

# Commonwealth Regional Council

## April 2025 Items of Interest

### VDOT Locality Day

CRC staff attended the 2025 Lynchburg, Culpeper, and Staunton Joint Locality Day on April 24 at Silver Fox Lavender Farm in Nellysford. The event featured updates from VDOT on funding strategies, project coordination, bridge inspections, and local procurement processes. Staff participated to stay current on transportation initiatives and strengthen partnerships with VDOT and regional localities.



### Regional Broadband Affordability and Adoption Plan

CRC has finalized and submitted the Regional Broadband Affordability and Adoption Plan to the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD). The final plan has been sent to Lancer Printing for production of physical copies, which will be distributed to each of the seven member counties for local availability in the coming weeks. This plan marks a key step forward in expanding affordable broadband access across the region.

### CEDS Committee Meets

On April 25, CRC held a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Committee meeting to continue progress on the regional plan. During the meeting, CRC staff presented and reviewed the Regional Economic Conditions Analysis, developed through extensive research and data gathering. The committee also began creating a regional stakeholder list, identifying local leaders, business owners, community groups, and other engaged citizens who will help shape the strategy moving forward.

### VHREDA Welcomes New Executive Director: Alex McCoy, MBA, CEcD, EDFP, IOM



Virginia's Heartland Regional Economic Development Alliance (VHREDA) is pleased to announce Alex McCoy, MBA, CEcD, EDFP, IOM, as its new Executive Director. Alex brings extensive leadership in business recruitment, strategic planning, and rural development. He holds an MBA and dual BBAs in Business Administration and Economics from Mercer University, and professional certifications in economic development and finance. His experience and passion for strengthening communities will drive VHREDA's mission to grow economic opportunity across the Heartland region.

### Upcoming Funding Opportunities:

- Centra Community Grant
  - Opened 4/1/2025
  - Closes 5/15/2025
- DHCD, Industrial Revitalization Fund
  - Opened 4/1/2025
  - Closes 5/31/2025
- VA Housing, Accessibility Grant FY 25
  - Closes 5/31/2025
- VA Housing, Community Impact Planning Grant
  - 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:

- Congratulations to Cumberland County, awarded \$32,678 through the VDACS AFID Infrastructure Grant to enhance the Farmers Market.
- CRC - Awarded DEQ Water Supply Plan Grant: CRC received \$11,784 to support planning activities for the development of a regional Water Supply Plan for the Chowan River Region.

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