

# Commonwealth Regional Council

## February 2025 Items of Interest

### Upcoming Funding Opportunities:

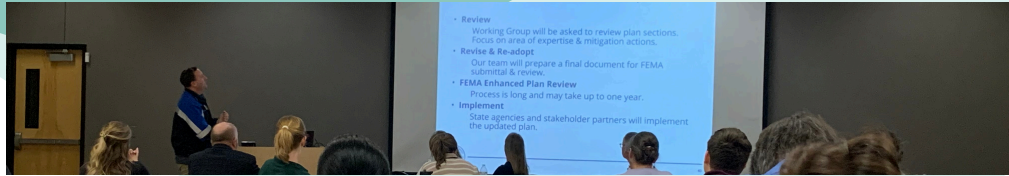
- VTC, Marketing Leverage Program
  - Closes 3/13/2025
- VTC, DMO Marketing Grants
  - Closes 3/13/2025
- VDH, Rescue Squad Assistance Fund
  - Closes 3/17/2025
- VOF, Preservation Trust Fund
  - Closes 3/18/2025
- VA Housing, Accessibility Grant FY 25
  - Closes 5/31/2025
- VA Housing, Community Impact Planning Guide
  - Closes 5/31/2025
- VA Housing, Community Impact Stabilization & Deconstruction
  - Closes 5/31/2025
- VA Housing, Capacity Building Grant
  - Closes 5/31/2025

### Grant Assistance:

- VA Housing. The CRC is partnering with Piedmont Habitat for Humanity to submit a grant application to construct 10 homes in four counties in our Region
- DHR, VA250 Grant. The Town of Blackstone was **Not Awarded** a grant to purchase light poles, signs, curbs, concrete pads, and gutters. The CRC has requested review comments from DHR to understand why.
- VA Food Access Investment Fund (VFAIF). Prince Edward & 5 Pillar Meats were **Not Selected** to move forward with a full application for meat processing equipment

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

### CRC Attends Floodplain & Hazard Mitigation Trainings



This month, CRC staff participated in floodplain management and hazard mitigation trainings to enhance our knowledge of best practices for disaster resilience. These sessions covered key topics such as floodplain regulations, risk assessment, and mitigation strategies to better support local governments in reducing flood risks. By staying up to date on evolving policies and tools, CRC continues to strengthen its capacity to assist communities in planning for safer, more resilient futures.

### Comprehensive Economical Development Plan (CEDs)

The CRC held their first CEDs Committee meeting on Friday, February 7th. At the meeting, CRC staff provided an overview of the CEDs, Timeline for the project, and conducted a SWOT analysis of the region.

### Broadband Expansion & Affordability Plan

The CRC hosted a Project Management Team meeting on February 18, to present the Draft Structure of the Plan. CRC has now completed the full draft and is reviewing it internally before our next team meeting on 3/17/25. County Implementation ideas are due to the CRC by 3/07/25.

### VDOT Rural Transportation Planning Program

- In February, CRC staff attended a Town Council meeting in Keysville and a Transportation Coalition Meeting in Farmville.
- At these meetings, Rick Youngblood (VDOT) presented and explained the Urban Development Area (UDA) Program to the interested localities
- The Transportation Coalition was formed as a result of the Centra Community Needs Assessment
- Representatives from Cumberland, Prince Edward, Farmville, and the Piedmont Senior Resources attended the coalition meeting

### Meet Your New Regional Planners: Ethan Bowman & Matt Swartout

#### Ethan Bowman -

Ethan specializes in economic development, grant writing, and AI integration to enhance planning efficiency. With a strong focus on community growth and technological innovation, he works to streamline processes and support local governments in achieving strategic goals.



#### Matt Swartout -

Matt is a Regional Planner with a background in geography and a specialization in GIS. With nearly four years of experience in economic development, he supports community development, advances technological innovation, and assists in the grant writing process.

### Buckingham County Comprehensive Plan Update

CRC Staff attended the Board of Supervisors meeting on February 10th, where the Board Decided to hold a joint work session with the Planning Commission to begin reviewing the entire plan prior to a public hearing. The first joint work session is scheduled for March 17th.

### Lunenburg/Victoria/Kenbridge Joint Comprehensive Plan Update

Copies of the final draft of the plan are available for public review at Lunenburg County Administration, Kenbridge Town Office, Victoria Town Office, Ripberger Public Library in Kenbridge, and the Victoria Public Library. Public hearings will be held in March.

- Victoria Town Council & Planning Commission - 3/11/25 7:00pm - Victoria Municipal Building
- Lunenburg Board of Supervisors & Planning Commission - 3/17/25 6:00pm - Lunenburg Courts Building
- Kenbridge Town Council & Planning Commission - 3/18/25 7:00pm - Kenbridge Town Hall