

Commonwealth of Virginia
PDC Annual Report

RRRC Active Transportation Plan Steering Committee	Recreation	Also covers transportation. Includes local/state planners and Parks & Recreation staff.
RRRC Websites	Other	RRRC maintains 6 websites for various programs, with information in each topic area identified

16) List activities where the PDC has implemented services at the request of member localities over the last fiscal year. Please use the following table to answer this question and choose the category that best describes the request.

Name of Activity	Locality/Localities requesting	Category of Request	Notes
Foothills Housing Network Central Entry	All, specific requests from Fauquier County & Culpeper County	Housing	FHN Central Entry fulfills HUD and DHCD requirements for emergency homeless requests in the region. Fauquier & Culpeper counties have also requested FHN Central Entry to provide screening for local assistance funds at times during FY 2019.
Foothills Area Mobility System (FAMS)	All	Transportation	FAMS coordinates with transit agencies (CSB, Virginia Regional Transit) and volunteer driver programs in the region to connect users to transportation.

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			The program is primarily focused on elderly and disabled residents due to funding requirements from Federal/State government, but local foundations have supported efforts to expand.
Tween Rivers Trail/The Virginia Piedmont Tourism	All	Economic Development	Implementation of Regional Tourism Marketing initiatives (ongoing)

17) Describe the technical assistance the PDC has provided to state government and member localities over the last fiscal year. Please use the following table to answer this question and choose the category that best describes the request.

Name/Description of Technical Assistance	State Agency/Agencies and/or Local Government(s) Involved	Category of Request	Notes
GIS & Mapping technical assistance	Local governments, VGIN, DCR, DEQ, VDOT	Other	Covers Environmental, Transportation, Disaster Planning, Economic Development, Recreation, Planning/Zoning (Multiple

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			Requests fulfilled)
Data Collection Technical Assistance	Local Governments, VDOT, DCR, DEQ, VDH, DHCD	Other	Covers Administration, Planning/Zoning (Comprehensive Planning), Economic Development, Housing, Transportation, Environment, Agriculture (Multiple Requests Fulfilled)
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18) Explain how the PDC has served as a liaison between local governments and state and federal agencies as requested over the last fiscal year. For purposes of the liaison activities addressed by this question, please identify the state and federal agencies the PDC has interacted with over the last fiscal year. In circumstances where state and federal agencies are both involved (e.g. federal programs administered at the state level), please list both entities for the activity. Please use the following table to answer this question and choose the category that best describes the request.

Name of Liaison Activity	State/Federal Agency or Agencies and Local Government(s) Involved	Category of Request	Notes
Environmental Activities - Chesapeake Bay Stakeholder/Committee participation	VA Department of Env. Quality, Secretary of Natural	Environmental	RRRC staff serves on Chesapeake Bay Local Government Advisory Council, Sec.

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	Resources, Environmental Protection Agency; All local governments		of Natural Resources Chesapeake Bay Stakeholder Advisory Group, Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act Expansion Workgroup; Coordinated and hosted Fill Debris on Agriculture Lands workshop with Piedmont Environmental Council and DEQ/DCR/VDACS staff
VDEM Regional Emergency Managers Coordination	VA Department of Emergency Management , VA Department of Conservation & Recreation	Disaster Planning	Bi-monthly meetings focused on Hazard Mitigation, Emergency Preparedness, and Response; Stand-alone meetings for Flood Warning monitoring systems convened by RRRC staff
Economic Development Activities	DHCD, VA Economic	Economic Development	GO Virginia Region 9 Council membership,

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	Development Partnership		Central Virginia Partnership for Economic Development membership; Opportunity Zones meetings with local economic development staff
Housing Activities	DHCD, VA Housing Development Authority, U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development	Housing	Serve as Lead Agency for Foothills Housing Network; Serve on Virginia Balance of State Continuum of Care board; Coordination of quarterly workshop series for housing/eviction related training for local government staff
VATI Grant Support	Madison County, DHCD	Telecommunications/Technology	Coordinated application materials with Madison County and private ISP for VATI grant in Fall 2018. Coordinated

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			follow-up calls with DHCD staff to determine next steps upon non-award.
Virginia Outdoors Plan	VA DCR	Recreation	Coordination of annual review of regional projects in Virginia Outdoors Plan
Transportation Activities	VDOT, DRPT, USDOT, FHWA	Transportation	Quarterly meetings with VDOT & MPO staff members; Responses to statewide plans on behalf of regional localities & RRRC Rural Transportation committee (VTrans, Coordinated Human Services Plans, etc.)

19) Explain how the PDC has reviewed local government aid applications over the last fiscal year. For purposes of this question, please include applications to agencies of the state or federal government for loans, grants-in-aid for local projects, and as required by other state or federal law or regulation. Please use the following table to answer this question and choose the category that best describes the application.

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Name of Application	Locality or Localities Requesting	State and/or Federal Agency or Agencies Involved	Category of Application	Notes
Smart Scale Applications	Fauquier County, Culpeper County, Orange County, Madison County, Town of Culpeper, Town of Gordonsville	Department of Transportation	Transportation	Total of 15 applications submitted from the region. Reviewed by Rural Transportation Committee and Regional Commission.
CDBG Planning Grants	Fauquier County, Orange County	Department of Housing and Community Development	Planning, Zoning, and Community Development	Received notification of 2 pending applications during annual CDBG priority discussions.
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20) Address how the PDC has developed regional functional-area plans as deemed necessary by the commission or upon request by member localities over the last fiscal year. For purposes of this question, a regional functional-area plan is a plan to address service, need, or opportunity in a functional area (including but not limited to the available categories in the table below) that encompasses or involves two or more localities. Please use the following table to answer this question and choose the category that best describes the plan.

Name of Plan	Localities Involved	Category of Plan	Notes
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Madison Area Pedestrian Inventory and Opportunity Analysis	Madison County, Town of Madison	Transportation	Sidewalk/Pedestrian/Bicycle Enhancement Plan
RRRC Active Transportation Plan	RRRC, All Local Governments	Transportation	Also qualifies as Recreation
Culpeper Small Area Plan	Culpeper County, Town of Culpeper	Transportation	Also qualifies as planning/community development

21) Address how the PDC has assisted state agencies, upon request, in developing substate plans over the last fiscal year. Please use the following table to answer this question and choose the category that best describes the plan.

Name of Plan	Name of State Agency	Category of Substate Plan	Notes
Chesapeake Bay Phase III Watershed Implementation Plan	Department of Environmental Quality	Environment	Under contract with DEQ and in coordination with Secretary of Natural Resources and other agencies
Rappahannock-Rapidan Hazard Mitigation Plan	Department of Emergency Management	Disaster Planning	Under contract with VDEM
Virginia Outdoors Plan	Department of Conservation & Recreation	Recreation	Non-contractual assistance
Rappahannock-Rapidan Long Range Transportation Plan	Department of Transportation	Transportation	Under annual Work Plan contract with VDOT

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Rappahannock-Rapidan Transportation Demand Management Plan	Department of Rail & Public Transportation	Transportation	Under annual TDM Operating Assistance contract with DRPT
Coordinated Human Services Mobility (CHSM) Plan	Department of Rail & Public Transportation	Transportation	Non-contractual

22) Has the PDC participated in the VGIN statewide geographic information system in the past fiscal year? If no, why not?

Yes

23) Has the PDC served as a data center affiliate for the region and member governments in the past fiscal year? If no, why not?

Yes

24) Notwithstanding the duties mandated in the Regional Cooperation Act that have been answered in questions 8 through 11 and 13 through 24, what other noteworthy services does the PDC provide to member localities, the Commonwealth, or other entity?

RRRC staff often note that a critical by-product of our efforts in engaging various local and state agency staff and departments is connecting staff members at local governments and state agencies across departments who may be working in silos. RRRC is also pleased to provide workshop series on topics of interest for regional stakeholders. In FY 2019, these included eviction and tenants' rights training (Housing), Erosion & Agriculture Fill workshop (Environment) and Tourism Marketing workshops. Finally, RRRC presents annual Leadership Awards to Government and Citizen representatives of the region, recognizing the importance of attention to cross-jurisdictional collaboration and partnerships.



MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission
From: Patrick L. Mauney, Executive Director
Date: October 16, 2019
Subject: Foothills Area Mobility System (FAMS) Funding Update

In 2008, RRRC worked with the Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) to develop the federally-mandated Coordinated Human Services Mobility Plan (CHSM) for the region. This plan summarizes the transportation needs in the region for populations including seniors, individuals with disabilities, and low-income residents. A direct outcome of that plan was the formation of the Foothills Area Mobility System (FAMS) partnership led by RRRC and Rappahannock-Rapidan Community Services Board-Area Agency on Aging (RRCSB-AAA).

Beginning in FY 2009, grant funding available through DRPT and the Federal Transit Administration enabled RRRC, as lead applicant, to fund a part-time Mobility Manager. In subsequent years, funding became available for additional staff to operate the FAMS Call Center, under agreement with RRCSB-AAA.

RRRC has also received federal and state funds for operation of the Foothills Express transportation service that connects Culpeper, Madison, and the Charlottesville area. From 2010 to 2017, this service was operated by JAUNT, based in Charlottesville. In 2017, Virginia Regional Transit was selected to continue the service.

The purpose of the update at the October 23rd meeting is to provide details on recent funding and eligibility changes and to provide the Commission with an outline of staff's proposed timeline related to the FAMS program and recommendations moving forward.

REQUESTED ACTION: None required at this time. Staff will request additional guidance from the Commission at future meetings.



MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission
From: Patrick L. Mauney, Executive Director
Date: October 16, 2019
Subject: Chesapeake Bay Watershed Planning Updates

As you may recall, RRRRC signed an agreement with the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality in March to continue work on the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Implementation Program for a six-month period through September 30, 2019. Staff will present an update on the tasks completed as part of that agreement at the meeting.

Staff will also provide updates on various statewide activities, including those of the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act workgroup, and Chesapeake Bay Stakeholders Advisory Group, both meeting under the direction of the Secretary of Natural Resources' office.

REQUESTED ACTION: None required.



MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission
From: Patrick L. Mauney, Executive Director
Date: October 15, 2019
Subject: USDA NRCS Regional Conservation Partnership Program

Regional Commission staff were made aware of an upcoming Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) grant through the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). The RCPP “promotes coordination of NRCS conservation activities with partners that offer value-added contributions to expand our collective ability to address on-farm, watershed, and regional natural resource concerns. Through RCPP, NRCS seeks to co-invest with partners to implement projects that demonstrate innovative solutions to conservation challenges and provide measurable improvements and outcomes tied to the resource concerns they seek to address.”

To date, RRRC staff and various partner agencies have held preliminary discussions about a potential application for an RCPP grant focused on the Rappahannock-Rapidan region. These partners include USDA NRCS, Piedmont Environmental Council, John Marshall Soil & Water Conservation District, Friends of the Rappahannock, American Farmland Trust, American Battlefield Trust and the Smithsonian Institution’s Virginia Working Landscapes (VWL) initiative. Staff at both the Culpeper Soil & Water Conservation District and John Marshall SWCD have been apprised of, and given feedback on, the possible project, as well.

While the final proposal is still in development, the focus of the RCPP proposal for the Rappahannock-Rapidan region is to establish a pool of NRCS funding to assist landowners and producers implement best management practices that can improve water quality, reinvigorate farm productivity, profitability, and viability, enhance wildlife habitat, and provide long term conservation of rural agricultural land.

Under the 2018 Federal farm bill, \$300 million per year is available for RCPP funded projects. RCPP proposals may request up to \$10 million in funding over a five-year period, which is matched by partner contributions. It is estimated that a RCPP grant proposal for the RRRC region could request \$3 million, though potential partners continue to evaluate the mix of projects and practices that could be included in the proposal.

In addition to partnering to develop the grant application, RRRC staff also possess experience in Federal/State grant management that would be applicable to a successful application and award.

Project partners have identified RRRC as a strong candidate to serve as lead partner and grant administrator for the proposal. In such a capacity, RRRC would be responsible for reporting and communicating with NRCS staff on project status and metric coordination and would be eligible to receive Enhancement Technical Assistance funds (up to 7% of grant award) to provide project management, outcomes tracking, outreach and communications. Other project partners noted above be responsible for “on the ground” implementation of projects and best practices in coordination with voluntarily participating landowners.

Michelle Edwards and I will be prepared to discuss in more detail and answer questions at the meeting.

REQUESTED ACTION: Consider authorization of RRRC staff to continue work with partner agencies on RCPP grant and for RRRC to be identified as lead partner in the application

Regional Conservation Partnership Program

Natural Resources Conservation Service



USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service offers voluntary Farm Bill programs that benefit both agricultural producers and the environment.

Overview

The Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) promotes coordination of NRCS conservation activities with partners that offer value-added contributions to expand our collective ability to address on-farm, watershed, and regional natural resource concerns. Through RCPP, NRCS seeks to co-invest with partners to implement projects that demonstrate innovative solutions to conservation challenges and provide measurable improvements and outcomes tied to the resource concerns they seek to address.

Benefits

RCPP makes available a variety of NRCS conservation activities to help partners, ag producers, and private landowners address local and regional natural resource challenges.

How It Works

Partners apply to NRCS for RCPP project awards. Once projects are selected, NRCS works with partners to set aside a certain pool of funding for an awarded project. Producers, landowners, and partners then enter into producer contracts and supplemental agreements with NRCS to carry out agreed-to conservation activities.

Who is Eligible?

Only eligible organizations interested in partnering with NRCS on conservation projects can develop applications for the RCPP competition. The lead partner for an RCPP

project is the entity that submits an application, and if selected for an award is ultimately responsible for collaborating with NRCS to successfully complete an RCPP project.

See the RCPP funding announcement for details about what types of organizations are eligible to apply.

RCPP projects must be carried out on agricultural or nonindustrial private forest land or associated land on which NRCS determines an eligible activity would help achieve conservation benefits.

Conservation Activities

RCPP projects may include any combination of authorized, on-the-ground conservation activities implemented by farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners. These activities include:

- Land management/land improvement/restoration practices
- Land rentals
- Entity-held easements
- United States-held easements
- Public works/watersheds.

How to Apply

Interested partners must apply through the RCPP portal (nracs.my.salesforce.com). Applications are being accepted through December 3, 2019.

Once RCPP projects are selected, producers and landowners can apply to participate in projects that cover their geographic area. Interested producers should visit their local USDA Service Center to see if their land is included in the scope of any existing RCPP projects.

What's New in the 2018 Farm Bill

RCPP is now a standalone program with its own funding—\$300 million annually.

NRCS may award up to 15 Alternative Funding Arrangement projects, which are more grant-like and rely more on partner capacity to implement conservation activities.

RCPP now has two funding pools—Critical Conservation Areas and a State/Multistate pool.

RCPP partners must develop and report on environmental outcomes.

More Information

For more information, visit nracs.usda.gov/farmbill or farmers.gov.

Find your local USDA Service Center at farmers.gov/service-locator.

Natural Resources Conservation Service

