

**CRC Conference Room** 

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

#### Meeting Agenda **Commonwealth Regional Council** Wednesday, December 20, 2023 9:00 a.m.

#### Commonwealth Regional Council Conference Room, 200 Heartland Road, Keysville, VA

I.	Welcome & Call to Order	Chairman
II.	Invocation	
III.	Pledge of Allegiance	
IV.	Approval of Minutes of November 15th Council Meeting, (pg 1)	Council Members
V.	Treasurers' Report – November/December Financial Statements, (pg 8)	Treasurer Miles
VI.	Report of Officers, Committees & Executive Director	
1.75	A. Chairman's Report	Chairman
	B. Executive Director's Monthly Activities Report, pg (12)	Chairman
	b. Executive Director's Wollding Activities Report, pg (12)	
VII.	Scoping the Future – Discussion of Innovative/Regional Ideas, (pg 13)	Council Members
VIII.	Presentation – Creation of New Regional Economic Development Organization (REDO), Plan Update and Fundraising Feasibility Recommendation: Crystal Morphis, CEcD & Andy Coe, Convergent Nonprofit Solutions (refer to page 30)	Strategic
VIX.	Old Business (Items under Old Business will be provided as information to allow time for CRO	C REDO Presentation)
	A. Staff Monthly Project Reports	
	1) Update on Regional Emergency Planning Activities, (pg 14)	Todd Fortune
	2) Update on Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) Phase III (pg 15)	
	3) Update on Charlotte County Comprehensive Plan (pg 16)	Lauren Jones
	4) Update on Buckingham County Comprehensive Plan (pg 17)	Todd Fortune
	5) Update on Amelia County Comprehensive Plan Update (modified) (pg 18)	Todd Fortune
	6) Update on CRC Affordable Workforce Housing Development Program, (pg 19)	Lauren Iones
	7) Update on Kenbridge & Charlotte County ESHP Projects, (pg 20)	Lauren Iones
	8) Update on Regional VATI Grant for Cumberland, Lunenburg & Prince Edward, pg	21) Todd Fortune
	9) Update on Drakes Branch Admin – SLFRF Funds Projects, pg (23)	Molody Foster
	10) Update on Drakes Branch Building Acquisition Project, pg (24)	Todd Fortune
	11) Undate on Blockstone Armory Environmental Cleanup Project, ng (27)	Todd Fortune
	11) Update on Blackstone Armory-Environmental Cleanup Project, pg (27)	1 odd Fortune
	12) Update CRC Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan Update, pg (28)	I odd Fortune
	13) Update on SEED Innovation Hub Project, pg (29)	Lauren Jones
	<ul><li>14) Update on New Regional Economic Development Organization (REDO) Grant, pg (</li><li>15) Council Member Comments</li></ul>	30)Melody Foster
X.	New Business	Chairman
	A. Staff Reports	
	1) Update on Grant Writing, (pg 31)	Lauren Jones
	2) Award of CRC AFID PG – Request for Funds to Assist with Start-Up Costs for Crea	
	of the Central Virgina Poultry Cooperative (CVP), (pg 35)	
	3) CRC Resolution of Governing Body Support, TRRC Grant – Establishment of Centr	al
	Virginia Poultry Cooperative, (pg 38)	
	4) Council Member Comments	
XI.	Commonwealth Intergovernmental Review Process, (pg 39) No Comment	
XII.	Other Business	
XIII.	Council Member Comments	
XIV.	Adiana Nant Martin Data William Data William I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I	ALTH RECIONAL COUNCIL
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Keysville, VA 23947 | 434-392-6104 PHONE

200 Heartland Road

www.virginiasheartland.org

#### Commonwealth Regional Council CRC Conference Room Keysville, Virginia November 15, 2023

#### Welcome & Call to Order

The Chairman, Mr. Emert, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

#### **Invocation and Introductions**

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

#### **ROLL CALL**

MEMBER REPRESENTATIVES

**PRESENT** 

**ABSENT** 

Amelia:

Mr. Dexter Jones

Mr. Dexter Jones

\*Mr. David Felts

\*Mr. David Felts

Buckingham:

Mr. Thomas Jordan Miles, III

Mr. Thomas Jordan Miles, III (V)

(Treasurer)

\*Mr. Karl Carter

\*Mr. Karl Carter

Charlotte:

Mr. Gary Walker

Mr. Gary Walker(V)

(Vice Chairman)

\*Mr. Walt Bailey

\*Mr. Walt Bailey

Cumberland:

Mr. Brian Stanley

\*Ms. Stephany Johnson

Mr. Brian Stanley

\*Ms. Stephany Johnson

Lunenburg:

Mr. Mike Hankins

Mr. Mike Hankins

(Secretary)

\*Ms. Taylor King

\*Ms. Taylor King

Nottoway:

Mr. Sherman Vaughn

Mr. Sherman Vaughn

\*Mr. Dickie Ingram

\*Mr. Dickie Ingram

Prince Edward:

Mr. David Emert

Mr. David Emert

(Chairman)

\*Dr. Odessa Pride

\*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)

Ms. Tracy Gee, Lunenburg County (V)

Mr. Derek Stamey, Cumberland County(V)

Mr. Doug Stanley, Prince Edward County(V)

#### **STAFF**

Ms. Melody Foster, Executive Director

Mr. Todd Fortune, Deputy Director

Ms. Lauren Jones, Regional Planner

#### **GUESTS:**

Mr. Tony Matthews, Kenbridge Town Manager (V)
Sara Crawford, Charlotte Court House Town Manager
Ashley Atkins-Austin, Interim Director of Community Development, Farmville (V)
Gregg Zody, Nottoway County Planning and Economic Development Director (V)
(V) Denotes attendees who participated virtually.

#### Approval of Minutes of October 18, 2023 Council Meeting:

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

#### Treasurer's Report:

**October/November:** Mr. Miles gave the Financial Report. He stated that he reviewed the financial report and found everything to be in order. Mr. Hankins moved and Mr. Vaughan seconded to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Motion carried.

#### Report of Officers, Committees & Executive Director:

**Chairman's Report**: There was none.

**Election of CRC Treasurer -taking office January 1, 2024:** Mr. Emert stated that Mr. Miles has selected to not run for reelection to the Buckingham County Board of Supervisors; therefore, he will no longer be eligible to serve as a representative on the CRC board. Mr. Miles currently serves as Treasurer on the Council. Mr. Emert stated that the Council will need to select a new representative to serve in this position beginning January 1, 2024. Mr. Emert moved and Mr. Vaughan seconded to appoint Mr. Walker as Treasurer. Motion carried. Mr. Walker was previously the Vice-Chairman of the Council. Mr. Emert

stated that the Council will need to select a new representative to serve as Vice-Chairman. Mr. Emert moved and Mr. Vaughan seconded to appoint Mr. Jones as Vice-Chairman of the Council. Motion carried.

**Executive Director Monthly Activities Report:** Ms. Foster stated that a report was included in the Council packet. Ms. Foster stated that she corresponded with Alan Gernhardt, Virginia FOIA Council, to set up FOIA Training to be held at the CRC training room on Friday, November 17, 2023 from 9:30 – 11:30am. Ms. Foster stated that the CRC hosted a Charlotte County meeting for Mayors/Town Managers with other invited guests. She also stated that in the future the group will invite all eleven towns from the region. They are planning to have this meeting in April 2024.

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. Mr. Fortune stated that originally CRC staff were tentatively planning on setting up an informational booth at the Farmville Christmas Market Bazaar on December 2<sup>nd</sup> to pass out educational materials and emergency kits. After some internal staff discussion, the CRC has selected to shift to a different approach to complete this grant. Instead of selecting one event to disseminate educational materials and emergency kits, the CRC has selected to coordinate with each County's Emergency Coordinator to distribute an allotted number of emergency kits at local events of their choice. Mr. Fortune stated there will be more to come in the next few weeks.

**Update on Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) Phase III:** Ms. Jones stated that a report was included in the Council packet. Ms. Jones stated that she has been working with Charlotte County Extension staff to hold Rain Barrel workshops in after-school programs at all three Elementary schools in Charlotte County. Ms. Jones stated the Extension office and the CRC has held the first two rain barrel workshops on November 6<sup>th</sup> at Bacon District Elementary and November 8<sup>th</sup> at Eureka Elementary. She stated the Bacon District had four kids in attendance and Eureka had three kids in attendance. The last rain barrel workshop will be held on November 15<sup>th</sup> at Phenix Elementary from 4 to 6pm. Ms. Jones stated that she will provide a visual presentation next month of the workshops.

**Update on Charlotte County Comprehensive Plan Update:** Ms. Jones stated that a report was included in the Council packet. Ms. Jones stated that the Planning Commission held a public hearing to review the draft plan for Thursday, October 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm. She stated that following the hearing the CRC has been working with the Planning Commission to address comments that were received during the hearing. She stated that the CRC will meet with the Planning Commission on Thursday, November 16<sup>th</sup> for a work session.

**Update on Buckingham County Comprehensive Plan Update:** Mr. Fortune stated that a report was included in the Council packet. Mr. Fortune stated that CRC staff attended the Planning Commission work session on October 16<sup>th</sup>. At this meeting, CRC staff reviewed revisions to draft Section 2 and first part of draft Section 3 with the Commission. Mr. Fortune stated that the deadline for completing the citizen surveys was originally October 6<sup>th</sup>. CRC staff was contacted by a county resident in early October about the possibility of extending the deadline. Mr. Fortune stated that this brought before the Commission at the October 16<sup>th</sup> work session and the group decided to extend the deadline to October 30<sup>th</sup>. The CRC received a total of 498 surveys (paper and online). The Planning Commission will hold their next work session with the CRC on November 20<sup>th</sup>. At this meeting, the CRC staff will review revised draft Section 2 as well as draft Section 3.

**Update on Amelia County Comprehensive Plan Update:** Mr. Fortune stated that a report was included in the Council Packet. Mr. Fortune stated that CRC staff met with Amelia County Planning Commission on October 23<sup>rd</sup> to review the Demographics section of the Comprehensive Plan. The Planning Commission requested some changes, which CRC staff are working on making. Mr. Fortune stated that the next step is for CRC staff to work with the Planning Commission on revising the Future Land Use map. CRC staff are currently working with County staff to determine the next meeting date, for presenting this information.

Update on CRC Affordable Workforce Housing Development Program: Ms. Jones stated that a report was included in the Council packet. Ms. Jones stated that she wanted to clarify a discrepancy that was recently released in an article in the Farmville Herald. The article stated that Piedmont Habitat potentially would not meet their deadline of June 30, 2024 that was set for the PDC housing program. Ms. Jones stated that this was the original deadline for the housing partners. However, Virginia Housing has extended the deadline to June 30, 2025 for their housing partners. Ms. Foster stated that the newspaper did not reach out to staff for comments regarding this article. Ms. Jones stated that CRC staff assembled and submitted the monthly reimbursement request to Virginia Housing. She stated that Piedmont Habitat's contractor and volunteers are currently working to complete the remaining work on the two homes on California Street in Crewe. Piedmont Habitat is working with the homeowner and the USDA Rural Development Loan office to close on the Andrew Drive homes. Smyth Properties has noted that all seven housing units are almost complete. At 114 S. Broad Street, the electrical trim out is almost complete and the floor will be starting the refinishing process next week. At 120 S Broad St., the trim work/doors are almost complete and the interior painters will start later this week. The kitchen cabinets have been delivered, along with lights, vanities, bathroom flooring, etc. CRC staff has set up a compliance review with Virginia Housing for Thursday, November 30th to see the final product. Mr. Hankins asked Ms. Jones if she would share an invite with him to the Smyth Property Compliance Visit. Ms. Jones stated that she would.

**Update on Kenbridge and Charlotte County Emergency Supplemental Historic Preservation (ESHP) Fund Projects:** Ms. Jones 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. Ms. Jones stated that the Kenbridge Town Hall Repairs Project has been closed out. The CRC and Town staff have been in communication with DHR staff in regards to the final preservation agreement. She stated that our previous contact at DHR is on medical leave. Our new contact at DHR stated that he is working on sharing these documents with us. Contractors hired by Charlotte County have completed the landscaping, excavation, and HVAC work. Charlotte County Staff awarded the bid for Plaster Repairs to Virginia Drywall and Plaster, LLC. The contractor is expected to begin work in November.

**Update on VATI Grant for Cumberland, Lunenburg, and Prince Edward:** Mr. Fortune stated that a report and map 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. Mr. Fortune stated Kinex and their crews are continuing to work in Lunenburg County to lay down middle-mile fiber for unserved areas of the County. Kinex Crews continue to work in parts of Prince Edward and Lunenburg Counties where middle-mile fiber is in place to complete installs for new customers. Mr. Fortune stated there was an issue with the utility boxes being placed in yards of the homes on 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Mr. Fortune stated that Kinex coordinated with County and Town staff on this. The decision was made to place the boxes into the sidewalk. Mr. Mattews stated that the boxes have

been placed in the sidewalk on 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Kenbridge as requested by residents within the historical district. Mr. Hankins that he has received positive comments about the work. Mrs. King stated that the roads that were previously damaged by Kinex crews have been repaired.

**Update on Drakes Branch SLFRF Projects:** Ms. Foster stated that a report was included in the Council packet. The contractor, Fortiline, has installed all the meters. The Town has selected RDA's proposal that will support utility billing and a tax software package combined. Ms. Foster stated that she will continue to work with the Town to expend remaining funds.

**Update on Drakes Branch Building Acquisition Project:** Mr. Fortune stated that 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. Mr. Fortune stated that the Town of Drakes Branch has selected to put off bidding out the buildings. He stated that the they will need an environmental inspector to inspect the properties for lead and asbestos to properly dispose of any lead and asbestos that is found. Mr. Emert asked where do they think the lead is. Mr. Fortune stated that it would be hard to know without going in the building. Mr. Emert asked if this should be on the awarded contractor bidder. Mr. Fortune stated that this is a grant eligible cost and Southside PDC staff and Tom Raab, South Boston Town Manager, recommended this (they are working on a similar project).

**Update on Blackstone Armory VBAF Grant:** Mr. Fortune stated that there is not a report 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 abatement, 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 paperwork has been submitted to VEDP and the Town is awaiting final approval for reimbursement.

**Update on CRC Hazard Mitigation Plan Update:** Mr. Fortune stated that a report was included in the Council packet. Mr. Fortune stated that CRC staff has been working with VDEM and FEMA Region 3 staff to make final changes to the draft plan before the Plan is submitted to FEMA Region 3 for preliminary approval. On October 16<sup>th</sup>, it brought to the CRC's attention that Southside Electric Cooperative submitted a grant application under the most recent round of Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funding. This project covers Luneburg and Dinwiddie Counties, but is currently not eligible since it was not included in either the CRC Plan or the Crater Planning District Commission (PDC)/ Plan RVA Joint Hazard Mitigation Plan (which covers Dinwiddie County). Subsequent conversations with VDEM staff and Lunenburg County staff focused on the option of amending one of Lunenburg County's mitigation actions to makes this project eligible.

**Update on SEED Innovation Hub Project:** Ms. Jones 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). Ms. Jones stated that LUREF is working on recording the Covenant of Use. Once recorded, LUREF will have shared the recorded with EDA staff for final approval. Ms. McGuire stated that the Covenant of Use has just been approved and Longwood staff are working to prepare to bid out the project.

**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. Ms. Foster stated that the

CRC REDO interview request letters were emailed and hard copy mailed out to prospective interviewees. CRC staff have been diligently scheduling interviews, with 61 interviews scheduled so far (in-person and thru zoom) throughout the region over a 3-week period. Private investors and local government/university/college representatives will be interviewed by our consultant team (Convergent Non-profit Solutions) to begin the process of sharing the plans for creating this new organization, seeking input, and testing the waters for their initial investment/membership likelihood. Interviews began November 6<sup>th</sup> and will continue thru December 1<sup>st</sup>. Ms. Foster stated that CRC staff scheduled over 68 interviews. Mrs. Jones stated that we have 14 interviews left to scheduled. Ms. Foster stated that the Convergent has noted that the CRC has done well filling up the interview spots. Ms. Foster also stated that the Convergent will be providing a presentation on the study on December 20<sup>th</sup>.

Virginia Rural Leadership Institute Graduate - Todd Fortune: Mr. Fortune stated that a report was included in the Council packet. Mr. Fortune stated that he has been attending the 2023 Virginia Rural Leadership Institute course. The course consisted of four sessions: Danville/South Boston (May), Tappahannock (June), St. Paul/Abingdon (September), and Broadway/Staunton (November). Mr. Fortune stated that the final session was held November 2<sup>nd</sup> through November 4<sup>th</sup> in Broadway and Staunton. Mr. Fortune stated that at this session they had a variety of speakers including Hamilton Lombard with Weldon Cooper Center in which he covered some trends that they are seeing. He stated that many local/regional/state agencies use Census data, but the 2020 Census data is 'fairly sketchy'. Mr. Lombard recommended using other sources when possible. Mr. Fortune stated that another speaker at the institute was Tamarrah Holmes with DHCD. He noted that she gave an update on broadband in the state. Mr. Fortune noted that the final day consisted of a graduation ceremony. Remarks were made by Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry, Matthew Lohr; the Honorable Emmet Hanger, State Senator; the Honorable R. Stevens Landers, former State Delegate and member of the Center of Rural Virginia Broad of Trustees; and Bryan David, Council for Rural Virginia Chair. Additionally, each member of the cohort gave a brief presentation on their community impact project. Mr. Fortune stated that each session of the institute provided valuable insight on skills and attributes needed to be an effective leader. While there was some variation on the subjects and topics, some common themes emerge as important components of leadership including communication, the importance of region collaboration and partnerships, and the importance of education and workforce training.

Council Member Comments: There were none.

#### **New Business:**

#### **Staff Reports**

**Update on Grant Writing:** Ms. Jones stated a copy of the grant writing report was included in the Council packet. Ms. Jones congratulated the Town of Crewe on being awarded a \$50,000 planning grant to undertake planning activities for a potential future Downtown Revitalization project. The CRC staff assisted the Town of Crewe with this application. Ms. Jones congratulated the Amelia Emergency Squad on being awarded a \$33,123.87 grant from Centra to purchase an AED device for one of its ambulances. Ms. Jones stated that the CRC assisted with this application. The CRC is assisting the Town Blackstone and the Central Virgnia Poultry Growers with applications to the Tobacco Commission. This is a special round of funding of the Tobacco Commission is open to applicants by invitation only. The CRC is also assisting the Virginia Poultry Growers with a Planning Grant application to fund the start up costs to develop a Poultry Growers Cooperative. The CRC is assisting Cumberland County with two applications to the National Park Service, African American Civil Rights grant to renovate and establish the historic designation for the Luther P. Jackson High School. The CRC is also assisted the Mary E. Branch Heritage Center with an application to renovate the historic Mary E. Branch Elementary School. Mr. Fortune added that he assisted the Town of Keysville with an application to the READY, SET, GO grant program to fund planning activities for a sidewalk project in Keysville. Mr. Fortune also

stated that the CRC is assisting Crewe Cares with an application to the Wal-Mart Foundation for funds to renovate a building for use as a food pantry in Crewe. Mr. Fortune stated that we have been in contact with Virginia Food Works in identifying funding sources for a new liquid goods filling machine and dry goods filling machine for the Prince Edward Cannery. Mrs. King stated that they are working with the Lunenburg Food Pantry to find funding to construct a new food pantry. Mr. Hankins asked if the public parking lot in Victoria is going to find money for it. Ms. Foster asked if this was next to the Boutique hotel. Mrs. King stated that they are no longer doing the boutique hotel due to financing issues.

**Update - Poultry Farmer Support:** Ms. Foster stated that she wanted to give an update regarding the recruitment of the Poultry Processor. A report was not included in the packet. Ms. Foster stated that the CRC is working on two grant opportunities that was listed in the Grant Writing report. Ms. Foster stated that growers did provide a presentation to the Tobacco Commission that was very well received. Ms. Foster stated that the Tobacco Commission invited the Poultry Growers to apply for a grant funds for start-up costs for the cooperative. This round of grant funding was by invitation only. Ms. Foster stated that staff is also working on the AFID planning grant application as well. Ms. Foster stated that the County's have provided letters of support for this project as well. Ms. Foster stated that she expects to submit the AFID application soon. Mrs. King stated that many of the Tobacco Commissioners have commented that they were really pleased with the Growers presentation. Ms. Foster also stated that the Virginia Heartland Regional Industrial Facility Authority is also looking into options as well.

**CRC Auditing Services**: Ms. Foster stated that a copy of the request for proposal for audit services are included in the council packet. Ms. Foster stated that the CRC is being required to conduct a single audit for fiscal year ending June 30, 2023 due to the threshold of funding being passed through the CRC as a result of the Regional VATI project. The CRC received additional funding from DHCD to complete this audit. The CRC submitted a Request for Proposals for the fiscal years ending in 2023, 2024, and 2025 (can be extended) on October 25<sup>th</sup> with a due date of November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023. The CRC received only one proposal from Creedle, Jones, and Associates, PC, CPA. The costs for services for FY23 is proposed as \$17,500, FY24 \$12,500, and FY25 \$15,000. The final audit will be complete by February 2024. Ms. Foster stated that she does need to bring this to the Council's attention as the amount for conducting the audit does exceed our projected cost for auditing services in FY24 CRC budget. However, the CRC has adequate funds available to complete this task.

**Council Member Comments:** There were none.

Commonwealth Intergovernmental Review Process (CIRP): There were no comments.

Other Business: There were none.

**Council Member Comments:** Mr. Jones stated that at the VACO meeting there was a presentation by Lancaster County to build County housing for County employees such as teachers, EMS, and etc.. Many individuals that move to the County cannot afford housing options due to current housing market. Mr. Jones asked the CRC to look into this further.

**Adjournment, Next Meeting:** Mr. Hankins moved and Mr. Jones seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:45 a.m. The next meeting was set for Wednesday, December 20th, at the CRC's office located at the Heartland Building in Keysville, Virginia.

Mr. Mike Hankins, Secretary

#### Treasurer's Report - Cash on Hand & Account Balances

#### For the Period of November 9, 2023 thru December 13, 2023

Cash on Hand	<u> </u>	Period Ending	Year to Date
Total Income	\$	900,276.89	\$ 2,990,802.01
Total Expenses	\$	1,123,555.84	2,985,528.17
Net Income	\$	-223,278.95	\$ 5,273.84
Cash on Hand	\$	873,461.68	\$ 873,461.68

#### Account Balances as of December 13th, 2023

Benchmark (M2)	\$.	235,545.76
BB&T (M1)	\$	533,512.42
Benchmark (CD1)	\$	54,101.52
Benchmark (CD2)	\$	15,043.36
BB&T (PR)	\$	7.853.44
BB&T (Oprtg)	\$	27,405.18
	\$	873,461.68

Prepared by: Nicolette Hall, November 8th, 2023

<sup>\*\*</sup>Note: Items 47060, 47070 and 47080 are pass-thru revenue funds for current grant projects and are not counted as income for the CRC. Corresponding expenses categories are 79036, 79045 & 79046.

<sup>\*47060/70045</sup> VH PDC Housing Program Funds

<sup>\*47070/79036</sup> VATI Regional Broadband Grant

<sup>\*47080/79046</sup> CRC REDO (GOVA Grant) Reminder - the CRC committed \$10,000 to the CRC REDO Grant as cash match.

<sup>\*\*\*\$900.00</sup> from P.E. for SHSP Barricades Grant Admin costs, placed temporarily in Misc Income due to Quickbooks audit in progress not allowing new income codes to be generated.\*\*\*

# Commonwealth Regional Council Financial Statement

November 9 through December 13, 2023

Accrual Basis

9:42 AM 12/13/23

	Nov 9 - Dec 13, 23	Budget	Jul 1 - Dec 13, 23	YTD Budget	Annual Budget
lincome 40000. Revenue 43000 - Local Member Investment 43010 - Amella Local Member Investment 43020 - Buckingham Local Member Investme 43030 - Charlotte Local Member Investme 43040 - Cumberland Local Member Investme 43050 - Prince Ed Local Member Investme 43050 - Lunenburg Local Member investme 43095 - Nottoway County	0.0 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00	0 00 0 00 0 00 0 00 0 00 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	19,000,00 19,000,00 19,000,00 19,000,00 19,000,00 19,000,00	19,000.00 19,000.00 19,000.00 19,000.00 19,000.00 19,000.00	19,000.00 19,000.00 19,000.00 19,000.00 19,000.00 19,000.00
Total 43000 · Local Member investment	0.00	0.00	133,000.00	133,000.00	133,000.00
Total 40000 · Revenue	0.00	00:00	133,000.00	133,000.00	133,000.00
44000 · VA Regional Cooperation	0.00	8,642,38	44,985.00	40,632.10	89,971.08
45880 - FR Regional Haz Mit Plan Updat 45800 - FR Regional Haz Mit Plan Updat	52,071.05	2,983,73	52,071.05	14,028.00	31,062.00
45955 - PDC Housing Program	0.00	7,20.43 1,921.15	0.500.00	3,387.10	7,500.00
45965 Charlotte Comp Plan Update	00.0	244.94	0.00	1,151.61	2,550.00
45975 - Charlotte ESHPF Grant Admin	0.00	1,167.10	12,150.00	5,487.10	12,150.00
45985 VATI Regional Broadband Grant	0.00	2,241.31	00:0	10,537.50	1,944.00 23.333.04
45990 Drakes Branch SLFRF Admin	00:00	292.88	0.00	1,377.00	3,049.08
45992 - Amelia Mod Como Plan Undate	00:00	384.24	8,000.00	1,806.49	4,000.08
45993 · VATI Audit funds	00:0	384.24	00.0	2,709.68	6,000.00
45995 - Drakes Branch VDEM Grant Admin	0.00	1,981.28	00:00	9,315.00	20,626.08
45996 - Buckingham Comp Plan Update 23	0.00	2,401.44	0.00	11,290.36	25,000.08
45998 · SHSP Comm Outreach & Prep.	00.0	2,401,44	00:0	11,290.36	25,000.08
45999 · Longwood SEED Inn Hub Admin	0.00	3,111.68	0.00	14,629.55	32,394.00
Total 45000 · Project Funding	52,071.05	22,247.70	88,357.74	104,597.46	231,608.64
46000 - Other Funding 46005 - DEO 2021 CRC WIP II Assistance	G	A 571 22	c	90 400 50	90000
46010 · VDOT-Transport Planning	0.00	5,571.33	00.0	26,193.58	58,000.08
46040 · Interest Income	997.94	76.85	1,924.20	361.31	800.04
46081 · EDA Technical Assistance Fund	0.00	0.00	2,756.30	0.00	70 000 04
46082 · SCRC LDD FUnds	0.00	4,226.53	0.00	8,870.98	33,000.03
Total 46000 · Other Funding	1,897.94	22,781.33	4,680.50	89,742.63	219,800.27
47000 · Pass Thru Fundds 47060 · VH PDC Housing Program Funds 47070 · VATI Broadband 47080 · CRC REDO	0.00 833,807.90 12,500.00	0000	255,719.49 2,434,609.55 29,449.73	0.00 0.00 0.00	
Total 47000 · Pass Thru Fundds	846,307.90	0.00	77.877,617,2	0.00	
Total Income	900,276.89	53,671.41	2,990,802.01	367,972.19	674,379.99
Expense 71000 · Personnel Costs 71010 · Salary Distribution 71040 · Payroll Expenses (SS/FICA)	32,076.90 2,453.87	32,947.68 2,520.64	112,559.88 8,610.82	154,903.26 11,850.77	343,000.08 26,241.00

# Commonwealth Regional Council Financial Statement

November 9 through December 13, 2023

Accrual Basis

9:42 AM 12/13/23

		DOMINOS II BOOM	13, 2023		
	Nov 9 - Dec 13, 23	Budget	1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 -		
71150 · Unemployment Ins.	00,		2011-060 13, 23	YTD Budget	Annual Budget
71200 VRS Contribution	00.1 10.138.84	12.68	10.40	59.61	
71350 Staff Train/Conference	70.23	1,327,55	22,347.91	34,450.41	132.00
71400 Secretary Complies	0.00	48.03	1,394.55	7,677.44	17,000.04
71600 : I fe berrance	644.30	3,842.30	0.00	225.82	500.04
71700 Other Staff Costs	67.80	33.62	194 40	18,064.55	40,000.08
71750 · Employee Cell Phone Stloend	0.00	86.74	0.00	158.08	350.04
	400.00	288.17	1,100.00	1.354.84	903.00
TOTAL 7 1000 - Personnel Costs	45,853.60	48,740.39	160 411 29		0000000
72000 · Office Operations			0.7	229,152.59	507,409.32
72005 · Cleaning & MaintBidg	400.00	25.00			
72010 · Lease Costs	1,200.00	1 363 53	2,000.00	2,601.29	5.760.00
72000 Tel-11-	489.52	240 15	6,000.00	6,503.23	14,400.00
72030 Booten costs	0.00	336.20	1,831.54	1,129.07	2,500.08
72035 Evanos Mail	400.00	115.27	044.24	1,580.66	3,500.04
72040 Concentrate Section	0.00	11.52	944.64	541.94	1,200.00
72050 Discountable Supplies	2,040.03	345.81	4 410 84	54.19	120.00
72060 Office Insurance	0.00	33.62	73.00	1,625.81	3,600.00
72070 - Administrative Costs	0.00	9.62	00.0	158.08	350.04
72080 · Office Costs - Other	1,575.00	1,248.75	3.675.00	45.20	100.08
	0.00	288.17	2,636.21	5,871,00	13,000.08
/2035 · Office Moving Expense	0.00	0.00	1 256 15		00.000,5
Total 72000 · Office Operations	6 104 55			0.00	
73000 - Office Fauipment		4,565.63	24,147,14	21,465.31	47,530.32
73010 - Office Equipment	50 5				
73030 - Equipment Maintenance	1,088.20	240.15	0.00	1,129.07	2.500.08
73040 · Equipment Repair	138.84	1921	4,641.20	7,180.65	15,900.00
/3050 · Equipment - Other	96.96	1,873,12	7.577	903.24	2,000.04
Total 73000 · Office Equipment	1.327.00	07.000.0		a,800.43	19,500.00
74000 · Auto/Staff Travel		07.368,5	12,357.29	18,019.41	39,900.12
74020 - Staff Mileage	436.10	40.00			
Total 74000 . Auto/Staff Traval		212.23	3,493.62	4,290.34	9,500.04
BARLI HEROCOTTO COOL COOL	436.10	912.55	3,493.62	4.290.34	20 000
75000 · Meetings/Memberships					8,500.04
75020 · Committee Meetings	0.00	499.50	2,566.54	2.348.42	90000
75030 · Staff Meetings	00.5	38.43	0.00	180.68	3,200.08
75040 · Council Memberships	3.000.00	48.03	190.46	225.82	500.04
75050 - Other Meeting Costs	00'0	1921	00.000,7	3,206.47	7,100.04
/၁୯৬૫ · Public Official Insurance Cov.	00'0	172.90	0.00	90.34	200.04
Total 75000 · Meetings/Memberships	3,000.00	1 460 08			1,800.00
77000 · Collateral Materials		0000	9,757.00	6,864.63	15,200.28
77010 · Web Page Costs	239.88	336.20	261.05	2002	
Total 77000 · Collateral Materials	239.88	038.80			3,500.04
78000 · Local Relations		08.900	261.05	1,580.66	3,500.04
78010 · Newsletter/Annual Report 78030 · Other	0.00	14.41	0.00	67.74	150.00
Total 78000 · Local Belations			000	451.65	1,000.08
	00'0	110.48	00.0	519.39	1.150.08
P					

# Commonwealth Regional Council Financial Statement

November 9 through December 13, 2023

Accrual Basis

9:42 AM 12/13/23

	Nov 9 - Dec 13, 23	Budget	Jul 1 - Dec 13, 23	VTD Budget	
79000 · Other Program Costs 79030 · Planning Project Costs				Jeffond Co.	Annual Budget
79036 · VATI Broadband 79045 · VH PDC Hous Prog-Partner Expens	1,039,918.86 11,750.00	0.00	2,434,894.76	0.00	
79046 - CRC REDO 79030 - Planning Project Costs - Other	14,925.85 0.00	0.00	255,719,49 72,452.78 1,023.75	00.0	
Total 79030 . Planning Project Costs			1,023.13	7,451.61	16,500.00
STOO DOLO BUILDING	1,066,594.71	1,584.94	2,764,090.78	7 451 61	
79050 · Contingency Costs	0.00	480.29	00000		00:000:01
Total 79000 · Other Program Costs	100 COC P		00:010'6	2,258.08	5,000.04
	1,466,594,7	2,065.23	2,773,100.78	69.706	2005 12
lotal Expense	1,123,555.84	62,023.26	2.983.528 17	00 000 100	10000113
Net Income	30 826 866-			291,902,02	645,690.24
	00012007	-8,351.85	7,273.84	76,370.17	28 680 75



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

#### **MEMORANDUM:**

TO:

**CRC** Representatives

FROM:

Melody Foster, Executive Director

SUBJECT:

**CRC Executive Director Monthly Activities** 

DATE:

December 13, 2023

- Corresponded with Central Virginia Poultry Group to discuss AFID Planning Grant submission.
- Corresponded with counties of the region to gain support for the AFID Planning submission for the Central Virginia Poultry Group Cooperative start-up costs.
- Assembled and submitted CRC AFID PG request of \$35,000 (local match \$35,000) for start-up costs for the creation of the Central Virginia Poultry Cooperative (CVP).
- Attended the CRC hosted FOIA Training presented by Alan Gernhardt, FOIA Council, held in the CRC Training Room on Friday, November 17, 2023.
- Corresponded with Central Virginia Poultry Group to gather information for TRRC Grant submission.
- Corresponded with Sarah Capps, TRRC regarding CRC TRRC Grant request for start-up costs for the creation of the Central Virginia Poultry Cooperative (CVP).
- Assembled and submitted CRC TRRC Grant request of \$4.1 million (\$39.1 million CVP & AFID PG matching funds) for the Establishment of the Central Virginia Poultry Cooperative.
- Corresponded with CRC REDO consultant (Convergent) representatives regarding CRC REDO Fundraising Feasibility interviews being conducted in the region.
- Completed and submitted EDA EDD quarterly financial report to EDA.
- Corresponded with Longwood regarding SEED Innovation Hub EDA Project receiving final approval to proceed with bidding.
- Attended Prince Edward County Comprehensive Plan Land Use, Housing, & Transportation Focus Group Meeting at Hampden-Sydney College.
- Corresponded with Bills Scruggs, Virginia Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services (VDACS) on submittal of CRC AFID PG for the Central Virginia Poultry Group costs for startup of Cooperative.
- Met with Karl Carter and CRC staff to discuss Buckingham Comprehensive Plan updates to the Board of Supervisors.
- Met virtually with Angie Lehman, Creedle, Jones & Associates, PC., to discuss assembling documents for the CRC FY22-23 Audit.
- Assisted Finance Director in assembling documents for CRC FY 22-23 Audit.
- Attended Virginia's Heartland Regional Industrial Facilities Authority (VHRIFA) meeting held in CRC conference room on November 21, 2023.
- Met virtually with Andy Coe, Convergent & Crystal Morphis, CEcD, to discuss results of CRC REDO Fundraising Feasibility and upcoming presentation at the CRC December meeting.
- Interviewed 2 candidates for Regional Planner position.
- Attended VAPDC Executive Director's meeting at TJPDC in Charlottesville, VA.
- Participated in DEQ's virtual meeting regarding Virginia's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant.
- Met virtually with Andy Coe, Convergent, to discuss next steps for a Fundraising campaign for the CRC REDO.
- Discussed ongoing projects with CRC staff.



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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

lew Ideas:			
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Note: Items stricken through have been addressed or pursued.



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

#### **MEMORANDUM**

TO:

**CRC** Council Members

FROM:

Todd Fortune Codd Forts
Deputy Director

DATE:

December 11, 2023

**SUBJECT:** 

Update on Regional Emergency Planning Activities

As you are aware, the CRC was awarded a State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) grant in November 2022 to fund community outreach and preparedness activities related to disaster and emergency preparedness. This grant was funded under one of the FEMA National Priorities, Community Preparedness. Consequently, FEMA placed on hold on these funds at the time of award. That hold was released on May 16, 2023.

**Update:** CRC staff has decided to deliver educational materials and emergency kits to local emergency managers for distribution to citizens through local fire departments. Every county will receive 50 kits, with each kit containing 71 items and multiple information packets. A meeting has been scheduled for December 13, 2023 for CRC staff to discuss logistics of the distribution with the local emergency managers. Distribution of the kits is scheduled for January 2024. The educational campaign will also begin in January 2024.

**NOTE:** The current end date for this grant is June 30, 2024. Given the delay in getting this grant under contract, the CRC is keeping open the possibility of requesting an extension of this deadline. If CRC staff can complete distribution of the educational/outreach materials in the Spring 2024, then an extension on this grant will not be needed.

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

cc:

Melody Foster

www.virginiasheartland.org



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#### **MEMORANDUM:**

TO: CRC Council Members

FROM: Lauren Jones, Regional Planner

DATE: December 12, 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:
  - Researching and sending along grant opportunities to localities.
  - Reaching out to localities with grant project ideas.
  - Researching opportunities for the CRC to assist in documenting BMP activities in the region in the DEQ BMP warehouse.
  - Updating CRC website and Facebook page.
  - O Worked with the Charlotte County Virginia Cooperative Extension office and the Charlotte County Superintendent to hold Rain Barrel Workshops as an after-school program at all 3 Elementary Schools in Charlotte County. We held our first Rain Barrel Workshop on Monday, November 6<sup>th</sup> at Bacon District Elementary. We had four kids attend the workshop. Our second Rain Barrel Workshop was held on Wednesday, November 8<sup>th</sup> at Eureka Elementary with three kids in attendance. Our third Rain Barrel Workshop was held on November 15<sup>th</sup> at Phenix Elementary with eleven kids in attendance.
  - O CRC staff will provide a visual presentation of the Rain Barrel Workshop at the January meeting.



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

#### **MEMORANDUM**

TO:

Dan Witt, County Administrator

Members of the Charlotte County Board of Supervisors

FROM:

Lauren Jones

Regional Planner

DATE:

December 12, 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 November 6th:

- The CRC met with the Planning Commission on Thursday, November 16th for a work session to address comments that were received during the public hearing. During the regular meeting, the Planning selected to recommend the Plan to the Board for adoption. The Planning Commission recommended solar language in the plan that would establish a cap on how much land could be developed for solar.
- The CRC met with the Charlotte County Board of Supervisors on December 11th for a work session to provide a brief overview of the plan and address any board member concerns about the Plan. Board members posed questions regarding whether or not language on the solar cap should be included in the plan. The Board selected to defer setting a public hearing date until the January meeting to allow the issue to be examined further.

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

cc: Todd Fortune, Deputy Director, CRC

Monica Elder, Assistant County Administrator



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

#### **MEMORANDUM**

TO:

Karl Carter, County Administrator

Members of the Buckingham County Board of Supervisors

FROM:

Todd Fortune Add Kodo

Deputy Director

DATE:

December 11, 2023

**SUBJECT:** 

Buckingham County Comprehensive Plan Update - Monthly Update

As you are aware, the Commonwealth Regional Council (CRC) is assisting Buckingham 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 November 6, 2023:

- CRC staff attended the Planning Commission work session on November 20, 2023. At this
  meeting, CRC staff reviewed revisions to draft Sections 2 and 3 of the Plan with the
  Commission. The Commission asked for some additional changes, which CRC staff are
  working on making.
- CRC staff are finishing up tabulations of the citizen surveys and working on a summary report of the results. A total of 498 surveys (paper and online) were completed and returned to the CRC.
- A work session with the Planning Commission was originally scheduled for December 18. However, that meeting has been cancelled. The next work session for the Comprehensive Plan is scheduled for January 16, 2024. At this meeting, CRC staff will review revised draft Sections 2 and 3 of the Plan and provide an update on the citizen survey results. Time permitting, CRC staff will review draft Section 4 with the Commission.

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

cc: Melody Foster, Executive Director, CRC
Nicci Edmonston, Zoning/Planning Administrator





#### **MEMORANDUM**

TO:

Taylor Harvey, County Administrator

Members of the Amelia County Board of Supervisors

FROM:

Todd Fortune

Deputy Director

DATE:

December 11, 2023

**SUBJECT:** 

Amelia County Comprehensive Plan Update – Monthly Update

As you are aware, the Commonwealth Regional Council (CRC) is assisting Amelia County with a modified update of the County's Comprehensive Plan. The CRC will provide services to update the Demographic Section, revise the Future Land Use map, and revise the Goals, Objectives, and Strategies Section of the current plan. As part of the CRC's efforts to assist the County, the following is a summary of what has occurred so far:

- CRC staff met with the Amelia County Planning Commission at its meeting on October 23<sup>rd</sup> to review the Demographics section of the Comprehensive Plan. The Commission requested some changes, which CRC staff are working on making.
- CRC staff corresponded with Amelia County staff in November on logistics for developing and disseminating citizen surveys.
- The next step is for CRC staff to work with the Planning Commission on revising the Future Land Use map. CRC staff are currently working with County staff to determine the next meeting date for presenting this information.

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

cc: Melody Foster, Executive Director, CRC
Brady Deal, Director of Community Development



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

#### **MEMORANDUM:**

TO:

**CRC Representatives** 

FROM:

Lauren Jones, Regional Planner

SUBJECT:

CRC Affordable Workforce Housing Development Program

DATE:

December 12, 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 48-month period (extended to June 30, 2025). CRC staff time on the project is also covered by this grant award.

**Project:** 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 modular 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 Piedmont's contractor and volunteers are currently working to complete the remaining work on two of the homes on California Ave in Crewe. The project is expected to be completed at the beginning of 2024. All the Andrew Drive homes have been completed. Piedmont Habitat is working with the homeowner and the USDA Rural Development loan office to close on the Andrew Drive homes.
- Smyth Properties All seven housing units are almost complete. Due to a few delays in construction, the site visit with Virginia Housing was rescheduled to Friday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am.
- Town of Blackstone/ Southside Outreach Southside Outreach has bid out the last two homes for construction. Southside Outreach has awarded the bid to Divine Buildie of Amelia, Virginia.



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

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:

December 12, 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:

<u>Kenbridge Town Hall Repairs Project</u> – The contractor, Harris and Sons, has completed the remaining painting and carpentry work on the Town Hall building (only a small portion of the carpentry work will be covered by this grant). This grant has been closed out. The CRC and Town Staff have been in communication with DHR staff in regards to the final preservation agreement, which will be recorded at Lunenburg County's Deed office.

<u>Charlotte County Courthouse Complex Drainage Project</u> – Charlotte County staff awarded the bid for Plaster Repairs to Virginia Drywall and Plaster, LLC. The contractor has completed the Plaster Repairs work.

\*\*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.



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#### **MEMORANDUM**

TO:

**CRC Council Members** 

FROM:

Todd Fortune
Deputy Direct Deputy Director

DATE:

December 12, 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 continue to work on laying down middle-mile fiber in unserved areas of all three counties.

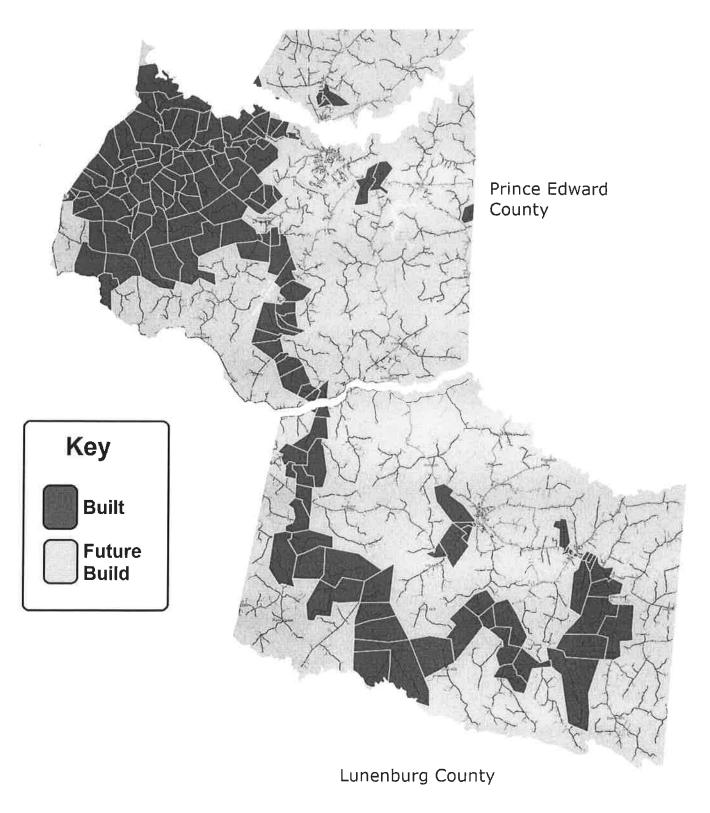
- Kinex crews continue to work in parts of Prince Edward and Lunenburg Counties where middlemile fiber is in place to complete installations for new customers. James Garrett, Kinex Telecom, has advised that there is currently a backlog for new installations due to staffing issues. He has added new staff and hopes to see installs ramp up after the holidays.
- Mr. Garrett has advised that Brightspeed and Mid-Atlantic Broadband have fired Stake Center and are using a new contractor for line marking. This is due to continued inaccurate marking of utility lines.
- Mr. Garrett advised that he is working with the contractors to make sure equipment and materials are not left unattended near roadways, and any damage to public or private properties is repaired.
- As of December 3, 2023, a total of 3,942 passings (out of a target of 10,734 total passings) and 811 installs for new customers have been completed.
- Just a reminder, there is a Project Management Team that meets monthly to discuss the project. The team includes local staff, CRC staff, Kinex staff, and DHCD staff. The team meets on the second Friday of every month. The next meeting is scheduled for January 12, 2024.
- Per an agreement with DHCD, CRC and local staff will be making periodic site visits to observe the work being done by Kinex and their contractors. The most recent site visit was conducted on October 17, 2023, in Lunenburg County. The next site visit would occur during the first quarter of 2024.

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

Melody Foster, Executive Director, CRC cc:

www.virginiasheartland.org

### **Cumberland County**





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

TO:

**CRC** Representatives

FROM:

Melody Foster, Executive Director

SUBJECT:

CRC Administration of Drakes Branch Coronavirus State and Local

Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) Projects

DATE:

December 13, 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:

Water Metering Project complete.

I will be meeting with the Town in the coming months to discuss spending the rest of the their SLFRF funds available.



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

#### **MEMORANDUM**

TO:

**CRC Council Members** 

FROM:

Todd Fortune

Deputy Director

DATE:

December 11, 2023

**SUBJECT:** 

Update - Drakes Branch Building Acquisition Project

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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.

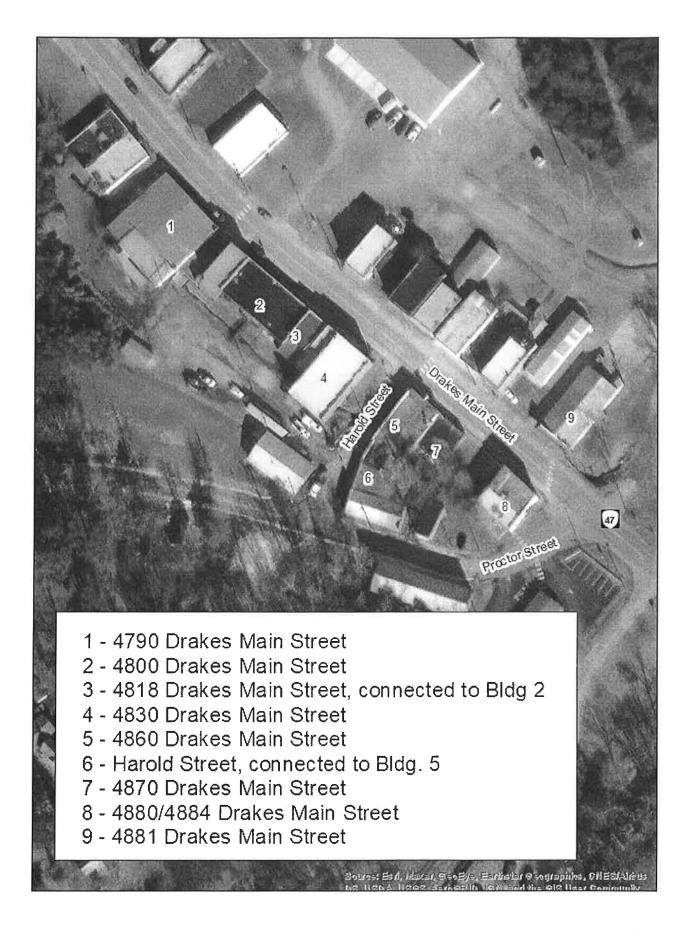
#### **Update:**

- Building 1: Privately owned property
  - o Appraisal completed.
  - o Title search completed.
  - o Property owner has opted out, and will not be participating in the project.
- Buildings 2 and 3: Old Town Hall and fire station
  - o Appraisals completed.
  - o Title searches completed.
  - CRC staff worked with the Town to retain a firm to conduct lead and asbestos inspections of these properties, which will need to be done before the demolition/clearance work can be bid out.
- Building 4: Privately owned property
  - o Appraisal completed.
  - o Title search completed.
  - o The owner has signed an agreement to sell the property to the Town. This property has a deed of trust per the title search, which will need to be settled as part of the sale process.
  - CRC staff worked with the Town to retain a firm to conduct lead and asbestos inspections of the property, which will need to be done before the demolition/clearance work can be bid out.

- Buildings 5 and 6: Privately owned, adjoining buildings, same owner
  - o Appraisals completed.
  - o Title searches completed.
  - The owner initially opted out of the project; however, he has reconsidered and subsequently agreed to terms on a sale of the property to the Town. The sale is pending.
  - CRC staff worked with the Town to retain a firm to conduct lead and asbestos inspections of these properties, which will need to be done before the demolition/clearance work can be bid out.
- Building 7: Privately owned property
  - o Appraisal completed.
  - o Title search completed.
  - o Property owner has opted out, and will not be participating in the project.
- Building 8: Privately owned property
  - Appraisal completed.
  - o Title search completed.
  - O Property has tax liens. The County has referred the property to Tax Authority Consulting Services, a Henrico County-based firm that assists local governments in collection, bankruptcy, and assessment matters, for a tax sale on the property. The firm is working to retain a Guardian ad Litem to assist with the purchase, as one of the owners is incarcerated. A sale of the property would likely occur during Spring or Summer 2024.
  - CRC staff worked with the Town to retain a firm to conduct lead and asbestos inspections of these properties, which will need to be done before the demolition/clearance work can be bid out.
- Building 9: Privately owned property
  - o Appraisal completed.
  - o Title search completed.
  - The Town is still in discussions with the owner regarding a potential purchase of the property.
  - CRC staff worked with the Town to retain a firm to conduct lead and asbestos inspections of these properties, which will need to be done before the demolition/clearance work can be bid out.

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

cc: Melody Foster





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

#### **MEMORANDUM**

TO:

CRC Council Members

FROM:

Todd Fortune
Deputy Director

DATE:

December 12, 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: All abatement/removal activities are complete. The CRC assisted the Town in preparing and submitting the required reporting and financial documentation to VEDP on October 5. We received word from the Town on December 11 that VEDP has approved the submittals and reimbursed the Town for project costs covered by the grant. We have a message into VEDP asking if anything else is required from the Town to close out the grant.

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

cc:

Melody Foster



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

#### **MEMORANDUM**

TO:

**CRC Council Members** 

FROM:

Todd Fortune Andel Factor

Deputy Director

DATE:

November 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:** CRC staff continue to work with VDEM and FEMA Region 3 staff, plus Lunenburg County staff and representatives from Southside Electric Cooperative (SEC) on how to address the project submitted by SEC for mitigation funding. Virtual meetings were held on October 31 and November 8 to discuss options. There are two options to address this: Add SEC as a participant to our Regional Plan, which would require significant changes to the draft Plan; or amending one of Lunenburg County's mitigation actions to make this project eligible, which would require the County to act as applicant and (if funded) grantee for the project. CRC staff are currently in communication with Lunenburg County staff about the second option.

Once this issue with the SEC project has been resolved, any additional changes will be made to the Plan as needed and the Plan sent to FEMA Region 3 staff for preliminary approval. Once FEMA has given preliminary approval, the Plan 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



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

TO: Commonwealth Regional Council

FROM: Lauren Jones, Regional Planner

SUBJECT: SEED Innovation Hub Project Update

DATE: December 12, 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:**

EDA funds- LUREF has recorded the Covenant of Use. Longwood has begun advertising for bids for the construction of the project with a due date of bids of January 25<sup>th</sup> at 2pm. The CRC has been working with Longwood staff to ensure EDA procurement policies are followed.

Tobacco Commission Funds- Due to the funds uses, these is not an update at this time (funds will be used for construction costs).

GO Virginia Funds - Due to the funds uses, these is not an update at this time (funds will be used for equipment).



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

#### **MEMORANDUM:**

TO:

CRC Member Localities & Longwood University

FROM:

Melody Foster, Executive Director

SUBJECT:

Status Report - CRC GO Virginia Grant - Creation of New Economic Development

Organization (REDO) for CRC region

DATE:

December 13, 2023

<u>Project:</u> 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. The CRC hired a consultant team in March 2023: Creative Economic Development Consulting, Timmons Group/Mangum Economics and Convergent Nonprofit Solutions to assist the CRC staff, CRC REDO Working Committee and CRC Advisory Board in completing this feasibility project.

<u>Project Update:</u> The CRC REDO Working Committee has met 6 times with the Consultant Team since May of 2023. The CRC Advisory Board has met 3 times over the same period with the Consultant Team.

#### Activities completed so far include:

- SWOT Analysis
- Research
- CRC REDO Infrastructure & Site Analysis
- CRC REDO Organizational Development
- CRC REDO Economic Profile
- CRC REDO Strategic Plan
- CRC REDO Fundraising Feasibility

#### **CRC REDO Fundraising Feasibility**

- o 74 interviews were conducted either in-person or virtually over a 3-week period.
- o Potential private investors as well as potential member county government officials were interviewed.
- The overall strategic plan presented test well.

#### FINAL DELIVERABLES - Presented at the CRC December 20, 2023 Meeting (9:00 a.m.)

- Creative Economic Development Consulting will present minor updates of the CRC REDO Strategy and Organizational Development.
- Convergent Nonprofit Solutions, LLC will present the recommendation of the Fundraising Feasibility



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

#### **MEMORANDUM**

TO:

**CRC Council Members** 

FROM:

Lauren Jones

Regional Planner

DATE:

December 12, 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 November 8, 2023:

#### Status Update

- VDACS, AFID Planning Grant: Congratulations! The Central Virginia Poultry Growers received \$35,000 in planning grant funds to fund the start-up costs to develop a Poultry Growers Cooperative (\$35,000 matching fund from 7 counties). The CRC is the applicant and assisted with the application.
- Rescue Squad Assistance Fund (RSAF): The Town of Kenbridge, Crewe Volunteer Fire Department, Charlotte County Fire and Rescue, and Buckingham County was notified that their applications will **not be funded due to insufficient funds** to make additional grant award announcements. Please the attached letter to learn more.
- Virginia Department of Health, Office of Drinking Water Drinking Water State Revolving
  Fund: Prince Edward County and the Town of Charlotte Court House was notified that their
  application was not funded. Prince Edward requested funds to develop the Sandy River
  Reservoir to a public drinking water source and Charlotte Court House requested funds to
  replace water meters and install isolation values. The CRC assisted with these applications.
- Firehouse Subs: Drakes Branch Volunteer Fire Department was notified that their application was **not funded**. They has planned to purchase a rescue strut to help secure overturned vehicles during search and rescue effort. The CRC assisted with this application.
- Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG): Vicotria Fire and Rescue and the Drakes Branch
  Fire and Rescue was notified that their applications were not funded. Victoria Fire and
  Rescue (VFR) requested funds to replace one of their trucks that has fallen into disrepair.
  Drakes Branch Fire and Rescue requested funds to purchase a thermal imaging camera
  and turnout gear.
- Tobacco Commission By Invitation Only: The CRC assisted the Central Virginia Poultry
  Growers with an application to the Tobacco Commission to fund start up costs to develop a
  Poultry Growers Cooperative. This special round of funding of the Tobacco Commission is
  open to applicants by invitation only. The CRC will be the applicant. Applications were dupage 31
  by November 30, 2023.

- Tobacco Commission By Invitation Only: The CRC assisted the Town of Blackstone with an application to the Tobacco Commission to fund equipment costs for the hospitality training program that will be located in the Harris Memorial Armory. Applications were due on November 30, 2023
- Crewe Cares, Wal-Mart Foundation: The CRC assisted Crewe Cares, a local non-profit, with a grant application to the Wal-Mart Foundation for funds to renovate a building for use as a food pantry in Crewe. The Foundation accepts applications quarterly, and the next round of applications closes on December 31<sup>st</sup>.
- VDOT, Ready, Set, Go: The CRC assisted the Town of Keysville with a planning grant application to fund planning activities for a sidewalk project in Keysville.
- NPS, Save America's Treasures Grant: The CRC is assisting Mary E. Branch Heritage Center with an application to the renovate the historic Mary E. Branch Elementary School. Applications are due on December 19<sup>th</sup>.
- VDACS, AFID: The CRC is assisting Virginia Food Works, a local non-profit, with a potential grant application to purchase a new liquid goods filling machine and dry goods filling machine for the Prince Edward Cannery that would serve local food producers.

#### Awaiting Approval

- NPS, African American Civil Rights: The CRC assisted Cumberland Co. with submitting two
  applications to renovate and establish the historic designation for the historic Luther P.
  Jackson High School. The CRC is also assisted Mary E. Branch Heritage Center/ Prince
  Edward County with a submitted application to renovate the historic Mary E. Branch
  Elementary School. Applications were due November 1, 2023.
- DHCD Affordable and Special Needs Housing Program: CRC staff assisted Piedmont Habitat for Humanity, a non-profit based out of Farmville, with a submitted application to partially fund the construction of five-homes on Ashley Way in Keysville. Applications were due on October 6<sup>th</sup>.
- VDOT Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP): The CRC assisted Amelia County, Lunenburg County, the Town of Farmville and the Town of Keysville with pre-application submissions to fund the construction of pedestrian sidewalks. Lunenburg County and the Town of Farmville has selected to not submit a full application for the TAP. The Town Keysville has been advised to pursue another VDOT grant opportunity. The CRC assisted Amelia County with the submission of a full TAP application. Applications were due October 2, 2023.
- VDEM State Homeland Security Grant: The CRC assisted Amelia County (regional application), the Town of Farmville, and Prince Edward with applications. Applications were due on July 17, 2023.
- Prince Edward County Congressionally Directed Spending Request: CRC staff assisted the County with a request for funds to develop the Sandy River Reservoir to a public drinking water source. Requests were due by March 10<sup>th</sup>.
- Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Grant (SAFER): CRC staff assisted
   Farmville Volunteer Fire Department with a SAFER application. Funds will be used to hire
   additional personnel. Applications were due by March 17<sup>th</sup>.

• 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 15<sup>th</sup>.

#### Projects on Standby (work undertaken as developments warrant)

- Community Resource Services: The CRC is working with Community Resource Services, a local non-profit, to identify funding sources for the construction of a new food pantry that would serve Lunenburg County.
- Curdsville Community Center (Buckingham County): The CRC is working with the group to seek funding opportunities to renovate the community center.
- Playground Equipment Funding: The CRC is continuing to research funding for a playground equipment.
- 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.

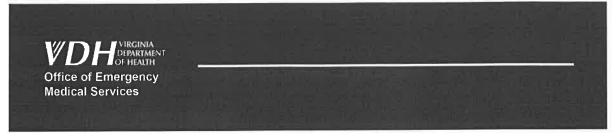
Upcoming Grant Funding Opportunities				
Grant Opportunity	Deadline			
Southeast Crescent Regional	Full App. Opens – Nov. 6, 2023			
Commission, State Economic and	(only if pre-app. was approved)			
Infrastructure Development (SEID)				
Grant Program	Full App. due – January 11, 2023			
NPS, Save America's Treasure Grant	Due – December 19, 2023			
DHCD CBDG Planning Grants	Due – December 30, 2023			
VBAF Assessment and Planning Grant	Open; Rolling Basis			
DHCD Mixed Use on Main Street	Rolling Basis in 2023 until all funds			
(MUMS)	are distributed			
Wal-Mart Foundation	Open on a Quarterly Basis, Closes –			
	December 31, 2023			
Tobacco Commission, Southern Virginia	Due – February 8, 2024			
Program				
US DOT RAISE Grant Program	Due - February 28, 2024			
*Programs with rolling submissions include: ED.	A, USDA, Virginia Housing, GO Virginia,			
DHCD, Tobacco Commission TROF, VEDP, etc.				

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

#### **Fall RSAF Grant Awards**

michael.berg@vdh.virginia.gov <michael.berg@vdh.virginia.gov>
Tue 11/21/2023 4:03 PM

To:Todd Fortune <tfortune@virginiasheartland.org>



Dear EMS Agency Leadership:

According to our records, your agency/organization submitted a matching grant application for the December 2023 cycle of the Rescue Squad Assistance Fund (RSAF).

Funding for the RSAF program comes from a percentage of the vehicle registration fees collected by the Department of Motor Vehicles. This fund is referred to as the EMS Fund or "\$4 for Life." Unfortunately, an audit identified financial irregularities in the Virginia Office of Emergency Medical Services' (OEMS) budget resulting in a significant shortage that has impacted all administrative, operational and financial functions of the office.

On Friday November 17, 2023, State Health Commissioner Karen Shelton, M.D., announced several steps to create a budget for the OEMS that is in line with available funding from the EMS Fund. The Virginia Department of Health has made a commitment to honor previous RSAF grants that have been awarded. Payment of these awards will be made when all criteria for award of these grants have been made and sufficient funds to cover these obligations exist in the OEMS budget.

Unfortunately, it is not currently possible to make any new RSAF grant awards for the December 2023 cycle. Grading of grant applications submitted for the December 2023 (Fall) cycle of RSAF cannot be completed because there are not sufficient funds to make any awards for grants that fall within funding range.

The OEMS and Regional EMS Councils will continue to share updates and information on other grant opportunities that are available to EMS agencies across the Commonwealth, through our websites and social media.

For additional questions or information, please contact EMS Systems Funding Division Director Michael Berg at (804) 888-9106 or Michael Berg@vdh.virginia.gov.

#### **AFID PG Award**

#### Melody Foster <mfoster@virginiasheartland.org>

Tue 12/12/2023 8:28 AM

To:Taylor Harvie <taylor.harvie@ameliacova.com>;Karl Carter <kcarter@buckinghamcounty.virginia.gov>;Dan Witt <dwitt@charlotteva.com>;Tracy Gee <tgee@lunenburgva.net>;Doug Stanley <dstanley@co.prince-edward.va.us>;Derek Stamey <dstamey@cumberlandcounty.virginia.gov>;Philip Vannoorbeeck <philipv@townofblackstoneva.com> Cc:Todd Fortune <tfortune@virginiasheartland.org>;Nicolette Hall <nhall@virginiasheartland.org>;Lauren Jones ljones@virginiasheartland.org>;David Felts <david.felts@ameliacova.com>;Gary Walker <garydwalker@hotmail.com>;Mike Hankins <mike.hankins0060@gmail.com>;Brian Stanley <bstanley@cumberlandcounty.virginia.gov>;David Emert <emert0117@gmail.com>;Odessa Pride <odessa@lumos.net>;Stephany Johnson <sjohnson@cumberlandcounty.virginia.gov>;Dordan Miles <thomas.jordan.miles@gmail.com>;Karl Carter <kcarter@buckinghamcounty.virginia.gov>;Dexter Jones <dexter.jones@ameliacova.com>;Walter Bailey <wbailey@charlottecountyva.gov>;Taylor Newton <taylor@lunenburgva.gov>; Richard Ingram <ri>ringram@nottoway.org>

1 attachments (286 KB)
AFID PG Award Announcement.pdf;

#### Good morning,

I wanted to share the good news that the CRC Agriculture and Forestry Industries Development (AFID) Planning Grant request for funds to assist with start-up costs for the creation of the Central Virginia Poultry Cooperative (CVP) was awarded! See attached announcement.

We now await word from the Tobacco Commission as the CRC also applied on behalf of the CVP for \$4.1 million in TRRC funding to establish the Central Virginia Poultry Cooperative. The TRRC will be meeting in January to deliberate the award.

Thank you to all of the County Administrators for you assistance in gaining matching funds for the AFID PG!

Melody Foster
Executive Director
Commonwealth Regional Council
We have moved!! - new location:
200 Heartland Road
Keysville, VA 23947
mfoster@virginiasheartland.org
(434) 392-6104 ext 202, office
(434) 610-1728 cell

## VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES

OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS, Contact: Michael Wallace, 804.786.1904, www.vdacs.virginia.gov

For Immediate Release: Mon., Dec. 11, 2023

## AFID Planning Grant Awarded to the Commonwealth Regional Council to Support Poultry Farmers in Central Virginia

~ Grant will establish a cooperative to attract new poultry businesses to central Virginia ~

The Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) announces the award of a Governor's <u>Agriculture and Forestry Industries Development (AFID) Fund Planning Grant</u> to the Commonwealth Regional Council for the establishment of the Central Virginia Poultry Cooperative (CVPC). The CVPC will work to support the poultry growers of central Virginia, who were affected by the closure of the Tyson Foods poultry processing plant in Glen Allen, by attracting new poultry businesses to the area.

"I am pleased that the Commonwealth Regional Council is receiving this Governor's AFID grant for the establishment of the Central Virginia Poultry Cooperative. This grant will help mitigate the loss of an essential broiler processing complex, support Virginia poultry growers and their communities, and demonstrate that Virginia welcomes rural economic development," said **Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry Matthew Lohr**. "Agriculture is the foundation of Virginia's economy and poultry is our top agricultural commodity. The strength and momentum of the industry must continue, and our administration is committed to doing that."

The Commonwealth Regional Council serves Amelia, Buckingham, Charlotte, Cumberland, Lunenburg, Nottoway, and Prince Edward counties. The AFID Planning Grant award of \$35,000 will be matched by the Commonwealth Regional Council, through funding from each of the seven counties. Funding will be used for organizational costs related to the establishment of the CVPC.

"Since the closure of the Tyson Glen Allen facility, VDACS staff, and staff from other state agencies have met with former Tyson employees, growers, industry stakeholders and county officials to provide resources and aid in determining next steps," said **VDACS**Commissioner Joseph Guthrie. "Establishing the Central Virginia Poultry Cooperative is a tremendous step forward, as it will protect the interests of central Virginia poultry farmers and work to attract new poultry businesses into the region."

The Governor's AFID Planning Grant program is administered by VDACS. Program applications are accepted on a rolling basis. Successful applications demonstrate a clear need, a

proposed solution, strong support from local government and the agriculture and forestry communities, and the ability to provide matching funds.

###



#### Michael Wallace Director of Communications Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

Phone: 804.786.1904 Mobile: 804.205.6230

Website: www.vdacs.virginia.gov

E-mail: michael.wallace@vdacs.virginia.gov

Address: 102 Governor Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219

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

# Commonwealth Regional Council Resolution of Support for the Establishment of the Central Virginia Poultry Cooperative

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth Regional Council is serving as the applicant for a Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission Project Application for Southside Economic Development funds requesting \$4,122,300 in grant funds to establish the Central Virginia Poultry Cooperative (CVP); and

WHEREAS, the CVP is being formed in response to Tyson Foods' March 2023 announcement - closing its Glen Allen broiler processing complex and ending its relationships with central Virginia contract poultry growers. This closure shuddered 265 farmer-owned production houses in central Virginia. The estimated economic impact to the region was a \$358 million dollar loss annually; and

WHEREAS, CVP contacted a North Main Middlebury, Indiana based producer of cage-free and pasture-raised table eggs. CVP will be establishing a farmer-owned Cooperative to become a supplier of eggs to this producer to help them fill their needs for more egg production. CVP will produce and sell cage-free table eggs and organic cage-free table eggs; and

WHEREAS, this project has the support of the entire CRC region counties, including Amelia, Buckingham, Charlotte, Cumberland, Lunenburg, Nottoway, and Prince Edward.; and

WHEREAS, \$39,177,393 in matching funds are being provided from a submitted AFID PG and CVP members considerable investment for the conversion of broiler production houses to cage-free table egg; and

WHEREAS, the Executive Director is authorized to submit and execute all project-related documents; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,** the Commonwealth Regional Council supports the TRRC fully funding the grant project request.

#### **CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify that the foregoing a Council at a Regular Council meet same was passed by a vote of Two Thousand Twenty Three.	ing in Keysville, Virginia, at which	ch a quorum was present and that
	Gary Walker Chairman	
Melody Foster Executive Director		COMMONWEALTH REGIONAL

Staff Recomme	endations		
			Staff
Agency/Locality	Project Description	Requested A	Recommendation
AgeneyiLocality	i rojoce Boompaon		
		***	
			_
DEQ/Nottoway	Environmental Impact Review, Virginia Army National Guard,	Comment	No Comment
	Fort Barfoot Visitors Center		
	T OK BELLINGS OF THE PROPERTY		
NOTE:	Virginia Pollutant Discharge Elimination System -VPDES)		
CONTROL SHEET	ITEMS:		
CONTROL SHEET (Statewide Applic	ations)		
(Cutato III Co I I I I		Review Only	- Action Not Requried