



## **LAND USE & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

**Meeting Minutes – November 15, 2018**

### **Attendees:**

Emma Buchanan	Town of Culpeper
Joe Costello	Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission
Michelle Edwards	Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission
Kendall May	Culpeper County
John McCarthy	Piedmont Environmental Council
Emily Melton	Fauquier County
Jim Sawyer	Fauquier County

### **Regional Bike/Pedestrian/Blueways Plan**

***Joe Costello, Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission (RRRC)***

Joe Costello presented an overview of RRRC's current effort to revise the region's Bicycle, Pedestrian and Blueways Plan. His presentation, including interactive GIS maps, is available at [www.arcgis.com/apps/Cascade/index.html?appid=a25230d1640b4728a3832ef089e5ca59](http://www.arcgis.com/apps/Cascade/index.html?appid=a25230d1640b4728a3832ef089e5ca59).

The regional plan was developed in 2007 and updated in 2012, but was not formally adopted by the Commission. It mainly consisted of inventories and static maps.

For this update, Mr. Costello started with an inventory of existing and planned sites, which he then mapped in GIS together with related data sets such as pedestrian injuries and fatalities, and tourist sites. Mr. Costello has been meeting with key stakeholders individually to seek input. He will then be releasing a Wikimap online public engagement tool to obtain data on current infrastructure use, followed by stakeholder group meetings to discuss potential connections. The effort began in May and is expected to conclude in summer 2019.

John McCarthy stated that the Chesapeake Conservation Partnership used flicker to collect user data for its Chesapeake Conservation Atlas ([www.chesapeakeconservation.org/index.php/our-work/chesapeake-conservation-atlas](http://www.chesapeakeconservation.org/index.php/our-work/chesapeake-conservation-atlas)). He suggested this may be an easier method than the Wikimap. Additionally, Piedmont Environmental Council is taking the Towns to Trails effort in-house, and he will include Mr. Costello on the distribution list.

Mr. Costello stated that he will send out the invitation to the first stakeholder group meeting in January, and will include Land Use and Environment Committee members. Further questions

and comments concerning this effort should be directed to Joe Costello at [jcostello@rrregion.org](mailto:jcostello@rrregion.org) or (540) 829-7450.

## **RRRC Initiative Updates**

### ***Chesapeake Bay Watershed Implementation Plan – Michelle Edwards, RRRC***

Michelle Edwards explained that RRRC held four urban sector meetings for the Phase III Chesapeake Bay Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP III) from July to October 2018. Through this process, stakeholders developed an urban BMP input deck by revising the WIP 2 BMP amounts and adding BMPs new to the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model. Copies of the Summary Data spreadsheet were distributed to attendees (see attached). The WIP III BMP amounts represent levels of implementation stakeholders felt are achievable by 2025, given adequate resources.

The input deck does not meet the Nitrogen reduction goal provided by the Department of Environmental Quality, however. To do so would require a 250% increase (as depicted in the spreadsheet), an amount stakeholders felt was unrealistic no matter the resources. Stakeholders observed that most new growth within their jurisdictions is being directed to sewer service areas due to their growth management policies. However, the Chesapeake Bay model appears to assume sprawling growth and a higher rate of development than the region is experiencing. Adding the Growth Management BMP provided very little credit. Also, alternative septic system estimates by the Department of Health are roughly 6000 systems lower than in WIP 2.

DEQ has not pushed back, but instead has responded that it wants realistic BMP numbers. RRRC will provide a narrative explanation of the reasons for the shortfall with the final report.

Additionally, implementation strategies were developed during the October stakeholder meeting (see attached Urban Sector Programmatic Actions table). The table also includes associated co-benefits, such as economic development and reduced flooding, as well as anticipated funding, capacity and statutory/regulatory needs required for implementation.

The final meeting of the region's WIP III process will be held on December 6th at 9:00 am – 12:00 noon at the American Legion located at 11420 James Madison Hwy, Remington. This meeting will combine the agriculture and urban sectors from this region, as well as those from Northern Virginia Regional Commission, Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission, and possibly Commonwealth Regional Council. Staff of the Department of Environmental Quality and the Department of Conservation and Recreation will facilitate. Additionally, Assistant Secretary of Natural Resources Ann Jennings is scheduled to speak.

For additional questions and comments regarding WIP III, please contact Michelle Edwards at (540) 829-7450 or [medwards@rrregion.org](mailto:medwards@rrregion.org).

### ***Regional Food Policy Council – Michelle Edwards, RRRC***

Ms. Edwards updated the Committee on the region's second farmer-buyer event that Piedmont Environmental Council (PEC) and RRRC's hosted as part of the Farmers Market Promotion

Program Grant project funded by the US Department of Agriculture. The Farm to Table Showcase was held on September 24<sup>th</sup> at Rock Hill Farm in Culpeper County. 27 local food producers provided product displays, food samples and information materials, while buyers circulated through the tables. A wide range of producers were represented, including meat, produce, value-added and wineries. Buyers ranged from national grocery stores and aggregators to small local restaurants.

For the final year of the three-year grant, a Regional Food Expo is planned, which will begin as buyer-seller only event and then open to the public. Ms. Edwards added that organizers are considering incorporating a chef competition similar to the annual DC Food Fight, but scaled down. Promotion of the Purely Piedmont regional food label will also continue through a television commercial broadcast by Comcast May – September 2019, advertisements in Edible Blue Ridge and Edible DC Magazines, and other marketing channels to be determined.

The Food Policy Council's next meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 27, 2018, at 5:30 pm in the RRRC conference room. For further information about the regional Rappahannock-Rapidan Food Policy Council, including upcoming meetings, please contact Michelle Edwards at (540) 829-7450 or [medwards@rrregion.org](mailto:medwards@rrregion.org), or visit RRRC's Regional Food System webpage at [www.rrregion.org/foodsystem.html](http://www.rrregion.org/foodsystem.html). To learn more about the Purely Piedmont label program, including free producer registration, please visit [purelypiedmont.com](http://purelypiedmont.com).

### **Member Roundtable**

- **John McCarthy, Path Foundation**– The Foundation is funding the development of a small 4P Foods food processing facility at Vint Hill in partnership with Arlie. The facility will mainly be used to process the farm's summer produce for use by schools.
- **Kendall May, Culpeper County**– The application to build a solar farm in Stevensburg was approved by the County, and many other applications have been coming in. Additionally, the County is considering possible zoning requirements for turkey farms in the RA zone.
- **Emma Buchanan, Town of Culpeper**– The Town received a Highway Safety Improvement Program grant for improvements to Rt 522 and two sidewalk projects. Rock Water Park opened in May 2018. A new splash pad and ninja warrior-style obstacle course will be coming to the park in May 2019. The Town also has plans for more parks and developing the end of Davis Street. Additionally, it is looking at alternatives to the proposed \$13.1 million YMCA-run community center, since the bond referendum was voted down by citizens.

### **Next Land Use & Environment Committee Meeting:**

The next Land Use and Environment Committee meeting is scheduled for February 21, 2019 at 10:00 am – 12:00 noon in the RRRC conference room. Please provide any suggestions for future meeting topics to Michelle Edwards at [medwards@rrregion.org](mailto:medwards@rrregion.org).