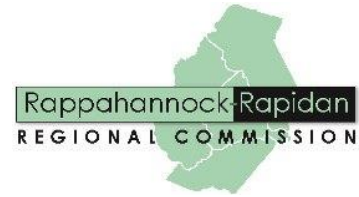


Executive Director's Report December 7, 2022



The purpose of this monthly report is to provide members of the Regional Commission with a summary report of work plan-related activities, staff attendance and participation at local/regional/statewide meetings, and updates on initiatives impacting the Regional Commission and our localities.

Administration:

- My thanks again to staff and Commissioners for their support at, and leading up to, the Annual Meeting in October. It was a very nice event in a great facility and I was very pleased that both Leadership Award honorees – Chief Chris Jenkins and Hal Hunter - were able to attend!
- RRRC is now fully staffed with the addition of Lindsey Morris as Rideshare & Outreach Specialist earlier this month. Lindsey will have primary responsibility for the RRRC Commuter Services program and will also provide broad outreach for all of RRRC's various programs throughout the year. Welcome Lindsey!

Homelessness & Regional Housing

- Rebecca Wareham, De Anderson, Monica Creel, Matt Tobias and I have devoted significant time to supporting discussions regarding regional emergency shelter needs, including prioritizing vulnerable community members for the Culpeper Winter Heat Shelter and encouraging partner agencies on immediate and longer-term solutions. We continue to see increased calls from homeless or unsheltered households to Coordinated Entry, but are now anticipating a return to pre-pandemic shelter capacity, which is limited and high-barrier. At this time, the Heat Shelter has opened, but there remain gaps in their volunteer coverage that may result in sporadic closures between now and March. We continue to push for long-term, permanent solutions with no barriers to entry, and are considering a request to PATH Foundation for technical assistance to enable outside facilitation and strategic direction for the subject.
- It will not show up in the financial reports until February, but we received and processed the first large reimbursement through the PDC Housing Development grant last week. \$200,000 was provided to Skyline Community Action Partnership to support their building purchase in Madison, and we will continue working with them as they renovate the facility to add a sixth unit.

Economic Development & Tourism

- Along with Thomas Jefferson PDC, we solicited proposals for the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) in the Fall. We received eight proposals and interview three firms before selecting Camoin Associates. My thanks to Michelle and Jennifer, as well as Central Virginia Partnership and GO Virginia Region 9 for their work in reviewing proposals. I encourage each of you with interest in economic development and quality of life to be part of our regional CEDS committee, and to identify private and public-sector partners to participate as part of the process over the next 18 months.

Transportation

- Staff submitted an application to the 2023 Growth and Accessibility Planning Technical Assistance program. The proposed assistance would provide a toolkit or review process to match transportation priorities with funding resources at the regional level. Similar tools have been developed for a few other regions in the state in previous rounds.
- Kristin Lam Peraza and the Regional Transportation Collaborative have developed presentations and resources to share the RTC model with other regions across Virginia. This has included presentations to the Thomas Jefferson PDC Regional Transit Partnership and other partners working with the Department of Rail and Public Transportation.
- The FAMS Call Center has rebranded to the RTC Mobility Center to reflect the wider variety of services and access points for mobility management in the region. More information is being shared over the next month.

Environmental & Natural Resources

- The RRRC Food Council will have a new Chair in December following Ray Pickering's retirement from Fauquier County. Ruth Welch will be the new Chair, and the Council currently has vacancies from Fauquier and Madison counties.
- Staff responded to a follow up request on our Community Flood Preparedness Fund application to the Department of Conservation and Recreation. The follow-up request sought additional details on the budget request, including a consultant cost proposal, as well as evidence of local comprehensive plans and floodplain ordinances. We anticipate hearing yes or no on the grant by the end of December.

Emergency Planning & Hazard Mitigation

- We continue to wait on award from VDEM and FEMA for the regional Hazard Mitigation plan update. We submitted application materials in December 2021 and our five-year plan expiration is December 2023. We do have a consultant cost proposal to complete the plan update, so I anticipate being able to move quickly once we have award and contract from VDEM.

Local Technical Assistance

- We are working with Madison County to support the County's Comprehensive Plan update. Jennifer Little is our staff lead on the project and a kickoff meeting with the County's steering committee was held in November with work to continue through 2023
- Supported Town of Remington application to DHCD for Community Development Block Grant program to support downtown revitalization and continued focus on pedestrian safety in Town
- Michelle Edwards continues to participate with partners at the Carver Center on a strategic planning process for ag and natural resource partners working at the facility.
- The quarterly Regional Planners Roundtable meeting will be held tomorrow, December 15th, with a focus on transportation and economic development, as well as ongoing identification of growth areas in the region. We had great turnout for the first meeting in August.
- Supported initial discussions of regional approaches to Opioid Abatement funding and partnership opportunities with Chief Administrative Officers and Rappahannock-Rapidan Community Services
- John Otto and I participated in a kickoff meeting with Culpeper County, VDOT and county consultants focused on priority corridors in the County in late November