: Train managers and workers to meet the current and future challenges of a competitive marketplace.

Objective: Expand existing and explore new opportunities for business training and professional development programs (i.e. CREATES).

Objective: Encourage the "one stop career shop" to program services based on economic opportunities of the region and geared to providing skills and assistance necessary to compete in the global marketplace.

Objective: Implement an integrated workforce curriculum for 9th through 12th grades to prepare students for technical careers that will support the recruitment of high technology, bio-technology and/or nano-technology industries to the New River Valley.

P-6 Goal: To enhance and link the region's labor skills and technology advantages to improve wage levels.

Objective: Link local industries with technology and research capabilities of Virginia Tech, Radford University, and New River Community College.

Objective: Expand the Virginia Tech Corporate Research Center's programs to include a strong technology transfer component.

Objective: Encourage alternative education in vocational programs, developing marketable skills, including business skills.

Objective: Market the region's specialty skill base to prospective industries.

Objective: Support research and development at all higher education institutions.

P-7 Goal: To foster inter-agency cooperation in the delivery of human services.

Objective: Devise an easily available system for the delivery of human services.

Objective: Strengthen client awareness of available services through better use of media, technology, and volunteer care networks, and the grouping of social service agency representatives and informational material within the one stop center.

P-8 Goal: To provide affordable and accessible human services to all New River Valley citizens.

Objective: Make high quality services available in the New River Valley.

Objective: Target the needs of "high risk" persons of the region in order to allow greater participation of these persons in the workforce and community.

Objective: Encourage and improve volunteer involvement in the delivery of human services.

P-9 Goal: To create an affordable, accessible public transportation system for all citizens.

Objective: Coordinate and maximize the use of existing public and private transportation resources focused on employment mobility.

Objective: Target and coordinate the expansion of currently available and on demand transportation services to fill the needs of elderly, disabled, and disadvantaged citizens.

Objective: Plan and coordinate the expansion of the existing public transportation network to incorporate the entire New River Valley.

Objective: Support volunteer-based transportation alternatives (e.g. RIDE Solutions).

P-10 Goal: To expand the region's child and adult day care network.

Objective: Support the development of an integrated network of private and public child and adult day care providers to assist families twenty-four hours a day.

P-11 Goal: To ensure the safety of the region's citizens.

Objective: Improve the region's preparedness and ability to respond to natural crisis and man-made emergencies.

Objective: Reduce police, fire, and Emergency Medical Service response times throughout the New River Valley.

P-12 Goal: To provide youth programs and support.

Objective: Provide access to family basics training.

Objective: Encourage a system of after school programs (e.g., boys and girls clubs).

Objective: Support the provision of youth shelter(s).

P-13 Goal: To recognize and celebrate emerging cultural diversity.

Objective: Recognize the cultural diversity that is the New River Valley.

Objective: Integrate emerging cultural diversity.

P-14 Goal: To train, inspire, support and deploy qualified leadership for all sectors and programs in the region.

Objective: Support Leadership Development Programs.

Objective: Develop regional leadership organization and certification programs.

P-15 Goal: To establish youth involvement in the regional community.

Objective: Establish youth leadership training.

Objective: Seek youth participation in programs and provide recognition.

Objective: Create youth-specific seats on local councils, boards, and committees.

Objective: Create a Youth Entrepreneurial Center for business and civic development and practice.

Objective: Establish youth leadership recognition program.

P-16 Goal: To enhance public understanding of organizations and their functions.

Objective: Community awareness workshops for corporate leaders and elected officials.

Objective: Establish a mechanism to foster regional coordination among government agencies and organizations.

Objective: Research and publicize non-profit and public contributions to community development efforts.

Objective: Quarterly human service community meetings to discuss service delivery and system constraints and promote community input and collaborative problem solving.

P-17 Goal: To promote and support organizational development and engagement in regional cooperation and collaboration.

Objective: Strengthen Non-profit corporate governance.

Objective: Promote local philanthropy to enhance community investment and commitment to local development.

Objective: Support regional coordination within and between government agencies.

Objective: Support partnerships between government agencies and Non-profits.

P-18 Goal: To assist in the establishment of a regional system to protect the region's physical and economic security.

Objective: Encourage the training of law enforcement departments in Homeland Security.

Objective: Assist localities in meeting homeland planning requirements.

Objective: Support communication interoperability among first responders.

P-19 Goal: Support the changing needs and preferences of housing with respect to current and projected demographic shifts within the New River Valley.

Objective: Collect data related to aging in place within the region.

Objective: Develop training programs to develop workforce skills in home modifications and retrofits

BUSINESS/INDUSTRY AND EMPLOYMENT

The New River Valley has a diverse economic base, from emerging high technology industries to traditional family farms, all of which need to be supported and developed so that they can continue to provide high quality jobs and regional investment.

BI-1 Goal: To expand the use of green, bio, and nano technologies as a basis for entrepreneurial ventures.

- Objective:** Encourage the use of locally developed technology in manufacturing and other industries.
- Objective:** Support the development of E-commerce and business-to-business ventures.
- Objective:** Encourage the formation of programs to develop green/bio/nano technology based businesses.
- Objective:** Broaden the availability of educational programs that support green/bio/nano technology based business ventures.

BI-2 Goal: To increase the number of jobs created through entrepreneurial start-ups and expansions in the New River Valley.

- Objective:** Optimize existing resources for entrepreneurs and promote collaboration between those resources (SBDC, VTKnowledgeWorks, NRVCC, etc.)
- Objective:** Organize creative financing programs and improve entrepreneurs' access to capital.
- Objective:** Strengthen the New River Valley's capacity to assist in the creation and expansion of businesses that are competitive locally, nationally, and globally.
- Objective:** Support the business incubators, and their services to new businesses including the development of corporate structures.
- Objective:** Business establishment as an educational outcome.
- Objective:** Increase small business support services through provision of community e-commerce space as well as trainings (social media, computer, etc.) and connections between interns and employers.

BI-3 Goal: To increase the development and support of local family farms.

- Objective:** Develop educational, networking and mentoring programs to support and encourage the continuation of family farms.
- Objective:** Expand the availability and networking of "farmers markets" for selling of local produce and farming products (i.e. eggs, meats, wool, etc).
- Objective:** Develop and expand the availability of processing and aggregation facilities for local farm products (i.e. meats, dairy, vegetables, etc).

- Objective:** Implement "Farms to School" programs, which would widen the market for locally grown produce and products and provide our children with better quality food.
- Objective:** Incorporate into secondary and post-secondary agricultural programs opportunities for learning about organic and "green" methods and technologies.
- Objective:** Encourage cooperation between farmers and their public and private sector partners.
- Objective:** Support local foods as part of economic growth and diversity.

BI-4 Goal: To encourage "would be" entrepreneurs through education and enhanced opportunities.

- Objective:** Provide alternate educational opportunities and support to encourage self-employment.
- Objective:** Encourage and acknowledge entrepreneurial efforts in established local industries and businesses.
- Objective:** Encourage home-based, community-based business zoning.
- Objective:** Explore the establishment of a youth entrepreneurial center.

BI-5 Goal: To expand the region's economic base without compromising the high quality of life.

- Objective:** Recruit environmentally responsible companies that are utilizing green technology and infrastructure.
- Objective:** Utilize appropriate land use controls and utility availability to direct business to appropriate locations.
- Objective:** Develop and promote micro-business opportunities for recycled products to enhance local utilization of recycled materials.

BI-6 Goal: To improve the region's ability to market itself and respond to the needs of new industrial, research, and technological prospects.

- Objective:** Market the region's current projects and create a database of available industrial, technology, and research space and services.
- Objective:** Expand multi-regional marketing campaigns involving the New River Valley Economic Development Alliance, and similar organizations throughout Western Virginia.

BI-7 Goal: To strengthen the economic position of downtown commercial districts.

- Objective:** Enhance the diversity of the region's shopping opportunities.
- Objective:** Improve the competitiveness of downtown business districts.

- Objective:** Seek diversification and mixed use redevelopment of commercial districts.
- Objective:** Support downtown revitalization goals within each New River Valley community.

BI-8 Goal: To improve the customer service quality of local businesses.

- Objective:** Provide service instruction to employees.
- Objective:** Improve the region's ability to provide basic travel information to visitors through regional collaboration on marketing initiatives and a regional website.

BI-9 Goal: To improve the region's tourism development potential and ability to market itself as a tourism destination.

- Objective:** Develop a feasibility report on the appropriate Tourism Marketing Organizations to market the Region.
- Objective:** Increase the region's tourism readiness and marketing capacity by developing a process to better utilize media for region wide initiatives. (*Combined below)
- Objective:** Develop a process for coordination of regional events to incorporate tours, sites, weekend packages that would include multiple NRV localities.
- Objective:** Attract support services.
- Objective:** Participate, support, and encourage southwestern Virginia initiatives such as 'Round the Mountain, Crooked Road, and Heartwood Center.

BI-10 Goal: To attract new industries that will complement the region's economy, strengthen inter-industry linkages, and utilize the region's labor force.

- Objective:** Seek firms with an international focus to utilize the strategic assets of the New River Valley International Airport, Foreign Trade Zone and Commerce Park.
- Objective:** Pursue a targeted and coordinated approach to economic development.
- Objective:** Recruit outside firms seeking a trained and skilled labor force, low utility costs, high quality industrial space, and convenient highway access.
- Objective:** Recruit outside firms that currently have significant vendor relationships with New River Valley companies.
- Objective:** Utilize Virginia's First to provide creative public incentives to encourage private investment.
- Objective:** Foster partnerships among localities with common needs (including non-adjacent counties).

BI-11 Goal: To enhance the financial resources of local governments through tax restructuring.

Objective: Encourage the State to share income taxes and revenue growth with localities.

Objective: Encourage the state to allow more flexible local revenue strategies.

BI-12 Goal: To bring a voice to the policy table on behalf of the region.

Objective: Seek representation on State Commissions and Committees.

Objective: Provide input to State from regional economic development organizations and planning districts.

BI-13 Goal: To improve the ability of local firms to strengthen industry relationships, access product and/or consumer markets, and become globally competitive.

Objective: Develop a "Corporate Team" program to encourage local businesses to work together to pursue joint markets and/or federal contracts.

Objective: E-business support and development.

Objective: Develop regional marketing initiatives to promote New River Valley products to other state, national, and international markets.

BI-14 Goal: To develop and strengthen the role of international trade and commerce in the economy of the New River Valley.

Objective: Coordinate with existing international trade promotion, training and networking efforts/initiatives.

Objective: Market the advantages and promote the use of the Foreign Trade Zone and Customs Office at the New River Valley International Airport.

Objective: Use Foreign Trade Zone status as a tool in recruiting new industries and diversifying the New River Valley's economy.

BI-15 Goal: To improve the region's ability to support and respond to the needs of local industries.

Objective: Create a more supportive and open relationship between industry, government, and educational institutions.

Objective: Utilize the Community College or the One-stop Centers to assist businesses seeking trained employees or training of employees requiring enhanced skills.

Objective: Provide intermediary between industry and social services.

BI-16 Goal: To improve the corporate profitability of existing firms in order to encourage capital investment and job creation.

Objective: Evaluate the opportunity to create a New River Business Development Fund within the Community Foundation.

Objective: Create new and support existing financing opportunities for business/industry expansion.

Objective: Assist the commercialization of innovative technology and non-technology-based enterprises.

Objective: Develop more value-added processes for products developed locally.

Objective: Encourage recruitment of local college graduates.

BI-17 Goal: To develop opportunities with international firms.

Objective: Identify potential international partners for local firms.

Objective: Evaluate the opportunities to locate a multi-modal transportation facility in the region.

Objective: Support location of international firms in the region.

BI-18 Goal: To capitalize on the region's unique human resources.

Objective: Utilize specialty training (e.g. engineers, agriculture, telecommunication, and bio/nano/green technology).

Objective: Utilize specialty skills (e.g. artists and artisans).

Objective: Utilize basic skills in newer industries (e.g. hand dexterity).

BI-19 Goal: To increase the financial wellbeing of the region's citizens and businesses.

Objective: Provide information on the impacts of various financial programs to enhance wellbeing, including credit card debt, reverse mortgages, payday checks, equity loans.

Objective: Assist businesses in understanding financing options and programs.

NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

The New River Valley is an attractive and desirable place to live, work, and visit.

NR-1 Goal: To develop tourism opportunities in the New River Valley

- Objective:** Design and market a series of travel packages for different recreational consumers.
- Objective:** Institute measures to protect critical areas from inappropriate development.
- Objective:** Inventory cultural sites and artisan shops throughout the region, and establish loop trails off the Blue Ridge Parkway.
- Objective:** Develop nature-based recreational opportunities, including a network of trails for hiking and biking.
- Objective:** Identify, develop, and package the region's inventory of historical assets and arts and cultural activities, natural features, and events to support external marketing.
- Objective:** Examine opportunities to attract travelers from the Blue Ridge Parkway.
- Objective:** Develop a blueway along the New River, regionally.
- Objective:** Seek inter-regional partnerships with other Virginia communities, West Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee, and Kentucky to enhance the region as a tourism destination.

NR-2 Goal: To manage the impacts of existing and future land uses in order to preserve the character and quality of the regional environment.

- Objective:** Improve land use planning and practices to preserve the region's rural character and ensure that critical or high risk areas are protected from inappropriate development.
- Objective:** Educate the public on the issues of land use planning and tools.
- Objective:** Encourage the development of recreational amenities in conjunction with all development throughout the region.
- Objective:** Collaborate with the New River Valley Land Trust and other groups to educate landowners regarding voluntary conservation easements and their financial benefits.
- Objective:** Promote local comprehensive plans and zoning ordinances that support preservation and conservation efforts.
- Objective:** Encourage a wide variety of development patterns, with emphasis on density, to preserve regional character.
- Objective:** Minimize the effect of existing and future polluting industries
- Objective:** Evaluate the region for implementation of alternative energy developments and investigate consumer interest and demand for energy efficiency and renewables.
- Objective:** Promote and support "green" development practices.

- Objective:** Continue and further develop a communication method/process by which all organizations/agencies that are promoting and using conservation, green technology, and alternative energy sources can share information with each other and the public.
- Objective:** Implement educational programs in the K-12 system that teach and promote conservation, alternative energy, and recycling (like the NEED Program).
- Objective:** Create incentives for energy retrofits for homes and businesses while supporting renewable and alternative energy options.
- Objective:** Centralize marketing of energy efficiency options.
- Objective:** Continue public awareness of benefits and needs for recycling.
- Objective:** Develop convenient means to recycle throughout the New River Valley.

NR-3 Goal: To increase the awareness of educational and cultural programs in the region.

- Objective:** Promote the enhancement of educational and cultural amenities, to include cultural libraries.
- Objective:** Coordinate and cooperatively market local events regionally.

NR-4 Goal: Develop a regional identity/brand to increase the marketability of the region.

- Objective:** Create and support a regional tourism agency/organization to promote the New River Valley as a whole in partnership with each locality and other regional promotion organizations.
- Objective:** Support creative economy highlighting skills endogenous to the Appalachian Mountains.
- Objective:** Support existing agriculture and forestry operations and assist in developing alternative agriculture opportunities.

PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

The New River Valley has complete and quality infrastructure to support the goals, needs, and aspirations of the regional community.

PI-1 Goal: To improve the capacity, condition, connectivity and efficiency of inter- and intra-regional transportation systems.

- Objective:** Seek the commitment of government and private interests to improve the capacity, efficiency, and condition of the regional transportation network.
- Objective:** Increase the capacity and utilization of existing air service facilities in the New River Valley.
- Objective:** Support passenger rail service for the New River Valley.
- Objective:** Increase interstate connections.
- Objective:** Seek opportunities to implement multi-modal services and facilities.
- Objective:** Seek to expand public transportation services and private transportation providers.

PI-2 Goal: To ensure adequate, reliable, and safe delivery of all utilities in the New River Valley.

- Objective:** Interconnect water and sewer systems regionally where possible to improve reliability, safety, and water quality.
- Objective:** Examine the potential of the New River as an alternative source of water for communities using springs and wells.
- Objective:** Encourage AEP to build redundancy in electrical service to eliminate blackout/brownouts.
- Objective:** Deploy a network of fiber optics throughout the region.
- Objective:** Establish a regional stormwater management and utility program.
- Objective:** Create utility standards for service providers to follow and coordinate public digging to minimize costs and disturbances.
- Objective:** Encourage renewable energy generation as a sustainable option for New River Valley Energy Infrastructure (i.e. wind, solar, landfill methane capture, cogeneration facilities, etc.)

PI-3 Goal: To plan for the systematic construction, replacement, and repair of public infrastructure to meet future needs and ensure fiscal responsibility.

- Objective:** Encourage the development and updating of Capital Improvement Programs (CIP).
- Objective:** Seek creative and alternative funding sources for eligible capital improvement projects.

Objective: Seek creative and cooperative regional financing strategies for major infrastructure needs.

PI-4 Goal: To improve the region's telecommunication network to attract new firms, assist existing firms, and educate citizens.

Objective: Complete Broadband linkage throughout the NRV (affordable broadband available for every home and business).

Objective: Support and expand the New River Valley Wireless Authority to provide broadband infrastructure and evaluate needs and recommend strategies to expand the community network.

Objective: Promote the expansion and use of the "Electronic Classroom" at Virginia Tech, Radford University, New River Community College and primary and secondary schools.

Objective: Pursue direct electronic links to marketing information and market sources for advancing the region.

Objective: Establish a regional communications program for marketing and other outreach programs.

Objective: Enhance or replace obsolete telecommunications infrastructure.

PI-5 Goal: To enhance regional solutions to solid waste disposal and recycling.

Objective: Reduce the amount of waste added to the waste stream.

Objective: Seek inter-and intra-regional cooperation regarding the disposal of solid waste.

Objective: Pursue markets for recycled and reused products and materials.

PI-6 Goal: To assure that the region has a diverse and ample supply of housing to meet the needs of people in all income ranges and lifestyles.

Objective: Coordinate and adopt creative approaches to encourage the creation of affordable housing.

Objective: Promote the HOME program for providing low to moderate income individuals with opportunities for affordable home ownership.

Objective: Determine appropriate and cost-effective means for providing shelter for all residents.

Objective: Seek to establish phased retirement centers.

Objective: Support opportunities for affordable housing in close proximity to major employment centers.

Objective: Encourage a range of housing options that meet the housing needs and preferences across a person's lifespan.

PI-7 Goal: To increase the region's supply of ready and available industrial and other economic development properties.

- Objective:** Coordinate and evaluate the development of the New River Valley International Airport and the New River Valley Commerce Park to provide property for air related development.
- Objective:** Identify, evaluate, and negotiate the acquisition and/or reserved use of industrial and business property within the region.
- Objective:** Develop regional properties tailored to the needs of targeted industries.
- Objective:** Utilize Virginia's First Regional Industrial Facilities Authority to cooperatively develop properties and locate business and industry.
- Objective:** Develop public/private partnerships to meet space needs of targeted economic projects.

PI-8 Goal: To increase the commercialization of intellectual properties.

- Objective:** Support the implementation of programs and facilities which support companies in their development and utilization of intellectual properties. (e.g., VT KnowledgeWorks).

PI-9 Goal: To increase the mobility of the region's citizens, with particular focus on affordability.

- Objective:** Increase access to jobs from all parts of the region.
- Objective:** Create interconnectivity among transit and human resource transportation provides.
- Objective:** Enable access to encourage employee telecommuting.
- Objective:** System design should support the transportation needs of both citizens and visitors.
- Objective:** Encourage community design that fosters active living.

EVALUATION OF PREVIOUS YEAR'S ACTIVITIES

The 2012 Project Package represented the priorities of the region as of May 2011. It is, therefore, imperative to look again critically at that list. First, it is ascertained whether or not the project is still desired by the named agency. If not, it will be dropped from the new list. If the project is still desired (indicated by an "X" in the table), it is evaluated in terms of status (see **New River Valley 2012 Annual Project Package Evaluation, page 24**). The status categories of "planning, funding, and completed" are explained below. If a project has been completed or is fully funded, it will not be included in the 2013 Project Package.

Planning

Planning, in this instance, is a general term used to indicate ongoing development of a project. This may include any of the following activities:

- ☐ holding project meetings
- ☐ studies including feasibility studies, engineering or architectural reports
- ☐ completion of required forms, permits, processes
- ☐ or any other activity indicating active pursuit of the project.

Funding

Funding is the critical yet often elusive component for bringing a project to fruition. The formal request for funding from Federal agencies is often a two-step process which begins with a pre-application. If the project is viewed favorably, the sponsoring agency is invited to submit an application. A project is considered "Funded" following award notification when grant agreements are completed.

Completed

A construction project is considered "completed" when the construction is entirely finished. A program (non-construction) is considered "completed" when it is implemented.

New River Valley 2012 Project Package Evaluation

Project Status

Area	Description	Total Funding	Desired	Planning	Pre-App.	Application	Funded	Completed	Notes
Blacksburg	Virginia Tech Corporate Research Center, Phase II Construction of support infrastructure for Phase II of Virginia Tech's CRC.	\$2,000,000	X	X	X	X	X		Under Construction
Blacksburg	Huckleberry Trail Extension Assist in the construction of the Huckleberry Trail extension from Prices Fork to Glade Road. Will connect the Hethwood Community to the Heritage Park and then link to the National Forest. Grading, site amenities, and surfacing are needed for this project.	\$100,000	X	X	X	X	X		
City of Radford	Third Avenue Parking Lot The public parking lot located adjacent to Grove Avenue and Third Avenue would be improved to include a stormwater system, paving, landscaping, traditional light poles and hanging baskets. This project is needed to improve the lot's aesthetic appeal.	\$250,000	X						
City of Radford	Hercules Street Sewer Line Replacement: 565 linear feet of 8" sanitary line would be replaced along Hercules Street between Roosevelt and Pershing Avenue.	\$102,600	X					X	
City of Radford	Jackson and Sixth Sewer Line Replacement 450 linear feet of 8" sanitary sewer line would be replaced in an existing easements between Jackson Street and Sixth Avenue.	\$91,700	X					X	
City of Radford	Arnold and Pershing Sewer Line Replacement 525 linear feet of 8" sanitary line would be replaced in an existing easement between Arnold Avenue and Pershing Avenue.	\$96,750	X						
City of Radford	Radford Village Water Line Replacement 3,225 linear feet of 6" main water line would be replaced with an 8" service throughout the Radford Village residential area improving service reliability and water flow to forty homes.	\$117,500	X						
City of Radford	Miscellaneous drainage project Design and construction of drainage improvements identified in 1993 Facility Plan in various locations throughout the city. The improvements would prevent runoff damage to public and private properties.	\$75,000	X						
Dublin	Dublin Fire Department Expansion To add two bays.	\$750,000	X	X	X	X			

New River Valley 2012 Project Package Evaluation

Project Status

Area	Description	Total Funding	Desired	Planning	Pre-Appl.	Application	Funded	Completed	Notes
Floyd	Jacksonville Center Amphitheater The Jacksonville Center will continue development of its campus, including an amphitheater	\$250,000	X	X					
Floyd County	Jacksonville Center E-Commerce Project (Floyd Co) Establishment of an e-commerce catalog of crafts and products.	\$50,000	X						
Floyd County	Floyd Revolving Loan Fund	\$200,000	X	X	X	X			Application to Rural Development
Floyd County	Marketing Floyd County Regional Commerce Center As a locality that already has advanced telecommunications infrastructure, access to higher education opportunities, available and affordable workforce, and available industrial space, Floyd County is seeking funding to create a model of promotion for Southwest Virginia.	\$50,000	X						
Floyd County	Multi-Tenant Facility for Floyd County To house growing businesses as well as meet space needs for governmental agencies and non-profits.	\$2,000,000	X	X	X	X	X		EDA and ARC funding approved
Floyd County	Rocky Knob Interpretive Visitor Center and Interpretive Program, Reg. Collaborative (Floyd Co) A bi-county commission is working on the development of a major tourism destination along the Blue Ridge Parkway. A lodge and interpretive center are planned.	\$10,000,000	X	X	X	X	X		Initial \$1.5 million granted through SAFETEA-LU
Floyd County	Trails for Floyd (pedestrian, biking, and hiking)	\$5,000,000	X						
Floyd County	Trail Around Floyd Commerce Center To develop a walking trail around the new Commerce Center in Floyd.	\$400,000	X	X					

New River Valley 2012 Project Package Evaluation

Project Status

Area	Description	Total Funding	Desired	Planning	Pre-App.	Application	Funded	Completed	Notes
Floyd County	Phase II Development of Floyd Regional Commerce Center Grade lots 1 and 2.	\$2,000,000	X						
Floyd County	Route 8 Improvements (South) (Floyd Co) Road Improvements on Route 8 southbound from Floyd, South.	\$1,500,000	X						
Floyd County	East Floyd Truck Route Develop east Floyd industrial route.	\$4,000,000	X						
Floyd County	Regional Food Aggregating/Processing Center	\$2,000,000	X	X		X	X		Study underway 2011-2012
Floyd County	Floyd County Health and Human Services Complex	\$2,000,000	X						
Floyd County	Geo-engineering Studies Groundwater Resources in Floyd County To identify groundwater resources and calculate carrying capacity. Recharge areas and other important water resource areas would be mapped.	\$250,000	X						
Floyd County	Engineering Studies on Extending Water and Sewer to areas of Floyd Co. To study water and sewer extensions and to understand hydrogeologic systems resources. Include protecting critical recharge and well-head areas.	\$1,500,000	X						
Floyd Town	Floyd Town Trails Program (final phase)	\$300,000	X	X		X	X		Construction 2012-2013
Floyd Town	Lineberry Memorial Park Development	\$1,500,000	X	X			X		Park Development 2010-2012; Town and Private funds
Giles County	Giles Multi-tenant Business Facility (Giles Co) A facility located in the Wheatland Eco Park.	\$2,000,000	X						
Giles County	Eggleston Water Extension Phase 2 (Giles Co) Extend water service to 160 residencies.	\$1,400,000	X						County currently renovating - County funding
Giles County	Route 635 Water Extension (Giles Co) Provide public water to approximately 150 residents in the Big Stoney Community of Giles County.	\$3,000,000	X						

New River Valley 2012 Project Package Evaluation

Project Status

Area	Description	Total Funding	Desired	Planning	Pre-App.	Application	Funded	Completed	Notes
Giles County	Clendennin Water Extension (Giles Co) Provide public water to approximately 50 residents in the Clendennin community of Giles County.	\$2,000,000	X						
Giles County	Ingram Village Sewer (Giles Co) Put in sewer lines.	\$2,000,000	X						
Giles County	Public Transportation	\$2,000,000	X						
Giles County	New Water Tank in Hoges Chapel	\$1,500,000	X	X		X	X		Rural Development funding, Construction 2012
Glen Lyn	Glen Lyn Park Modern bathhouse, wastewater hook ups, information center, and open-air theater. Also a new location for a boat ramp and sidewalk connecting the Park to the Municipal Building.	\$800,000	X						
Glen Lyn	Glen Lyn Regional Wastewater Facility To combine wastewater from Rich Creek and Glen Lyn into a single operation. The Towns will undertake the project.	\$3,000,000	X	X			X		Under Construction 2012
Montgomery County	Rt. 114 Widening From Christiansburg Town limits to Radford Army Ammunition Plant	\$66,220,197	X						
Montgomery County	Falling Branch Corporate Park - Stormwater pond	\$350,000	X				X		Under Construction 2012
Montgomery County	Route 8 Widening Project Widening Route 8 from the Montgomery and Floyd County line to the Town of Christiansburg.	\$75,000,000	X						
NRV	NRV Community Regional Broadband Network Interconnect government facilities, schools, industrial parks, and in addition business and residents may be able to have advanced telecommunication services.	\$11,200,000	X	X	X	X	X		Under construction
NRV	New River Valley Development Revolving Loan Fund Fund to provide assistance for business and non-profit development.	\$50,000	X	X	X	X	X		Being implemented by NRVDC
NRV	Complete Broadband Infrastructure Throughout the NRV	\$16,000,000	X	X					

New River Valley 2012 Project Package Evaluation

Project Status

Area	Description	Total Funding	Desired	Planning	Pre-Appl.	Application	Funded	Completed	Notes
NRV	Small Business Development (Green/Nano/Bio) Program Develop educational program through the community college and university that support the development and/or recruitment of small businesses/industries in the green, nano and/or bio technology fields.	\$1,000,000	X	X	X	X	X		CREATES/HITE - WIB
NRV	Regional Conference/Civic Center Determine feasibility and appropriate site, engineering and architectural plans for regional conference center.	\$15,000,000	X						
NRV	Network of Manufacturing Companies Development of Companies.	\$50,000	X						
NRV	Develop and Implement a Program to Support Small Family Farms Using "Cultivating Success" Farm Mentoring Project as a model.		X						
NRV	Develop a Regional Meat Processing Plant for Organic Meat Processing and Production		X	X	X	X	X		Rural Development - Sustain Floyd Planning Grant Funded
NRV	Develop/Implement a Regional Glass Recycling Program		X						
NRV	Create Formal Regional Leadership Organization Create formal leadership organization, hold community awareness workshop, and establish certified leadership development program.	\$20,000	X						
NRV	Youth Planning Council Involve youth in discussing regional development issues.	\$20,000	X						
NRV	Technology Magnet School: Workforce Development Designed to develop a specialized workforce in the NRV by providing advanced technology education to secondary schools. Federal funds will be used to purchase training equipment and construction of a facility.	\$8,000,000	X						
NRV	Implement K-12 Curriculum on Organic Food Production	\$50,000	X						
NRV	Implement the Farms to School Program with at Least 1 School District by 2012.	\$20,000	X						

New River Valley 2012 Project Package Evaluation

Project Status

Area	Description	Total Funding	Desired	Planning	Pre-Appl.	Application	Funded	Completed	Notes
NRV	Implement the National Energy Education Development (NEED) Program in Regional K-12 schools	\$100,000	X						
NRV	Create a Consortium of School Districts, Community College, Economic Development and Local Business Representatives - Develop a Pilot Program Integrated Workforce Curriculum To develop a integrated workforce curriculum focusing on current/future business and industry needs (including Career Pathways development).	\$250,000	X						
NRV	Incorporate "Green" Training into Secondary and Post-secondary Vocational Construction Programs Change current curriculum in Construction Trades to include "retro fitting" remodeling for engery efficiency in homes.	\$500,000	X						CREATES
NRV	Promote Civil War Historical Sites To promote civil war historical sites throughout the NRV.		X						
NRV	Build & Coordinate Regional Art Initiatives (Groups & Trails) Connect and/or build off of current local and regional art & music initiatives.		X	X					Planning started in 2010 by SWVA Cultural Heritage Commission
NRV	Promote Agricultural Tourism Program to encourage farmers to evaluate agricultural tourism to enhance incomes.		X	X					
NRV	Connectivity of Trails, Regional Trail System Interconnect various local, state and federal trails to create a continuous network in southwest Virginia.	\$800,000	X	X					2011 update of NRV Bikeway-Walkway-Blueway Plan
NRV	Develop Region-Wide Bike Paths Used as both a tourism asset and an alternative/green method of transportation.	\$10,000,000	X	X					
NRV	New River Valley Park and Ride Lot Development Development of new park and ride facilities.	\$1,500,000	X	X					To be identified in Rural Transportation Work Program
NRV	Route 114 Bridge To replace the Route 114 bridge that has structural damage.	\$20,000,000	X	X	X	X	X		Construction 2011-2013

New River Valley 2012 Project Package Evaluation

Project Status

Area	Description	Total Funding	Desired	Planning	Pre-Appl.	Application	Funded	Completed	Notes
NRV	Parallel Taxiway To provide taxiway parallel to runway and offer an opportunity to provide air access to the Industrial Park (NRV Commerce Park).	\$6,000,000	X	X					
NRV	New River Valley Commerce Park-Water and Sewer Project To provide water and sewer and support other economic development.	\$6,000,000	X	X	X	X	X		Construction to be completed 2012
NRV	Intermodal Transportation Center Further explore the possibility of developing an intermodal transportation site on under-utilized US Army property near Dublin, Virginia.	\$8,000,000	X	X					
NRV	TransDominion Express - Capital Costs A statewide project to provide passenger rail transportation from Bristol through the New River Valley, and on to Richmond and Washington, D.C.	\$9,300,000	X						
PDCs 1-4	Continuum of Care To address the needs of homeless and at-risk homeless persons in the region.	\$1,200,000	X	X		X	X		Currently underway
Pearisburg	Whitt-Riverbend Park Trail Construct 1.1 mile loop trail and rest room.	\$80,000	X						
Pearisburg	Whitt-Riverbend Park Development Phase II Development of public park on 27.7 acres of land with 1.75 miles frontage on Walker Creek and the New River. Site will include primitive camping, picnic areas, hiking, fishing, and improved road access.	\$250,000	X						
Pearisburg	Downtown Pearisburg Revitalization Project To revitalize downtown Pearisburg.	\$880,000	X	X	X	X	X	X	Complete 2012
Town of Pulaski	The New River Trail Extension Extend trail from Cool Springs to Xaloy facility.	\$200,000	X	X				X	
Town of Pulaski	Calfee Park Renovations (Pulaski Town) Visitor dugouts, dressing rooms, and infrastructure improvements are needed.	\$1,000,000	X						

New River Valley 2012 Project Package Evaluation

Project Status

Area	Description	Total Funding	Desired	Planning	Pre-App.	Application	Funded	Completed	Notes
Pulaski County	The New River Trail Extension Extend trail from Xaloy facility to Randolph Park.	\$5,000,000	X	X					
Pulaski County	Exit 101 Interchange Improvements and Connector Route 11 Provide interstate access to the proposed Veteran's Cemetery and Route 11 with a urban 3 lane typical on 4 lane right of way.	\$16,500,000	X						
Pulaski County	Pulaski County School Construction Replace middle school.	\$34,000,000	X	X	X	X			
Pulaski County	Radford Army Ammunition Plant Infrastructure Improvements Water, sewer, road, and rail upgrades at the New River site.	\$36,000,000	X						
Pulaski County	County Administration Building Renovations	\$150,000	X	X	X	X	X		Awarded \$300,000 from Virginia DMME for Administration Building Windows and Library
Pulaski County	Shell Building-Industrial Park	\$1,500,000	X						
Pulaski County	New Facility, Sheriff's Department	\$900,000	X						Acquired Property 2012
Pulaski County	Skyview Subdivision/Fairgrounds Area Sewer (Pulaski Co) Provide sewer to NRV Fairgrounds & 148 residences.	\$500,000	X	X		X	X		Application pending with USDA Rural Development; Construction 2012
Pulaski County	New Facility for Pulaski Library To replace existing building.	\$3,000,000	X				X		Energy Efficiency Implementation 2011-2012
Pulaski County	Newbern Area Enhancements Creation of Wilderness Road Exhibit and other area enhancements.	\$75,000	X	X	X	X	X		
Pulaski County	Pulaski County Dispatch/Communications To upgrade Pulaski County's dispatch/communications system.	\$1,600,000	X	X	X	X			
Pulaski County	Maple Shade Government Center Complete renovation.	\$2,000,000	X	X			X		County currently renovating - County funding; Complete 2012

New River Valley 2012 Project Package Evaluation

Project Status

Area	Description	Total Funding	Desired	Planning	Pre-Appl.	Application	Funded	Completed	Notes
Pulaski County	Snowville Fire Department Fire Station replacement	\$2,100,000	X	X	X	X			
Pulaski County	Rt. 99 Water/Sewer Extension Extend water and sewer lines to Exit 94, to encourage commercial development.	\$1,500,000	X						
Pulaski County	Indoor Recreation - Wellness Center	\$7,000,000	X	X					
Pulaski County	Riverbend Subdivision Sewer (Pulaski Co) Provide sewer services to 45 residences.	\$1,000,000	X						
Pulaski County	Pulaski Health Department Facility New building for Pulaski Health Dept.	\$2,500,000	X						
Pulaski County	NRV Commerce Park Electric Transmission Extension – Extension of 138kVA electric transmission line approximately two miles from the current crossing of Lee Highway, Route 11, near Morgan's Cut in Pulaski County, west along Route 11 and north to the Commerce Park site, south of the New River Valley Airport.	\$2,500,000	X						
Pulaski County	Green Challenge Waste to Energy - Work with New River Resources Authority (NRRA) contractor to identify method of providing methane gas to commerce park.	\$2,000,000	X						
Radford	Passenger Rail Station in Radford To develop a passenger rail station in the City of Radford.	\$10,000,000	X						
Radford	Industrial Park Development - Radford Corporate East Acquisition and development of new Industrial Park within City limits. Includes construction of roadway, sanitary sewer, waterline, landscaping, grading, surveying, etc.	\$1,600,000	X	X					
Radford	Public Safety Building (Police Department) Renovate building replace the aging Police/Public Safety building.	\$6,000,000	X	X	X	X	X	X	Complete 2011
Radford	High Meadows Development (Radford) Improve the water system to include line work and a water tank.	\$806,000	X						

New River Valley 2012 Project Package Evaluation

Project Status

Area	Description	Total Funding	Desired	Planning	Pre-App.	Application	Funded	Completed	Notes
Radford	Wildwood Park Entrance Improve the Park entrance with parking facilities, a kiosk, pergola, new gate, and interpretive exhibits.	\$150,000	X	X					
Radford	University Drive Bridge Improvements and repairs needed to the 25 year old University Drive Bridge which includes deck repairs, waterproofing, painting, fencing, and sidewalk repairs and corrosion maintenance.	\$531,000	X						
Radford	Street Rebuild - Park/Second Avenue Park Road and Second Avenue would be rebuilt from Walker Street to Windstream Court. Improvements would include safety improvements, bike lanes, sidewalks, curb and gutter, turn-lanes, storm drainage, etc.	\$6,055,705	X	X		X			
Radford	Soccerfield/Football field To construct two playing fields adjacent to the Radford Riverfront.	\$400,000	X						
Rich Creek	Rich Creek Downtown Enhancement Project Ensure the stability and success of downtown Rich Creek.	\$1,250,000	X	X	X	X	X		Initial construction - Summer 2011 - Still constructing
Town of Christiansburg	Christiansburg Institute The Cultural Educational Experience, Cultural Learning Curriculum, Oral History, and Site preservation.	\$3,000,000	X	X	X	X	X		
Town of Christiansburg	Passenger Rail Station in Christiansburg To develop a passenger rail station in the Town of Christiansburg.	\$10,000,000	X						
Town of Christiansburg	Phase II, Huckleberry Trail Extension Extension of the existing Huckleberry Trail from the present terminus at the New River Valley Mall to the south side of Route 114, including pedestrian bridge.	\$822,305	X	X		X	X		Pedestrian Bridge Scheduled 2014 - Trail finished 2011
Town of Christiansburg	Phase III, Huckleberry Trail Extension Extension of Huckleberry Trail from the south side of Route 114 near the New River Valley Mall to the Christiansburg Recreation Center	\$2,760,250	X	X		X			
Town of Christiansburg	Upgrade of Waste Water Plant Upgrade waste water plant to accommodate 8 million gallons per day	\$10,000,000	X						

New River Valley 2012 Project Package Evaluation

Project Status

Area	Description	Total Funding	Desired	Planning	Pre-Appl.	Application	Funded	Completed	Notes
Town of Christiansburg	Interchange ramp at Route 460 Bypass and N. Franklin Street Connection of east bound 460 Bypass to west bound Business 460	\$1,000,000	X						
Town of Christiansburg	Phase II of the Route 114 widening project Widening Route 114 from Walters Drive Area to the New River Valley Mall Area	\$23,690,000	X	X		X	X		
Town of Christiansburg	Emergency Services Station Emergency Services Station located on Quin W. Stuart Blvd	\$2-\$3,000,000	X						
Town of Christiansburg	Railroad Street Water Extension Installation of 400 LF of 6-inch water main	\$25,000	X						
Town of Christiansburg	Phase IB of the Downtown Enhancement Project South side of East Main Street – new sidewalks, planting, paving.	\$1,489,647.36	X	X		X	X		Partially funded continuing applications with Transportation Enhancement
Town of Christiansburg	Public Works Complex Moving current complex out of the floodplain	\$10,000,000	X						
Town of Narrows	Renovation of 12,000 sq. ft. Furniture Store Renovation of commercial space. Town hall administration and eight LMI residential second story units.	\$1,500,000	X	X	X	X	X		Under Construction 2011-2012
Town of Narrows	Replace Existing Water Lines that are Deteriorating The Town went online with the Giles County Public Service Authority and in response to the increased cost of purchasing water from the GCPSA, the Town has invested millions in improvements to their system to bring water loss down.	\$1,505,860	X	X			X		Town is regularly upgrading lines as funds are available
Town of Narrows	Replace Existing Collection System Piping Collection system piping is leaking and/or broken.	\$728,370	X						
Town of Narrows	Town's Recreation Department (Old Narrows Gym Facility) This site is used by the Town's recreation department and the athletics department at Narrows High School.	\$1,101,675	X					X	Town acquired property from School Board in 2012
Town of Pulaski	Brownfields Redevelopment Redevelopment of existing industry and housing.	\$1,000,000	X	X	X	X	X		EDA funding approved

New River Valley 2012 Project Package Evaluation

Project Status

Area	Description	Total Funding	Desired	Planning	Pre-Appl.	Application	Funded	Completed	Notes
Town of Pulaski	Bicycle Lane and Trail Improvements Improving bike accessibility for critical pathways throughout the Town.	\$1,000,000	X						
Town of Pulaski	Dora Hwy Neighborhood Revitalization This neighborhood project grant is under consideration by the Department of Housing and Community Development; Comprehensive community project-sewer, water, street, new housing infill.	\$3,000,000	X	X	X	X	X		Funded \$1.4 million from DHCD; Construction 2011-2013
Town of Pulaski	Town of Pulaski Business Park Expansion The acquisition and site preparation of greenspace for industrial growth.	\$2,000,000	X						
Town of Pulaski	Intensifying Blight Elimination Program The Town was awarded an EPA Brownfields Grant application in 2010.	\$200,000	X	X	X	X	X		Determining implementation priorities
Town of Pulaski	Public Safety Facility A modern centralized facility located out of the flood plain and away from rail tracks.	\$5,000,000	X						
Town of Pulaski	Sewer Collection/Pump Station Improvements Infrastructure improvements at Stations 4A and \$B	\$2,000,000	X						
Town of Pulaski	Water Filtration Plant Improvements Modernatization of the current water filtration plant.	\$1,000,000	X						
Town of Pulaski	Analysis of Potential Boundary Line Adjustment In cooperation with Tischler Bise, the Town plans studied a boundary line adjustment in Pulaski County. The Town has funded that feasibility study.		X	X			X	X	Completed 2011
Town of Pulaski	Raymond F. Ratcliff Memorial Museum Construction of transportation museum to house Brockmeyer train set and historic vehicles.	\$1,000,000	X	X			X		Under Construction 2012-2013

NEW ANNUAL PROJECT PACKAGE REPORT

Project Evaluation Criteria - Revised March 2012

As stated in the Organization and Management section of this report, the PDC Board members reviewed and updated the project evaluation criteria.

PROJECT TYPE (Points)

Priority Level 1 (8)

- Water, sewer and communication utilities
- Employment Creation/Retention
 - Technology and Industrial
- Entrepreneurial/Small Business Assistance
- Regional/Local School & Educational Facilities & Programs
- Transportation Planning
- Housing Production
- Technology Career Facilities
- Clean Energy Projects
- Tourism
- Community Facilities¹
- Marketing/Promotion of Assets
- Senior Care Facilities

Priority Level 2 (6)

- Primary/Arterial Roads & Transportation Maintenance
- Passenger Rail and Airport Service
- Facilities for Protected Populations
- Comprehensive Community Development²
- Employment Creation/ Retention- Commercial
- Mixed Use Development
- Central Business District Revitalization
- Green Building Projects and Natural/Cultural Resources Protection
- Public Transportation Connections

Priority Level 3 (4)

- Secondary Roads
- Community Centers/Recreation
- Other Economic Development
- Homeownership Program
- Drainage/Flood Control

Priority Level 4 (2)

- Other Housing
- Other Community Facilities
- Other Community Services Facilities³
- Community Development Programs
- Drought Management

¹ Water services, wastewater services, drainage improvements, and street improvements.

² Targets neighborhood improvements including; housing, water, sewer, streets, drainage, sidewalks, solid waste/garbage, debris removal, street lighting, recreation, police/fire protection, and other neighborhood specific items.

³ Targets LMI persons needs for day care facilities, facilities for protected populations, community centers, health clinics, hospitals, and skill-building facilities for youth and the unemployed.

OTHER CRITERIA

While “project type” links the project criteria to the CEDS’ Goals and Strategies, there are other important factors in ranking individual projects. These factors are represented in the criteria listed below:

- Investment Relationship
- Regional Participation
- Relationship
- Per Capita Income
- Unemployment Rate
- Relative Jurisdictional Stress
- Relationship to Private Investments
- Relationship to Previous Investments
- Readiness to Initiate Project
- Public Private Partnership
- Relationship to “Green”
- Relationship to Natural Resources

1. Investment Relationship: The project is a significant investment in relation to the economy of the Planning District.

Points

- 4 A. Proposed investment directly supports high skill/high wage jobs.
- 3 B. Proposed investment results in an environment to support high skill/high wage jobs.
- 2 C. Proposed investment results in jobs having a regional average wage.
- 1 D. Proposed investment is to support high skill/high wage jobs.
- 0 E. Does not support job creation with above average wages.

2. Regional Significance: The significance of a project is in relation to the number of jurisdictions participating or impacted in reference to services and money invested.

Points

- 5 A. Four or More Jurisdictions Participating or Impacted
- 3 B. Three Jurisdictions Participating or Impacted
- 2 C. Two Jurisdictions Participating or Impacted
- 1 D. One Jurisdiction Participating or Impacted

3. Proposed Investment is Proactive: The proposed investment looks beyond the immediate economic horizon and is aimed at strengthening the relationships among business clusters.

Points

- 5 A. Project Relates Directly to Two or More existing or emerging Regional Economic Clusters
- 2 B. Project Relates Directly to One existing or emerging Regional Economic Cluster.
- 0 C. Project Does not Relate to a Regional Economic Cluster

4. Per Capita Income: Utilizing the latest available data, per capita income will be used in evaluating project significance. City-County/Town rank will be utilized, while in cases of multiple jurisdictions, the average rank will be determined.

Points

- 3 A. If less than or equal to 60% of State per capita income
- 2 B. If 61 - 74% of State per capita income
- 1 C. If 75 - 99% of State per capita income
- 0 D. If greater than or equal to the State per capita income

5. Unemployment Rate: Utilizing the latest annual average figures available, unemployment rates will be used in evaluating project significance. City-County/Town will be utilized, while in cases of multiple jurisdictions, the average rank will be determined.

Points

- 3 A. If 10% or more above State average (formerly 50%)
- 2 B. If 5 - 10% above State average (formerly 25-49%)
- 1 C. If 1 - 5% above State average (formerly 1-24%)
- 0 D. If equal to or below State average

6. Relative Jurisdictional Stress: A composite index prepared by the Commission on Local Government to compare the relative strengths of the jurisdictions in the State.

Points

- 2 A. High stress
- 1 B. Above average stress
- 0 C. Below average stress

7. Relationship to Private Investments: Capital investments from private sources relate to the significance of the project.

Points

- 5 A. Direct Private Capital Investment
- 3 B. Direct Relationship to Private Capital Investment
- 2 C. Indirect Relationship to Private Capital Investment
- 1 D. Minimal Indirect Relationship to Private Capital Investment

8. Relationship to Previous Investment

Points

- 2 A. New Service or Facility; Expansion of Service from an Existing Service
- 1 B. Replacement of Existing Service or Facility

9. Readiness to Initiate Project

Points

- 5 A. Jurisdictional Commitment and Final Plans and Specifications-Application Filed
- 4 B. Jurisdictional Commitment - Preliminary Plans and Specifications-Pre-application Filed
- 2 C. Jurisdictional Commitment, but no Plans and Specifications-Desired Project
- 1 D. No Jurisdictional Commitment, but Preliminary Plans and Specifications- Pre-application/Application
- 0 E. No Jurisdictional Commitment and no Plans and Specifications- No Pre-application/Application

10. Public Private Partnership

Points

- 3 A. Significant Public Private Partners
- 1 B. A Public Private Partner
- 0 C. No Public Private Partner

11. Relationship to “Green” Practices

Points

- 5 A. Project directly creates “green” jobs
- 4 B. Project implements “green technologies practices” with certification
- 2 C. Project implements “green technologies practices”
- 1 D. Project results in recycling or reuse
- 0 E. Little or no “green” commitment

12. Relationship to Natural Resources

Points

- 5 A. Project sets aside land for conservation
- 3 B. Project compliments natural assets
- 0 C. Project does not benefit natural resources
- 2 D. Project is a detriment to natural resources

In addition to the above criteria, all of the projects are reviewed for relationships to regional markets in order to maximize the return on taxpayer investment. Proposed projects are proactive trying to anticipate the economic changes in the region and continue to diversify the economy.

The environmental impact of each project will be evaluated on a project-by-project basis.

Evaluating Projects

Projects remaining from the 2012 Project package as well as new project ideas are evaluated and ranked using the above criteria. While all the criteria are important, several are based directly on the most current economic data. For a summary of that data, see Tables 1, 2 and 3 below. For the scores and ranked projects, see the **New River Valley 2013 Annual Project Package, page 41**.

Table 1
Per Capita Income

Jurisdiction	2006-2010	% of VA	Population
Floyd County	\$21,425	66.7%	15,030
Giles County	\$20,985	65.3%	17,205
Montgomery County	\$22,040	68.6%	92,527
Pulaski County	\$20,976	65.3%	34,963
City of Radford	\$16,496	51.3%	16,318
New River Valley	\$21,159	65.8%	176,043
Virginia	\$32,145	100%	7,841,754

Source: 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5 Year Estimates

Table 2
2011 Unemployment Rates

Jurisdiction	Percent
Floyd County	6.4%
Giles County	7.0%
Montgomery County	6.0%
Pulaski County	6.1%
City of Radford	7.0%
New River Valley	6.3%
Virginia	6.1%

Source: Virginia Workforce Connection

Note: 10% above the Virginia Level would be 6.71% or more; 5-10% would be 6.405% to 6.709%

Table 3
2010 Fiscal Stress Scores by Locality

Jursidiction	Fiscal Stress
Floyd County	Below Average
Giles County	Above Average
Montgomery County	Above Average
Pulaski County	Above Average
City of Radford	High

Source: Virginia Commission on Local Governments, January 2012.

New
ProjectFunded
Project

New River Valley 2013 Annual Project Package

Score	Area	Description	Fed. \$	State \$	Local \$	Total Funding	Const. Date	Responsible Agency
44	Giles County	Giles Multi-tenant Business Facility (Giles Co) A facility located in the Wheatland Eco Park.				\$2,000,000	2013	Giles County IDA
43	NRV	NRV Community Regional Broadband Network Interconnect government facilities, schools, industrial parks and businesses so that residents may be able to have advanced telecommunication services.	\$9,200,000		\$2,000,000	\$11,200,000	2012	New River Valley Wireless Authority
42	Blacksburg	Virginia Tech Corporate Research Center, Phase II Construction of support infrastructure for Phase II of Virginia Tech's CRC.	\$1,980,000		\$1,980,000	\$3,960,000	2010-2012	Virginia Tech Foundation
42	NRV	New River Valley Development Revolving Loan Fund Fund to provide assistance for business and non-profit development.	\$25,000		\$25,000	\$50,000	2012	New River Valley Development Corporation
41	NRV	Implementing Project NEEMO To further the commercialization of nanotech research and development focusing on smaller specialty materials companies.	\$7,000,000	\$6,000,000	\$8,000,000	\$21,000,000	2013	VA's First Regional Industrial Facility Authority-Participation Committee
38	Giles County	Hoges Chapel Water Tank Replacement Project Replacement of 40 year old water tank and 23,000 feet of 10 inch water line		\$2,600,000		\$2,600,000	2012-2013	Giles County
37	NRV	Broadband Infrastructure Deploy last mile fiber.				\$8,000,000	2013-2015	New River Wireless Authority
35	NRV	New River Valley Commerce Park-Water and Sewer Project To provide water and sewer and support other economic development.	\$2,500,000		\$2,500,000	\$6,000,000	2012	Virginia's First
34	Christiansburg	Christiansburg Institute Cultural Experience, Cultural Learning Curriculum, Oral History, and Site preservation.	\$1,500,000		\$1,500,000	\$3,000,000	2012	Christiansburg Institute
34	NRV	Regional Conference/Civic Center Determine feasibility and appropriate site, engineering and architectural plans for regional conference center.	\$7,000,000		\$8,000,000	\$15,000,000	2015	Virginia's First and Partners
34	NRV	Develop a Career Pathways Task Force Investigate emerging sectors in the economy, develop multi-stage career development pathways with a range of entry/training and exit/career points to match those emerging employment sectors, and integrate the targeted career pathways approach within the public and post-secondary educational institutions.						WIB, Education Providers

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Score	Area	Description	Fed. \$	State \$	Local \$	Total Funding	Const. Date	Responsible Agency
34	NRV	Small Business Development (Green/Nano/Bio) Program Develop educational program through the community college and university that support the development and/or recruitment of small businesses/industries in the green, nano and/or bio technology fields.	\$500,000		\$500,000	\$1,000,000	2013	Universities, NRCC, School Divisions
33	Pulaski Town	Brownfields Redevelopment Redevelopment of existing industry and housing.	\$500,000		\$500,000	\$1,000,000	2014	Pulaski Town and EPA
33	Pulaski Town	Town of Pulaski Business Park Expansion The acquisition and site preparation of greenspace for industrial growth.	\$1,000,000		\$1,000,000	\$2,000,000	2015	EDA, Town of Pulaski
33	NRV	Create a Consortium of School Districts, Community College, Economic Development and Local Business Representatives - Develop a Pilot Program Integrated Workforce Curriculum To develop an integrated workforce curriculum focusing on current/future business and industry needs (including Career Pathways development).				\$250,000	2012	
32	Floyd County	Rocky Knob Interpretive Ctr. & Lodge, Reg. Collaborative A bi-county commission is working on the development of a major tourism destination along the Blue Ridge Parkway. A lodge and interpretive center are planned.	\$8,000,000		\$2,000,000	\$10,000,000	2015	Rocky Knob
32	NRV	Network of Manufacturing Companies Development of companies.	\$500,000	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$1,000,000	2012	NRVPDC
32	NRV	Technology Magnet School: Workforce Development Designed to develop a specialized workforce in the NRV by providing advanced technology education to secondary schools. Federal funds will be used to purchase training equipment and construction of a facility.	\$4,000,000	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000	\$8,000,000	2015	New River Community College & School Divs
31	Christiansburg	Phase II of the Route 114 widening project Widening Route 114 from Walters Drive Area to the New River Valley Mall Area		\$23,690,000		\$23,690,000	2014	VDOT, Christiansburg
31	Floyd County	Jacksonville Center E-Commerce Project (Floyd Co) Establishment of an e-commerce catalog of crafts and products.				\$50,000	2012	Jacksonville Center, Inc.
31	Floyd County	Floyd Revolving Loan Fund Establish microlending fund for small businesses within Floyd County.	\$200,000			\$200,000	2013	Floyd IDA

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Score	Area	Description	Fed. \$	State \$	Local \$	Total Funding	Const. Date	Responsible Agency
31	Giles County	Public Transportation Connections to Blacksburg, Virginia Tech, and other major employment centers.	\$1,600,000		\$400,000	\$2,000,000	2013	Giles County
31	NRV	Green Challenge Waste to Energy Work with New River Resources Authority (NRRA) contractor to identify method of providing methane gas to commerce park.	\$1,000,000		\$1,000,000 (private)	\$2,000,000	2012	VA's First Regional Industrial Facility Authority
31	NRV	Intermodal Transportation Center Further explore the possibility of developing an intermodal transportation site on under-utilized US Army property near Dublin, Virginia.	\$4,000,000		\$4,000,000	\$8,000,000	2012	VA's First/US Army
31	NRV	Tap into Additional Networks and Professional Organizations Research and encourage "continuing ed" requirements or periodic recertification so that the workforce can build their skill sets around emerging economic sectors.						WIB, Local Businesses
31	NRV	Creation of a Destination Marketing Organization (DMO) Raise awareness of New River Valley assets						
31	NRV	Regional Networking and Marketing of the Arts via Destination Marketing Organization (DMO) Use DMO to create a network of artisans and venues to promote New River Valley assets.						
30	Christiansburg	Interchange ramp at Route 460 Bypass and N. Franklin Street Connection of east bound 460 Bypass to west bound Business 460		\$1,000,000		\$1,000,000	2012	VDOT, Christiansburg
30	Pulaski Town	Dora Hwy Neighborhood Revitalization This neighborhood project grant is under consideration by the Department of Housing and Community Development; Comprehensive community project-sewer, water, street, new housing infill.				\$3,000,000	2013	Town of Pulaski, DHCD, CHP
30	NRV	Develop/Implement a Regional Glass Recycling Program Build first glass recycling facility within the region.					2012	

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Score	Area	Description	Fed. \$	State \$	Local \$	Total Funding	Const. Date	Responsible Agency
29	NRV	New River Valley Park and Ride Lot Development Development of new park and ride facilities.	\$750,000	\$750,000		\$1,500,000	2013	VDOT
29	NRV	Route 114 Bridge To replace the Route 114 bridge that has structural damage.		\$20,000,000		\$20,000,000	2012	VDOT
28	Floyd County	Phase II Development of Floyd Regional Commerce Center Grade lots 1 and 2.	\$1,000,000		\$1,000,000	\$2,000,000	2012	Floyd County
28	Glen Lyn	Glen Lyn Regional Wastewater Facility To combine wastewater from Rich Creek and Glen Lyn into a single operation. The Towns will undertake the project.				\$3,000,000	2012	Glen Lyn
28	Montgomery County	Development of Route 177 Corporate Park	\$15,000,000	\$4,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$20,000,000	TBD	Montgomery County EDA
28	Pearisburg	Whitt-Riverbend Park Trail Construct 1.1 mile loop trail and rest room.		\$60,000	\$20,000	\$80,000	2012	Pearisburg Town
28	Pulaski Town	Raymond F. Ratcliff Memorial Museum Construction of transportation museum to house Brockmeyer train set and historic vehicles.				\$1,000,000	2013	Town of Pulaski, VDOT
28	NRV	Youth Planning Council Involve youth in discussing regional development issues.	\$10,000		\$10,000	\$20,000	2013	NRVPDC
28	NRV	Promote Agricultural Tourism Program to encourage farmers to evaluate agricultural tourism to enhance incomes.					2012	Virginia Tourism Corporation/Round the Mountain
28	NRV	Connectivity of Trails, Regional Trail System Interconnect various local, state and federal trails to create a continuous network in southwest Virginia.	\$400,000		\$400,000	\$800,000	2012	Trail Operators
28	NRV	Increase Shell Building Inventory Construct modern shell buildings to market to relocating or expanding businesses.						
28	NRV	Support Public Private Partnerships for Agriculture Infrastructure Needs						

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Score	Area	Description	Fed. \$	State \$	Local \$	Total Funding	Const. Date	Responsible Agency
27	Blacksburg	Huckleberry Trail Extension Assist in the construction of the Huckleberry Trail extension from Prices Fork to Glade Road. Will connect the Hethwood Community to the Heritage Park and then link to the National Forest. Grading, site amenities, and surfacing are needed for this project.			\$100,000	\$100,000	2013	Town of Blacksburg
27	Christiansburg	Upgrade of Waste Water Plant Upgrade waste water plant to accommodate 8 million gallons per day	\$10,000,000			\$10,000,000	2012	Christiansburg
27	Floyd County	Route 8 Improvements (South) (Floyd Co) Road Improvements on Route 8 southbound from Floyd, South.		\$1,500,000		\$1,500,000	2012	VDOT
27	Floyd County	East Floyd Truck Route Develop east Floyd industrial route.		\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000	\$4,000,000	2015	Floyd County/VDOT
27	Floyd County/Floyd Town	Affordable Housing Implementation Construction and rehabilitation of affordable housing withing Floyd County and Town.	\$340,000			\$340,000	2012-2013	Floyd County, Floyd Town, and HOME
27	Radford	Passenger Rail Station in Radford To develop a passenger rail station in the City of Radford.				\$10,000,000	2020	Radford City
27	NRV	Develop a Regional Meat Processing Plant for Organic Meat Processing and Production Develop facility to support local farmers					2013	Rural Development-Sustain Floyd Planning Grant
27	NRV	Implement the National Energy Education Development (NEED) Program in Regional K-12 Schools Energy education in our schools.				\$100,000	2013	
27	NRV	Develop Region-Wide Bike Paths Used as both a tourism asset and an alternative/green method of transportation.	\$5,000,000		\$5,000,000	\$10,000,000	2014	NRVPDC, Localities
27	NRV	Support Farms to School program throughout the New River Valley Provide educational opportunities and serve healthy meals in schools through a network of local farmers						

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Score	Area	Description	Fed. \$	State \$	Local \$	Total Funding	Const. Date	Responsible Agency
27	NRV	Create Regional Revolving Loan Fund for Energy Audits and Retrofits Fund for New River Valley businesses.						
27	NRV	Support Carpooling Efforts/Initiatives throughout the New River Valley Support the expansion and marketing of Ride Solutions while exploring potential for carpooling app						
26	Christiansburg	Phase II, Huckleberry Trail Extension Extension of the existing Huckleberry Trail from the present terminus at the New River Valley Mall to the south side of Route 114, including pedestrian bridge.	\$657,844		\$164,461	\$822,305	2012	Montgomery County and Town of Christiansburg
26	Christiansburg	Phase III, Huckleberry Trail Extension Extension of Huckleberry Trail from the south side of Route 114 near the New River Valley Mall to the Christiansburg Recreation Center	\$228,000		\$912,000	\$1,140,000	2014	Montgomery County, Town of Christiansburg
26	Floyd County	Regional Food Aggregating/Processing Center Value-added processing center for local produce and potentially local milk. The facility would serve as aggregator for larger buyers, as well as provide co-packing facilities and a commercial kitchen leasable by local food businesses.	\$1,000,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$2,000,000	2014	Floyd County
26	Pulaski County	Exit 101 Interchange Improvements and Connector Route 11 Provide interstate access to the proposed Veteran's Cemetery and Route 11 with an urban 3 lane typical on 4 lane right of way.	\$2,000,000	\$1,000,000		\$16,500,000	2014	Virginia's First/Army
26	NRV	NRV Commerce Park Electric Transmission Extension – Extension of 138kVA electric transmission line approximately two miles from the current crossing of Lee Highway, Route 11, near Morgan's Cut in Pulaski County, west along Route 11 and north to the Commerce Park site, south of the New River Valley Airport.	\$1,250,000	\$1,000,000	\$250,000	\$2,500,000	2013	VA's First Regional Industrial Facility Authority
26	NRV	Additional resources for power to the Commerce Park Extend power to the NRV Commerce Park to attract businesses.						
26	NRV	Extension of Rail to Commerce Park Rail siding extension from Norfolk Southern mainline about 3,500 feet to the Commerce Park boundary and 3,500 feet to a potential building site.	\$2,300,000	\$750,000	\$1,210,000	\$4,600,000	2014	Virginia's First Regional Industrial Facilities Authority

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Score	Area	Description	Fed. \$	State \$	Local \$	Total Funding	Const. Date	Responsible Agency
26	NRV	Create a Network of Growers and Producers in the Region Link New River Valley farmers markets to increase profitability.						
25	Christiansburg	Emergency Services Station Emergency Services Station located on Quin W. Stuart Blvd	\$3,000,000			\$2-\$3,000,000	2014	Christiansburg
25	Christiansburg	Railroad Street Water Extension Installation of 400 LF of 6-inch water main				\$25,000	2013	Christiansburg
25	Narrows	Replace Existing Water Lines that are Deteriorating The Town went online with the Giles County Public Service Authority and in response to the increased cost of purchasing water from the GCPSA, the Town has invested millions in improvements to their system to bring water loss down.				\$2,200,000	2012	Town of Narrows
25	Pulaski County	Shell Building-Industrial Park Construction of a shell building at the New River Valley Commerce Park	\$750,000	\$750,000		\$1,500,000	2012	Pulaski County
25	Pulaski County	New River Trail Extension				\$5,000,000		VDOT, Pulaski County
25	Pulaski Town	Calfee Park Renovations (Pulaski Town) Improvements to bring the facility up to baseball standards. Visitor dugouts, dressing rooms, and infrastructure improvements are needed.	\$1,000,000			\$1,000,000	2013	Pulaski Town
25	Radford	High Meadows Development (Radford) Improve the water system to include line work and a water tank.			\$806,000	\$806,000	2012	Radford
25	NRV	Create Formal Regional Leadership Organization Create formal leadership organization, hold community awareness workshop, and establish certified leadership development program.				\$20,000	2013	Leadership Organizations
25	NRV	Business Retreat Support local businesses in creating corporate retreat centers.				\$4,000,000	2012-2015	Local Businesses

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Score	Area	Description	Fed. \$	State \$	Local \$	Total Funding	Const. Date	Responsible Agency
25	NRV	Integrate approach to workforce development from K-12 vs. post-secondary to a more robust "K-20" approach Create workforce training in partnership with schools from Kindergarten through graduate school.						Local Schools
25	NRV	Centralize Marketing of Energy Efficiency Options Create a "one stop shop" where people can evaluate typical "payback" on upgrades, find a qualified energy auditor/retrofitter, navigate various funding/financing options.						
25	NRV	Study Data from Various Wind/Solar Demonstration Projects around the NRV Evaluate effectiveness of wind and solar projects to inform potential future projects.						
24	Floyd Town	Floyd Town Trails Program (final phase) New and upgraded sidewalks within the town.	\$240,000		\$60,000	\$300,000	2013	Floyd Town
24	Giles County	Eggleston Water Extension Phase 2 (Giles Co) Extend water service to 160 residences.	\$1,400,000			\$1,400,000	2012	Giles County
24	Giles County	Route 635 Water Extension (Giles Co) Provide public water to approximately 150 residents in the Big Stony Community of Giles County.	\$2,000,000	\$1,000,000		\$3,000,000	2012	Giles County
24	Montgomery County	Rt. 114 Widening From Christiansburg Town limits to Radford Army Ammunition Plant	\$50,400,000	\$12,600,000		\$63,000,000	2014	VDOT/Montgomery County
24	Montgomery County	Falling Branch Corporate Park - Stormwater Pond Stormwater pond for the Falling Branch Corporate Park in Montgomery County.	\$175,000		\$175,000	\$350,000	2013	Montgomery County
24	Montgomery County	Expansion of Falling Branch Industrial Park Water, sewer, roads, and grading improvements	\$19,500,000	\$5,200,000	\$1,300,000	\$26,000,000	2015	Montgomery County EDA
24	Narrows	Replace Existing Collection System Piping and Upgrade Wastewater Plant Collection system piping is leaking and/or broken.				\$2,200,000	2012	Town of Narrows
24	Pearisburg	Pearisburg Fire Station Construct new fire station in Pearisburg.				\$1,500,000	2012	Pearisburg Town
24	Pulaski County	New Facility, Sheriff's Department New Sheriff's Department facility for Pulaski County.				\$900,000	2012	Pulaski County - Sheriff

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Score	Area	Description	Fed. \$	State \$	Local \$	Total Funding	Const. Date	Responsible Agency
24	Radford	Arnold and Pershing Sewer Line Replacement 525 linear feet of 8" sanitary line would be replaced in an existing easement between Arnold Avenue and Pershing Avenue.				\$96,750	2014	City of Radford
24	Radford	Radford Village Water Line Replacement 3,225 linear feet of 6" main water line would be replaced with an 8" service throughout the Radford Village residential area improving service reliability and water flow to forty homes.				\$117,500	2012	City of Radford
24	NRV	Incorporate "Green" Training into Secondary and Post-secondary Vocational Construction Programs Change current curriculum in Construction Trades to include "retro fitting" remodeling for energy efficiency in homes.				\$500,000	2013	CTE Directors, Community College Workforce Departments
24	NRV	Creation of Downtown Revitalization Goals and Strategies for NRV Communities Support each community's efforts to revitalize their downtown.						
24	NRV	Increase Support to Small Businesses Emphasis on marketing current resources available to small businesses while exploring potential for virtual office space						
24	NRV	Conduct Farming Visioning with Agriculture Stakeholders, Farm Bureau and Extension						
24	NRV	Creation of a Slaughterhouse Facility Construction of a slaughterhouse to support local farmers.						
23	Blacksburg	Market and support VT KnowledgeWorks Global Partnership						VTKnowledgeWorks
23	Christiansburg	Phase IB of the Downtown Enhancement Project South side of East Main Street – new sidewalks, planting, paving.	\$1,191,718		\$297,929	\$1,489,647.36	2012	Town of Christiansburg, Gay and Neel, Inc.
23	Floyd County	Trails for Floyd (pedestrian, biking, and hiking) Extension of trail corridors from the town to the county as outlined in the comprehensive plan.	\$2,500,000		\$2,500,000	\$5,000,000	2013	Floyd County
23	Narrows	Town's Recreation Department (Old Narrows Gym Facility) This site is used by the Town's recreation department and the athletics department at Narrows High School.				\$1,101,675	2013	Town of Narrows

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Score	Area	Description	Fed. \$	State \$	Local \$	Total Funding	Const. Date	Responsible Agency
23	Pulaski County	Skyview Subdivision/Fairgrounds Area Sewer (Pulaski Co) Provide sewer to NRV Fairgrounds & 148 residences.	\$500,000			\$500,000	2012	Pulaski County
23	Pulaski County	New Facility for Pulaski Library To replace existing building.		\$1,000,000	\$2,000,000	\$3,000,000	2012	Pulaski County
23	Pulaski County	Newbern Area Enhancements Creation of Wilderness Road Exhibit and other area enhancements.		\$53,387	\$21,613	\$75,000	2012	Pulaski County
23	Pulaski County	Pulaski County Dispatch/Communications To upgrade Pulaski County's dispatch/communications system.				\$1,600,000	2013	Pulaski County
23	NRV	Support "Communities in Schools" Program Connect community resources with schools to help students achieve success.						
23	NRV	Develop and Implement a Program to Support Small Family Farms Using "Cultivating Success" Farm Mentoring Project as a model.					2013	
23	NRV	Support Online Businesses Create public computer access points in community centers, schools and other public buildings while encouraging community organizations to do computer and social media trainings for small businesses.						Localities
23	NRV	Creation of Utility Standards Create utility standards for service providers to follow while coordinating digging between localities and service providers to install conduits or other potential uses						
23	NRV	Market Buying Local Goods to Support Local Economic Growth						
22	Christiansburg	Passenger Rail Station in Christiansburg To develop a passenger rail station in the Town of Christiansburg.				\$10,000,000	2020	Christiansburg Town
22	Floyd County	Floyd County Health and Human Services Complex One-stop-shop in Floyd that would enable citizens to access needed services				\$2,000,000	2015	Floyd County

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Score	Area	Description	Fed. \$	State \$	Local \$	Total Funding	Const. Date	Responsible Agency
22	Floyd County	Geo-engineering Studies Groundwater Resources in Floyd County To identify groundwater resources and calculate carrying capacity. Recharge areas and other important water resource areas would be mapped.	\$250,000			\$250,000	2013	Floyd County
22	Montgomery County and Radford	Improve Road Infrastructure of Blacksburg-Christiansburg-Radford MSA Expansion and creation of 4-lane roads						MPO
22	Pulaski County	Maple Shade Government Center Complete renovation.			\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000	2012	Pulaski County
22	Radford	Wildwood Park Entrance Improve the Park entrance with parking facilities, a kiosk, pergola, new gate, and interpretive exhibits.	\$100,000		\$50,000	\$150,000	2013	Radford
22	Radford	Miscellaneous drainage project Design and construction of drainage improvements identified in 1993 Facility Plan in various locations throughout the city. The improvements would prevent runoff damage to public and private properties.				\$75,000	2010-2014	City of Radford
22	NRV	Build & Coordinate Regional Art Initiatives (Groups & Trails) Connect and/or build off of current local and regional art & music initiatives.					2014	Art Community (Round the Mtn, Crooked Road, Jax Center & other local art groups)
22	NRV	Implement Employment Mobility Study Connect residential with employment						
22	NRV	Creation of a Fund to Remove Derelict Structures Tax advantages to remove structures alongside an education program on "how to"						
21	Montgomery County	Southgate Parkway Construction of ramps on Route 460 at Southgate Parkway entrance to Virginia Tech.	\$124,000,000	\$31,000,000		\$155,000,000	TBD	VDOT

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Score	Area	Description	Fed. \$	State \$	Local \$	Total Funding	Const. Date	Responsible Agency
21	Pulaski County	Snowville Fire Department Fire Station replacement	\$1,680,000		\$420,000	\$2,100,000	2013	Pulaski County
21	Pulaski Town	Intensifying Blight Elimination Program The Town was awarded an EPA Brownfields Grant application in 2010.	\$200,000			\$200,000	2013	Town of Pulaski, EPA
21	Radford	Smartway Service Extension to the City of Radford and Radford University To connect Radford and Radford University to the existing network.						
21	NRV	Integrate WIB and Economic Development Efforts.						NRV/MR WIB, NRVVPDC, Economic Development Alliance
21	NRV	Access to Capital Host workshops to educate businesses on capital access opportunities in the region, i.e. 460 Angels						
20	Dublin	Dublin Fire Department Expansion To add two bays.	\$750,000			\$750,000	2012	Dublin Town/Pulaski County
20	Floyd County	Trail Around Floyd Commerce Center To develop a walking trail around the new Commerce Center in Floyd.	\$200,000		\$200,000	\$400,000	2013	Floyd County
20	Giles County	Clendennin Water Extension (Giles Co) Provide public water to approximately 50 residents in the Clendennin community of Giles County.	\$2,000,000			\$2,000,000	2012	Giles County
20	Glen Lyn	Glen Lyn Park Modern bathhouse, wastewater hook ups, information center, and open air theater. Also a new location for a boat ramp and sidewalk connecting the Park to the Municipal Building.				\$800,000	2015	Glen Lyn
20	Pearisburg	Water and Sewer Improvements Tie into Riverbend water tank. Upgrade lines to Riverbend and Virginia Heights. Water and sewer replacement on Easton Road and various other water line improvements.						
20	Pulaski Town	Dalton Building Reuse Update Dalton Building into a hotel and restaurant						
20	NRV	TransDominion Express - Capital Costs A statewide project to provide passenger rail transportation from Bristol through the New River Valley, and on to Richmond and Washington, D.C.		\$9,300,000		\$9,300,000	2015	VA Department of Rail and Public Transportation

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Score	Area	Description	Fed. \$	State \$	Local \$	Total Funding	Const. Date	Responsible Agency
20	NRV	Support Co-Working Spaces for Businesses Utilization of underused facilities						
20	NRV	Revolving Loan Fund or Other Capital Support to Help with Farm Start-up						
20	NRV	Create and support networking event for local farmers and potential buyers						
19	Christiansburg	Public Works Complex Moving current complex out of the floodplain	\$10,000,000			\$10,000,000	2012	Christiansburg
19	Floyd County	Engineering Studies on Extending Water and Sewer to areas of Floyd Co. To study water and sewer extensions and to understand hydrogeologic systems resources. Include protecting critical recharge and well-head areas.	\$1,200,000	\$200,000	\$100,000	\$1,500,000	2012	Floyd County
19	Giles County	Ingram Village Sewer (Giles Co) Put in sewer lines.	\$750,000		\$1,250,000	\$2,000,000	2015	Giles County
19	Montgomery County	Route 8 Widening Project Widening Route 8 from the Montgomery and Floyd County line to the Town of Christiansburg.	\$60,000,000	\$15,000,000		\$75,000,000	TBD	VDOT
19	Montgomery County	Route 177 Water and Sewer Improvements	\$4,800,000	\$1,200,000		\$6,000,000	2013	PSA
19	Pulaski Town	Rt. 99 Water/Sewer Extension Extend water and sewer lines to Exit 94, to encourage commercial development.	\$1,500,000			\$1,500,000	2012	Town of Pulaski, Pulaski County
19	Pulaski Town	Public Safety Facility A modern centralized facility located out of the flood plain and away from rail tracks.	\$5,000,000			\$5,000,000	2015	Town of Pulaski
18	Floyd Town	Lineberry Memorial Park Development Design and construction of stage for performances.	\$725,000		\$725,000	\$1,500,000	2012	Floyd Town
18	Pulaski Town	Sewer Collection/Pump Station Improvements Infrastructure improvements at Stations 4A and 5B		\$1,500,000	\$500,000	\$2,000,000	2013	Town of Pulaski, Peppers' Ferry Regional Wastewater Treatment Authority
18	Pulaski Town	Water Filtration Plant Improvements Modernization of the current water filtration plant.	\$500,000		\$500,000	\$1,000,000	2012	Town of Pulaski

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Score	Area	Description	Fed. \$	State \$	Local \$	Total Funding	Const. Date	Responsible Agency
18	Radford	University Drive Bridge Improvements and repairs needed to the 25 year old University Drive Bridge which includes deck repairs, waterproofing, painting, fencing, and sidewalk repairs and corrosion maintenance.				\$531,000	2011-2012	Radford
18	Radford	Street Rebuild - Park/Second Avenue Park Road and Second Avenue would be rebuilt from Walker Street to Windstream Court. Improvements would include safety improvements, bike lanes, sidewalks, curb and gutter, turn-lanes, storm drainage, etc.	\$1,500,000			\$6,055,705	2011-2013	Radford
18	Radford	Soccerfield/Football field To construct two playing fields adjacent to the Radford Riverfront.	\$200,000		\$200,000	\$400,000	2012	Radford
18	NRV	Creation of an Interactive CEDS Map with Project Identification GIS map to track progress of CEDS projects within the region.						
17	Narrows	Renovation of 12,000 sq. ft. Furniture Store Renovation of commercial space. Town hall administration and eight LMI residential second story units.	\$750,000		\$750,000	\$1,500,000	2013	Town of Narrows
17	Pulaski Town	Enhance Bob White Boulevard and East Main Street Intersection						
17	Radford	Third Avenue Parking Lot The public parking lot located adjacent to Grove Avenue and Third Avenue would be improved to include a stormwater system, paving, landscaping, traditional light poles and hanging baskets. This project is needed to improve the lot's aesthetic appeal.				\$250,000	2014	City of Radford
17	Radford	Radford Ingles Overlook and Amphitheater Amphitheater engineering and construction for outdoor events.						
16	Floyd Town	Jacksonville Center Amphitheater The Jacksonville Center will continue development of its campus, including an amphitheater	\$250,000			\$250,000	2012	Jacksonville Center, Inc.
16	Pulaski County	Indoor Recreation - Wellness Center Indoor Recreation-Wellness Center for the citizens of Pulaski County.			\$7,000,000	\$7,000,000	2012	Pulaski County-Recreation

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Score	Area	Description	Fed. \$	State \$	Local \$	Total Funding	Const. Date	Responsible Agency
16	PDCs 1-4	Continuum of Care To address the needs of homeless and at-risk homeless persons in the region.	\$906,000	\$294,000		\$1,200,000	2012	State
15	Pulaski Town	Bicycle Lane and Trail Improvements Improving bike accessibility for critical pathways throughout the Town.		\$750,000	\$250,000	\$1,000,000	2015	Town of Pulaski
14	Floyd County/Town	Floyd Public Transit Study viability of public transit in county/town		\$20,000	\$5,000	\$25,000	2013	Floyd County/Town
14	Floyd Town	Attract Restaurants to Downtown Floyd Study market viability of restaurants downtown.						Floyd Town

Additional Concepts for Future Development

Though many projects exist to support the identified Goals and Objectives, there are also supporting concepts that do not have specific projects yet. This section outlines some of those concepts. Many of these projects comprise an economic development approach that links directly into the ***Community First*** goals of having an optimum level of employment; an income level equal to or better than the state's average; and a beneficial living environment.

Leadership

The Leadership category highlights opportunities in the New River Valley for promoting and sustaining leadership development and engagement in our local and regional community. The following concepts do not currently have an active project associated with them but are in the process of partnership and timeline development.

Youth Business and Civic Leadership Development:

Provide hands-on training and mentoring opportunities through business and civic organizational partners in the program.

Youth Leadership Recognition Program:

Create award/program that recognizes and rewards youth leadership efforts in the civic and business sectors of the region.

Community Awareness Workshop for Elected Officials:

Establish short course for elected officials and corporate leaders highlighting community development issues and opportunities.

Economic Development

The arena of economic development showcases the New River Valley's approach to creating a sustainable, diverse regional economy that is also globally competitive. The following concepts do not currently have a project associated with them but eventually will in the future.

Niche Development for Downtowns:

Define downtown niches for cooperative marketing of unique characteristics of NRV downtowns.

Niche Farming:

Agri-tourism for a regional community of farmers.

Sustainable Agriculture:

Feasibility Studies of agro-tourism and providing outlets for locally-produced dairy products.

Explore approaches to expand public/private partnerships:

There are increasing pressures for the development of public/private partnerships to expand the public assistance in providing basic infrastructure to a more active role in the development of corporations. The cost and risk involved in the formation of corporations has entrepreneurs seeking business acceleration assistance from the public sector. Defining and legitimizing this role is requiring innovation in establishing such partnerships.

Education & Training

In the area of Education and Training, the NRV has reached the critical point of needing to support workforce and education development programs aimed at establishing businesses and industries locally. With the economic crisis at the state and federal levels creating great inequities in service delivery, it is crucial that the New River Valley strategic plan for educational advancement be directed at building companies and a workforce for the global economy here at home.

Address the teacher shortage:

Develop incentives in collaboration with local governments, school boards and business sector to attract and retain qualified teachers to this area.

Address education funding:

Seek public/private partnerships and regional collaborations to offset state under-funding of education.

Regional Educational System:

Create New River Valley collaborative model to address alternative, advance placement and adult education needs in the region both physically and through the use of technology.

Health & Human Development

Health and human development put a personal face on the region's approach to supporting its citizens.

Evaluate and Pilot Human Service Delivery Programs:

Using higher education partners in the region, assess service delivery in the New River Valley and develop model for increasing effective and efficient service delivery.

Quarterly Agency/Community Sessions:

Create forum for community and human service agencies to gather and strategize ideas for higher efficiencies in service delivery and agency/client interface.

Natural & Cultural Environment

The Natural and Cultural projects represent the importance our citizen's place on the often intangible aspects of quality of life that can make a place one that people are proud to call home.

Adopt-a-Stream:

Support for state-run program.

Baseline Wildlife & Habitat Inventory:

Build baseline landscape-level wildlife species and habitat inventory for the greater New River watershed.

Citizens' Water Atlas:

Develop a database for water resources, including threats in the watershed.

Compliance Study of Erosion and Sedimentation Control Practices:

Examine compliance rates of erosion/sedimentation control practices.

Erosion Control:

Educate landowners on erosion control and restoration of eroded areas.

Support and Promote Christiansburg Institute:

Assist in funding and program development to support this important historic and cultural asset of the region.

Regional-link Trail System:

Create prioritized map of trail connections to link all alternative transportation pathways in the New River Valley.

Physical Infrastructure

A sound physical infrastructure is the base on which all other projects are built. There are many needs in the area of physical infrastructure including **water and sewer** as well as **technology** infrastructure. Beyond these needs, additional concepts for physical infrastructure are listed below.

Bikeway Network:

Plan and create a network of bikeways through the NRV that connects towns, scenic areas, and historic areas.

Regional Civic/Convention Center:

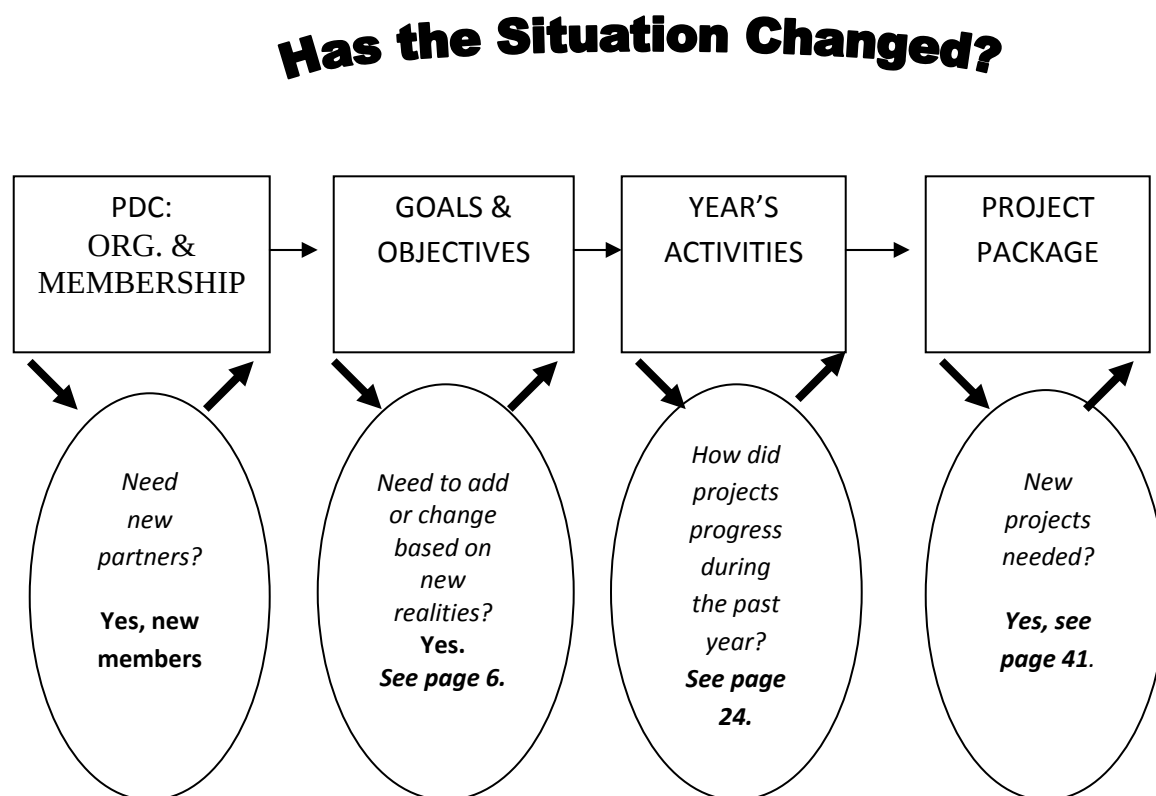
Create event/conference center to provide space for large attractions and events.

EVALUATION: AN INTEGRATED APPROACH

As is apparent throughout this document, evaluation is an integrated part of the CEDS process. Given the continuous nature of this planning process, integration of evaluation into every step is one method of assuring a self-adjusting, constantly “fresh” plan and process. (See Figure 2) Important questions that are asked along the way as part of a feedback loop include:

- ❑ Has the situation changed?
- ❑ Are new partners needed?
- ❑ Do Goals, Objectives, and Projects need to be changed in light of current Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT)?

Figure 2:
Evaluation: An Integrated Part of the Continuous Planning Process



This process is followed annually as the CEDS is reviewed and the Annual Reports prepared. Goals and Objectives as well as projects are evaluated.

Evaluating Completed Projects

Following completion of a project, it is desirable to measure the effectiveness of the project and more specifically the return for the money spent. While larger goals such as a diversified economy, higher wages/incomes and improved quality of life are not easily detectable as they may be affected by most single projects, there are measurable related outputs. These include data such as number of jobs created and amount of private investment generated directly and indirectly.

Cautions and Concerns

While this is a straightforward query, answers are not so simple nor easily obtained. These projects do not take place in a laboratory where all external factors are controlled; rather each project is but one small part of countless variables in a huge picture that is the global economy. Moreover, the sum of a program of well-developed, mutually supporting projects is much greater than the sum of the parts.

For example, singularly developing a Regional Educational System to address alternative and advanced placement students needs regionally would not necessarily help incomes or unemployment in the region. Singularly developing a large Commerce Park to attract high tech industry will not help local economies if it sets idle. However, if a well-trained, well-educated work force is developed and physical space and infrastructure is available to high tech firms simultaneously, the likelihood of significant positive outcomes is great. Therefore, a truly integrated economic development strategy with multi-dimensional projects and components cannot be accurately measured in a single dimension. A means of simultaneously measuring relationships and synergies must be developed. A better question in many instances may be, "Is a good new piece of the puzzle now in place?"

Another difficulty in measuring outputs is that the timing is uncertain. In some cases, the greater the potential reward in the end may require a longer timeframe.

One of the most significant limiting factors in evaluation concerns the collection of data. To truly account for the success of a program would require tracking every single action and following that action to its subsequently induced actions and so forth. Even an attempt to keep track of "simple" items such as "jobs created" is a laborious process that takes time away from new project development, administration, etc. Evaluation and assessment is an important part of any project and in order to continue success and progress it must be built into every effort. Understanding the necessity of this effort and making it a seamless part of the project rather than something tacked on at the end is the goal of the integrated evaluation approach.

Lastly and related to the multi-dimensional discussion above, even if time is invested in tracking jobs and investments associated with a project, the data is not necessarily valid outside its immediate context. The whole purpose of a regional strategy is to recognize the strengths,

weaknesses, opportunities and threats within the region and to develop a unique program of projects for that situation. Unless the entire program is captured in a multi-dimensional way, the data is not well aggregated to the federal level.

NEW RIVER VALLEY PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION

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Kevin R. Byrd, AICP
Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

To: Planning District Commissioners

From: Elijah Sharp, Transportation Planner

Date: May 17, 2012

Re: Regional Bikeway, Walkway, Blueway Plan

The 2011 Regional Bikeway, Walkway, Blueway Plan is complete! The Plan was developed from the ground up, starting in early 2009. To prepare the plan, the PDC met with each governmental jurisdiction to learn about local needs and planning initiatives. Many of the trails and access locations were mapped for the first time.

Ultimately, the 2011 plan is a resource that identifies multi-jurisdictional connections, establishes common goals and priorities, serves as a resource for local or statewide planning, and provides materials that can be used to pursue funding.

The Transportation Technical Advisory and Bikeway/Walkway Committees recommended approval on March 20, 2012. In addition, 11 of the NRV's jurisdictions have endorsed the plan.

In April, the National Association of Development Organizations selected the Regional Bikeway, Walkway, Blueway Plan to receive an *Excellence in Regional Transportation Planning Award*. The first two chapters of the plan are included in this packet. To view the complete plan and to explore the interactive Google Map visit: <http://www.nrvpdc.org/Transportation/bwwwbw.html>.

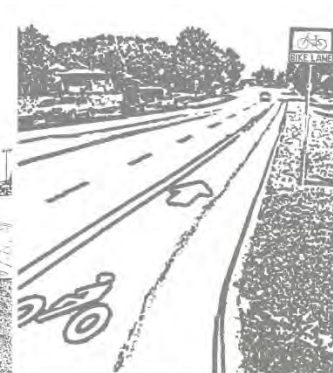
Counties:
Floyd, Giles, Montgomery, Pulaski

Towns:
Blacksburg, Christiansburg, Floyd
Pulaski, Narrows, Pearisburg, Rich Creek

Universities:
Radford University
Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University

City:
Radford

New River Valley's Bikeway, Walkway, Blueway Plan



Acknowledgement/Disclaimer

This report was prepared by the staff of the New River Valley Planning District Commission through funding assistance received from the Federal Highway Administration and the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT); through VDOT's Rural Transportation Planning assistance Program.

The contents of this document reflect the views of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official views or policy of the Federal Highway Administration or Virginia Department of Transportation. This document does not constitute a standard, specification, or regulation. Federal Highway Administration and Virginia Department of Transportation acceptance of this document as partial fulfillment of the work program does not constitute endorsement/approval of the need for any recommended improvements or commitments to fund any such improvements.





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Special Thanks:

A plan of this magnitude could not have been completed without the dedicated help, review, and information sharing of many individuals. Some folks were involved quite significantly throughout the duration of the planning process and have remained committed for nearly three years. Below is a brief list of the many who contributed their valuable time, resources and expertise:

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Priscilla Cygielnik, Town of Blacksburg
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2011 Executive Summary

Purpose

The purpose of this plan is to provide information, guidelines and cohesion in the creation, expansion and coordination of a safe and effective Bikeway, Walkway, Blueway system for the New River Valley region. This region includes the counties of Floyd, Giles, Montgomery and Pulaski, the City of Radford, and the towns of Blacksburg, Christiansburg, Dublin, Floyd, Glen Lyn, Narrows, Pearisburg, Pembroke, Pulaski, and Rich Creek. The region also includes Virginia Tech, Radford University and New River Community College.

The 2011 plan seeks to build on, supplement, and coordinate with existing plans. The plan recognizes and acknowledges the work and foresight of the local governments, community groups, and individuals who have created the excellent and growing network of bikeways, walkways and blueways in this region.

To prepare this plan the Planning District Commission met with each of the local governments and planning departments in the region. A major goal was to update data accurately to reflect existing facilities and identify future projects.

Ultimately, this Bikeway-Walkway-Blueway Plan is a resource to be used as an overview of existing and proposed bikeway-walkway-blueway facilities.



Vision Statement

The New River Valley is committed to the promotion of non-motorized transportation as a safe, reliable, healthy, environmentally friendly alternative to motorized transportation. Opportunities must exist for residents of the region to choose walking or biking as a means of getting to a destination.

2011 Plan Objectives

1. To identify a system to accommodate the variety of Bikeway-Walkway-Blueway users.
2. To coordinate a system of bikeways, walkways, blueways, locally and regionally; and to maintain the continuity of the Bikeway-Walkway-Blueway system to encourage non-motorized transportation.
3. To identify and determine the appropriate type of facility, and coordinate Bikeway-Walkway-Blueway development with future and imminent Virginia Department of Transportation projects.
4. To showcase and focus on the natural and cultural amenities of the New River Valley when proposing bike routes and walking trails, in order to maximize trail effectiveness and increase tourism within the region.
5. To promote the health, safety, welfare and improve the quality of life within the region.
6. To facilitate the use of recycled materials in the construction of bikeways, walkways, and blueways.
7. To increase the mobility of New River Valley residents by adding multimodal options to existing transportation networks with more connections to public transit that ultimately link communities where people live, work, attend school and recreate.

Elements of a Bikeway-Walkway-Blueway System

The Bikeway-Walkway-Blueway Plan identifies a variety of different modes to support a comprehensive transportation system. For the purpose of this plan the following types of facilities were considered:

▪ Bikeways	▪ Hiking Trails
▪ Shared Roadways	▪ Sidewalks
▪ Bicycle Lanes	▪ Dedicated Bicycle Routes
▪ Multi-purpose Trails	▪ Blueways (Water Trails)
▪ Mountain Biking Trails	▪ Support Facilities

The 2011 plan challenges project planners to be cognizant of, and provide for, the different levels of users within each of these categories. Furthermore, delineating alternative transportation versus recreation facilities and minimizing the conflicts between them is vital to the creation of a successful multiuse system.

Alternative transportation facilities should be designed for the least experienced user. Recreational facilities should be designed to accommodate a range of users with varying degrees of ability. Lastly, it is important to plan for opportunities that will enable individuals to move from one mode of travel to another (i.e., bicycling to canoeing).



Photo by: J. Wilsie



Exploring Regional Assets

Over the last 20 years the communities of the New River Valley have developed numerous facilities, and also had the good fortune of being an integral part of national and statewide efforts. Below is a list of current regional assets:

➤ **Multi-purpose Trails:**

- **New River Trail State Park** – A Rails-to-Trails project stretching over 50 miles through Grayson to Carroll, Wythe, and Pulaski Counties. The trail provides numerous access points for hiking, biking, horse back riding, and boat access to the New River. Preliminary plans are under way to connect the existing trail terminus, in downtown Pulaski, to Randolph Park. A NRT Extension Project Plan was completed in 2007 that included connecting the trail to the Radford Riverway and Huckleberry Trail.
- **Huckleberry Trail** – A Rails-to-Trails project connecting Montgomery County, the Town of Blacksburg, the Town of Christiansburg and Virginia Tech. The nearly six mile long

trail is entirely paved and serves as a commuting and recreational facility for bicyclists and pedestrians. Plans are underway to extend the trail north (known as the Hethwood Greenway) and connect to the National Forest Trail network. There are also plans to extend the trail south to the Christiansburg Recreation Center. Once the improvements are complete the trail will double in length.

- **Radford Riverway** – Nearly 3 miles of paved surface, ADA accessible multipurpose trail that traverses through Bisset and Wildwood Parks. The trail connects the City of Radford to Radford University and serves as a recreation and local commuter route. Future plans include expanding the trail into West Radford toward Forest Avenue and looping back to the existing terminus at Sundell Drive.
- **Dora Trail** – A connector trail that begins near the existing New River Trail terminus and runs slightly over 2.5 miles to the downtown Pulaski Historic Railway Station. The trail connects the residents and visitors of downtown Pulaski to the New River Trail.
- **Hokie Bikeways** – A system of trails developed by Virginia Tech to enhance connectivity between the Hokie Bikeway trails, the Huckleberry Trail and other Town of Blacksburg trails. The system is intended for recreation and commuting for local residents and the Virginia Tech campus.
- **Floyd Heritage Pathways** – Development of new ADA accessible pedestrian facilities that connect key activity areas in downtown Floyd. Once complete, the pathway will include signage to guide and promote tourism in the historic downtown area.

- **Glen Lyn Greenway** – Development of a new ADA accessible bicycle and pedestrian path that connects the town to Glen Lyn Park and the Dr. F. D. Morse Trail. The park features old Norfolk Southern Railway Bridge piers that remain standing in the New River. Future plans include creating an extension to the Town of Rich Creek.

➤ **Shared Roadways:**

- **US Bicycle Route 76** – One of only two established US Bicycle Routes; this designated bicycle route crosses the United States from Oregon to Yorktown, Virginia and passes through the City of Radford, Montgomery, Pulaski, Wythe, and Roanoke counties.
- **Proposed multi-jurisdictional routes** – Corridors that have been identified to connect multiple counties, cities, towns and points of interest: 221, 8, 61, 42, 11 and 114.



➤ **Hiking and Mountain Biking Trails**

- **Appalachian Trail** – Completed in 1937, the AT is a privately managed unit of the national park system and is the nation's longest footpath at 2,179 miles. In 1968, the AT was the first designated American National Scenic Trail spanning from Georgia to Maine.
- **Great Eastern Trail** – The future Great Eastern Trail is a collection of footpaths and hiking trails spanning across nine states, from Alabama into New York and Michigan. The alignment through the NRV will most likely follow the AT alignment and provide a potential spur into Bluestone Park in WV.
- **Jefferson National Forest Trails** – Located in Giles, Pulaski and Montgomery counties, the national forest provides multiple recreational trails. Giles County features numerous hiking and mountain biking trails including the Cascades just outside of Pembroke, and the AT near Pearisburg and Narrows. Pulaski features the Gatewood Reservoir and an assortment of recreational facilities for canoeing, hiking and biking. Montgomery features Pandapas Pond that offers recreational facilities for a variety of hikers, mountain bikers and horseback riders.
- **Mountain Lake Conservatory Trails** – Located in Giles County, Mountain Lake features over 2600 acres of land ready for hikers, cross country skiers and mountain bikers to explore.
- **Claytor Lake State Park** – A 450 acre park that offers activities for water and land enthusiasts. Currently, there are

over 4-miles of easy to moderate rated hiking trails. The lake is 21-miles long and is approximately 4,500 acres.

- **Ellett Valley Recreational Area** – Located just south of Blacksburg, the recreational area includes a one-mile long hiking trail, activity area and a series of micro trails. Future plans include the development of a multi-purpose trail extension with multiple access points, a pedestrian only trail and interconnections to the existing Nature Park trail system.
- **Coal Miners Heritage Park** – A 30 acre tract of land that once hosted a mining tipple, hotel, general store and residential housing for coal miners. In 2010, a new trail was constructed for hikers and mountain bikers that ties into the Huckleberry Trail. The new trail also offers an ADA accessible spur leading to the old mining entrance.
- **Rocky Knob Trails** – Located along the Blue Ridge Parkway, lush and forested slopes of the Rock Castle Gorge suggest that man has been an infrequent visitor. In 1984, the loop trail was designated a National Scenic Trail in recognition of its outstanding features.

➤ **Blueways:**

- **New River Canoe Trail** – A water trail that connects Giles and Pulaski Counties to North Carolina and West Virginia. The New River Canoe Trail was Virginia's first designated inland canoe trail as well as the Department of Conservation and Recreation's first water trail or 5blueway. Good canoe trails offer the visitor a well-spaced series of access sites as well as adequate support facilities between those access sites. Support facilities in

the New River Canoe Trail include campsites, rest stops, sanitation facilities, potable water, and sources of information to aid in trip planning.

- **Proposed Blueways** – Tributaries that have been identified in the 2011 plan include the Roanoke River, Peak Creek and the Little River.



Planning for the Future

The 2011 Bikeway-Walkway-Blueway Plan encourages the development of alternative transportation facilities that are tailored to the demand of each community. The plan is intended to be a resource for local governments and citizens interested in the planning and development of Bikeway-Walkway-Blueway systems in the region.

Proposed alignments and associated improvements shown within this plan are conceptual only and are intended to illustrate the connectivity between two points of interest. Providing transportation options in the New River Valley is a regional vision.

2011 Regional Vision

Introduction

The New River Valley Bikeway-Walkway-Blueway Plan is a document that proposes an integrated system of bicycle facilities, river access points, and pedestrian corridors into the existing highway and public transportation system. As the region expands infrastructure to accommodate highway, rail, and transit improvements the opportunity for including non-motorized options will become more difficult. Connecting urban and rural areas will promote a richer and denser mix of residential and business land uses. The concept of providing transportation choices within the existing communities of the region will facilitate sustainable planning for the future.



In April of 1970, Virginia Highway Commissioner Douglas Fugate wrote an article for the Eno Foundation's Traffic Quarterly and made this observation: "We should not be particularly surprised that transportation planning requirements differ from those of even a decade ago. For many reasons the nation's people differ – there are far more of them, they tend in growing numbers to congregate in and

around cities, they tend to be more affluent; and they have a new concern for all aspects of the environment in which they live. Attention must be focused more extensively on utilizing the highway as an artery for mass transportation, and on fresh concepts concerned more with moving people than with moving vehicles."

Local communities throughout the United States are challenged to develop innovative planning solutions that preserve their unique characteristics while providing transportation choices. Innovations in technology, communication and research have streamlined, making it easier than ever before to evaluate and share different ideas and alternatives. Several trends indicate alternative transportation options are critical in our society:

1. *Capacity and Performance:* In the United States, the post World War II era was transformed by the automobile; making traditional transportation options such as walking, cycling or riding the bus a thing of the past. In the last 60 years passenger vehicle infrastructure has expanded throughout the United States and many corridors are reaching capacity thresholds. In order to maximize investments, many experts are looking for solutions that incorporate these fundamental modes back into the transportation system.
2. *Considering Livability in Modern Communities:* According to the Virginia Safe Routes to School Program, data shows that in 1969 42% of students walked to school – compared to only 16% in 2001. In 1969, schools were smaller in size and located near residential areas. Today schools are centralized within broad geographic areas and designed to accommodate more students. Often this pushes schools away from residential neighborhoods and limits transportation choices. The Safe

Routes to School program provides opportunities for communities to connect K-8 schools within a two mile radius by providing funding for walking and bicycling facilities.

3. *Investing in Public Health:* Active transportation options such as cycling and walking provide a direct health benefit. A 2008 study performed by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) showed that the average obesity rates in Virginia surpassed 25% of its total population. Specifically, in the New River Valley this study showed the following percentages by jurisdiction: 24.1% Giles, 25.2% Montgomery, 28.3% Pulaski, 26.0% of Floyd, and 25.5% of the City of Radford. Communities that provide transportation choices retain property values, support public health and improve the quality of life for residents and visitors alike.
4. *Funding Challenges:* A recent study performed by the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy shows that over ½ of the trips in America can be completed within a 20 minute bike ride and ¼ can be completed within a 20 minute walk. In Virginia 31 % of total man-made green-house gas emissions are attributed to transportation. Nationally automobiles account for approximately 20% of the total carbon emissions; if mode shares of non-motorized traffic increased slightly to nearly 13% of all trips (10% currently) the total mileage of automobiles would be reduced by 69 billion, or \$10.4 billion in associated costs.



History

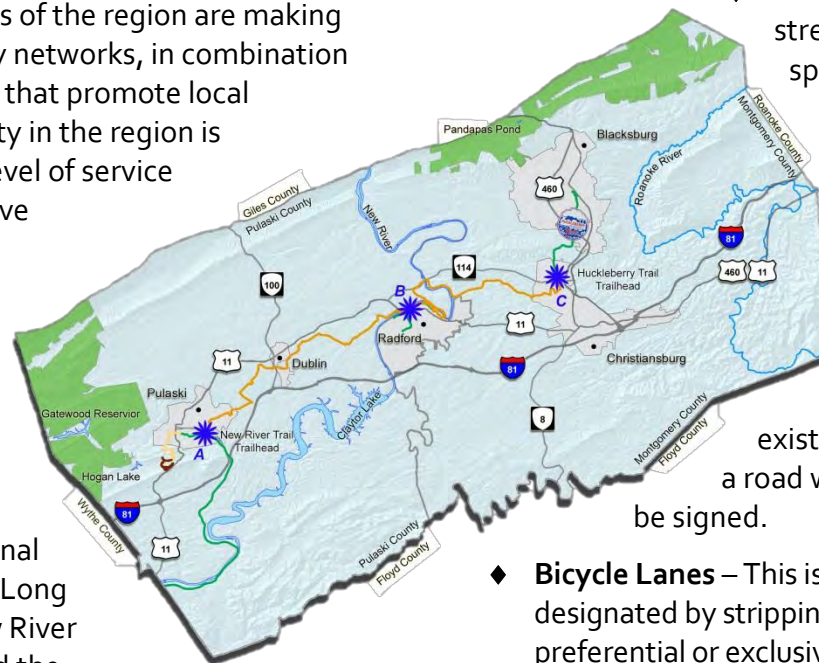
Bikeways and walkways are not new to the New River Valley. Since 1975 three comprehensive bikeway plans have been created: 1975, 1994, and 2000 respectively. The initial plan paralleled a series of bicycle studies completed at the same time in Blacksburg, which originally responded to the increasing population of student cyclists attending Virginia Tech.

In 1976, the Bicentennial Bike Route (also known as Bike Route 76) was established and the New River Valley had the good fortune of being located along its route. The trail enters the Town of Christiansburg, the City of Radford and passes through rural areas of Montgomery and Pulaski Counties. It is identified on maps and roads by signage depicting a bicycle logo below the number 76 (shown on previous sheet). The Bicentennial Bike Route crosses the entire United States from Astoria, Oregon to Yorktown, Virginia.

A network of designated routes known as the US Bike Route System (snapshot of Virginia above) has incorporated the Bicentennial Bike Route into its proposed 16,000 mile system. The Bike Route System is promoted by the Adventure Cycling Association. Currently there are only two official routes that have been designated (76 and 1) and both pass through the Commonwealth. There are a series of additional routes that have been planned across the United States. For the purpose of this plan, this existing route will be referred to as the Bike Route 76.

Since the early 90's bicycle and pedestrian planning has become more prevalent in the towns of Blacksburg, Christiansburg and the City of Radford. The demand for such facilities is greater in these areas of the New River Valley in order to provide inexpensive travel for students attending Virginia Tech and Radford University. The corridors developed for alternative uses in this part of the region serve dual roles of providing transportation and recreation for the surrounding community. The rural areas of the region are making strides to integrate safe shared roadway networks, in combination with natural surface and paved facilities that promote local recreation and tourism. Each community in the region is committed to providing a satisfactory level of service that meets the demand in their respective jurisdictions.

The New River Valley has an assortment of multi-purpose trails, shared roadways, hiking, and mountain biking trail networks. The region is highly motivated to make improvements within the local communities and forecasts strong regional connection opportunities in the future. Long range goals involve connecting the New River Trail (A) to the Radford Riverway (B) and the Huckleberry Trail (C). The image shown (above) illustrates the connection that will interconnect the Towns of Pulaski, Dublin, Christiansburg, and Blacksburg and the City of Radford. Once complete, it would effectively create a bikeway/walkway trail from Blacksburg, Virginia all the way to Abingdon, Virginia.



Elements of a Bikeway-Walkway-Blueway System

The Bikeway-Walkway-Blueway Plan incorporates a variety of different modes that play major roles in a comprehensive transportation system. This System, for the New River Valley, includes these types of facilities:

- ◆ **Bikeways** – A general term for any road, street, path or way which in some manner is specifically designated for bicycle travel. Regardless of whether such facilities are designated for the exclusive use of bicycles, or are to be shared with other modes of transportation.
- ◆ **Shared Roadways** – Also known as a SHARROW (Shared Right-Of-Way), is a roadway which is open to both bicycle and motor vehicle travel. This may be an existing roadway, street with wide curb lanes, or a road with paved shoulders that may or may not be signed.
- ◆ **Bicycle Lanes** – This is a portion of a roadway which has been designated by striping, signing and pavement markings for the preferential or exclusive use of bicyclists.
- ◆ **Multi-purpose Trails** – A corridor physically separated from motorized traffic by an open space or barrier and either within the right-of-way or within an independent right-of-way. Typically, these corridors may also be used by pedestrians, bicycles, skaters, wheelchairs, joggers and other non-motorized transportation.



Photo by: E. Sharp

- ◆ **Mountain Biking Trails** – A recreational corridor designed for preferential or exclusive use of mountain bicyclist. The alignments are designed for a range of difficulty to safely accommodate and challenge multiple cyclists with varying abilities.
- ◆ **Hiking Trails** – A lightly constructed, narrow (less than five feet) pathway that traverses through natural undeveloped lands. These recreational corridors are specifically designed for foot travel only and often incorporate State or National Parks and historic sites.
- ◆ **Sidewalks** – The portion of a street or highway right-of-way designed for preferential or exclusive use by pedestrians.
- ◆ **Dedicated Bicycle Routes** – These are separate routes that are intended to be used for long distance bicycle travel. Virginia Bicycle Routes 1 and 76 pass through parts of the New River Valley.
- ◆ **Blueways (Water Trails)** – These are recreational waterways on a river or a lake that are accessed exclusively by water. A trail may include both public and private lands.
- ◆ **Support Facilities** – Availability of public access and rest stop points. Included in this are boat ramps, parking areas, bike storage and security racks, canoe rentals, portages, restroom facilities, picnic areas, multi-modal connection points, etc.

Planning Process

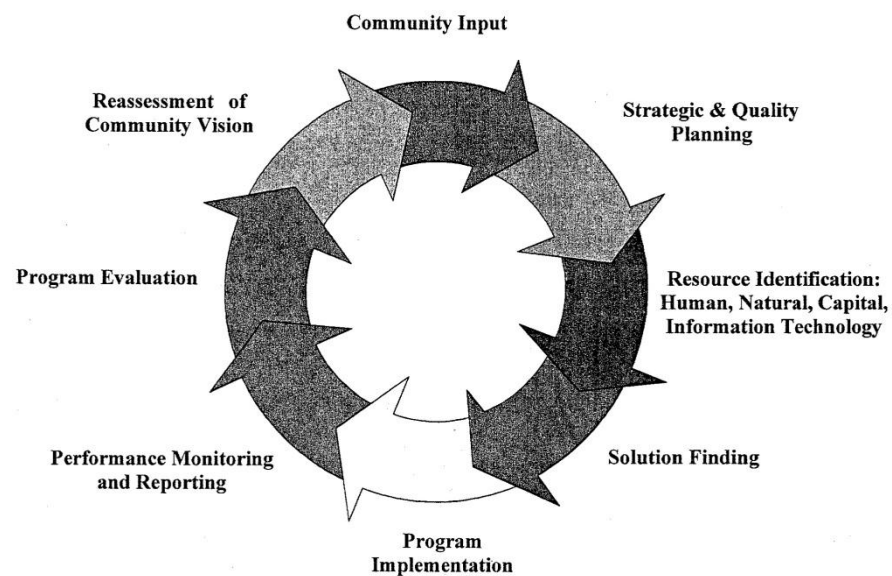
To prepare this plan the Planning District Commission met with each of the local governments and planning departments in the region. A major goal was to update the existing database, to accurately reflect existing facilities and identify future projects. Another goal was to establish hierarchical goals within the five core areas (Giles, Floyd, Montgomery, Pulaski and Radford). By setting regional goals, localities can focus limited resources to have the most impact possible.

This plan utilizes regional data to determine routes identified by user preference. By identifying locations cyclists and pedestrians currently used on a regular basis, specific safety and capacity locations can be identified. In order to collect this information local user groups were invited to participate in discussions. The input provided was carefully considered when determining future recommendations.



Photo by: A. Moody

Coordination with the Department of Transportation is essential to ensure that the New River Valley Bikeway-Walkway-Blueway Plan fulfills statewide transportation objectives, and is consistent with federal requirements. Cooperation is also sought from state and federal agencies within the region; specifically, the National Forest Service, the National Park Service, and the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation. Bicycle, canoe, and pedestrian access to national parks, recreation and scenic areas, monuments, and historic sites are a common goal.



This graphic is designed to illustrate the interrelationship between key planning and implementation components. In practice, it is frequently non-sequential and it is almost always ongoing.

Purpose

The purpose of this plan is to provide information, guidelines and cohesion in the creation, expansion and coordination of a safe and effective Bikeway, Walkway and Blueway system for the New River Valley region.

The plan seeks to build on, supplement, and coordinate with existing plans. The plan recognizes and acknowledges the work and foresight of the local governments, community groups, and individuals who have created the excellent and growing network of bikeways, walkways and blueways in this region.

Ultimately, this Bikeway-Walkway-Blueway Plan is a resource to be used as an overview of existing and proposed bikeway, walkway, and blueway facilities.

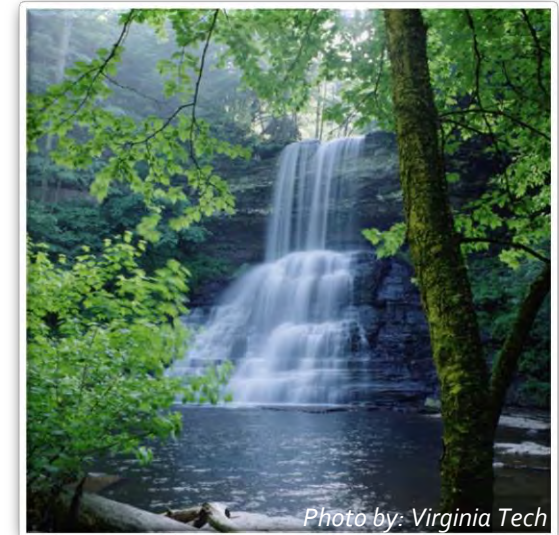


Photo by: Virginia Tech

Vision Statement

The New River Valley is committed to the promotion of non-motorized transportation as a safe, reliable, healthy, environmentally friendly alternative to motorized transportation. Opportunities must exist for residents of the region to choose walking or biking as a means of getting to a destination.

Policy Statements

- This plan encourages the Virginia Department of Transportation to work closely with localities to select, design, and implement bicycle and pedestrian accommodations; taking into consideration community needs, safety, and unique environmental and aesthetical characteristics.
- Facilities for bicyclists and pedestrians should be planned to provide continuity and consistency for all users of the system.
- All roadway projects in the region should be evaluated for the integration of bicycle and pedestrian accommodations to provide non-motorized uses. Every roadway project should be evaluated against the Commonwealth Transportation Board's Policy for Integrating Bicycle and Pedestrian Accommodations, Section 3 – Project Development.
- New land development in the New River Valley should integrate non-motorized transportation facilities that supplement the regional Bikeway-Walkway-Blueway system. Focusing on the development of Bikeway-Walkway-Blueway connections between residential, commercial, industrial, educational, historical and recreational areas to promote non-motorized transportation opportunities.
- The New River Valley Bikeway-Walkway-Blueway Committee, a sub-committee of the Transportation Technical Advisory Committee, was created in 2006 to revise and support the implementation of this regional Plan.
- The New River Valley Bikeway-Walkway-Blueway Committee should be responsible for prioritizing projects, coordinating interconnections and cooperation among neighboring districts and regions.
- All agencies and organizations in the region should promote the New River Valley as a place that is safe and enjoyable for cyclists, canoeists and pedestrians.
- All Counties, Cities, and Towns within the New River Valley are encouraged to endorse the New River Valley Bikeway-Walkway-Blueway Plan.
- All Counties, Cities, and Towns of the New River Valley are encouraged to adopt a local Bikeway-Walkway-Blueway plan into their respective comprehensive plans.



Defining the Objectives

1. To identify a system to accommodate the variety of Bikeway-Walkway-Blueway users.
2. To coordinate a system of bikeways, walkways, blueways, locally and regionally; and to maintain the continuity of the Bikeway-Walkway-Blueway system to encourage non-motorized transportation.
3. To identify and determine the appropriate type of facility, and coordinate Bikeway-Walkway-Blueway development with future and imminent Virginia Department of Transportation projects.
4. To showcase and focus on the natural and cultural amenities of the New River Valley when proposing bike routes and walking trails, in order to maximize trail effectiveness and increase tourism within the region.
5. To promote the health, safety, welfare and improve the quality of life within the region.
6. To facilitate the use of recycled materials in the construction of bikeways, walkways, and blueways.
7. To increase the mobility of New River Valley residents by adding multimodal options to existing transportation networks with more connections to public transit that ultimately link communities where people live, work, attend school and recreate.



OBJECTIVE 1 – To identify a system to accommodate the variety of Bikeway-Walkway-Blueway users.

Inherent in the title of this document is the suggestion that three different activities will be considered at the same time. Developing facilities for transportation versus recreation and minimizing the conflicts between them, is vital to the creation of a successful multiuse system. It is also necessary to be cognizant of, and provide for, the different levels of users within each of these categories. A good rule of thumb is to design new alternative transportation facilities for the least experienced user; recreational facilities should accommodate a range of users with varying degrees of ability. Lastly, it is important to plan for opportunities that will enable individuals to move from one mode of travel to another (i.e., bicycling to canoeing). Below is a list of specific uses and considerations for planning new facilities:



Pedestrian Use

There are different kinds of pedestrian activities including: jogging, walking and running. For a jogger or a runner to readily utilize a trail



Photo by: J. Wilsie

system it must be clear of obstacles, close to home, and provide adequate site distances and clearances around curves. Some runners prefer asphalt or non-paved surfaces and others prefer off-road trails that avoid

intersecting with major vehicular roadways.

A trail might appear to function in relatively the same way for people who walk for health reasons and for people walking for relaxation and enjoyment. However, it is important to program these activities differently. A fitness trail component might cater to the health minded user, while attractive plantings and pleasant views can be enjoyed by all.

Hiking is another form of pedestrian use of a trail system and the New River Valley has many excellent opportunities for this activity. Many hiking trails differ from multi-purpose trails in that they are usually not surfaced and are found in remote locations away from population centers. The purpose of hiking, in most cases, is to experience the natural environment and it is not unusual for the activity to extend over night and for many miles. It is important that day hikers are provided with convenient access to trails.



Bicycle Use

According to the Commonwealth Transportation Board Policy for Integrating Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities there are classifications for riding levels of cyclists. Each level has different expectations of the biking experience and requires different kinds of facilities for their enjoyment and fulfillment. A sport cyclist may require long distance routes and prefer the ability to travel at high speeds. The more passive bicycle rider may enjoy slower speeds, scenic quality, and points of interest.

A variation on the recreational biking theme is mountain biking. This form of cycling involves off road travel on durable bicycles. Regular

maintenance is needed for these facilities because trail wear can be accelerated and erosion and sedimentation problems can develop.

The national forest offers mountain biking on its multipurpose trails in the region. The Forest Service stresses the importance of staying on the marked trails to minimize the environmental impact on the forest and also encourages bikers to be conscience of their potential conflict with other users, especially horseback riders. Horses may become alarmed by bicycles.

Bicycle Commuting typically involves riders in close proximity (10 miles) to the employment/population centers. Providing adequate facilities that provide safe travel for different classifications of riders can be challenging. There is a growing interest in the region to interconnect the bicycle and pedestrian system to the public transportation network in order to promote a multimodal system. With the development of more accessible facilities and the encouragement of alternative transportation, opportunities for commuting by foot or bicycle can be expanded.



Canoe Use

Canoe trails offer users a series of access sites as well as adequate support facilities between the access sites. The New River is currently the only existing designated blueway in the region, but other waterways are being considered. Support facilities along the New River Canoe Trail include campsites, rest stops, sanitation facilities, potable water and sources of information to aid in trip planning. An element of this multimodal Bikeway-Walkway-Blueway Plan is to provide secure long and short term parking for vehicles, bicyclists and trail users switching to canoeing. Such facilities will be jointly used by both New River Trail State Park and New River Canoe Trail users.



People with Disabilities

Physically challenged individuals should be of primary consideration in planning any public recreation project. It is essential not only to provide access, but make accommodations by considering design standards, minimum slopes, and proper furnishings. Providing access has been mandated by the federal government in the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act.



Other Potential Uses

Additional uses such as roller skating, skateboarding and in-line skating, may occur on some trails. It is necessary to plan for and structure trails that can accommodate these activities in an effective manner. Where these activities are incompatible, signs should be posted to restrict activities. Another solution to discourage incompatible trail uses could involve selecting appropriate surface materials. For example; a compacted granular surface accommodates walking and cycling but causes difficulty for those with smaller wheels. Unfortunately, this strategy can hinder walking with a baby stroller or add difficulty to someone in a wheelchair. Baby strollers and bicycle trailers are additional concerns and jurisdictions should decide how to accommodate these uses. Providing adequate space and enforcing proper facility etiquette will enable a variety of uses such as roller skating, skate boarding and in-line skating, while at the same time maintaining the enjoyment and safety of others.

OBJECTIVE 2 – To coordinate a system of bikeways, walkways, blueways locally and regionally; and to maintain the continuity of the Bikeway-Walkway-Blueway system to encourage non-motorized transportation.

An assortment of facilities already exists in the region and additional planning for new facilities has been ongoing for the last 20 years. The Bikeway-Walkway-Blueway Plan for the New River Valley recommends connectivity between different localities and encourages alternative transportation development in jurisdictions that do not presently have formal plans.



One of the most formidable challenges in the region is developing long-term maintenance plans for facilities. Transportation maintenance funds continue to deplete and traditional volunteer organizations age without dedicated successors. Seasonal alternative uses could be integrated into the design of facilities to regulate activities for each season. By changing the use for each season, the labor intensive maintenance could be reduced along recreational corridors to once or twice a year. For example, when a trail becomes snow covered; one jurisdiction may want the snow cleared from the facility to allow cyclists and pedestrian's access; while another may want to permit cross-country skiing.

The towns of Blacksburg and Christiansburg, counties of Montgomery and Pulaski and the City of Radford have current plans for bikeway and walkway development. Other towns and counties within the region that have not articulated alternative transportation in their comprehensive plans, share the aspirations of those jurisdictions with existing facilities. For example the Trails in Floyd program collaborated with the Virginia Tech Community Design Assistance Center to create a trails corridor plan, for Floyd County and the Town of Floyd.

This plan also supports connections to neighboring regions. The New River Trail State Park begins in the Town of Pulaski and extends to Galax, Virginia. In May 2000, the Department of Conservation and Recreation and the U.S. Forest Service agreed to connect the New River Trail to the Virginia Highlands Horse Trail and the Virginia Creeper Trails. Once complete, this will result in a 160-mile, multi-use trail from Abingdon to Pulaski.

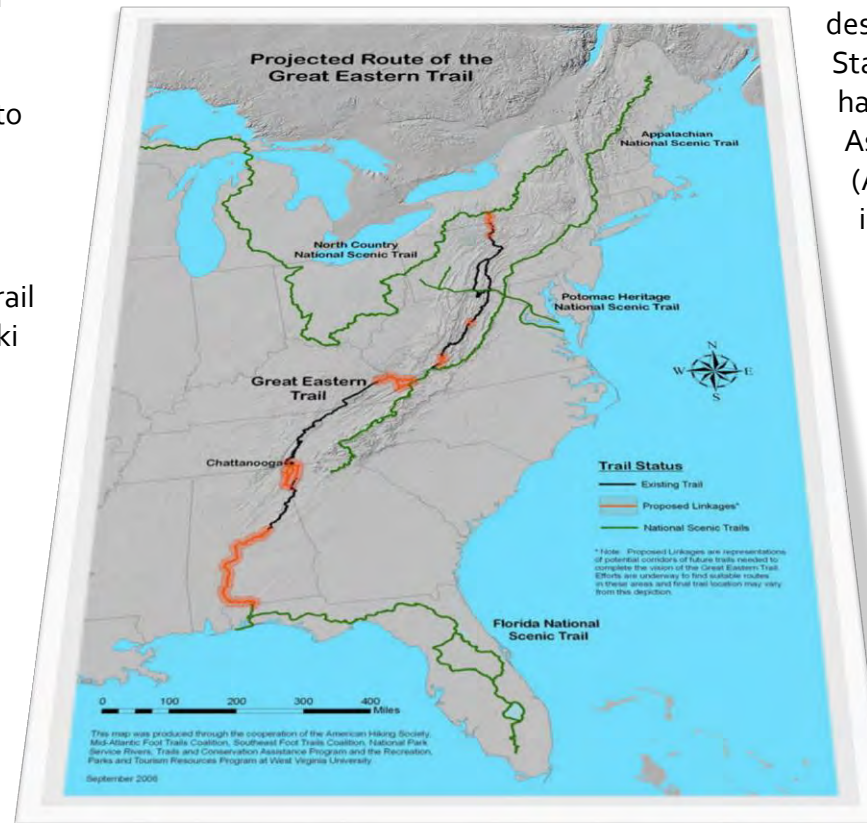
The Great Eastern Trail (GET) is an 1800 mile, volunteer constructed, long-distance trail from Alabama to New York. Currently, the GET extends into Giles County with 28 miles of completed trails, and over 250 total miles of additional trail planned through Virginia. This part of the project would most likely connect the New River Valley sections of the Appalachian Trail

with a spur from Bluestone Park, West Virginia. The Community Design Assistance Center at Virginia Tech is assisting the GET Association to map potential routes between gaps of existing trails.

As mentioned previously, the New River Valley is fortunate to have Bike Route 76 – one of only two officially designated bicycle routes in the United States. The Adventure Cycling Association has partnered with the American Association of State Highway Officials (AASHTO) to develop a broader plan that is intended to connect America through a network of numbered bicycle routes. The vision for the plan is to connect people, communities and the Nation with a designated bicycle route system. 50-mile wide corridors have been identified across the United States for the purpose of expanding the system.

The New River Trail, Bike Route 76 and Great Eastern Trail are examples of facilities spanning two or more regions, intended to enable users to travel great distances and promote the continuity of alternative use systems. Other inter-regional connections are possible with major points of interest in

southwest Virginia. Potential links include Smith Mountain Lake, the Roanoke River Greenway, and the Blue Ridge Parkway.



OBJECTIVE 3 – To identify and determine the appropriate type of facility, and coordinate Bikeway-Walkway-Blueway development with future and imminent Virginia Department of Transportation projects.

Improving communication between local and state agencies is the first step towards eliminating project redundancies. Costs are significantly lower when linear construction of a roadway, bike lane or trail can occur simultaneously within the same right-of-way. Savings occur due to efficiency in the mobilization of a construction crew, accessibility for machinery and materials, and bulk purchases of construction materials. Costs are also reduced when acquisition of land can be minimized. Furthermore, as studies for transportation improvements are conducted, each mode should be analyzed for inclusion within the project area.

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) Policy for Integration of Bicycle and Pedestrian Accommodations identifies bicycling and walking as fundamental travel modes that are an integral part of an efficient transportation network. The strategic approach for this Policy is to consistently incorporate the consideration and provision of bicycling and walking accommodations into the decision-making process for Virginia's transportation network.

Virginia highway construction funds can be used to build bicycle and pedestrian accommodations either concurrently with highway construction projects or as independent transportation projects. VDOT is to initiate all highway construction projects with the presumption that the projects shall accommodate bicycling and walking. Factors that support the need to provide such accommodations include, but are not limited to the following:

1. Project is identified in an adopted transportation or related plan.
2. Project accommodates existing and future bicycle and pedestrian use.
3. Project improves or maintains safety for all users.
4. Project provides a connection to public transportation services and facilities.
5. Project serves areas or population groups with limited transportation options.
6. Project provides a connection to bicycling and walking trip generators such as employment, education, retail, recreation, and residential centers and public facilities.
7. Project is identified in a Safe Routes to School program or provides a connection to a school.
8. Project provides a regional connection or is of regional or state significance.



Photo by: J. Blackburn

New River Valley
Bikeway, Walkway, Blueway Plan

9. Project provides a link to other bicycle and pedestrian accommodations.
10. Project provides a connection to traverse natural or man-made barriers.
11. Project provides a tourism or economic development opportunity.

General exceptions to provide accommodations include one or more of the following conditions:

1. Scarcity of population, travel, and attractors, both existing and future, indicate an absence of need for such accommodations.
2. Environmental or social impacts outweigh the need for these accommodations.
3. Safety would be compromised.
4. Total cost of bicycle and pedestrian accommodations to the appropriate system (i.e. interstate, primary, secondary, or urban system) would be excessively disproportionate to the need for the facility.
5. Purpose and scope of the specific project do not facilitate the provision of such accommodations (e.g. projects for the Rural Rustic Road Program).
6. Bicycle and pedestrian travel is prohibited by state or federal laws.

The Policy directs those involved in the planning, funding, design, construction, operation, and maintenance of the state's highways as the responsible parties for applying the guidance set forth. VDOT

will work with localities to select and design accommodations based on local needs. VDOT will also maintain bicycle and pedestrian accommodations as necessary to keep them usable and accessible in accordance with state and federal laws and VDOT's asset management policy. VDOT will also maintain sidewalks or shared use paths built within department right-of-way, built to department standards, and accepted for maintenance with the exception of snow and ice removal.



Alternatively, VDOT provides funding for pedestrian and bicycle facilities under Federal Surface Transportation legislation. This legislation currently allocates federal money (no less than 10% of total) that can be used for transportation enhancements. The Virginia Department of Transportation is annually receptive to proposals that include one or more of the following core transportation functions (Transportation Enhancement Program):

1. Pedestrian and Bicycle Facilities
2. Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety and Education
3. Landscaping and Scenic Beautification along Transportation Corridors (including streetscape improvements)

4. Preservation of Abandoned Railway Corridors and Conversion to Trails (traditional rails-to-trails and rails-with-trails projects)
5. Rehabilitation of Historic Transportation Buildings, Structures of Facilities
6. Acquisition of Scenic or Historic Easements and Sites

The criteria above were established in 2009 and the list of eligible activities varies depending on each state. Other funds for bicycle and pedestrian improvements are also available, such as: FTA 5307 funds, Safe Routes to School funds and the National Recreational Trails Fund. For a complete list of all FHWA and FTA programs visit: <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/hep/bkepedtble.htm>. Grants are also available through many state agencies, private organizations and industries.

VDOT provides planning, engineering, construction, and funding guidance intended to provide communities with resources to determine appropriate bicycle and pedestrian facilities.

OBJECTIVE 4 – To showcase and focus on the natural and cultural amenities of the New River Valley when proposing bike routes and walking trails, in order to maximize trail effectiveness and increase tourism within the region.

Cultural and natural amenities are abundant in the New River Valley and can serve to advance bikeway, walkway and blueway development. Cultural and historical points of interest have the ability to complement alternative transportation systems. Local communities are encouraged to prioritize projects that showcase natural and cultural amenities of the region. Furthermore, selecting

a “theme project” to concentrate funding and planning resources could accelerate the process.

This plan can assist community leaders in the ongoing efforts to promote tourism in the Valley by establishing the region as a destination for nature enthusiasts. Encouraging people to experience the Appalachian culture and the natural and historic features can be successfully accomplished by enticing visitors to see the region on foot or bicycle, or in a canoe. Serious cyclists and hikers that come to the New River Valley, via existing cross country routes and inter-regional trails, should find our system to be a welcoming and inviting alternate route or side trip.

Communities in the New River Valley, such as the towns of Pearisburg and Floyd, have inventories of historic resources. Self-guided walking tour maps highlighting historic buildings, locations of significant events and local craftsmanship are distributed to visitors by local businesses.

Downtown walking tours can also be adapted for bicycle riders, and the historic elements within each small town should be easily identified. Directional information should be provided when convenient connections do not exist.



Many natural and scenic sites exist throughout the New River Valley, spanning from the Jefferson National Forest to the Blue Ridge Parkway. Running north through the center of the region, the New River, one of the oldest rivers in the world, provides the setting for many excellent opportunities in the natural environment.

OBJECTIVE 5 – To promote the health, safety, welfare and improve the quality of life within the region.

This Plan encourages the development of educational programs for the variety of multi-use transportation system users including: bicyclists, pedestrians and vehicle operators. This objective could be complemented by providing facilities for alternative modes of transportation (also known as active modes) and increasing the connectivity of existing facilities.

According to a study performed by CDC in 2008 roughly 25% of the population in the region is currently obese. This plan encourages the development of facilities that connect residential communities to local trail networks, public transportation systems, schools, and commercial centers. Providing a safe, accessible, and attractive network will invite local residents and visitors to utilize the system for the benefit of health and welfare.



Photo by: Radford University

Minimizing the risk of injury is the first step to maintaining a quality active transportation network. Rules and regulations to guide

etiquette for users should be posted in highly visible areas at trailheads. Graphic symbols and/or universal pictographs could be valuable to maintain consistency with other facilities.



Educational programs should be sponsored in part by schools, local recreation departments, citizen advocacy groups, and in coordination with the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles. Information seminars could further the cause of safety when using the trails and roadways that make up the system. Public awareness can help extend driving courtesies to multimodal users that share the roads with cars and trucks.

The Bikeway-Walkway-Blueway Advisory Committee could respond to health, safety, and welfare issues through the appointment of a safety coordinator. A safety coordinator could develop a maintenance and inspection program and solicit feedback from user response forms to evaluate existing facilities.

Security along secluded, off-road trails may be an issue of concern. Patrolling the trails could be a necessary part of operation to deter inappropriate uses along the facility. He/She would be knowledgeable in first aid administration, perform trail maintenance review, and provide users with information. A trail patrol could be a volunteer who rides a bicycle or an employee of the jurisdiction in which the trail is located in. This patrol would carry a two-way radio

to communicate with local law enforcement and emergency personnel. Utilizing local law enforcement bike patrol officers is recommended if available.

Emergency plans should be set up in advance, identifying access points to trails and enabling emergency personnel to respond as quickly and effectively as possible to any incidents. Barriers should be removable at specific locations and corridors should adequately accommodate emergency vehicles.

Many of the inherent risks of bicycle or pedestrian uses along trails and roads can be avoided if upkeep and maintenance are a part of the corridor plan. This would include cleaning and clearing after storms, pickup of trash, removal of graffiti and vandalism, and repair/replace furnishings when necessary. Pavement markings should be repainted when they fade. Cracks in the pavement or severe erosion of trails and roads should be attended to immediately. Vegetation should be trimmed, allowing for adequate clearances and site distances. Paying special attention to these components will keep facilities safe and accessible for all users.



Photo by: J. Wilsie

OBJECTIVE 6 – To facilitate the use of recycled materials in the construction of bikeways, walkways, and blueways.

There are many innovative applications for various recycled materials highlighted in this plan that can be used in the design and construction of trails. Many types of aggregates can be used in the place of traditional materials such as: scrap rubber, glass, plastics, and recycled metals can be mixed in with traditional asphalt or concrete.

Among the aggregates listed, scrap rubber is available as a building material for constructing pavements. Techniques include mixing scrap tire chips (3/8" nominal) with the normal aggregate, or mixing powdered rubber with the asphalt cement to produce a durable long wearing surface, or laying an insulating base of tire chips (3" nominal) beneath a gravel surfaced roadbed.

The use of scrap rubber's suitable construction materials would help reduce the more than 300-million discarded tires that are generated across the country each year. Several localities in the New River Valley currently have a contract with a commercial tire shredding operation that reduces scrap tires to a usable tire chip. The resulting material is suitable for use in some engineered applications, such as subgrade fill.

Furthermore, the addition of rubber to a surface pavement mix allows the asphalt to be more porous without requiring the use of more expensive synthetic materials. The city of Chicago, Illinois has used this method extensively in its “Green Alley” program, utilizing the material in alleyways. The application allows water to seep

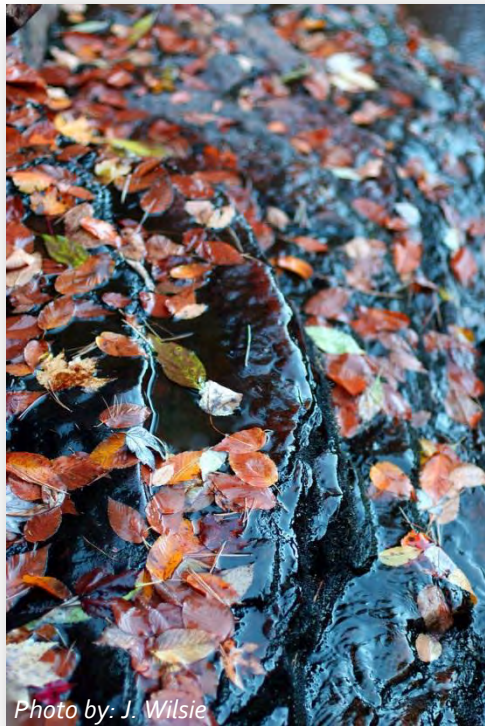


Photo by: J. Wilsie

through the pavement surface into the ground beneath. This approach could be applied to new roads and trails in the New River Valley to help reduce the impact of traditional construction.

Several European countries, including Sweden, Germany, Denmark, and the Netherlands, have also developed methods for incorporating recyclable materials into new pavement construction. These materials include: industrial waste from blast furnaces, steel slag and coal ash, as well as reclaiming old concrete and asphalt

pavement for reuse. These countries have achieved very high percentages of recyclable materials used in new road construction. Many of the materials listed are simply by-products of everyday industrial operations.

In addition, several states (Minnesota, Pennsylvania and Maryland) have mixed crushed glass with asphalt. Up to 10% by volume of crushed recycled glass, or “cullet” up to about 3/8” in size may be mixed with asphalt. Many have found that this “glassphalt” is more durable than standard asphalt, largely outlasting similarly-traveled traditionally paved roadways.

Recycled plastic lumber would be effective in wetland, marshy or boggy areas to create long term, durable raised trails. This application would be impervious to water and environmentally and structurally superior to treated lumber. Submerged plastic lumber has been estimated to last at least 60 years in a coastal environment.

Other recycled materials such as plastic, rubber, and aluminum – may be used in signage, fencing, railing, trash collectors, benches and bollards. Each of the materials discussed in this section are intended to encourage project planners, engineers, and contractors to think outside of the box for new facility development.



Photo by: Virginia Tech

OBJECTIVE 7 – To increase the mobility of New River Valley residents by adding multimodal options to existing transportation networks with more connections to public transit that ultimately link communities where people live, work, attend school and recreate.

To increase the mobility for the variety of potential user groups in the region, improvements to each mode should be considered concurrently with all other modes. Creating stronger links between non-motorized transportation, commuter programs and public transportation systems could be a starting point to reduce automobile dependency and transportation costs for families in the New River Valley.

The integration of systems could be achieved by creating Multimodal Transportation Hubs that provide adequate vehicle parking, bicycle storage and transit transfer locations. Furthermore, providing connections to the local bicycle and pedestrian system of trails, sidewalks, and shared road facilities could promote the use of public transportation. Potential locations for the development of these Hubs could be existing park and ride lots. Park and ride lots are located throughout the region and most have been integrated into carpooling programs such as Ride Solutions (for more information visit: <http://www.ridesolutions.org/register/index.asp>). By utilizing existing locations familiar with residents in the region, improvements will directly impact interested user groups and programs.



Photo by: E. Sharp

In 2010, the New River Valley was awarded a Sustainable Communities Grant to develop local and regional plans that will identify locations for potential Community Hubs. Community Hubs will be designed around existing communities and centralize transportation, utilities, local markets, employment centers, and housing options.

An integral component for expanding transportation options is the development of public transportation. Current service providers include Blacksburg Transit, Pulaski Area Transit, Community Transit, and the SmartWay.

Currently, transit services are provided in the towns of Blacksburg, Christiansburg, Pulaski and Dublin. Recently, the Department of Rail and Public Transportation completed a study to determine the need for transit in Radford. 88% of survey respondents indicated there was a need for service.

In addition, the 2035 Virginia Surface Transportation Plan identifies Giles and Floyd

Counties as communities that have characteristics to sustain public transportation. As the interest for developing alternative solutions continues to increase, opportunities will become available to expand transit, commuter programs and bicycle and pedestrian systems.

The 2011 Bikeway-Walkway-Blueway Plan encourages the development of alternative transportation facilities that are tailored to the demand of each community. Providing transportation options in the New River Valley is a regional vision.

NEW RIVER VALLEY PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION

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Kevin R. Byrd, AICP
Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

To: Planning District Commissioners

From: Elijah Sharp, Transportation Planner 

Date: May 17, 2012

Re: 2010 Census – New MPO Boundary

The Blacksburg-Christiansburg-Montgomery Area MPO boundary is expanding into the Radford and Pulaski areas. By definition, the boundary is a Census designated Urbanized Area (UZA) with 50,000 residents or more. A Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) acts as the designated local decision-making body that is responsible for carrying out the transportation planning process within a UZA. Every Census designated UZA must be represented by an MPO (23 USC 134 (b) and 49 USC 5303(c)).

The population for New River Valley's MPO grew from 57,236 (2000) to 88,542 (2010) or 55% increase over the last ten years. Currently, Virginia receives \$8,423,600 in Federal Planning Funds that is distributed by formula between MPOs. The planning funding is utilized to prepare the Transportation Improvement Program, Long-Range Transportation Plan, and special local studies.

Benefits of being within an MPO include: assuring that connections for all modes of transportation are coordinated, financially constrained planning requires the prioritization of projects, VDOT and DRPT are required to coordinate with MPOs, and localities participate on a regional basis for transportation planning.

Recently the MPO began the coordination process based on the 2010 Census figures. Over the next few months, the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Virginia will be revised to include the new localities. The bylaws will be changed to reflect the adjustments in the MOU. The final step is to adjust the UZA to include the contiguous geographic areas likely to become urbanized within the next 20 years.

The PDC's Rural Transportation Program will continue to serve the communities located outside the new MPO boundary. The PDC and MPO are active partners that share responsibilities throughout the region to complete local, regional, statewide, and national transportation planning objectives. The partnership will continue as the boundary adjustment is finalized.

See attached map that illustrates the MPO boundary based on 2010 Census figures.

Counties:
Floyd, Giles, Montgomery, Pulaski

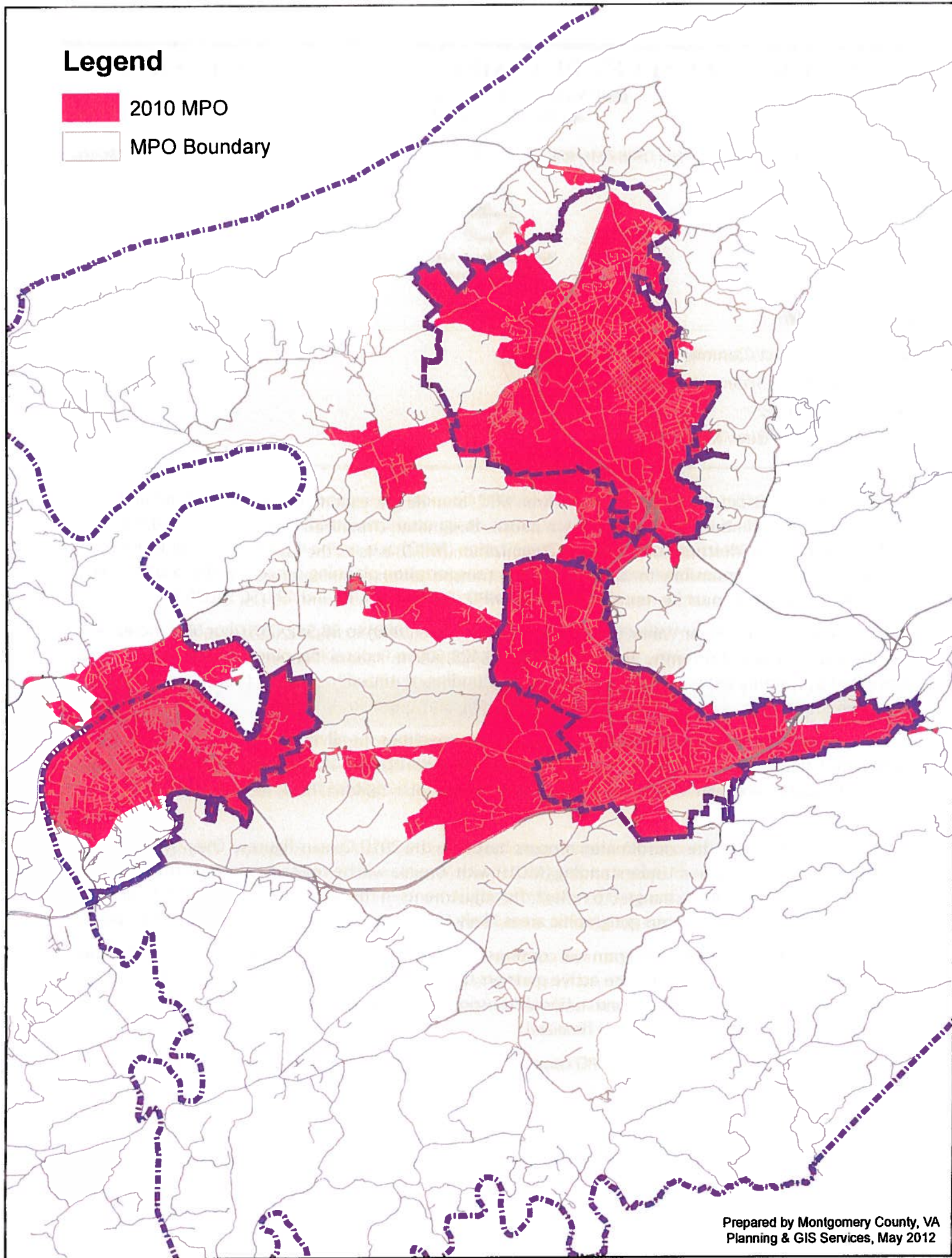
Towns:
Blacksburg, Christiansburg, Floyd
Pulaski, Narrows, Pearisburg, Rich Creek

Universities:
Radford University
Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University

City:
Radford

Legend

-  2010 MPO
-  MPO Boundary



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Kevin R. Byrd, AICP
Executive Director

COMMONWEALTH INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW MEMORANDUM

TO: Planning Commission Members
FROM: Kevin R. Byrd, Executive Director
AGENDA ITEM: XI. Intergovernmental Review Process, C. Environmental Project Review, Item #1

CIRP Review

May 14, 2012

PROJECT: **[12-15] FY12-14 VADEQ Technical Review and Services for Defense Environmental Restoration Program (DERP) Activities at Active DoD Facilities and Environmental Restoration at Base Closure Sites.**

SUBMITTED BY: Department of Environmental Quality

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: DEQ is applying for Federal funding assistance in continuation of the Defense States Memorandum of Agreement program (DSMOA).

PROJECT SENT FOR REVIEW TO: Planning Commission members, not individual localities.

STAFF COMMENT: The staff has reviewed the appropriate plans (Land Use, Water Quality Management, Regional Solid Waste Management, Vision 2020, and the Economic Development plans) and finds that this project does not conflict with the plans or regional policies and goals.



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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Douglas W. Domenech
Secretary of Natural Resources

David K. Paylor
Director

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

MEMORANDUM:

TO: Planning District Commissions

FROM: Patty W. Walsh
Grants Administrative Manager

DATE: May 7, 2012

SUBJECT: Intergovernmental Review

Patty W. Walsh

Enclosed is a Department of Environmental Quality grant application for Federal funding assistance being submitted to you for intergovernmental review pursuant to Executive Order 12372.

[12-15] – FY12-14 VADEQ Technical Review and Services for Defense Environmental Restoration Program (DERP) Activities at Active DoD Facilities and Environmental Restoration at Base Closure Sites

The intergovernmental review process requires that comments on the above application be received by **June 6, 2012**. If comments are not received before then, we will assume that you have elected to waive comment. Additional information regarding the enclosed application may be provided upon request. If you require additional time to provide comments, please inform in writing prior to that date.

Thank you for your assistance. You may contact me at (804) 698-4173 or Patty.Walsh@deq.virginia.gov with any questions.

NEW RIVER VALLEY PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION

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Kevin R. Byrd, AICP
Executive Director

COMMONWEALTH INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW MEMORANDUM

TO: Planning Commission Members

FROM: Kevin R. Byrd, Executive Director

AGENDA ITEM: XI. Intergovernmental Review Process, C. Environmental Project Review, Item #2

CIRP Review

May 14, 2012

PROJECT: [12-16] FY2012 State Revolving Loan Funds Capitalization Application

SUBMITTED BY: Department of Environmental Quality

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: DEQ is applying for Federal funding assistance Capitalization Grants for Clean Water State Revolving Funds. Capitalization grants to States are provided to create State Revolving Loan Funds, giving a long term source of state funding for (1.) wastewater improvements at publicly-owned treatment facilities, and (2.) Nonpoint source water quality management activities included in state plans pursuant to Section 319.

PROJECT SENT FOR REVIEW TO: Planning Commission members, not individual localities.

STAFF COMMENT: The staff has reviewed the appropriate plans (Land Use, Water Quality Management, Regional Solid Waste Management, Vision 2020, and the Economic Development plans) and finds that this project does not conflict with the plans or regional policies and goals.



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

TDD (804) 698-4021

www.deq.virginia.gov

Douglas W. Domenech
Secretary of Natural Resources

David K. Paylor
Director

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

MEMORANDUM:

TO: Planning District Commissions

FROM: Patty W. Walsh
Grants Administrative Manager

DATE: May 10, 2012

SUBJECT: Intergovernmental Review

Enclosed is a Department of Environmental Quality grant application for Federal funding assistance being submitted to you for intergovernmental review pursuant to Executive Order 12372.

[12-16] – FY2012 State Revolving Loan Funds Capitalization Application

The intergovernmental review process requires that comments on the above application be received by June 9, 2012. If comments are not received before then, we will assume that you have elected to waive comment. Additional information regarding the enclosed application may be provided upon request. If you require additional time to provide comments, please inform in writing prior to that date.

Thank you for your assistance. You may contact me at (804) 698-4173 or Patty.Walsh@deq.virginia.gov with any questions.

Patty Walsh

NEW RIVER VALLEY PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION

6580 Valley Center Drive, Suite 124
Radford, Virginia 24141

Phone: (540) 639-9313

Fax: (540) 831-6093

E-Mail: nrvpdc@nrvpdc.org

Website: www.nrvpdc.org



Kevin R. Byrd, AICP
Executive Director

COMMONWEALTH INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW MEMORANDUM

TO: Planning Commission Members

FROM: Kevin R. Byrd, Executive Director

AGENDA ITEM: XI. Intergovernmental Review Process, C. Environmental Project Review, Item #3

CIRP Review

May 14, 2012

PROJECT: **Radford Facility Army Ammunition Plant Nitrocellulose Plant
ENV051412-RAAP**

SUBMITTED BY: **EEE Consulting, Inc. /Radford Army Ammunition Plant**

PROJECT
DESCRIPTION: EEE Consulting, Inc, on behalf of RAAP, is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) as required for federal actions. This office has received from EEE Consulting, Inc., a summary report from the preliminary environmental review for the above referenced project.

PROJECT SENT
FOR REVIEW TO: Steve Sandy, Montgomery County

COMMENTS: As of this date no comments have been received from Montgomery County.

STAFF
COMMENT: The staff has reviewed the appropriate plans (Land Use, Water Quality Management, Regional Solid Waste Management, Vision 2020, and the Economic Development plans) and finds that this project does not conflict with the plans or regional policies and goals.

Counties:
Floyd, Giles, Montgomery, Pulaski

Towns:
Blacksburg, Christiansburg, Floyd
Pulaski, Narrows, Pearisburg, Rich Creek

Universities:
Radford University
Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University

City:
Radford



EEE Consulting, Inc.

Environmental, Engineering and Educational Solutions

RECEIVED

MAY 14 2012

NRVPDC

May 10, 2012

Mr. Kevin Byrd
Executive Director
New River Valley Planning District Commission
6580 Valley Center Drive
Suite 124
Radford, Virginia 24141

Re: Radford Facility Army Ammunition Plant Nitrocellulose Plant
Radford, Virginia

Dear Mr. Byrd:

The U.S. Army has initiated plans for a new development project at the Radford Facility Army Ammunition Plant (RFAAP). Because funding for the proposed project relies on federal funding, it must comply with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA). The proposed project site is depicted on the attached quadrangle map, aerial photograph, and preliminary site plan. We request your review and comment on the proposed project site, along with any information about other County projects or properties in the vicinity.

The project involves constructing a new nitrocellulose plant to replace the existing facility at RFAAP as part of the facility modernization program. The proposed plant would consist of two buildings, a cutter building and a process building. The process building would include three sections – nitration, stabilization and blending, and dewatering and pack-out). The proposed development also includes a tank farm for the acids coming into and out of the process area. Nitrogen oxide (NO_x) emissions would be controlled using a scrubber followed by Selective Catalytic Reduction (SCR).

If you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at (804) 442-3330 extension 218 or at ssmizik@eee-consulting.com.

Sincerely,

Scott Smizik, AICP
Project Manager

Enclosures

cc: Bob Winstead, BAE Systems Ordnance Systems, Inc.

NEW RIVER VALLEY PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION
AGENDA

June 28, 2012

6:00 p.m.—New River Valley Business Center, Fairlawn

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. CONSENT AGENDA
 - A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR MAY
 - B. APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORTS FOR MAY
- III. CHAIR'S REPORT
- IV. PUBLIC ADDRESS
- V. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE'S REPORT
- VI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT (enclosed)
- VII. OLD BUSINESS
- VIII. NEW BUSINESS
 - A. Industrial Hemp
 - Presentation: Mr. Jim Politis
 - Resolution for Consideration
 - B. Commission Officers for FY13
 - C. Proposed Budget for FY 13 (enclosed)
 - Commission Action Needed
 - D. New River Valley Bikeway, Walkway, Blueway Plan
 - Resolution for Consideration
 - E. Amendment to Personnel Policy 14.02, Individual Position Classification Description
 - Amending Information System Manager to Communications Manager
 - F. Blacksburg, Christiansburg, Montgomery County Area MPO Overview
 - Presentation: Kevin Byrd
- IX. OTHER BUSINESS
- X. REVIEW OF MUTUAL CONCERNS AND COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS
- XI. COMMONWEALTH INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS
 - A. Projects (Signed-off by the staff)
 - 1. NRV Development Corporation Rural Business Enterprise Grant Application
 - B. Regular Project Review
 - None
 - C. Environmental Project Review
 - None

New River Valley Planning District Commission
Treasurer's Report
Expenditures as of May 31, 2012

Expense Category	Budget	Previous Total	May Expenditures	YTD Expenditures	Budget Balance	% Budget Expended
Salaries	763,211.00	679,101.93	62,952.77	742,054.70	21,156.30	97.23%
Fringe Benefits	261,184.00	238,067.82	22,635.16	260,702.98	481.02	99.82%
Travel	71,038.00	38,021.09	2,206.22	40,227.31	30,810.69	56.63%
Office Space	21,544.00	17,953.00	1,795.30	19,748.30	1,795.70	91.66%
Telephone	7,399.00	5,698.76	619.39	6,318.15	1,080.85	85.39%
Office Supplies	43,024.00	40,742.98	791.85	41,534.83	1,489.17	96.54%
Postage	1,183.00	904.15	32.60	936.75	246.25	79.18%
Printing	250.00	-	-	-	250.00	0.00%
Copies & Copier Maintenance	3,931.00	3,269.99	85.38	3,355.37	575.63	85.36%
Media Ad	10,460.00	7,082.45	614.55	7,697.00	2,763.00	73.59%
Equipment Rent	1,500.00	1,232.40	123.24	1,355.64	144.36	90.38%
Vehicle Fuel	2,200.00	1,794.59	232.94	2,027.53	172.47	92.16%
Dues	3,890.00	1,190.00	-	1,190.00	2,700.00	30.59%
Publications	16.00	16.00	-	16.00	-	100.00%
Training	875.00	400.00	-	400.00	475.00	45.71%
Insurance	1,000.00	-	-	-	1,000.00	0.00%
Meeting Expense	20,795.00	18,887.94	402.33	19,290.27	1,504.73	92.76%
Capital Outlay	26,402.00	2,318.55	-	2,318.55	24,083.45	8.78%
Contractual Services	623,168.00	398,908.74	33,375.02	432,283.76	190,884.24	69.37%
Audit Fee	2,500.00	2,500.00	-	2,500.00	-	100.00%
Miscellaneous	59,102.00	19,610.47	348.58	19,959.05	39,142.95	33.77%
Uncollectible Receivable	-	2,660.63	-	2,660.63	(2,660.63)	0.00%
M & G Costs	91,647.00	68,537.99	7,495.10	76,033.09	15,613.91	82.96%
Common Costs	156,196.00	83,902.89	6,180.46	90,083.35	66,112.65	57.67%
	2,172,515.00	1,632,802.37	139,890.89	1,772,693.26	399,821.74	81.60%

NEW RIVER VALLEY PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION

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Website: www.nrvpdc.org



Kevin R. Byrd, AICP
Executive Director

June 28, 2012

Executive Director's Report

Economic Development:

- Made strides toward a 4 region grant application to support advanced manufacturing cluster from Lynchburg to Washington County. The deadline (45 days) and amount of match caused the group to not submit this year. Will continue working with public and private sector partners to develop an application next year. Likely partners are PDCs, Workforce Investment Boards, Community Colleges, Virginia Tech and Private Companies with transportation equipment and power systems products. Emphasis on developing career pathways.
- New "consumer version" of CEDS is in packet. Provides glossy overview of full report.

Transportation:

- The Regional Transit Coordinating Council will hold their first meeting July 17. A memo inviting partners to attend the meeting is being released this week.

Regional:

- New River Valley Broadband project featured on WDBJ 7 on June 11. Link to story and video <http://www.wdbj7.com/news/wdbj7-fiber-optic-cable-running-through-new-river-valley-20120611,0,6387831.story>
- City of Radford is in the process of joining the New River Valley Network Wireless Authority to take advantage of lower internet rates for school system and government facilities.
- The Wireless Authority will hold a broadband visioning meeting July 24 at 9:00-11:00 to discuss next steps once middle mile fiber is installed. Middle mile fiber is over 50% complete.
- Livability Initiative: June Project Update is attached to this report.
- Continuing to discuss agriculture survey partnership with Farm Bureaus in the region.
- Invited to participate in a meeting on June 13 at the White House on regional innovation in rural areas. Were one of two people selected, among the 30 regions invited, to give a presentation on the public engagement process and innovative approaches with the NRV Livability Initiative.

PDC:

- Focusing attention on our GIS services and how to position our resources to better support local governments and partner agencies. Discussing with the Health District how we can support their well/septic mapping needs which currently do not exist.

VAPDC:

- Summer Conference is scheduled for July 26-28 in Virginia Beach.
- Currently leading a committee to create a technical training session two times per year with the purpose of developing staff skills and resources. Will be an opportunity to work with state agencies on approaches to new programs such as the recent stormwater regulations.



Courtesy of Virginia Tech & Jim Stroup

NEW RIVER VALLEY ECONOMIC INDICATORS

2011 UNEMPLOYMENT RATES

Jurisdiction	Percent
Floyd County	6.4%
Giles County	7.0%
Montgomery County	6.0%
Pulaski County	6.1%
City of Radford	7.0%
New River Valley	6.3%
Virginia	6.1%

Source: Virginia Workforce Connection.

PER CAPITA INCOME

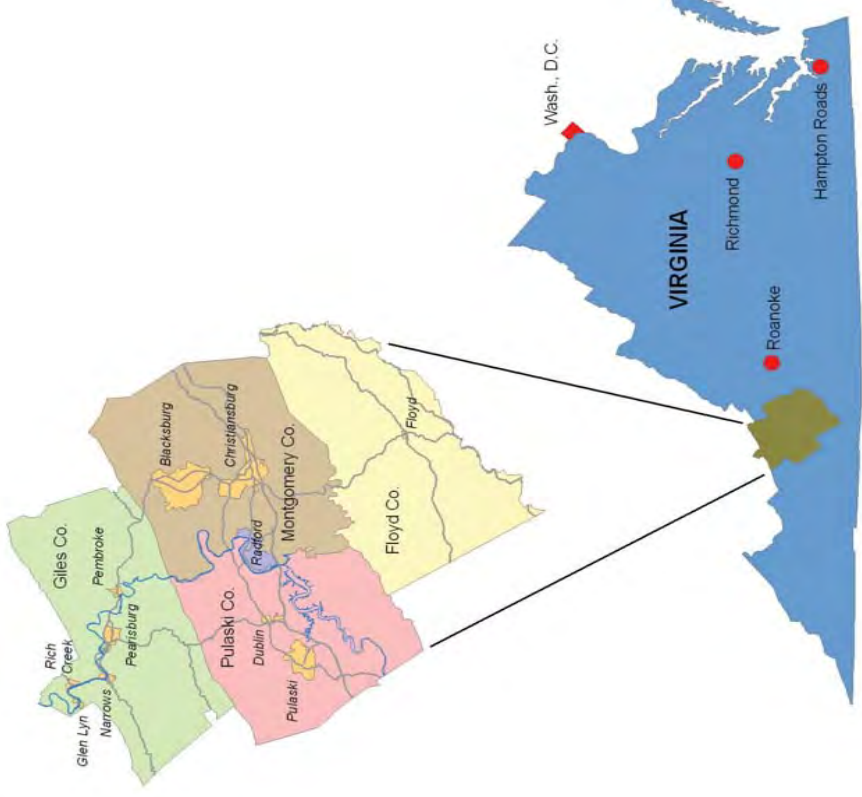
Jurisdiction	2006-2010	% of VA	Population
Floyd County	\$21,425	66.7%	15,030
Giles County	\$20,985	65.3%	17,205
Montgomery County	\$22,040	68.6%	92,527
Pulaski County	\$20,976	65.3%	34,963
City of Radford	\$16,496	51.3%	16,318
New River Valley	\$21,159	65.8%	176,043
Virginia	\$32,145	100.0%	7,841,754

Source: 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5 Year Estimates.

NEW RIVER VALLEY POPULATION PROJECTIONS

Year	Population
2020	183,208
2030	192,827

Source: Virginia Employment Commission, 2012 NRV Profile.



New River Valley Commerce Park Water and Sewer-Tank Bolting Ceremony



New River Valley Planning District Commission
6580 Valley Center Drive, Suite 124
Radford, Virginia 24141
(p)540.639.9313
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www.nrvpdc.org



Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy



New River Valley Community Regional Broadband Network

WHAT IS THE CEDS?

WHY DOES THE NEW RIVER VALLEY NEED ONE?

CEDS is an acronym for Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy. A CEDS is a strategy document which reflects local economic development needs and priorities and recognizes the value of a regional approach to economic development. A CEDS is required to qualify for funding assistance from the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration (EDA) and it is updated annually.

The document contains an economic overview of the New River Valley; including a brief history, current trends, and up-to-date data on the region. Goals and objectives are designated based on this evaluation and projects are identified by a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee, made up of a majority of private sector participants as well as public sector representatives. Projects included in the CEDS demonstrate priorities in the region. Some familiar projects with a portion of EDA funding are Virginia Tech's Corporate Research Center, NRV Commerce Park Water and Sewer project, and the Carilion Giles Memorial Hospital.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

(Sample goals and objectives listed below)

PEOPLE

The New River Valley sees its people as its greatest resource for economic sustainability. We recognize that in order for our area to be prosperous, our people must have the tools, resources, and education necessary to reach their full potential as citizens, workers and leaders.

- Goal:** Expand existing and explore new opportunities for business training and professional development programs.
- Objective:** Implement an integrated workforce curriculum for 9th through 12th grades to prepare students for technical careers that will support the recruitment of high technology, bio-technology and/or nano-technology industries to the New River Valley.

BUSINESS/INDUSTRY AND EMPLOYMENT

The New River Valley has a diverse economic base, from emerging high technology industries to traditional family farms, all of which need to be supported and developed so that they can continue to provide high quality jobs and regional investment.

- Goal:** Organize creative financing programs and improve entrepreneurs' access to capital.
- Objective:** Seek firms with an international focus to utilize the strategic assets of the New River Valley International Airport, Foreign Trade Zone and Commerce Park.

NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

The New River Valley is an attractive and desirable place to live, work, and visit.

- Goal:** Develop tourism opportunities in the New River Valley.
- Objective:** Identify, develop, and package the region's inventory of historical assets and arts and cultural activities, natural features, and events to support external marketing.

PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

The New River Valley has complete and quality infrastructure to support the goals, needs, and aspirations of the regional community.

- Goal:** Improve the capacity, condition, connectivity and efficiency of inter- and intra-regional transportation systems.
- Objective:** Seek to expand public transportation services and private transportation providers.

TOP 12 PROJECTS

Area		Description	Total Funding	Responsible Agency	Funded, Y/N?
Giles County	Giles County Multi-tenant Business Facility A facility located in the Wheatland Eco Park.		\$2,000,000	Giles County Industrial Development Authority	N
NRV	NRV Community Regional Broadband Network Interconnect government facilities, schools, industrial parks and businesses so that residents may be able to have advanced telecommunication services.		\$11,200,000	New River Valley Wireless Authority	Y
Blacksburg	Virginia Tech Corporate Research Center (CRC), Phase II Construction of support infrastructure for Phase II of Virginia Tech's CRC.		\$3,960,000	Virginia Tech Foundation	Y
NRV	New River Valley Development Revolving Loan Fund Fund to provide assistance for business and non-profit development.		\$50,000	New River Valley Development Corporation	Y
NRV	Implementing Project NEEMO (Nanomaterials for Energy, Environmental and Medical Operations) To further the commercialization of nanotech research and development focusing on smaller specialty materials companies.		\$21,000,000	Virginia's First Regional Industrial Facility Authority-Participation Committee	N
Giles County	Hoges Chapel Water Tank Replacement Project Replacement of 40 year old water tank and 23,000 feet of 10 inch water line.		\$2,600,000	Giles County	N
NRV	Broadband Infrastructure Deploy last mile fiber.		\$8,000,000	New River Valley Wireless Authority	N
NRV	New River Valley Commerce Park-Water and Sewer Project To provide water and sewer and support other economic development.		\$6,000,000	Virginia's First	Y
Christiansburg	Christiansburg Institute Cultural Experience, Cultural Learning Curriculum, Oral History, and Site preservation.		\$3,000,000	Christiansburg Institute	N
NRV	Regional Conference/Civic Center Determine feasibility and appropriate site, engineering and architectural plans for regional conference center.		\$15,000,000	Virginia's First and Partners	N
NRV	Develop a Career Pathways Task Force Investigate emerging sectors in the economy, develop multi-stage career development pathways with a range of entry/training and exit/career points to match those emerging employment sectors, and integrate the targeted career pathways approach within the public and post-secondary educational institutions.			New River /Mount Rogers Workforce Investment Board, Education Providers	N
NRV	Small Business Development (Green/Nano/Bio) Program Develop educational program through the community college and university that support the development and/or recruitment of small businesses/industries in the green, nano and/or bio technology fields.		\$1,000,000	Universities, NRCC, School Divisions	N



NRV Livability Initiative Project Update June 2012

A. Working Groups Update:

The Housing, Energy, Natural Resources, Community Health, Arts and Culture, and Transportation working groups have all met and are currently working to identify strategies based on goals and priority themes identified through the process to date. These working groups will work through the remainder of the summer to identify different and viable approaches to addressing needs/issues identified by both the working group and through citizen outreach in Phase One of the planning process.

B. Outreach and Citizen Feedback Update:

BUILT

We have launched the BUILT game and are currently bringing it to communities throughout the NRV. This has proven to be a great and FUN opportunity to get community groups involved in the Livability Initiative planning process. It has also enabled citizens to come together and talk about the things that are most important to them when it comes to their neighborhoods and communities. So far we have held games in Wolf Creek- Giles, Floyd, Blacksburg, and Christiansburg, and have a few more scheduled in Eastern Montgomery, Floyd and Pulaski.

Carol Davis, our Outreach Coordinator is currently working to set up events in the New River Valley. Our goal is to hold 2-3 events in each County during June and through mid-July. Please contact her at cdavis@nrvpdc.org, 540-639-9313 ext. 222 if you would like to help set up an event in your locality.

C. Livability Report

This summer, staff is working along with an intern, to compile a concise summary report of major issues and trends in the New River Valley region. The summary will be based on a combination of working group efforts, citizen input, and data analysis from Phase One of the Livability Initiative planning process. A draft of the report will be available for review at the end of August.

Need to Reassess the U S Market Opportunity for Industrial Hemp



Prepared by: Virginia Tech Business Technology Center

**For: Montgomery County Board of Supervisors
Chairman James D Politis**

May 2011

NEED TO REASSESS THE U S MARKET OPPORTUNITY FOR INDUSTRIAL HEMP

In 2000, the USDA reviewed the potential market opportunity for industrial hemp in the United States. With the re-introduction of industrial hemp production in Canada in 1998 and the development of new markets for industrial hemp globally, a new review of the opportunity for industrial hemp production in the U S is needed. This new study should assess both the success of and the lessons learned from the maturing Canadian industry; and the associated regulatory system to monitor production. It should also assess the opportunities associated with the developing world market for industrial hemp. Such a study will, therefore, need to include agencies beyond the USDA.

This paper summarizes the advantages and concerns associated with industrial hemp production in the U S as well as changes within the hemp industry over the past decade that support the need for a reassessment of the opportunity associated with U S hemp production.

CURRENT STATUS OF HEMP IN THE U S

Industrial hemp has been grown for millennia throughout the world. In the Western Hemisphere, it is well suited for cultivation in all regions of the U S, as well as southern Canada, Latin America, and significant regions of South America. It will also grow in Australia; most regions of Europe; the mid- and southern regions of Asia; and large regions of northern, southern and eastern Africa. The primary issue with cultivating industrial hemp in the U S is that it is considered by the U S Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) to be indistinguishable in appearance from marijuana. This is not a universal conclusion; and over 30 industrial countries do distinguish between industrial hemp and marijuana, and allow the production of industrial hemp. Since the early 1990s, both the European Union and Canada have reestablished industrial hemp production.

The distinction between hemp and marijuana is typically made on the content of THC (tetrahydrocannabinol), which was first isolated in 1964:

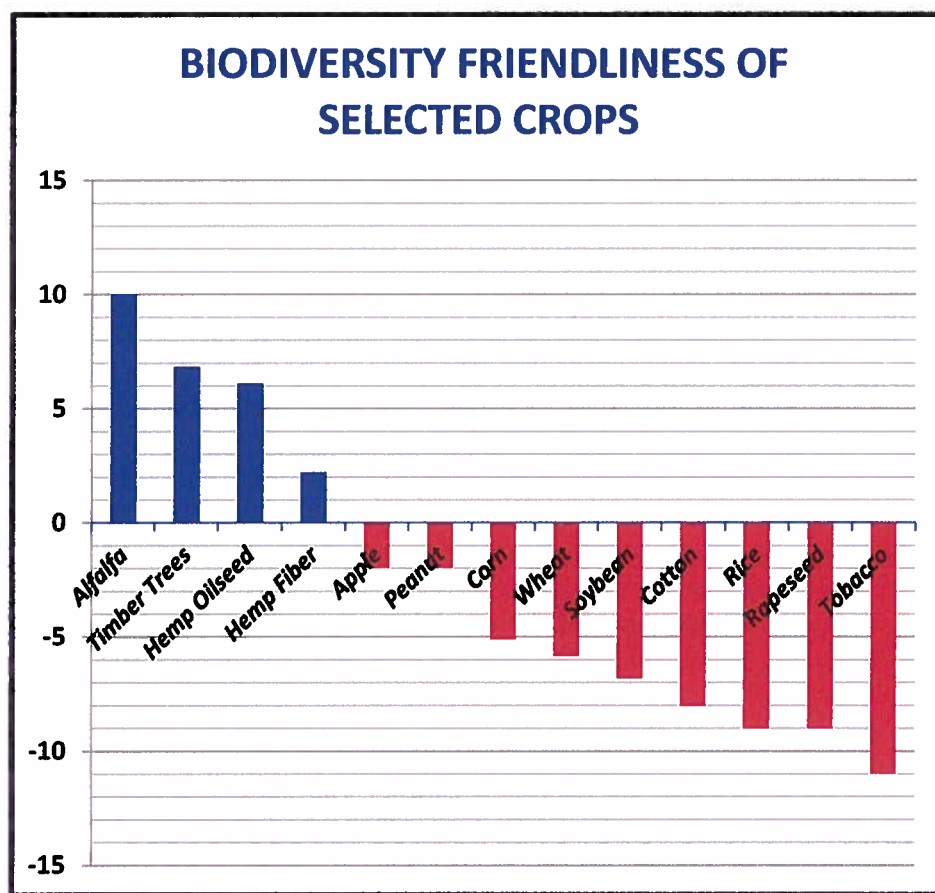
- A level of about 1% THC is considered the threshold for a psychoactive effect in humans
- Industrial hemp is associated with those cultivars containing less than 0.3% THC
- Marijuana cultivars typically contain 3-15% THC

In addition, growing industrial hemp and marijuana in the same field will detrimentally affect the yield of both crops. Nevertheless, current DEA policy considers industrial hemp and marijuana to be indistinguishable. Furthermore, the DEA is adamantly opposed to industrial hemp cultivation in the U S. The USDA has been mostly silent on this issue, while the American Farm Bureau changed its position to supporting research and domestic cultivation of industrial hemp in 1999.

U S MARKET OPPORTUNITY FOR HEMP

Hemp is a very cost effective and environmentally friendly agricultural crop. Hemp requires little or no pesticides as it is naturally pest resistant. Hemp is also a natural herbicide, known for its ability to smother weeds when grown at a density suitable for producing high-quality bast fiber. Its deep root system is also very beneficial in preventing erosion, cleaning the ground, providing a disease break, and helping the soil structure by aerating the soil for future crops when it is grown in rotation with other crops. Finally, it absorbs carbon dioxide five (5) times more efficiently than the same acreage of forest.

Hemp is also a biodiversity friendly crop when compared to corn and soybeans, as shown in the figure below.



Source: S. D. Montford (1996) and E. Small (1997)

Industrial hemp production has experienced a global “renaissance” in the past 1-2 decades. This has been largely due to increased demand for biodegradable products; and the rapidly increasing global demand for annual renewable fiber and high quality health food products.

The industrial hemp market is typically divided into fiber production and seed production. China produces about 40% of the world's fiber supply; and about 80% of the world's seed supply. China recently announced plans to increase its hemp production in order to provide a major new source of fiber for the textile industry. This would reduce their textile industry's dependence on cotton; and in the process, free large areas of cotton-growing land for food production needed to support China's population. The objective is to increase China's current 50,000 acres of hemp production to 1+ million acres. However, for this effort to succeed, new technology is needed to remove the lignin that binds hemp fibers and prevents them from being spun.

The primary markets for European produced hemp are:

- Specialty pulp for cigarette paper, bank notes and similar applications that require its high tear strength and high wet strength
- Developing composite materials market for automotive applications
- Developing construction and thermal insulation applications

Hemp paper costs approximately six times that of wood pulp paper because of the limited supply of hemp; outdated, high-cost processing equipment; and the additional processing steps required to separate hemp pulp from hurds. The fact that hemp is only harvested once a year also adds to its costs as a raw material for paper. Therefore, specialty pulp is only used in applications that require its high tear and wet strength properties. Whether such markets could be developed in North America is questionable.

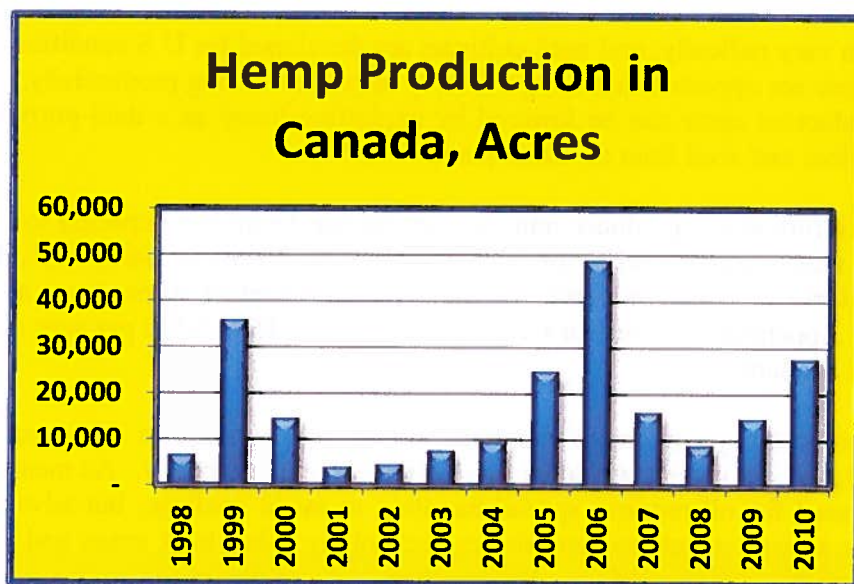
Hemp was introduced in automotive composites in Europe in 1996. It provides material that is easy to handle, has low environmental life cycle impact, and offers superior moisture diffusion and superior sound proofing when compared to fiberglass composites. Even though its cost is higher than fiberglass, about 19,000 tons of hemp were used within the German automotive industry in 2005, mainly as press-molded, injection-molded and press flow-molded parts. Virtually all European car makers and their suppliers are now using these materials for reinforced door panels, passenger rear decks, truck linings and pillars. This market is expected to continue to develop; and the possibility of a similar market development in North America is very good since most automotive supplier companies are global. In 1999-2000, 87% of European grown industrial hemp was used for specialty pulp and 6% was used for automotive composites. By 2003, this had shifted to 70-80% for specialty pulp and 15-20% for automotive composites.

Hemp hurds, the short fiber inner woody core of the hemp plant, make excellent animal bedding material, especially for horses that are allergic to straw. The hurds can absorb up to five (5) times their weight in moisture; this is about 50% higher than wood shavings. They also compost easily. Hemp processors in Europe depend on the sale of hurds to maintain their company profitability. A similar market could be developed in North America; as in Europe, its development may be essential to industry profitability.

Hemp seeds and hemp oil are also a potentially valuable market opportunity. The seeds have exceptional nutritional value. They are second only to soybeans as a source of complete vegetable protein; and hemp seeds contain all 8 essential amino acids in the correct proportions humans require. Hemp seeds also contain 29-34% oil by weight. Hemp seed oil is approximately 80% polyunsaturated essential fatty acids. Furthermore, the proportion of these

oils in hemp seeds closely matches the ratios most beneficial to human nutrition. Therefore, seeds offer another market opportunity for industrial hemp. There is one issue, however: this high percentage of polyunsaturated fats also makes hemp seed oil somewhat unstable and subject to fairly rapid rancidity, unless preserved or processed appropriately. Because of its fat components, hemp oil should not be used for frying.

In 1998, Canada re-established industrial hemp production. It often takes 10-15 years for a new agricultural industry to mature; and over the past 10+ years Canadian production has suffered growing pains, as shown in the figure below. But, it is now considered to be maturing; and with no U S production, it is expected to become a major supplier for U S hemp products.



Currently, the Canadian hemp market uses seeds from Europe. However, for optimal yield and to meet the characteristics of developing hemp markets, new cultivars appropriate for the North America climate and market need to be developed. This is in addition to establishing a cost-effective processing infrastructure for the industry in North America.

HEMP PRODUCTION ECONOMICS

There are two potentially viable approaches to growing hemp commercially: growing hemp for fiber or for seed. If hemp is grown for fiber, it is sown very densely (a seed rate of 300-380 lbs/acre is standard). Since hemp grows quickly, at this density it can effectively out compete with weeds; and herbicides are not needed. If hemp is grown for seed and/or oil, it is grown much less densely (typically 55-80 lbs/acre); this is not as effective at suppressing weeds, so herbicides will be required. Hemp seed can be drilled or broadcast, though drilling is recommended for uniformity. A standard grain drill or modified alfalfa seeder can be used for sowing.

Pesticides are generally considered unnecessary in the cultivation of hemp; however, hemp does have significant nutrient demands. Once the seeds are planted, no further husbandry is required until harvest, thus, minimizing labor costs and energy consumption. Irrigation, however, is required if precipitation is less than 8 inches over the course of the growing period.

Currently, one of the most significant costs of growing hemp for fiber is the cost of seeds because there are no domestic sources that ensure seed strains that meet the generally accepted THC level of <0.3%. Not only are the transportation costs high (over half of the seed cost); but certified seed demands a substantial premium. As a result, certified seed currently cost \$62 -\$79 per acre.

Hemp yields can vary radically; and until cultivars are developed for U S conditions, it can only be stated that there are opportunities to significantly improve existing productivity. Experts also believe that production costs can be lowered by exploiting hemp as a dual-purpose crop; i.e., providing both fiber and seed from the same plant.

From available information, producer returns from raising hemp are expected to be similar to corn but better than soybeans raised on high productivity farmland: \$600 - \$1,000 per acre. Using data available from the University of Illinois Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics (see Appendix A), operator return is estimated at \$50 - \$250 per acre once domestic seed sources are available.

Although flax processing equipment has been shown to be adequate for processing hemp, specifically designed equipment would be more effective and less costly. As mentioned earlier, pressing hemp seed for oil requires special handling to avoid spoilage; but advanced seed oil companies have already developed proprietary technology using inert gases and vacuums that provide oil products with a shelf life of over one year.

REGULATORY ISSUES

The most critical issue associated with hemp production is the possibility it could allow covert growing of marijuana. Indeed, this is the reason hemp cultivation was made illegal in North America in the mid 20th century. It is now well documented that hemp will contaminate marijuana plants and significantly lower their THC content; therefore, marijuana growers generally avoid hemp fields. In addition, hemp is harvested much earlier than field grown marijuana, making it detrimental for the two plants to share fields. Nevertheless, U S law enforcement authorities do not believe they can differentiate between hemp and marijuana grown in fields. In response to this concern, Canada and European Union countries have developed stringent laws and regulatory procedures to oversee hemp production that ensures that only low THC plant varieties are approved for agricultural production. U S law enforcement authorities cite the resulting costs associated with regulating the industry as another reason for prohibiting hemp production in the U S. Conversely, proponents point to the burgeoning international industry as an opportunity for U S farmers.

Canada can provide a benchmark for what a U S regulatory system would require. Health Canada is the agency with primary responsibility for overseeing the regulatory program that was developed for industrial hemp production by their Office of Controlled Substances. The Industrial Hemp Regulations (IHR) were developed in 1998 as part of Canada's Controlled Drugs and Substances Act (CDSA) to allow for strict regulation of industrial hemp production and make a clear distinction between industrial hemp and other forms of *Cannabis*. These regulations and procedures build on those developed within the European Union in the 1990s. The following are included in the regulations:

- Importers and exporters of industrial hemp, in the form of seed or viable grain, need to be licensed; and in addition to holding a license, they are also required to obtain a permit for each shipment
- The importer must ensure that shipments of viable grain are accompanied by foreign certification; a list of countries having equivalent controls on the production of viable grain is maintained and only grain from these countries can be imported
- Seed growers are restricted to minimum plots of one acre and are required to demonstrate current membership in the Canadian Seed Growers Association; they are also required to state the number of acres grown in the previous two years as part of their license application
- Plant breeders must be registered with the Canadian Seed Growers Association and may only cultivate industrial hemp in accordance with stated regulations
- Growers of fiber or viable grain need a license before they can purchase seeds or cultivate industrial hemp; they must provide the number of acres grown in the previous two years as part of their license application, which must also provide Global Positioning System coordinates for cultivated sites and an accompanying map showing the site locations in terms of their legal descriptions, a statement that the applicant is the owner of the land or has rights to use the land, and the address where records required by the regulations will be maintained
- Only pedigreed seeds of approved varieties may be planted
- Licenses and audit trails are required for processing activities such as pressing seeds into oil; only a person resident in Canada can maintain these records
- To obtain any license – be it for importation, exportation, production or sale of industrial hemp – applicants are required to produce a police security check
- Authorizations are required for transportation when products leave the control of a license holder or for testing
- No person is allowed to advertize that a product or a derivative is psychoactive

- Every person legally cultivating industrial hemp must submit samples of their crop to a licensed and accredited laboratory to ensure that the THC level is at or below 0.3%

Producers must also ensure that all equipment used to sow or harvest hemp is thoroughly cleaned after each use to avoid the inadvertent dissemination of industrial hemp. In addition, at the time of harvesting, all branches, leaves and flowering heads of the plant must be destroyed in a manner that eliminates their use for any purpose not granted to the license holder. Storage of hemp must be done in a locked container or locked location to which only authorized persons have access. Finally, cultivation of industrial hemp within one kilometer of any school grounds or any other public place frequented by persons under the age of 18 is prohibited.

The Royal Mounted Canadian Police believe that, under these regulations, industrial hemp production in Canada has not contributed to a rise in marijuana activity or arrests.

If the U S were to adopt similar regulations, one concern is the associated cost, including required testing. Health Canada personnel have not published annual cost data for maintaining their regulatory program. However, it is evident from the number of people, laboratories and hours dedicated to enforcing the regulations that their program requires significant financial commitment. The Minnesota Department of Agriculture has estimated it would require about \$600,000 annually to provide for basic industrial hemp regulation and THC testing in their state. These costs do not include any impact the regulations would have on law enforcement activities.

***This report was prepared with the assistance of the
Virginia Tech Business Technology Center.***

APPENDIX A

Corn and Soybean Returns for 2008, 2009P, and 2010P

Central Illinois – High Productivity Farmland

Source: University of Illinois Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics

	Corn			Soybeans		
	2008	2009P	2010P	2008	2009P	2010P
Yield/ Acre	199	200	192	50	51	55
Price /Bushel	\$4.5	\$3.25	\$3.75	\$10.15	\$9.40	\$10.00
Crop Revenue	\$806	\$650	\$720	\$508	\$479	\$550
ACRE Revenue	0	25	0	0	0	0
Other Gov't Revenue	25	24	24	25	24	24
Crop Insurance Proceeds	22	20	0	25	4	0
Gross Revenues/Acre	\$853	\$719	\$744	\$558	\$507	\$574
Fertilizer	124	170	95	42	85	50
Pesticides	46	50	50	28	30	30
Seed	67	95	100	43	52.5	55
Drying & Storage	30	36	30	6	7	7
Crop Insurance	27	27	27	18	17	17
Total Direct Costs	\$294	\$378	\$302	\$137	\$192	\$159
Fuel and oil	22	20	17	19	18	17
Machine repair	17	18	18	14	14	14
Machine Depreciation	29	30	30	26	27	27
Other	14	16	16	11	11	11
Total Power Costs	\$82	\$84	\$81	\$70	\$70	\$69
Hired labor	11	11	11	10	10	10
Insurance	10	10	10	10	10	10
Interest (non-land)	14	18	20	13	17	19
Other	17	16	16	13	13	13
Total Overhead Costs	\$52	\$55	\$57	\$46	\$50	\$52
Operator & Land Return	\$425	\$202	\$304	\$305	\$196	\$294
Cash Rent	197	210	210	197	210	210
Operator Return/Acre	\$228	-\$8	\$94	\$108	-\$15	\$84

APPENDIX B
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Kevin R. Byrd, AICP
Executive Director

RESOLUTION OF ENORSEMENT Industrial Hemp Farming Act

WHEREAS, the industrial hemp industry has recently experienced a revitalization with worldwide hemp sales continuing to increase; and

WHEREAS, faltering agricultural; economics in a number of states have created pressure to investigate alternative crops, including industrial hemp; and

WHEREAS, industrial hemp's three raw materials – fiber, hurds, and seeds, can be used in more than 25,000 products, including textiles, rope, cellulose plastics, resin, particle board, paper products, shampoo, vitamins and oil; and

WHEREAS, the histories of the United States and Virginia are replete with examples of the utility of and dependence on industrial hemp, which was legally cultivated in Virginia and many other states until the late 1930's; and

WHEREAS, although industrial hemp is derived from the Cannabis Sativa plant, it is distinctive from its better known relative in that it contains less than one percent of the chemical responsible for its psychoactive properties; and

WHEREAS, under the current United States drug policy, all Cannabis varieties, including hemp, are considered Schedule 1 controlled substances under the Controlled Substance Act and as such the growing of industrial hemp is controlled and strictly regulated by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA); and

WHEREAS, the growing of industrial hemp in the United States has been allowed only by a federal permit issued by the DEA, and the conditions of such a permit are so restrictive as to make the experimental cultivation of hemp essentially impossible; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia General Assembly had urged the Federal government to revise the necessary regulations so as to permit the controlled experimental cultivation of industrial hemp in Virginia; and

WHEREAS, the National Farmers Union (NFU) has urged the President, Attorney General and Congress to direct the U.S. DEA to differentiate between industrial hemp and marijuana and adopt a

policy to allow American farmers to grow industrial hemp under State Law without requiring DEA licenses; and

WHEREAS, the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture supports revisions to the Federal rules and regulations authorizing commercial production of industrial hemp and has urged the DEA to develop and adopt an official definition of industrial hemp that comports with definitions currently used by Countries producing hemp; and

WHEREAS, the Industrial Hemp Farming Act (House Resolution 1831), has been introduced in Congress with the intention of removing Industrial Hemp as a Schedule 1 controlled substance under the Controlled Substance Act and Allowing the State Legislatures to license and regulate the commercial production of hemp as an industrial and agricultural commodity; and

WHEREAS, the NRVPDC hereby supports the adoption of the Industrial Hemp Farming Act by Congress in order to facilitate the commercial cultivation of industrial hemp by granting the states the necessary authority to license and regulate the production of hemp as an industrial and agricultural commodity; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the NRVPDC, that the NRVPDC hereby urges the 112th Congress to adopt the Industrial Hemp Farming Act and grant the States the authority to license and regulate the production of hemp as an industrial and agricultural commodity which in turn will open the market for farmers, businesses and entrepreneurs in the emerging and fast growing hemp industry.

Adopted June 28, 2012

Mike Patton, Vice-Chair

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Kevin R. Byrd, AICP
Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

To: Planning District Commissioners

From: Kevin R. Byrd, Executive Director

Date: June 20, 2012

Re: Proposed Budget, Fiscal Year 2013

The proposed budget for FY 2013 includes two spread sheets, Anticipated Revenue and a Proposed Budget expenditure spreadsheet. The proposed budget is balanced between revenues and expenditures. The FY13 budget was uniquely challenging due to the 24.5% increases associated with the Virginia Retirement System. Healthcare costs also increased approximately 4%. However, the anticipated revenue for next year is enough to meet the increased costs. Without the indirect cost plan the Commission implemented in FY2012 the expenditures for FY2013 would have proven too great to avoid reducing staff capacity while maintaining the same project deliverables, which would have been a difficult situation.

There is a lot more detail to the agency budget than appears on the enclosed spreadsheets. I remain available to provide greater detail or further explanation.

Counties:
Floyd, Giles, Montgomery, Pulaski

Towns:
Blacksburg, Christiansburg, Floyd
Pulaski, Narrows, Pearisburg, Rich Creek

Universities:
Radford University
Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University

City:
Radford

**New River Valley Planning District Commission
Anticipated Revenue Fiscal Year 2013**

Member Assessment	
Floyd County	\$18,567.50
Town of Floyd	\$531.25
Giles County	\$14,621.25
Pearisburg	\$3,482.50
Narrows	\$2,536.25
Rich Creek	\$967.50
Pulaski County	\$29,065.00
Town of Pulaski	\$11,357.50
Montgomery County	\$38,413.75
Blacksburg	\$42,258.75
Christiansburg	\$26,301.25
City of Radford	\$20,510.00
Radford University	\$3,750.00
Virginia Tech	\$11,016.25
Total Assessment	\$223,378.75
State Grants	
Dept of Housing and Community Devel	\$75,971.00
Dept of Transportation	\$58,000.00
Workforce Investment Act	\$576,007.00
State Total	\$709,978.00
Federal Grants	
EDA	\$70,000.00
ARC July 12-Dec 12	\$34,218.00
ARC Jan 13-June 13	\$34,218.00
Federal Total	\$138,436.00
Project Revenue	
Baskerville	\$28,246.00
Home	\$11,000.00
VDOT	See State Above
MPO	\$15,000.00
RideSolutions	\$24,680.00
Newbern T-21	\$3,000.00
TEMCI	\$712,496.00
Rich Creek T-21	\$9,500.00
Pulaski Co. Adult Day Care	\$7,000.00
Green Infrastructure	\$1,200.00
Energy Efficient Block Grant Admin	\$1,000.00
Jacksonville Ctr Grant Admin	\$6,000.00
Rocky Knob Grant Admin	\$5,000.00
NRV Livability Initiative	\$483,298.00
Virginia's 1st Grant Admin	\$7,000.00
EDA	See Federal Above
Wireless Authority Admin	\$5,000.00
Pulaski Co. Water/Sewer Admin	\$7,850.00
Commerce Park Staff Support	\$18,000.00
Floyd Innovation Ctr Grant Ad	\$13,400.00
WIA Fiscal Agent	\$60,000.00
Healthy NRV	\$76,495.00
Fair Acres Environmental Assessment	\$1,000.00
Pulaski Co Local Planning Assistance	\$10,000.00
Pearisburg Local Planning Assistance	\$10,000.00
Narrows Local Planning Assistance	\$7,000.00
Project Revenue Total	\$1,523,165.00
Indirect Costs (paid by projects)	
Common Costs	\$112,829.00
Management and General Costs	\$127,959.00
Indirect Total	\$240,788.00
Agency Total	\$2,594,957.75

New River Valley Planning District Commission

Proposed Budget FY 2013

	Housing Total	Transportation Total	Planning/Grant Admin Total	Workforce Total	Development Total	Other Total	Total Direct	Common	M&G	Total Agency
Salary	24,800	87,406	174,903	311,044	162,869	44,227	805,249	17,424	78,081	900,753
Fringe	10,135	33,174	62,132	122,469	65,654	18,041	311,605	7,183	28,110	346,897
Total Salaries & Fringe	34,935	120,580	237,034	433,513	228,524	62,268	1,116,853	24,607	106,191	1,247,651
Travel	3,745	7,290	4,557	40,000	11,763	150	67,505	-	6,043	73,548
Office Space	-	-	-	21,544	-	-	21,544	32,039	-	53,583
Telephone	-	-	-	6,000	-	-	6,000	4,000	-	10,000
Office Supplies	-	371	2,000	5,500	2,000	-	9,871	12,508	-	22,379
Postage	-	-	-	500	250	-	750	3,500	-	4,250
Printing	-	-	-	250	-	-	250	75	-	325
Copies & Copier Maintenance	-	-	-	1,600	-	-	1,600	4,000	-	5,600
Media Advertising	-	125	-	500	-	-	625	600	-	1,225
Equipment Rent - Copier	-	-	-	1,500	-	-	1,500	5,800	-	7,300
Equipment Maintenance - Vehicles/Copier	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,500	-	1,500
Dues	-	2,245	-	500	5,000	-	7,745	5,100	-	12,845
Training - Staff Development	-	-	-	500	875	-	1,375	-	150	1,525
Meeting Costs	-	233	1,500	-	1,000	-	2,733	200	-	2,933
Insurance	-	-	-	1,000	-	-	1,000	5,300	400	6,700
Publications	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,000	-	1,000
Equipment / Vehicle	-	-	-	5,000	-	-	5,000	-	-	5,000
Contractual Service	-	796,175	201,200	1,000	-	67,518	1,065,893	5,100	-	1,070,993
Audit Fee	-	-	-	2,100	-	-	2,100	5,000	-	7,100
Miscellaneous	-	-	-	55,000	2,000	-	57,000	2,500	-	59,500
Total Non-Personnel Costs	3,745	806,439	209,257	142,494	22,888	67,668	1,252,491	88,222	6,593	1,347,306
Total Personnel & Non-Personnel	38,680	927,019	446,291	576,007	251,412	129,936	2,369,344	112,829	112,784	2,594,957
Common Costs	4,992	17,232	33,873	-	32,656	8,898	97,651	-	15,175	112,826
M&G Costs	6,542	22,580	44,385	-	42,793	11,659	127,959	-	127,959	-
Total Program Costs	50,214	966,831	524,549	576,007	326,861	150,493	2,594,954	-	-	-

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Kevin R. Byrd, AICP
Executive Director

RESOLUTION OF ENORSEMENT

2011 New River Valley Bikeway, Walkway, Blueway Plan

WHEREAS, the New River Valley Planning District Commission reviewed the Regional Bikeway, Walkway, Blueway Plan at a regularly scheduled meeting on May 24, 2012; and

WHEREAS, this study was completed with the input of each local government and was guided by a regional Bikeway/Walkway Committee; and

WHEREAS, the information within the plan accurately reflects existing facilities and access points throughout the region; and

WHEREAS, the Commission supports the development of a multimodal transportation system that provides connections between people, destinations and communities; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Commission endorses the 2011 New River Valley Bikeway, Walkway, Blueway Plan;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, this resolution is included within the regional plan to affirm Commission support to the public, state, and federal partners.

Adopted June 28, 2011

Mike Patton, Vice-Chair

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Kevin R. Byrd, AICP
Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

To: Planning District Commissioners

From: Kevin R. Byrd, Executive Director

Date: June 20, 2012

Re: Amendment to Personnel Policy 14.02, Individual Position Description Classification

Trends in workload over the past several years indicate a revision is necessary for a position description to more accurately reflect current duties and expectations. Per Commission Personnel Policy 11.05, "The Commission may amend these Personnel Rules and Regulations upon majority vote of the Commission in a regular meeting with an established quorum, provided that such proposed amendments are sent to each Commissioner five (5) days prior to the meeting."

Attached is the current position description for Information Systems Manager along with a proposed position description of Communications Manager. The proposed Communications Manager position will replace the position of Information Systems Manager.

The proposed position description was reviewed by the Director of Finance and Personnel, along with the staff member in the Information Systems Manager position.

Counties:
Floyd, Giles, Montgomery, Pulaski

Towns:
Blacksburg, Christiansburg, Floyd
Pulaski, Narrows, Pearisburg, Rich Creek

Universities:
Radford University
Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University

City:
Radford

INFORMATION SYSTEMS MANAGER

General Statement of Duties

An employee in this position performs specialized administrative work of a responsible nature, requiring interpretations and explanations of established policies of the Commission.

Distinguishing Features of Classification

An employee in this class makes decisions, determinations, and interpretations which are based on a knowledge of agency-wide functions, procedures, and standards. Characteristically, the Information Systems Manager prepares newsletters and informational reports; responds to information requests; maintains the Commission's computer network, web pages, and other electronic information; determines the proper distribution of correspondence and other requests calling for professional or technical information to the appropriate staff members.

Examples of Work

Prepares newsletters and informational reports; responds to requests for statistical information; maintains the Commission's computer network, web pages, and other electronic information; determines the proper distribution of correspondence and other requests calling for professional or technical information to the appropriate staff members. Acts as receptionist; answers phones; and provides general office assistance. Prepares letters, memoranda, reports and other materials; maintains Commonwealth Intergovernmental Projects; proofreads typewritten materials; and operates office machines.

Required Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities

Knowledge of office terminology, procedures, and equipment and of business arithmetic and English; ability to understand and follow simple oral and written directions; ability to get along well with others; ability to write legibly; clerical aptitude; mental alertness; tact and courtesy; good physical condition.

Desirable Experience and Training

Completion of high school; advanced education in business, computer systems, or information technology desirable; or any equivalent combination of experience and training which provides the required knowledge, skills, and abilities.

COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER

General Statement of Duties

An employee in this position performs specialized duties of a responsible nature, requiring interpretations and explanations of projects and programs of the Commission.

Distinguishing Features of Classification

An employee in this position performs communication tasks which are based on knowledge of agency-wide functions, procedures, and standards. Characteristically, the Communications Manager maintains and frequently updates the agency website, maintains and regularly updates all social media platforms, oversees publication of the newsletter, prepares annual reports, informational reports, maintains the Commission Data Center resources, drafts media releases, maintains a media contact list, maintains agency image library, creates brochures and other marketing tools, responds to information requests, maintains the Commission's computer network and technology inventory, takes photos of public events and community projects, determines the proper distribution of correspondence, proof reads agency materials prior to publication and directs requests for professional or technical information to the appropriate staff members.

Required Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities

Knowledge of communication needs for public agencies, data sources, computer support, website management software, publication software, office terminology, procedures, business arithmetic and English; ability to understand and follow oral and written directions; ability to get along well with others; ability to write legibly; clerical aptitude; mental alertness; tact and courtesy.

Desirable Experience and Training

Completion of four-year degree with concentration in communications, business, computer systems, or information technology desirable; or any equivalent combination of experience and training which provides the required knowledge, skills, and abilities.

NEW RIVER VALLEY PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION
AGENDA

August 23, 2012

6:00 p.m.—New River Valley Business Center, Fairlawn

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. CONSENT AGENDA
 - A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR JUNE
 - B. APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORTS FOR JUNE AND JULY
- III. CHAIR'S REPORT
- IV. PUBLIC ADDRESS
- V. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE'S REPORT
- VI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT (enclosed)
- VII. OLD BUSINESS
 - A. Ratification of Resolution of Support for National Heritage Area for the Crooked Road
- VIII. NEW BUSINESS
 - A. Annual Report for FY 12 (enclosed)
Commission Action Needed
 - B. Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development Annual Report (enclosed)
Commission Action Needed
 - C. Agency Assessment Work Session with Jim Youngquist (SERDI)
- IX. OTHER BUSINESS
- X. REVIEW OF MUTUAL CONCERNS AND COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS
- XI. COMMONWEALTH INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS
 - A. Projects (Signed-off by the staff)
 - 1. VPDES Permit Reissuance VA0021119 Town of Narrows Treatment Plant
 - B. Regular Project Review
None
 - C. Environmental Project Review
 - 1. [13-01] – VADEQ Pollution Prevention Enhancements
 - 2. VPDES permit reissuance – Radford WTP VA0054780

All meeting materials posted on PDC website www.nrvpdc.org

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Kevin R. Byrd, AICP
Executive Director

August 23, 2012

Executive Director's Report

Economic Development:

- New "consumer version" of CEDS is being well received. Several local governments are requesting additional copies for distribution.
- 'Round the Mountain won an \$815,000 grant for Rural Jobs Accelerator. Funded by Economic Development Administration, Appalachian Regional Commission and USDA-Rural Development. PDCs in southwest Virginia will be facilitating discussions in communities about asset development in downtowns, historical theaters, outdoor recreation and arts. 'Round the Mountain and the Cultural Heritage Foundation of SWVA will perform the majority of grant activities and deliverables. PDCs will be small subcontractor.

Regional:

- Broadband visioning session was held on July 24. Next steps include the Wireless Authority discussing what role they want to play once the middle mile fiber is complete, and then pull visioning session attendees back together to identify items they want to pursue. Few key topics include municipalities providing well managed utility easements so providers can extend services, implement a "dig-once" policy and discussion of wireless service in rural areas.
- The Commonwealth is requiring all localities to implement a stormwater program locally. The VA Dept of Conservation and Recreation is offering a grant program to localities and PDCs to help evaluate organizational needs in order to launch the local program administration. The PDC may be asked by NRV local governments to submit an application (due September 10) to evaluate each County's capacity to implement and evaluate a regional option. This will allow each County to consider the best approach given their resources.
- Staff and planners in the region are meeting with VT Center for Information Technology on a vertical assets inventory for the region. This inventory will be an online mapping tool with a searchable database for all assets above ground. This could include sizable telecommunication towers or small radio antenna only a few feet off the ground. Final product may help identify locations for wireless internet, areas for cell phone coverage and potential sites for emergency communications.
- Livability Initiative: June Project Update is attached to this report.

PDC:

- Conducted Commissioner Orientation with new Commissioner, Mr. Leon Law from Giles County and will coordinate with new members, Mr. Bob Nicholson from City of Radford and Mr. Greg East from the Town of Pulaski.
- Providing technical assistance to the Town of Pulaski for a Retail Feasibility Study along Rt. 99 and the I-81 interchange at exit 94.
- Undergoing Agency Assessment with Jim Youngquist at August Commission meeting.

LIVABILITY INITIATIVE UPDATE- August 2012

Working Groups:

Most working groups have taken a break from July through mid-August to allow a chance for NRVPCD staff to digest information collected from working group efforts to date. All groups have begun to identify strategies to achieve priority goals identified. Some groups have also begun to hold smaller focus group discussions around particular goals and strategies. Some examples: 1) members from the energy working group have met to discuss possible financing mechanisms for household energy efficiency retrofits 2) members from the arts and culture and economic development working group met to explore a range of possible approaches to cooperative efforts in marketing the arts and cultural assets of a region 3) members from the NRV wireless authority and the economic development working group met to discuss last mile- broadband deployment 4) members from housing working group and the aging in place focus group have met to discuss strategies for expanding existing home modifications to support aging in place.

BUILT:

The Building Home team and NRVPCD planning staff have held 10 BUILT events in June, July and the beginning of August. Through these events facilitators and participants have gained better insight into shared community values and priorities, as well as areas of concern and projects that individual communities want to put energy into to improve their quality of life. The feedback received during these events is helping to shape the scenario planning process in the next phase of this project. It's been FUN!

Events to Date:

- 3 in Floyd County
- 1 in Blacksburg
- 2 in Pulaski with PEP and PCPC
- 1 in Giles with the Wolf Creek Ruritan
- 1 with Upward Bound students from Shawsville, Narrows and Pearisburg
- 1 with Third Thursday group of community and non-profit leaders
- 1 in Christiansburg with the NAACP.

We also have two more scheduled: 1 in Montgomery County/Prices Fork area and 1 in Pearisburg, Giles. If you would like to host a BUILT event in your community, please let us know.

Livability Initiative Interim Report:

Livability staff has been working on an interim report that will provide a summary of major issues and trends in our region: an aging population, changes in agriculture and land use, commuting patterns, housing costs, jobs and education, and community health. The report will also identify intersections between issues and challenges, which may create new opportunities and partnerships to more effectively address the major challenges. The report will also include some draft goals developed by working groups.

Livability Initiative Video:

Please check out our new Livability Initiative overview video: <http://youtu.be/94iFJwtbmH4> and pass it along.

NEW RIVER VALLEY PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION

6580 Valley Center Drive, Suite 124
Radford, Virginia 24141

Phone: (540) 639-9313

Fax: (540) 831-6093

E-Mail: nrvpdc@nrvpdc.org

Website: www.nrvpdc.org



Kevin R. Byrd, AICP
Executive Director

RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT National Heritage Area Designation for the Crooked Road

WHEREAS, The Crooked Road Board of Directors is actively pursuing National Heritage Area designation by Congress for the 19 counties that comprise Southwest Virginia; and

WHEREAS, National Heritage Areas are places where natural, cultural, and historic resources combine to form a cohesive, nationally important landscapes; and

WHEREAS, the National Park Service describes National Heritage Areas as, "...lived-in landscapes. Consequently, National Heritage Area entities collaborate with communities to determine how to make heritage relevant to local interests and needs;" and

WHEREAS, the New River Valley Planning District Commission acknowledges the National Heritage Areas are a grassroots, community-driven approach to heritage conservation and economic development; and

WHEREAS, the New River Valley Planning District Commission recognizes the economic development value of the creative economy, which the Crooked Road and other organizations are actively supporting in all 19 counties in Southwest Virginia; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the New River Valley Planning District Commission provides this Resolution of Support to the Crooked Road for establishing a National Heritage Area in Southwest Virginia.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, this Resolution is being provided to further the mission of preserving traditional music and supporting economic development in Virginia's Appalachian and Blue Ridge areas.

Ratified August 23, 2012

Michael Patton, Chair



Heritage Areas 101

PLACE-BASED, COMMUNITY-DRIVEN
CONSERVATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

What are NHAs?

National Heritage Areas (NHAs) are designated by Congress as places where natural, cultural, and historic resources combine to form a cohesive, nationally important landscape. Through their resources, NHAs tell nationally important stories that celebrate our nation's diverse heritage. NHAs are lived-in landscapes. Consequently, NHA entities collaborate with communities to determine how to make heritage relevant to local interests and needs.

NHAs are a grassroots, community-driven approach to heritage conservation and economic development. Through public-private partnerships, NHA entities support historic preservation, natural resource conservation, recreation, heritage tourism, and educational projects. Leveraging funds and long-term support for projects, NHA partnerships foster pride of place and an enduring stewardship ethic.

Benefits of NHAs

Some of the long-term benefits of NHA activities include:

- **Sustainable economic development** – NHAs leverage federal funds (NHAs average \$5.50 for every \$1.00 of federal investment) to create jobs, generate revenue for local governments, and sustain local communities through revitalization and heritage tourism.
- **Healthy environment and people** – Many NHAs improve water and air quality in their regions through restoration projects, and encourage people to enjoy natural and cultural sites by providing new recreational opportunities.
- **Improved Quality of Life** – Through new or improved amenities, unique settings, and educational and volunteer opportunities, NHAs improve local quality of life.



Paddlers on the Schuylkill River outside Philadelphia, PA. Schuylkill River National Heritage Area coordinates the annual Schuylkill River Soujourn - a 7-day, 112 mile guided canoe and kayak trip, which provides a wealth of learning opportunities for participants. D. Creighton Photo.

- **Education and Stewardship** – NHAs connect communities to natural, historic, and cultural sites through educational activities, which promote awareness and foster interest in and stewardship of heritage resources.
- **Community Engagement and Pride** – By engaging community members in heritage conservation activities, NHAs strengthen sense of place and community pride.

The NHA Program

NHAs further the mission of the National Park Service (NPS) by fostering community stewardship of our nation's heritage. The NHA program, which currently includes 49 heritage areas, is administered by NPS coordinators in Washington DC and seven regional offices - Anchorage, Seattle, Oakland, Denver, Omaha, Philadelphia and Atlanta - as well as park unit staff.

NHAs are not national park units. Rather, NPS partners with, provides technical assistance, and distributes matching federal funds from Congress to NHA entities. NPS does not assume ownership of land inside heritage areas or impose land use controls.

NHA Facts

Forty-nine NHAs have been designated by Congress since 1984. Each NHA is created through individual federal law.

NHA designation recognizes the national importance of a region's sites and history.

Through annual Congressional appropriations, NPS passes funds to NHA entities. Although most entities are authorized to receive up to \$1 million annually over a set period of time, actual annual appropriations range from \$150,000 – \$750,000.

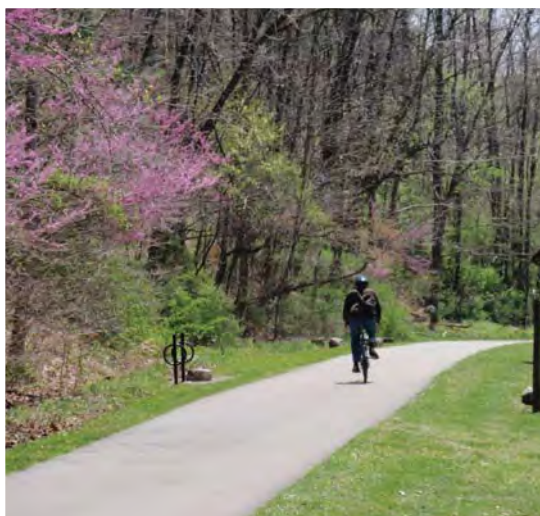
The financial assistance component of the program is secured with legal agreements, accountability measures, and performance requirements for NHA entities.

NHA designation does not affect private property rights.

New River Valley Planning District Commission



FY 2011-2012 Annual Report



The NRVPCDC has been serving its member governments and universities for over 40 years. Every day we work toward making a better tomorrow in the New River Valley.



CHAIR'S MESSAGE



As my term as chair of the commission ends, it is an opportunity to take stock of the past two years of my time in that role. I believe most folks are aware of the local supports provided by the commission staff to each of our New River Valley communities over the years and that list continued to be long and important during my time as chair. However, what I am most proud of is the significant role the staff and commissioners have played in the regional strides made through collaborations and supports during my tenure. Regional work is not new to the commission and these accomplishments join a laundry list of historic measures supported and promoted by the commission, but I believe these pieces are often the unsung heroes of our work and I believe a bit of crowing is necessary to strengthen our resolve to continue the important, long term work of **regional collaboration and action**.

I'd like to highlight just a couple of the accomplishments that all New River Valley citizens can feel pride in and continue to engage around that are underway in part due to the leadership of the commission: The commission won and is driving the **Transportation Equipment Manufacturing Competitiveness Initiative** that provides grants to manufacturers to improve process, create new product or deploy green technologies that create or retain jobs. The **NRV Hazard Mitigation Plan** is being updated to support appropriate understanding and supports for our communities in time of natural and man-made disasters. The **NRV HOME Consortium**, a regionally developed group that sought and manages federal affordable housing dollars strategically, has funded housing development or rehabilitation of over \$2,959,000 within every locality in the NRV. The commission was a key partner in securing foundation funding to assess **community health** across the region and develop local youth digital storytellers to build videos sharing community assets and addressing community issues in the realm of health to encourage personal and community change to improve health. Over **\$1 million dollars** in competitive federal funding was secured in a regional collaborative to support strategic assessment of the region in nine key areas driven by local voices and developed to better understand how investment and desired outcomes can be effectively linked and supported locally and regionally in areas such as transportation, housing, health, the arts, and workforce development. And the commission has continued to bring our unique regional NRV perspective and understanding of planning and resources to local, state and national organizations such as **'Round the Mountain Board, State Water Supply Plan Advisory Committee, the Virginia Association of Planning District Commissions, Development District Association of Appalachia and the National Association of Development Organizations**.

The above list is impressive and the executive director and staff of the commission have earned our thanks for these efforts. And, as we all know, the work is not finished. We face challenges in our region in these trying economic times and natural and man-made challenges continue to impact our citizens across the region. However, the New River Valley has a strong history of cooperation among local governments and agencies and our citizens are tenacious when challenges arise. I know the commission will continue to be a key player in the future protection and development of our region and I am proud to play my part in that effort.

Sincerely,

Holly Larson Lesko, Chair

FY 2011-2012 Commissioners

FLOYD COUNTY

Mr. Fred Gerald
Ms. Evelyn Janney

GILES COUNTY

Mr. Leon Law
Mr. Richard McCoy

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Ms. Annette Perkins
Mr. Ray Chambers

PULASKI COUNTY

Dr. Doug Warren
Mr. Joseph Sheffey
Mr. Charles Bopp

CITY OF RADFORD

Dr. Helen Harvey
Mr. Tim Cox

TOWN OF BLACKSBURG

Ms. Cecile Newcomb
Ms. Holly Lesko, Chair

TOWN OF CHRISTIANSBURG

Mr. Scott Weaver, Treasurer
Mr. Henry Showalter

TOWN OF FLOYD

Mr. Mike Patton, Vice Chair

TOWN OF NARROWS

Mr. Thomas Garrett

TOWN OF PEARISBURG

Mr. Charles Via

TOWN OF PULASKI

Mr. Morgan Welker
Mr. Larry Clevinger

TOWN OF RICH CREEK

Mr. Gary Eaton

RADFORD UNIVERSITY

Mr. Richard Alvarez

VIRGINIA TECH

Ms. Leigh LaClair
Mr. Kevin Sullivan

Over the past year we have engaged over 1,200 citizens in the New River Valley Livability Initiative through a regional kick-off summit at Claytor Lake, an on-line survey, spanish language survey, lower literacy survey, small group meetings & more.



REGIONAL COOPERATION

- The goal of the initial engagement effort of the **New River Valley Livability Initiative** has been to better understand regional strengths, challenges, priority issues of concern, and future vision for the region. The Livability Initiative has engaged citizens throughout the Valley using traditional methods such as surveys and small group meetings but also through Building Home and NRV BUILT.
 - » **Building Home** (a team of actors and musicians from Virginia Tech's Performing Arts Department) are conducting interactive theatre and music events with communities throughout the New River Valley. These gatherings use art as a medium for community visioning and dialogue on life in the NRV.
 - » **NRV BUILT** is a planning game for community conversations that was developed for the NRV. This game enables people to come together and talk about the things that are most important to them when it comes to their neighborhoods and communities. Through a series of hands-on exercises, participants identify their personal priorities and preferences and work with others to create the best community possible.

In addition, the Livability Initiative also has seven on-going working groups meeting monthly on the following topics: **Natural and Water Resources, Arts and Culture, Economic Development, Community Health, Energy, Transportation, and Housing**. Working groups have identified priority issues, collected and analyzed baseline conditions and trends, developed draft indicators and goals, and are currently brainstorming strategies for addressing priority issues identified. For further information on the Livability Initiative visit www.nrvlivability.org.

- **Virginia's First Regional Industrial Facilities Authority** received funding to boost its strategic planning and marketing efforts thanks to the Department of Housing and Community Development through its Building Collaborative Communities grant. The strategic plan has been completed with recommended action items in progress. The marketing efforts include creating an interactive website for the New River Valley Commerce Park (www.nrvcommercepark.com).

- The **New River Valley HOME Consortium** completed its fifth year as a Consortium:
 - » **Radford's** mixed-use project on Main Street, which includes eight HOME units on the second floor, was completed.
 - » The **Town of Pulaski** completed the rehabilitation of two homes, began the rehabilitation of two homes, and sold one home constructed by Community Housing Partners (CHP) to a first time homebuyer.
 - » CHP completed the rehabilitation of an 88 unit HUD subsidized apartment complex in **Christiansburg**.
 - » **Pulaski County** identified several homes needing HOME assistance in its Baskerville Neighborhood Rehabilitation project.
 - » The **Town of Narrows** began construction on a mixed-use residential project in its downtown.
 - » The **Town of Rich Creek** initiated an assisted living facility project adjacent to the Riverview Nursing Home.
- Since the launch on May 31, 2011, www.explorenewrivervalley.com serves as a site that markets the region as a travel destination and serves as a resource for residents. To date, nearly 7,600 people visited the site for an average of 19 visitors per day, or almost 570 per month. The total number of pages viewed is more than 25,350.



After several years of planning, a committed partnership comprised of the New River Valley Network Wireless Authority (Giles County, Pulaski County and City of Radford) along with Citizens Telephone Cooperative is approximately 50% complete with middle

mile fiber deployment in the region. A ribbon cutting was held on April 25th to celebrate the construction phase of the project. This is an \$11.5 million dollar project with 186 miles of fiber extending from Wytheville to Botetourt County. The middle mile fiber is the equivalent of the interstate road system. Once fully deployed in early 2013, Citizens Cooperative will broker the open access fiber to private providers in the region. As this project comes to a close, the Wireless Authority is beginning to discuss future projects to continue the momentum with broadband deployment in the region.

The NRV Development Corporation changed the name of the NRV Competitiveness Center to the NRV Business Center, continuing the work of business incubation. Seven businesses entered the Center this past year.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & HUMAN SERVICES

- Staff provided technical assistance through Virginia Tech to nine companies from Botetourt County to Bristol. The funding was provided by the Economic Development Administration's Trade Adjustment Assistance and is locally known as the **Transportation Equipment Manufacturing Competitiveness Initiative (TEMCI)**.
- An annual update of the New River Valley **Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)** was completed with the help of local businesses, local governments, and participants through the NRV Livability Initiative. This year a consumer version was produced for the annual report. CEDS reports can be found online: www.nrvpdc.org/cedsinformation.html.
- The **New River Valley Development Corporation (NRVDC)** loaned \$50,000 to four companies within the New River Valley. The loan program and two of the companies, Three Birds Berry Farm of Montgomery County and Bootleg BBQ of Floyd County were featured on the WSL\$10 evening news.
- The NRVPCD engaged **social media** this year by creating a blog (www.nrvpdc.wordpress.com), facebook page (www.facebook.com/nrvpdc), and twitter account (www.twitter.com/nrvpdc). Like us and follow us to find out the latest information in the Planning District.
- Prospective industries continue to consider the **New River Valley Commerce Park** for their projects. As project support for the Park, PDC staff assisted with four proposals to inquiring site selection professionals.
- NRVPCD collaborated with Partnership for Access To Healthcare (PATH), Virginia Tech Institute for Policy and Governance (VTIPG), and the New River Health District (NRHD) toward improving health in the New River Valley through a grant awarded by the **Robert Wood Johnson Foundation**. Through this project, **Healthy NRV**:
 - » PDC staff assembled data from recent regional community health assessments and national county health rankings to help identify themes of greatest health concern. Case studies and a summary of existing efforts across the region were also assembled to help prioritize action strategies.
 - » A **digital storytelling** consultant held two workshops for youth participants to provide storytelling and video production training. Youth participants then produced **health videos** focusing on a particular health issue of concern in their local community to help inform regional and local government decision makers about decisions and issues affecting health locally.
- The **Housing Partnership of the New River Valley** is comprised of housing and service providers in the New River Valley and meets monthly to discuss methods of collaboration and information sharing. An annual Point in Time Count to document the region's homeless population is performed by the Partnership.
- This past year the **New River/Mount Rogers Workforce Investment Board (WIB)** conducted a Regional Workforce Center feasibility study using Tobacco Commission Funding in Washington County/Smyth County/Bristol City. Also, the WIB were partners in three Job Fairs where over 130 employers and 450 job seekers were served. Grant Initiatives of the WIB include: CREATES (Construction, Retrofitting, Energy Efficiency Assessment Training and Employment Systems); HITE (Health Information Technology Education) and Statewide On-the-Job Training. The WIB served 783 Adult/DLW with a placement rate of 78% and 318 youth with a placement rate of 76%. For further information on the WIB visit www.nrmrwib.org.



The **NRV Commerce Park Participation Committee** marked the expansion of the park's water and sewer capacity with a Tank Bolting Ceremony. The park now offers 1 million gallons a day for both water and sewer service. Park owners, local elected officials, and supporters of the park were on hand to celebrate.

“The panel presentation with time for Q & A worked well. The session provided quality information and interaction opportunity. Very well planned and executed.”

(training session attendee)



PLANNING/TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

- The Commission supports communication and training between local government planning departments by coordinating a **Regional Planning Forum** for local planning staff. The Forum meets quarterly at a rotating host community to discuss planning issues of common concern in the region. The Planning Forum provides at least one **training session** annually which is open to all local government Planning Commission members in the region. The Commission hosted the fifth training session on May 23rd of this year which was attended by more than 40 local planning commissioners and planning staff. It featured a panel discussion on **historic structure/district revitalization**. The panel included: Bob Adams, President, HD Advisors; Joe Fortier, Owner, Taylor Hollow Construction; and Michael Pulice, Architectural Historian, Virginia Department of Historic Resources.
- PDC staff continued to assist the **Town of Floyd Planning Commission** and staff in development of the Town's first Comprehensive Plan document focusing solely on the Town. Plan adoption is likely in early FY 2013.
- Floyd County received funding for an **innovation center** and kicked off the project in May. Staff will be providing grant administration support for the three-year project. Grant administration services were also provided to Pulaski County for their **Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant**. This grant is being used to make energy upgrades through insulation and window replacements in the Pulaski County Library and the Pulaski County Administration Building.
- PDC staff assisted the **Pulaski County Planning Commission** and staff in updating the County's Subdivision Ordinance which was approved by the Pulaski County Board of Supervisors on December 19, 2011.
- Pulaski County is underway on the **\$1,000,000 Housing Rehabilitation Grant** awarded by the Department of Housing and Community Development to complete 12 rehabilitations, 6 substantial reconstructions, and upgrade the neighborhood's water and sewer lines. Located on the outskirts of Dublin, the **Baskerville Neighborhood Rehabilitation Project** has completed rehab work on four homes, and construction is underway on an additional four homes.
- Staff performed contract administration to meet Davis-Bacon prevailing wage requirements for **Phoenix Packaging in Pulaski County**.
- PDC staff facilitated the Town of Blacksburg's **Business Climate Taskforce**.
- Staff completed an Environmental Assessment for the **New River Community College** entrance relocation along US Route 11 and for sanitary sewer improvements along Hubbard Way in Pulaski County. In addition, staff prepared an environmental report in support of the Pulaski County PSA's Rural Development application for funding sewer extensions within the **Fair Acres neighborhood**.
- The **NRV Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan** was approved by FEMA and VDEM and adopted by all participating localities. This plan provides guidance for mitigation activities in the region and maintains localities' eligibility for FEMA hazard mitigation funding through March 30, 2017.
- The **New River Valley Commerce Park's** water and sewer construction project is nearing completion. Staff provided grant administration assistance (including reporting and Davis-Bacon compliance) for the duration of the project.
- Staff provided assistance to **Blacksburg** for the 2012 Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan.
- The PDC provided grant-writing assistance to Giles County for two funding applications during FY 2012: (1) **Giles County - Live, Work, and Play: Tourism Enhancement Program** (ARC); and (2) **Hotel Feasibility Study** (USDA-Rural Development). Both applications were selected to receive funding. Staff also provided technical assistance to the Giles County Planning Commission and staff in updating demographic, Census, and other background data for incorporation in the County's Comprehensive Plan update.



There are nearly 250 miles of existing hiking/mountain biking trails in the New River Valley.



Courtesy of Ross Wilsie

TRANSPORTATION

- The NRVPCDC received an **Excellence in Regional Transportation Planning Award** for the Regional Bikeway, Walkway, Blueway Plan from the National Association of Development Organizations.
- Staff completed several plans including a **Regional Transit Organization Analysis**, the 2035 New River Valley Rural Long-Range Transportation Plan, and the Shawsville Area Route 11/460 Corridor Study.
- **Safe Routes to School Travel Plans** were created for Belview Elementary and Auburn Elementary and Middle School in Montgomery County.

- Staff coordinated **"Day-rides"** with local government and VDOT representatives in Floyd County and Pulaski County to inventory transportation related issues.



- A Special Report that examined **devolution of secondary roadways** in Virginia was prepared.
- Staff presented information on regional transportation planning at the **2012 Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Roundtable**, in Arlington, Virginia.
- Staff served as representative on the Department of Rail and Public Transportation's Multimodal and Public Space Design Guidelines Steering Committee, **Virginia's VTrans 2035 Plan Update**, Virginia's Statewide Transit/Transportation Demand Management Plan Update, and on the Blacksburg-Christiansburg-Montgomery Area MPO Policy Board and Technical Advisory Committee.
- Staff continues to provide leadership for the **Regional Transportation Technical Advisory** and **Regional Bikeway/Walkway Committees**.

- Staff participated in **go green NRV** (a business organization promoting sustainability for businesses) including participation in planning activities, communications, executive committee, and board.
- To promote the **RIDE Solutions program**, staff participated in or attended a number of expos and community and networking events in the NRV including: Sustainable Blacksburg's annual meeting, Montgomery County Chamber Expo, New River Valley Job Fair Expo (Spring and Fall), go green NRV annual membership meeting, Pulaski Business Expo, and the Pulaski and Montgomery Chamber events during the year.
- RIDE Solutions sponsored and/or co-sponsored events in the NRV to promote alternatives to single-occupant vehicle (SOV) transportation including the **Skip the Car Campaign** and **Fix Fest**.
- RIDE Solutions supported its **Workplace Partners** by providing support for employee outreach, incentive campaigns including a monthly e-mail bite to workplace partners and RIDE Solutions network with timely information about alternative transportation and related economic and sustainability issues.
- Staff took advantage of opportunities to receive ongoing **training** by attending the ACT 2011 National Conference, Chicago, IL; ACT Chesapeake/Mid Atlantic Chapter TDM Reception & Symposium; and ACT Chesapeake Chapter's University TDM Summit in Harrisonburg, VA.

This was the third year for the **Fix Fest** event in Blacksburg (partnering with Town of Blacksburg and the New River Valley Bicycling Association). It was the first year for the event in Radford as part of the City's Environmental Awareness Day (partnering with Radford Transit) and in Christiansburg (partnering with NRVBA and the Bike Kitchen). In addition to fixing over 50 bikes, the events brought in bike donations for the Bike Kitchen.

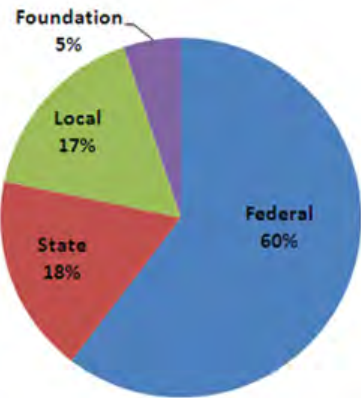


PDC staff volunteered 60 hours this past year to various NRV organizations including the Montgomery County Christmas Store, Boy Scouts, Town of Pembroke, VT Perspectives Art Gallery, NRV Trout Unlimited, Kipps Elementary, & the YMCA at VT.



FINANCE & PERSONNEL

Revenues



Finance Report Year Ended June 30, 2012

Revenues	
Grants and Appropriations	
Federal	1,013,227
State	299,661
Local	279,077
Foundation	85,992
Total	1,677,957

Expenditures



Expenditures	
Personnel	792,566
Contractual	646,389
Operations & Other	228,457
Total	1,667,412
Excess (Deficit)	10,545

New River Valley Planning District Commission Staff



Left to Right
(back row) **Kevin Byrd, AICP**, Executive Director; **Carol Davis**, Community Outreach Facilitator; **Elijah Sharp**, Regional Planner II; **Patrick Burton, AICP**, Senior Planner; **Phil Gilbertson**, Senior Cartographer; **Jan Gilbertson**, Communications Manager; **Brad Mecham**, Regional Planner; **Julie Phillips**, Office Manager (front row) **Tommi Godwin**, Regional Planner; **Christy Straight**, Regional Planner II, **Janet McNew**, Director of Finance and Personnel; **Kim Thurlow**, Project Coordinator; **Jennifer Wilsie**, Regional Planner II. Not pictured: Ken Hall, Part-time Regional Planner.

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Reflecting on the previous year of Commission work in the region, a couple of significant themes resonate; **collaboration** and **innovation**. The region is benefitting substantially through these two themes and examples are abundant. As a direct result of collaboration, the Commission was able to secure upwards of \$800,000 in funding to address pressing economic issues in our region. This includes technical assistance to **local manufacturing companies**, working with youth on **community health** issues, and deployment of **middle mile fiber** to increase internet infrastructure. The list of collaborative approaches in the region continues to increase and the Commission is excited about the opportunities the future will hold. Innovative approaches were another major theme and this was most evident in public engagement strategies. The **NRV Livability Initiative** is gathering public input on the future vision of the region through **BUILT NRV**. This is a planning board game that allows people to come together and work through local issues and ideas. The NRV Livability Initiative also utilized digital storytelling techniques to create videos to share issues people are concerned about in the region. Lastly, the Commission is dedicated to community involvement in our work. To increase awareness of our programs the Commission began using social media this year. Look for us on **Facebook** and **Twitter**. The Commission redesigned its website, www.nrvpdc.org, which makes finding information about meetings and regional programs a lot easier. I encourage you to visit the website, connect with the Commission on social media, and join the regional dialogue as the Commission strives to ensure prosperous communities across the New River Valley!

Sincerely,

Kevin R. Byrd, AICP
Executive Director



New River Valley Planning District Commission
6580 Valley Center Drive, Suite 124, Radford, Virginia 24141
(p) 540.639.9313 (f) 540.831.6093
nrvpdc@nrvpdc.org
www.nrvpdc.org



New River Valley Planning District Commission



NRVPDC

FY 2011-2012 ANNUAL REPORT



August 2012
Department of Housing and Community Development

PDC #4 ANNUAL REPORT
July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012

Element #1: Strategic Planning:

Document progress in developing and implementing strategic planning in the planning district.

Strategic Plan Development Activities

Please indicate the current status of your regional strategic planning activities. Provide information on the process used to produce the plan, who was involved in producing the plan, and the key recommendations and activities that were identified. Discuss how priorities for action were established.

Strategic Plan Development:

Strategic planning began in the New River Valley prior to the passage of the Regional Cooperation Act. The process began as an economic adjustment strategy to address the economic distress caused by the downsizing of the Radford Army Ammunition Plant. The process undertaken in the region was designed to develop a Vision for the future of the region and define the actions required to achieve that vision, *Vision 2020* was completed in 1995. The *Vision 2020* regional strategic plan was updated in 2003: *Community First: Harnessing Change and Building Connections* and was updated again in 2009: *Community First: Regional Partners in a Global Marketplace*.

The vision areas from the 2003 update were modified to **People and Education, Business/Industry and Employment, Natural and Cultural Resources, and Physical Infrastructure**. Ideas were generated for these areas by answering the following two questions:

1. What can be done immediately to shore up our local businesses, organizations and people?
2. What are things we need to do today to support a bright future for our children?

Community First: *Regional Partners in a Global Marketplace* recognizes the value of working together, to accomplish long- and short-term goals, and the need to share resources across political lines, the area's citizens built a plan highlighting "regional" goals, objectives, projects and programs in this newest update.

Community First: Regional Partners in a Global Marketplace is on the PDC's web site at www.nrvpdc.org/nrvvision2020.html.

Who Assisted in the Plan Development:

The 2009 *Vision 2020* Update, *Community First: Regional Partners in a Global Marketplace*, was made possible by the concentrated efforts of numerous New River Valley visionaries. Contributors included local government officials, members of non-profit organizations, civic leaders, teachers and school administrators, business community members, and many others committed to a bright and community-guided future for the New River Valley. The revision of the projects and update of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy was accomplished in June 2009.

Six *Community Conversations* were held throughout the region so that citizens, community leaders, educators and local elected officials could come together and share their opinions and ideas about the future of the New River Valley. The *Community Conversations* were held in Dublin, Radford, Floyd, Christiansburg, Pearisburg, and Shawsville. A final area-wide meeting was held on April 30, 2009 where all the ideas gathered were reviewed and prioritized. Most of the region's Planners attended that session and participated in the final round of prioritization of the project and program ideas.

Throughout the process, citizens provided input, suggestions, comments, and concerns on many issues facing the New River Valley and its individual jurisdictions. Several common themes presented themselves: A need to be more regional in our planning and program development; a need to provide residents, businesses and industry with affordable broadband services to enable greater participation and global access; a need to grow and support small local business (especially high, bio and nano tech); a need to make energy conservation and education an integral part of our everyday life; and a need to preserve our cultural and natural heritage (this includes supporting and encouraging growth in family farms).

Strategic Plan Implementation Activities

What is the current status of your plan's implementation? What has been accomplished to date? What are the next projects or activities that will be undertaken? Who is involved with and responsible for the implementation of the plan?

Vision 2020 provides a basis for project development. Implementation of projects is a continuing activity. The 2009 document implementation is a subject of this annual report. As previously noted, the implementation falls not only on the public sector, but to non-profit and other organizations as well.

Implementation of Vision 2020 is found in two sections of the Plan: the Goals and Objectives section and the Projects and Programs section. The following report on implementation reviews both sections.

WHAT HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED TO DATE?

The following projects were highlighted in *Community First* and have been addressed in significant ways:

People and Education

The New River Valley sees its people as its greatest resource for economic sustainability. We recognize that in order for our area to be prosperous, our people must have the tools, resources, and education necessary to reach their full potential as citizens, workers and leaders.

New River Valley Livability Initiative: The New River Valley was awarded a \$1,000,000 Sustainable Communities Planning Grant in the fall of 2010. This national grant program was offered through a partnership between the Department of Transportation, the office of Housing and Urban Development, and the Environmental Protection Agency. The New River Valley Planning District Commission acted as Lead Applicant on the grant and partnered with 14 other members to form the NRV Sustainable Communities Consortium in order to administer the three-year grant. The Consortium has identified nine areas of focus: Economic Development, Housing, Transportation, Energy, Arts/Culture, Water Infrastructure, Agriculture/Local Food Access, Natural Resources, and Technology Infrastructure. As the Livability Initiative process has unfolded, the approach has been to combine certain element areas into single working groups in order to integrate planning efforts where there is substantial overlap or complementary between challenges and potential action strategies. Where it has proved challenging to form a stand-alone working group, Livability Initiative staff have worked to solicit and digest citizen priorities, goals, and potential action strategies through targeted survey efforts with experts and practitioners around a specific element topic. The Livability Initiative has been guided by public input and issue identification by element area working groups, who will have been working to identify regional issues and needs as well as options for improving efficiency, reducing costs, and leveraging existing resources to make the entire region stronger. The effort will result in a 20+ year Livability Plan that will lay out a menu of options for local governments, the private sector, community organizations, and individuals to consider when addressing the needs identified in these areas. *(For further information, please see Element #3, page 18.)*

Healthy NRV: The New River Valley Planning District Commission, in conjunction with the Virginia Tech Institute for Policy and Governance (IPG), was awarded a \$172,000 grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The project aims to improve the long-term health of people in the New River Valley through data-driven prioritization as well as engaging young people in assessing health needs in their communities and offering steps to address them. The “digital storytelling” component of the grant involves youth ages 14-17, deployed with video cameras to conduct interviews in their communities. The teens received instruction in the arts of storytelling and video editing during a three-day workshop in December 2011. Participating youth were responsible to plan and execute community engagement activities in their respective communities. Student-sponsored events in 2012 include prescription drug take-back; high school fashion show to raise

awareness of alcohol misuse among teens; and a health-themed fall festival “Healthy Harvest.” A second project component focuses on data analysis at the local and regional level, in order to identify and prioritize health improvement strategies through a working group process.

Regional Planning Forum: The Commission supports communication and training between local government planning departments by coordinating a Regional Planning Forum for local planning staff. The Forum meets quarterly at a rotating host community to discuss planning issues of common concern in the region. The Planning Forum has made it a goal to provide at least one training session annually open to all local government Planning Commission members in the region. The Commission hosted the fifth training session on May 23rd of this year.

The training session included dinner followed by a panel discussion of *Historic Structure/District Revitalization*, moderated by NRVPCD Executive Director Kevin Byrd. The panel included: Bob Adams, President, HD Advisors; Joe Fortier, Owner, Taylor Hollow Construction; and Michael Pulice, Architectural Historian, Virginia Department of Historic Resources. The event was attended by more than 40 local planning commissioners and staff representing a total of eight localities in the planning district. Another training session will be held in 2013.

The Planning District Commission continued to work with the **Christiansburg Institute (CI)** and funding agencies to move the redevelopment of CI along. This is a difficult project because of size and the complexity of recognizing a history and utilizing that history as a basis for future programming.

Natural and Cultural Environment

The New River Valley is an attractive and desirable place to live, work, and visit.

NRV Tourism Website: The NRV Tourism Website project was funded through Virginia Tourism Corporation’s Marketing Leverage Funds as well as contributions by local chambers of commerce and local governments. The website, ExploreNewRiverValley.com, has been in operation for one year after its launch on May 31, 2011. It provides information on outdoor recreation (paddle sports, fishing, trails), cultural activities (events, museums, music), and other tourist attractions and destinations within the New River Valley.

The Planning District Commission has provided website administration and project management support over the past year. Two quarter-page ads were placed in the July and September 2011 issues of the Blue Ridge Outdoors magazine. Six thousand postcards were also created to be put on display at Visitors’ centers and chambers of commerce throughout the region. March and April 2012 marketing efforts came in the form of Facebook advertising. With this effort, 1,068 people clicked on the advertisement linked to the site. To date 7,600 people have visited the site.

Business/Industry and Employment

The New River Valley has a diverse economic base, from emerging high technology industries to traditional family farms, all of which need to be supported and developed so that they can continue to provide high quality jobs and regional investment.

Entrepreneurial Education: The Small Business Assistance Center at Radford University is offering classes on a short course basis. Virginia Tech provides similar offerings. The New River Valley Business Center and the Jacksonville Center are providing additional opportunities for direct business assistance. In addition, Virginia's First Regional Industrial Facility Authority in association with the Planning District provides project development assistance.

WorkKeys: New River Community College's Workforce Development Office continues to offer WorkKeys services to our customers in the New River Valley. The WorkKeys System is one that strengthens the partnerships between education and the private sector. This year NRCC issued 800 Career Readiness Certificates.

In addition, New River Community College partnered with community entities to host the New River Valley Job Fair Expo in March. The event took place at New River Community College in Dublin. The New River Valley Job Fair Expo truly displays community collaboration through public, private and non-profit agencies working together to benefit residents of the New River Valley.

Linking Education Across the Region: Continued and expanding services are available electronically among the localities within the region. Several schools have homework postings for parents to access as part of their web-based services. Additionally, county libraries list access to books and materials found not only in their own collections, but in partnering libraries within their system. Schools and libraries are seeking opportunities to more fully access resources and New River Community College is continuing the important work of providing access and fiber-optic networking within their campus and between secondary schools in the region.

Small Business Loan Funds: The New River Valley Development Corporation (NRVDC) has a working capital Revolving Loan Fund (RLF). The New River Valley RLF was established in part by the NRV Economic Development Alliance through the Development Corporation. The NRVDC received an additional \$50,000 grant from USDA's Rural Development in 2008-2009 to expand the fund in order to provide assistance for expansion and start-up to micro and small businesses. In 2011, the Development Corporation loaned funds to four companies; TechPad, LLC of Blacksburg, Three Birds Berry Farm of Prices Fork, Bootleg BBQ of Floyd, and Healing Tree Wellness Center of Floyd. These loans totaled \$50,000.

Physical Infrastructure

The New River Valley has complete and quality infrastructure to support the goals, needs, and aspirations of the regional community.

The New River Valley Business Center, a small business incubator, changed its name from the Competitiveness Center to the Business Center. In April 2012, the Business Center officially changed its name at a renaming ceremony alongside a celebration of high speed broadband being connected to the center. The Business Center completed its thirteenth year in operation and had seven new companies join in 2012.

Since November 2009, the County of Pulaski has provided management services and oversight to the incubator in an effort to make the operations more efficient and less costly. These savings allowed for some improvements to the center with new signage, floor treatments, and new carpet in the Training Room.

The Micro Solutions Program sponsored by a coalition of entities, including the Development Corporation, allows the Center to help clients connect to area business technical assistance programs to further grow their business by providing services that include lending, training, technical assistance and mentoring to current and aspiring entrepreneurs. This is in addition to the New River Valley Revolving Loan Fund, developed in the mid-1980's to provide funding support to start-up businesses. Together, they have worked to provide new businesses the support needed to get off their feet and work to become successful partners in the NRV region. The overall strategy of the loan fund is to use a public/private partnership to finance viable projects that typically would not otherwise meet conventional lending standards. In the end, it comes down to helping clients get what they need to grow their business.

This year, the construction continued on a building which will occupy the last building site at the Corporate Research Center (CRC). The PDC supported the Virginia Tech Foundation in its efforts to expand the CRC by assisting with the preparation of an Economic Development Administration application to provide water, sewer, and telecommunications access for a 90 acre expansion of the CRC. Funding for the CRC expansion came from the Economic Development Administration and the project is under construction.

Industrial Parks: Significant progress has been made on numerous industrial parks in the region.

New River Valley Commerce Park: The Commerce Park is jointly owned by 11 of the 15 members of the Virginia's First Regional Industrial Facility Authority. Those localities which participate in the Commerce Park Project include the Counties of Bland, Craig, Montgomery, Roanoke, Pulaski, Giles, the Cities of Radford and Roanoke and the Towns of Pearisburg, Pulaski, and Dublin. Marketing efforts for the Commerce Park are currently being administered by the New River Valley Economic Development Alliance and the Roanoke Valley Regional Partnership with state assistance provided by the Virginia Economic Development Partnership. Marketing efforts this past year include attendance at trade shows and responding to specific proposal requests from prospects. The New

River Valley Planning District Commission provides staff support and administration for the Virginia's First Regional Industrial Facility Authority, the New River Valley Commerce Park Participation Committee and other, ad hoc committees of the organization. During the FY 11-12, staff assisted the Pulaski County PSA with the infrastructure improvements to expand water and sewer capacities to one million gallons a day each. A strategic plan was conducted this year to address the Commerce Park's strengths and weaknesses with recommendations for improving the park's marketability and opportunities for more prospects. Virginia's First also received a grant from DHCD through the Building Collaborative Communities program to implement some of the strategies, an effort that will continue into the next fiscal year.

Foreign Trade Zone and User Fee Airport: The New River Valley International Airport was designated a Foreign Trade Zone (FTZ) and a User Fee Airport in August 1999. Since that time, the FTZ presence has been of substantial benefit to many New River Valley companies which engage in international trade. Before the establishment of the Airport's Customs Office, companies receiving imported items had been forced to make use of a larger port of entry such as Norfolk, Baltimore or Philadelphia. Companies utilizing the Customs Office located at the New River Valley International Airport in Pulaski County have experienced greater convenience and reduced costs in processing the importation of items from abroad. May 19, 2006 marked the opening of the Port of Entry of the New River Valley Airport by U.S. Customs and Border Protection. The opening of the Port of Entry concludes the region's journey of establishing customs service to a fully designated Port of Entry. During FY 11-12, the Port continued to provide another significant resource in the transition of the region's economy.

Water and Sewer Infrastructure: Pulaski County's water and sewer systems continue to grow. The Pulaski County PSA completed construction of three major water and sewer service extensions. One of the largest projects, both in terms of funding and connections, is the Pulaski County Central Water and Sewer project which has been completed. The project was funded with a \$2.55 million grant/loan from the USDA Rural Development (RD) agency. The PSA also extended sewer services into four subdivisions, including the Orchard Hills, Vista, Rolling Hills, and Highland Park subdivisions. These projects alleviated unsafe, failing private septic systems and provided sanitary sewer services to over 500 households throughout the County. The PSA is working on future extensions to the Fairgrounds and Skyview subdivisions.

The Commission continues to work with local governments to apply for and administer **Transportation Enhancement Funds**. This year, the PDC facilitated a meeting with the Salem District Commonwealth Transportation Board Representative so that interested applicants could present their project ideas. The meetings provide an exceptional opportunity for applicants to ask questions and gain feedback on their proposals. Eight localities participated in the CTB meetings and the PDC continued to work directly with the Town of Rich Creek and Town of Glen Lyn on their projects. Of the six that applied for Transportation Enhancement Funds, five received funding.



This year, the Commission worked with Montgomery County on two **Safe Routes to School (SRTS)** projects. Creating a Travel Plan is the first step towards creating a successful SRTS program for a school. Travel Plans were created for Belview Elementary School and the Auburn School Campus. The Travel Plan process was led by a diverse group of stakeholders that included school staff, local law enforcement, VDOT, planners, engineers, local organizations, parents, and local residents.

Efforts to reduce transportation costs are receiving increasing attention. The Commission is working with area firms to offer ridesharing solutions to their employees. Montgomery County and the Towns of Blacksburg and Christiansburg continue to join Virginia Tech in supporting the Smartway Bus which provides transportation for commuters between the Roanoke and New River Valleys. The Planning District Commission is providing leadership in evaluating transit alternatives to support employment mobility. In addition, efforts are underway to improve the efficiency of social service transportation.

Highway Improvements: This year, PDC staff coordinated a “day-ride” for local government and VDOT staff in Floyd and Pulaski Counties. The purpose of the day-ride was to discuss transportation problems and potential solutions. The process helped to build relationships and provided meeting participants an opportunity to gain local/state perspectives on transportation challenges.

The Commission continues to encourage the following roadway priorities: 1) Route 114 widening from the Radford Army Ammunition Plant to the Town of Christiansburg; 2) Interstate 81 interchange improvements in Pulaski and Montgomery Counties; 3) Route 100 widening between Pulaski and Giles County. All three projects were selected due to sub-standard designs that greatly impact safety and capacity of the regional network.

Public Transportation Planning: This year, the Commission partnered with the Blacksburg, Christiansburg, Montgomery Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) to develop a Regional Transit Organization Study. The Study was guided by a broad stakeholder working group that included each of the Region’s existing Public Transportation partners (those who operate or provide funding). The Study explored a variety of common organizational models in Virginia. Stakeholder group participants determined that a Regional Coordinating Council should be established to facilitate regional dialog, coordinate planning efforts, and inform transit partners. The Commission passed a Resolution to establish the Council for the 2013 Fiscal Year.

Active Transportation Planning: A common term used to describe non-motorized modes of transportation. This year the PDC completed the Bikeway, Walkway, Blueway Plan. The plan features active transportation planning objectives, policy guidance, and identifies facilities to accommodate a range of alternative transportation and recreational users. The plan was developed very closely with each of the local governments and universities in the Region.

The PDC’s Bikeway – Walkway Committee also participated in a Multi-Regions meeting with the Roanoke Alleghany Valley Regional Commission. For the second year in a row, the event provided an excellent networking opportunity for local organizations, planners, engineers, agency partners, and others simply interested in bicycle and pedestrian improvements. Meeting participants learn

about recent planning efforts and successful bicycle and pedestrian projects. Based on the continued success of the event, another Multi-Regions meeting is set for August 2012.

The Commission continues to support creative transportation planning through the active Bikeway-Walkway and Transportation Advisory Committees. Both committees continue to provide valuable feedback on local, regional, and statewide planning initiatives. In addition, both committees continue to identify ways to improve the region's transportation system.

Impacts of Future Development: The area of managing change was a significant portion of the Strategic Plan. The concepts of Green Infrastructure Planning are a significant focus with State Agencies. The local planning commissions and governing bodies have also embraced the concepts. The Commission is currently working to develop various tools and resources for localities to utilize as they are working to update their comprehensive plans. It is anticipated to take a couple of plan update cycles to completely develop these tools.

Regional Competitiveness: Organizations in the region continue to evaluate infrastructure needs and projects which will enhance competitiveness. By way of regional examples, *Virginia's First* is reevaluating target industries for the Commerce Park and began implementing some marketing strategies that emphasize the uniqueness of the Park as a property for Virginia to market. Nowhere else in Virginia is there an industrial property of its size adjacent to an international airport.

Remaining competitive in the 21st economy is challenging. Two efforts are underway: Community Broadband infrastructure and emerging economic sectors. The Commission is supporting regional groups in addressing implementation of broadband infrastructure and an analysis of nanotechnology as a potential economic cluster. Currently, financial and program development support from the State is heavily focused on project level of activity. The State needs to seriously consider investing in the development of regions of the State utilizing a broad and flexible approach.

Community Broadband: The New River Valley Network Wireless Authority partnered with Citizens Telephone Cooperative who received a \$9.2 million grant from the National Telecommunications and Information Administrations' (NTIA) Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP). The final result will be a 186 mile project stretching from Wythe County to Botetourt County, including Floyd, Giles, Pulaski, Montgomery, and Roanoke County as well as the cities of Radford, Roanoke, and Salem. The environmental assessment was completed and the Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) was issued in June 2011. Construction has begun and is anticipated to conclude in late 2012 or early 2013.

Element #2: Duties Performed:

Provide a concise description of all activities accomplished pursuant to the duties assigned under the Regional Cooperation Act.

A. Conduct studies with regional significance (initiated and/or completed).

1. Completed the Regional Transit Organization Study. The PDC collaborated with the Blacksburg, Christiansburg, Montgomery MPO to evaluate long term organizational strategies for the NRV.
2. Completed the Statewide 2035 Rural Long-Range Transportation Plan (RLRP).
3. Completed the 5-year update to the Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan including adoption by participating localities and approval by FEMA.
4. Prepared an annual update for 2012 to the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, the Strategy serves as the Strategic Plan's updated project listing approved in June 2009.
5. Completed the Regional Bikeway, Walkway, Blueway Plan.
6. Investigated the need of transit between Radford University and the Roanoke Higher Education Center. A survey was developed to determine the feasibility of linking Radford University to the Roanoke Valley Smartway bus stop in Christiansburg.
7. Worked on the Baskerville Neighborhood Housing Rehabilitation Grant awarded to Pulaski County under the Community Development Block Grant Program.
8. Awarded a three year \$1,000,000 Sustainable Communities Planning Grant. The national grant program was offered through a partnership between the Department of Transportation, the office of Housing and Urban Development, and the Environmental Protection Agency.
9. The NRV Livability Initiative has begun a study of the region's energy systems. Professor John Randolph with the VT Department of Urban Planning has been the lead researcher on that effort and has compiled energy use and cost by household over a five year period along with future projections adjusted for heating and cooling degree days, energy by source type, solar and wind potential, VMT (vehicle miles traveled) per capita, state energy plans and policies, and regional programs offering incentives.
10. The NRV Livability Initiative has begun a study of the region's housing - exploring ways to meet the housing needs of a growing and changing population. The VT Center for Housing Research has led this effort and has collected information on housing affordability, commuting patterns, housing + transportation costs, demographic data and projections, economic growth, age of existing housing stock, and suitability of housing stock for an aging population.
11. The NRV Livability Initiative has begun a study of the region's natural resource and agricultural systems. Project staff is in the process of collecting data to better determine the status of agricultural lands, forests, wildlife, air, sensitive areas, and viewsheds. Many of these natural resources are being mapped as part of this process. An assessment of public water and sewer infrastructure has also been completed.

12. The NRV Livability Initiative has begun a study of the region's economic development efforts and regional access to high-speed internet. Economic data on jobs by sector and job growth over time has been gathered. The economic development working group merged with the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy group and has identified key challenges that need to be addressed in order to ensure successful implementation of projects proposed.
13. The NRV Livability Initiative has begun a study of the region's community health status. Basic health data has been collected for a variety of health indicators such as diabetes, free and reduced school lunch, mental health, substance abuse, teen pregnancy and more.
14. The NRV Livability Initiative has begun a study of the region's transportation systems. Transportation data was collected as part of the recently completed regional transportation plan and regional bikeway walkway blueway plan. Efforts are now focused on indicators/analyses that can help assess how transportation impacts or is impacted by the other element areas of this planning process.
15. The NRV Livability Initiative has begun a study of the region's arts and culture and how these contribute to both quality of life and potential for economic development. The Arts and Culture working group has compiled an inventory of existing arts and culture assets within our region including: venues, galleries, museums, educational opportunities, etc. They are also currently working on assessing the various marketing strategies being employed by these businesses and organizations.

B. Identify and study opportunities for local cost savings and staff efficiencies through coordinated local efforts.

1. Through *Virginia's First*, the localities are evaluating the potential for creating new economy jobs in the region.
2. The Commission has coordinated and implemented an agreement between Pulaski and Montgomery Counties and Peppers Ferry Regional Wastewater Treatment Authority and the Blacksburg-Christiansburg-VPI Water Authority to have utility fixtures included in the construction of a new bridge on Rt. 114 across the New River.
3. Commission staff participated in and facilitated meetings of the Housing Partnership for the New River Valley which collaborates to find funding to provide services to needy families and individuals.
4. The Commission is working with the 'Round the Mountain organization to support up-to-date mapping of the Artisan Heritage Trails in Southwest Virginia.
5. The Commission continues to provide staff support for the Transportation Technical Advisory Committee.
6. The Commission continues to provide staff support for a regional working group called the Bikeway-Walkway Committee (a sub-committee of the NRV Technical Advisory Committee).
7. The Commission provides leadership and staff support for the Regional Transit Coordinating Council.

8. The Commission is attending meetings with the Crooked Road Music Heritage Trail to develop tourism opportunities associated with the Trail.
9. The Commission provides staff support to the Town of Blacksburg as HOME Consortium Staff.
10. The Commission provides staff support to the Town of Blacksburg as health-related conference facilitators, for events such as “Let’s Talk Public Health” August 2012.

C. Identify mechanisms for coordinating local interests on a regional basis.

1. The PDC is participating in Go Green NRV, a regional volunteer-led organization, to promote and encourage businesses to adopt sustainable business practices in their operations.
2. The Commission continues to work through the Bikeway-Walkway Committee and the Department of Conservation and Recreation to identify connections with the Huckleberry Trail, the Radford Riverway and the New River Trail State Park.
3. The Commission is a participant in the Community Collaboration Partnership to identify ways that local governments and organizations can work together to build capacity within the New River Valley.
4. The Commission has continued to lead the Planners’ Forum to bring local governments’ planning staff together to discuss mutual issues and concerns as well as build relationships for developing collaborative projects.
5. The Commission is working with local government, state, and citizen organizations to further alternative and multimodal transportation planning.
6. The Commission is working with regional partners to maintain a tourism marketing website for the New River Valley.
7. The Commission regularly convenes a community health working group to improve community health through regional coordination.
8. The Commission meetings serve as a forum for identification of issues which might be subject for joint action. The agenda has a specific section for Commissioners’ reports.
9. The Commission, through its Transportation Advisory Committee, serves as a mechanism for developing comments on regional transportation needs. The Commission’s comments are developed and provided to the Commonwealth Transportation Board, local legislators, and Governor’s Staff prior to the annual VDOT Pre-Allocation Hearing for the Salem District.
10. The Commission serves on the Trail Development Committees of ‘Round the Mountain – connecting local artisans to the regional, national, and international market place.
11. The Commission participates in the New River Valley Housing Partnership which serves as the region’s continuum of care group.
12. The Commission provides staff support to the New River Valley Home Consortium, performing such roles as program management and compliance, project development, Environmental Reviews and recordkeeping.
13. The Commission worked with VDOT to complete the New River Valley’s Rural Long Range

Transportation Plan.

14. The Commission worked with the Department of Rail and Public Transportation on developing the Multimodal and Public Space Design Guidelines.
15. The Commission worked with VDOT and the Governor's Office of Intermodal Planning and Investment to update VTrans 2035 and Virginia's Surface Transportation Plan.
16. Served on the Policy Board and TAC for the Blacksburg/Christiansburg Metropolitan Planning Organization.
17. The Commission continued to develop and promote Ride Solutions with employers in the New River Valley.
18. Developed an application to produce a regional energy plan.
19. The Commission is partnering with Virginia Tech, GENEDGE Alliance, Mount Rogers PDC, Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission and local governments for the Western Virginia Transportation Equipment Manufacturing Competitiveness Initiative.
20. Through the Livability Initiative, a forum to look at the various models that have been employed in other parts of the state to market their region as a destination for tourism.
21. The NRV Livability Initiative has held a series of preliminary meetings to explore potential collaborative efforts and partnerships across the public, private, non-profit, and philanthropic sectors that might facilitate implementation of some of the most promising strategies that are emerging from the regional planning process.

D. Implement services upon request of local governments.

1. Worked with Montgomery County Planning Department to perform a Route 11/460 Corridor Study within the village of Shawsville. The study evaluated the location and spacing of entrances against VDOT's new Access Management Regulations, AASHTO's sight distance criteria to address safety concerns, and how existing community plans fit into corridor safety.
2. Marketing support to the New River Valley Development Corporation in the operation of the New River Valley Business Center and New River Valley Revolving Loan Fund.
3. Provide project administration and technical and management support of Davis-Bacon reporting requirements to Pulaski County for the EDA-funded Pulaski County/Commerce Park water and sewer project.
4. Project management and grant administration services are being provided to *Virginia's* First for development of its projects.
5. Preparing an environmental report in support of a loan application for Pulaski County's Fair Acres Sewer Extension project.
6. Provide project administration to Pulaski County for the USDA Rural Development-funded *Pulaski County Central Water and Sewer* project. Project Administrative Services are being provided for Pulaski County (Newbern), and the Town of Floyd enhancement projects.
7. Recently finished an interim role as a broker of water between the City of Radford and

Pulaski County.

8. Working on a Housing Rehabilitation project under DHCD's CDBG program for the revitalization of the Baskerville neighborhood outside of Dublin on behalf of Pulaski.
9. Provide project management for the New River Valley Tourism website.

E. Provide technical assistance to local governments.

1. Provided technical and marketing assistance under RIDE Solutions to Town of Blacksburg, Town of Christiansburg, City of Radford, Montgomery County, Pulaski Area Transit, Blacksburg Transit, Radford Transit, Radford University, and Virginia Tech for alternative transportation/ridesharing.
2. Provide contract administration and fulfill Davis-Bacon reporting requirements to Pulaski County for construction of the Phoenix Packaging manufacturing building.
3. Work with the Virginia Tech Department of Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation to evaluate local projects in the Town of Pearisburg, the Town of Floyd, and Giles County.
4. Worked with the Draper Community to develop a Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Challenges analysis in Pulaski County.
5. Conducted Day-Rides to inventory local transportation challenges in Floyd and Pulaski Counties.
6. Coordinated the Safe Routes to School Travel Plan development process for Belview Elementary School and the Auburn Campus in Montgomery County.
7. Providing technical assistance to Floyd County for an innovation center to include grant administration support for the three-year project.
8. Provided transportation project cost estimating for various roadway, bicycle, and pedestrian improvement projects for numerous jurisdictions.
9. Provided grant-writing and technical assistance to the New River Valley Development Corporation.
10. Provide technical assistance to the Pulaski County Public Service Authority.
11. Provided technical assistance to the Town of Pulaski to determine the sustainability for downtown small business.
12. Provided technical assistance to Pulaski County with the update of the County's Comprehensive Plan.
13. Provided technical assistance to the Town of Floyd for Zoning and Subdivision ordinance updates.
14. The Commission is providing technical assistance to the Town of Pearisburg to update their Zoning ordinance.
15. Staff support for the NRV Network Wireless Authority.
16. Provided technical assistance under RIDE Solutions to Downtown Blacksburg, Inc.; Community Housing Partners, Carilion NRV, and a dozen other Workplace Partners in the community for alternative transportation/ridesharing.

17. Provided grant administration to Pulaski County for the management of a CDBG Construction Grant to do home rehabilitation and infrastructure improvements in a neighborhood outside of Dublin.
18. Provided technical assistance to Floyd County for the update of their Comprehensive Plan.
19. Continued to provide technical assistance to the Town of Floyd in developing its Comprehensive Plan.
20. Provided technical assistance to Pulaski County in updating its Subdivision Ordinance.
21. Providing technical assistance to the City of Radford in updating its Subdivision Ordinance.
22. Provided technical assistance to Pulaski County for the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant program from the Department of Mines, Minerals, and Energy to be used for retrofitting the Administration Building and library.
23. Provided VDOT-TEA grant management support to the towns of Glen Lyn and Rich Creek for their pedestrian/vehicular traffic and streetscaping projects. Also assisted Rich Creek in preparation of their 2011 grant proposal resulting in a \$200,000 grant that should fully fund the first phase of their project. Glen Lyn received a \$100,000 2011 grant.
24. Provided project management support to Pulaski County for their Historic Newbern Museum project.
25. Provided technical assistance to Citizens Telephone Cooperative in Floyd, VA for the New River Valley's Wireless Authority's Rural Open Access Network spanning across 186 linear miles within the New River Valley.
26. Facilitating Business Climate Task Force in the Town of Blacksburg.
27. Grant writing support to Floyd County for Economic Development Administration's Public Works program for Floyd Regional Commerce Center multi-tenant facility.
28. Provided technical assistance to the Giles County Planning Commission and staff in updating demographic, Census, and other background data for incorporation in the County's Comprehensive Plan update.
29. Provided grant-writing assistance to Giles County for two funding applications: (1) *Giles County - Live, Work, and Play: Tourism Enhancement Program* (ARC) (\$76,000); and (2) *Hotel Feasibility Study* (USDA-Rural Development) (\$10,450). Both applications were selected to receive funding.

F. Serve as liaison between local governments and state agencies as requested.

1. Between localities in the region and the Virginia Department of Transportation.
2. Between localities in the region and the Department of Rail and Public Transportation.
3. Between localities and the Department of Housing and Community Development, Appalachian Regional Commission, Rural Development, and the Economic Development Administration.
4. As fiscal agent for Area #2 Workforce Investment Board and the Virginia Employment

Commission/Community College System.

5. Between localities in the region and the Department of Conservation and Recreation.
6. Between localities in the region and the Virginia Department of Forestry.
7. Between localities in the region and the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries.
8. Between localities in the region and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
9. Between localities in the region and the Virginia Marine Resources Commission.
10. Between localities in the region and the Virginia Department of Health.
11. Between localities in the region and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.
12. Between localities in the region and the Department of Mines, Minerals, and Energy.
13. Between localities in the region and the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality.
14. Between localities in the region and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.
15. Between localities in the region and the Virginia Department of Historical Resources.
16. Between localities in the region and the 'Round the Mountain Artisan Network.
17. Work with the Crooked Road in conjunction with the Department of Housing and Community Development.
18. Sponsored student interns from Virginia Tech to broaden their knowledge of planning and the region and provide local-cost assistance to communities.
19. Between localities in the region and the Department of Emergency Management.

G. Review local government aid applications.

1. Conducted project reviews under the provisions of the Presidential Executive Order and the Code of Virginia as required by funding agencies.
2. Provided information and assistance to localities seeking State and Federal financial assistance.

H. Develop regional functional plans upon request.

1. Developed an organizational structure to implement the first NRV Telecommunications Plan.
2. Worked with the Regional Bikeway-Walkway Committee and local planning offices to further develop trail corridors that promote continuity.
3. Worked with 'Round the Mountain to maintain up-to-date mapping for artisan driving trails for Southwest Virginia.
4. Coordinated an agreement between localities and VDOT for utility line access to the Route 114 replacement bridge.
5. Coordinated a stakeholder agreement for maintaining access to the New River during the Route 114 Bridge construction.

I. Assist state agencies, upon request, in developing sub-state plans.

1. The Commission serves on DRPT's Coordinated Human Service Mobility Team. Participation is important to plan for potential grants and collaborative projects to help maximize regional transportation resources.
2. VDOT with the Statewide 2035 Rural Long Range Plan Update.
3. VDOT with the Statewide Bicycle Policy Plan.
4. DCR with the New River Trail Master Plan.
5. DCR with Virginia's Outdoors Plan.
6. DRPT with Coordinated Human Services Mobility Plans.
7. DRPT with the Multimodal and Public Space Design Guidelines.
8. VDOT with Statewide Bicycle Policy Plan, Secondary Street Acceptance Requirements, and Access Management Regulations.
9. DRPT with Transportation Demand Management Plans.
10. Statewide Regional Housing Forums.
11. Water Supply Plan – DEQ
12. VDOF/USFS to develop a regional green infrastructure plan.
13. Serve on the DCR Stormwater Regulations Advisory Committee.
14. All Hazards Mitigation Plan – Department of Emergency Management.

J. Participate in statewide geographic information system.

1. Serve as a member of the VAPDC Information/GIS Committee.
2. Continued to make investments in GIS equipment and software.
3. Registered to use DCR's Natural Heritage Data set.
4. Became a DCR Conservation Partner with direct access to protected datasets.

K. Serve as an affiliate of the State data center and collect and maintain demographic, economic, and related data for the region and member governments.

1. Regularly provide information and assistance in response to requests from the region and elsewhere.
2. Compile a Regional Data Book in printed and Web formats.
3. Produce bi-monthly newsletters which include demographic, economic, and related data for the region.
4. Provide information on the Planning District through social media: Blog (www.nrvpdc.wordpress.com), Facebook (www.facebook.com/nrvpdc), and Twitter (www.twitter.com/nrvpdc).

Element #3: Highlight successes and achievements of special note with regional efforts in cooperation. List these highlights in order of their importance to your PDC/region and keep in mind that one highlight from each PDC will be selected for inclusion in the biennial report on PDCs that is submitted to the Governor and General Assembly.

Highlight #1
New River Valley Livability Initiative



The Mission of the Initiative is *“To enhance the livability of the New River Valley by integrating as a rural, regional community that honors the existing values while building economic competitiveness and capitalizing on the unique local characteristics and diversity of the region.”*

As proposed, the Livability Initiative will include nine elements that will be incorporated into a comprehensive Livability Plan. Based on extensive public engagement, these topics may change. For instance, “Rural Sustainability Hubs” was a concept included in the original proposal, but is no longer a part of the project. During the 36-month planning period, these nine elements are guided by public input and working groups tasked with creating a plan for that program element. The nine elements include: (1) Housing, (2) Transportation, (3) Energy, (4) Arts/Culture, (5) Economic/Workforce Development, (6) Natural Resources, (7) Food Systems/Agriculture, (8) Technology Infrastructure and (9) Water Infrastructure.

Over 160 people have participated in working group meetings to date. The working groups have focused their efforts on establishing baseline conditions, trends, and projections; developing goals to address priority issues and trends; identifying measurable indicators of success; and brainstorming and prioritizing an initial list of strategies. The working group schedule, meeting notes, and supporting documents are all posted on the Livability Initiative website: nrvlivability.org.

Over the past year, several innovative outreach efforts have been made to better understand citizen concerns and priorities for the future of their communities and the region as a whole. Particular effort has been made to connect with minority, lower-income, lower-literacy, and very rural populations using varied engagement methods that integrate storytelling, interactive community theater and dialogue, and games as well as traditional survey and focus-group approaches. A total of 1,200 citizens have been reached through our overall outreach efforts.

• Regional Kick-off (150)	• Building Home-Story Circles (233)
• Online survey (100)	• Digital Story Telling workshop (28)
• Spanish language survey (20)	• Topic specific working groups (160)
• Lower literacy survey (300)	• BUILT NRV (158 and counting)
• Small group meetings (81)	

For further information on the New River Valley Livability Initiative please visit nrvlivability.org.

Highlight #2

New River Valley Regional Open Access Network

The Citizens Telephone Cooperative's New River Valley Regional Open Access Network (NRV-ROAN) is a middle-mile project to expand existing open-access fiber into adjoining rural counties. The project route is unserved and the project area is currently underserved by open-access, middle mile fiber, and there is no existing continuous fiber.

- The fiber route totals approximately 186 miles where the majority of the fiber will be buried using direct bury and boring techniques while minimally using aerial lines.
- The service area for the proposed middle-mile project traverses a region composed of seven Virginia counties: Wythe, Pulaski, Floyd, Giles, Montgomery, Roanoke, and Botetourt.
- Citizens Telephone Cooperative of Floyd County received a \$9,237,760 grant from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration's (NTIA) Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP).
- The NRV Wireless Authority, Citizens Telephone Cooperative and Tobacco Commission provided approximately \$2.3 million in match funding for the project.
- By June 2012, Citizens Telephone Cooperative reported that construction was nearly 50% complete and the remaining 50% of construction would be completed by the end of the calendar year.



Highlight #3

Western Virginia Transportation Equipment Manufacturing Competitiveness Initiative (TEMCI)

An Economic Development Administration (EDA) grant was awarded to the New River Valley Planning District Commission (PDC) who partners with the Mount Rogers Planning District Commission and the Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission. The EDA grant provides technical assistance to private companies through Virginia Tech's Center for High Performance Manufacturing as well as GENEDGE ALLIANCE. Volvo Trucks North America also pledged a significant amount of match funding.

- Eligible projects include: 1) Product Development; 2) Process Improvement; and 3) Green Technologies.
- After a successful first round of nine projects, two more rounds of funding occurred in 2011-2012.
- The second round, November 2011, produced nine projects generating a \$710,000 investment in projects.
- The third round, March 2012, produced three projects generating a \$166,500 investment in projects.
- The ultimate project outcome includes the preservation of high wage manufacturing jobs, building relationships between public and private sectors, and promoting private sector investment within the three regions.



Highlight #4

New River Valley Commerce Park

The Commerce Park is a joint economic development site that would not otherwise be affordable by individual local governments. The park was originally envisioned as a premiere location for technology-based manufacturing which required space, high investments in machinery and the tools of production, quality water supplies, and the potential for access to international travel and shipping. Changing market conditions have led the Commerce Park owners to reevaluate how the site is marketed to prospects, efforts which included a strategic planning process conducted by economic development experts resulting in recommendations for improving the marketing efforts on behalf of the park. Those efforts have been ongoing this year.

- The Commerce Park includes over 900 acres, is immediately adjacent to the New River Valley International Airport where US Customs is providing Port of Entry Services, and is in a suitable location with low potential for natural disaster interruption of business.
- The localities who jointly invested in the future include the Counties of Bland, Craig, Giles, Montgomery, Pulaski, and Roanoke, the Cities of Radford and Roanoke, and the Towns of Dublin, Pearisburg, and Pulaski. The eleven member Participation Committee elected Basil Edwards, City of Radford representative, as its Chairman; Chris McKlarney, Giles County representative, as Vice Chairman; and Shawn Utt, Pulaski County representative as Secretary/Treasurer.
- During FY 11-12, the Participation Committee has provided as-needed assistance to the Pulaski County Public Service Authority for the water and sewer capacity expansion project. The Committee celebrated progress at the New River Valley Commerce Park in developing the site as an attractive facility for businesses to locate facilities. The water tank bolting ceremony included Senator Philip Puckett, local elected officials, representatives of the member governments, and other local notables involved in the region's economic development.

Basil Edwards, Chairman of the authority's Commerce Park Participation Committee and City of Radford's Economic Development Director, spoke briefly as the group gathered for the photo marking the occasion, "This project isn't for us. We're making this investment for our children and grandchildren. A lot of organizations across the region have come together to make this project a reality and create opportunity for the future."



The water and sewer improvements for the park will provide for one million gallons of water and one million gallons of sewage transmission. This additional capacity makes the site more attractive to industries and businesses considering development sites in the New River Valley. Other advantages of the park include over 900 acres of industrial property in a Foreign Trade Zone (FTZ) and adjacent to a general aviation airport that includes U.S. Customs services.

Highlight #5

Healthy NRV

The New River Valley Planning District Commission collaborated with the Virginia Tech Institute for Policy and Governance (IPG) in a \$172,000 community grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) Roadmaps to Health program. Both the PDC and IPG provided a cash match as part of the requirements of the two-year Roadmaps to Health Community Grant award.

The project aims to improve the long-term health of people in the New River Valley through data gathering as well as engaging young people in assessing and offering steps to address health needs in their communities. The “digital storytelling” component of the grant involves youth ages 14-17, deployed with video cameras to conduct interviews in their communities. The teens received instruction in the arts of storytelling and video editing during a three-day workshop in December 2011. Participating youth were responsible to plan and execute community engagement activities in their respective communities. Student-organized events in 2012 include prescription drug take-back; high school fashion show to raise awareness of alcohol misuse among teens; and a health-themed fall festival “Healthy Harvest.” The multimedia materials they produced have been shared using social media, planning commission meetings, local news outlets, and other channels.



Narrows High School Fashion Show Models

The second major facet of the project, data gathering, focuses on the collection and refinement of regional health indicators and assessment data to inform the regional planning process. The economic impacts of health needs in the region are integral to the analysis, both for private industry and government.

Other partners on the grant include:

- Virginia Health Department-New River Valley District
- Partnership for Access to Healthcare
- Virginia Rural Health Association
- LewisGale Hospital at Pulaski
- Virginia Tech Master of Public Health degree program

The Healthy New River Valley project team and other grantees are building on a model that highlights the critical role that factors such as education, jobs, and the environment play in influencing how healthy people are and how long they live.

Highlight #6



Nearly three years in the making, the Regional Bikeway, Walkway, Blueway Plan is complete! The Regional Plan received a 2012 Excellence in Regional Transportation Award from the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO). NADO recognizes award recipients for their innovation and impact on communities throughout the nation. In 2012, 18 projects from across the nation were recognized for their innovative and excellent approaches to regional transportation planning and program implementation.

The 2011 Bikeway, Walkway, Blueway plan was developed from the ground up, starting in early 2009. To prepare the plan, the New River Valley Planning District Commission (PDC) met with each governmental jurisdiction to learn about local needs and planning initiatives. Each of the existing and proposed elements was integrated into a common GIS file, to scale. Many of the trails and access locations were mapped for the first time.

The New River Valley region is comprised of a mixture of rural, suburban, and small urban areas. Early in the planning process, the PDC determined that each area type would need the flexibility of applying design standards appropriate for the local demand. To accomplish this flexibility, the proposed improvement categories were consolidated into four types: hiking/mountain biking trails, multi-purpose trails, shared roadways, and blueways. This methodology created consistency within the regional planning document.



Ultimately, the 2011 plan is a resource that identifies multi-jurisdictional connections, establishes common goals and priorities, serves as a resource for local or statewide planning, and provides materials that can be used to pursue funding. For additional information, visit the project webpage at: <http://www.nrvpdc.org/Transportation/bwwwbw.html>

Highlight #7

New River Valley HOME Consortium



June 30, 2012 marked the successful completion of the New River Valley HOME Consortium's fifth year of funding. The HOME Program, established in 1990 by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), is the largest Federal block grant to State and local governments designed exclusively to create affordable housing for low to moderate-income households.

Funds are eligible for activities such as homeowner rehabilitation, new construction of single family or multi-family homes, acquisition of property, and demolition of substandard housing as well as architectural fees, feasibility studies, homebuyer's counseling, and other finance-related costs. The HOME funds require a 25% non-federal match by the Consortium, a way of ensuring commitment from the localities.

Over the past year, the NRV HOME Consortium completed the following activities:

- Radford's mixed use project on Main Street, which includes eight HOME units on the second floor, was completed.
- The Town of Pulaski completed the rehabilitation of one home and began the rehabilitation of one home in its Dora Highway comprehensive community improvement project, for a total of four HOME-assisted rehabs over the project's lifespan.
- The Town of Pulaski completed the rehabilitation of one home and began the rehabilitation of one home in its Tornado Recovery project.
- The Town of Pulaski sold one home constructed by Community Housing Partners to a first time homebuyer.
- Community Housing Partners completed the rehabilitation of an 88 unit HUD subsidized apartment complex in Christiansburg.
- Pulaski County identified several homes needing HOME assistance in its Baskerville Neighborhood Rehabilitation project.
- The Town of Narrows began construction on a mixed use residential project in its downtown.
- The Town of Rich Creek initiated an Assisted Living facility project adjacent to the Riverview Nursing Home.

The HOME Consortium Board meets quarterly.



BEFORE: A home in Pulaski's Dora Highway neighborhood in need of rehabing



AFTER: A brand new, energy efficient home.

Element #4: Submit a work program for the coming year that includes a budget and lists of member jurisdictions and commission members:

Check the appropriate responses for items that are to be included in this report.

- Work Plan/Program: YES ☒ NO _____
- Budget: YES ☒ NO _____
- List of member jurisdictions: YES ☒ NO _____
- List of commission members: YES ☒ NO _____

NEW RIVER VALLEY PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION

6580 Valley Center Drive, Suite 124
Radford, Virginia 24141

Phone: (540) 639-9313

Fax: (540) 831-6093

E-Mail: nrvpdc@nrvpdc.org

Website: www.nrvpdc.org



Kevin R. Byrd, AICP
Executive Director

COMMONWEALTH INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW MEMORANDUM

TO: Planning Commission Members

FROM: Kevin R. Byrd, Executive Director

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

CIRP Review

August 16, 2012

PROJECT: **VADEQ Pollution Prevention Enhancements**
VA120807-00200400999

SUBMITTED BY: Department of Environmental Quality

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: DEQ is applying for Federal funding assistance.

PROJECT SENT FOR REVIEW TO: Planning Commission members, not individual localities.

STAFF COMMENT: The staff has reviewed the appropriate plans (Land Use, Water Quality Management, Regional Solid Waste Management, Vision 2020, and the Economic Development plans) and finds that this project does not conflict with the plans or regional policies and goals.

**FY2012 Pollution Prevention Grant Program
Region 3 Simplified Competition
EPA-R3-LCD-12-01**

Virginia DEQ Pollution Prevention Enhancements

The proposed projects will expand and enhance two of the agency's current pollution prevention programs, the Virginia Environmental Excellence Program and the L3 initiatives underway within the Commonwealth.

Total Project Funding \$173,000

Requested Federal Funding: \$86,500

Funding Source: Performance Partnership Grant

Sharon K. Baxter
Office of Pollution Prevention
Virginia DEQ
629 E. Main Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219-2405
P.O. Box 1105, Richmond, Virginia 23218
(804) 698-4344
(804) 698-4533
sharon.baxter@deq.virginia.gov

Central Contractor Registration Date: April 9, 2013

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Kevin R. Byrd, AICP
Executive Director

COMMONWEALTH INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW MEMORANDUM

TO: Planning Commission Members

FROM: Kevin R. Byrd, Executive Director

AGENDA ITEM: XI. Intergovernmental Review Process, C. Environmental Project Review, Item #2

CIRP Review

August 16, 2012

PROJECT: **VPDES Permit Reissuance – Radford WTP VA0054780
VA120809-00300400400**

SUBMITTED BY: Department of Environmental Quality

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The City of Radford is applying for a permit reissuance for the public Radford Water Treatment Plant in Montgomery County, Virginia.

PROJECT SENT FOR REVIEW TO: David Ridpath, Radford City
F. Craig Meadows, Montgomery County
Peter Huber, Pulaski County

STAFF COMMENT: The staff has reviewed the appropriate plans (Land Use, Water Quality Management, Regional Solid Waste Management, Vision 2020, and the Economic Development plans) and finds that this project does not conflict with the plans or regional policies and goals.

Public Notice – Environmental Permit

PURPOSE OF NOTICE: To seek public comment on a draft permit from the Department of Environmental Quality that will allow the release of treated wastewater into a water body in Montgomery County, Virginia.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: July __, 2012 to 5:00 (p.m.) on August 2012

PERMIT NAME: Virginia Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit – Wastewater issued by DEQ, under the authority of the State Water Control Board

APPLICANT NAME, ADDRESS AND PERMIT NUMBER: City of Radford Water Treatment Plant, 20 Forest Ave., Radford VA 24141; VA0054780

FACILITY NAME AND LOCATION: City of Radford Water Treatment Plant, 20 Forest Ave., Radford VA 24141

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The City of Radford Water Treatment Plant has applied for reissuance of a permit for the public Radford Water Treatment Plant in Montgomery County, Virginia. The applicant proposes to treat industrial wastewaters at a rate of 0.047 million gallons per day into a water body. The sludge will be disposed by applying to land at the New River Valley Regional Airport. The facility proposes to release the treated industrial wastewaters to the New River in Montgomery County in the New River watershed. A watershed is the land area drained by a river and its incoming streams. The permit will limit the following pollutants to amounts that protect water quality: organic matter, solids & toxics.

HOW TO COMMENT: DEQ accepts comments by e-mail, fax or postal mail. All comments must be in writing and be received by DEQ during the comment period. Submittals must include the names, mailing addresses and telephone numbers of the commenter/requester and of all persons represented by the commenter/requester. A request for public hearing must also include: 1) The reason why a public hearing is requested. 2) A brief, informal statement regarding the nature and extent of the interest of the requester or of those represented by the requestor, including how and to what extent such interest would be directly and adversely affected by the permit. 3) Specific references, where possible, to terms and conditions of the permit with suggested revisions. DEQ may hold a public hearing, including another comment period, if public response is significant and there are substantial, disputed issues relevant to the permit.

CONTACT FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS, DOCUMENT REQUESTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Lewis Pillis; DEQ Blue Ridge Regional Office, 3019 Peters Creek Rd, Roanoke, Virginia, 24019-2738; Phone: 540-562-6789; E-mail: lewis.pillis@deq.virginia.gov; Fax: 540-562-6725. The public may review the draft permit and application at the DEQ office named above {by appointment}.

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Kevin R. Byrd, AICP
Executive Director

August 9, 2012

TO: David Ridpath, Radford City Manager

FROM: Kevin R. Byrd, Executive Director

RE: Commonwealth Intergovernmental Review

PROJECT NAME: **VPDES permit reissuance - Radford WTP VA0054780**

& NUMBER: **VA120809-00300400400**

SUBMITTED BY: DEQ

Please be advised this office has received from DEQ a copy of the public notice for the above referenced project. In accordance with Commonwealth Intergovernmental Review Process requirements, a copy of the public notice is enclosed for your review and comments. If you wish to make comments or require further information, please do so below and **return** to the Commission office **via mail or fax by the next Commission Meeting August 23, 2012.**

CHECK ONE



This agency finds no conflict between this project and its plans, policies and goals.

This agency wishes to make the following comments. (Use back of this form or additional sheets for comments.)

This agency presently provides or plans to provide services, which will conflict with or be duplicated by this project and therefore requests a conference. (Briefly state the nature of the conflict on the back of this form.)

SIGNATURE

DATE

Counties:
Floyd, Giles, Montgomery, Pulaski

Towns:
Blacksburg, Christiansburg, Floyd
Pulaski, Narrows, Pearisburg, Rich Creek

Universities:
Radford University
Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University

City:
Radford

NEW RIVER VALLEY PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION
AGENDA

September 27, 2012

6:00 p.m.—New River Valley Business Center, Fairlawn

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. CONSENT AGENDA
 - A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR AUGUST
 - B. APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORTS FOR AUGUST
- III. REVIEW OF MUTUAL CONCERNS AND COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS
- III. CHAIR'S REPORT
- IV. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE'S REPORT
- V. PUBLIC ADDRESS
- VI. COMMONWEALTH INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS
 - A. Projects (Signed-off by the staff)
 - 1. Proposal for completion funds required with the Sheadawn Industrial Park Road
 - B. Regular Project Review
 - None
 - C. Environmental Project Review
 - None
- VII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT (enclosed)
- VIII. OLD BUSINESS
 - None
- IX. NEW BUSINESS
 - A. New River Valley Livability Initiative Project Update
 - Presentation by staff (interim report enclosed for review)
- X. OTHER BUSINESS

All meeting materials posted on PDC website www.nrvpdc.org

New River Valley Planning District Commission
Treasurer's Report
Expenditures as of August 31, 2012

Expense Category	Budget	Previous Total	August Expenditures	YTD Expenditures	Budget Balance	% Budget Expended
Salaries	805,249.00	74,841.39	70,842.28	145,683.67	659,565.33	18.09%
Fringe Benefits	311,605.00	26,072.59	25,235.58	51,308.17	260,296.83	16.47%
Travel	67,505.00	3,358.29	4,528.95	7,887.24	59,617.76	11.68%
Office Space	21,544.00	1,795.30	2,187.10	3,982.40	17,561.60	18.48%
Telephone/Communications	6,000.00	555.85	611.44	1,167.29	4,832.71	19.45%
Office Supplies	9,871.00	665.23	177.42	842.65	9,028.35	8.54%
Postage	750.00	19.15	41.25	60.40	689.60	8.05%
Printing	250.00	-	9.45	9.45	240.55	3.78%
Copies & Copier Maintenance	1,600.00	335.39	162.36	497.75	1,102.25	31.11%
Media Ad	625.00	-	-	-	625.00	0.00%
Equipment Rent	1,500.00	123.24	123.24	246.48	1,253.52	16.43%
Vehicle Fuel	2,400.00	321.46	428.34	749.80	1,650.20	31.24%
Dues	7,745.00	-	500.00	500.00	7,245.00	6.46%
Training	1,375.00	-	-	-	1,375.00	0.00%
Insurance	1,000.00	-	-	-	1,000.00	0.00%
Meeting Expense	2,733.00	223.24	136.56	359.80	2,373.20	13.17%
Capital Outlay (Vehicle/Equip)	5,000.00	-	1,523.97	1,523.97	3,476.03	30.48%
Contractual Services	1,065,893.00	20,796.57	7,700.00	28,496.57	1,037,396.43	2.67%
Audit Fee	2,100.00	-	-	-	2,100.00	0.00%
Miscellaneous	57,000.00	219.07	324.14	543.21	56,456.79	0.95%
M & G Costs	127,825.00	8,274.47	12,077.29	20,351.76	107,473.24	15.92%
Common Costs	96,785.00	6,674.82	9,576.24	16,251.06	80,533.94	16.79%
	2,596,355.00	144,276.06	136,185.61	280,461.67	2,315,893.33	10.80%

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Kevin R. Byrd, AICP
Executive Director

September 27, 2012

Executive Director's Report

Transportation:

- VDOT is holding a public hearing on the design of I-81 bridge replacement project over the New River and Exit 105. September 25th 5:00-7:00pm City of Radford Municipal Bld. (see enclosed)
- NRV PDC co-convened a multi-region alternative transportation meeting with neighboring region, Roanoke Valley-Allegheny Regional Commission on August 25th at Green Hill Park in Roanoke County. 26 people attended including citizens interested in bike/pedestrian planning, engineers, agency staff and local organizations.
- MPO officially expanded at the Policy Board meeting held on Sept. 6th to include the City of Radford and eastern portion of Pulaski County.

Regional:

- Annual Planning Commissioner Dinner will be hosted by Pulaski County at VT River Course in Fairlawn. October 25th no Commission meeting, 6:00 Reception, 6:30 Dinner. Speaker will be Marcus Thompson from Volvo Trucks North America. Invitations forthcoming.
- NRV Livability Initiative: Interim project report is included in packet.
- NRV Hazard Mitigation Plan was officially accepted by FEMA. Since plan was accepted, eligibility is continued for another 5 years for NRV local governments to submit funding requests when hazard declarations are announced.
- The PDC submitted a local stormwater program development grant on September 10th to the VA Dept of Conservation and Recreation on behalf of Montgomery County, Floyd County and Pulaski County. If funded, the program will identify staffing requirements to implement the program locally, funding requirements (fee based versus general funds), assist with development of local ordinances and program implementation structure. Every local government in Virginia is required to implement a stormwater management program; however, non-MS4 towns may request their County to operate the program on their behalf.
- Attended Rural Summit of Virginia in Roanoke September 11-12. Attached is an article distributed at the Summit from Virginia Business Magazine regarding rural and metro interdependent relationships.
- PDC convened the second Virginia Re-entry Council planning meeting in our region, an initiative from the Governor's Office and Secretary of Health and Human Resources. Virginia CARES-NRV group is meeting to discuss how to approach the initiative given the amount of overlapping roles and duties their organization has in this region.

PDC:

- Conducted Commissioner Orientation with new Commissioners, Mr. Greg East, Town of Pulaski Council; and Mr. Jason Soileau, Virginia Tech Assistant VP for Planning.
- Requested an item that reflects each local government/university member of the Commission to display the unique character and assets in the PDC office lobby.

Counties:

Floyd, Giles, Montgomery, Pulaski

Towns:

Blacksburg, Christiansburg, Floyd
Pulaski, Narrows, Pearisburg, Rich Creek

Universities:

Radford University
Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University

City:

Radford



I-81 Bridge Replacements over the New River and Exit 105

Interchange Modifications Montgomery and Pulaski Counties Design Public Hearing

Tuesday, September 25, 2012, 5 – 7 p.m.

City of Radford Municipal Building
(Council Chambers)
10 Robertson Street, Radford, VA 24141

Find out about a proposed improvement project for a 1.677-mile section of Interstate 81 in Montgomery and Pulaski counties that extends from 0.733 mile south of the Montgomery/Pulaski County line to 0.944 mile north of the county line. The proposed project entails replacing the northbound and southbound I-81 bridges over the New River and modifying the interchange at exit 105 (Radford). The proposed project also includes replacing the Route 232 bridge over I-81 and modifying the associated approach roadways.

Review the proposed project plans at the public hearing or at VDOT's Salem District Office located at 731 Harrison Ave. in Salem, 540-387-5353, 800-367-7673, TTY/TDD 711. Please call ahead to assure the appropriate personnel are available to answer your questions.

Property impact information, relocation assistance policies and tentative construction schedules are available for your review at the above address and will be available at the public hearing.

An environmental document in the form of a Categorical Exclusion will be available at the public hearing. In compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106 and 36 CFR Part 800, information concerning the potential effects of the proposed improvements on properties listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places are included in the National Environmental Policy Act documentation.

Give your written or oral comments at the meeting or submit them by **October 5, 2012**, to Mr. Tim Dowdy, Virginia Department of Transportation, PO Box 3071, Salem VA, 24153. You may also email your comments to salem@vdot.virginia.gov. Please reference "I-81 Bridges Over the New River, Exit 105" in the subject heading.

VDOT ensures nondiscrimination and equal employment in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need more information or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, contact the project manager at the telephone number listed above.

State Project: 0081-060-126, P101, R201, C501, B603, B604, B608, UPC: 56899

State Project: 0081-077-107, P101, R201, C501, UPC: 56900

Federal Project: NH-081-1 (290), NH-081-1 (291)

Rural Virginia, metro areas are interdependent

by Bernie Niemeier

Before Interstate 64 was constructed, Routes 58, 60 and 460 were the major east-to-west highways across Virginia. These routes connected the commonwealth's cities and traveled through long stretches of rural Virginia. Route 60 in particular, was a long straight shot across the Piedmont and up and down the foothills of the Blue Ridge, finally winding its way through the mountains from Buena Vista to West Virginia and continuing on to points farther west.

Even today when traveling these byways, it can be hard for a city dweller to imagine what life in the country is like. While passing widely spaced farms and houses, it's easy to wonder, "What do folks out here do for a living?"

Much of what we hear about employment growth in Virginia centers on information technology and government contracts. The metropolitan areas have grown in population, and rural areas have declined. Former major employers such as the furniture, textiles and tobacco industries have nearly disappeared. Still, agriculture (including forestry) remains the largest job category in the commonwealth.

We call our cities "Independent Cities," but other than having their own elected officials and school systems they are hardly independent. Virtually all infrastructure projects (e.g. civic centers, ball parks, transit systems, concert venues) depend upon fiscal support from suburban counties and state or federal funding.

The tax base of our cities is rarely sufficient to fund projects that serve a greater regional good. Nor should it be. These projects improve the quality of life and provide economic development assets to entire regions, so they deserve regional support.

Virginia's state budget uses a number of complex funding formulas for allocations to individual localities for needs such as education, transportation, health

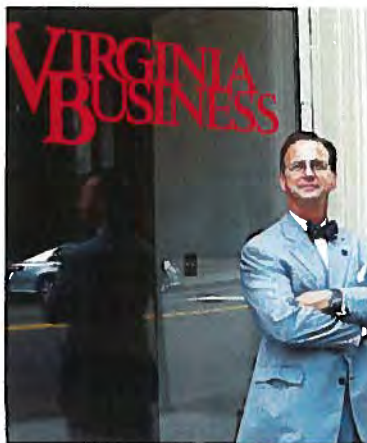
care, public safety and social services. These formulas transfer wealth from higher income metropolitan areas to lower-income and less populated rural ones that could not afford the full cost of certain essential services on their own.

Some argue, and rightfully so, that this transfer of tax revenue leaves the needs of the metropolitan areas less than fully met, especially when the metros have the vast majority of the state's population and traffic congestion, while at the same time producing nearly all of the job growth for Virginia. This is especially true in Northern Virginia and Hampton Roads.

On the other hand, proponents of rural Virginia are quick to remind us that connections between rural and metropolitan areas run two ways. Where do water, electricity, food, fiber for clothing, lumber for construction and gravel for highways come from? These are largely products of rural Virginia and rural America.

In addition to the commodities that fuel everyday living, we look toward rural locations for travel, vacation and recreational opportunities. In short, the quality of life in metropolitan areas is largely dependent upon the success of our rural regions.

When it comes to the future, almost everyone agrees that Virginia's economic development is important. Think for a minute about Newport News Shipbuilding, a division of Huntington Ingalls Industries, one of Virginia's largest publicly traded companies and also our biggest manufacturing employer. The shipyards were founded in 1886. Do you think if a similar large manufacturer were to come



to Virginia today, it would be located in Newport News? Unlikely. Rolls Royce, for example, selected a site in rural Prince George County, southeast of Petersburg for its new jet engine components plant.

Fairfax County was able to attract the North American headquarters of Volkswagen USA, but Virginia failed to gain a \$1 billion Volkswagen assembly plant

that went to Chattanooga, Tenn. While the lack of parity on economic incentives is worth considering, Tennessee was chosen largely because it had a shovel-ready industrial mega-site that suited Volkswagen's needs. At the time, Virginia had no similar sites.

The Virginia Tobacco Commission is currently providing more than \$28 million in funding for mega-sites in Virginia. They are all in rural, formerly tobacco-dependent, communities. In these times of cash-strapped state budgets, the Tobacco Commission has become the de-facto funding source for economic development.

The ability to rebuild Virginia's industrial economy depends upon the availability of suitable land and capable workers. These largely will be found in rural areas, perhaps near smaller cities as in the Rolls Royce example. The development of "automotive alley," a cluster of automotive manufacturers and parts suppliers along rural sections of I-85 in Alabama, Georgia and South Carolina, is yet another example.

As traffic congestion increases, and high land costs become more prevalent in metropolitan areas, economic and work-force development in rural Virginia is increasingly important. This isn't a matter of choice between two lifestyles; it is one of interdependence. **VB**

USED WITH PERMISSION FROM VIRGINIA BUSINESS

Kevin Byrd

From: Deborah Cox
Sent: Tuesday, September 18, 2012 6:41 PM
To: Deborah Cox
Subject: nado legislative update

Importance: High

To: NADO Members and Friends
Re: Brief Legislative Update

The following are some brief notes on recent legislative developments:

1. **Last week (on September 13), the House passed a six-month continuing resolution, or “CR”, to keep the federal government operating from October 1, 2012 through March 27, 2013 and we anticipate that the Senate will clear the measure this week.** Overall, the temporary funding measure (H. J. Res 117) reflects the \$1.047 trillion cap set for discretionary spending in the 2011 Budget Control Act (BCA) (P.L. 112-25), which is approximately \$8 billion over current spending and represents about a 0.612 percent across-the-board increase for most federal programs and services. The CR instructs agencies to develop plans explaining how they will allocate the funding among programs, projects, and activities and are required to submit those plans to Congress within 30 days of enactment of the bill.
 - **Economic Development Administration:** The CR provides no less than \$257 million for EDA and we anticipate that most EDA programs like public works and the planning grant program will be funded at current levels.
 - **Transportation:** The CR did not include new funding levels for U.S. Department of Transportation programs as outlined in MAP-21. Although most existing transportation programs will receive the .612 percent increase for the first six months of FY2013, the federal-aid highway program will stay at the current level due to legislative technicalities—a year-long obligation limitation of \$39.14 billion.
 - **Housing and Urban Development:** The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program will be funded at no less than \$2.94 billion, and the HOME program at \$1 billion. The \$300 million set aside within the CDBG formula for disaster assistance that was provided in the FY2012 HUD appropriations was not included in the CR.
 - **Disaster Relief:** The CR maintains funding for the FEMA Disaster Relief Fund (DRF) at last year’s level, including \$6.4 billion in BCA disaster designated funding. This funding is used to provide relief and recovery efforts following disasters, such as the recent Hurricane Isaac.
2. **The current Farm Bill expires on September 30 with little consensus on how to move forward.** Although the Senate approved a multi-year reauthorization of the Farm Bill (S. 3240) on June 21, the House version (H.R. 6083) has only been approved by the Agriculture Committee. So far, House leadership has not allowed time for floor consideration of the bill, despite the urging of House Agriculture leaders. As each day passes, the likelihood of a short-term extension is increasing (potentially a three-month or one-year extension); however, there is some talk that Congressional leaders could allow the current bill to expire and not revisit the issue until after the November elections. Last week, in an effort to move the process forward, a bipartisan group of 39 House members, including nine Republicans, signed a discharge petition led by Rep. Bruce Braley (D-IA) intended to force the hand of the House leadership and move the bill to the floor. Discharge petitions are rarely successful and they would need support from a majority of House members to proceed.

3. **Despite calls for a grand bargain, sequestration is still a very real possibility.** Last week (on September 14), the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB) released a congressionally-mandated report on the Administration's plans to implement sequestration, which are across-the-board, automatic budget cuts to defense and domestic programs that will go into effect on January 2, 2013, unless Congress passes legislation in the lame-duck session to avert the cuts. Reports are circulating that the Administration and Congressional leadership could potentially agree to postpone sequestration for three to six months, which would buy them additional time to negotiate a grand bargain.

In brief, the 394-page OMB sequestration report projects cuts of 9.4 percent to non-exempt defense discretionary spending and 8.2 percent to non-exempt domestic discretionary spending (funding for EDA, USDA, HUD, etc.). Most appropriated discretionary defense and domestic spending will be affected, with the exception of programs dealing with the pay and benefits of military personnel. Most mandatory spending programs including Social Security, Medicaid, and food stamps, are exempt from sequestration.

Regarding the impact of sequestration on transportation programs, OMB determined that Highway Trust Fund programs and the FAA's Airport Improvement program are largely exempt from cuts under sequestration due to a drafting oversight in the Budget Control Act. However, the report indicates that bailout transfers from the General Fund to the Highway Trust Fund would be subject to the sequestration process.

As developments occur on these issues and others, we will keep you updated.

Also—if you haven't already registered, we'd love for you to join us at our 2012 [Annual Training Conference](#) to be held October 13—16 in Las Vegas. The NADO legislative team (including some of our consultants) will be providing additional updates and analysis. The early bird rate has been extended to September 24. If you are not able to attend, send your staff!

Thank you for your continued support.

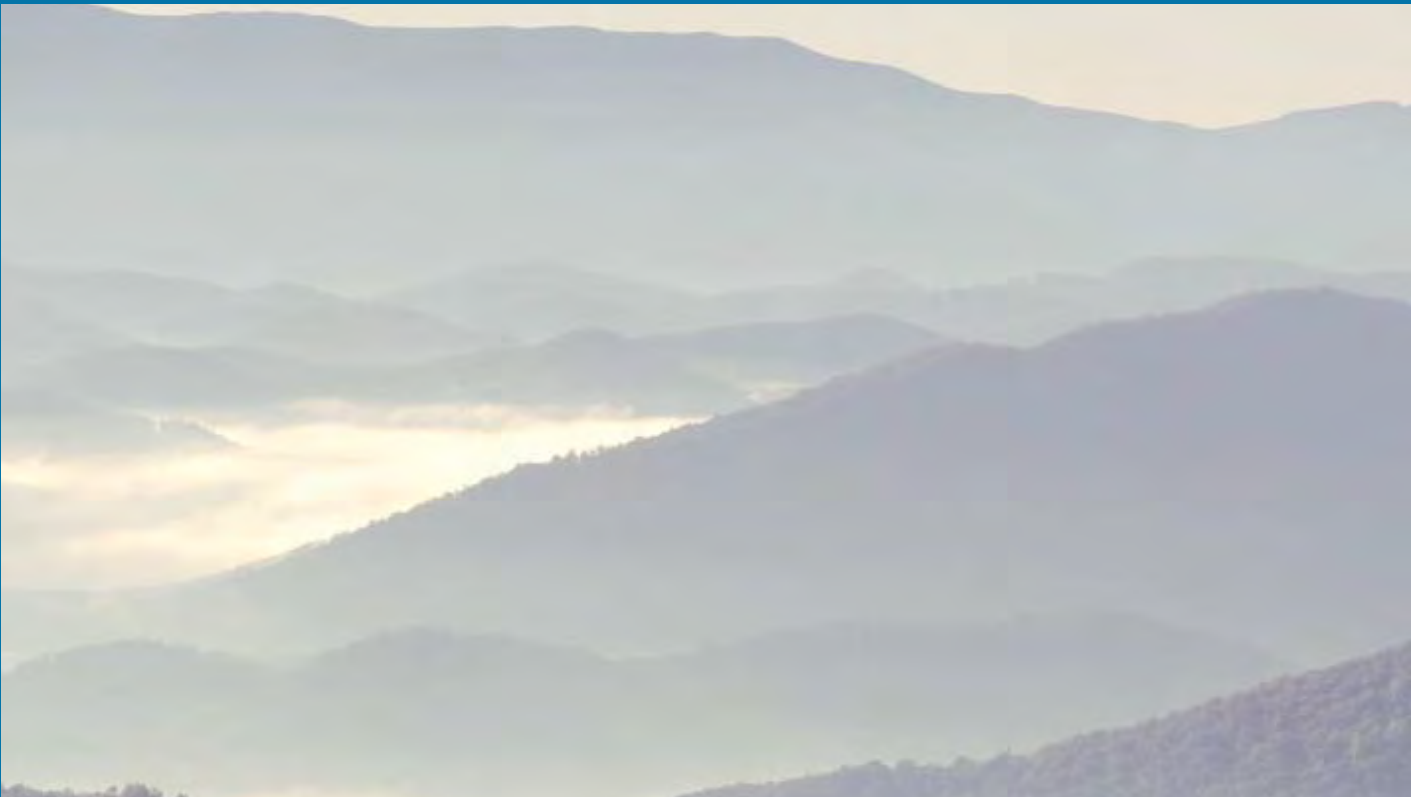
Deborah Cox
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2012 Interim Report

LIVABILITY in the NEW RIVER VALLEY



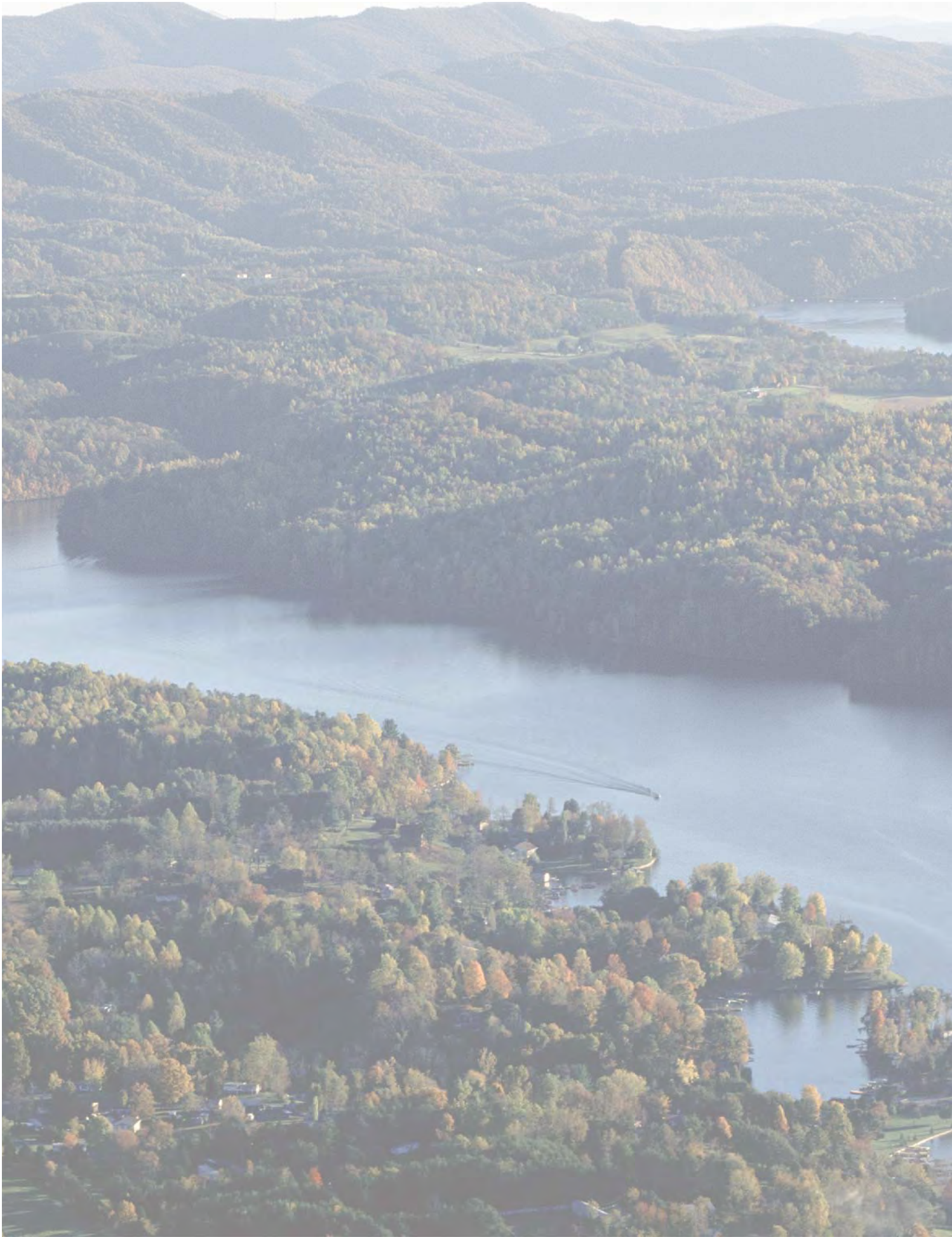




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WHAT IS THE LIVABILITY INITIATIVE?

The Livability Initiative is an opportunity for New River Valley residents to develop a vision for the future and develop strategies that businesses, community organizations, local governments, and individuals can use to make this future vision a reality.



This regional initiative is taking place over three years, providing many opportunities for residents to share their ideas about what they would like to stay the same and what they would like to be different.

The Initiative is focused on the New River Valley region, but with recognition that what works for one community may not work for another. The character and priorities expressed by each community and county will influence the development of goals and action items. By the end of 2013, the Initiative will develop a plan of action; communities can select from this menu of action items to best address their most pressing challenges, while at the same time accomplishing regional goals.

The planning process will help identify ways to increase regional self-reliance and prosperity, save tax dollars, increase support for local businesses, create communities that offer more choices in housing and transportation, and protect the region's rural character and scenic beauty.



Why is this Initiative Important?

The New River Valley faces a number of challenges, but it also has enormous assets and resources. Planning helps communities choose their own future. Planning processes, like the Livability Initiative, help us to see the big picture, by generating new information and ways to talk openly about the future. In this way, planning can inspire people to be proactive about ensuring the New River Valley is a great place to live, work, and play today and tomorrow.

About this Report

The information in this report was gathered by Livability Initiative partners, New River Valley Planning District Commission staff, seven topic area working groups (arts and culture, community health, economic development, energy, housing, natural resources, and transportation), and through numerous outreach events during August 2011-2012 in which more than 1,500 residents participated. This report provides a summary of major issues and trends in the New River Valley region. The following six trends are major drivers behind the region's biggest challenges: *An Aging Population, Agricultural Shifts, Commuting Patterns, Housing Costs, Jobs & Education, & Community Health*. Focusing on how we address these trends will enable us to more effectively improve the quality of life for residents in the New River Valley.

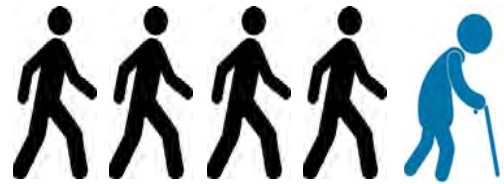
AN AGING POPULATION

The New River Valley's population is aging. The number of seniors will nearly double in the NRV in the next 20 years. In Giles and Pulaski, the under-25 year-old population is also declining, as many young people seek opportunities outside the region. These two population trends are likely to create an increased demand for services to support older citizens and a smaller tax base to support those services.

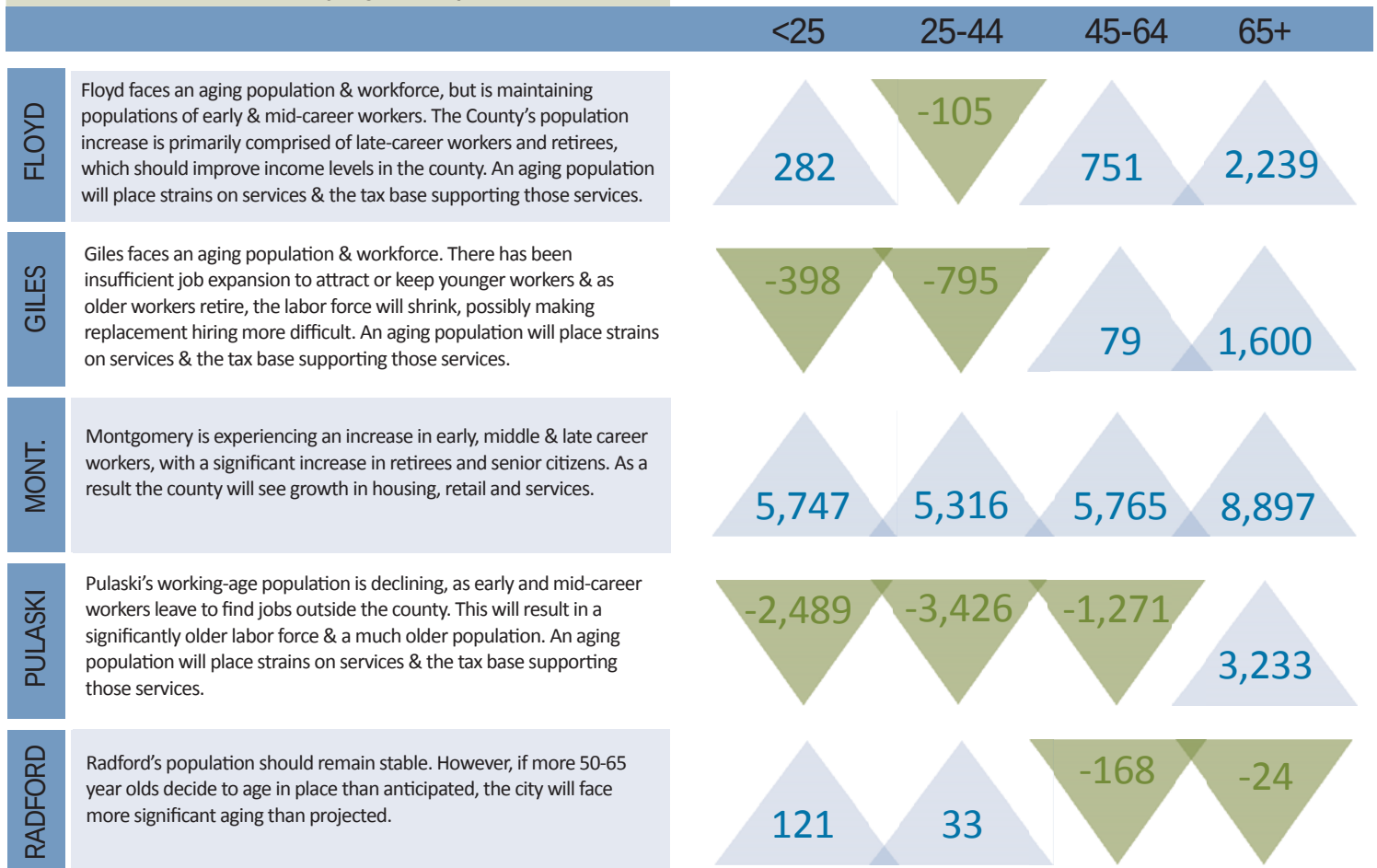
An aging population brings specific challenges to the community. Declining mobility makes it harder for older adults to navigate stairs and bathrooms and many find their existing homes no longer meet their needs. When older adults are no longer able or comfortable driving, few options exist to get to and from the grocery store, the doctor's, or people and places they want to visit. These challenges can increase both health risks and isolation – which are significant factors that drive premature placement in a nursing home – an extremely costly housing option for older adults, their families, and the public.



2x By 2030, the number of seniors will nearly double in the NRV & about 1-in-5 people will be over age 65



2000-2030 Change in Number of Residents by Age Group

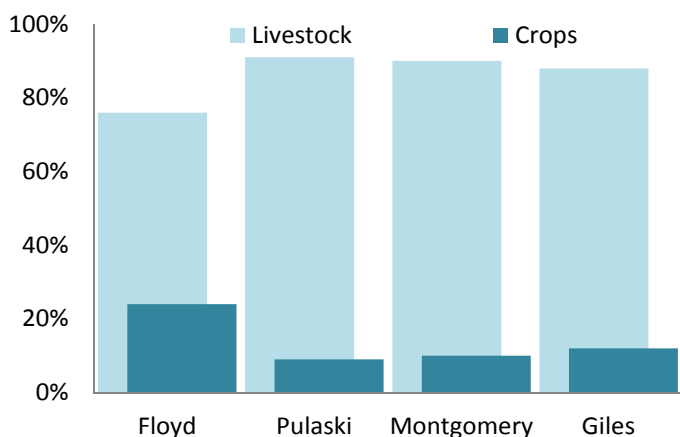


*2000-2010 data from decennial Census Counts; 2020 and 2030 projections from the Virginia Center for Housing Research. Note: These should be considered 'Interim' projections until the new VEC projections are available.

AGRICULTURAL SHIFTS

Farms are shrinking, farmers are getting older, and younger generations are showing less interest in continuing their families' farms. In Montgomery and Floyd, pressure to sell farm property is high as the population, and resulting need for additional housing, continues to increase. Shrinking farmlands alter the rural character and scenic beauty that defines this region. With fewer farms and fewer farming families, the skills, traditions, and culture built around the rural economy are less likely to contribute to a rural community's sense of place and history.

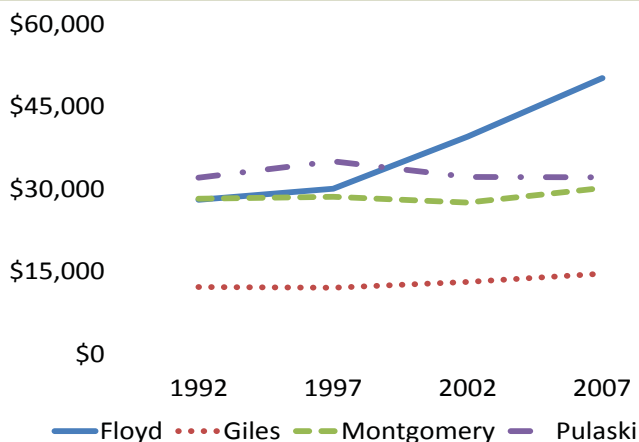
% of Total Market Sales by Livestock and Crop Production



*2007 USDA Agricultural Census

The NRV is home to the 7th largest cattle population in Virginia. Livestock makes up the majority of market sales in every county. Primary crops include hay, Christmas trees, nursery stock, fruits, and vegetables.

1992-2007 Change in Average Market Value of Agricultural Products

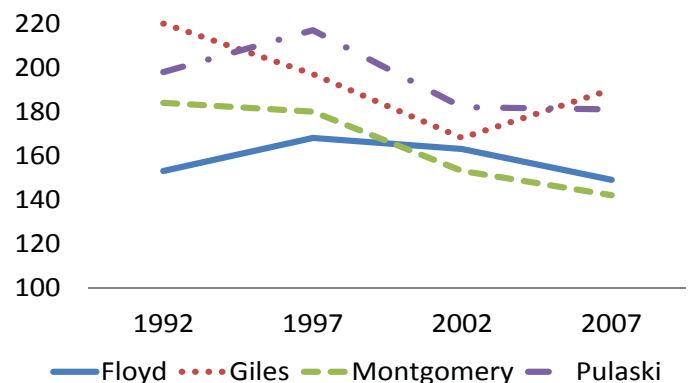


*2007 USDA Agricultural Census



The average farm size and amount of acreage in agricultural production is on the decline.

1992-2007 Change in Average Farm Size (acres)



*2007 USDA Agricultural Census



In 2007, the average farm operator was 58 years of age, and 58% of farmers relied on an off-farm job as their primary source of income.

of Acres & % of Farmland Taken Out of Agricultural Production

Floyd	6,439	-5%
Pulaski	5,465	-7%
Montgomery	10,259	-10%
Giles	2,842	-4%

*2007 USDA Agricultural Census

COMMUTING PATTERNS

Over the past 30 years, the patterns of development in the New River Valley have typically concentrated commercial areas along major roadways while housing is spread sparsely throughout the region. Housing and transportation costs typically account for over 40% of the region's household median income. In rural parts of the Valley, housing costs tend to be lower, but the increased distance from job centers and amenities often create higher transportation costs for rural households. Those who live in town or more urban centers tend to spend more on housing, but live closer to common destinations – reducing household transportation costs.

For those who don't have secure transportation, or are unable to drive, the lack of transportation options can limit access not only to jobs, but also to medical care and education. This is especially the case for lower-income families and seniors. Declining employment in the manufacturing sector has also increased the number of people, particularly in Pulaski County, who have to commute outside of their home county for work.



Each year, NRV residents travel an average of 11,874 miles and spend an average of \$7,588 on transportation costs (fuel, maintenance, insurance, etc.)

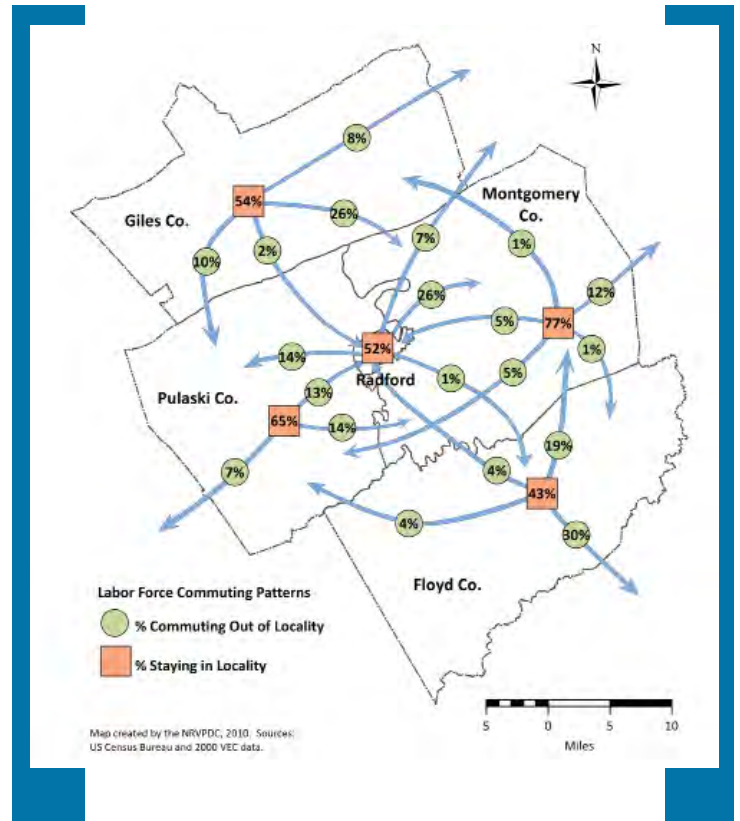
% of Workers Commuting Out of Their County for Work

	2005		2010
Floyd	61.1%	decreased	55.9%
Giles	61.0%	increased	63.3%
Montgomery	32.4%	decreased	31.7%
Pulaski	39.5%	increased	53.6%
Radford	60.6%	decreased	54.2%

*Virginia Center for Housing Research, On the Map, U.S. Census Bureau *Based on Unemployment Insurance (UI) Wage Records and the Quarterly Census for Employment and Wages (QCEW). Coverage under these datasets currently excludes several groups of workers including uniformed military, self-employed workers, and informally employed workers.



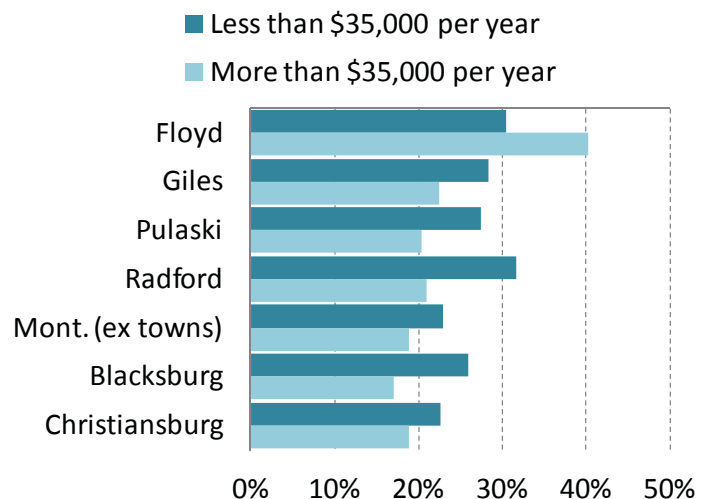
Workers earning less than \$15,000 a year commute an average of 26 miles more per day than workers who earn \$40,000 or more per year.



* 2000 U.S. Census Bureau, and 2000 Virginia Employment Commission Data;
*Based on survey data capturing formal and informal as well as full and part-time employment.

Many of the region's lower income families are unable to afford housing in close proximity to employment and commercial areas. As a result, these families must often choose lower-cost housing farther away and incur higher transportation costs.

% of Workers Driving more than 25 miles to Work by Income

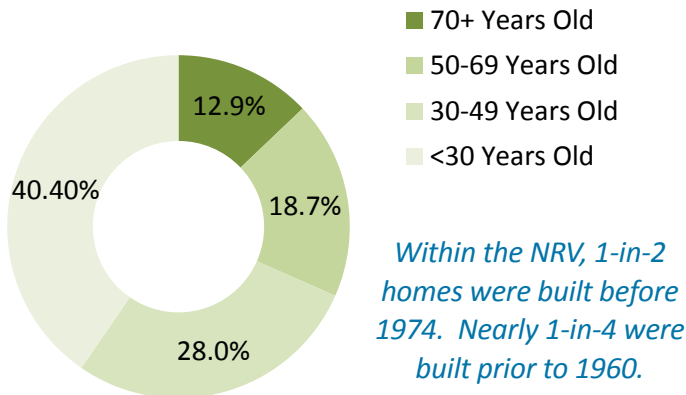


*U.S. Census Bureau, ACS 2005-2009

HOUSING COSTS

As energy use and prices continue to rise, households in the NRV are spending more and more of their income on their electric and home heating bills. The cost increases have been even more dramatic for those who live in older and less energy efficient homes. As a result, many residents are finding they have less money each month to spend on housing, food, childcare, medicine, and medical care. These changes affect not just household budgets, but our local and regional economy as families limit their spending on recreation and retail items when the funds required to meet basic needs are stretched too thin.

% of Total Housing Stock by Year Built



*U.S. Census Bureau, ACS 2005-2009

The loss of jobs in Pulaski and Giles could impact the quality of the housing stock in these counties. Reduced household income and increased vacancies often lead to under-maintenance, poor energy efficiency, and increased physical deterioration.



1-in-3 households in the NRV spend more than 30% of their household income on housing costs and are therefore, considered "cost burdened".

Number & % of Cost-Burdened Households in the NRV

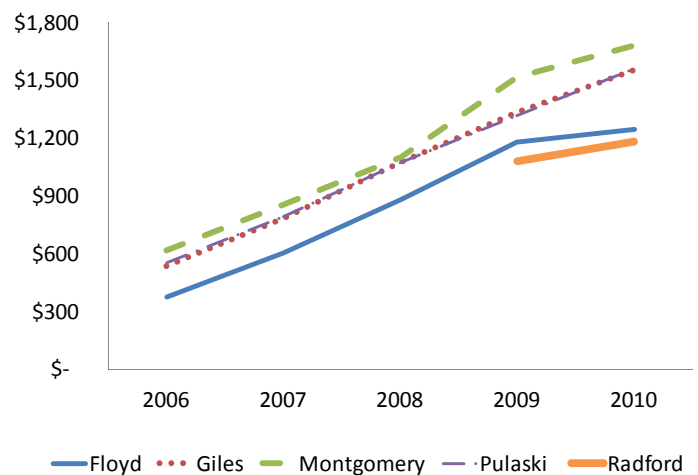
Floyd	1,290	21.5%
Giles	1,598	23.7%
Montgomery	12,227	36.8%
Pulaski	3,944	32.3%
Radford	2,597	36.2%

*U.S. Census Bureau, ACS 2005-2009



Household electricity costs in the NRV have increased 30% per year for the last five years based on an increase in price and use.

2006-2010 Annual Change in Electricity Costs per Household



*Appalachian Power Company, 2006-2010



Nearly ½ of lower income homeowners and nearly ¾ of lower income renters spend more than 30% of their income on housing costs.

JOBS & EDUCATION

For middle-skill and higher-skill workers, there are many opportunities for job training and career advancement in the NRV. However, this is not the case for the region's lower-skill workers. Unemployment is high for those who did not graduate high school or only possess a high school diploma. New demands of the 21st century are bringing shifts to the job market and require workers with more advanced skills. Without skill advancement, residents are poorly positioned to take advantage of job opportunities and build income. These citizens and their families are among the most vulnerable to changes in the cost of housing, transportation, food, and rising energy and health care costs.

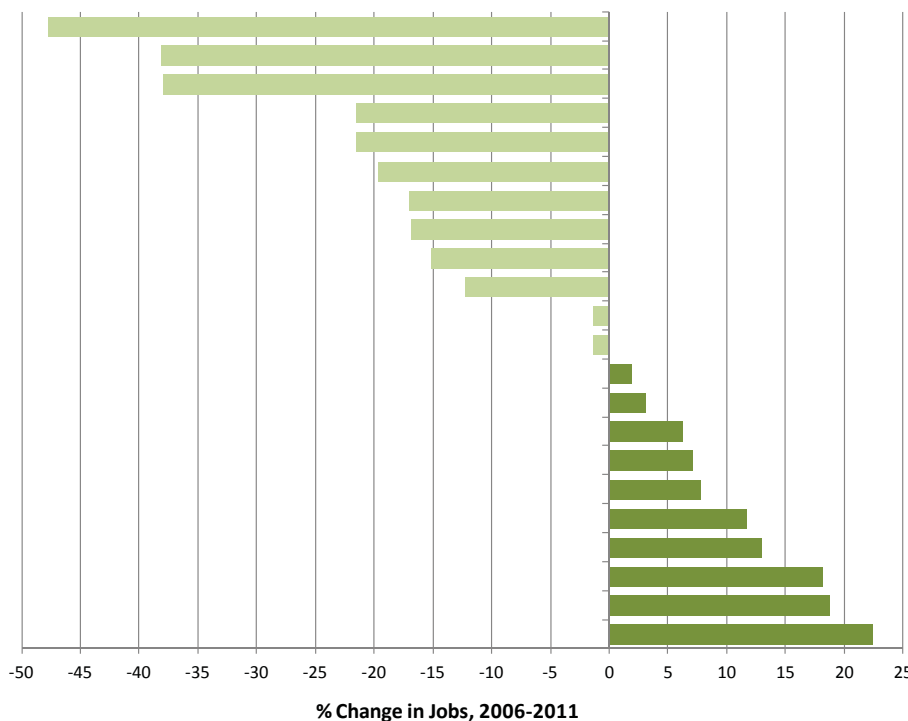


NRV lags behind in state averages in educational attainment, especially in post-high school education.

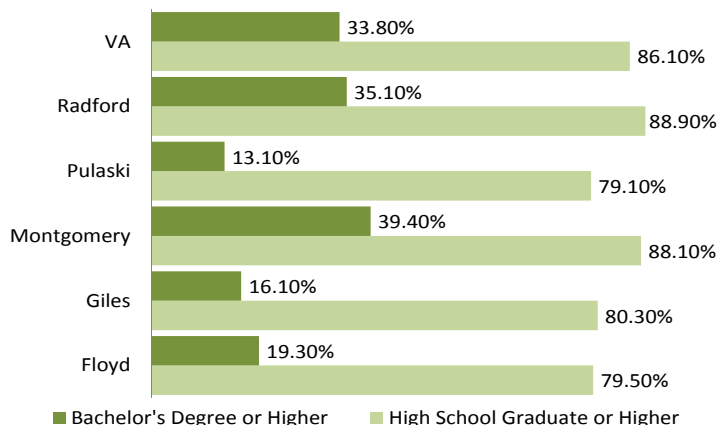


Jobs in manufacturing have been decreasing while jobs in professional, scientific, and technical services have been increasing.

2006-2011 Job Loss and Creation by Industry Sector



Percentage of Residents with Specified Educational Levels



*U.S. Census Bureau, ACS 2005-2009

*Southern Rural Development Center using Economic Modeling Specialists Int. Data

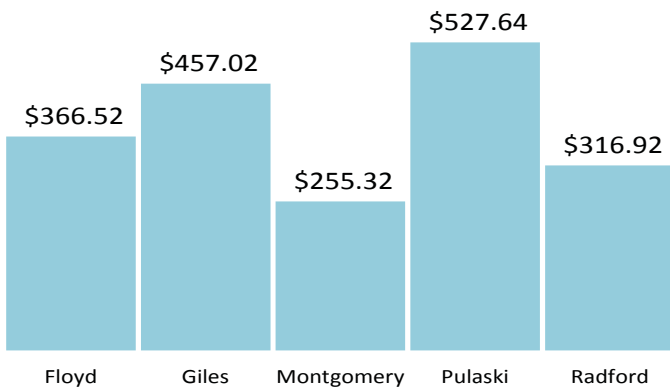
COMMUNITY HEALTH

The New River Valley ranks poorly on several health-related measures, when compared to both Virginia overall and national benchmarks. A few issues stand out as particularly troubling—these include smoking, physical inactivity, obesity, substance abuse, poverty, and teen pregnancy rates.



In the NRV, death rates from prescription drug abuse are 3x higher than the state average. Rates in Giles & Pulaski are 4x and 6x higher respectively.

Annual Public Costs of Diabetes per NRV Resident



* County Health Calculator; Based on: Education and income statistics from U.S. Census; county death rates and diabetes prevalence estimates from the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services 2006-2008; estimates of medical spending on diabetes from the American Diabetes Association; and a county variation factor derived from The Dartmouth Atlas of Health Care Medicare reimbursement.



People with diagnosed diabetes, on average, have medical expenditures that are approximately 2.3 times higher than the expenditures would be in the absence of diabetes. Approximately 1 in 10 public health care dollars is attributed to diabetes. Indirect costs include increased factors such as absenteeism from work, reduced productivity and quality of life.

Does Not Meet VA State Average

Health Indicators of the New River Valley

	Floyd	Giles	Montg.	Pulaski	Radford	Virginia
Teen Pregnancies per 1000 births	28	46	16	49	8	35
% of Children in Poverty	20	19	17	23	19	15
Limited Access to Healthy Foods	9	22	13	17	8	7
% of Adult Obesity	28	29	29	27	28	28
% of Adult Smokers	22	22	16	35	13	19

*2012 VA County Health Rankings & Roadmaps

HOW CAN WE ADDRESS TRENDS & CHALLENGES?

Many of the challenges, issues, and trends that the New River Valley faces are inter-related, which means that progress in one area can lead to improvements in others. This next section identifies some of the ways these challenges intersect and overlap, which may create new opportunities to more effectively address our challenges through an integrated approach. By integrating efforts on multiple fronts, our businesses, community organizations, local governments, and residents can become more focused and effective with the investments we make in our communities- investments that build upon one another- to help make our future vision a reality.

Enhancing Living & Working Environments

- 1** *Ensure there are affordable housing options for all stages of life and income groups.*
- 2** *Increase housing choice near jobs, services, and other key destinations.*
- 3** *Reduce energy costs to households, businesses, institutions, and municipalities through energy efficiency improvements, reduced energy waste, local energy generation, affordable energy prices and rates, and expanded consumer choice.*
- 4** *Enhance transportation and internet options to create better access to employment centers, town centers, and key destinations throughout the region.*
- 5** *Seek ways for residents to successfully age in place and in their communities.*

Making the Business Environment more Productive & Efficient

- 1** *Support and develop a diverse economic base, from emerging high technology industries to small businesses to provide high quality jobs and foster regional investment.*
- 2** *Improve the region's telecommunications infrastructure network to attract new businesses and assist existing businesses.*
- 3** *Invest in transportation projects that enhance the business environment.*
- 4** *Ensure that residents have the skills, resources, and education necessary to reach their full potential.*
- 5** *Strengthen the economic viability of agriculture to diversify the local economy and enhance quality of life.*

Preserving Rural Heritage & Community Character

- 1** *Protect beautiful vistas, which characterize the New River Valley, to preserve quality of life and rural character.*
- 2** *Protect and enhance parkland, open space, and waterways of the New River Valley to provide for outdoor recreation opportunities.*
- 3** *Recognize and celebrate the importance of the arts, culture, and history as being central to defining and building community character and pride.*
- 4** *Strengthen the economic and cultural position of downtown commercial districts.*
- 5** *Integrate existing community character into the design of community core improvements.*

Building Healthy Communities

- 1** *Monitor and improve the environmental quality of the New River Valley's air, water, and land to promote the health of its residents.*
- 2** *Promote proactive choices about food, fitness, family, work, and play.*
- 3** *Improve access to healthy transportation, housing, and recreation options.*
- 4** *Foster collaboration across healthcare providers and networks to decrease health disparities and to increase access, availability, and affordability of healthcare services.*
- 5** *Promote local strategies that prevent and reduce the burden of chronic conditions, disease, and substance abuse.*

Enhancing Living & Working Environments



1 Ensure there are affordable housing options for all stages of life and income groups.

Communities that offer a variety of housing types, such as single-family homes, townhouses, duplexes, and apartments attract and retain residents at all life phases- from young families to retirees.

To accommodate projected population growth over the next 20 years, the region will need 10,000 new homes, and 14,000 existing homes will need either replacement or substantial rehabilitation, due to their age. Looking at population growth and other changes in demographics, it will be important to consider how development patterns and redevelopment efforts can provide greater availability and access to jobs, services, entertainment, and healthy environments, while helping residents find more affordable options in how they live.

2000-2010 Change in Number of Housing Units by Structure Type

	Single Family	Multi Family	Mobile Home
Floyd	709	104	94
Giles	370	-22	207
Mont.	3,122	2,046	-283
Pulaski	428	-28	485
Radford	704	-403	-14

* U.S. Census Bureau, ACS 2005-2009; Virginia Center for Housing Research.

2 Increase housing choice near jobs, services and other key destinations.

Increasing housing choices near job centers and implementing multi-modal transit infrastructure such as sidewalks, multi-purpose paths and public transportation to better link these residential communities to places where people work, shop and do business can provide residents with more flexibility and affordability in how they get to and from work and go about their daily lives. In addition to the jobs-housing connection, when more housing choices are available in closer proximity to schools and other community amenities, it can save families significant time and money as well as public dollars spent on infrastructure and municipal services.

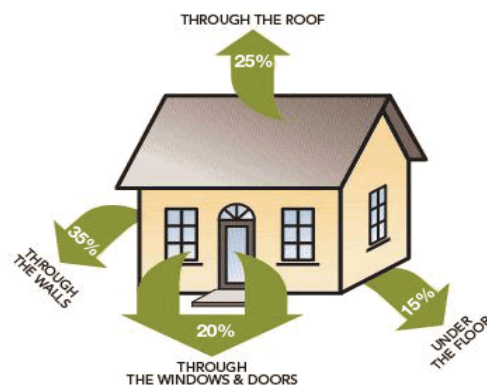
Median Income by County and % Required for Housing & Transportation Costs

Floyd	Giles	Mont.	Pulaski	Radford
\$42,044	\$41,186	\$48,598	\$41,163	\$37,294
44%	37%	45%	34%	46%

*U.S. Census Bureau, ACS 2006-2010, Virginia Center for Housing Research 2012 and AAA; Note: Median household income excludes the student population in the City of Radford and Montgomery County.

3 Reduce energy costs to households, businesses, institutions, and municipalities through energy efficiency improvements, reduced energy waste, local energy generation, affordable energy prices and rates, and expanded consumer choice.

Housing involves more than square footage, number of bedrooms, mortgage or rent. It also includes the more 'invisible' items that factor into overall housing costs, one of the largest being the cost of energy. Improving the energy-efficiency of existing homes can substantially increase the affordability of housing, while improving comfort, safety and health of residents.





4 Enhance transportation and internet options to create better access to employment centers, town centers, and key destinations throughout the region.

In addition to expanding housing options near job and commercial centers, enhancing transportation choices, such as public transit, vanpools, or park and ride locations can help reduce costs for families who prefer to live a rural lifestyle. This can also benefit older adults, the disabled, and those who do not own a car.

Connecting more homes with high-speed internet can also help residents' access work and services from home, making telecommuting a viable option and further reducing commuting costs for families. Improved internet access can also help residents remain better connected with family and friends, participate in online education programs, and receive health-related services and information over the internet.

Benefits of Expanding Access to Broadband

1. Accelerates business development and job growth.
2. Provides direct access to education for rural residents.
3. Increases digital literacy to improve academic performance and prepare for future jobs.
4. Makes telecommuting (working from home) a viable option.
5. Expands access and quality of healthcare, while reducing the cost of care.
6. Strengthens ties with family and friends.
7. Improves the speed at which emergency personnel can react to a crisis.

5 Seek ways for residents to successfully age in place and in their communities.

Overwhelmingly, older adults say they prefer to age in their homes, near family and the community they love. Assisted living and nursing homes are expensive and often outstrip the resources of many older adults and their families. To enable more people to age successfully in their homes and communities, modifying existing housing can help meet the changing physical and cognitive needs of older adults. Thinking about how to make housing more age-friendly at the design and construction phase is also important. Greater choice in supportive services -from help with housekeeping to in-home healthcare - will help more people live in their homes with greater safety, independence, and dignity.

Each year, 1-in-3 adults aged 65+ accidentally falls. Main risks in the home include lack of grab bars, poor lighting, & tripping hazards. 1-in-4 older adults have a lower body limitation. Their homes could be made more safe with home modifications.

Average Costs of Elderly Care Per Month in Virginia

Nursing Home/Private Room	\$6,360
Assisted Living	\$3,743
Adult Day Services	\$2,880
Home Health Aide	\$1,860

*2010 MetLife Market Survey of Long-Term Care Costs

Costs for home modifications range from a few hundred dollars for handrails and bathroom grab bars, to more than \$5,000 for a roll in shower or stair lift.

Bathroom Retrofit for Independent Living



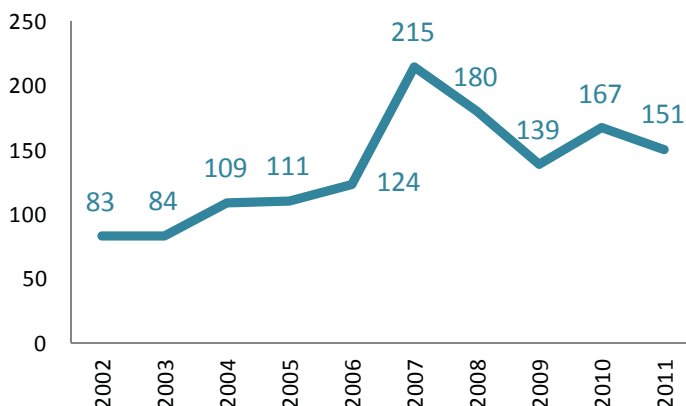
Making the Business Environment more Productive & Efficient



- 1** *Support and develop a diverse economic base, from emerging high technology industries to small businesses, to provide high quality jobs and foster regional investment.*

Employment trends within the New River Valley will impact the location of jobs, commuting patterns, and where our workforce lives. Several factors have shaped the employment landscape of the region. Blacksburg and Radford continue to be important centers for higher education and provide a substantial and growing employment base. The Virginia Tech Corporate Research Center provides business innovation in the region and is facilitating the creation of new jobs. Pulaski and Giles Counties have traditionally been reliant on manufacturing for jobs, but the region's employment in the manufacturing sector has been shrinking over a long period. The number of self-employed businesses has been growing and now outnumbers jobs in the manufacturing sector.

Number of New Business Startups in the New River Valley



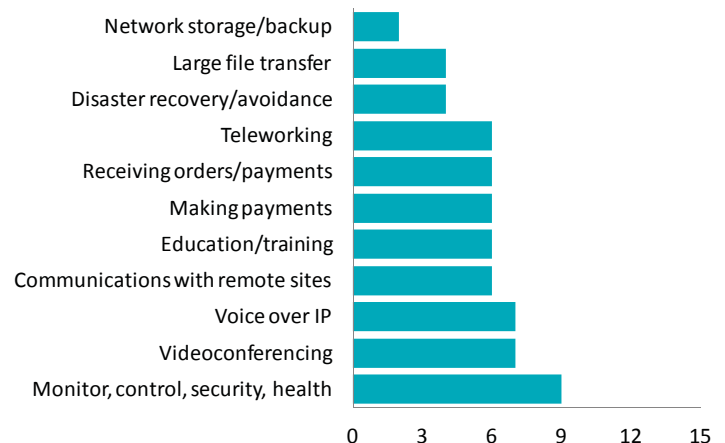
*Virginia Employment Commission, Quarterly Census of Employment & Wages

- 2** *Improve the region's telecommunications infrastructure network to attract new businesses and assist existing businesses.*

Access to the latest technology, infrastructure, and a highly-skilled workforce is critical to retaining existing businesses as well as increasing the diversity and number of jobs in the region. Quality of life also impacts economic development by attracting new businesses and supporting the existing economy. The business sector, in turn, contributes further to community quality of life through investments in the built environment, culture, and philanthropy.

Improving the region's telecommunication network can assist existing businesses, attract new businesses, and allow residents to access education opportunities. Affordable broadband linkages throughout the NRV can help meet the rising technology usage of both residents and businesses.

Number of Top 15 NRV Employers Reporting Needs of Broadband Usage



*2004 NRVPC New River Valley Telecommunications Plan



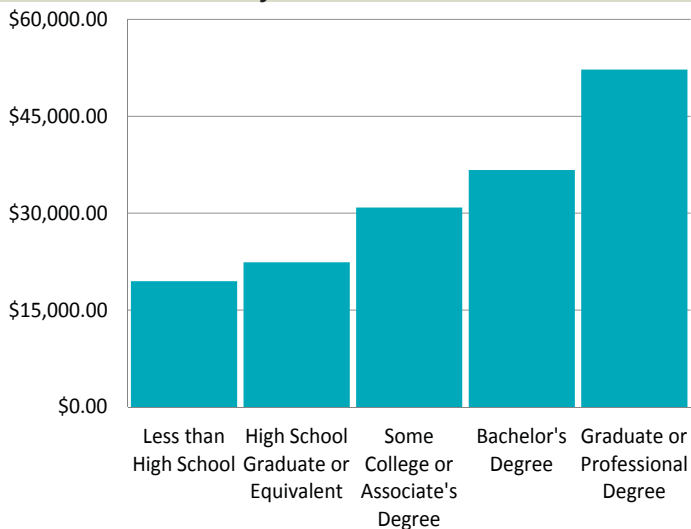
3 *Invest in transportation projects that enhance the business environment.*

Targeted transportation investments can improve access to jobs, education, shopping, and commercial transport for movement of goods, while providing construction and operations jobs. By investing in transit, communities can better position themselves to attract new businesses as well as customers to their downtowns and other major employment centers.

4 *Ensure that residents have the skills, resources, and education necessary to reach their full potential.*

In order for this region to be prosperous, residents need the tools, resources, and education necessary to reach their full potential as citizens, workers, and leaders. As jobs in manufacturing continue to decline and the 21st century economy brings demands for different skills, training programs can connect workers with more secure job options. Improving relationships between businesses and students can also provide students with “real world” learning opportunities, promote skill development, work ethic, and help keep more young people from moving away to find good jobs.

Median Income Earnings of NRV Residents by Education Level



* U.S. Census Bureau, ACS 2005-2009

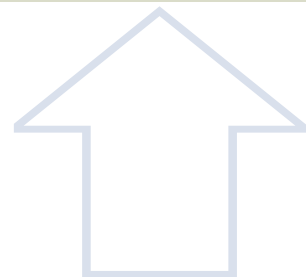


5 *Strengthen the economic viability of agriculture to diversify the local economy and enhance quality of life.*

Local farms remain key economic assets and symbols of the New River Valley's cultural identity. Increasing interest and demand for more locally grown foods, presents a great opportunity for farmers to increase the economic viability of farming. However, there is currently an inadequate supply to meet the demand and it is unknown whether there is interest from current farmers to expand or diversify their operations. Expanding the agriculture infrastructure available in this region (e.g. processing or distribution center, slaughter house or dairy) could also help expand options and profit for local farmers and increase the region's agricultural viability. By increasing availability of direct sales to the community, farmers can increase both their economic strength and community presence.

The Blacksburg Farmers Market has seen a 160% increase in vendor revenues over the past 5 years (2006 - 2011).

2006-2011 Annual Changes in Blacksburg Farmer's Market Vendor Revenues



2006 - 2007: 8%
 2007 - 2008: 71%
 2008 - 2009: 2%
 2009 - 2010: 16%
 2010 - 2011: 20%

*Blacksburg Farmer's Market Data



Preserving Rural Heritage & Community Character



- 1** *Protect beautiful vistas, which characterize the New River Valley, to preserve quality of life and rural character.*

Scenic beauty is highly valued by citizens— particularly for the peaceful surroundings and slower pace of life the rural and natural landscapes provide. The farms, forests, and water resources that form the region’s rural landscape also serve as important economic and cultural resources. They support local communities by providing outdoor recreation and tourism opportunities such as hunting, fishing, paddling, hiking, and camping. Forest resources protect ground and surface waters to help ensure a clean and healthy water supply for NRV residents. Improving land use planning and practices can help protect these resources as well as the rural character, scenic views, and opportunities for active recreation they provide.



- 2** *Protect and enhance parkland, open space, and waterways of the New River Valley to provide for outdoor recreation opportunities.*

Top 10 Most Popular Outdoor Activities in the New River Valley

1. Walking for Pleasure	6. Hunting
2. Swimming	7. Using a Playground
3. Driving for Pleasure	8. Visiting Natural Areas
4. Jogging & Running	9. Sunbathing
5. Fishing	10. Bicycling

**2006 Virginia Outdoor Survey*

More than 20,000,000 visitors enjoy outdoor recreational opportunities in the New River Valley each year.

**2006 Virginia Outdoor Survey*





3 *Recognize and celebrate the importance of the arts, culture, and history as being central to defining and building community character and pride.*

The unique culture, history and traditions of our region create a sense of place and shared identity. The arts and cultural resources within our community often provide much-needed gathering places, where local traditions are passed along to our children and grandchildren. The arts foster young imaginations and help children develop critical thinking, communication, and innovation skills essential to today's workforce. Artistic and cultural activities also serve as a "community draw" which can stimulate business activity, attract tourism revenue, and help retain high quality employers and employees by creating highly desirable places in which to raise a family, work, and retire.

"Arts and cultural activities make a community attractive both to its citizens and to business. Simply put, the arts contribute to the quality of life for our people. The arts are good for business. Business should be good to the arts."

-David R. Goode, former Chairman of the Board & Chief Executive Officer, Norfolk Southern Corporation



4 *Strengthen the economic and cultural position of downtown commercial districts.*

Strengthening small town centers provides an opportunity to revitalize local economies without sacrificing the beauty of the surrounding landscape or the unique character and identity of communities. The New River Valley is home to many main streets with historic buildings and in some cases, a growing number of vacant commercial properties. When communities work to include the arts in community design and development, especially in close proximity to shopping, food, and other services, they stand a greater chance of revitalizing their historic downtowns, meeting visitor expectations, and supporting local businesses.

5 *Integrate existing community character into the design of community core improvements.*

Channeling investments into these existing main streets can preserve existing infrastructure, historic character, and spur new economic opportunities, while making wiser use of public resources. It can also help to increase the accessibility and convenience to essential services for our more rural communities— making them true "town centers" once again, where people work, shop, and come together for community events.

Recent Local Investments in the Town of Floyd		
2006	Angels in the Attic	\$53,000
2006	Town of Floyd	\$160,000
2007	Floyd Country Store	\$360,000
2007	Town of Floyd	\$235,000
2007	Hotel Floyd	\$2,358,000
2007	Village Green	\$650,000
2007	Winter Sun	\$201,000

*2008, Economic Impact Assessment of the Crooked Road

Due to efforts and investments to enhance cultural venues and activities, Floyd experienced a 90% increase in visitor spending on accommodations from 2003-2007. Annual visitor spending in 2007 was \$858,729.

Building Healthy Communities



1 Monitor and improve the environmental quality of the New River Valley's air, water, and land to promote the health of its residents.

Clean air and water, scenic landscapes, fresh food, outdoor recreational opportunities and diverse fish and wildlife each enhance the health and quality of life of New River Valley residents. Although both ground and surface water are abundant in much of the NRV, many of these water resources are under threat or already impaired from agricultural runoff, leaky septic systems, and development patterns that threaten long-term water supply. Strategies that address or mitigate threats to water quality and supply will help protect this critical resource for generations to come.

Water Quality Impairments in the New River Valley

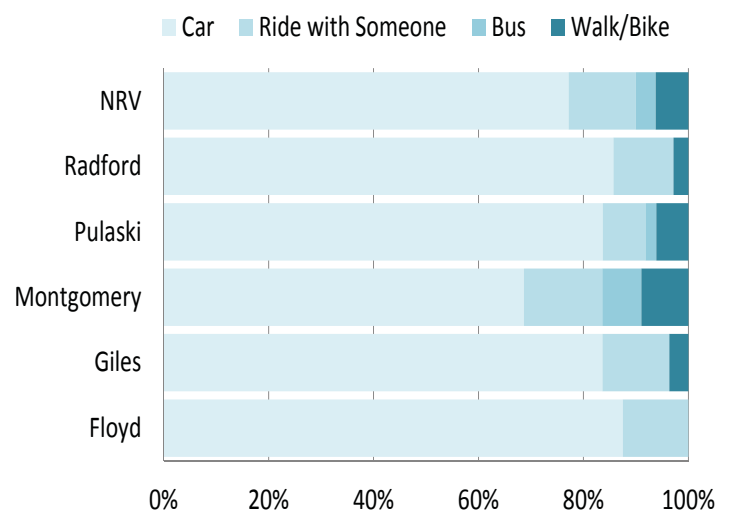
Impairment Type & Primary Causes	# of River Miles Impaired
E. COLI. <i>Animal waste associated with pets and farm animals and human waste from straight pipes, leaky sewage collection and treatment systems.</i>	285.39
PCBs IN FISH TISSUE <i>Legacy contaminants.</i>	76.60
TEMPERATURE <i>Destruction of riparian vegetation.</i>	60.80
LOSS OF AQUATIC ORGANISMS <i>Sedimentation and nutrients from agriculture, municipal and industrial source and toxicity associated with legacy contaminants.</i>	60.25
METALS <i>Legacy contaminants.</i>	3.55

*2012 VA Department of Environmental Quality

2 Promote proactive choices about food, fitness, family, work, and play.

Communities that make it more convenient to make healthy choices have better health outcomes for their citizens. Communities can also foster a built environment that makes healthy lifestyle choices (like walking, biking, and eating fresh food) more convenient and fun. Transportation systems and options can be designed to link up important destinations, including places to access affordable, healthy food options. When communities plan with healthy food access, pedestrian safety, and access to recreation opportunities in mind, they are likely to see substantial health benefits for their citizens.

% of Lower-Income Residents Walking, Biking, Riding, & Driving to the Grocery Store



*2012 Livability Initiative Lower Literacy Survey



3 *Improve access to healthy transportation, housing, and recreation options.*

Development decisions can affect community health outcomes. Sidewalks, bike lanes, street designs that slow traffic and make it safe to cross, parks, trails, gyms, shops and other destinations within walking distance—all of these community features can help communities reduce overall obesity rates and related health problems such as diabetes and heart disease.



4 *Foster collaboration across healthcare providers and networks to decrease health disparities and to increase access, availability, and affordability of healthcare services.*

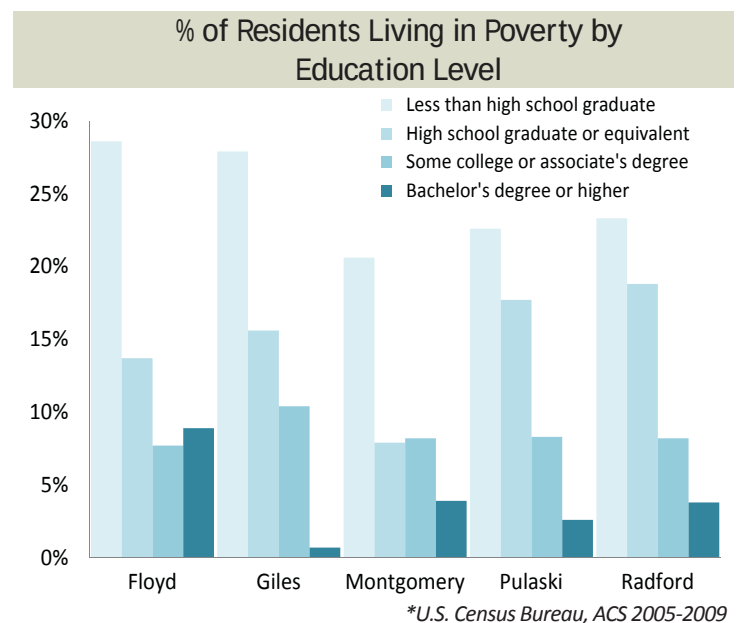
Communities can improve health outcomes by increasing access to preventative care. People who don't receive appropriate preventative medical and behavioral care are more likely to use the emergency room for primary care, raising the costs for all citizens. Health insurance by itself does not ensure access. It is also necessary to have providers that accept the individual's health insurance and a sufficient number of healthcare providers located at close proximity to patients. Communities can reduce the gap between providers and patients by increasing knowledge about the importance of preventative care, providing transportation services for medical related visits, promoting electronic collaboration among healthcare providers, and adding evening and weekend clinic hours for patients who cannot seek care during the work day.



5 *Promote local strategies that prevent and reduce the burden of chronic conditions, disease, and substance abuse.*

Social support networks comprised of family and friends, and involvement in community life, have also been identified as a powerful predictor of health, suggesting that individuals without a strong social network are less likely to participate in healthy lifestyle choices. People living in remote areas, especially the elderly, those who live alone, and those without secure transportation are more likely to become isolated, be less physically active, and have reduced access to health services. Communities can improve citizen health by taking active steps to reduce isolation for these vulnerable populations.

Higher levels of education improve individual economic opportunities, access to medical care, and reduce social/psychological stressors that can contribute to substance abuse and family violence. By focusing on education in order to improve high-school graduation rates, strategic workforce re-training to respond to a changing economic landscape, and economic development initiatives to improve job security, improvements in citizen health outcomes are more likely and more lasting.



WHAT'S

NEXT?

This interim report for the Livability Initiative is an important milestone in our planning process. In it, key challenges have been identified including some data and trends that provide a clearer picture of the region today, and where things are heading. The key strengths and assets of this region have also been identified based on citizen feedback—those things citizens want to preserve, strengthen, and draw from as critical issues in this region are addressed. Some overarching goals have also been presented, goals that could substantially improve quality of life for citizens and the overall livability of this region; as well as some potential strategies that communities could employ to achieve those goals.

The next steps in the process involve looking at the region today and where communities in this region want to be 20 years from now. This will involve examining the goals and strategies developed by working groups so far and developing a better understanding of how they might interrelate. That is, which strategy options might help address multiple challenges, and which might require asking some hard questions on tradeoffs, costs, and different preferences among citizens and localities. In many cases, this will require deciding between multiple approaches depending on the preferred end goal and strategies that our citizens want to put their energy into.

This report was built by:

1, 200 New River Valley Citizen Voices and
160 Participants at Monthly Working Groups



Outreach activities included:

- A day long regional kick-off meeting
- An on-line survey
- Spanish language survey
- Lower literacy paper survey
- Small focus group and community meetings
- Interactive performance theatre
- Digital storytelling
- BUILT planning game

Working group participants included:

- 8 State agencies
- 11 Regional organizations
- 26 Non-profit and community based organizations
- 15 Private sector partners
- 15 citizens (no particular affiliation)
- All member localities

How can I participate?

As with the first phase of the planning process, citizen participation is both welcome and needed! The New River Valley has tremendous resources to draw upon as citizens work to address some of the key challenges identified in this report. Making positive progress on these challenges and achieving the goals that residents have identified means weighing different potential solutions and seeing which are the best fit for this region, and which might be more effective in some localities than others. Citizens can help make sure the priorities and action strategies that are most important to them, their neighbors, and their community are heard in the next phase of the planning process by participating in face-to-face meetings, workshops, online surveys, and focused topic discussions.

To find out more ways to get involved, visit
www.nrvlivability.org
or call Carol Davis, Community Outreach Facilitator for
the Livability Initiative at 540-639-9313, ext. 222.

NEW RIVER VALLEY PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION
AGENDA

November 29, 2012

6:00 p.m.—New River Valley Business Center, Fairlawn

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. CONSENT AGENDA
 - A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR SEPTEMBER
 - B. APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORTS FOR SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER
- III. REVIEW OF MUTUAL CONCERNS AND COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS
- IV. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE'S REPORT
- V. PUBLIC ADDRESS
- VI. COMMONWEALTH INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS
 - A. Projects (Signed-off by the staff)
 - 1. Floyd Biomedical Equipment Project (Rural Business Enterprise Funding from Rural Development)
 - B. Regular Project Review
 - None
 - C. Environmental Project Review
 - 1. Alliant Techsystems, Inc. /New River Energetics Operations Environmental Assessment Radford Army Ammunition Plant
 - 2. Celanese Acetate LLC (Celco) Major Source Construction Permit
 - 3. Reissuance of VADEQ Permit No. VA0025992 Floyd-Floyd Co. PSA WWTP
- VII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT (enclosed)
- VIII. OLD BUSINESS
 - None
- IX. NEW BUSINESS
 - A. Planning District Commission Assessment Rate for FY14 (enclosed)
 - B. Review of Audit for FY12 (enclosed)
 - C. Appointment of CEDS Committee Members for FY 13 (enclosed)
- X. OTHER BUSINESS
- XI. REGIONAL FOCUS
 - A. Review and Discuss Agency Assessment (enclosed)

All meeting materials posted on PDC website www.nrvpdc.org

New River Valley Planning District Commission
Treasurer's Report
Expenditures as of September 30, 2012

Expense Category	Budget	Previous Total	September Expenditures	YTD Expenditures	Budget Balance	% Budget Expended
Salaries	817,572.00	145,683.67	69,540.84	215,224.51	602,347.49	26.32%
Fringe Benefits	312,843.00	51,308.17	25,513.71	76,821.88	236,021.12	24.56%
Travel	64,198.00	7,887.24	2,867.22	10,754.46	53,443.54	16.75%
Office Space	27,647.00	3,982.40	1,795.30	5,777.70	21,869.30	20.90%
Telephone/Communications	5,980.00	1,167.29	504.56	1,671.85	4,308.15	27.96%
Office Supplies	9,401.00	842.65	2,475.20	3,317.85	6,083.15	35.29%
Postage	750.00	60.40	6.65	67.05	682.95	8.94%
Printing	620.00	9.45	-	9.45	610.55	1.52%
Copies & Copier Maintenance	1,500.00	497.75	159.22	656.97	843.03	43.80%
Media Ad	1,625.00	-	-	-	1,625.00	0.00%
Equipment Rent	1,500.00	246.48	123.24	369.72	1,130.28	24.65%
Vehicle Fuel	2,400.00	749.80	156.46	906.26	1,493.74	37.76%
Dues/Publications	7,745.00	500.00	-	500.00	7,245.00	6.46%
Training	1,375.00	-	-	-	1,375.00	0.00%
Insurance	500.00	-	-	-	500.00	0.00%
Meeting Expense	7,733.00	359.80	817.25	1,177.05	6,555.95	15.22%
Capital Outlay (Vehicle/Equip)	5,000.00	1,523.97	-	1,523.97	3,476.03	30.48%
Contractual Services	1,125,893.00	28,496.57	111,173.49	139,670.06	986,222.94	12.41%
Audit Fee	2,500.00	-	-	-	2,500.00	0.00%
Miscellaneous	45,500.00	543.21	298.10	841.31	44,658.69	1.85%
M & G Costs	127,729.00	20,351.76	8,822.64	29,174.40	98,554.60	22.84%
Common Costs	96,884.00	16,251.06	11,825.63	28,076.69	68,807.31	28.98%
	2,666,895.00	280,461.67	236,079.51	516,541.18	2,150,353.82	19.37%

New River Valley Planning District Commission
Treasurer's Report
Expenditures as of October 31, 2012

Expense Category	Budget	Previous Total	October Expenditures	YTD Expenditures	Budget Balance	% Budget Expended
Salaries	806,948.00	215,224.51	72,168.60	287,393.11	519,554.89	35.61%
Fringe Benefits	308,452.00	76,821.88	21,116.35	97,938.23	210,513.77	31.75%
Travel	64,198.00	10,754.46	3,676.17	14,430.63	49,767.37	22.48%
Office Space	27,647.00	5,777.70	2,155.30	7,933.00	19,714.00	28.69%
Telephone/Communications	5,980.00	1,671.85	613.73	2,285.58	3,694.42	38.22%
Office Supplies	9,401.00	3,317.85	1,666.24	4,984.09	4,416.91	53.02%
Postage	750.00	67.05	83.20	150.25	599.75	20.03%
Printing	620.00	9.45	-	9.45	610.55	1.52%
Copies & Copier Maintenance	1,500.00	656.97	386.61	1,043.58	456.42	69.57%
Media Ad	1,625.00	-	-	-	1,625.00	0.00%
Equipment Rent	1,500.00	369.72	123.24	492.96	1,007.04	32.86%
Vehicle Fuel	2,400.00	906.26	235.37	1,141.63	1,258.37	47.57%
Dues/Publications	7,745.00	500.00	15.00	515.00	7,230.00	6.65%
Training	1,375.00	-	-	-	1,375.00	0.00%
Insurance	500.00	-	-	-	500.00	0.00%
Meeting Expense	7,733.00	1,177.05	520.24	1,697.29	6,035.71	21.95%
Capital Outlay (Vehicle/Equip)	5,000.00	1,523.97	-	1,523.97	3,476.03	30.48%
Contractual Services	1,125,893.00	139,670.06	22,509.94	162,180.00	963,713.00	14.40%
Audit Fee	2,500.00	-	2,500.00	2,500.00	-	100.00%
Miscellaneous	45,500.00	841.31	-	841.31	44,658.69	1.85%
M & G Costs	112,784.00	29,174.40	9,540.88	38,715.28	74,068.72	34.33%
Common Costs	111,829.00	28,076.69	10,966.59	39,043.28	72,785.72	34.91%
	2,651,880.00	516,541.18	148,277.46	664,818.64	1,987,061.36	25.07%

NEW RIVER VALLEY PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION

6580 Valley Center Drive, Suite 124
Radford, Virginia 24141

Phone: (540) 639-9313

Fax: (540) 831-6093

E-Mail: nrvpdc@nrvpdc.org

Website: www.nrvpdc.org



Kevin R. Byrd, AICP
Executive Director

COMMONWEALTH INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW MEMORANDUM

TO: Planning Commission Members

FROM: Kevin R. Byrd, Executive Director

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

CIRP Review

November 8, 2012

PROJECT: **Alliant Techsystems, Inc. /New River Energetics Operations Environmental Assessment- Radford Army Ammunition Plant ENV100912-RFAAP**

SUBMITTED BY: **EEE Consulting, Inc. / Radford Army Ammunition Plant**

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: **EEE Consulting, Inc. on behalf of RFAAP, is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) in accordance with the National Environmental Policy (NEPA) as required for federal actions.**

PROJECT SENT FOR REVIEW TO: **Steve Sandy, Montgomery County**

STAFF COMMENT: **The staff has reviewed the appropriate plans (Land Use, Water Quality Management, Regional Solid Waste Management, Vision 2020, and the Economic Development plans) and finds that this project does not conflict with the plans or regional policies and goals.**



EEE Consulting, Inc.

Environmental, Engineering and Educational Solutions

October 3, 2012

Mr. Kevin Byrd
Executive Director
New River Valley Planning District Commission
6580 Valley Center Drive
Suite 124
Radford, Virginia 24141

RECEIVED

OCT 05 2012

NRVPDC

Re: Alliant Techsystems, Inc. /New River Energetics Operations Environmental Assessment
Radford Army Ammunition Plant
Radford, Virginia

Dear Mr. Byrd:

The U.S. Army (Army) has initiated an Environmental Assessment (EA) to analyze the reissuance of a lease agreement with Alliant Techsystems, Inc. /New River Energetics (ATK/NRE) at the Radford Army Ammunition Plant (RFAAP). Because the proposed project relies on federal funding and would occur on federal property, it must comply with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA). The proposed project site is depicted on the attached project location map, quadrangle map, and aerial photograph. We request your review and comment on the proposed project site, along with any information about other projects or properties in the vicinity.

RFAAP is the only active full-spectrum military propellant manufacturing center in the United States. With the capacity to produce over 11 million pounds of propellants and 26 million pounds of nitrocellulose, RFAAP is critical to the nation's military mission. As the Army's needs have changed over the years, some of the RFAAP production facilities became underused. Implementation of the Army Retooling and Manufacturing Support (ARMS) program at RFAAP has allowed the Army, the current Operating Contractor (BAE Systems), and its tenants to make active use of underused facilities and maintain the readiness of viable components of the Army's propellant manufacturing system. The Proposed Action would allow the continued operation of a commercial tenant (ATK/NRE) to maintain vital production capabilities at RFAAP under the ARMS program. This action is needed to ensure that the Medium Caliber Load and Pack facility, the Flexible Energetics Facility Pilot Plant, and the Alliant Powder manufacturing facility remain operational to support government and commercial customers.

NEW RIVER VALLEY PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION

6580 Valley Center Drive, Suite 124
Radford, Virginia 24141

Phone: (540) 639-9313

Fax: (540) 831-6093

E-Mail: nrvpdc@nrvpdc.org

Website: www.nrvpdc.org



Kevin R. Byrd, AICP
Executive Director

TO: Steve Sandy, Montgomery County Planning Director

FROM: Kevin R. Byrd, Executive Director

RE: Commonwealth Intergovernmental Review

PROJECT NAME: **Alliant Techsystems, Inc. /New River Energetics Operations Environmental Assessment Radford Army Ammunition Plant**

& NUMBER: **ENV100912-RFAAP**

SUBMITTED BY: **EEE Consulting, Inc. /Radford Army Ammunition Plant**

EEE Consulting, Inc. on behalf of RFAAP, is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) as required for federal actions. This office has received from EEE Consulting, Inc., a summary report from the preliminary environmental review for the above referenced project. As part of NEPA's procedural provisions, RAAP is inviting comment on this proposed action. A copy of this report is enclosed for your review and comments. If you wish to make comments or require further information, please do so below and **return** to the Commission office **via mail or fax by November 9, 2012.**

CHECK ONE

- ☒ This agency finds no conflict between this project and its plans, policies and goals.
Portions of activities are within 100 year floodplain and Dam Inundation zone.
- ☐ This agency wishes to make the following comments. (Use back of this form or additional sheets for comments.)
- ☐ This agency presently provides or plans to provide services, which will conflict with or be duplicated by this project and therefore requests a conference. (Briefly state the nature of the conflict on the back of this form.)


SIGNATURE

10/29/12
DATE

Counties:
Floyd, Giles, Montgomery, Pulaski

Towns:
Blacksburg, Christiansburg, Floyd
Pulaski, Narrows, Pearisburg, Rich Creek

Universities:
Radford University
Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University

City:
Radford

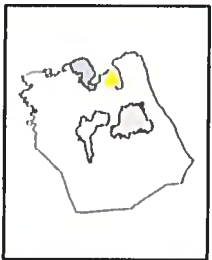


ATK Operations (RAAP)

Claytor Lake Dam Failure Map

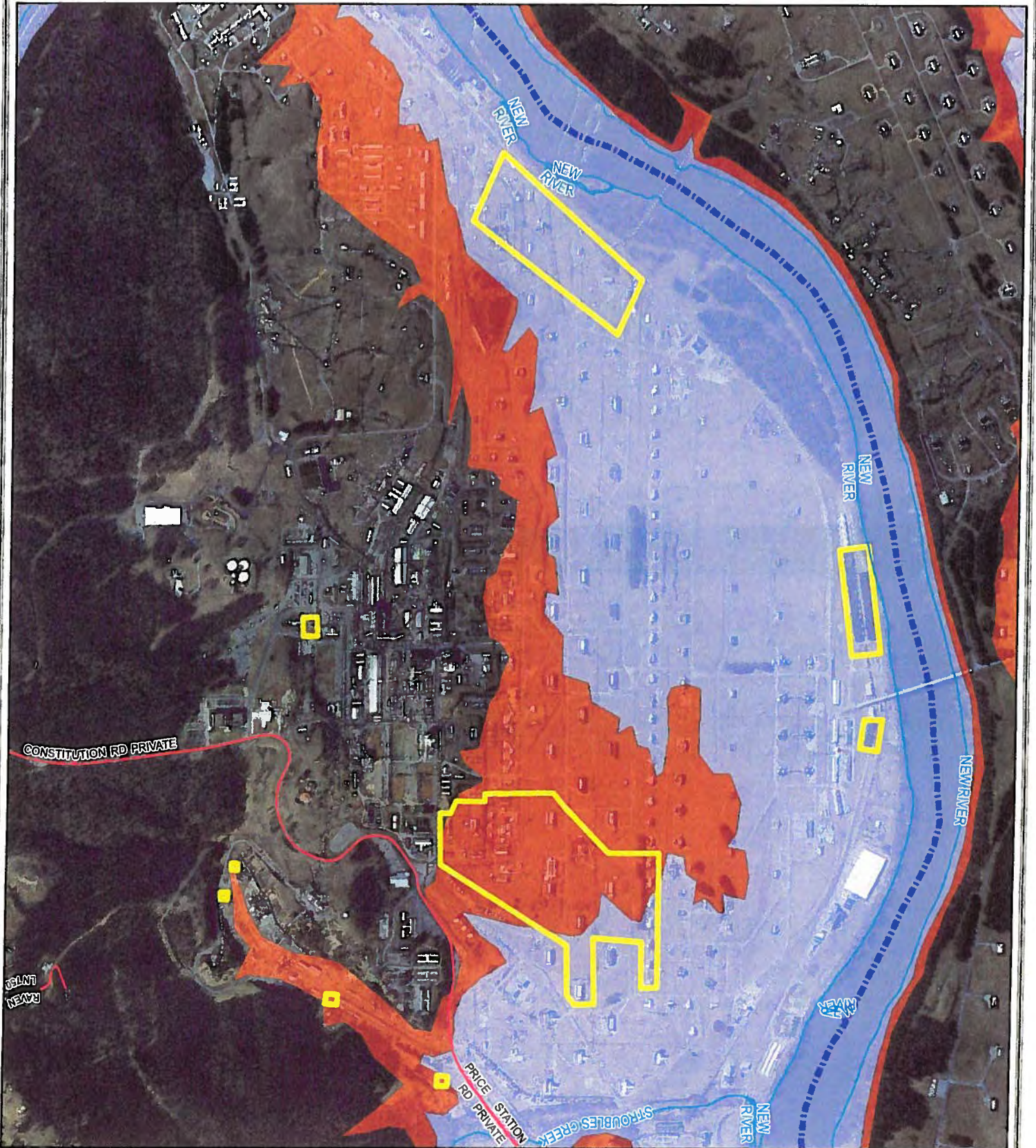
- Legend**
- Corporate Line
 - State Roads
 - Interstate Highway
 - Private Road (Named)
 - Planned Highway
 - Highway
 - RAAP Study Area
 - Failure Inundation Claytor Lake Dam Scenario
 - Claytor Dam Break
 - Claytor Dam Break

VBMPAerial 2011



Map of Claytor Lake Dam Failure Inundation Scenario. This map shows the potential inundation area resulting from a failure of the Claytor Lake Dam. The inundation area is shown in red, and the study area is outlined in yellow. The map includes a legend, a north arrow, and a scale bar. The map is prepared by Monterey County, VA Planning & GIS Services, 10/29/2012.

Prepared by Monterey County, VA
Planning & GIS Services, 10/29/2012





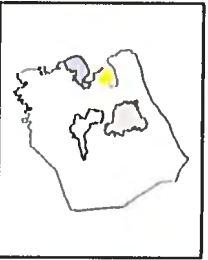
ATK Operations (RAAP)

FEMA Flood Map

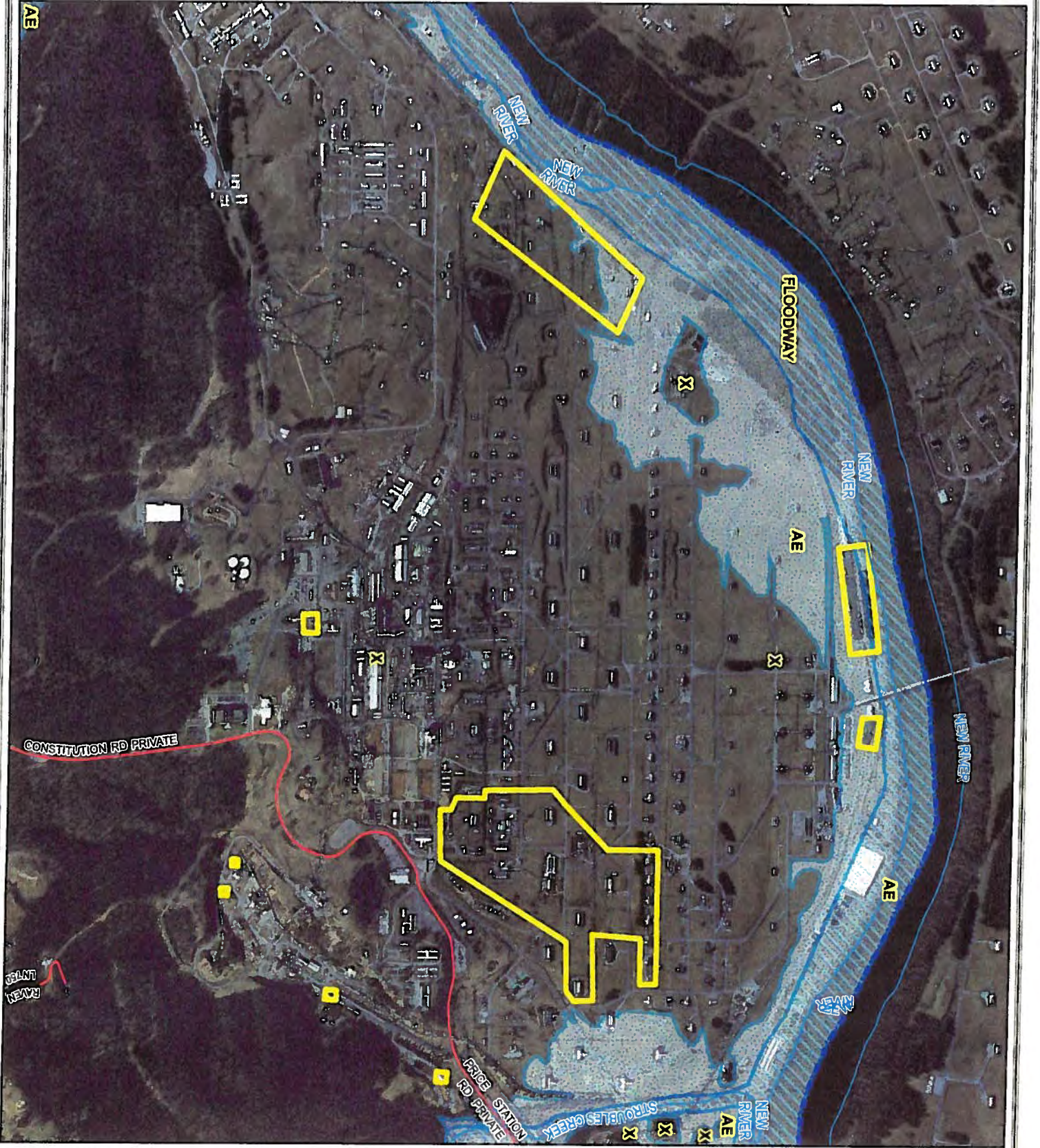
Legend

- Shaded Relief
- Topography
- Water
- Transportation
- Land Use
- RAAP Study Area
- FEMA Flood Hazard Areas (Effective 9/25/09)
- Flood Zone
- AE
- 1: 20' ANNUAL FLOODING (1:100)
- 2: 500-YEAR FLOODING (1:500)
- 3: 100-YEAR FLOODING (1:100)
- 4: 500-YEAR FLOODING (1:500)
- 5: 100-YEAR FLOODING (1:100)
- 6: 500-YEAR FLOODING (1:500)
- 7: 100-YEAR FLOODING (1:100)
- 8: 500-YEAR FLOODING (1:500)
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VBMP Aerial 2011



Prepared by Montgomery County, Va
Planning & GIS Services, 10/28/2012



NEW RIVER VALLEY PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION

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Kevin R. Byrd, AICP
Executive Director

COMMONWEALTH INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW MEMORANDUM

TO: Planning Commission Members

FROM: Kevin R. Byrd, Executive Director

AGENDA ITEM: XI. Intergovernmental Review Process, C. Environmental Project Review, Item #2

CIRP Review

November 8, 2012

PROJECT: **Celanese Acetate, LLC Major Source Construction Permit
ENV101812-Celanese**

SUBMITTED BY: Department of Environmental Quality

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Celanese Acetate LLC (Celco) has applied to modify the Celco facility located at 3520 Virginia Ave. The proposed modification will construct six natural gas fired boilers and shut down seven coal fired boilers.

PROJECT SENT FOR REVIEW TO: Chris McKlarney, Giles County

STAFF COMMENT: The staff has reviewed the appropriate plans (Land Use, Water Quality Management, Regional Solid Waste Management, Vision 2020, and the Economic Development plans) and finds that this project does not conflict with the plans or regional policies and goals.

Public Notice – Environmental Permit

PURPOSE OF NOTICE: To seek public comment and announce a public hearing for a draft permit for a major air pollution source. The draft permit is from the Department of Environmental Quality to limit air pollution from a facility in Giles County, Virginia.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: October 17, 2012 to December 5, 2012

PUBLIC HEARING: Meeting Room B in the Giles County Technology Center at 1827 Wenonah Avenue Pearisburg, Virginia on November 20, 2012 starting at 6:30 p.m.

PERMIT NAME: Major Source Construction Permit issued by DEQ, under the authority of the Air Pollution Control Board

APPLICANT NAME AND REGISTRATION NUMBER: Celanese Acetate, LLC; 20304

FACILITY NAME AND ADDRESS: Celanese Acetate, LLC; 3520 Virginia Avenue near Narrows, Virginia

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Celanese Acetate, LLC has applied for a permit to construct six new natural gas-fired boilers and shutdown seven coal-fired boilers. The facility is classified as a major source of air pollution and is located at 3520 Virginia Avenue near Narrows. The proposed project is subject to major new source review for carbon monoxide and volatile organic compounds, for which there are no increments. The maximum annual emissions of air pollutants from the new equipment are expected to be: NO_x (333.3 tons/yr), CO (326.7 tons/yr), VOC (48.7 tons/yr), PM (22.1 tons/yr), PM₁₀ (70.0 tons/yr). The applicant proposes to use approximately 17,692 million cubic feet of natural gas and 6.47 million gallons of distillate oil per year. The technologies that will be used to control the air pollution from the facility are good combustion practices. No adverse impact on air quality near the facility is expected from the proposed project.

HOW TO COMMENT AND/OR REQUEST BOARD CONSIDERATION: DEQ accepts comments and requests for Board consideration by e-mail, fax or postal mail. All comments and requests must be in writing and be received by DEQ during the comment period. Submittals must include the names, mailing addresses and telephone numbers of the commenter/requester and of all persons represented by the commenter/requester. A request for Board consideration must also include: 1) The reason why Board consideration is requested. 2) A brief, informal statement regarding the nature and extent of the interest of the requester or of those represented by the requestor, including how and to what extent such interest would be directly and adversely affected by the permit. 3) Specific references, where possible, to terms and conditions of the permit with suggested revisions. Board consideration may be granted if public response is significant, based on individual requests for Board consideration, and there are substantial, disputed issues relevant to the permit.

Contact for public comments, document requests and additional information: Patrick Corbett; Blue Ridge Regional Office, 3019 Peters Creek Rd, Roanoke, VA 24019 or 7705 Timberlake Rd, Lynchburg, VA 24502; Phone: (434)582-6230; E-mail: patrick.corbett@deq.virginia.gov; Fax: (434) 582-5125 The public may review the draft permits and application at the DEQ offices named above or may request copies of the documents from the contact person listed above.

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Kevin R. Byrd, AICP
Executive Director

COMMONWEALTH INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW MEMORANDUM

TO: Planning Commission Members

FROM: Kevin R. Byrd, Executive Director

AGENDA ITEM: X1. Intergovernmental Review Process, C. Environmental Project Review, Item #3

CIRP Review

November 8, 2012

PROJECT: **VADEQ Permit No. VA0025992 Floyd-Floyd Co. PSA WWTP
VA121102-00600400063**

SUBMITTED BY: Department of Environmental Quality

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Floyd-Floyd County has applied for a reissuance of a permit for the wastewater treatment plant in Floyd County.

PROJECT SENT FOR REVIEW TO: Dan Campbell, Floyd County

STAFF COMMENT: The staff has reviewed the appropriate plans (Land Use, Water Quality Management, Regional Solid Waste Management, Vision 2020, and the Economic Development plans) and finds that this project does not conflict with the plans or regional policies and goals.

PUBLIC NOTICE – Environmental Permit

PURPOSE OF NOTICE: To seek public comment on a draft permit from the Department of Environmental Quality that will allow the release of treated wastewater into a water body in Floyd County, Virginia

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: November 2, 2012 through December 3, 2012 at 4:30 pm

PERMIT NAME: Virginia Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit – Wastewater issued by DEQ, under the authority of the State Water Control Board

APPLICANT NAME, ADDRESS, AND PERMIT NUMBER: Floyd-Floyd County Public Service Authority (PSA), PO Box 407, Floyd, Virginia, VA0025992

FACILITY NAME AND LOCATION: Floyd-Floyd County PSA WWTP, 169 PSA Road (off State Route 221), Floyd, Virginia 24091

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Floyd-Floyd County PSA has applied for a reissuance of a permit for the wastewater treatment plant in Floyd County. The applicant proposes to release treated sewage wastewater from residential areas at a rate of 250,000 gallons per day from the current facility into a water body. Sludge from the treatment process will be disposed of at a landfill. The facility proposes to release the treated sewage into Dodd Creek in Floyd County in the West Fork Little River Watershed (VAW-N20R). A watershed is the land area drained by a river and its incoming streams. The permit will limit the following pollutants to amounts that protect water quality: nutrients, organic matter, solids, metal (copper).

TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOAD DEVELOPMENT FOR LITTLE RIVER WATERSHED: This TMDL was approved by the Environmental Protection Agency on March 14, 2012 and can be found at the following website:

<http://www.deq.virginia.gov/portals/0/DEQ/Water/TMDL/apptmdls/newrvr/littlervr.pdf> The original TMDL was designed to accommodate increases in permit capacity such as the revised flow discharge rate of 250,000 gallons per day for the previously permitted facility, Floyd-Floyd County PSA WWTP. Updating the sediment allocations in the *Bacteria, Benthic, and Temperature TMDL in the Little River Watershed* will be consistent with the facility's total suspended solids limitations.

HOW TO COMMENT AND/OR REQUEST A PUBLIC HEARING: DEQ accepts comments and requests for public hearing by e-mail, fax, or postal mail. All comments and requests must be in writing and be received by DEQ during the comment period. Submittals must include the names, mailing addresses and telephone numbers of the commenter/requester and of all persons represented by the commenter/requester. A request for a public hearing must also include: 1) The reason why a public hearing is requested. 2) A brief, informal statement regarding the nature and extent of the interest of the requester or of those represented by the requestor, including how and extent such interest would be directly and adversely affected by the permit. 3) Specific references, where possible, to terms and conditions of the permit with suggested revisions. A public hearing may be held, including another comment period, if a public response is significant, based on individual requests for a public hearing, and there are substantial, disputed issues relevant to the permit.

CONTACT FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS, DOCUMENT REQUESTS, AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Becky L. France; ADDRESS: Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, Blue Ridge Regional Office, 3019 Peters Creek Road, Roanoke, VA 24019-2738; (540) 562-6700; E-MAIL ADDRESS: becky.france@deq.virginia.gov; FAX: (540) 562-6725. The public may review the draft permit and application at the DEQ office named above (by appointment) or may request copies of the documents from the contact person listed above.

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Kevin R. Byrd, AICP
Executive Director

November 29, 2012

Executive Director's Report

Transportation:

- The Department of Rail and Public Transit is conducting a study of a formula for distribution of transit funding. This is directed by the General Assembly when they passed Senate Joint Resolution 297. Impact to region: Blacksburg Transit increase \$918,000, Pulaski Area Transit increase \$6,369 and Radford Transit decrease \$99,000; however, Radford funding may be a result of being determined part of the MPO. This moves their formula from rural to urban which requires more local match. (5307 funds to 5311). More information is attached to this report.
- All three transportation committees of the Commission will meet 11/13. Bikeway-Walkway 11:30, Rural TAC 1:30, Transit Coordinating Council 2:30.
- PDC staff is providing support to develop travel plans for Safe Routes to School program for three schools in the region. Belview Elementary and Auburn campus in Montgomery County and Macy McClaugherty Elementary in Pearisburg. This year is last cycle of 100% grant money. Subsequent years will more than likely be 80%.

Economic Development:

- Floyd County received a grant award of \$369,000 from the Appalachian Regional Commission to construct a multi-tenant Innovation Center at the County industrial park. The PDC hosted a visit with ARC Federal Co-Chair, Earl Gohl and ARC Chief of Staff, Guy Land on October 25th. During their visit they presented Floyd County with a check for the Innovation Center and visited with Crooked Road staff, Virginia Community Capital and discussed the NRV Livability Initiative progress. PDC staff is serving as grant administrators for the Innovation Center project.

Regional:

- The PDC stormwater program development application submitted to the Department of Conservation and Recreation was selected for funding. Funding award was 60% less than requested. General Assembly needs to review funding for the program so local governments have enough resources to take over the stormwater program from the state. The NRV project will begin in December with the first project milestone coming in April. The second and final project milestone will be 12 months later.
- PDC hosted Rural Caucus Legislative meeting on November 7th. It was well attended with representatives from local governments, universities, workforce development, public schools, private sector and three general assembly members. Major topics of discussion included: devolution of roadway system, preservation of machinery and tools tax, workforce development needs and future issues in the region as identified in the NRV Livability Initiative Interim Report.

PDC:

- REMINDER: the PDC asked for an item that reflects each local government/university member of the Commission to display the unique character and assets in the PDC office lobby. So far we have items from VT, RU, Pearisburg, Narrows, Pulaski County, and the Town of Floyd.

New River Valley

Regional Transit Coordinating Council



November 13, 2012
New River Valley Business Center

SJR 297

- February 2011, General Assembly passed Senate Joint Resolution 297
- Directed DRPT to study funding distribution
- Components were to include:
 - Performance
 - Prioritization
 - Stability



SJR 297

- Current funding formula = operating cost
 - \$100M goes to Northern Virginia
 - \$40M distributed Statewide
 - Amount funded = relative share/spent 2yrs ago
 - Spend more = get more

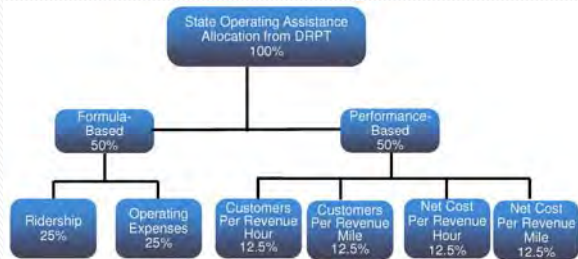


SJR 297

- Proposed Changes
 - 50% funding towards performance
 - Encourage transit entities to be more efficient
 - Reward models with higher agency generated revenues
 - Establish a reserve fund



SJR 297



SJR 297 - Conclusions

- Evaluating the new model ≠ agency funding
- Source of differentiation = consistent with goals and principles of funding entity
 - Average change is 5% of total budget
 - Efficiency will be rewarded
 - Use performance data to justify

SJR 297 - conclusions

Recipient	Calculated 2013 Allocation	Actual 2013 Allocation	Deviation from Actual
Greater Roanoke Transit Company	\$1,541,657	\$1,632,436	-\$90,779
Blacksburg Transit	\$1,910,975	\$993,042	\$917,933
City of Radford	\$219,331	\$318,257	-\$98,926
Pulaski Area Transit	\$85,438	\$79,069	\$6,369

Note: Funding changes may also reflect federal eligibility criteria (5307 vs. 5311) based on 2010 decennial Census.

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Kevin R. Byrd, AICP
Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

To: Planning District Commissioners

From: Kevin R. Byrd, Executive Director

Date: November 8, 2012

Re: Per Capita Assessment Rate for FY 14

Each year the New River Valley Planning District Commission sets the per capita assessment rate that is charged to members of the Commission. The per capita assessment serves as the financial foundation of the agency. This funding is critical to the agency and is typically leveraged at a rate of 10:1. This generates a budget of approximately \$2.3 million for the agency which reflects services returned to members of the Commission.

The current assessment rate is \$1.25 per capita based on 2010 census figures. The per capita assessment at the current rate generates \$223,378.75 for the Commission to utilize as matching funds for programs. The programs that require match are VDOT's rural transportation planning (\$14,500), Economic Development Administration – Economic Development District funds (\$70,000), Appalachian Regional Commission (\$68,000), Ride Solutions (car pool matching program) (\$9,261) and NRV Livability (approx. \$15,000). The per capita assessment is considered unrestricted funds and allows the Commission to provide match to programs identified above, support office operation, as well as technology and training needs of staff, and creates the opportunity for new programs in the region if all unrestricted funds are not programmed.

The attached table illustrates the assessment rate options of \$1.25, \$1.27, and \$1.29 and the cost to each member.

Counties:
Floyd, Giles, Montgomery, Pulaski

Towns:
Blacksburg, Christiansburg, Floyd
Pulaski, Narrows, Pearisburg, Rich Creek

Universities:
Radford University
Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University

City:
Radford

**New River Valley Planning District Commission
Per Capita Assessment Rate FY14**

		Current Rate		
	Population 2010	1.25	1.27	1.29
Floyd County	14,854	\$18,567.50	\$18,864.58	\$19,161.66
Town of Floyd	425	\$531.25	\$539.75	\$548.25
Giles County	11,697	\$14,621.25	\$14,855.19	\$15,089.13
Pearisburg	2,786	\$3,482.50	\$3,538.22	\$3,593.94
Narrows	2,029	\$2,536.25	\$2,576.83	\$2,617.41
Rich Creek	774	\$967.50	\$982.98	\$998.46
Pulaski County	23,252	\$29,065.00	\$29,530.04	\$29,995.08
Town of Pulaski	9,086	\$11,357.50	\$11,539.22	\$11,720.94
Montgomery County	30,731	\$38,413.75	\$39,028.37	\$39,642.99
Blacksburg	33,807	\$42,258.75	\$42,934.89	\$43,611.03
Christiansburg	21,041	\$26,301.25	\$26,722.07	\$27,142.89
City of Radford	16,408	\$20,510.00	\$20,838.16	\$21,166.32
Radford University	3,000	\$3,750.00	\$3,810.00	\$3,870.00
Virginia Tech	8,813	\$11,016.25	\$11,192.51	\$11,368.77
Total Assessment	178,703	\$223,378.75	\$226,952.81	\$230,526.87

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Kevin R. Byrd, AICP
Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

To: Planning District Commissioners

From: Kevin R. Byrd, Executive Director

Date: November 8, 2012

Re: Review of FY12 Audit

Enclosed is the FY12 Audit prepared by Corbin Stone, a Certified Public Accountant, with Robinson, Farmer, Cox Associates based in Blacksburg. Mr. Stone and his staff were on-site in August to conduct the FY12 audit and provided the attached cover letter and financial report for the Commission Board of Directors to review. Of note, this past fiscal year audit required an in-depth analysis of two Commission programs due to the volume of funds, NRV Livability Initiative and Transportation Equipment Manufacturing Competitiveness Initiative (TEMCI). In the audit these are referred to as Housing and Urban Development Grant (NRV Livability) and Department of Commerce Grant (TEMCI). During the audit Mr. Stone and his staff reviewed not only the financial performance, but also all program reports submitted to the funding entities to ensure compliance with funding and program objectives. Both programs were found to be in compliance. The audit report finds all Commission programs were in compliance as well.

Counties:
Floyd, Giles, Montgomery, Pulaski

Towns:
Blacksburg, Christiansburg, Floyd
Pulaski, Narrows, Pearisburg, Rich Creek

Universities:
Radford University
Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University

City:
Radford

ROBINSON, FARMER, COX ASSOCIATES

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

A PROFESSIONAL LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

September 24, 2012

To the Board of Directors
New River Valley Planning District Commission

We have audited the financial statements of the governmental activities and each major fund of the New River Valley Planning District Commission for the year ended June 30, 2012. Professional standards require that we provide you with information about our responsibilities under generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards*, as well as certain information related to the planned scope and timing of our audit. We have communicated such information in our letter to you dated July 3, 2012. Professional standards also require that we communicate to you the following information related to our audit.

Significant Audit Findings

Qualitative Aspects of Accounting Practices

Management is responsible for the selection and use of appropriate accounting policies. The significant accounting policies used by the New River Valley Planning District Commission are described in Note 1 to the financial statements. No new accounting policies were adopted and the application of existing policies was not changed during the fiscal year. We noted no transactions entered into by the governmental unit during the year for which there is a lack of authoritative guidance or consensus. All significant transactions have been recognized in the financial statements in the proper period.

Accounting estimates are an integral part of the financial statements prepared by management and are based on management's knowledge and experience about past and current events and assumptions about future events. Certain accounting estimates are particularly sensitive because of their significance to the financial statements and because of the possibility that future events affecting them may differ significantly from those expected. The most sensitive estimate(s) affecting the governmental activities financial statements was:

Management's estimate of the depreciable asset lives is based on management's experience. We evaluated the key factors and assumptions used to develop the estimate in determining that it is reasonable in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.

The financial statement disclosures are neutral, consistent, and clear.

Difficulties Encountered in Performing the Audit

We encountered no significant difficulties in dealing with management in performing and completing our audit.

Corrected and Uncorrected Misstatements

Professional standards require us to accumulate all known and likely misstatements identified during the audit, other than those that are clearly trivial, and communicate them to the appropriate level of management. Management has corrected all such misstatements for presentation in the audited financial statements. The audit adjustments for both funds are attached hereto.

Disagreements with Management

For purposes of this letter, a disagreement with management is a financial accounting, reporting, or auditing matter, whether or not resolved to our satisfaction, that could be significant to the financial statements or the auditor's report. We are pleased to report that no such disagreements arose during the course of our audit.

Management Representations

We have requested certain representations from management that are included in the management representation letter dated August 31, 2012.

Management Consultations with Other Independent Accountants

In some cases, management may decide to consult with other accountants about auditing and accounting matters, similar to obtaining a "second opinion" on certain situations. If a consultation involves application of an accounting principle to the governmental unit's financial statements or a determination of the type of auditor's opinion that may be expressed on those statements, our professional standards require the consulting accountant to check with us to determine that the consultant has all the relevant facts. To our knowledge, there were no such consultations with other accountants.

Other Audit Findings or Issues

We generally discuss a variety of matters, including the application of accounting principles and auditing standards, with management each year prior to retention as the governmental unit's auditors. However, these discussions occurred in the normal course of our professional relationship and our responses were not a condition to our retention.

Other Matters

With respect to the supplementary information accompanying the financial statements, we made certain inquiries of management and evaluated the form, content, and methods of preparing the information to determine that the information complies with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the method of preparing it has not changed from the prior period, and the information is appropriate and complete in relation to our audit of the financial statements. We compared and reconciled the supplementary information to the underlying accounting records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves.

This information is intended solely for the use of the Board of Directors and management of the New River Valley Planning District Commission and is not intended to be, and should not be, used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Very truly yours,

Robinson, Turner, Co. Associates

September 24, 2012

NEW RIVER VALLEY PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION

FINANCIAL REPORT

FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2012

NEW RIVER VALLEY PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION
FINANCIAL REPORT
FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2012

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Financial Section

ROBINSON, FARMER, COX ASSOCIATES

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

A PROFESSIONAL LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Independent Auditors' Report

**To the Members of the Board
New River Valley Planning District Commission
Radford, Virginia**

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities and each major fund of the New River Valley Planning District Commission, as of and for the year ended June 30, 2012, which collectively comprise the Commission's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents. These financial statements are the responsibility of the New River Valley Planning District Commission's management. Our responsibility is to express opinions on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America; the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States; and the *Specifications for Audits of Authorities, Boards and Commissions*, issued by the Auditor of Public Accounts of the Commonwealth of Virginia. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and the significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinions.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities and each major fund of the New River Valley Planning District Commission, as of June 30, 2012, and the changes in financial position, thereof for the year then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated August 31, 2012, on our consideration of the New River Valley Planning District Commission's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* and should be considered in assessing the results of our audit.

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the budgetary comparison information and schedules of pension and OPEB funding progress be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the schedules of funding progress in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our

inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the schedules of funding progress because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance. The budgetary comparison information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and, in our opinion, is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole.

Management has omitted the management's discussion and analysis that accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require to be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such missing information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. Our opinion on the basic financial statements is not affected by the missing information.

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise the New River Valley Planning District Commission's financial statements as a whole. The accompanying schedule of expenditures of federal awards is presented for purposes of additional analysis as required by U.S. Office of Management and Budget Circular A-133, *Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations*, and is not a required part of the financial statements. The schedule of expenditures of federal awards is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the information is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the financial statements as a whole.

Robinson, Turner, Cox Associates

Blacksburg, Virginia
August 31, 2012

Basic Financial Statements

NEW RIVER VALLEY PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION
Statement of Net Assets
June 30, 2012

	Primary Government Governmental Activities
ASSETS	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 222,127
Accounts receivable	456,919
Due from governmental units	621,697
Capital assets (net of accumulated depreciation):	
Vehicles and equipment	16,961
Total assets	\$ 1,317,704
LIABILITIES	
Accounts payable	\$ 770,832
Accrued unemployment liability	16,457
Noncurrent liabilities:	
Due within one year	41,046
Due in more than one year	137,608
Total liabilities	\$ 965,943
NET ASSETS	
Invested in capital assets, net of related debt	\$ 16,961
Unrestricted	334,800
Total net assets	\$ 351,761

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

NEW RIVER VALLEY PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION
Statement of Activities
For the Year Ended June 30, 2012

	Program Revenues			Net (Expense) Revenue and Changes in Net Assets
	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Charges for Services</u>	<u>Operating Grants and Contributions</u>	
<u>Functions/Programs</u>				
Primary Government:				
Governmental activities:				
Health and welfare	\$ 2,585,830	\$ -	\$ 2,585,830	\$ -
Community development	2,228,017	697,870	1,180,160	(349,987)
Total governmental activities	\$ 4,813,847	\$ 697,870	\$ 3,765,990	\$ (349,987)
General revenues:				
Contributions				\$ 293,929
Unrestricted revenues from use of money and property				32
Miscellaneous				3,123
Total general revenues				\$ 297,084
Change in net assets				(52,903)
Net assets - beginning				404,664
Net assets - ending				\$ 351,761

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

NEW RIVER VALLEY PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION
 Balance Sheet
 Governmental Funds
 At June 30, 2012

ASSETS	General	WIA Fund	Total
Current assets:			
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 213,805	\$ 8,322	\$ 222,127
Accounts receivable	456,919	-	456,919
Due from governmental units	<u>-</u>	<u>621,697</u>	<u>621,697</u>
Total assets	<u>\$ 670,724</u>	<u>\$ 630,019</u>	<u>\$ 1,300,743</u>
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE			
Current liabilities:			
Accounts payable	\$ 140,814	\$ 630,018	\$ 770,832
Accrued unemployment liability	<u>16,457</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>16,457</u>
Total liabilities	<u>\$ 157,271</u>	<u>\$ 630,018</u>	<u>\$ 787,289</u>
Fund balance:			
Committed	\$ -	\$ 1	\$ 1
Unassigned	<u>513,453</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>513,453</u>
Total fund balance	<u>\$ 513,453</u>	<u>\$ 1</u>	<u>\$ 513,454</u>
Total liabilities and fund balance	<u>\$ 670,724</u>	<u>\$ 630,019</u>	<u>\$ 1,300,743</u>

The accompanying notes to financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

NEW RIVER VALLEY PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION
Reconciliation of the Balance Sheet of Governmental Funds
To the Statement of Net Assets
June 30, 2012

Amounts reported for governmental activities in the statement of net assets are different because:

Total fund balances per Exhibit 3 - Balance Sheet	\$ 513,454
Capital assets used in governmental activities are not financial resources and, therefore, are not reported in the funds.	16,961
Long-term liabilities are not due and payable in the current period and therefore are not reported in the funds.	<u>(178,654)</u>
Net assets of governmental activities	\$ <u><u>351,761</u></u>

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

NEW RIVER VALLEY PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance
Governmental Funds
Year Ended June 30, 2012

Revenues:	General	WIA Fund	Total
Revenue from use of money and property	\$ 32	\$ -	\$ 32
Charges for services	697,870	-	697,870
Contributions from localities	206,433	-	206,433
Contributions from others	87,496	-	87,496
Miscellaneous	3,123	-	3,123
Intergovernmental	1,180,160	2,585,830	3,765,990
Total revenues	\$ 2,175,114	\$ 2,585,830	\$ 4,760,944
Expenditures:			
Community Development:			
Personnel	\$ 859,177	\$ -	\$ 859,177
Fringe benefits	301,213	-	301,213
Office rent	53,582	-	53,582
Telephone	11,246	-	11,246
Office supplies	50,137	-	50,137
Postage	3,474	-	3,474
Bad debts	2,661	-	2,661
Advertising	7,702	-	7,702
Travel	53,898	-	53,898
Equipment maintenance and rent	13,115	-	13,115
Dues and publications	8,408	-	8,408
Training	419	-	419
Meeting expense	20,512	-	20,512
Insurance	4,417	-	4,417
Capital outlay	19,280	-	19,280
Contractual services	740,414	-	740,414
Audit fee	4,526	-	4,526
Miscellaneous	20,109	-	20,109
Health and Welfare:			
Administrative grant costs	-	180,087	180,087
Program grant costs	-	2,405,743	2,405,743
Total expenditures	\$ 2,174,290	\$ 2,585,830	\$ 4,760,120
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenditures	\$ 824	\$ -	\$ 824
Fund balance, beginning of year	512,629	1	512,630
Fund balance, end of year	\$ 513,453	\$ 1	\$ 513,454

The accompanying notes to financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

NEW RIVER VALLEY PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION
 Reconciliation of Statement of Revenues,
 Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances of Governmental Funds
 To the Statement of Activities
 For the Year Ended June 30, 2012

Amounts reported for governmental activities in the statement of activities are different because:

Net change in fund balances - total governmental funds	\$ 824
Governmental funds report capital outlays as expenditures. However, in the statement of activities the cost of those assets is allocated over their estimated useful lives and reported as depreciation expense. This is the amount by which capital outlays exceeded depreciation in the current period.	14,792
Some expenses reported in the statement of activities do not require the use of current financial resources and, therefore are not reported as expenditures in governmental funds.	<u>(68,519)</u>
Change in net assets of governmental activities	<u>\$ (52,903)</u>

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

NEW RIVER VALLEY PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
JUNE 30, 2012

Note 1-Summary of Significant Accounting Policies:

The financial statements of the New River Valley Planning District Commission (the Commission) conform to generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) applicable to governmental units promulgated by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB). The following is a summary of the more significant policies:

A. Reporting Entity

The New River Valley Planning District Commission was formed pursuant Title 15.2, Chapter 42 of the *Code of Virginia, (1950) as amended*, to encourage and facilitate local government cooperation and state-local cooperation in addressing on a regional basis problems of greater than local significance. Functional areas in which the Commission may assist participating jurisdictions include, but are not limited to: (i) economic and physical infrastructure development; (ii) solid waste, water supply and other environmental management; (iii) transportation; (iv) criminal justice; (v) emergency management; (vi) human services; and (vii) recreation. The Commission was formed to serve the towns of Blacksburg, Christiansburg, Floyd, Narrows, Pearisburg, Pulaski and Rich Creek; the counties of Floyd, Giles, Montgomery and Pulaski; and the City of Radford.

The New River Valley Planning District Commission's financial statements include the accounts of all the Commission's operations. The criteria for including organizations as component units within the Commission's reporting entity, as set forth in Section 2100 of GASB's Codification of Governmental Accounting and Financial Reporting Standards, include whether:

- the organization is legally separate (can sue and be sued in their own name)
- the Commission holds the corporate powers of the organization
- the Commission appoints a voting majority of the organization's board
- the Commission is able to impose its will on the organization
- the organization has the potential to impose a financial benefit/burden on the Commission
- there is fiscal dependency by the organization on the Commission

Based on the aforementioned criteria, the Commission has no component units.

B. Government-wide and fund financial statements

The government-wide financial statements (i.e., the statement of net assets and the statement of activities) report information on all of the nonfiduciary activities of the Commission (primary government). For the most part, the effect of interfund activity has been removed from these statements. Exceptions to this general rule are other charges between the Commission's functions. Elimination of these charges would distort the direct costs and program revenues reported for the various functions concerned.

Note 1-Summary of Significant Accounting Policies: (continued)

B. Government-wide and fund financial statements (continued)

The statement of activities demonstrates the degree to which the direct expenses of a given function or segment are offset by program revenues. *Direct expenses* are those that are clearly identifiable with a specific function or segment. *Program revenues* include 1) charges to customers or applicants who purchase, use, or directly benefit from goods, services, or privileges provided by a given function or segment and 2) grants and contributions that are restricted to meeting the operational or capital requirements of a particular function or segment. Other items not properly included among program revenues are reported instead as *general revenues*.

Major individual governmental funds are reported as separate columns in the fund financial statements.

C. Measurement focus, basis of accounting, and financial statement presentation

The government-wide financial statements are reported using the *economic resources measurement focus* and the *accrual basis of accounting*. Revenues are recorded when earned and expenses are recorded when a liability is incurred, regardless of the timing of related cash flows. Grants and similar items are recognized as revenue as soon as all eligibility requirements imposed by the provider have been met.

Governmental fund financial statements are reported using the *current financial resources measurement focus* and the *modified accrual basis of accounting*. Revenues are recognized as soon as they are both measurable and available. Revenues are considered to be *available* when they are collectible within the current period or soon enough thereafter to pay liabilities of the current period. For this purpose, the commission considers revenues to be available if they are collected within 60 days of the end of the current fiscal period. Expenditures generally are recorded when a liability is incurred, as under accrual accounting. However, debt service expenditures, as well as expenditures related to compensated absences and claims and judgments, are recorded only when payment is due.

Intergovernmental revenues, consisting primarily of federal, state and other grants for the purpose of funding specific expenditures, are recognized when earned or at the time of the specific expenditure. Revenues from general-purpose grants are recognized in the period to which the grant applies. All other revenue items are considered to be measurable and available only when the government receives cash.

Private-sector standards of accounting and financial reporting issued prior to December 1, 1989, generally are followed in the government-wide financial statements to the extent that those standards do not conflict with or contradict guidance of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board.

When both restricted and unrestricted resources are available for use, it is the government's policy to use restricted resources first, and then unrestricted resources as they are needed.

Note 1-Summary of Significant Accounting Policies: (continued)

C. Measurement focus, basis of accounting, and financial statement presentation (continued)

The Commission reports the following major governmental funds:

The General Fund is the Commission's primary operating fund. It accounts for and reports all financial resources of the Commission, except those required to be accounted for in other funds.

The Workforce Investment Act Fund accounts for the deposit and expenditure of grant proceeds under the Workforce Investment Act programs.

D. Assets, liabilities, and net assets or equity

1. *Deposits and investments*

The Commission's cash and cash equivalents are considered to be cash on hand, demand deposits, and short-term investments with original maturities of three months or less from the date of acquisition.

2. *Receivables and payables*

Activity between funds that are representative of lending/borrowing arrangements outstanding at the end of the fiscal year are referred to as either "due to/from other funds" (i.e., the current portion of interfund loans) or "advances to/from other funds" (i.e., the non-current portion of interfund loans). All other outstanding balances between funds are reported as "due to/from other funds."

Advances between funds, as reported in the fund financial statements, are offset by a fund balance reserve account in applicable governmental funds to indicate that they are not available for appropriation and are not expendable available financial resources.

3. *Allowance for Uncollectible Accounts*

Accounts receivable are stated at book value utilizing the direct write-off method for uncollectible accounts. Uncollected balances have not been significant and no allowance for uncollectible accounts has been recorded. For the year ended June 30, 2012, write-offs totaled \$2,661.

4. *Use of Estimates*

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect certain reported amounts and disclosures. Accordingly, actual results could differ from those estimates.

Note 1-Summary of Significant Accounting Policies: (continued)

D. Assets, liabilities, and net assets or equity (continued)

5. *Capital assets*

Capital assets, which include property, plant, and equipment, are reported in the governmental activities column in the government-wide financial statements. Capital assets are defined by the Commission as assets with an initial, individual cost of more than \$5,000 (amount not rounded) and an estimated useful life in excess of one year. Such assets are recorded at historical cost or estimated historical cost if purchased or constructed. Donated capital assets are recorded at estimated fair market value at the date of donation.

The costs of normal maintenance and repairs that do not add to the value of the asset or materially extend the asset's life are not capitalized. Major outlays for capital assets and improvements are capitalized as projects are constructed. Property, plant, and equipment of the Commission are depreciated using the straight line method over the following estimated useful lives:

<u>Assets</u>	<u>Years</u>
Computer and related equipment	3-5
Furniture and fixtures	10
Vehicles	5

6. *Compensated Absences*

Vested or accumulated vacation leave that is expected to be liquidated with expendable available financial resources is reported as an expenditure and a fund liability of the governmental fund that will pay it. In accordance with the provisions of Government Accounting Standards No. 16, *Accounting for Compensated Absences*, no liability is recorded for non-vesting accumulating rights to receive sick pay benefits. The Commission accrues salary-related payments associated with the payment of compensated absences. All vacation pay is accrued when incurred in the government-wide financial statements.

7. *Long-term obligations*

In the government-wide financial statements, long-term debt and other long-term obligations are reported as liabilities in the statement of net assets. In the fund financial statements, the face amount of debt issued is reported as other financing sources in the statement of revenues, expenditures and changes in fund balance and is not presented as a liability in the balance sheet.

Note 1-Summary of Significant Accounting Policies: (continued)

D. Assets, liabilities, and net assets or equity (continued)

8. *Fund equity*

The New River Valley Planning District Commission reports Fund balance in accordance with provisions of GASB Statement 54, *Fund Balance Reporting and Governmental Fund Type Definitions*. The following classifications describe the relative strength of the spending constraints placed on the purposes for which resources can be used:

- Nonspendable fund balance - amounts that are not in spendable form (such as inventory and prepaids) or are required to be maintained intact (corpus of a permanent fund);
- Restricted fund balance - amounts constrained to specific purposes by their providers (such as grantors, bondholders, and higher levels of government), through constitutional provisions, or by enabling legislation;
- Committed fund balance - amounts constrained to specific purposes by a government itself, using its highest level of decision-making authority; to be reported as committed, amounts cannot be used for any other purpose unless the government takes the same highest level action to remove or change the constraint;
- Assigned fund balance - amounts a government intends to use for a specific purpose; intent can be expressed by the governing body or by an official or body to which the governing body delegates the authority;
- Unassigned fund balance - amounts that are available for any purpose; positive amounts are only reported in the general fund.

When fund balance resources are available for a specific purpose in more than one classification, it is the New River Valley Planning District Commission's policy to use the most restrictive funds first in the following order: restricted, committed, assigned, and unassigned as they are needed.

The New River Valley Planning District Commission establishes (and modifies or rescinds) fund balance commitments by passage of a resolution. This is typically done through adoption and amendment of the budget. A fund balance commitment is further indicated in the budget document as a designation or commitment of the fund (such as for special incentives). Assigned fund balance is established by the Board of Directors through adoption or amendment of the budget as intended for specific purpose (such as the purchase of capital assets, construction, debt service, or for other purposes).

9. *Net Assets*

Net assets are the difference between assets and liabilities. Net assets invested in capital assets represent capital assets, less accumulated depreciation, less any outstanding debt related to the acquisition, construction or improvement of those assets.

Note 2-Reconciliation of Government-Wide and Fund Financial Statements:

- A. Explanation of certain differences between the governmental fund balance sheet and the government-wide statement of net assets.

Exhibit 4 provides a reconciliation between *fund balance-total governmental funds* and *net assets-governmental activities* as reported in the government-wide statement of net assets. One element of that reconciliation explains that long-term liabilities are not due and payable in the current period and therefore are not reported in the funds. The details of this \$(178,654) difference for the primary government are as follows:

	Primary Government
Compensated absences	\$ (54,728)
Other post employment benefits	<u>(123,926)</u>
Net adjustment to reduce <i>fund balance-total governmental funds</i> to arrive at <i>net assets-governmental activities</i>	<u>\$ (178,654)</u>

- B. Explanation of certain differences between the governmental fund statement of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balances and the government-wide statement of activities.

Exhibit 6 provides a reconciliation between *net changes in fund balances-total governmental funds* and *changes in net assets of governmental activities* as reported in the government-wide statement of activities. One element of that reconciliation explains, "Governmental funds report capital outlays as expenditures. However, in the statement of activities the cost of those assets is allocated over their estimated useful lives and reported as depreciation expense." The details of this \$14,792 are as follows:

	Primary Government
Capital Outlay	\$ 16,961
Depreciation Expense	<u>(2,169)</u>
Net adjustment to increase (decrease) <i>net changes in fund balances - total governmental funds</i> to arrive at <i>changes in net assets of governmental activities</i>	<u>\$ 14,792</u>

Note 2-Reconciliation of Government-Wide and Fund Financial Statements: (Continued)

B. Explanation of certain differences between the governmental fund statement of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balances and the government-wide statement of activities (continued)

Another element of that reconciliation states, "Some expenses reported in the statement of activities do not require the use of current financial resources and therefore are not reported as expenditures in governmental funds." The details of this \$(68,519) difference for the primary government are as follows:

		Primary Government
Increase in compensated absences	\$	(17,283)
Increase in Net OPEB Obligation		(51,236)
Net adjustment to increase (decrease) <i>net changes in fund balances-total governmental funds</i> to arrive at <i>changes in net assets of governmental activities</i>	\$	(68,519)

Note 3-Deposits and Investments:

Deposits: Deposits with banks are covered by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) and collateralized in accordance with the Virginia Security for Public Deposits Act (the "Act"), Section 2.2-4400 et. seq. of the Code of Virginia . Under the Act, banks and savings institutions holding public deposits in excess of the amount insured by the FDIC must pledge collateral to the Commonwealth of Virginia Treasury Board. Financial Institutions may choose between two collateralization methodologies and depending upon that choice, will pledge collateral that ranges in the amounts from 50% to 130% of excess deposits. Accordingly, all deposits are considered fully collateralized.

Investments: Statutes authorize local governments and other public bodies to invest in obligations of the United States or agencies thereof, obligations of the Commonwealth of Virginia or political subdivisions thereof, obligations of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (World Bank), the Asian Development Bank, the African Development Bank, "prime quality" commercial paper and certain corporate notes, banker's acceptances, repurchase agreements, and the State Treasurer's Local Government Investment Pool (LGIP). As of June 30, 2012 and for the year then ended the Commission did not have any investments.

New River Valley Planning District Commission
Notes to the Financial Statements
June 30, 2012

Note 4-Due from Other Governmental Units:

The following amount represents payments due from other governmental units at year end:

<u>U.S Department of Labor</u>	<u>Amount Due</u>
Pass through the Commonwealth of Virginia:	
Virginia Community College System	
Workforce Investment Act	\$ <u>621,697</u>

Note 5-Long-Term Obligations:

The following is a summary of long-term obligation transactions of the Commission for the year ended June 30, 2012.

	Balance July 1, 2011	Issuances	Retirements	Balance June 30, 2012	Amount Due Within One Year
Net OPEB Obligation	\$ 72,690	\$ 51,236	\$ -	\$ 123,926	\$ -
Compensated Absences	37,445	26,644	(9,361)	54,728	41,046
Total	\$ 110,135	\$ 77,880	\$ (9,361)	\$ 178,654	\$ 41,046

Note 6-Employee Retirement System and Pension Plans:

A. Plan Description

Name of Plan: Virginia Retirement System (VRS)
Identification of Plan: Agent Defined Benefit Pension Plan
Administering Entity: Virginia Retirement System (System)

All full-time, salaried permanent (professional) employees of participating employers are automatically covered by VRS upon employment. Benefits vest after five years of service credit. Members earn one month of service credit for each month they are employed and their employer is paying into the VRS. Members are eligible to purchase prior public service, active duty military service, certain periods of leave and previously refunded VRS service as credit in their plan.

Note 6-Employee Retirement System and Pension Plans: (Continued)

A. Plan Description (continued)

VRS administers two defined benefit plans for local government employees - Plan 1 and Plan 2:

- Members hired before July 1, 2010 and who have service credits before July 1, 2010 are covered under Plan 1. Non-hazardous duty members are eligible for an unreduced retirement benefit beginning at age 65 with at least five years of service credit or age 50 with at least 30 years of service credit. They may retire with a reduced benefit early at age 55 with at least five years of service credit or age 50 with at least 10 years of service credit.
- Members hired or rehired on or after July 1, 2010 and who have no service credits before July 1, 2010 are covered under Plan 2. Non-hazardous duty members are eligible for an unreduced benefit beginning at their normal Social Security retirement age with at least five years of service credit or when the sum of their age and service equals 90. They may retire with a reduced benefit as early as age 60 with at least five years of service credit.
- Eligible hazardous duty members in Plan 1 and Plan 2 are eligible for an unreduced benefit beginning at age 60 with at least 5 years of service credit or age 50 with at least 25 years of service credit. These members include sheriffs, deputy sheriffs and hazardous duty employees of political subdivisions that have elected to provide enhanced coverage for hazardous duty service. They may retire with a reduced benefit as early as age 50 with at least five years of service credit. All other provisions of the member's plan apply.

The VRS Basic Benefit is a lifetime monthly benefit based on a retirement multiplier as a percentage of the member's average final compensation multiplied by the member's total service credit. Under Plan 1, average final compensation is the average of the member's 36 consecutive months of highest compensation. Under Plan 2, average final compensation is the average of the member's 60 consecutive months of highest compensation. The retirement multiplier for non-hazardous duty members is 1.70 %. The retirement multiplier for sheriffs and regional jail superintendents is 1.85%. The retirement multiplier for eligible political subdivision hazardous duty employees other than sheriffs and jail superintendents is 1.70% or 1.85% as elected by the employer. At retirement, members can elect the Basic Benefit, the Survivor Option, a Partial Lump-Sum Option Payment (PLOP) or the Advance Pension Option. A retirement reduction factor is applied to the Basic Benefit amount for members electing the Survivor Option, PLOP or Advance Pension Option or those retiring with a reduced benefit.

Retirees are eligible for an annual cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) effective July 1 of the second calendar year of retirement. Under Plan 1, the COLA cannot exceed 5.00%; under Plan 2, the COLA cannot exceed 6.00%. During years of no inflation or deflation, the COLA is 0.00%. The VRS also provides death and disability benefits. Title 51.1 of the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended, assigns the authority to establish and amend benefit provisions to the General Assembly of Virginia.

The system issues a publicly available comprehensive annual financial report that includes financial statements and required supplementary information for VRS. A copy of the most recent report may be obtained from the VRS Web site at <http://www.varetire.org/Pdf/Publications/2011-annual-report.pdf> or by writing to the System's Chief Financial Officer at P.O. Box 2500, Richmond, VA, 23218-2500.

Note 6-Employee Retirement System and Pension Plans: (Continued)

B. Funding Policy

Plan members are required by Title 51.1 of the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended, to contribute 5.00% of their compensation toward their retirement. All or part of the 5.00% member contribution may be assumed by the employer. In addition, the New River Valley Planning District Commission is required to contribute the remaining amounts necessary to fund its participation in the VRS using the actuarial basis specified by the Code of Virginia and approved by the VRS Board of Trustees. The New River Valley Planning District Commission's contribution rate for the fiscal year ended 2012 was 0.99% of annual covered payroll.

C. Annual Pension Cost

For fiscal year 2012, New River Valley Planning District Commission's annual pension cost of \$6,930 was equal to the New River Valley Planning District Commission's required and actual contributions.

Three - Year Trend Information			
Fiscal Year Ending	Annual Pension Cost (APC)	Percentage of APC Contributed	Net Pension Obligation
6/30/2012	\$ 6,930	100.00%	\$ -
6/30/2011	6,261	100.00%	-
6/30/2010	22,330	100.00%	-

The FY 2012 required contribution was determined as part of the June 30, 2009 actuarial valuation using the entry age actuarial cost method. The actuarial assumptions at June 30, 2009 included (a) an investment rate of return (net of administrative expenses) of 7.50%, (b) projected salary increases ranging from 3.75% to 5.60% per year for general government employees and 3.50% to 4.75% for employees eligible for enhanced benefits available to law enforcement officers, firefighters, and sheriffs, and (c) a cost-of-living adjustment of 2.50% per year. Both the investment rate of return and the projected salary increases include an inflation component of 2.50%. The actuarial value of the New River Valley Planning District Commission's assets is equal to the modified market value of assets. This method uses techniques that smooth the effects of short-term volatility in the market value of assets over a five-year period. The New River Valley Planning District Commission's unfunded actuarial accrued liability is being amortized as a level percentage of projected payrolls on an open basis. The remaining amortization period at June 30, 2009 for the Unfunded Actuarial Accrued Liability (UAAL) was 20 years.

Note 6-Employee Retirement System and Pension Plans: (Continued)

D. Funded Status and Funding Progress

As of June 30, 2011, the most recent actuarial valuation date, the plan was 94.18% funded. The actuarial accrued liability for benefits was \$1,674,103, and the actuarial value of assets was \$1,576,751, resulting in an unfunded actuarial accrued liability (UAAL) of \$97,352. The covered payroll (annual payroll of active employees covered by the plan) was \$678,293, and ratio of the UAAL to the covered payroll was 14.35%.

The schedule of funding progress, presented as Required Supplementary Information following the notes to the financial statements, presents multiyear trend information about whether the actuarial value of plan assets is increasing or decreasing over time relative to the actuarial accrued liability (AAL) for benefits.

Note 7-Capital Assets:

Capital asset activity for the year ended June 30, 2012 was as follows:

	Beginning Balance	Increases	Decreases	Ending Balance
Capital assets, being depreciated:				
Automobiles	\$ 63,520	\$ 16,961	\$ -	\$ 80,481
Furniture, fixtures and equipment	22,032	-	-	22,032
Total capital assets being depreciated	\$ 85,552	\$ 16,961	\$ -	\$ 102,513
Less: accumulated depreciation for:				
Automobiles	\$ (61,351)	\$ (2,169)	\$ -	\$ (63,520)
Furniture, fixtures and equipment	(22,032)	-	-	(22,032)
Total accumulated depreciation	\$ (83,383)	\$ (2,169)	\$ -	\$ (85,552)
Total capital assets, net	\$ 2,169	\$ 14,792	\$ -	\$ 16,961

All depreciation expense was charged to the Community Development function in the Statement of Activities.

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Note 8-Risk Management:

The Commission is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts; theft of, damage to, and destruction of assets; errors and omissions; injuries to employees; and natural disasters. The Commission participates with other government entities in a public entity risk pool for their coverage of public officials and liability insurance with the Virginia Municipal Liability Pool. Each member of this risk pool jointly and severally agrees to assume, pay and discharge any liability. The Commission pays the Virginia Municipal Group contributions and assessments based upon classifications and rates into a designated cash reserve fund out of which expenses of the pool, claims and awards are to be paid. In the event of a loss, deficit, or depletion of all available excess insurance, the pool may assess all members in the proportion in which the premium of each bears to the total premiums of all members in the year in which such deficit occurs.

Note 9-Compensated Absences:

Commission employees earn vacation leave each month at a scheduled rate in accordance with years of service. Accumulated unpaid vacation is accrued when incurred. Commission employees also earn credit for vacation pay if they work on holidays recognized by the Commission. Accumulated holiday pay is accrued when incurred. At June 30, 2012 the liability for accrued vacation and holiday pay totaled \$54,728.

Note 10-Other Post Employment Benefits Program (OPEB):

The Commission recognizes the cost of retiree health benefits during the period of active employment, while the benefits are being earned, and discloses the unfunded actuarial accrued liability (UAAL) in order to accurately account for the total future cost of post-employment benefits and the financial impact on the Commission. As the Commission has less than 100 employees and is not required to have an actuarial valuation performed, the alternative measurement method was utilized to determine the amounts that follow.

A. Plan Description

The Commission allows retirees to participate in health insurance programs offered by the Commission. To participate, a retiree must have reached age 55 and completed at least 5 years of full-time service with the Commission. Retirees are required to contribute 100% of their health insurance premiums to the Commission. The retirees' health insurance rates are not age adjusted; rather the retirees pay the same premium as active employees.

B. Funding Policy

The contribution requirements of the plan members and the Commission are established and may be amended by the Commission. The Commission currently pays for post-retirement health care benefits on a pay-as-you-go basis. Retirees are responsible for the payment of 100% of the health care insurance rates shown below:

Participants	Monthly Premium
Employee	\$ 520.00
Employee / Spouse	962.00
Family	1,404.00

Note 10-Other Postemployment Benefits Program (OPEB): (Continued)

C. Annual OPEB Cost and Net OPEB Obligation

The Commission is required to compute the annual required contribution of the employer (ARC), an amount actuarially determined in accordance with the parameters of GASB Statement 45. The ARC represents a level of funding that, if paid on an ongoing basis, is projected to cover normal costs each year and amortize any unfunded actuarial liabilities (or funding excess) over a period not to exceed thirty years. The following table shows the components of the Commission's annual OPEB costs for the year, the amount actually contributed to the plan, and the changes in the net OPEB obligations:

Annual required contribution	\$ 51,236
Contributions made	-
Increase in net OPEB obligation	51,236
Net OPEB obligation - beginning of year	72,690
Net OPEB obligation - end of year	\$ 123,926

The Commission's annual OPEB cost, the percentage of annual OPEB cost contributed to the plan, and the net OPEB obligation were as follows:

Fiscal Year Ended	Annual OPEB Cost	Percentage of Annual OPEB Cost Contributed	Net OPEB Obligation
6/30/2010	\$ 51,103	28.89%	\$ 36,341
6/30/2011	51,170	28.96%	72,690
6/30/2012	51,236	0.00%	123,926

D. Funded Status and Funding Progress

The funded status of the Plan as of June 30, 2010, the most recent valuation date was as follows:

Actuarial accrued liability (AAL)	\$ 252,877
Actuarial value of plan assets	-
Unfunded actuarial accrued liability (UAAL)	\$ 252,877
Funded ratio (actuarial value of plan assets/AAL)	0.00%
Covered payroll (active plan members)	\$ 706,240
UAAL as a percentage of covered payroll	35.81%

Actuarial valuations of an ongoing plan involve estimates of the value of reported amounts and assumptions about the probability of occurrence of events far in the future. Examples include assumptions about future employment, mortality, and inflation. Amounts determined regarding the funded status of the plan and the annual required contributions of the employer are subject to

Note 10-Other Postemployment Benefits Program (OPEB): (Continued)

D. Funded Status and Funding Progress (Continued)

continual revision as actual results are compared with past expectations and new estimates are made about the future. The schedule of funding progress, presented as required supplementary information following the notes to the financial statements, will present multiyear trend information, as it becomes available, about whether the actuarial value of plan assets is increasing or decreasing over time relative to the actuarial accrued liabilities for benefits.

E. Actuarial Methods and Assumptions

Projections of benefits for financial reporting purposes are based on the substantive plan and include the types of benefits provided at the time of each valuation and the historical pattern of sharing of benefit costs between the employer and plan members to that point. The actuarial methods and assumptions used include techniques that are designed to reduce the effects of short-term volatility in actuarial accrued liabilities and the actuarial value of assets, consistent with the long-term perspective of the calculations. In the June 30, 2010 actuarial valuation, the entry age actuarial cost method was used. Under this method, future benefits are projected and the present value of such benefits is allocated from date of hire to date of eligibility. The actuarial assumptions for the Commission include:

	<u>Assumptions</u>
Amortization period	30 years
Investment rate of return	4%
Payroll growth	3.30%
Age adjustment factor	2.278768

The UAAL is being amortized as a level percentage of payroll over the remaining amortization period, which at June 30, 2010, was 30 years. Amortizations are open ended in that they begin anew at each valuation date.

Required Supplementary Information

NEW RIVER VALLEY PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION

Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances -- General Fund
 Budget and Actual
 Year Ended June 30, 2012

	Original Budget	Final Budget	Actual	Variance Favorable (Unfavorable)
Revenues:				
Revenue from local sources:				
Interest Income	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 32	\$ 32
Charges for Services	743,898	767,538	697,870	(69,668)
Contributions from Local Governments	206,433	206,433	206,433	-
Contribution from Johnson Foundation	84,520	85,992	87,496	1,504
Miscellaneous Revenue	-	-	3,123	3,123
Total revenue from local sources	\$ 1,034,851	\$ 1,059,963	\$ 994,954	\$ (65,009)
Revenue from the Commonwealth:				
Categorical aid:				
DHCD Grants (Administrative)	\$ 75,971	\$ 75,971	\$ 75,971	\$ -
Department of Forestry	7,477	5,462	2,053	(3,409)
Virginia Department of Transportation	58,000	58,000	62,757	4,757
Total revenue from the Commonwealth	\$ 141,448	\$ 139,433	\$ 140,781	\$ 1,348
Revenue from the Federal Government:				
Categorical aid:				
ARC Grant	\$ 68,552	\$ 68,436	\$ 68,465	\$ 29
Housing and Urban Development Grant	382,690	423,159	374,866	(48,293)
Department of Commerce Grant	628,150	418,732	526,048	107,316
EDA Grant	70,000	70,000	70,000	-
Total revenue from the Federal Government	\$ 1,149,392	\$ 980,327	\$ 1,039,379	\$ 59,052
Total operating revenues	\$ 2,325,691	\$ 2,179,723	\$ 2,175,114	\$ (4,609)

NEW RIVER VALLEY PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION

Exhibit 7
(continued)Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances -- General Fund
Budget and Actual
Year Ended June 30, 2012 (Continued)

	Original Budget	Final Budget	Actual	Variance Favorable (Unfavorable)
Expenditures:				
Community Development:				
Personnel	\$ 966,385	\$ 836,275	\$ 859,177	\$ (22,902)
Fringe benefits	321,525	282,898	301,213	(18,315)
Office rent	53,584	53,583	53,582	1
Telephone	11,264	12,663	11,246	1,417
Office supplies	33,686	66,956	50,137	16,819
Postage	5,246	5,928	3,474	2,454
Bad debts	-	-	2,661	(2,661)
Advertising	6,705	11,665	7,702	3,963
Travel	86,363	77,081	53,898	23,183
Equipment maintenance and rent	13,330	17,329	13,115	4,214
Dues and publications	10,845	10,006	8,408	1,598
Training	1,100	1,025	419	606
Meeting expense	275	20,995	20,512	483
Insurance	8,700	8,700	4,417	4,283
Capital outlay	27,402	22,902	19,280	3,622
Contractual services	788,004	647,389	740,414	(93,025)
Audit fee	8,295	8,695	4,526	4,169
Miscellaneous	62,584	76,631	20,109	56,522
Total expenditures	\$ 2,405,293	\$ 2,160,721	\$ 2,174,290	\$ (13,569)
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenditures	\$ (79,602)	\$ 19,002	\$ 824	\$ (18,178)
Net change in fund balance	\$ (79,602)	\$ 19,002	\$ 824	\$ (18,178)
Fund balance, beginning of year	79,602	-	512,629	512,629
Fund balance, end of year	\$ -	\$ 19,002	\$ 513,453	\$ 494,451

NEW RIVER VALLEY PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION

Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances -- WIA Fund
 Budget and Actual
 Year Ended June 30, 2012

	Original Budget	Final Budget	Actual	Variance Favorable (Unfavorable)
Revenues:				
Revenue from the Federal Government:				
Categorical aid:				
Workforce Investment Act	\$ 2,691,519	\$ 2,691,519	\$ 2,585,830	\$ (105,689)
Total revenue from the Federal Government	\$ 2,691,519	\$ 2,691,519	\$ 2,585,830	\$ (105,689)
Total operating revenues	\$ 2,691,519	\$ 2,691,519	\$ 2,585,830	\$ (105,689)
Expenditures:				
Health and Welfare:				
Administrative	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 180,087	\$ (180,087)
Program	2,691,519	2,691,519	2,405,743	285,776
Total expenditures	\$ 2,691,519	\$ 2,691,519	\$ 2,585,830	\$ 105,689
Net change in fund balance	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Fund balance, beginning of year	-	-	1	1
Fund balance, end of year	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1	\$ 1

New River Valley Planning District Commission
Schedule of Pension and Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB) Funding Progress
As of June 30, 2012

Planning District Commission Retirement Plan

Actuarial Valuation Date	Actuarial Value of Assets	Actuarial Accrued Liability (AAL)	Unfunded AAL (UAAL) (3) - (2)	Funded Ratio Assets as % of AAL (2) / (3)	Annual Covered Payroll	UAAL as a % of Covered Payroll (4) / (6)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
6/30/2011	1,576,751	1,674,103	97,352	94.18%	678,293	14.35%
6/30/2010	1,544,406	1,563,460	19,054	98.78%	592,597	3.22%
6/30/2009	1,500,760	1,301,987	(198,773)	115.27%	583,083	-34.09%

OPEB Healthcare Plan:

Actuarial Valuation Date	Actuarial Value of Assets	Actuarial Accrued Liability (AAL)	Unfunded AAL (UAAL) (3) - (2)	Funded Ratio Assets as % of AAL (2) / (3)	Annual Covered Payroll	UAAL as a % of Covered Payroll (4) / (6)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
June 30, 2010 *	\$ -	\$ 252,877	252,877	0%	\$ 706,240	35.81%

*Only available for one year

Compliance Section

ROBINSON, FARMER, COX ASSOCIATES

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

A PROFESSIONAL LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters Based on an Audit of Financial Statements Performed in Accordance With *Government Auditing Standards*

**To the Members of the Board
New River Valley Planning District Commission
Radford, Virginia**

We have audited the financial statements of the governmental activities and each major fund of the New River Valley Planning District Commission as of and for the year ended June 30, 2012, and have issued our report thereon dated August 31, 2012. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America; the *Specifications for Audits of Authorities, Boards, and Commissions*, issued by the Auditor of Public Accounts of the Commonwealth of Virginia; and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

Management of the New River Valley Planning District Commission is responsible for establishing and maintaining effective internal control over financial reporting. In planning and performing our audit, we considered the New River Valley Planning District Commission's internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the New River Valley Planning District Commission's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the New River Valley Planning District Commission's internal control over financial reporting.

Our consideration of internal control over financial reporting was for the limited purpose described in the preceding paragraph and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that might be significant deficiencies or material weaknesses and therefore, there can be no assurance that all deficiencies, significant deficiencies, or material weaknesses have been identified. However, as described in the accompanying schedule of findings and questioned costs, we identified certain deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that we consider to be material weaknesses.

A *deficiency in internal control* exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct misstatements on a timely basis. A *material weakness* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected on a timely basis. We consider the deficiency described in the accompanying schedule of findings and questioned costs (reference 2012-1) to be a material weakness.

Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the New River Valley Planning District Commission's financial statements are free of material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial

Compliance and Other Matters (continued)

statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit, and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

The New River Valley Planning District Commission's response to the findings identified in our audit is described in the accompanying schedule of findings and questioned costs. We did not audit the Commission's response and, accordingly, we express no opinion on it.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the Board of Directors, management, others within the Commission, federal awarding agencies and pass-through entities and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Robinson, Turner, Co. Associates

Blacksburg, Virginia
August 31, 2012

ROBINSON, FARMER, COX ASSOCIATES

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

A PROFESSIONAL LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Independent Auditors' Report on Compliance with Requirements That Could Have a Direct and Material Effect on Each Major Program and on Internal Control Over Compliance in Accordance with OMB Circular A-133

To the Members of the Board
New River Valley Planning District Commission
Radford, Virginia

Compliance

We have audited the New River Valley Planning District Commission's compliance with the types of compliance requirements described in the *OMB Circular A-133 Compliance Supplement* that could have a direct and material effect on each of the New River Valley Planning District Commission's major federal programs for the year ended June 30, 2012. The New River Valley Planning District Commission's major federal programs are identified in the summary of auditor's results section of the accompanying schedule of findings and questioned costs. Compliance with the requirements of laws, regulations, contracts, and grants applicable to each of its major federal programs is the responsibility of the New River Valley Planning District Commission's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the New River Valley Planning District Commission's compliance based on our audit.

We conducted our audit of compliance in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America; the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States; and OMB Circular A-133, *Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations*. Those standards and OMB Circular A-133 require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether noncompliance with the types of compliance requirements referred to above that could have a direct and material effect on a major federal program occurred. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence about the New River Valley Planning District Commission's compliance with those requirements and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion. Our audit does not provide a legal determination of the New River Valley Planning District Commission's compliance with those requirements.

In our opinion, the New River Valley Planning District Commission complied, in all material respects, with the compliance requirements referred to above that could have a direct and material effect on each of its major federal programs for the year ended June 30, 2012.

Internal Control Over Compliance

Management of the New River Valley Planning District Commission is responsible for establishing and maintaining effective internal control over compliance with the requirements of laws, regulations, contracts, and grants applicable to federal programs. In planning and performing our audit, we considered the New River Valley Planning District Commission's internal control over compliance with the requirements that could have a direct and material effect on a major federal program to determine the auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinion on compliance and to test and report on internal control over compliance in accordance with OMB Circular A-133, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control over compliance. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Commission's internal control over compliance.

A *deficiency in internal control over compliance* exists when the design or operation of a control over compliance does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their

Internal Control Over Compliance (continued)

assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, noncompliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal program on a timely basis. A *material weakness in internal control over compliance* is a deficiency, or combination of deficiencies, in internal control over compliance, such that there is a reasonable possibility that material noncompliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal program will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis.

Our consideration of internal control over compliance was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control over compliance that might be deficiencies, significant deficiencies, or material weaknesses. We did not identify any deficiencies in internal control over compliance that we consider to be material weaknesses, as defined above.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the Board of Directors, management, others within the organization, federal awarding agencies and pass-through entities and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Robinson, Turner, Cox Associates

Blacksburg, Virginia
August 31, 2012

NEW RIVER VALLEY PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION

Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards
Year Ended June 30, 2012

Federal Grantor/ Pass-through Grantor/ Program or Cluster Title	Federal CFDA Number	Pass-through Entity Identifying Number	Federal Expenditures
U.S. Department of Labor:			
Pass-through payments from:			
Virginia Community College System:			
Workforce Investment Act (Cluster)			
Adult Program	17.258	PY10, PY11	\$ 704,056
ARRA-Adult Program	17.258	PY 08	34,875
Youth Activities	17.259	PY10, PY11	\$ 1,014,849
ARRA-Youth Activities	17.259	PY 08	50,270
Dislocated Workers	17.278	PY10, PY11	\$ 744,883
ARRA-Dislocated Workers	17.278	PY 08	36,897
Total U.S. Department of Labor			\$ 2,585,830
Appalachian Regional Commission - Direct Payments:			
Appalachian Local Development District Assistance	23.009	N/A	\$ 68,465
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development - Direct Payments:			
Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Program	14.703	N/A	\$ 374,866
Department of Commerce - Direct Payments:			
Community Trade Adjustment Assistance	11.010	N/A	\$ 526,048
Economic Development - Support for Planning Organizations	11.302	N/A	70,000
Total Department of Commerce			\$ 596,048
Total Expenditures of Federal Awards			\$ 3,625,209

See accompanying notes to schedule of expenditures of federal awards.

Note A-Basis of Presentation

The accompanying schedule of expenditures of federal awards (the Schedule) includes the federal grant activity of the New River Valley Planning District Commission under programs of the federal government for the year ended June 30, 2012. The information in the Schedule is presented in accordance with the requirements of OMB Circular A-133, *Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations*. Because the Schedule presents only a selected portion of the operations of the New River Valley Planning District Commission, it is not intended to and does not present the financial position, changes in net assets, or cash flows of the New River Valley Planning District Commission.

Note B-Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

(1) Expenditures reported on the Schedule are reported on the accrual basis of accounting. Such expenditures are recognized following the cost principles contained in OMB Circular A-87, *Cost Principles for State, Local, and Indian Tribal Governments*, wherein certain types of expenditures are not allowed or are limited as to reimbursement.

(2) Pass-through entity identifying numbers are presented where available.

NEW RIVER VALLEY PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION

Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs
Year Ended June 30, 2012

Section I - Summary of Auditor's Results

Financial Statements

Type of auditor's report issued:	Unqualified
Internal control over financial reporting:	
Material weakness(es) identified?	Yes
Significant deficiency(ies) identified ?	None reported
Noncompliance material to financial statements noted?	No

Federal Awards

Internal control over major programs:	
Material weakness(es) identified?	No
Significant deficiency(ies) identified ?	None reported
Type of auditor's report issued on compliance for major programs:	Unqualified
Any audit findings disclosed that are required to be reported in accordance with Circular A-133 Section 510 (a)?	No
Identification of major programs:	

CFDA #	Name of Federal Program or Cluster
11.010	Community Trade Adjustment Assistance
14.703	Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Program
17.258	Workforce Investment Act Cluster - Adult Program
17.259	Workforce Investment Act Cluster - Youth Activities
17.278	Workforce Investment Act Cluster - Dislocated Workers
17.258	Workforce Investment Act Cluster - ARRA Adult Program
17.259	Workforce Investment Act Cluster - ARRA Youth Activities
17.278	Workforce Investment Act Cluster - ARRA Dislocated Workers

Dollar threshold used to distinguish between Type A and Type B programs	\$300,000

Auditee qualified as low-risk auditee?	No

NEW RIVER VALLEY PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION

Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs Year Ended June 30, 2012

Section II - Financial Statement Findings

2012-1

Criteria: Per Statement on Auditing Standards 115, an auditee should have sufficient expertise in the selection and application of accounting principles used in the preparation of the annual financial report.

Condition: The auditee does not possess sufficient expertise in the selection and application of accounting principles to ensure the annual financial report meets all applicable standards promulgated by Generally Accepted Accounting Standards (GAAS), the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) and the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB).

Effect: There is more than a remote likelihood that a material misstatement of the financial statements will not be prevented or detected by the entity's internal controls over financial reporting.

Cause: The auditee is small and does not have staff with significant experience in preparing financial statements in accordance with current reporting standards. As such, the auditee relies on the auditor for technical advice related to same.

Recommendation: The auditor recommends that the auditee review audit adjustments annually and replicate same in future periods to the extent possible. It is noted that the auditee has made great strides in posting year end adjustments and is gaining a good understanding of the year end audit process.

Management's Response

To comply with Standard 115, we would be required to hire staff and/or consultants with expertise in the preparation of financial statements using standards referred to above. The additional cost required exceeds any identified benefits. As such, management will continue to review year end audit entries and will work toward preparing financials statements in accordance with current reporting standards in future periods.

Section III - Federal Award Findings and Questioned Costs

There are no federal award findings and questioned costs to report.

NEW RIVER VALLEY PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION

Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs
Year Ended June 30, 2012

Section IV - Status of Prior Audit Findings and Questioned Costs

There were no prior audit findings related to federal awards.

NEW RIVER VALLEY PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION

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Kevin R. Byrd, AICP
Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

To: Planning District Commissioners

From: Kevin R. Byrd, Executive Director 

Date: November 8, 2012

Re: New Members for CEDS Committee

Each year the New River Valley Planning District Commission reviews and updates the region's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). The purpose of the CEDS is to continue federal and local partnerships to address the economic development in the region. The CEDS also serves the planning needs required by the US Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration and the Appalachian Regional Commission.

The New River Valley PDC is designated as an Economic Development District (EDD) and is required to engage a CEDS Committee comprised of 51% or more private sector individuals to assist in developing the CEDS document. Attached is the current CEDS Committee list with five new members for Commission appointment consideration. The five new members are at the bottom of the list in gray shading. These new members bring expertise in community development finance, human resources in manufacturing, public school administration, and small business development.

Counties:
Floyd, Giles, Montgomery, Pulaski

Towns:
Blacksburg, Christiansburg, Floyd
Pulaski, Narrows, Pearisburg, Rich Creek

Universities:
Radford University
Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University

City:
Radford

New River Valley
Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee
CEDS-FY13

Name	Principle Business Location	Career Field
Buddy Kast	Town of Narrows	Local Government Staff
Kamala Bauers	Floyd County	Real Estate Development
Jim Flowers	Virginia Tech	Incubator Manager
Michael Miller	Montgomery County	University Licensing
Peggy White	Pulaski County	Chamber of Commerce
Jim Loux	Pulaski County	Exporting Business
Brad Jones	Town of Pearisburg	Electric Company Executive
John White	Town of Pulaski	Local Government Staff
Basil Edwards	City of Radford	Local Government Staff
Henry Showalter	Town of Christiansburg	Finance, Virginia Tech
Sam Moore	Town of Floyd	Retired
Aric Bopp	New River Valley Economic Development Alliance	Regional Industrial Marketing
Marty Holliday	New River Valley WIB	Workforce Investment Board
Tommy Loflin	Town of Christiansburg	Finance
David Denny	City of Radford	International Business
Joe Fortier	City of Radford	Construction
*Shaun Rai	Town of Christiansburg	Community Development Finance
*Gary Forget	Town of Dublin	Manufacturing
*Becky Greer	City of Radford	Education
*Rick Weaver	Montgomery County	Education
*Anthony Byrd	City of Radford	Small Business Development

*New members for 2013 CEDS Committee

Livability Initiative Economic Development Working Group Members

Davina Irvin, Christiansburg; Dennis Reece and Gary Reedy, Citizens Telephone Cooperative, Floyd; Karen Drake, Town of Blacksburg; Lydeana Martin, Floyd County; Mel Jones, VT Center for Housing Research; Randy Rose, Virginia Tourism Corporation; Tracy Garland, Community Housing Partners