



## Press Release

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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For further information, contact:  
Jeffrey Walker (540) 829-7450

## Regional Commission Welcomes New Planners

At its August 22, 2007 meeting and Annual RRRC Board/Staff Retreat, Commissioners reaffirmed their commitment to **transportation planning** as their continuing number one regional priority, progress toward which, took another substantive step forward with the recent hiring of new Regional Planner II, **Harriet Parcells**.

Ms. Parcells, formerly Executive Director of the American Passenger Rail Coalition, with extensive experience both in transportation and transit related issues, completed her undergraduate training at Cornell University, and has a Masters in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Southern California.

In similar fashion, the Commission and its ongoing **environmental planning** efforts also stand to benefit greatly from the expertise of recently added new Regional Planner II, **Matthew Criblez**.

Mr. Criblez, long-time planner and current Regional Environmental Manager with the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, has an undergraduate in Park Management and Planning from Ohio State University, and a Masters in Urban and Regional Planning from Virginia Tech.

Last but not least, a familiar name to many in area government, in conjunction with her past civic involvement and non-profit successes, RRRC is likewise very pleased to announce the recent transition of **Cathy Zielinski**, from previous contract employee to Part-Time Project Manager, responsible for heading up the Commission's **Workforce Affordable Housing Committee**, among other duties.

Ms. Zielinski, active throughout the area in human services delivery for the past fifteen years, most recently as Project Coordinator for the Rappahannock-Rapidan Eldercare Coalition, now Aging Together, holds a law degree from George Washington University and a Masters in Public Administration from Virginia Tech.

While Cathy is already on board and is able to be reached at the Commission Offices on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, Harriet and Matt are each scheduled to commence full-time employment with the Commission, beginning on September 6 and 24, respectively.

"We are very pleased to have all three of them joining us," says RRRC Executive Director Jeffrey Walker. "As is the case with our existing team, they are each highly talented, with complementary skill sets and backgrounds consistent with the region's top needs. Things have definitely been busy around here."

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Founded in 1973, and one of 21 planning district, or regional commissions, across the state, the Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission, or Planning District 9, serves the counties of Culpeper, Fauquier, Madison, Orange and Rappahannock, and towns of Culpeper, Gordonsville, Madison, Orange, Remington, and Warrenton.

Among other activities, the Commission provides a broad range of planning-related services and technical assistance to member jurisdictions, a concerted approach to regional cooperation, and a forum for the interaction of appointed and elected local government officials and citizen members.

The Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission (RRRC) is located in Southridge Office Park, just off Rt. 29, and the Rt. 29- Business exit in the Town of Culpeper, and can be found online at: [www.rrregion.org](http://www.rrregion.org).