

CRC'S JULY 2024 ITEMS OF INTEREST

Grant Assistance:

- **DHCD, VA Broadband Affordability & Adoption Planning Grant:** CRC staff assembled and submitted the planning grant application. If awarded, the CRC would act as the consultant to develop a regional plan to conduct needs assessments, identify priorities, and develop plans with implementation strategies to address and promote digital opportunities within our region. Prince Edward County agreed to serve as the lead applicant.
- **Tobacco Commission, Southern VA program:** CRC staff assisted Cumberland County with a grant application to partial fund the development of an Agricultural Economic Development Plan.
- **VDACS, AFID Planning Grant:** CRC is assisting Cumberland County with a grant application to partial fund the development of an Agricultural Economic Development Plan.
- **NPS, History of Equal Rights (HER) grant:** CRC staff is assisting Mary E. Branch with a grant application to fund the rehabilitation and renovation of the Mary E. Branch Elementary School in Farmville, VA.
- **VOF, Preservation Trust Fund:** CRC staff is assisting the Town of Victoria with a grant application to upgrade the recreational area and bridge on Modest Creek Reservoir.

Newly appointed Chairman of the CRC Board



The CRC Board members has appointed Mike Hankins from Lunenburg County, as the new Chairman to the CRC Board. Mr. Hankins has served as a CRC board member since 2017. Mr. Hankins also serves on the Board of Directors on the VA Association of Planning District Commissions (VAPDC).

Special thanks to David Emert for serving as Chairman of the CRC Board for the past two years!

Meet Christin Jackson, CRC's new Executive Director



As of July 1, 2024, Christin Jackson has taken over as the Executive Director of the Commonwealth Regional Council. She came to the CRC with 18 years of experience in the private business sector from working at Cardinal Homes, Incorporated, and 12 years of workforce development experience from being the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Coordinator for Southside Virginia Community College to the Vice President of Workforce Development for STEPS, Incorporated. Ms. Jackson looks forward to working with the counties and townships to strengthen this region.

CRC staff attended the Inaugural Business meeting for the Capital Regional Military Alliance



CaRMA is a military advisory council, which is an action-oriented working group, the brings together business, military, and community to take on projects. This military alliance includes Fort Barfoot, which lies in Nottoway County.

CRC staff received the latest information from installation commanders and an update on three of the latest on-going projects.

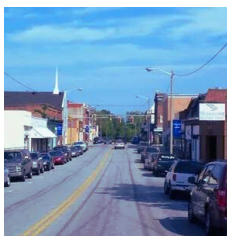
CRC staff attended the NADO, Wealth Creation Conference



CRC staff attended the NADO, Wealth Creation Conference in Greenville, South Carolina. In this conference CRC staff learned about how incorporate a wealth creation framework into local, regional, and EDD CEDS planning. The wealth creation framework approach connects a region's assets to market demand in ways that build rooted wealth for local people, places and firms.

The CRC is required to update their Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) at least once every five years as part of their Economic District Designation (EDD).

Town of Crewe Downtown Revitalization Planning Grant



CRC staff reached out to the CRC on-call consultant list for proposals. Two firms selected to submit proposals: Hill Studio and Summit Design. Town staff reviewed both proposals and determined to request a meeting with one of the firms. CRC staff set up and attended a meeting between Town and Consultant staff to further discuss their proposal. After the meeting, the Town Manager selected to hire Hill Studio and their subcontractor, Arnett Muldrow & Associates, Ltd. as the firms to complete the scope of work for this grant. Hill Studio is currently putting together a contract for execution of the project.

Upcoming Funding Opportunities:

VDACS AFID Planning Grant: Open; Rolling Basis

VDOP, Virginia Trees for Clean Water: Open - Rolling Basis

DHCD CBDG Planning Grant: Opens 6/15/24

NPS, History of Equal Rights: Closes on 8/20/24

VOF, Preservation Trust Fund: Closes on 8/8/24

VTC, VA250 Tourism Marketing Program: Closes 9/17/24

VTC, Microbusiness Marketing Leverage: Closes on 8/22/24

VTC, Special Events and Festivals: Closes on 9/26/24

The CRC provides free grant writing services for member localities and local 501C3 non-profits.