



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

Call in # 1-844-890-7777 (Access code #390313)

Meeting Agenda
Commonwealth Regional Council
Wednesday, March 15, 2023 9:00 a.m.

TIME CHANGE

Prince Edward County Courthouse Board Room, 3rd Floor, 111 South St., Farmville

- I. Welcome & Call to Order.....Chairman
- II. Invocation
- III. Pledge of Allegiance
- IV. Approval of Minutes of February 15th Council Meeting, (pg 1) Council Members
- V. Treasurers' Report – February/March Financial Statements, (pg 7) Treasurer Miles
- VI. Report of Officers, Committees & Executive Director
 A. Chairman's Report..... Chairman
 B. Executive Director's Monthly Activities Report, (pg 11)
- VII. Scoping the Future – Discussion of Innovative/Regional Ideas, (pg 12)..... Council Members
- VIII. Old Business Chairman
 - A. Staff Monthly Project Reports
 - 1) Update on Regional Emergency Planning Activities, (pg 13) Todd Fortune
 - 2) Update on Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) Phase III (pg 14) Kristen Tillman
 - 3) Update on Prince Edward Access Road Project, (pg 15) Melody Foster
 - 4) Update on Nottoway Comprehensive Plan Update (pg 16) Todd Fortune
 - 5) Update on Charlotte County Comprehensive Plan Update (pg 17)..... Lauren Jones
 - 6) Update on CRC Affordable Workforce Housing Development Program, (pg 18) Lauren Jones
 - 7) Update on GOVAR3 Entrepreneurship & Innovation Implementation, (pg 19) Lauren Jones
 - 8) Update on Kenbridge and Charlotte County ESHP Projects, (pg 20) Lauren Jones
 - 9) Update on VATI Grant for Cumberland, Lunenburg & Prince Edward, (pg 21) Todd Fortune
 - 10) Update on Drakes Branch Admin – SLFRF Funds Projects, (pg 22) Melody Foster
 - 11) Update on Drakes Branch Building Acquisition Project, (pg 23) Todd Fortune
 - 12) Update on Blackstone Armory-Environmental Cleanup Project, (pg 24)..... Todd Fortune
 - 13) Update CRC Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan Update, (pg 25) Todd Fortune
 - 14) Update on SEED Innovation Hub Project, (pg 26) Lauren Jones
 - 15) Update on New Regional Economic Development Organization (REDO) Strategy and Business Plan, (pg 27)..... Melody Foster
 - 16) Council Member Comments
- IX. New Business Chairman
 - A. Staff Reports
 - 1) Update on Grant Writing, (pg 28) Kristen Tillman
 - 2) CRC EDA EDD Designation, Request for EDA Local Technical Assistance Funds, (pg 31) Melody Foster
 - 3) USDA Rural Development Workshop, (pg 32) Melody Foster
 - 4) Council Member Comments
- X. Commonwealth Intergovernmental Review Process, (pg 33)
- XI. Other Business
- XII. Council Member Comments
- XIII. Closed Session, per Section 2.2-3711A.1 Code of Virginia, Personnel matters
- XIII. Adjourn – Next Meeting Date – Wednesday, April 19, 2023

COMMONWEALTH REGIONAL COUNCIL
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**Commonwealth Regional Council
Prince Edward County Board Room
Farmville, Virginia
February 15, 2023**

Welcome & Call to Order

The Chairman, Mr. Emert, called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

Invocation and Introductions

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

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

Amelia:

Mr. Dexter Jones

*Mr. David Felts

Mr. Dexter Jones

*Mr. David Felts

Buckingham:

Mr. Thomas Jordan Miles, III

*Mr. Karl Carter

Mr. Thomas Jordan Miles, III (V)
(Treasurer)

*Mr. Karl Carter

Charlotte:

Mr. Gary Walker

*Mr. Walt Bailey

Mr. Gary Walker
(Vice Chairman)

*Mr. Walt Bailey (V)

Cumberland:

Mr. Brian Stanley

*Ms. Stephany Johnson

Mr. Brian Stanley

*Ms. Stephany Johnson

Lunenburg:

Mr. Mike Hankins

*Ms. Taylor Newton

Mr. Mike Hankins

*Ms. Taylor Newton

Nottoway:

Mr. Steve Bowen

*Mr. Sherman Vaughn

Mr. Steve Bowen
(Secretary)

*Mr. Sherman Vaughn

Prince Edward:

Mr. David Emert

*Dr. Odessa Pride

Mr. David Emert
(Chairman)

*Dr. Odessa Pride

Non-Member Representatives:

SVCC:

**Mr. Keith Harkins

**Mr. Keith Harkins

Longwood University:

**Ms. Sheri McGuire

**Ms. Sheri McGuire

Hampden-Sydney College:

**VACANT

**VACANT

NOTE: *Denotes Alternates

**Denotes Non-Voting Member Attending

Member County Administrators Present

Mr. Dan Witt, Charlotte County (V)

STAFF

Ms. Melody Foster, Executive Director

Mr. Todd Fortune, Deputy Director

GUESTS:

Tony Matthews, Kenbridge Town Manager

Gregg Zody, Nottoway County Planning and Economic Development Director

(V) Denotes attendees who participated virtually.

Approval of Minutes of January 18, 2023 Council Meeting:

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

Treasurer's Report:

January/February: Mr. Miles gave the report and stated that he reviewed the financial report and found everything to be in order. Mr. Miles noted that some items in the report are pass-through funds: VDEM SHSP Regional Election Security, Virginia Housing PDC Housing Program, and VATI Regional Broadband grant. Mr. Hankins moved and Mr. Vaughn seconded to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Motion carried.

Report of Officers, Committees & Executive Director:

Chairman's Report: There was none.

Executive Director Monthly Activities Report: Ms. Foster stated that a report was included in the Council packet. She reached out to CRC member counties to notify them of the Opioid Settlement Funding and Best Practices Workshop, held in Richmond during local government day. She attended the VAPDC Winter Meeting and Strategic Planning Session in Richmond. She met virtually with staff from the Southside Planning District Commission (PDC) and West Piedmont PDC to discuss a possible regional planning grant application to the Virginia Opioid Abatement Authority to study project options for Opioid Funding Settlement Funds. Ms. Foster also sent out notices to CRC member localities regarding the recent change in the CRC's Membership Policy and provided localities with updated grant assistance funding totals. There was some discussion about what localities can do with the small amounts of money they were allotted from the Opioid Settlement Funding. Ms. Foster stated that localities can spend the funds on something new or to expand an existing initiative.

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

Old Business:**Staff Monthly Project Reports:**

Update on Regional Emergency Planning Activities: Mr. Fortune stated that a report was included in the Council packet. The consultant procured by the CRC is working with local registrars on deliverables per the election security grant, and their work was briefly delayed while the consultant waited for the State to issue access to Local Election Security Standards (LESS). This information was needed for the consultant to help localities complete their LESS assessments. That is expected to be completed by late January or early February 2023. Mr. Fortune also reminded the Council that the CRC was awarded a new Regional State Homeland Security Program grant in November 2022 to fund regional community outreach and preparedness activities related to disaster and emergency preparedness. This grant was funded under a FEMA National Priority, Community Preparedness. Consequently, FEMA has placed a hold on the funds until the spring. Once the hold is lifted, the CRC will execute the grant agreement.

Update on Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) Phase III: Ms. Foster stated that she will be giving Ms. Tillman's report due to Ms. Tillman being out with COVID. Ms. Foster stated a report was included in the Council packet. She stated that CRC staff worked on finding and sending along grant opportunities to localities and received reimbursement from DEQ for execution of contract V on January 24.

Update on Prince Edward County Access Road Project: Ms. Foster stated that a report is included in the Council packet. The contractor, J.R. Caskey, Inc. of Oilville, Virginia, has begun work on the project including delivery and onsite storage of materials, clearing operations, and ancillary survey and erosion control actions. The CRC assisted with the submittal of a reimbursement request for contractor work supplied thus far to close out one of the Tobacco Commission grants funding the project.

Update on Nottoway County Comprehensive Plan Update: Mr. Fortune stated that a report was included in the Council packet. The Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors held a joint public hearing on the draft Plan January 25. Of the nearly 15 individuals who spoke at the public hearing, many expressed concerns about solar development in the County. Consequently, CRC staff are working with County staff to address the comments from the public hearing and the CRC is working to develop alternate language for the Plan to address solar. Mr. Bowen stated that he has a Town Hall meeting planned for this evening to discuss solar energy with his constituents.

Update on Charlotte County Comprehensive Plan Update: Mr. Fortune stated that he will be giving Ms. Jones' report due to Ms. Jones being out with COVID. Mr. Fortune stated that a report was included in the Council packet. A work session was held with CRC staff and the Planning Commission on January 24th to go over revisions to draft Section III (Inventory and Analysis: Community Resources) and begin discussions on the Future Land Use map for draft Section IV (Land Use). Consequently, the Berkley Group (the consultant hired by the County to address renewable/solar energy in the Plan) held a work session with the Planning Commission on February 2nd to gather input for their work. He stated that the CRC's next Planning Commission work session, scheduled for February 28th, will be a follow-up discussion from the February 2nd work session.

Update on CRC Affordable Workforce Housing Development Program: Ms. Foster stated that she will be giving the report in Ms. Jones' place. Ms. Foster stated that a report was included in the Council packet. The three housing partners selected by the CRC are in various stages of development

for their projects. Piedmont Habitat for Humanity was contacted by Cardinal Homes to inform them that their first home is set for completion on February 27th and the other three are scheduled for delivery by March 13th. Smyth Properties has completed floor and electrical plans for both buildings, but has discovered that 114 S. Broad Street needs some additional demolition and support work. The Town of Blackstone and Southside Outreach has awarded the bid for construction of their first project to QMB Construction, and they are expected to begin construction within the coming weeks. Ms. Foster stated that the CRC was required to establish 20 affordable housing units through this program, but is on track to establish 21 units based on current contracts.

Update on GO Virginia Region 3 Entrepreneurship and Innovation Implementation: Ms. Foster stated that she will be giving the report in Ms. Jones' place. Ms. Foster stated that a report was included in the Council packet. The CRC has completed the fourth reimbursement and submitted it to GO Virginia. The CRC continues to track expenses versus match for the applicant.

Update on Kenbridge and Charlotte County Emergency Supplemental Historic Preservation (EHSP) Fund Projects: Ms. Foster stated that she will be giving the report in Ms. Jones' place. Ms. Foster stated that a report was included in the Council packet. The CRC is assisting the Town of Kenbridge and Charlotte County with grant-funded projects through the Department of Historic Resources to make repairs to historic structures that were damaged by Hurricane/Tropical Storm Michael. The Kenbridge contractors have temporarily stopped work on repainting the windows and sills, reglazing (where needed), and carpentry work due to sealing issues caused by the weather. Mr. Matthews stated that the contractor plans to resume work during the first week of March. Due to weather constraints, the CRC has requested and been granted a one-year extension with DHR. Contractors hired by Charlotte County have completed the landscaping and excavation work. The HVAC contractor has completed the work at the vacant building on 117 LeGrande Avenue and the Old Courthouse. Charlotte County staff has submitted an RFP for the plaster repairs. The CRC has prepared and submitted reimbursement requests and quarterly status reports for both Kenbridge and Charlotte County.

Update on VATI Grant for Cumberland, Lunenburg and Prince Edward: Mr. Fortune stated that he will be giving the report in Ms. Tillman's place. Mr. Fortune stated that a report was included in the Council packet. The CRC was awarded a grant by DHCD through the Virginia Telecommunication Initiative (VATI) program to provide funding to Kinex Telecom to complete a fiber buildout in part of Cumberland County, all of Prince Edward County, and part of Lunenburg County. James Garrett, Kinex Telecom, has advised that as of January 28th, Kinex and their contractor has completed more than 1,700 passings and about 400 installs for new customers. He stated that a utility line was hit on Germantown Road, but Kinex has assured the County and the CRC that they do not have a crew in that area. Mr. Emert stated that he has received complaints from residents about Kinex and their contractor placing fiber boxes being placed outside of prescribed Right-of-Ways. He also expressed concern about the boxes being too close to the shoulder, which could damage vehicles and leave the boxes susceptible to damage from snow plows. Mr. Fortune stated that he would look into the matter.

Update on Drakes Branch SLFRF Projects: Ms. Foster stated that a report was included in the Council packet. The CRC assisted the Town of Drakes Branch to advertise and request Proposals for the new town water metering system. This metering system includes remote road functionalities, antennae/receivers, software, leak detection and billing functionality, training for staff, and the purchase of new/replacement water meters. Proposals were due by February 9th. Ms. Foster stated that all of the proposals received were within budget, and the Town is reviewing the proposals to make an award.

Update on Drakes Branch Building Acquisition Project: Mr. Fortune stated that a report was

included in the Council packet. The CRC is assisting the Town with implementation of a Hazard Mitigation Grant Program grant from FEMA through VDEM to fund the acquisition and removal of nine buildings in the Town's Central Business District. These buildings are located within the floodplain and are subject to periodic flooding. The appraisal firm retained by Town, EPR, PC, sent staff to Drakes Branch on January 11th to inspect each of the affected buildings. The inspections will help EPR prepare appraisals for each building, which will assist the Town in preparing offers for each property to the respective property owners.

Update on Blackstone Armory VBAF Grant: Mr. Fortune stated that a report was included in the Council packet. The CRC is assisting the Town with implementation of a Virginia Brownfields Assistance Fund (VBAF) grant through VEDP to undertake asbestos remediation, underground tank removal, and lead abatement at the Harris Memorial Armory Center in Blackstone. This work is part of a larger planned renovation to convert the Armory into a multi-use facility, which would include job training programs for the hospitality industry. Mr. Fortune stated that the contractors retained for the asbestos abatement – Waco, Inc. – and underground tank removal – Hydrogeo Environmental – have begun work on their respective tasks. Upon coordination with the Town, VEDP, and the environmental consultant, CRC staff are working on a Change Order for Waco to add lead abatement to their scope of work. The contractor is certified to handle lead abatement work also.

Update on CRC Hazard Mitigation Plan Update: Mr. Fortune stated that a report was included in the Council packet. The draft Plan was submitted to VDEM for review on November 30th. VDEM and FEMA staff held a virtual meeting with the CRC to discuss changes to the draft. CRC staff and the Berkley Group, the consultant retained to update the HIRA portion of the Plan, are currently working on these changes. He stated that the CRC is still hoping to have the plan submitted and approved by FEMA by the end of February.

Update on SEED Innovation Hub Project: Ms. Foster stated that she will be giving the report in Ms. Jones' place. Ms. Foster stated that a report was included in the Council packet. The CRC is assisting the Longwood Real Estate Foundation (REF) in implementation of three grants that were awarded to the REF for the completion of the SEED Innovation Hub. Grants are from the U.S. EDA, the Tobacco Commission, and GO Virginia (GOVA). CRC staff has coordinated with Longwood and the Architect, LITTLE, to review bid documents and the bid document checklist for EDA review. CRC staff has coordinated with Longwood and EDA staff on submittal of the lien paperwork to EDA.

Update on CRC GO Virginia Grant – Development of Business Plan and Strategy for NEW REDO: Ms. Foster stated that a report was included in the Council packet. The CRC worked with DHCD to execute the contract for the awarded CRC GO Virginia Grant. The timeline for the study is one year, with an estimated completion date of November 2023. The CRC has adopted an amended Procurement Policy that allows the CRC to procure consulting services directly, and has worked with Bryan David and Liz Povar at GOVA to solicit consulting services for the project. Three proposals were received.

Council Member Comments: There was none.

New Business:

Staff Reports

Update on Grant Writing: Mr. Fortune stated that he will be giving the report in Ms. Tillman's place. He stated a copy of the grant writing report was included in the Council packet. The CRC assisted the Town of Blackstone with an application to USDA Rural Development for funds to purchase equipment

for the Harris Memorial Armory building. USDA staff contacted the Town to request additional information, and CRC staff assisted the Town with a response. Mr. Fortune stated that the CRC also assisted the Town of Blackstone with a pre-application to DHCD for funds through the Mixed Use on Main Street program to rehab/renovate a commercial building in downtown Blackstone. DHCD staff contacted the Town with some questions about the project, and CRC staff assisted the Town with a response. The CRC also assisted Downtown Blackstone, Inc. with an application to the Virginia Main Street program for a Financial Feasibility Grant for the same building.

Mr. Fortune stated that the CRC assisted on the submittal of three Assistance to Firefighters Grant applications: Victoria Fire and Rescue, for a new truck; Prince Edward County, regional application for funds to purchase a thermal imaging camera; and Drakes Branch Fire Department, for funds to purchase a thermal imaging camera and turnout gear. Mr. Fortune stated that RSAF grants are due by March 15th, and the CRC is assisting at last two or three agencies with applications. Mr. Fortune also stated that the CRC is assisting at least three localities with applications to the Virginia Department of Health-Office of Drinking Water for various projects. Applications are due in early May.

CRC EDA EDD Designation: Ms. Foster stated the report is included in the Council packet. Ms. Foster reminded the Council that the CRC was designated as an Economic Development District on December 22nd. Consequently, the CRC has been authorized to request funds to support staffing for this program. The CRC is eligible for up to \$70,000 in grant funding with a dollar-for-dollar match. Ms. Foster stated that the application has taken a little longer than anticipated to complete, but she expects to submit the required documents in the coming weeks.

CRC Office Location: Ms. Foster stated the report is included in the Council packet. Ms. Foster stated that she met with the Virginia's Heartland Regional Industrial Facilities Authority (VHRIFA) on January 24th and presented them with a draft lease for the Heartland office building in Keysville. She left the rental amount blank so that it could be discussed during the meeting. She stated that the VHRIFA advised that they would take this under advisement and get back to the CRC on the lease amount. The VHRIFA's next meeting is scheduled for April.

Council Member Comments: Mr. Walker asked about the possibility of moving the meeting time from 9:30 to 9:00. Council members were agreeable to this. Mr. Bowen stated that Nottoway County has received certification from the Attorney General's Office approving the County's redistricting plan.

Commonwealth Intergovernmental Review Process (CIRP): There were two CIRPS: Blackstone environmental assessment for its raw water and conveyance system, Piedmont Regional Jail for a grant to purchase a minivan with a wheelchair ramp. There was no comment.

Other Business: There was none.

Council Member Comments: There was none.

Adjournment, Next Meeting: Mr. Walker moved and Mr. Bowen seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 10:04 a.m. The next meeting was set for Wednesday, March 15th, at the Prince Edward Court House in Farmville, Virginia.

Mr. Gary Walker, Secretary

Treasurer's Report - Cash on Hand & Account Balances

For the Period of February 9, 2023 through March 8, 2023

<u>Cash on Hand</u>	<u>Period Ending</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Total Income	\$ 0.00	\$ 1,407,105.88
Total Expenses	\$ 120,872.78	1,397,001.12
Net Income	\$ -120,872.78	\$ 10,104.76
Cash on Hand	\$ 762,292.57	\$ 762,292.57

Account Balances as of March 8, 2023

Benchmark (M2)	\$ 234,171.13
BB&T (M1)	\$ 439,207.34
Benchmark (CD1)	\$ 53,103.58
Benchmark (CD2)	\$ 15,035.84
BB&T (PR)	\$ 14,164.78
BB&T (Oprtg)	\$ 6,609.90
	\$ 762,292.57

Prepared by: Melody Foster, February 8, 2023

****Note:** Items 47050, 47060 and 47070 are pass-thru revenue funds for current grant projects

and are not counted as income for the CRC. Corresponding expenses categories are 79035, 79036 & 79045.

*47050/79035 VDEM SHSP Regional Election Security Grant (CRC is awaiting \$46,123.80 VDEM reimbursement)

This project is complete. The CRC will bill VDEM for admin to close out project.

*47060/70045 VH PDC Housing Program Funds

*47070/79036 VATI Regional Broadband Grant

*****Item 47000/79030 Pass Thru Funds Other - \$49,917.00 was received from DHR and paid out to Kenbridge & Charlotte for the DHR funded projects. DHR mistakenly paid the CRC instead of directly making payment to Kenbridge and Charlotte. In order to not hold up payments, the CRC accepted the funds and passed on funds to localities.**

Commonwealth Regional Council Financial Statement

February 9 through March 8, 2023

	Feb 9 - Mar 8, 23	Budget	Jul 1, '22 - Mar 8, 23	YTD Budget	Annual Budget
Income					
40000 · Revenue					
43000 · Local Member Investment					
43010 · Amelia Local Member Investment	0.00	1,539.56	19,000.00	13,075.32	19,000.08
43020 · Buckingham Local Member Investm	0.00	1,539.56	19,000.00	13,075.32	19,000.08
43030 · Charlotte Local Member Investme	0.00	1,539.56	19,000.00	13,075.32	19,000.08
43040 · Cumberland Local Member Investm	0.00	1,539.56	19,000.00	13,075.32	19,000.08
43050 · Prince Ed Local Member Investme	0.00	1,539.56	19,000.00	13,075.32	19,000.08
43060 · Lunenburg Local Member Investme	0.00	1,539.56	19,000.00	13,075.32	19,000.08
43095 · Nottoway County	0.00	1,539.56	19,000.00	13,075.32	19,000.08
Total 43000 · Local Member Investment	0.00	10,776.92	133,000.00	91,527.24	133,000.56
Total 40000 · Revenue	0.00	10,776.92	133,000.00	91,527.24	133,000.56
44000 · VA Regional Cooperation					
45000 · Project Funding					
45870 · Homeland Security-Reg Em Gran-5	0.00	0.00	16,521.49	0.00	0.00
45880 · CRC Regional Haz Mit Plan Updat	0.00	5,103.06	23,366.96	43,339.73	62,978.04
45890 · Nottoway Comp Plan Update	0.00	2,106.76	0.00	17,892.50	26,000.04
45900 · Prince Edward Access Road Admin	0.00	1,004.77	0.00	8,533.39	12,400.08
45910 · Lunenburg AFGS Grant Admin 2	0.00	0.00	713.22	0.00	0.00
45940 · GoVARS3EII Grant Admin	0.00	375.73	0.00	3,191.08	4,637.04
45955 · PDC Housing Program	0.00	1,820.59	12,109.92	13,763.47	20,000.04
45960 · PE Yak Attack Admin	0.00	40.51	0.00	344.11	500.04
45965 · Charlotte Comp Plan Update	0.00	2,066.25	0.00	17,548.39	25,500.00
45970 · Kenbridge ESHPF Grant Admin	0.00	1,969.01	0.00	16,722.58	24,300.00
45975 · Charlotte ESHPF Grant Admin	0.00	1,575.20	0.00	13,378.06	19,440.00
45980 · SHSP Regional Election Security	0.00	236.28	0.00	2,006.71	2,916.00
45985 · VATI Regional Broadband Grant	0.00	2,660.44	0.00	22,594.81	32,833.08
45990 · Drakes Branch SLFRF Admin	0.00	247.06	0.00	2,098.28	3,049.08
45995 · Drakes Branch VDEM Grant Admin	0.00	1,580.06	0.00	13,419.35	19,500.00
Total 45000 · Project Funding	0.00	20,585.72	58,711.59	174,832.47	254,053.44
46000 · Other Funding					
46005 · DEQ 2021 CRC WIP II Assistance	0.00	4,699.70	58,000.00	39,914.03	58,000.08
46010 · VDOT-Transport Planning	0.00	4,699.70	23,361.72	39,914.03	58,000.08
46040 · Interest Income	0.00	64.83	313.87	550.57	800.04
46050 · Misc. Income	0.00	0.00	1,616.55	0.00	0.00
Total 46000 · Other Funding	0.00	9,464.23	83,292.14	80,378.63	116,800.20
47000 · Pass Thru Fundds					
47050 · VDEM SHSP Elec Security Grant	0.00	0.00	46,123.80	0.00	0.00
47060 · VH PDC Housing Program Funds	0.00	0.00	146,509.52	0.00	0.00
47070 · VATI Broadband	0.00	0.00	822,073.83	0.00	0.00
47000 · Pass Thru Fundds - Other	0.00	0.00	49,917.00	0.00	0.00
Total 47000 · Pass Thru Fundds	0.00	0.00	1,064,624.15	0.00	0.00
Total Income	0.00	48,117.14	1,407,105.88	408,653.84	593,825.16
Expense					
71000 · Personnel Costs					
71010 · Salary Distribution	17,950.00	18,908.17	161,550.00	160,585.00	233,350.08
71040 · Payroll Expenses (SS/FICA)	1,373.17	1,446.45	12,358.59	12,284.61	17,851.08

Commonwealth Regional Council Financial Statement

February 9 through March 8, 2023

	Feb 9 - Mar 8, 23	Budget	Jul 1, '22 - Mar 8, 23	YTD Budget	Annual Budget
71150 · Unemployment Ins.	20.81	8.92	122.86	75.73	110.04
71200 · VRS Contribution	4,267.65	4,205.17	37,236.51	35,714.06	51,897.00
71300 · Staff Memberships	0.00	247.14	3,000.00	2,098.95	3,050.04
71350 · Staff Train/Conference	395.06	567.21	3,569.02	4,817.26	7,000.08
71400 · Workmens Comp Ins	0.00	40.51	0.00	344.11	500.04
71500 · Group Health Insurance	2,883.70	2,592.33	22,332.28	22,021.53	32,000.04
71600 · Life Insurance	33.30	28.37	233.25	240.89	350.04
71700 · Other Staff Costs	0.00	39.06	0.00	331.73	482.04
71750 · Employee Cell Phone Stipend	200.00	194.47	1,800.00	1,651.61	2,400.00
Total 71000 · Personnel Costs	26,923.69	28,278.40	242,202.51	240,165.48	348,950.48
72000 · Office Operations					
72005 · Cleaning & Maint-Bldg	160.00	168.54	1,440.00	1,431.45	2,080.08
72010 · Lease Costs	1,500.00	1,458.53	12,000.00	12,387.10	18,000.00
72015 · Utilities	250.07	202.58	1,782.99	1,720.49	2,500.08
72020 · Telephone/Internet Costs	302.18	348.43	2,732.01	2,959.19	4,300.08
72030 · Postage and Freight	0.00	121.55	1,088.61	1,032.26	1,500.00
72035 · Express Mail	0.00	9.72	0.00	82.58	120.00
72040 · Consumable Supplies	0.00	283.61	2,936.01	2,408.63	3,500.04
72050 · Dues and Subscriptions	0.00	28.37	98.00	240.89	350.04
72060 · Office Insurance	0.00	8.11	0.00	68.87	100.08
72070 · Administrative Costs	1,575.00	1,053.38	9,475.00	8,946.29	13,000.08
72080 · Office Costs - Other	0.00	243.09	20.00	2,064.52	3,000.00
Total 72000 · Office Operations	3,787.25	3,925.91	31,572.62	33,342.27	48,450.48
73000 · Office Equipment					
73010 · Office Equipment	0.00	729.26	0.00	6,193.55	9,000.00
73030 · Equipment Maintenance	0.00	243.09	0.00	2,064.52	3,000.00
73040 · Equipment Repair	0.00	162.06	313.45	1,376.37	2,000.04
73050 · Equipment - Other	207.38	324.12	2,176.21	2,752.74	4,000.08
Total 73000 · Office Equipment	207.38	1,458.53	2,489.66	12,387.18	18,000.12
74000 · Auto/Staff Travel					
74020 · Staff Mileage	182.09	405.16	3,238.35	3,440.97	5,000.16
Total 74000 · Auto/Staff Travel	182.09	405.16	3,238.35	3,440.97	5,000.16
75000 · Meetings/Memberships					
75010 · Council Meetings	0.00	421.36	1,412.79	3,578.55	5,200.08
75020 · Committee Meetings	0.00	32.41	0.00	275.32	400.08
75030 · Staff Meetings	29.67	40.51	118.89	344.11	500.04
75040 · Council Memberships	0.00	340.32	4,041.76	2,890.32	4,200.00
75050 · Other Meeting Costs	0.00	16.21	0.00	137.66	200.04
75060 · Public Official Insurance Cov.	0.00	145.85	0.00	1,238.71	1,800.00
Total 75000 · Meetings/Memberships	29.67	996.66	5,573.44	8,464.67	12,300.24
77000 · Collateral Materials					
77010 · Web Page Costs	0.00	259.30	678.17	2,202.18	3,200.04
Total 77000 · Collateral Materials	0.00	259.30	678.17	2,202.18	3,200.04
78000 · Local Relations					
78010 · Newsletter/Annual Report	0.00	4.06	0.00	34.44	50.04
78030 · Other	0.00	81.04	0.00	688.23	1,000.08
Total 78000 · Local Relations	0.00	85.10	0.00	722.67	1,050.12

Commonwealth Regional Council Financial Statement

February 9 through March 8, 2023

	Feb 9 - Mar 8, 23	Budget	Jul 1, '22 - Mar 8, 23	YTD Budget	Annual Budget
79000 - Other Program Costs					
79030 - Planning Project Costs					
79035 - SHSP Elec Security- Consultant	23,061.90	0.00	92,247.60	0.00	
79036 - VATI Broadband	66,680.80	0.00	822,073.83	0.00	
79045 - VH PDC Hous Prog-Partner Expens	0.00	0.00	146,509.53	0.00	
79030 - Planning Project Costs - Other	0.00	810.30	50,415.41	6,881.78	10,000.08
Total 79030 - Planning Project Costs	89,742.70	810.30	1,111,246.37	6,881.78	10,000.08
79050 - Contingency Costs	0.00	810.30	0.00	6,881.78	10,000.08
Total 79000 - Other Program Costs	89,742.70	1,620.60	1,111,246.37	13,763.56	20,000.16
Total Expense	120,872.78	37,029.66	1,397,001.12	314,488.98	456,991.80
Net Income	-120,872.78	11,087.48	10,104.76	94,164.86	136,833.36



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Prince Edward

MEMORANDUM:

TO: CRC Representatives
FROM: Melody Foster, Executive Director
SUBJECT: CRC Executive Director Monthly Activities
DATE: March 8, 2023

- Completed and submitted budget request for Buckingham and Prince Edward counties.
- Completed and submitted the CRC GO Virginia Grant reporting for the CRC GO Virginia REDO grant.
- Corresponded with Drakes Branch on submitted proposals for Town Metering System.
- Completed requested VDOT Smart Scale survey.
- Reviewed and scored submitted Requests for Proposals for the CRC NEW Regional Economic Development Organization (REDO) grant project.
- Met virtually with Bryan David and Liz Povar to review scores of proposals received from consultants for the CRC creation of a NEW REDO grant project.
- Met virtually with the Creative Design team to discuss and negotiate a contract for their selection as one of the consultant teams to work with the CRC on the CRC NEW REDO grant project.
- Met virtually with Timmons Group/Mangum Economics to discuss and negotiate a contract for their selection as one of the consultant teams to work with the CRC on the CRC NEW REDO grant project.
- Met virtually with SPDC and WPDC to discuss co-hosting a multi-planning district USDA Rural Development Workshop.
- Submitted EDA Application for Local and Technical Assistance funding for the CRC staff to support the Economic Development Administration (EDA) Economic Development District (EDD) designation.
- Participated virtually in the VDOT Virginia Local Technical Assistance Program, Safety Circuit Rider Program webinar.
- Participate in virtual Prince Edward Access Road pre-construction meeting.
- Attended the Buckingham County Economic Development Committee meeting to provide information on the CRC's GO Virginia Grant to create a NEW REDO.
- Responded to TRRC request to amend the Prince Edward TRRC invoice for the Prince Edward Access road project.
- Attended virtual Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) III Bay PDCs Meeting to discuss Scope of Work activities for FY24-25.
- Corresponded with Charlotte County Rescue Squad on RSAF grant to purchase one new ambulance and re-chassis a current ambulance. Application is due March 15th.
- Corresponded with Red House Volunteer Fire Department on RSAF grant to purchase a First Responder Vehicle. Application is due March 15th.
- Corresponded with selected Planning Consultant Teams for the CRC GO Virginia Grant to create a NEW REDO to receive letters of engagement and set date for kick-off meeting.
- Corresponded with Prince Edward County and VDOT to complete and submit the USDOT RAISE planning grant for the Farmville US Route 460 Interchange Study project.
- Participated in monthly Virginia Housing, PDC Housing Program virtual meeting.
- Reviewed and provided input on staff assigned projects.
- Prepared CRC monthly financial statement for CRC packet.
- Prepared bills for payment to Accountant for processing & Treasurer's review and signature.



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Scoping the Future List of Innovative/Regional Ideas

Ideas Previously Discussed:

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

New Ideas:

- _____
- _____

Note: Items stricken through have been addressed or pursued.




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MEMORANDUM

TO: CRC Council Members

FROM: Todd Fortune 
Deputy Director

DATE: February 6, 2023

SUBJECT: Update on Regional Emergency Planning Activities

As you are aware, the CRC received State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) funding for the CRC Regional Election Security Grant awarded in 2020 to assist local registrars with election security improvements as identified in Virginia House Bill (HB) 2178. As a reminder, the CRC was granted an extension on this grant until March 31, 2023 due to the delay between grant award and execution of the grant agreement (as the project was funded under a FEMA National Priority, Enhancing Cyber Security, FEMA put a hold on the funds at the time of award).

Update: The consultant retained to work on this project has finished their work. The CRC has paid the final invoice from the consultant. The remaining tasks to be completed for grant closeout are submission of the final reimbursement request and completion of the final report.

As a reminder, the CRC was awarded a new SHSP grant in November 2022 to fund community outreach and preparedness activities related to disaster and emergency preparedness. This grant was funded under a FEMA National Priority, Community Preparedness. Consequently, as with the Election Security project mentioned above, FEMA has placed on hold on these funds. As of today, we are still waiting for FEMA to release that hold. Once that happens, the CRC can execute the grant agreement and work may begin on the project.

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

cc: Melody Foster



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MEMORANDUM:

TO: CRC Council Members
FROM: Kristen Tillman
Regional Planner
DATE: March 6, 2023
SUBJECT: Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) III (Contract VI) – Monthly Update

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

- Activities undertaken so far, include:
 - Finding and sending along grant opportunities to localities.
 - Updating CRC website and Facebook page.
 - Staff attended the 2023 Chesapeake Bay Small Watershed Grants and Chesapeake WILD Grants Applicant Webinar.
 - CRC Staff attended a Bay PDC Virtual meeting to discuss the upcoming 2024 Draft Scope.
 - CRC staff participating in PDC Workgroup and DEQ virtual meetings.

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), in partnership with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the federal-state Chesapeake Bay Program partnership, is soliciting proposals through the Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund to restore water quality and habitats of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributary rivers and streams.

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TO: CRC Representatives

FROM: Melody Foster, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Prince Edward Access Road Project – Update

DATE: March 8, 2023

As you are aware the CRC is assisting Prince Edward County with administration of the Prince Edward Access Road Project. Prince Edward County has received four TRRC grants and VDOT funding to assist with funding of the project.

A virtual pre-construction meeting for the project was held on February 23rd to review the notice to proceed with construction activities and discuss any issues with the clearing operations that had been conducted so far on the project. Timmons conducted the meeting with representatives of the County, VDOT, Contractor, Inspectors, and the CRC in attendance. The completion date for work has been amended to August 10, 2023. The CRC submitted a reimbursement request to TRRC for preliminary engineering and contractor work that did result in one of the TRRC grants being closed out.



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Ted Costin, County Administrator
Members of Nottoway County Board of Supervisors

FROM: Todd Fortune *Todd Fortune*
Deputy Director

DATE: March 8, 2023

SUBJECT: Nottoway County Comprehensive Plan Update – Monthly Update

As you are aware, the Commonwealth Regional Council (CRC) is assisting Nottoway County with an update of the County's Comprehensive Plan. As part of the CRC's efforts to assist the County, the following activities have occurred since the last update on February 6, 2023:

- Per the comments received at the joint Planning Commission/Board of Supervisors public hearing on January 25th, and subsequent conversations with County staff, CRC staff have been working on alternative language addressing solar development that the Planning Commission could consider for the Plan.
- The next Planning Commission meeting is scheduled for March 14th. At that meeting, the group will consider that alternative language for solar and some other minor changes that have been requested by a Planning Commission member to the draft Plan.

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

cc: Melody Foster, Executive Director, CRC



MEMORANDUM

TO: Dan Witt, County Administrator
Members of the Charlotte County Board of Supervisors

FROM: Lauren Jones
Regional Planner

DATE: March 6, 2023

SUBJECT: Charlotte County Comprehensive Plan Update – Monthly Update

As you are aware, the Commonwealth Regional Council (CRC) is assisting Charlotte County with an update of the County's Comprehensive Plan. As part of the CRC's efforts to assist the County, the following is a summary of what has occurred since the last update on February 6th:

- The last work session was held with the Planning Commission on February 28th. During this meeting, the CRC staff lead a follow-up to the consultant led discussion regarding the renewable/solar energy topic. The Berkley Group provided a guided questionnaire to the group for this discussion. The Berkley Group listened to a recording of the meeting and will compile this information into a report over the course of the next 30 to 45 days for the Planning Commission. The CRC, the Berkley Group, and County Staff held a virtual meeting on March 6th regarding the last work session to review the Planning Commission's direction for the plan.
- The next work session will be held on Tuesday, March 28th to review the revised draft Section III (Inventory and Analysis: Community Resources), review draft Section IV (Land Use), and lead an additional discussion regarding the mapping in draft Section IV (Land Use).

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

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



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MEMORANDUM:

TO: CRC Representatives

FROM: Lauren Jones, Regional Planner

SUBJECT: CRC Affordable Workforce Housing Development Program

DATE: March 7, 2023

As you are aware the CRC has received \$2 million in grant funds from Virginia Housing to establish 21 affordable and workforce housing units in the CRC region over a 36-month period. CRC staff time on the project is also covered by this grant award.

Project: Affordable workforce housing units can result in the construction of new units, the acquisition and rehabilitation of existing vacant units, or the adaptive re-use of existing structures to incorporate housing units. This program seeks to increase the inventory of affordable workforce housing units in underserved markets, including rural areas and historically marginalized communities with a focus on first-time homebuyers. This program also intends to foster income and economic integration through housing development and revitalization projects in areas of opportunity that include mixed-use and/or mixed-income rental developments. The CRC's intent is to partner with existing housing partners to develop 21 affordable workforce housing units in the region. The Affordable Workforce Housing Development Program has established three housing partners: Piedmont Habitat for Humanity, Smyth Properties, and The Town of Blackstone. Piedmont Habitat will be installing 11 manufactured homes in the towns of Farmville, Keysville, and Crewe. Smyth Properties will be establishing seven (7) units for lease through adaptive reuse of downtown properties in Kenbridge. The Town of Blackstone and their partner, Southside Outreach, will be building three (3) homes in Blackstone for home ownership.

Update: Piedmont Habitat is expecting to have their first home delivered on 15th. The other three are scheduled to be delivered the following week. Smyth Properties prepared, bid out, and selected three contractors to complete the insulation; painting; and window, door, and trim installation. The Town of Blackstone's contractor has put down a gravel driveway on the driveway and is expected to begin construction on the home this week. Southside Outreach has been working with several applicants to prequalify them for mortgage loans. One applicant has prequalified for the loan.



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TO: Commonwealth Regional Council

FROM: Lauren Jones

SUBJECT: GO Virginia Region 3 Entrepreneurship & Innovation Implementation Project

DATE: March 7, 2023

Project: The CRC is assisting the Longwood Office of Community & Economic Development (Longwood OCED), Southern Virginia Innovation Hub (SOVA HUB), Mid-Atlantic Broadband Communities Corp. (MBC) with grant administration of their \$449,000 funded Entrepreneurship & Innovation Implementation Project.

Project Synopsis: This project is a robust training initiative that will build capacity and connections. The two-year program will train 200 entrepreneurs. Dozens of businesses and jobs are expected to be created as a result. Funding is paired with other leveraged funding.

Update:

The CRC has assembled the 5th reimbursement request covering the last quarter to GO Virginia for reimbursement. The CRC staff corresponded with MBC, Longwood OCED, and SPDC regarding the 5th reimbursement request submission and match requirements. The CRC continues to track expenses vs match for the applicant and reviewing submitted expenses to be reported to GO Virginia.



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TO: Commonwealth Regional Council

FROM: Lauren Jones, Regional Planner

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

DATE: March 6, 2023

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

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

Project Update:

Kenbridge Town Hall Repairs Project – Harris and Sons has temporarily stopped work on the Town Hall until the spring due to weather related issues. The Contractors are estimating to restart work in March. The CRC will remain in contact with Kenbridge to see the progression of the project.

Charlotte County Courthouse Complex Drainage Project – Charlotte County staff is preparing the RFP for plaster repairs. The CRC has prepared and submitted the third request for reimbursement for the County. The CRC will remain in contact with Charlotte County to see the progression of the project.

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



MEMORANDUM

TO: CRC Council Members

FROM: Kristen Tillman
Regional Planner

DATE: March 6, 2023

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

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

Update:

- Kinex and their contractors are still working in Prince Edward County to lay down middle-mile fiber. Kinex has a crew working in the northern part of Lunenburg County, continuing to complete installs for new customers. Kinex has plans to undertake additional work in Cumberland County later this year.
- As of March 3rd, we have seen an uptick in both passings and installs. A total of 2,081 passings (out of a target of 10,734 total passings) and 411 installs for new customers have been completed.
- Per the quarry from a Council Member at the last meeting, CRC staff are working with the County, Kinex and VDOT to address concerns over the placement of the utility boxes being installed per the project.

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

cc: Melody Foster, Executive Director, CRC



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TO: CRC Representatives

FROM: Melody Foster, Executive Director

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

DATE: March 8, 2023

Project:

The CRC is under contract with the Town of Drakes Branch to provide project administration assistance for the expenditure of SLFRF funds to be utilized to complete needed projects in the Town of Drakes Branch. The CRC is providing technical assistance including reporting on the SLFRF funds expended.

Update:

The CRC assisted the Town to advertise Request Proposals for the new town water metering system. The new water metering system will include: remote read functionalities, antennae/receivers, software, leak detection and billing functionality, training for staff and the purchase of new/replacement water meters.

The Town received 4 proposals, all under the Town's proposed budget for the project. The Town is currently reviewing the proposals with their consultant to make an award.

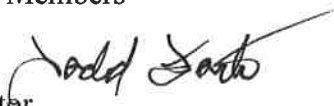


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MEMORANDUM

TO: CRC Council Members

FROM: Todd Fortune 
Deputy Director

DATE: March 8, 2023

SUBJECT: Update – Drakes Branch Building Acquisition Project

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

Update: The appraisal firm retained by the Town, EPR, PC, has developed appraisal reports for all but two of the affected properties. For the other two properties (one is condemned and one has structural issues), the appraiser had some questions about how to proceed. A Zoom meeting was held on March 7th with the appraiser, CRC staff, Mayor Phil Jackson, and VDEM staff to address those questions and develop a plan to finalize appraisals for both buildings. The appraiser expects to finalize their reports on the final two buildings within the next one to two weeks.

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

cc: Melody Foster

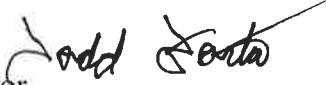


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MEMORANDUM

TO: CRC Council Members

FROM: Todd Fortune 
Deputy Director

DATE: March 8, 2023

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

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

Update:

- Waco, Inc., out of Sandston is working on the asbestos abatement per their contract with the Town. This work is expected to be completed by May 24.
- Hydrogeo Environmental out of Charlottesville is working on the underground tank removal per their contract with the Town. This work is expected to be completed by April 11.
- Last month, we reported that the lead abatement work would be added to the contract with Waco, Inc. as a Change Order since they are also licensed in lead abatement. However, since that time, Town staff have consulted with the architect overseeing the overall Armory renovations and the decision has been made to bid the lead abatement out separately. CRC staff are working with all parties to develop and advertise a separate Invitation for Bids for the lead abatement work.

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

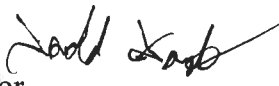
cc: Melody Foster



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MEMORANDUM

TO: CRC Council Members

FROM: Todd Fortune 
Deputy Director

DATE: March 6, 2023

SUBJECT: Update of Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan – Monthly Update

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

Update: Per the request from Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) staff for changes to the draft Plan, and the subsequent meeting with VDEM and FEMA Region 3 staff on January 17th to discuss those changes, CRC staff worked with the consultant to revise the draft Plan. The revised draft Plan was submitted to VDEM and FEMA Region 3 staff on March 6. It is our hope that if VDEM is satisfied with the changes, then FEMA Region 3 staff can get the Plan within the next 2-3 weeks and give preliminary approval by early- to mid-April.

Once FEMA has given preliminary approval to the Plan, it will be sent to all participating localities for adoption. When all localities have adopted the Plan, it will be sent back to FEMA for final approval.

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

cc: Melody Foster, Executive Director, CRC



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TO: Commonwealth Regional Council

FROM: Lauren Jones, Regional Planner

SUBJECT: SEED Innovation Hub Project Update

DATE: March 7, 2023

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

Project Update:

The Architect, LITTLE, is working to complete the remaining EDA required documents. These documents once completed will be submitted, reviewed and hopefully approved by the EDA. Once we receive the final approval, we will be able to begin bidding out the construction of the project. Due to the funds uses, there is not an update regarding Tobacco Commission funds at this time (funds will be used as match for EDA grant). Due to the funds uses, there is not an update regarding the Go Virginia Funds at this time (funds will be used for equipment).

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MEMORANDUM:

TO: CRC Council Members

FROM: Melody Foster, Executive Director

SUBJECT: CRC GO Virginia Grant - Creation of New Economic Development
Organization (REDO) for CRC region

DATE: March 8, 2023

Project: CRC GO Virginia Enhanced Capacity Building Grant to fund a business plan & strategy for the creation of a NEW CRC (footprint) Regional Economic Development Organization (REDO) in partnership with Longwood University.

Project Update: The CRC received 3 proposals from consultants for the creation of a business plan & strategy for the creation of a NEW CRC (footprint) Regional Economic Development Organization (REDO). The CRC worked with Bryan David and Liz Povar to review and score the proposals received. Two Consultant Teams were selected to work on the project: Timmons Group/Mangum Economic and Creative Economic Development Consulting. The CRC is working with both teams to execute letters of engagement and to schedule the Kick-Off Meeting for the project.

Next Steps: Hold the Kick-Off Meeting with the Working Committee and Advisory board in March.



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MEMORANDUM

TO: CRC Council Members

FROM: Kristen Tillman
Regional Planner

DATE: March 6, 2023

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

As per the CRC's ongoing efforts to provide grant writing services for County Public Schools, local government, law enforcement, and 501 (c)(3) organizations in the region, the following activities have taken place since February 15, 2023:

Status Update

- Town of Blackstone, Virginia Main Street (VMS) ARPA funds Financial Feasibility Grant: Downtown Blackstone Inc. (DBI) was **awarded \$25,000** on February 16th to fund a feasibility study for a commercial building in Downtown Blackstone. CRC staff assisted DBI with the application.
- Town of Blackstone, USDA Rural Development (RD): CRC staff are working with the Town of Blackstone to respond to USDA RDs request for additional information on the Town's application for funds to purchase equipment for the Harris Memorial Armory Center.
- Town of Blackstone, DHCD, Mixed Use on Main Street (MUMS) Program: CRC staff assisted the Town with a pre-application for MUMS Program funds to rehab/renovate a commercial building in downtown Blackstone. DHCD staff notified the town on February 23rd that they feel the project is not ready to proceed to the full application.

Submitted

- Prince Edward County, USDOT RAISE Planning Grant: CRC Staff assisted Prince Edward County in submitting the Farmville US 460 East Interchange Study Planning Grant on February 28th.

Awaiting Approval

- Town of Drakes Branch, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), American Rescue Plan Act Wastewater Funds: The Town is awaiting approval on its application to DEQ for funds to undertake repairs to the Town's sewer system, to address problems with average flows exceeding acceptable limits. The CRC assisted with this application, which was submitted on December 15th.
- Buckingham County is awaiting approval for their application to the National Park Service Save Americas Treasures Grant Program. The County is awaiting word on its application for funds to complete necessary restoration projects on their Historic County Courthouse. The CRC assisted with this application, which was submitted on December 20th.
- Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG): CRC staff are awaiting word on when award announcements will be made on the most recent round of applications. CRC staff assisted with the following applications:
 - Victoria Fire and Rescue (VFR) requested funds to replace one of their trucks that has fallen into disrepair.
 - Prince Edward County Fire and Rescue is requesting funds in a regional application to purchase a thermal imaging camera.
 - Drakes Branch Fire and Rescue requested funds to purchase a thermal imaging camera and turnout gear.

In Progress

- Rescue Squad Assistance Fund (RSAF): Applications are due March 15th. CRC staff are assisting with six applications:
 - Blackstone Fire Department
 - Charlotte County Rescue Squad
 - Farmville Volunteer Fire Department
 - Town of Kenbridge
 - Crewe Volunteer Fire Department
 - Red House Volunteer Fire Department
- Prince Edward County, Town of Crewe, and Town of Charlotte Court House, Virginia Department of Health, Office of Drinking Water: VDH-ODW has reposted the program guidance for this year's round of funding applications on its website. Applications are due by May 5th. CRC staff is assisting the listed localities with potential applications to the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund.
- Prince Edward County Congressionally Directed Spending Request: CRC staff are assisting the County with a request for funds to develop the Sandy River Reservoir to a public drinking water source. Requests are due by March 10th.
- Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Grant (SAFER): CRC staff are assisting Farmville Volunteer Fire Department with a SAFER application. Funds will be used to hire additional personnel. Applications are due by March 17th.

- AARP Community Flagship Challenge Grant: CRC staff are assisting the Town of Kenbridge with an AARP application to fund the purchase of a HVAC unit for the Kenbridge Recreational Center. Applications are due by March 15th.
- Town of Blackstone, Tobacco Commission: CRC staff have been working with the Town and a private developer on a potential application to the Tobacco Commission's Community and Business Lending (CBL) program for Project Econo Lodge. This application is on hold pending the resolution of an issue with the developer. The Tobacco Commission accepts CBL applications on a rolling basis.
- Town of Blackstone, DHCD: CRC staff are working with the Town on a potential application to DHCD for grant funding for a scattered site housing rehab project. Scattered site housing rehab projects fall under Open Submission. The Town hopes to submit an application this year. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis.

Projects on Standby (work undertaken as developments warrant)

- Amelia County Hindle Building: CRC Staff met with a representative of the Hindle Building Committee on February 24th to discuss potential uses and funding options for renovating the building which is the site of the old Amelia High School.
- Town of Crewe Downtown Revitalization: CRC Staff have had meetings with Town staff and staff from DHCD regarding a potential Planning Grant for a Downtown Revitalization Project. DHCD Staff have advised that the next round of Planning Grants will open July 1st.
- Curdsville Community Center (Buckingham County): The CRC is working with the group to seek funding opportunities to renovate the community center.
- Amelia County Economic Development Authority (EDA), Tobacco Commission: The CRC has been working with the Amelia County EDA on a potential application to the Tobacco Commission's Community and Business Lending (CBL) program for funds to help a local business owner replace a transformer that serves a business park which includes his business and several others. The Tobacco Commission accepts CBL applications on a rolling basis.
- Animal Shelter Funding: The CRC is continuing to research funding for new animal shelters.
- Twin Lakes State Park, Friends of Twin Lakes State Park: The CRC is working with the State Park and the non-profit group that supports the State Park to identify funding opportunities for various projects at the Park.

Upcoming Grant Funding Opportunities	
Grant Opportunity	Deadline
Rescue Squad Assistance Fund (RSAF)	March 15, 2023
VDOT Revenue Sharing Program	Spring 2023
DHCD Competitive CDBG	Spring 2023
VDOT Transportation Alternative Program (TAP)	Letter of Intent to apply – July 1, 2023 Application – October 1, 2023
DHCD Industrial Revitalization Fund	Summer of 2023
Tobacco Commission Southern Virginia Fund	Fall of 2023
VEDP Site Remediation Grant	Fall of 2023
*Programs with rolling submissions include: EDA, USDA, Virginia Housing, GO Virginia, DHCD, Tobacco Commission TROF, VEDP, etc.	



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

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

MEMORANDUM:

TO: CRC Council Members

FROM: Melody Foster, Executive Director

SUBJECT: CRC EDA EDD Designation, Funding Request

DATE: February 8, 2023

The Commonwealth Regional Council (CRC) submitted a request for EDA Planning and Local Technical Assistance funding in the amount of \$70,000, with the CRC matching at \$70,000 (staff time) on February 17th. Once the CRC was designated as an EDD, the CRC became eligible to request this funding to support the EDD designation for fiscal year 2024.

EDA will be reviewing the request in the month of March with feedback hopefully in April or May.

**GO Virginia Region 3,
in partnership with its local Planning District
Commissions, is pleased to offer a unique presentation
by Rural Development.**



**Rural Development staff will provide updates and
information on their grant and loan programs. This
event is intended for local government officials,
economic and workforce developers, utility and
internet providers, and higher education
organizations. You will have the opportunity to talk
one-on-one with program representatives.**

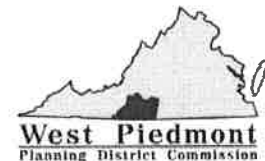
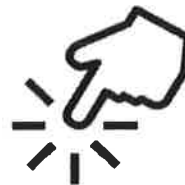


**You must register for this event by
clicking the provided link.**

**Questions?
Contact Melody Foster with the Commonwealth
Regional Council at 434-392-6104.**



**After the meeting,
stay awhile
and enjoy what
Clarksville on the Lake
has to offer!**



****NOTE:** This was sent out twice – the first invitation link was not active, so if you did not receive this email invitation with the link to register, please let me know and I will send you additional information – Melody Foster, mfoster@virginiasheartland.org, 434-392-6104

Staff Recommendations

[illegible]