



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

Meeting Agenda
Commonwealth Regional Council
Wednesday, August 20, 2025 8:30 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 from July 16, 2025, Council Meeting, **(pg 1)**..... Council Members
- V. Treasurers' Report – June Financial Statements, **(pg 10)** Treasurer Davis
- VI. Report of Officers, Committees & Executive Director
 - A. Chairman's Report..... Chairman
 - B. Executive Director's Monthly Activities Report, **(pg 14)** Exec Director
- VII. Scoping the Future – Discussion of Innovative/Regional Ideas, **(pg 16)** Exec Dir/Council Members
- VIII. Old Business
 - A. Staff Monthly Project Reports
 - 1) Update on Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) Phase III **(pg 17)**..... Ethan Bowman
 - 2) Update on Buckingham County Comprehensive Plan **(pg 18)**..... Matt Swartout
 - 3) Update on CRC Affordable Workforce Housing Development Program, **(pg 19)**..... Lauren Pugh
 - 4) Update on Amelia County Comp Plan, **(pg 20)**..... Lauren Pugh
 - 5) Update on Regional VATI Grant for Cumberland, Lunenburg & Prince Edward, **(pg 21)**.Lauren Pugh
 - 6) Update on Drakes Branch Building Acquisition Project, **(pg 22)** Lauren Pugh
 - 7) Update on Longwood SEED Innovation Hub Project, **(pg 25)** Lauren Pugh
 - 8) Regional Reassessment Possibilities **(pg 26)**..... Christin Jackson
 - 9) Update on Central Virginia Poultry Cooperative TRRC & AFID Grants, **(pg 27)**..... Lauren Pugh
 - 10) EDA Planning and Local Technical Assistance Program, **(pg 28)**..... Lauren Pugh
 - 11) VDOT Rural Transportation Planning Program **(pg 29)**..... Matt Swartout
 - 12) SCRC, LDD Program **(pg 30)**..... Ethan Bowman
 - 13) Drakes Branch Comp Plan Update **(pg 31)**..... Ethan Bowman
 - 14) Council Member Comments
- IX. New Business..... Chairman
 - A. Staff Reports
 - 1) Update on Grant Writing, **(pg 32)**..... Ethan Bowman
 - 2) Council Member Comments
- X. Commonwealth Intergovernmental Review Process, **(pg 34)** Christin Jackson
- XI. Other Business
- XII. Council Member Comments
- XIII. Adjourn – **Next Meeting Date –Wednesday, September 17, 2025, at 8:30**
CRC Conference Room

Commonwealth Regional Council

**CRC Conference Room
Keysville, Virginia
July 16, 2025**

Welcome & Call to Order

The Chairman, Mr. Hankins, called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m.

Invocation and Introductions

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

ROLL CALL

MEMBER REPRESENTATIVES

PRESENT

ABSENT

Amelia:

Dexter Jones

Mr. Dexter Jones
(Vice-Chair)

*Mr. David Felts

*Mr. David Felts

Buckingham:

Mr. Paul Garrett

Mr. Paul Garrett

*Mr. Karl Carter

*Mr. Karl Carter

Charlotte:

Mr. Noah Davis

Mr. Noah Davis
(Treasurer)

*Mr. Walt Bailey

*Mr. Walt Bailey

Cumberland:

Mr. John Newman

*Mrs. Eurika Tyree

*Mr. John Newman

*Mrs. Eurika Tyree

Lunenburg:

Mr. Mike Hankins

Mr. Mike Hankins
(Chairman)

*Mr. Jonathan Chumney

*Mr. Jonathan Chumney

Nottoway:

Mr. Dickie Ingram

*Mr. Bill Collins

Mr. Dickie Ingram

*Mr. Bill Collins

Prince Edward:

Mr. David Emert

Mr. David Emert
(Secretary)

*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. Landon Green, Charlotte County

Mr. Dan Witt, Charlotte County

Mr. Steve Bowen, Nottoway County

Mr. Karl Carter, Buckingham County

Mr. Doug Stanley, Prince Edward (V)

STAFF

Ms. Christin Jackson, Executive Director

Ms. Wendy Newton, Finance Director

Ms. Lauren Jones Pugh, Planning Director

Mr. Ethan Bowman, Regional Planner

GUESTS:

Mr. Alexander McCoy, Executive Director, VHREDA (V)

Mr. Tony Matthews, Kenbridge Town Manager

(V) Denotes attendees who participated virtually.

Approval of Minutes of June 18, 2025, Council Meeting:

Mr. Emert moved, and Mr. Jones seconded to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report:

June: Mr. Emert moved, and Mr. Garrett seconded to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Motion carried.

Report of Officers, Committees & Executive Director:

Chairman's Report: Mr. Hankins informed the board that several neighboring localities had expressed interest in grant opportunities related to immigration and citizenship programs aimed at supporting agricultural employment. He inquired whether the board would be interested in exploring these initiatives further. After consideration, the board indicated that they were not interested in pursuing the matter at this time.

Executive Director Monthly Activities Report: Ms. Jackson informed the Board that a copy of the report was included in the Council packet. Ms. Jackson stated she attended VAPDC Executive Directors' Meeting and worked on the DHCD Broadband grant report. Ms. Jackson stated she received 34 responses to the RFP for the On-Call Consultants and responded to make them aware they were received, and she created a MS Teams space and an evaluation spreadsheet for the On-Call Committee. Ms. Jackson said she participated in the VAPDC Summer Series on Rural and Suburban Data Dashboards and in the Talent Pipeline Management Committee meeting about the November Workforce Summit that we are planning. Ms. Jackson stated she had a discussion with Beth Lohman with VDEQ about the EPA grant and possibilities for Charlotte and Cumberland Counties. Ms. Jackson stated she made sure all outstanding invoices were paid by 6/30/25 for the end of the year budget. Ms. Jackson stated she emailed with Morgan Quicke about the VACorp General Liability Insurance question brought up in the last Board meeting and circulated what Morgan said about it. Ms. Jackson stated she received notification from the SCRC that four of the SEID Pre-Apps had been moved to application status, so she generated a list of things that the CRC would need to get these applications completed by July 18th. Ms. Jackson stated she reconciled all VHREDA Bank Statements from May 2024 to May 2025 and continued to talk to insurance companies about other options for insurance for the VHREDA Executive Director. Ms. Jackson stated that she created a benefits spreadsheet per employee and reviewed individually what their raise would be as well as what their benefits are. Ms. Jackson stated that she worked on some information for Greg Wolven for the Town of Burkeville on Dominion Energy information and completed the NADO survey about the EDD Coplan and registered Lauren and herself for the NADO Conference. Ms. Jackson said she attended the CDBG How to apply webinar for the CRC and participated in the CEDS Community Input meeting held here at the CRC Office. Ms. Jackson also stated she participated in the SOLSMART Best Practices in Planning and Zoning for Solar PV and Large-scale Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) and met with Sarah Capps and Emily VanPelt with the TRRC and added on Derek Stamey from Cumberland and Phil Moskovic from the Town of Crewe to review their ideas for the upcoming TRRC grant that closes on July 17th. Ms. Jackson said she attended the Regional Water Supply Kick-off Meeting for Middle James 1 to gather ideas for ours and she prepared for the upcoming audit by reviewing our Contract book to make sure every contract was there and signed. Ms. Jackson stated she met with the Committee members for the Meet and Greet for the new Executive Director of VHREDA, updated, and sent out the electronic invitation. Ms. Jackson stated she had a meeting with Truist to discuss business opportunities and our accounts. She also talked to Andy Feagans with VRS about our new life insurance policy for staff and the fact that they would like us to do a resolution at this board meeting. Ms. Jackson stated she was asked to calculate the people in poverty per county and collectively for Sharon Harrup. Finally, she created an agenda for the Chowan River I upcoming Kick-off meeting and answered questions for various locations about the plan.

Scoping the Future - Discussion of Innovative/Regional Ideas: Ms. Jackson informed the Board that a copy of the report was included in the Council packet. Ms. Jackson explained the items highlighted in the report; the CRC staff were still actively looking for ideas and providing support for these items, and she added to look for grants that help replace septic tanks.

Old Business:

Staff Monthly Project Reports:

Update on Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) Phase III: Mr. Bowman informed the Board that a report was included in the Council packet. Mr. Bowman stated that the CRC is working to establish a regional BMP Task Force to enhance coordination across jurisdictions. The task force will help identify

and prioritize watershed improvement projects and implementation strategies for the region. Mr. Bowman stated that the CRC has met with several local Extension Offices and Soil & Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) to coordinate Rain Barrel Workshop events that promote household stormwater management.

The following workshops scheduled are:

- Prince Edward - September 10th
- Buckingham - September 19th or 15th (fallback date)

Mr. Bowman stated that the CRC staff also met with the Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOF) to discuss collaboration on an upcoming Tree Give-Away Event to support reforestation and buffer planting efforts. Mr. Bowman also stated that the CRC is organizing a Grant Day event to be held at the CRC office. This event will feature guest speakers from state or federal agencies providing guidance on environmental and infrastructure-related grant opportunities for localities. The Grant Day will be held on October 3rd

Update on Buckingham County Comprehensive Plan Update: Ms. Jackson informed the Board that a copy of the report was included in the Council packet. Ms. Jackson stated that following the public hearing on June 9th, the Board of Supervisors approved the proposed recommendations. Ms. Jackson said the CRC staff are now waiting for the official meeting minutes before moving ahead with final printing and distribution. Once the minutes are received, everything will be finalized and ready for release. Ms. Jackson stated that this wraps up the public engagement phase and moves the project to completion.

Update on CRC Affordable Workforce Housing Development Program: Ms. Pugh informed the Board that a copy of the report was included in the Council packet. Ms. Pugh stated that Piedmont Habitat's Ashley Way homes in Keysville only 4 out of the 5 homes have received COs. Ms. Pugh said the 5th home is currently in the process of being completed and once completed, the CRC and VA Housing will conduct a compliance review of the properties. Ms. Pugh stated that the Piedmont Habitat was able to work with the partner family to resolve the issue with the liens of the partner family's property in Cumberland. Therefore, the home will be built in Cumberland County as originally planned. Ms. Pugh said Cardinal Homes has completed the house and are currently awaiting delivery of the home. Ms. Pugh stated that grant funds were only being used for the construction of the Cardinal Home. Ms. Pugh stated that the Contractor is currently constructing the three homes in the Town of Blackstone/Southside Outreach.

Amelia County Comprehensive Plan Update: Ms. Pugh informed the Board that a copy of the report was included in the Council packet. Ms. Pugh stated that the CRC staff attended a planning committee meeting on June 26th. At this meeting, CRC reviewed the changes to the future land use map, transportation map, and natural resources section of the plan. The CRC also reviewed the Goals, Policies, and Objectives section, and the Introduction. Ms. Pugh stated that the CRC staff developed a community meeting exercise and flyer, and the CRC staff distributed flyers throughout the community. Ms. Pugh said the planning committee selected to host three community meetings. These community meetings will be held on:

- Tuesday, July 15th at Paineville Fire Department from 7 to 8pm (held last night, 17 people attended)
- Thursday, July 17th at Mannboro Fire Department from 7 to 8pm

- Tuesday, July 22nd at Amelia County Administrative building from 7 to 8pm

Update on VATI Grant for Cumberland, Lunenburg, and Prince Edward: Ms. Pugh informed the Board that a copy of the report was included in the Council packet. Ms. Pugh stated that Planet Networks crews are working in parts of all three counties where middle-mile fiber is in place to complete installations for new customers. Ms. Pugh stated that the Project Management Team meets monthly to discuss the project, and the next meeting is scheduled for July 18th.

Update on Drakes Branch Building Acquisition Project: Ms. Pugh informed the Board that a copy of the report was included in the Council packet. Ms. Pugh stated that the Town met with the lawyer's office to get the final purchase and everything straight with the Town Hall and the Fire Station. Ms. Pugh stated that they were able to resolve the issues and that the lawyer's office was in the process of completing the documentation and finalizing it and then it will be submitted for reimbursement.

Update on SEED Innovation Hub Project: Ms. Pugh informed the Board that a copy of the report was included in the Council packet. Ms. Pugh stated that the CRC staff assembled and submitted the final reimbursement request and final distribution checklist from the EDA. Once Longwood receives the reimbursement, the CRC will submit the final financial report to close out the grant. Ms. Pugh stated that the CRC is awaiting additional documentation to submit another request to the Tobacco Commission. Ms. Pugh also stated that the CRC staff prepared and submitted reimbursement request #4 to GO Virginia staff for the GO Virginia Funds.

Regional Reassessment Possibilities: Ms. Jackson informed the Board that a copy of the report was included in the Council packet. Ms. Jackson stated that she spoke with David Blount from the VAPDC and VACo, who talked to Katie Boyle, the Deputy Director of VACo about our region's dilemma with reassessments. She said that there is an organization called the Virginia Association of Assessing Officers (VAAO). The members are mostly staff from various counties that do their own assessments; however, in 2022, they worked on a study to determine the best way to reassess. I have attached the full study, but here is a brief overview:

- Professional Contractors Access 80 out of 133 localities which is 60%
- Professional Staff Access 40 localities which is 30%
- Commission of Revenue Staff Access 13 localities which is 10%

Ms. Jackson said of these three ways of assessing property in Virginia, the most consistent and homogeneous is the Professional Staff of the Counties that have been certified by VA Tax. They said that they all got the same state training through VA Tax, they got recertified every couple years, and they had various training courses throughout the year, versus a Contract Assessor that gets licensed, but does not necessarily get trained through VA Tax. Virginia Tax will collaborate with the Commissioners of the Revenue Association (CoRVA) and the Virginia Association of Assessing Officers (VAAO) to update the current standards and develop further specific qualifications that may be required for certification.

The options included herein address five specific items:

1. Requires certification by Virginia Tax for all professional assessors, both contractors and employees. The standards allow staff assessors two years from the date of appointment to

- obtain certification.
- 2. Requires certification by Virginia Tax for all contract appraisers and certification by the locality for all staff appraisers.
- 3. Requires certification by Virginia Tax for all Project Managers and Supervisors working with a contractor.
- 4. Requires periodic recertification and continuing education.
- 5. Requires contract assessors to provide Virginia Tax with specific reports and documentation throughout the general reassessment process to assist localities in monitoring performance standards.

Ms. Jackson stated that Katie Boyle also said that Stephen Klos from VA Tax was an excellent resource and his class, "Reassessment 101" on best practices, provisions to include in contracts and what makes up a quality product was excellent for anyone and VACo may assist with the logistics and space at their office in Richmond to host the class if we decided that was something that we would like to do. The CRC Board suggested Ms. Jackson send an email with the above information to County Administrators and Commissioner of Revenues to see if they were interested in learning more.

Update on Central Virginia Poultry Cooperative TRRC & AFID Grants: Ms. Pugh informed the Board that a copy of the report was included in the Council packet. Ms. Pugh stated that the CRC staff has submitted Year 1 expenses of \$170,857.00 for reimbursement to VDACS, Rural Rehabilitation Trust, and the CRC is awaiting additional reimbursement documentation to reimburse the CVPC. Ms. Pugh stated that the CRC staff assembled and submitted the first reimbursement request to the TRRC#2.

Update on the EDA Planning and Local Technical Assistance Program: Ms. Pugh informed the Board that a copy of the report was included in the Council packet. Ms. Pugh stated that the CRC hosted a stakeholder meeting on Tuesday, June 24th at 2pm at the CRC office. The CRC staff presented an overview of the CEDS and completed group exercises with the CEDS stakeholder groups. Ms. Pugh said there were 30 people in attendance. Ms. Pugh stated the next CEDS meeting will be held on July 25th at 1pm. At this meeting, CRC staff will review the changes to the economic analysis, review the draft vision statement, and draft CEDS goals.

Update on the VDOT Rural Transportation Planning Program: Ms. Jackson informed the Board that a copy of the report was included in the Council packet. Ms. Jackson gave an update on the following:

Transportation Coalition: CRC staff attended the June 2025 Transportation Coalition meeting, which focused on the launch of a new district-wide transportation guide developed in response to community needs. Members discussed expanding awareness and access through printed and digital formats, explored micro-transit as a cost-effective rural solution, and emphasized the importance of coordination among local agencies to improve service efficiency.

GIS & Mapping: CRC staff continue to update and develop GIS-based maps in support of comprehensive plans and various individual projects. Recent mapping efforts have included the printing of large maps for the Amelia community meetings, updates to plan documents. and continued work on

the future Designated Growth Area (DGA) maps for Keysville and Farmville, among other initiatives.

Title VI: CRC staff recently completed a Title VI training course that provided a deeper understanding of how equity and civil rights apply to public transportation. The course offered practical tools to help ensure that decisions like service changes or community outreach are fair and inclusive, especially for populations that have been historically underserved. This training is especially valuable for our region where access to reliable transit is critical for many residents. With this knowledge, CRC is better prepared to support equitable planning and ensure compliance with federal requirements.

Update on the SCRC LDD Program: Mr. Bowman informed the Board that a copy of the report was included in the Council packet. Mr. Bowman stated the following updates on:

Grant Assistance and Technical Support

- CRC continues to provide critical grant writing and administrative support services to local governments and nonprofit organizations throughout the region. These efforts focus on expanding economic opportunities and community capacity.
- In June, CRC had several State Economic & Infrastructure Development (SEID) Grant pre-applications approved to move on to Full Applications on behalf of local partners. These submissions aim to support infrastructure enhancements and economic revitalization efforts across multiple counties.

Ongoing Support:

- CRC is currently administering grant support for the Central Virginia Poultry Group, helping to manage documentation and submission processes.

Comprehensive Planning:

Buckingham County Comprehensive Plan

- The Plan has been Approved Fully
- CRC is waiting for a copy of the final minutes to add into the appendices of the printed plan.

Amelia County Comprehensive Plan

- CRC staff attended a planning committee meeting on June 26th to review updates to the Future Land Use Map, Transportation Map, Natural Resources section, Goals, Policies, and Objectives, and Introduction. Staff also developed a community meeting exercise and promotional flyer, which was distributed throughout the community. Three community meetings are scheduled for July 15, 17, and 22 at various locations across the county.

Drakes Branch Comprehensive Plan

- CRC staff presented the draft Community Input Survey during a Planning Commission

work session on June 25th and finalized the survey/flyer based on received feedback. The Community Input Survey has since been launched, with flyers distributed throughout town and included in water bill mailings. Paper copies of the survey are available at the Town Hall for residents without internet access.

Drakes Branch Comprehensive Plan Update: Mr. Bowman informed the Board that a copy of the report was included in the Council packet. Mr. Bowman stated that the following activities have occurred:

- The Community Meeting Work Session was held on June 25th. At this meeting, CRC staff presented the draft Community Input Survey Report and received feedback from the Planning Commission. The report was finalized after the meeting.
- The Community Input Survey has officially launched. CRC staff developed and posted survey flyers throughout the Town of Drakes Branch to raise awareness and encourage participation. In addition, printed flyers were provided to town staff for inclusion in upcoming water bill mailings.
- Paper copies of the survey have been made available. CRC staff placed physical copies of the Community Input Survey at the Drakes Branch Town Hall/Municipal Building for residents without internet access or those who prefer to complete a hard copy

New Business:

Staff Updates: Update on Grant Writing: Mr. Bowman informed the Board that a copy of the report was included in the Council packet. Mr. Bowman gave a status update on the following:

AWARDED - Opioid Abatement Act (OAA)

- Joint applications submitted for Nottoway and Prince Edward Counties. To implement opioid abatement activities with Piedmont VA Health District; and fund a rehabilitation program for inmates at Piedmont Regional Jail.

AWARDED – Sentara Grants

- Charlotte Meals on Wheels: \$8,000 For hot and frozen food purchases.

NOT AWARDED – Sentara Grants

- Crossroads CS: For generators.

In Progress (Currently Being Developed)

DHR, BIPOC Preservation Fund

- Mary E. Branch School (Farmville): To fund stabilization, roof repair, and renovations. CRC staff also participated in a meeting on May 6 with Mary E. Branch to discuss grant opportunities.

SCRC, SEID Grants (Pre-Apps Approved to move on to Full Applications)

- Prince Edward (HIT Park Access Rd): For access road improvements to enhance connectivity and support development at the Heartland Innovative Technology Park.
- Cumberland (Small Area Plan): To fund a detailed planning effort for strategic growth and revitalization in a designated area.
- Amelia (Planning, Potential River Access Points): Funding sought for preliminary planning to

- identify and assess future public river access locations.
- Blackstone (Raw Water Line): For the development of a raw water line to bolster local infrastructure and utility resilience.

VDOT, TAP Program

- Prince Edward County: Pre App Complete, Full App in progress for Zion Hill Road sidewalk improvement phase I.

VDEM, Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)

- Victoria: To fund a generator for a water pump system.
- Keysville: For generator for wastewater infrastructure.

Upcoming Grant Funding Opportunities: Mr. Bowman informed the Board that a copy of the report was included in the Council packet.

Resolution for VRS Life Insurance Policy for CRC Staff: Ms. Jackson informed the Board that a copy of the report was included in the Council packet. She explained that the Virginia Retirement System (VRS) requires a signed resolution in order to proceed with the Life Insurance Benefit Policy. Mr. Bowen made a motion to approve the resolution, which was seconded by Mr. Emert. The motion was unanimously carried.

Council Member Comments: There were none.

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

Other Business:

Council Member Comments:

Adjournment, Next Meeting: The meeting adjourned at 9:21 a.m. The next meeting was set for Wednesday, August 20th, at the CRC's office at the Heartland Building in Keysville, Virginia.

Mr. David Emert, Secretary

Treasurer's Report - Cash on Hand & Account Balances

For the Period of July 1, 2025 thru July 31, 2025



<u>Cash on Hand</u>	<u>Period Ending</u>
Total Income	\$ 91,057.19
Total Expenses	\$ 88,764.78
Net Balance	\$ 2,292.41
Cash on Hand	\$ 1,083,895.45

Account Balances as of July 31, 2025

<u>CRC Accounts</u>		<u>CVPC Funds Held</u>	
Truist 4425 (M1)	\$ 1,024,043.37	259,210.48	764,832.89
Truist 4301 (PR)	\$ 2,030.67		
Truist 1827 (Oprtg)	\$ 7,805.83		
Benchmark (CD3)	\$ 239,075.20		
Benchmark (CD1)	\$ 55,101.56		
Benchmark (CD2)	\$ 15,049.30		
	\$ 1,083,895.45		

Pass-Thru Revenue Funds for Current Grant Projects - Not Counted as Income for the CRC

<u>Projects</u>	<u>Funds Received</u>	<u>Funds Dispersed</u>	<u>Funds Remaining held by CRC</u>
VH PDC Housing Program			
VATI Broadband			
CVPC AFID PG	\$ 381,000.00	\$ 121,789.52	\$ 259,210.48
(Advance from TRRC and Match from Counties)			

Prepared by: Wendy Newton, August 11, 2025

COMMONWEALTH REGIONAL COUNCIL
Budget vs. Actuals: Budget_FY26_P&L - FY26 P&L
 July 2025

	July 2025 Actual	FY 25-26 Budget
Income		
40000 Revenue		
43000 Local Member Investment		
43010 Amelia Local Member Investment	19,000.00	19,000.00
43020 Buckingham Local Member Investment		19,000.00
43030 Charlotte Local Member Investment		19,000.00
43040 Cumberland Local Member Investment		19,000.00
43050 Prince Ed Local Member Investment	19,000.00	19,000.00
43060 Lunenburg Local Member Investment		19,000.00
43095 Nottoway Local Member Investment		19,000.00
Total 43000 Local Member Investment	\$ 38,000.00	\$ 133,000.00
Total 40000 Revenue	\$ 38,000.00	\$ 133,000.00
44000 DHCD - VA Regional Corporation		114,971.00
45000 Project Funding		
45985 VATI Regional Broadband Grant		28,100.00
45992 Amelia Mod Comp Plan Update		17,000.00
45993 VATI Audit funds		4,000.00
45995 Drakes Branch HMGB Buliding Acq/Demo		29,929.00
45999 Longwood SEED Inn Hub Admin		23,922.00
46083 Drakes Branch Comp Plan Update		16,000.00
46084 CRC REDO Oversight & Fiscal Management		24,000.00
46088 VHREDA Private Campaign Costs Reimbursement	30,000.00	30,000.00
46094 TRRC Admin of BOOMS Project		30,000.00
46096 TRRC Admin - VHREDA Branding Project		5,000.00
46098 TRRC Admin of Mill Building Project		5,000.00
46100 P. Edward HIT Park		2,250.00
Total 45000 Project Funding	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 215,201.00
46000 Other Funding		
45770 DEQ WIP Assistance (3)		58,000.00
46010 VDOT-Transport Planning		58,000.00
46040 Interest Income	628.75	800.00
46050 Misc. Income	42.00	
46081 EDA Technical Assistance Fund		70,000.00
46082 SCRC LDD Funds		5,391.00
Total 46000 Other Funding	\$ 670.75	\$ 192,191.00
47000 Pass Thru Funds		
47081 CVPC AFID PG	22,386.44	
Total 47000 Pass Thru Funds	\$ 22,386.44	\$ 0.00
Total Income	\$ 91,057.19	\$ 655,363.00

Gross Profit	\$ 91,057.19	\$ 655,363.00
Expenses		
71000 Personnel Costs		
71010 Salary Distribution	39,975.00	348,750.00
71040 Payroll Expenses (SS/FICA)	3,058.07	26,679.00
71150 Unemployment Ins.		200.00
71200 VRS Contribution	11,753.90	71,040.00
71350 Staff Travel - Training/Conferences	286.87	16,000.00
71400 Workmens Comp Ins		500.00
71500 Group Health Insurance	3,858.82	44,000.00
71600 Life Insurance		2,000.00
71700 Other Staff Costs		2,856.00
71750 Employee Cell Phone Stipend	500.00	3,000.00
Total 71000 Personnel Costs	\$ 59,432.66	\$ 515,025.00
720.00 Bank Charges/Fees	5.00	
72000 Office Operations		
72005 Cleaning & Maint.-Bldg	800.00	5,000.00
72010 Lease Costs	1,200.00	14,400.00
72015 Utilities	831.33	7,200.00
72020 Telephone/Internet Costs	565.09	4,500.00
72030 Postage and Freight	46.34	1,200.00
72035 Express Mail		100.00
72040 Consumable Supplies	229.00	6,000.00
72050 Dues and Subscriptions		300.00
72060 Office Insurance		95.00
72070 Administrative Costs	40.00	19,510.00
72080 Office Costs - Other		3,000.00
Total 72000 Office Operations	\$ 3,711.76	\$ 61,305.00
73000 Office Equipment		
73010 Office Equipment		3,000.00
73020 Office Equipment - Lease	273.19	3,000.00
73030 Equipment Maintenance	480.80	6,000.00
73040 Equipment Repair		2,000.00
73050 Equipment - Other	875.00	5,500.00
Total 73000 Office Equipment	\$ 1,628.99	\$ 19,500.00
74000 Auto/Staff Travel		
74020 Staff Mileage - Regular Travel for Meetings	727.75	11,000.00
Total 74000 Auto/Staff Travel	\$ 727.75	\$ 11,000.00
75000 Meetings/Memberships		
75010 Council Meetings	2,060.55	7,800.00
75020 Committee Meetings	7.75	500.00
75030 Staff Meetings		1,000.00
75040 Council Memberships		5,000.00
75050 Other Meeting Costs		200.00

75060 Public Official Insurance Cov.		2,061.00	
Total 75000 Meetings/Memberships	\$ 2,068.30	\$ 16,561.00	
77000 Collateral Materials			
77010 Web Page Costs		1,500.00	
77020 Printed Materials		2,000.00	
Total 77000 Collateral Materials	\$ 0.00	\$ 3,500.00	
78000 Local Relations			
78010 Newsletter/Annual Report		146.00	
78030 Other/Marketing		1,000.00	
Total 78000 Local Relations	\$ 0.00	\$ 1,146.00	
79000 Pass Thru Fund Expenses			
79047 CVPC AFID PG	19,386.44		
Total 79000 Pass Thru Fund Expenses	\$ 19,386.44	\$ 0.00	
90000 Other Program Costs			
90010 Planning Project Costs	1,721.28	25,000.00	
90011 EDA, NADO, CEDS, SCRC, Other	82.60		
90100 Contingency Costs		2,326.00	
Total 90000 Other Program Costs	\$ 1,803.88	\$ 27,326.00	
Total Expenses	\$ 88,764.78	\$ 655,363.00	
Net Operating Income	\$ 2,292.41	\$ 0.00	
Net Income	\$ 2,292.41	\$ 0.00	



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

Memorandum

TO: CRC Board of Directors
FROM: Christin Jackson
Executive Director
DATE: August 12, 2025
SUBJECT: Update (July 9, 2025 – August 12, 2025)

- Created an Agenda and a PowerPoint for the Chowan River 1 Water Supply Plan Kick-off Meeting
- Consolidated Evaluations for On-Call Consultants and met with Doug Stanley and Derek Stamey to evaluate all 34 Consultants and choose fifteen of them.
- Create and send out agreements for fifteen chosen Consultants for the On-Call Consultant Group
- Collaborated with Committee on VHREDA Meet and Greet
- Respond to the SEID Grant Application for Prince Edward's HIT Park Access Road.
- Helped Lauren with the Amelia County Community Input Meeting for their Comprehensive Plan
- Participated in the STARS E 3rd Street In-person meeting with VDOT in Lynchburg for Prince Edward County.
- Completed the Application and Uploaded all documentation for the EDA 3-Year Partnership Program.
- Created a presentation and presented at the Regional County Administrators' Meeting.
- Created an agreement between CRC and the Arch Foundation for the TRRC Mill Room Plan grant administration.
- Participated in the VITA Informational Call on the Share Point hack.
- Participated in a Talent Pathways Implementation Team Meeting.
- Worked with Rob Chapman from STEPS on an article about the DHCD Broadband Affordability and Adoption plan.
- Applied to VA Housing for a \$40K grant to use as a match for the TRRC Grant BOOMS Project.
- Participated in a NADO Training on Housing and CEDS
- Participated in a NADO Training on Equity Housing: Homeownership Options that Can Help Your Community Meet Its Affordable Housing Needs.
- Participated in a CEDS Meeting.
- Created an agreement for TRRC VHREDA Branding Grant administration.
- Created and submitted the DHCD Annual Report for funding.
- Updated the contact spreadsheet for the On-Call Consultants with Services and circulated it.
- Talked with Bobby Long about grant opportunities for the 5-County Fair.
- Reconciled VHREDA Account.
- Reached out to potential consultants on the Chowan River 1 Water Supply Plan to get quotes. Hurt and Proffitt were the only ones to respond.
- Met with Melissa Levy from NADO. She is writing a story on the Poultry Group.
- Hosted a meeting with Securian about supplemental life insurance.
- Looked into USDA question for Nottoway Court House for Bill Collins.
- Talked to the Tobacco Commission and VDOT about a project Alex McCoy reached out for assistance on.
- Created a quote request for BOOMS project for consultants for the VA Housing grant application.
- Had Quarterly reviews with Lauren and Wendy.
- Participated in a Regional Economy Check-in with VA Tech Economic Development
- Attended GOVA Blueprint VA 2035 Regional Tour Meeting in Danville.
- Attended VHREDA Monthly Board Meeting



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- Attended the VAPDC Summer Business Meeting in Lynchburg for two days.
- Participated in a meeting with DHCD to collaborate with them on a match for the TRRC BOOMS grant for the localities.
- Wrote a letter of support for RResiliEN Accelerator and to be on their committee to represent the CRC region at a national level on resiliency and energy issues.
- Participated in a meeting with Lunenburg, Victoria, VHREDA, and VDOT.
- Participate in the South-Central Virginia Non-profit Network Meeting.



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Scoping the Future List of Innovative/Regional Ideas

Ideas Previously Discussed:

- Building Entrepreneurial Economies (BEE) Grant Program through DHCD
- Aeronautical Grants for Drone Industry
- Triage Emergency Dispatch Program
- Lack of Workforce Training - Ways for CRC to get involved, including working with Southern VA Go Region & SVCC – CRC is currently involved in the Talent Pathways Academy – In the works.
- 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 – Currently working on VATI and will support all counties through the DHCD Broadband Affordability and Adoption Planning grant which is now complete. Signed a letter of support to help Mid Atlantic Broadband in expansion measures as well.
- Expand Health Care Providers in the Region as well as Cancer Treatment Facilities
- Aging Plan for the Region (grants to develop)
- High Bridge Trail State Park Expansion to Burkeville – DCR is working on this project, and we stay in contact with them in case we can be of assistance.
- Work with other counties on the upcoming Water Supply Plan – CRC will be hosting a public meeting here for the Roanoke River 3 Regional Planning Kick Off Meeting. The CRC submitted the first DEQ application for the Chowan River 1 Region to start the planning process of the creation of the Regional Plan. The CRC has signed the agreement to do the initial planning for the region's water supply plan.
- County Reassessments – How can CRC make this an easier process for its counties? – Staff is has reached out to other PDC's in VA to see what they have done and will share findings with all counties interested. Staff has reached out to VA Tax Team and all DPOR Licensed Assessors. CRC Staff had a meeting of the County representatives and the VA State Tax Team to discuss issues with current Assessors. CRC Staff is investigating other options.
- Look for grants that help replace septic tanks.

New Ideas:

- _____
- _____



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MEMORANDUM:

TO: CRC Council Members
FROM: Ethan Bowman, Regional Planner
DATE: August 11, 2025
SUBJECT: Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) III (Contract VI) – Monthly Update

The Commonwealth Regional Council (CRC) continues to support the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) in implementing Phase III of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) across our region. The following activities have taken place since the last CRC Council meeting:

Activities Undertaken:

- **BMP Task Force Formation:**
 - CRC is working to **establish a regional BMP Task Force** to enhance coordination across jurisdictions. The task force will help identify and prioritize watershed improvement projects and implementation strategies for the region.
 - First Meeting – October 3, 2025
- **Outreach & Events:**
 - CRC has **met with several local Extension Offices and Soil & Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs)** to coordinate **Rain Barrel Workshop** events that promote household stormwater management.
 - Prince Edward Adult Workshop – September 10th
 - Buckingham Kids Workshop – September 19th or 15th (fallback date)
 - CRC staff also met with the **Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOF)** to discuss collaboration on an upcoming **Tree Give-Away Event** to support reforestation and buffer planting efforts.
 - Next Year - 2026
- **Planning a Regional Grant Day:**
 - CRC is **organizing a Grant Day event** to be held at the CRC office. This event will feature **guest speakers from state or federal agencies** to provide guidance on environmental and infrastructure-related grant opportunities for localities.
 - October 3, 2025
 - Guest Speakers – VDH [*Anthony Hess & Jarrett Talley*], DEQ [*Tamara Anderson*]



MEMORANDUM

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

FROM: Matt Swartout
Regional Planner

DATE: August 13, 2025

SUBJECT: Buckingham County Comprehensive Plan Update – Monthly Update

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 recent progress:

- Following the public hearing on June 9th, the Board of Supervisors approved the proposed recommendations. CRC staff received the official meeting minutes and have moved ahead with final printing and distribution. Everything will be finalized, printed and ready for release at the August CRC Board meeting where CRC Staff will give County Administrator the hard copies of the plan. This completes this project.

cc: Christin Jackson, Executive Director, CRC
Nicci Edmonston, Zoning/Planning Administrator, Buckingham County



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MEMORANDUM:

TO: CRC Representatives

FROM: Lauren J. Pugh, Planning Director

SUBJECT: CRC Affordable Workforce Housing Development Program

DATE: August 12, 2025

As you are aware the CRC has received \$2 million in grant funds from Virginia Housing to establish 25 affordable and workforce housing units in the CRC region **over a 54-month period (extended to December 31, 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 12 modular homes in Cumberland County and the Towns of Farmville, Keysville, and Crewe. Smyth Properties established 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 six (6) homes in Blackstone for home ownership. Through these partners the CRC has been able to establish 25 affordable housing units.

Update: CRC staff assembled and submitted the final reimbursement request and quarterly report.

- Piedmont Habitat:
 - Ashley Way homes in Keysville – All five homes have been completed and have received COs. CRC and VA Housing conducted a compliance review of the properties.
 - Cumberland – Piedmont Habitat are working with the partner family to resolve the issue with the liens of the partner family's property. Cardinal Homes has completed the house and are currently awaiting delivery of the home. Grant funds were only being used for the construction of the Cardinal home.
- Smyth Properties – Project Completed.
- Town of Blackstone/ Southside Outreach –The Contractor is currently constructing the three homes.



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Eric Pollitt, County Administrator
Members of the Amelia County Board of Supervisors

FROM: Lauren J. Pugh
Planning Director

DATE: August 12, 2025

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 assist the County with developing and distributing a survey instrument, update the transportation section to VDOT standards, update the agricultural section data, GIS mapping services, and finalize/ refresh the Comprehensive Plan. As part of the CRC's efforts to assist the County, the following has been completed since the last report:

- The CRC staff hosted three community meetings that were held on:
 - Tuesday, July 15th at Paineville Fire Department from 7 to 8:30pm
 - Thursday, July 17th at Mannboro Fire Department from 7 to 8:30pm
 - Tuesday, July 22nd at Amelia County Parks and Recreation building from 7 to 8:30pm
- A total of 58 community members attended the community meetings. After the meeting, the CRC compiled the data from the community meeting to develop a draft summary report.
- CRC staff attended a planning committee meeting on August 5th. At this meeting, CRC reviewed the draft community meeting summary report; future land use section; and Goals, Policies, and Objective sections of the plan.
- The next Planning Committee meeting will be held on September 25, 2025. At this meeting, the committee will be reviewing the entire draft of the comprehensive plan.

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



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MEMORANDUM

TO: CRC Council Members

FROM: Lauren J. Pugh
Planning Director

DATE: August 12, 2025

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 Planet Networks (previously Kinex Telecom), an internet service provider (ISP). Planet Networks acquired Kinex Telecom and the CRC will continue to work with the ISP to finish this project.

Update:

- Planet Networks worked with crews to fix damage across all three counties. Mr. Boyle (CEO of Planet Networks) advised that most damaged repairs have been completed. Planet Networks' crews are still conducting an audit of the previous contractor crews' work; therefore, more damage may be identified and need repairs.
- Planet Networks' crews are working in parts of all three counties where middle-mile fiber is in place to complete installations for new customers.
- As of July 31, 2025, a total of 7,359 passings (out of a target of 11,397 total passings) and 1,845 installs for new customers have been completed. 50 total installations were completed last month.

CRC staff assembled a budget amendment to DHCD. This budget amendment has been approved. CRC are also assembling a reimbursement request for Planet Networks.

- The Project Management Team meets monthly to discuss the project. The team includes local staff, CRC staff, Planet Networks staff, and DHCD staff. The next meeting is scheduled for August 15th.
- Per an agreement with DHCD, CRC and local staff are making quarterly site visits to observe the work being done by Planet Network Crews. At the next Project Management Team Meeting, the CRC will work to set up the next site visit for Lunenburg County.

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



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MEMORANDUM

TO: CRC Council Members

FROM: Lauren J. Pugh
Planning Director

DATE: August 12, 2025

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:

The CRC assembled and submitted a budget revision on behalf of the Town to cover the Lead and Asbestos activities. We are awaiting approval from FEMA.

Asbestos Abatement Activities:

A & A Environmental has completed the asbestos abatement work on the buildings and completed air clearance activities. CRC is assembling the reimbursement request, but are awaiting budget revision approval from FEMA prior to submitting this request in the portal per VDEM guidelines.

Lead Abatement Activities:

TCLP testing will need to be completed prior to demolition of the buildings.

- 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.
 - Hurt & Proffitt (H&P) conducted lead and asbestos inspections of these properties. The inspection has been completed. H&P has provided the inspections reports and the reports determined that lead and asbestos have been identified.

- Buildings 2 and 3: Old Town Hall and fire station (continued)
 - The Town owns both buildings. The Town and CRC staff worked with VDEM staff and the Town's attorney to develop the appropriate Deed language to be reimbursed for the cost of this building. Town, CRC staff, and the Town's lawyer met to discuss the next steps to complete this sale. The Town's lawyer worked with CRC staff and VDEM staff to develop the HUD document and add the appropriate deed restriction language for these properties. Once completed, the Town can submit for reimbursement.
- 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 has been completed. CRC staff has submitted a reimbursement request for this sale to VDEM.
 - Hurt & Proffitt (H&P) conducted lead and asbestos inspections of these properties. The inspection has been completed. H&P has provided the inspections reports and the reports determined that lead and asbestos have been identified.
- Buildings 5 and 6: Privately owned, adjoining buildings, same owner
 - Appraisals completed.
 - Title searches completed.
 - The Town is working with the owner and the Town's attorney to purchase this building.
 - Hurt & Proffitt (H&P) conducted lead and asbestos inspections of these properties. The inspection has been completed. H&P has provided the inspections reports and the reports determined lead and asbestos have been identified.
- 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. Staff from TACS conducted a tax auction on the property on June 17th. The Town was outbid on the property; therefore, we are unsure if this building will participate in this project.
 - Hurt & Proffitt (H&P) conducted lead and asbestos inspections of these properties. The inspection has been completed. H&P has provided the inspections reports and the reports determined that asbestos have been identified.
- Building 9: Privately owned property
 - Appraisal completed.
 - Title search completed.
 - The sale of this property has been completed.
 - Hurt & Proffitt (H&P) conducted lead and asbestos inspections of these properties. The inspection has been completed. H&P has provided the inspections reports and the reports determined that asbestos have been identified.



- 1 - 4790 Drakes Main Street
- 2 - 4800 Drakes Main Street
- 3 - 4818 Drakes Main Street, connected to Bldg 2
- 4 - 4830 Drakes Main Street
- 5 - 4860 Drakes Main Street
- 6 - Harold Street, connected to Bldg. 5
- 7 - 4870 Drakes Main Street
- 8 - 4880/4884 Drakes Main Street
- 9 - 4881 Drakes Main Street

Source: Esri, Maxar, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus
DS, USDA, USDA, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community



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TO: Commonwealth Regional Council

FROM: Lauren J. Pugh, Planning Director

SUBJECT: SEED Innovation Hub Project Update

DATE: August 12, 2025

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- CRC staff submitted the final financial report. All grant funds have been expended and this grant is closed out.

Tobacco Commission Funds- CRC are working on assembling and submitting another reimbursement request.

GO Virginia Funds – Awaiting on additional documentation to submit another reimbursement request.



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TO: CRC Council Members
FROM: Christin Jackson and Lauren Pugh
SUBJECT: Regional Reassessment Possibilities
DATE: August 11, 2025

Project: At the March 19, 2025, CRC council meeting, Council members expressed interest in exploring the possibility of establishing a local firm to conduct reassessments for region. To learn more about this initiative, the CRC has been researching this initiative, coordinating and facilitating meetings, and sparking conversations on this topic.

Project Update: To better understand this initiative, the CRC staff reached out to other PDCs across the state and learned that similar efforts have been explored by other regions. Middle Peninsula PDC (MPPDC) even conducted a feasibility study to assess the potential benefits and challenges. The CRC also reached out to Northern Shenandoah PDC (NSPDC) who explored this option as well. Both PDC's selected not to move forward with establishing a regional reassessment firm and instead selected to move forward with a regional reassessment RFP.

Also in the CRC's research, we learned that the CRC did conduct a feasibility study on this topic back in 2008 and that the topic has been explored in 2014 as well. The CRC is conducting additional research to learn more about the outcome during this time and why this initiative did not move forward.

CRC staff is also in the process of researching other localities in the state that have their own reassessment offices and if any of these offices cover multiple counties.

I followed up on Katie Boyle's suggestion about reaching out to Stephen Klos for training and Reassessment 101. He said that he did not teach that, but VA TAX did have free classes that anyone could take that were part of the Assessors School. I circulated his email with the link and class schedule for this session to the County Administrators and the CRC Board.



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TO: CRC Representatives

FROM: Lauren Pugh, Planning Director

SUBJECT: Creation of Central Virginia Poultry Cooperative
TRRC and VDACS, AFID Planning & Infrastructure Grants

DATE: August 12, 2025

Project: The CRC assisted the Central Virginia Poultry growers since May of 2023 to find solutions for farmers who were affected by the Tyson closure in Glen Allen, Virginia. The growers came up with a solution – the creation of the Central Virginia Poultry Cooperative (CVPC). The Central Virginia Poultry Cooperative was created and has entered into an agreement with Dutch Country Organics, LLC of Middlebury, Indiana. CVPC will raise and sell wholesale cage-free and other premium table eggs to Dutch Country LLC. To assist with the start of costs for the CVPS, the Commonwealth Regional Council served as the applicant and fiscal agent obtaining the following grants: Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) Governor's Agriculture and Forestry Industries Development Fund (AFID) Planning Grant for \$35,000; VDACS, AFID Infrastructure Grant for \$50,000; VDACS, Rural Rehabilitation Trust for \$341,750; and the Virginia Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission (TRRC) Southern Virginia Program Grant for \$1,400,000 through two grants.

Project Update:

VDACS, AFID Planning Grant: The CRC is awaiting additional reimbursement documentation to reimburse the CVPC. The CRC has received each of the seven counties' match of \$5,000 for this grant.

VDACS, Rural Rehabilitation Trust: The CRC has submitted Year 1 expenses of \$170,857.00 for reimbursement. The CRC is awaiting additional reimbursement documentation to reimburse the CVPC.

VDACS, AFID Infrastructure Grant: The CRC has received each of the seven counties' match of \$3,000 for this grant. The CRC has reimbursed the CVPC \$18,463.00 of this match. The CRC is awaiting additional reimbursement documentation to reimburse the CVPC.

TRRC #1: The CRC has received the \$325,000 Advancement and has expended \$ 103,326.52. The CRC is assembling reimbursement request #5. The CVPC has submitted documentation for TRRC review to determine the reimbursement request eligibility of feed. These documents are currently under review by TRRC.

TRRC#2: The CRC is awaiting additional reimbursement documentation to reimburse the CVPC.



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TO: CRC Representatives

FROM: Lauren J. Pugh, Planning Director

SUBJECT: Economic Development Administration (EDA), Planning and Local Technical Assistance Program

DATE: August 12, 2025

Project: In July 2024, the Commonwealth Regional Council (CRC) applied for \$70,000 in EDA Planning and Technical Assistance funds. On September 3rd, the CRC was notified by the EDA representative that the CRC was awarded \$70,000 in grant funds to support the update of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) and to support activities including grant writing, planning technical assistance, and GIS mapping services. The CRC receives these funds as part of their Economic Development District designation.

Project Update: The following activities have been completed during this month by CRC staff:

- CEDS update:
 - CRC staff held a CEDS committee meeting on July 25th at 1pm. At this meeting, CRC staff reviewed the changes to the draft vision statement, and draft CEDS goals. There were a few requested changes to these items. CRC staff are working on making these changes.
 - The next CEDS committee meeting will be held on September 25th at 1pm. At this meeting, CRC staff will review the draft CEDS plan in its entirety.
- The CRC provides grant writing services (See separate report)
- The CRC corresponded, set up meetings, researched grant opportunities, and vetted potential grant applications
- Providing Grant Administration Services for the Central Virginia Poultry Group (CVPG) for the Tobacco Commission and VDACS grants by:
 - Submitting reimbursement requests
 - Acting as the Applicant and Fiscal agent for these grants
 - Corresponding with CVPG and Grant Administrative staff



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MEMORANDUM

TO: CRC Council Members

FROM: Matt Swartout Regional Planner

DATE: August 13, 2025

SUBJECT: VDOT Rural Transportation Planning Program– Monthly Update

The Commonwealth Regional Council (CRC) continues implementing the VDOT Rural Transportation Planning Program, addressing the transportation needs of Virginia's Heartland region, covering seven counties and their respective towns. The program focuses on enhancing regional transportation planning, providing technical assistance, and supporting local jurisdictions in improving transportation infrastructure and efficiency.

Update:

- **STARS:** On July 16 & 28, 2025, CRC staff participated in the STARS Alternatives Evaluation Meeting for the US 460 Business (East 3rd Street) and Persimmon Tree Fork Road/Milnwood Road Intersection Study. The meeting reviewed existing traffic conditions, 2045 traffic forecasts, and the operational and safety challenges at the intersection, which is expected to experience significant growth in traffic volumes due to planned developments, including a large data center. Three potential improvement alternatives were presented: a conventional design with signal and lane modifications, a thru-cut configuration to redirect certain traffic movements, and a hybrid roundabout. Each option was evaluated for operational performance, safety benefits, and crash reduction potential. The session concluded with discussion on identifying a preferred alternative and outlined next steps, including public outreach in August–September 2025 and final deliverables expected by October 2025
- **GIS & Mapping:** CRC staff continue to update and develop GIS-based maps in support of comprehensive plans and various individual projects. Recent mapping efforts have included the creation of a map of feedback from the Amelia community meetings, updates to plan documents, and continued work on the future Designated Growth Area (DGA) maps for Keysville and Farmville, among other initiatives.
- **Esri Conference:** From July 14–18, 2025, CRC staff attended the 2025 Esri User Conference to explore new GIS solutions and techniques with the goal of improving workflows, identifying potential new services, and finding innovative ways to support localities. Over the course of the conference, staff participated in sessions on ArcGIS for Microsoft integration, ArcGIS Dashboards best practices, and the latest advancements in GeoAI and AI-driven tools, including applications within ArcGIS Survey123. Updates to ArcGIS Pro were reviewed, along with training on efficient editing workflows. The conference also highlighted ready-to-use GIS solutions for state and local governments, offering practical tools to enhance service delivery. In addition, sessions on ArcGIS Roads and Highways and emerging GIS applications among DOTs provided insight into innovations in transportation network management. The knowledge gained from these sessions will help CRC enhance its technical capabilities, expand service offerings, and deliver more effective GIS support to the region.

The CRC remains committed to supporting regional transportation planning efforts and will continue working with local and state partners to advance transportation initiatives in the region.



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MEMORANDUM:

TO: CRC Council Members
FROM: Ethan Bowman, Regional Planner
DATE: August 11, 2025
SUBJECT: Southeast Crescent Regional Commission Program – Monthly Update

The Commonwealth Regional Council (CRC) continues to make progress on initiatives supported by the Southeast Crescent Regional Commission (SCRC) Local Development District (LDD) program. These projects focus on economic development, comprehensive planning, and infrastructure improvements across our seven-county service area. Below are key updates related to the SCRC program:

Updates:

1. Grant Assistance and Technical Support

- a. CRC continues to provide critical grant writing and administrative support services to local governments and nonprofit organizations throughout the region. These efforts focus on expanding economic opportunities and community capacity.
- b. **In July, CRC submitted full applications to several State Economic & Infrastructure Development (SEID) Grants that had pre-applications** which were approved. These submissions aim to support infrastructure enhancements and economic revitalization efforts across multiple counties.

2. Ongoing Support:

- a. CRC is currently administering grant support for the Central Virginia Poultry Group, helping to manage documentation and submission processes.

3. Comprehensive Planning

- a. **Buckingham County Comprehensive Plan**
 - i. Plan is fully approved.
 - ii. Plan was printed and will be given to County Administrator at August CRC Board Meeting.
- b. **Amelia County Comprehensive Plan**
 - i. CRC staff facilitated three community meetings last month.
 - ii. CRC Staff has compiled community feedback into a report to be presented to Amelia County next Meeting.
- c. **Drakes Branch Comprehensive Plan**
 - i. CRC Staff has facilitated the launch of a community input survey.
 1. Flyers posted around town, Paper copies at Town Hall
 - ii. CRC Staff has reviewed Chapter 1 with the DB Planning Commission



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MEMORANDUM:

TO: CRC Council Members
FROM: Ethan Bowman, Regional Planner
DATE: August 11, 2025
SUBJECT: Drakes Branch Comprehensive Plan – Monthly Update

As part of the Commonwealth Regional Council's (CRC) efforts to assist the Town of Drakes Branch's Planning Commission in updating the Drakes Branch Comprehensive Plan, the following activities have occurred since the last update:

- II. **The most recent Work Session was held on July 30th.** At this meeting, CRC staff presented the draft of Chapter 1: Introduction and received feedback from the Planning Commission. The draft was accepted with edits.
- III. **The Community Input Survey has been officially launched.** CRC staff developed and posted survey flyers throughout the Town of Drakes Branch to raise awareness and encourage participation. In addition, printed flyers were provided to town staff for inclusion in upcoming water bill mailings.
- IV. **Paper copies of the survey have been made available.** CRC staff placed physical copies of the Community Input Survey at the Drakes Branch Town Hall/Municipal Building for residents without internet access or those who prefer to complete a hard copy.



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MEMORANDUM:

TO: CRC Council Members
FROM: Ethan Bowman, Regional Planner
DATE: August 12, 2025
SUBJECT: Grant Writing Services to Local Agencies – Monthly Update

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 the last update:

I. Awarded / Not Awarded Grants

- AWARDED – VA Housing
 - \$140k for a Regional Housing Study
- NOT AWARDED – USDOT Raise Grant
 - For Route 460 Interchange Study with Prince Edward County.

II. In Progress (Currently Being Developed)

- VDOT, TAP Program
 - Prince Edward County: Approved to move forward with full application for Zion Hill Road sidewalk improvement phase I.
- VDOF, Volunteer Fire Assistance Grant Program
 - Rice VFD: PPE
- VDOFP, Firefighter PPE Grant
 - Keysville VFD: PPE
 - Rice VFD: PPE
- Norfolk Southern Grant
 - Drakes Branch VFD: PPE and Traffic cones
- DHCD, CBDG
 - Town of Crewe: Downtown Revitalization Project

III. Applications Submitted (Since Last Month)

- SCRC, SEID Grants (*Pre-Apps Approved, Full-Apps Submitted*)
 - Prince Edward (HIT Park Access Rd): For access road improvements to enhance connectivity and support development at the Heartland Innovative Technology Park.
 - Cumberland (Small Area Plan): To fund a detailed planning effort for strategic growth and revitalization in a designated area.
 - Blackstone (Raw Water Line): For the development of a raw water line to bolster local infrastructure and utility resilience.
- TRRC
 - Prince Edward: Application submitted for a Trailblazer Signage Program for the Town of Farmville
- VDEM, Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)
 - Victoria: To fund a generator for a water pump system.
 - Keysville: For generator for wastewater infrastructure.
- EDD
 - 3yr Partnership application for Economic Development District Designation (\$210k)



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- VA Housing
 - \$40k Match Funding for BOOMS Project

IV. Awaiting Award Notification

(All items previously reported as submitted are retained here unless otherwise noted.)

- DHR, BIPOC Preservation Fund
 - Mary E. Branch School (Farmville): To fund stabilization, roof repair, and renovations.
- AFG (Assistance to Firefighters Grant)
 - Prince Edward County (Regional): Mobile Breathing Air Trailer.
 - Keysville VFD: Breathing apparatus.
- Centra Community Grant
 - Rice Volunteer Fire Department: To fund the purchase of equipment.
 - Drakes Branch VFD: To fund air packs, turnout gear, gloves, hoods, hoses, and mounting services.
 - Charlotte County Meals on Wheels: To support purchase of food items.
 - Crossroads CS: For generators
- Congressional Directed Spending
 - Town of Blackstone: For the reconstruction of a raw water line.
- Virginia State Association of Firefighters / Dominion Energy
 - Rice VFD: For hose purchases.
 - Keysville VFD: For a PPV (Positive Pressure Ventilation) fan.

V. Projects on Standby / In Research Phase

- Community Resource Services – New food pantry project in Lunenburg.
- CBDG Community Service Facility Planning and Implementation Grants
- Nottoway County LRA – Repairs to Camp Pickett Officer's Club.
- Better Days Farmville – Facility acquisition support.
- Town of Kenbridge – HVAC system for Recreation Center.
- Curdsville Community Center – Renovation assistance.
- Amelia Fire / EMS – Funding for kitchen basics & Toughbooks.
- Buckingham County – Trail funding

[illegible]