



Meeting Agenda
Commonwealth Regional Council
Wednesday, January 17, 2024 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 December 20th Council Meeting, (pg 1)..... Council Members
- V. Treasurers' Report – December/January Financial Statements, (pg 6)..... Treasurer Walker
- VI. Report of Officers, Committees & Executive Director
 - A. Chairman's Report..... Chairman
 - Welcome new CRC Board Members
 - Appointment of Executive Director Search Committee Chairman
 - B. Executive Director's Monthly Activities Report, pg (10)
 - Welcome new Regional Planner – Tyler Henderson
- VII. Scoping the Future – Discussion of Innovative/Regional Ideas, (pg 11)..... Council Members
- VIII. Old Business
 - A. Staff Monthly Project Reports
 - 1) Update on Regional Emergency Planning Activities, (pg 12) Todd Fortune
 - 2) Update on Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) Phase III (pg 14) Lauren Jones
 - 3) Update on Charlotte County Comprehensive Plan (pg 15) Lauren Jones
 - 4) Update on Buckingham County Comprehensive Plan (pg 16) Todd Fortune
 - 5) Update on Amelia County Comprehensive Plan Update (modified) (pg 17) Todd Fortune
 - 6) Update on CRC Affordable Workforce Housing Development Program, (pg 18) Lauren Jones
 - 7) Update on Kenbridge & Charlotte County ESHP Projects, (pg 20) Lauren Jones
 - 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) Melody Foster
 - 10) Update on Drakes Branch Building Acquisition Project, pg (24) Todd Fortune
 - 11) Update on Blackstone Armory-Environmental Cleanup Project, pg (27) Todd Fortune
 - 12) Update CRC Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan Update, pg (28) Todd Fortune
 - 13) Update on Longwood SEED Innovation Hub Project, pg (29) Lauren Jones
 - 14) Update on New Regional Economic Development Organization (REDO) Grant, pg (30) Melody Foster
 - 15) Update on Central Virginia Poultry Cooperative, pg (31) Melody Foster
 - 16) Council Member Comments
- IX. New Business Chairman
 - A. Staff Reports
 - 1) Update on Grant Writing, (pg 32) Lauren Jones
 - 2) Update on Request for Additional Planning District Funding, (pg 35) Melody Foster
 - 3) Council Member Comments
- X. Commonwealth Intergovernmental Review Process, (pg 36) No Comment
- XI. Other Business
- XII. Council Member Comments
- XIII. Adjourn – **Next Meeting Date – Wednesday, February 21, 2024, CRC Conference Room**

**Commonwealth Regional Council
CRC Conference Room
Keysville, Virginia
December 20, 2023**

Welcome & Call to Order

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

Invocation and Introductions

Mr. Miles 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. David Felts

Mr. Dexter Jones

*Mr. David Felts

Buckingham:

Mr. Thomas Jordan Miles, III

*Mr. Karl Carter

Mr. Thomas Jordan Miles, III
(Treasurer)

*Mr. Karl Carter

Charlotte:

Mr. Gary Walker

*Mr. Walt Bailey

Mr. Gary Walker
(Vice Chairman)

*Mr. Walt Bailey

Cumberland:

Mr. Brian Stanley

*Ms. Stephany Johnson

Mr. Brian Stanley

*Ms. Stephany Johnson

Lunenburg:

Mr. Mike Hankins

*Ms. Taylor King

Mr. Mike Hankins
(Secretary)

*Ms. Taylor King

Nottoway:

Mr. Sherman Vaughn

*Mr. Dickie Ingram

Mr. Sherman Vaughn

*Mr. Dickie Ingram

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****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. Nikki Hall, Finance Director****Ms. Lauren Jones, Regional Planner****GUESTS:****Mr. Tony Matthews, Kenbridge Town Manager****Ms. Sara Crawford, Charlotte Court House Town Manager****Ms. Hazel Smith, Charlotte County Board of Supervisors****Mr. Andy Coe, Convergent Nonprofit Solutions****Ms. Crystal Morphis, Creative Economic Development Consulting****Mr. Bryan David, Executive Director of GO Virginia Region 3 (V)****Ms. Cheryl Gee, Benchmark Bank - Farmville Branch Manager (V)****Mr. Terry Ramsey, Charlotte Court House Town Council****(V) Denotes attendees who participated virtually.****Approval of Minutes of November 15, 2023 Council Meeting:****Mr. Harkins moved and Mr. Walker seconded to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried.****Treasurer's Report:****November/December:** Mr. Miles gave the Financial Report. He stated that he reviewed the financial report and found everything to be in order. Mr. Miles moved and Mr. Harkins 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. Ms. Foster stated that the CRC has submitted documents to the new auditor and a new Regional Planner, Tyler Henderson, has been hired. He begins work on 1-2-24.

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

Presentation – Creation of New Regional Economic Development Organization (REDO), Strategic Plan Update and Fundraising Feasibility Recommendation: Ms. Foster introduced two guests to provide an update and recommendation on the CRC REDO. Ms. Foster welcomed Crystal Morphis from the Creative Economic Development Consulting to present minor updates of the CRC REDO Strategy and Organizational Development. Ms. Morphis began her presentation stating that there had been a several month-long process to create a new Regional Economic Development Organization. She stated that her organization engaged with County Administrators, economic development staff, and elected officials. The strategy is about reaching across the region and speaking with one voice to bring the region together for regional action. The goals for this strategy are to build a regional identity, provide support to the individual counties, leverage resources, and strengthen ties between the counties. She stated that they have developed a draft vision and mission statements. She stated that a regional organization will assist with the state agency relationships as well. VEDP likes to have one contact from each region. This will also help reinforce the regional brand. She stated that in terms of leveraging resources for regional action there was a lot of discussion on product development. She stated that other ways a regional organization can assist is by supporting talent/workforce development, supporting regional studies, and support and develop relationships with partners and funders. Ms. Morphis stated that they are proposing this organization is developed as a 501c3 with a start-up board that will be made up of private and public partners. After the first year, a permanent board will be developed. Within the first year, the new organization could hire a start-up Executive Director. Then after the first year, the organization will look to hire additional staff. Ms. Morphis stated there are a several funding options that can be developed for membership dues to this organization. One funding option is a flat county funding model, where each member county/entity pays a set annual fee to be a member of this organization. Another option is the per capita investment model, this funding model is based off the population per County. With this model, it was suggested a floor or minimum model. Ms. Morphis provided the Council with program metrics and an implementation timeline for the establishment of the new organization.

Ms. Foster also welcomed Andy Coe from the Convergent Nonprofit Solutions, LLC to present the recommendation of the Fundraising Feasibility. Mr. Coe stated that Convergent followed the strategic plan to test the plan through the fundraising feasibility. Mr. Coe stated that as part of this project Convergent conducted interviews in-person and virtually to receive feedback on this plan. Convergent conducted the interviews in November and December. The goal for Interviews is typically set at 40 to 60. Mr. Coe stated that they exceeded their goals with 72 interviews being conducted. Mr. Coe stated that these interviews are intended to collect information on potential leadership, financial support, and overall feedback on the strategic plan itself. Mr. Coe stated that there were a few questions that were asked during these interviews that he wanted to share the responses. The majority of interviewees stated that the economy within the region was fair. Mr. Coe stated that the majority of interviewees were aware of the concept, but not of a current or past regional economic development organization. 70% of interviewees stated that were unsure how to answer the effectiveness of the past or present regional economic development organization. Mr. Coe stated that the proposed strategic plan tested well. Mr. Coe stated that 42% of interviewees stated that they would be interested in a leadership role within the organization. Mr. Coe stated that this very positive. He stated that the organization does have some challenges to work through, there were some anti-growth comments. Another challenge this organization faces is that currently localities are doing their own thing. He stated other challenges the

organization may face is the history with other REDO organizations and the lack of fundraising that has been completed in the past. The new organization does have some favorables. The new proposed organization has a formal plan and the timing is right for fundraising. Mr. Coe stated that Convergent recommended a 5-year private sector goal of \$1.2 - \$1.5 Million based on the fundraising feasibility. Mr. Coe stated that there were four individuals that indicated they would be willing to contribute low six-figures to the organization. Mr. Coe noted that Convergent would not recommend the stated goal if it was not obtainable. He stated that most regional campaigns last from 8 to 10 months. Ms. Foster reminded the Council members that Convergent does not always recommend moving forward with the fundraising piece.

Mr. Walker asked who was interviewed during this study. Mr. Coe stated that public and private sector stakeholders were interviewed. Ms. Foster noted that in the report was a list of interviewees. Mr. Coe stated that it is rare that they recommend the full goal, but felt based on comments the goal of \$1.2 - \$1.5 will be attainable. Mr. Hankins expressed his concern that VGA will be conducting the fundraising at the same time. Mr. Witt stated that the budget included Charlotte and Lunenburg as part of the organization. Mr. Witt stated that currently both counties are members of VGA and the Board of Supervisors would need to decide whether or not they would be a part of this new organization. Mr. Witt stated that the Counties will need information for budgeting purposes. Ms. Foster recommended a working committee made up of the County administrators and Longwood University will be organized for recommended steps on how to proceed. Mr. Coe stated that he did not recommend waiting too long to begin a fundraising campaign, as the longer you wait the less reliable the financial indication conducted in the study would be viable.

Old Business:

Items under Old Business were provided as information only to allow time for the CRC REDO Presentation. No staff presentations were made.

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 Central Virginia Poultry Growers on being awarded a \$35,000 planning grant to fund the start-up costs to develop a Poultry Growers Cooperative. The CRC is the applicant and assisted with the application. Ms. Jones stated that the Town of Kenbridge, Crewe Volunteer Fire Department, Charlotte County Fire and Rescue, and Buckingham County were notified that their applications to the Rescue Squad Assistance Fund (RSAF) will not be funded due to Virginia Office of Emergency Medical Services insufficient funds to make additional grant award announcements. Ms. Jones stated that the attached letter went into more detail. Ms. Jones stated that the CRC assisted with these applications. The CRC is assisting the Town Blackstone and the Central Virginia Poultry Growers with applications to the Tobacco Commission. This is a special round of funding of the Tobacco Commission open to applicants by invitation only. The CRC assisted the Mary E. Branch Heritage Center with an application to the National Park Service, Save America's Treasure grant to renovate the historic Mary E. Branch Elementary School. Ms. Jones 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 the Town of Farmville was notified that both of their applications to VDEM's State Homeland Security Grant were funded. He stated the CRC assisted with these applications.

Award of CRC AFID PG – Request for funds to Assist with Start-up Costs for Creation of the Central Virginia Poultry Cooperative (CVP): Ms. Foster stated that a copy of the Announcement was included in the Council packet. Ms. Foster stated that as Ms. Jones mentioned in the grant writing report the Central Virginia Poultry Growers Cooperative was awarded a \$35,000 planning grant to fund the start-up costs to develop a Poultry Growers Cooperative. The award will be matched by the seven member localities and will be used for organizational costs related to establishment of the CVPC.

CRC Resolution of Governing Body Support, TRRC Grant – Establishment of Central Virginia Poultry Cooperative: Ms. Foster stated that the Tobacco Commission requires a resolution from the applicant. The resolution was included in the council packet. Ms. Foster stated that the CRC served as the applicant on this grant. 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. Hankins moved and Vaughn seconded to adopt the Resolution as presented.

Council Member Comments: There were none.

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

Other Business: The Chairman noted the CRC office will be closed a half day on 12/22/23 and Ms. Foster requested the office be closed all day on 12/22/23. Mr. Emert moved and Mr. Hankins seconded for the CRC office to be closed all day on 12/22/23. Motion carried.

Council Member Comments: Ms. Foster stated that three council members will be stepping down as representatives of the Council. Ms. Foster stated that she wanted to thank Mr. Miles, Mr. Vaughan, and Mr. Stanley for their service on the Council.

Adjournment, Next Meeting: Mr. Emert moved and Mr. Hankins seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 10:03 a.m. The next meeting was set for Wednesday, January 17th, 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 December 14, 2023 thru January 10, 2024

<u>Cash on Hand</u>	<u>Period Ending</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Total Income	\$ 28,038.91	\$ 3,394,005.19
Total Expenses	\$ 435,242.82	3,418,774.99
Net Income	\$ -407,203.91	\$ -24,769.80
Cash on Hand	\$ 841,473.38	\$ 841,473.38

Account Balances as of January 10th, 2024

Benchmark (M2)	\$ 235,739.36
BB&T (M1)	\$ 491,581.06
Benchmark (CD1)	\$ 54,439.71
Benchmark (CD2)	\$ 15,043.36
BB&T (PR)	\$ 24,262.60
BB&T (Oprtg)	\$ 20,407.29
	<u>\$ 841,473.38</u>

Prepared by: Nicolette Hall, January 10th, 2024

****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.

*47060/70045 VH PDC Housing Program Funds

*47070/79036 VATI Regional Broadband Grant

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

*****\$900.00 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

December 14, 2023 through January 10, 2024

	Dec 14, '23 - Jan 10, 24	Budget	Jul 1, '23 - Jan 10, 24	YTD Budget	Annual Budget
Income					
40000 · Revenue					
43000 · Local Member Investment					
43010 · Amelia Local Member Investment	0.00	0.00	19,000.00	19,000.00	19,000.00
43020 · Buckingham Local Member Investm	0.00	0.00	19,000.00	19,000.00	19,000.00
43030 · Charlotte Local Member Investme	0.00	0.00	19,000.00	19,000.00	19,000.00
43040 · Cumberland Local Member Investm	0.00	0.00	19,000.00	19,000.00	19,000.00
43050 · Prince Ed Local Member Investme	0.00	0.00	19,000.00	19,000.00	19,000.00
43060 · Lunenburg Local Member Investme	0.00	0.00	19,000.00	19,000.00	19,000.00
43095 · Nottoway County	0.00	0.00	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 43000 · Revenue	0.00	0.00	133,000.00	133,000.00	133,000.00
44000 · VA Regional Cooperation					
45000 · Project Funding					
45880 · CRC Regional Haz Mit Plan Updat	0.00	2,338.00	52,071.05	16,366.00	31,062.00
45900 · Prince Edward Access Road Admin	0.00	564.51	7,500.00	3,951.61	7,500.00
45955 · PDC Housing Program	0.00	1,505.38	8,636.69	10,537.66	20,000.04
45965 · Charlotte Comp Plan Update	0.00	191.94	0.00	1,343.55	2,550.00
45970 · Kenbridge ESHPF Grant Admin	0.00	914.51	12,150.00	6,401.61	12,150.00
45975 · Charlotte ESHPF Grant Admin	0.00	146.32	0.00	1,024.26	1,944.00
45985 · VATI Regional Broadband Grant	0.00	1,756.25	0.00	12,293.75	23,333.04
45990 · Drakes Branch SLFRF Admin	0.00	229.50	0.00	1,606.50	3,049.08
45991 · Blackstone Armory Abatement Adm	0.00	301.08	8,000.00	2,107.57	4,000.08
45992 · Amelia Mod Comp Plan Update	0.00	451.61	0.00	3,161.29	6,000.00
45993 · VATI Audit funds	0.00	301.08	0.00	2,107.57	4,000.08
45995 · Drakes Branch VDEM Grant Admin	0.00	1,552.50	0.00	10,867.50	20,626.08
45996 · Buckingham Comp Plan Update 23	0.00	1,881.73	0.00	13,172.09	25,000.08
45997 · Lunenburg Comp Plan Update 24	0.00	1,881.73	0.00	13,172.09	25,000.08
45998 · SHSP Comm Outreach & Prep.	0.00	978.50	0.00	6,849.50	13,000.08
45999 · Longwood SEED Inn Hub Admin	0.00	2,438.26	0.00	17,067.81	32,394.00
Total 45000 · Project Funding	0.00	17,432.90	88,357.74	122,030.36	231,608.64
46000 · Other Funding					
46005 · DEQ 2021 CRC WIP II Assistance	0.00	4,365.60	0.00	30,559.18	58,000.08
46010 · VDOT-Transport Planning	25,538.91	4,365.60	25,538.91	30,559.18	58,000.08
46040 · Interest Income	0.00	60.22	2,485.72	421.53	800.04
46050 · Misc. Income	0.00	0.00	2,756.30	0.00	70,000.04
46061 · EDA Technical Assistance Fund	0.00	5,747.81	0.00	33,870.99	33,000.03
46062 · SCRC LDD Funds	0.00	3,311.83	0.00	12,182.81	219,800.27
Total 46000 · Other Funding	25,538.91	17,851.06	30,780.93	107,593.69	219,800.27
47000 · Pass Thru Fundds					
47060 · VH PDC Housing Program Funds	0.00	0.00	260,719.49	0.00	0.00
47070 · VATI Broadband	0.00	0.00	2,804,212.30	0.00	0.00
47080 · CRC REDO	2,500.00	0.00	31,949.73	0.00	0.00
Total 47000 · Pass Thru Fundds	2,500.00	0.00	3,096,881.52	0.00	0.00
Total Income	28,038.91	42,055.98	3,394,005.19	410,028.17	674,379.99
Expense					
71000 · Personnel Costs					
71010 · Salary Distribution	21,861.56	25,817.21	134,421.44	180,720.47	343,000.08
71040 · Payroll Expenses (SS/FICA)	1,672.42	1,975.13	10,283.24	13,825.90	26,241.00

Commonwealth Regional Council Financial Statement

December 14, 2023 through January 10, 2024

	Dec 14, '23 - Jan 10, 24	Budget	Jul 1, '23 - Jan 10, 24	YTD Budget	Annual Budget
71150 - Unemployment Ins.	11.18	9.94	21.58	69.55	132.00
71200 - VRS Contribution	5,097.02	5,741.73	27,444.93	40,192.14	76,283.04
71350 - Staff Train/Conference	1,153.00	1,279.57	2,547.55	8,957.01	17,000.04
71400 - Workmens Comp Ins	0.00	37.64	0.00	263.46	500.04
71500 - Group Health Insurance	2,996.21	3,010.76	17,189.54	21,075.31	40,000.08
71600 - Life Insurance	33.90	26.35	228.30	184.43	350.04
71700 - Other Staff Costs	0.00	67.96	0.00	475.77	903.00
71750 - Employee Cell Phone Stipend	250.00	225.81	1,350.00	1,580.65	3,000.00
Total 71000 - Personnel Costs	33,075.29	38,192.10	193,486.58	267,344.69	507,409.32
72000 - Office Operations					
72005 - Cleaning & Maint.-Bldg	400.00	433.55	2,400.00	3,034.84	5,760.00
72010 - Lease Costs	1,200.00	1,083.87	7,200.00	7,587.10	14,400.00
72015 - Utilities	692.47	188.18	2,544.11	1,317.25	2,500.08
72020 - Telephone/Internet Costs	0.00	263.45	1,277.16	1,844.11	3,500.04
72030 - Postage and Freight	172.17	90.32	1,116.51	632.26	1,200.00
72035 - Express Mail	0.00	9.04	22.80	63.23	120.00
72040 - Consumable Supplies	585.21	270.96	4,996.05	1,896.77	3,600.00
72050 - Dues and Subscriptions	0.00	26.35	73.00	184.43	350.04
72060 - Office Insurance	0.00	7.53	0.00	52.73	100.08
72070 - Administrative Costs	525.00	978.50	4,200.00	6,849.50	13,000.08
72080 - Office Costs - Other	1,407.55	225.81	4,047.76	1,580.65	3,000.00
72085 - Office Moving Expense	0.00	0.00	1,256.15	0.00	
Total 72000 - Office Operations	4,982.40	3,577.56	29,133.54	25,042.87	47,530.32
73000 - Office Equipment					
73010 - Office Equipment	1,600.00	188.18	1,600.00	1,317.25	2,500.08
73030 - Equipment Maintenance	1,075.04	1,196.77	5,716.24	8,377.42	15,900.00
73040 - Equipment Repair	0.00	150.54	138.84	1,053.78	2,000.04
73050 - Equipment - Other	5,206.23	1,467.74	12,783.48	10,274.19	19,500.00
Total 73000 - Office Equipment	7,881.27	3,003.23	20,238.56	21,022.64	39,900.12
74000 - Auto/Staff Travel					
74020 - Staff Mileage	239.73	715.06	3,733.35	5,005.40	9,500.04
Total 74000 - Auto/Staff Travel	239.73	715.06	3,733.35	5,005.40	9,500.04
75000 - Meetings/Memberships					
75010 - Council Meetings	41.00	391.41	2,607.54	2,739.83	5,200.08
75020 - Committee Meetings	0.00	30.11	0.00	210.79	400.08
75030 - Staff Meetings	30.83	37.64	221.29	263.46	500.04
75040 - Council Memberships	100.00	534.41	7,100.00	3,740.88	7,100.04
75050 - Other Meeting Costs	0.00	15.06	0.00	105.40	200.04
75060 - Public Official Insurance Cov.	0.00	135.49	0.00	948.39	1,800.00
Total 75000 - Meetings/Memberships	171.83	1,144.12	9,928.83	8,008.75	15,200.28
77000 - Collateral Materials					
77010 - Web Page Costs	0.00	263.45	261.05	1,844.11	3,500.04
Total 77000 - Collateral Materials	0.00	263.45	261.05	1,844.11	3,500.04
78000 - Local Relations					
78010 - Newsletter/Annual Report	0.00	11.29	0.00	79.03	150.00
78030 - Other	0.00	75.27	0.00	526.92	1,000.08
Total 78000 - Local Relations	0.00	86.56	0.00	605.95	1,150.08

Commonwealth Regional Council Financial Statement

December 14, 2023 through January 10, 2024

	Dec 14, '23 - Jan 10, 24	Budget	Jul 1, '23 - Jan 10, 24	YTD Budget	Annual Budget
79000 - Other Program Costs					
79030 - Planning Project Costs					
79036 - VATI Broadband	369,602.75	0.00	2,804,497.51	0.00	
79045 - VH PDC Hous Prog-Partner Expens	5,000.00	0.00	260,719.49	0.00	
79046 - CRC REDO	3,736.74	0.00	85,199.52	0.00	
79030 - Planning Project Costs - Other	10,552.81	1,241.94	11,576.56	8,693.55	16,500.00
Total 79030 - Planning Project Costs	388,892.30	1,241.94	3,161,993.08	8,693.55	16,500.00
79050 - Contingency Costs	0.00	376.35	0.00	2,634.43	5,000.04
Total 79000 - Other Program Costs	388,892.30	1,618.29	3,161,993.08	11,327.98	21,500.04
Total Expense	435,242.82	48,600.37	3,418,774.99	340,202.39	645,690.24
Net Income	-407,203.91	-6,544.39	-24,769.80	69,825.78	28,689.75



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

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: January 10, 2024

- Participated in virtual GOVA CRC REDO quarterly progress meeting with GOVA staff.
- Provided offer and approval of Regional Planner position to Tyler Henderson (began work 1/2/24).
- Participated in a virtual meeting with TRRC staff and CVPC members to discuss funding opportunities for the Central Virginia Poultry Cooperative.
- Participated in virtual meeting with Andy Coe, Convergent Nonprofit Solutions to discuss CRC REDO Fundraising Feasibility and proposal for fundraising campaign.
- Participated in conference call with TRRC staff, CVPC representatives and VHRIFA representation regarding funding opportunities.
- Met with ITG representative (managed IT provider) and Finance Director for quarterly update of Managed IT services.
- Corresponded with Bills Scruggs, Virginia Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services (VDACS) on funding opportunities for Central Virginia Poultry Cooperative.
- Participated in USDOT RAISE Grant How to Apply webinar.
- Met virtually with Bryan David, GOVAR3 regarding CRC REDO Fundraising Feasibility results.
- Participated in virtual meeting with Jordan Miles, PSR and Todd Fortune to discuss potential Federal Transit Agency grant funding for PSR.
- Met virtually with Bryan David, GOVAR3 regarding CRC REDO project.
- Corresponded with Central Virginia Poultry Group to discuss funding opportunities.
- Corresponded with TRRC to respond to questions regarding the CRC grant application for funding to create the CVPC.
- Corresponded with Prince Edward County and VDOT regarding re-submitting Prince Edward County's Planning Request for USDOT RAISE grant funds for the US 460 East Interchange project.
- Began assembling DEQ WIP III Final Report and Reimbursement Request for FY23.
- Worked with EDA to gain access to portal to begin submitting reimbursement requests for EDA LTA funding.
- Corresponded with Southeast Crescent Regional Commission (SCRC) on new SCRC staffing and grant program.
- Corresponded with County Administrators and Longwood University to set up working committee for CRC REDO Fundraising Campaign discussions.
- Corresponded with VDOT on GIS shapefiles available on trail projects in the region.
- Corresponded with Auditor on FY23 Audit.
- Assisted in assembling a summary and cover letter to TRRC Southern Virginia Committee on key points of CRC Grant application for the creation of the CVPC.
- Attended virtually TRRC Southern Virginia Committee Meeting and TRRC Full Commission meetings held January 8th and 9th.
- 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

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: January 10, 2024

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: After evaluating different options with the Project Management Team, it was decided to deliver educational materials and emergency kits to local emergency managers for distribution to citizens through local fire departments. Distribution is underway. Every county will receive 50 kits, with each kit containing 71 items and multiple information packets. The educational campaign is expected to begin in the Spring.

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



This is one of the emergency kits prior to assembly.

Emergencies Happen.

ARE YOU PREPARED?

Winter is here. Get Ready for the next winter storm.

Pick up a

FREE Emergency Kit

****while supplies last****

Location:

CHARLOTTE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Dates:

JANUARY 8 - 19, 2024

Time:

8:00AM TO 4:00PM EACH DAY

This document was prepared under a grant from FEMA's Grant Programs Directorate, U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Points of view or opinions expressed in this document are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of FEMA's Grant Programs Directorate or the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

Flyer used by Charlotte County to promote giveaway



Students from Fuqua School volunteered to assemble kits at the CRC Office.



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MEMORANDUM:

TO: CRC Council Members
FROM: Lauren Jones, Regional Planner
DATE: January 8, 2024
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.
 - CRC hosted a webinar on the 'State of the CRC Region's Forests' on December 28th. The webinar had nine attendees. Attendees learned about the current state of the region's forest, how the forests are changing, and the different types of tree cover and their benefits. We also shared information on grant programs to assist with tree planting efforts.
 - CRC staff will now provide a visual presentation of the Charlotte Co. Rain Barrel Workshops that was held in November.



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MEMORANDUM

TO: CRC Council Members

FROM: Lauren Jones
Regional Planner

DATE: January 8, 2024

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 December 6, 2023:

- The CRC met with the Planning Commission on Thursday, November 16, 2023 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 11, 2023 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 can legally 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 by the attorney. The January meeting is set for January 10, 2024.


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

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



MEMORANDUM

TO: Karl Carter, County Administrator
Members of the Buckingham County Board of Supervisors

FROM: Todd Fortune 
Deputy Director

DATE: January 3, 2024

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 December 11, 2023:

- CRC staff have completed tabulations of the citizen surveys and expect to finish the summary report by the end of this week. A total of 498 surveys (paper and online) were completed and returned to the CRC.
- The Planning Commission work session scheduled for December 18, 2023 was 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 (Community Profile) and 3 (Inventory and Analysis: Community Resources) of the Plan and provide an update on the citizen survey results. Time permitting, CRC staff will review draft Section 4 (Transportation) of the Plan with the Commission.


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

cc: Melody Foster, Executive Director, CRC
Lauren Jones, Regional Planner, CRC
Nicci Edmonston, Zoning/Planning Administrator, Buckingham County



MEMORANDUM

TO: Taylor Harvey, County Administrator
Members of the Amelia County Board of Supervisors

FROM: Todd Fortune 
Deputy Director

DATE: January 8, 2024

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 23rd 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.
- CRC are currently working with County staff and the Planning Commission on revising the Future Land Use map. CRC staff are scheduled to present the map to the Commission for review at its meeting on January 22.

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

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



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MEMORANDUM:

TO: CRC Representatives

FROM: Lauren Jones, Regional Planner

SUBJECT: CRC Affordable Workforce Housing Development Program

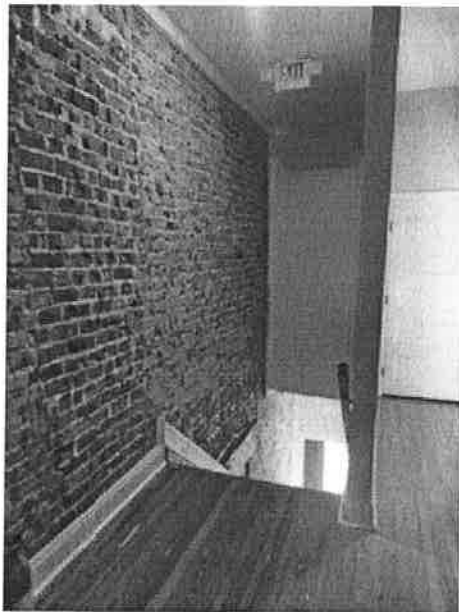
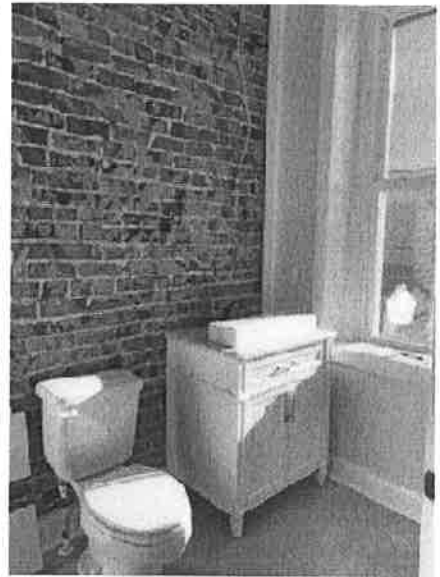
DATE: January 9, 2024

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 in Farmville 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. Plumbers/electricians are working this week to finish plumbing connections and remaining electrical over at 120 S Broad St apartments in Kenbridge. 114 S. Broad Street has been completed. CRC staff, Virginia Housing staff, Town staff, County staff, and Mr. Hankins completed a final compliance review on December 15th. The next page has pictures of the site visit.
- Town of Blackstone/ Southside Outreach –Southside Outreach has awarded the bid to Divine Buildie of Amelia, Virginia. The contractor has begun construction on the second house.





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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: January 8, 2024

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 – 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. Our contact with DHR has been out on medical leave, CRC staff has been working with a new contact to finalize the preservation agreement.

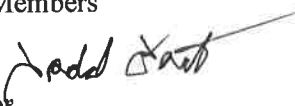
Charlotte County Courthouse Complex Drainage Project – Charlotte County staff awarded the bid for Plaster Repairs to Virginia Drywall and Plaster, LLC. The contractor has completed the Plaster Repairs work. CRC staff is working with County staff to assemble and submit any final reimbursement requests, set up a final site visit, and complete the close out report for 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: Todd Fortune 
Deputy Director

DATE: January 8, 2024

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 Telecom, a local internet service provider.

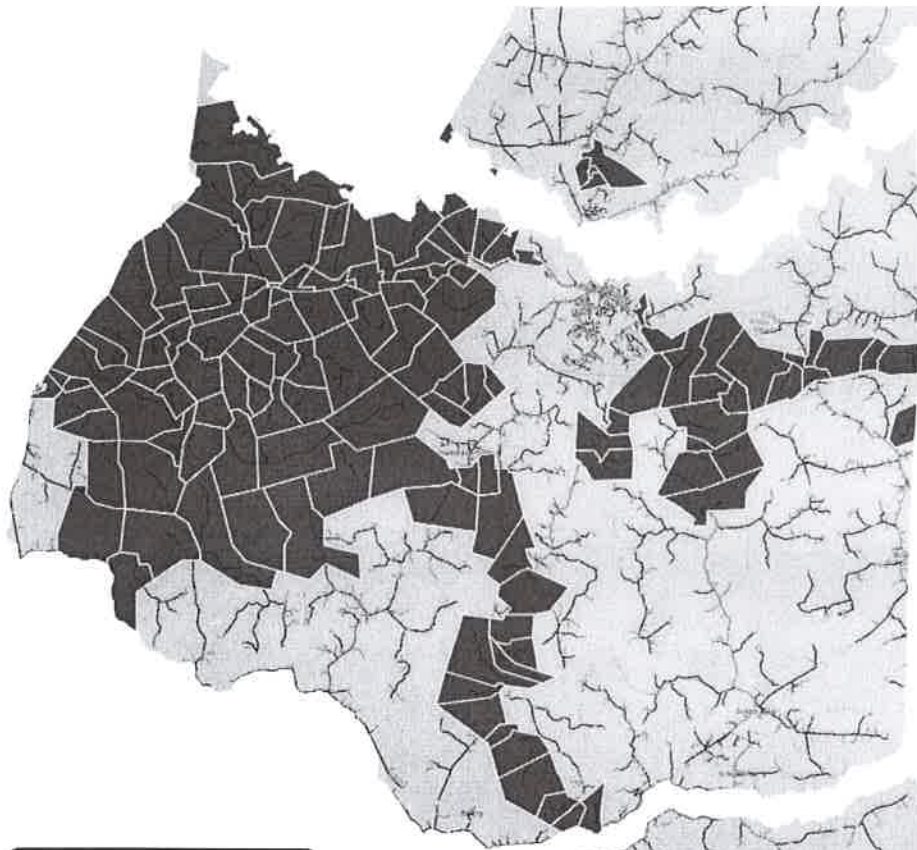
Update:

- Kinex and their contractors continue to work on laying down middle-mile fiber in unserved areas of all three counties.
- Kinex crews are working in parts of all three counties where middle-mile 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 Kinex is filing a challenge to DHCD on an application from Firefly to connect VATI-eligible customers in Cumberland County. The challenge involves 239 houses. Kinex is challenging on the grounds that they have fiber within 1,000 feet of these houses.
- We received word on December 19 that VDOT planned to shut down middle-mile fiber work in Lunenburg County until January 2. This was due to a crew from GAC, one of the contractors for Kinex, having a crew in the road with no traffic control. Kinex and GAC worked with VDOT to resolve the matter, and crews are back in the County laying down fiber.
- As of January 7, 2024, a total of 4,121 passings (out of a target of 10,734 total passings) and 872 installs for new customers have been completed.
- The Project Management Team meets monthly to discuss the project. The team includes local staff, CRC staff, Kinex staff, and DHCD staff. 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.

cc: Melody Foster, Executive Director, CRC

Cumberland



Prince
Edward

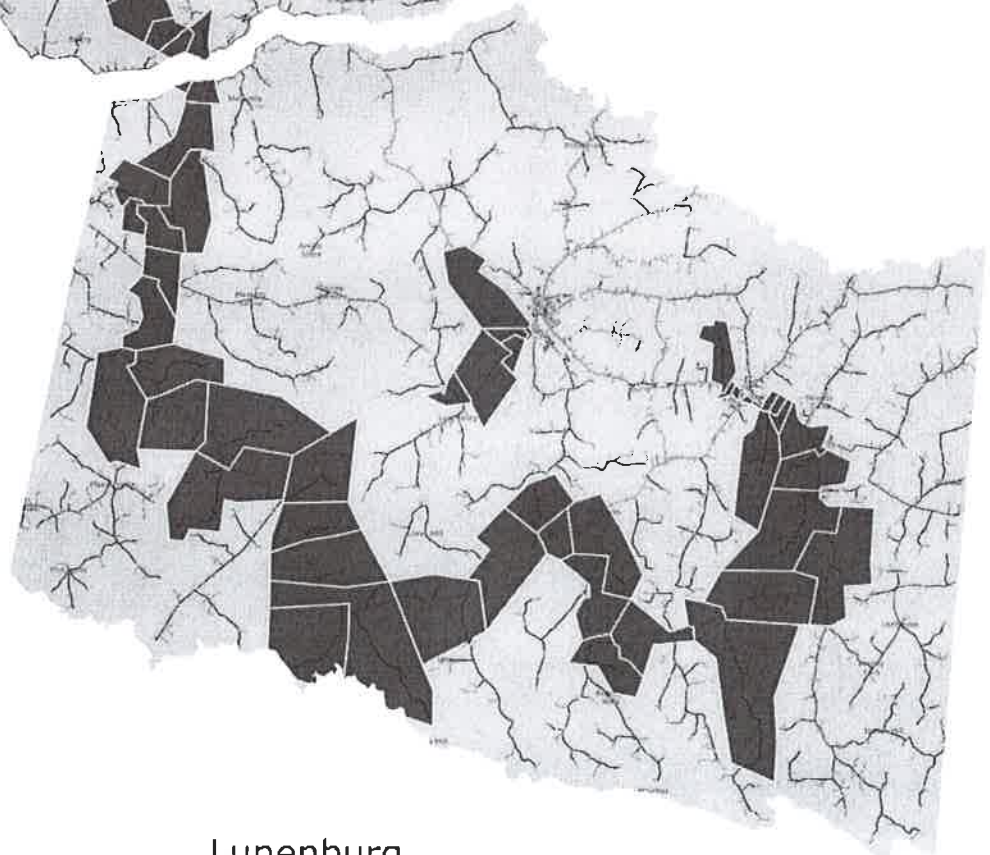
Key



Built



**Future
Build**



Lunenburg



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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: January 10, 2024

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.

We still are working with the Town to discuss additional projects to spend down the rest of the their SLFRF funds available.




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MEMORANDUM

TO: CRC Council Members

FROM: Todd Fortune 
Deputy Director

DATE: January 8, 2024

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:

- Building 1: Privately owned property
 - The property owner has opted out, and will not be participating in the project.
- Buildings 2 and 3: Old Town Hall and fire station
 - Appraisals completed.
 - Title searches completed.
 - The Town has retained Hurt & Proffitt to conduct lead and asbestos inspections of these properties. The inspections are scheduled to begin this week. These inspections need to be done before the demolition/clearance work can be bid out.
- Building 4: Privately owned property
 - Appraisal completed.
 - Title search completed.
 - The owner has signed an agreement to sell the property to the Town. The sale is pending completion of the sale agreement and supporting paperwork.
 - This property has a deed of trust per the title search, which will need to be settled as part of the sale process.
 - The Town has retained Hurt & Proffitt to conduct lead and asbestos inspections of these properties. The inspections are scheduled to begin this week. These inspections need to be done before the demolition/clearance work can be bid out.

- Buildings 5 and 6: Privately owned, adjoining buildings, same owner
 - Appraisals completed.
 - Title searches completed.
 - The owner has agreed to terms on a sale of the property to the Town. The sale is pending completion of the sale agreement and supporting paperwork.
 - The Town has retained Hurt & Proffitt to conduct lead and asbestos inspections of these properties. The inspections are scheduled to begin this week. These inspections need to be done before the demolition/clearance work can be bid out.
- Building 7: Privately owned property
 - Property owner has opted out, and will not be participating in the project.
- Building 8: Privately owned property
 - Appraisal completed.
 - Title search completed.
 - Property has tax liens. The County has referred the property to Tax Authority Consulting Services (TACS), a Henrico County-based firm that assists local governments in collection, bankruptcy, and assessment matters, for a tax sale on the property. TACS has filed paperwork in Charlotte County Circuit Court to begin the sale process, and is working to appoint a Guardian ad Litem. Once the appointment is made, the next step is for TACS to request that the court to approve a decree of sale for the parcel.
 - The Town has retained Hurt & Proffitt to conduct lead and asbestos inspections of these properties. The inspections are scheduled to begin this week. These inspections need to be done before the demolition/clearance work can be bid out.
- Building 9: Privately owned property
 - Appraisal completed.
 - Title search completed.
 - The owner has agreed to terms on a sale of the property to the Town. The sale is pending completion of the sale agreement and supporting paperwork.
 - The Town has retained Hurt & Proffitt to conduct lead and asbestos inspections of these properties. The inspections are scheduled to begin this week. These inspections 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



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MEMORANDUM

TO: CRC Council Members

FROM: Todd Fortune *Todd Fortune*
Deputy Director

DATE: January 8, 2024

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, 2023. There was a miscommunication on the status of payment. Upon further coordination with the Town and VEDP, it was determined that the Town is still waiting reimbursement from VEDP. As of January 8, 2024, CRC are in contact with VEDP for an update on the status.

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 *Todd Fortune*
Deputy Director

DATE: January 8, 2024

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 has had meetings with VDEM and FEMA Region 3 staff, Lunenburg County staff, and representatives from Southside Electric Cooperative (SEC) on how to address the project submitted by SEC for mitigation funding. 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. As of today, CRC staff are still in communication with Lunenburg County staff and SEC representatives to determine the preferred 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. There are four (4) known mitigation funding applications from this region that are being held by VDEM until preliminary approval of our Plan has been granted.

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



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TO: Commonwealth Regional Council

FROM: Lauren Jones, Regional Planner

SUBJECT: SEED Innovation Hub Project Update

DATE: January 8, 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 25th 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).



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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

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. 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.

Project Update: 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
 - 74 interviews were conducted either in-person or virtually over a 3-week period.
 - Potential private investors as well as potential member county government officials were interviewed.
 - The overall strategic plan presented test well.
- FINAL DELIVERABLES were presented at the CRC December 20, 2023 Meeting.
- Creative Economic Development Consulting presented final updates of the CRC REDO Strategy and Organizational Development.
- Convergent Nonprofit Solutions, LLC presented the recommendation of the Fundraising Feasibility.
 - A fundraising campaign was recommended by Convergent Nonprofit Solutions, LLC based on feedback collected during the feasibility study.
 - The CRC established a working committee of the County Administrators and Longwood University representative to further discuss moving forward a fundraising campaign for the CRC REDO.



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MEMORANDUM:

TO: CRC Members

FROM: Melody Foster, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Update on TRRC Grant request for the Creation of the Central Virginia
Poultry Cooperative

DATE: January 10, 2024

Due to this project being an ongoing Economic Development Project, the TRRC cannot make a comment at this time.



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MEMORANDUM

TO: CRC Council Members

FROM: Lauren Jones
Regional Planner

DATE: January 9, 2024

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 December 12, 2023:

Status Update

- Tobacco Commission – By Invitation Only: **Congratulations** to the Town of Blackstone on being awarded **\$121,383.29** to fund equipment costs for the hospitality training program that will be located in the Harris Memorial Armory. The CRC assisted with this application.
- NPS, Save America's Treasures Grant: The CRC assisted Mary E. Branch Heritage Center with a **submitted** application to the renovate the historic Mary E. Branch Elementary School. Applications were due on December 1, 2023.
- Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Grant (SAFER): Farmville Volunteer Fire Department was notified that their SAFER application was **not funded**. Funds will be used to hire additional personnel. The CRC assisted with this application.
- Prince Edward County Congressionally Directed Spending Request: Prince Edward County was notified that their application was **not selected for funding**. The County requested for funds to develop the Sandy River Reservoir to a public drinking water source. The CRC assisted with this application.
- Southeast Crescent Regional Commission (SCRC), State Economic and Infrastructure Development (SEID) Grant Program: The CRC is assisting the Town of Blackstone with an application to fund construction costs for the renovation and rehabilitation of the Harris Memorial Armory. Applications are due on February 2nd.
- VDACS, AFID Planning Grant: The CRC is assisting Virginia Food Works, a local non-profit, with a planning 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. The planning grant applications are accepted on a rolling basis.
- USDOT Federal Transit Administration (FTA), Innovative Coordinated Access and Mobility grant: The CRC is assisting Piedmont Senior Resources with an application to purchase a vehicle. Applications are due on February 13th.

Awaiting Approval

- Crewe Cares, Wal-Mart Foundation: The CRC assisted Crewe Cares, a local non-profit, with a submitted 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 closed on December 31, 2023.
- VDOT, Ready, Set, Go: The CRC assisted the Town of Keysville with a submitted planning grant application to fund planning activities for a sidewalk project in Keysville.
- Tobacco Commission – By Invitation Only: The CRC assisted the Central Virginia Poultry Growers with a submitted application to the Tobacco Commission to fund start-up costs to develop a Poultry Growers Cooperative. The TRRC met on January 8th and 9th, however due to this project being an ongoing economic development project the TRRC cannot make a comment at this time.
- 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, 2023.
- 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 of 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.
- 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, 2022

Projects on Standby (work undertaken as developments warrant)

- Community Resource Services: CRC staff 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. CRC staff are looking into submitting a potential application to the Sentra Health grant program that are estimated to open in the spring.
- Crewe Volunteer Fire Department: CRC staff is working with Crewe VFD to identify funding sources to purchase a
- 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 Commission, State Economic and Infrastructure Development (SEID) Grant Program	Full App. Opens – Nov. 6, 2023 (only if pre-app. was approved) Full App. due – February 2, 2024
VDACS, AFID Planning Grant	Open – Rolling Basis
UDOT FTA, Innovative Coordinated Access and Mobility grant	Due – February 13, 2024
Assistance to Firefighter Grant (AFG)	Opens on January 29, 2024
DCR, Land and Conservation Trust Fund	Pre-app. due - March 15, 2024
VOF, Get Outdoors Fund	Estimated open date – January 2024
VOF, Preservation Trust Fund	Estimate Open date – January 2024
Sentra Health Grant	Estimated open date – Spring 2024
CENTRA Health Grant	Estimated open date – Spring 2024
Tobacco Commission, Southern Virginia Program	Due – February 8, 2024
US DOT RAISE Grant Program	Due - February 28, 2024
<i>*Programs with rolling submissions include: EDA, USDA, Virginia Housing, GO Virginia, DHCD, Tobacco Commission TROF, VEDP, etc.</i>	

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



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

MEMORANDUM:

TO: CRC Members

FROM: Melody Foster, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Update on VAPDC Additional State Funding Request

DATE: January 10, 2024

As you may recall, the Virginia Association of Planning District Commissions (VAPDC) put together a workgroup to work on submitting a request for an additional \$150,000 for each Planning District. This request was submitted to the Governor and requested to be included in his budget released in mid-December. Many of our localities provided letters of support, which were much appreciated.

Unfortunately, no additional State funding was included in the Governor's released budget. The VAPDC will be working with legislators on a possible budget amendment.

Staff Recommendations

[illegible]