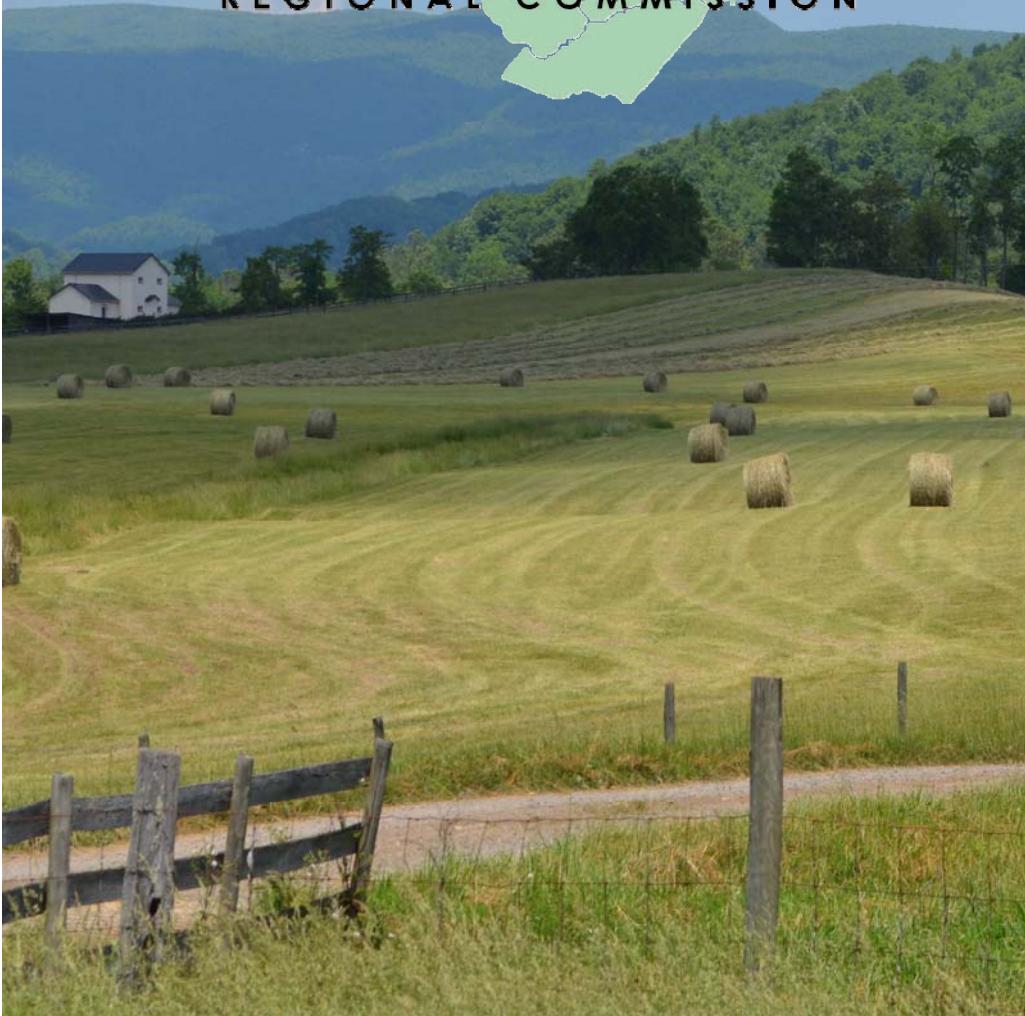


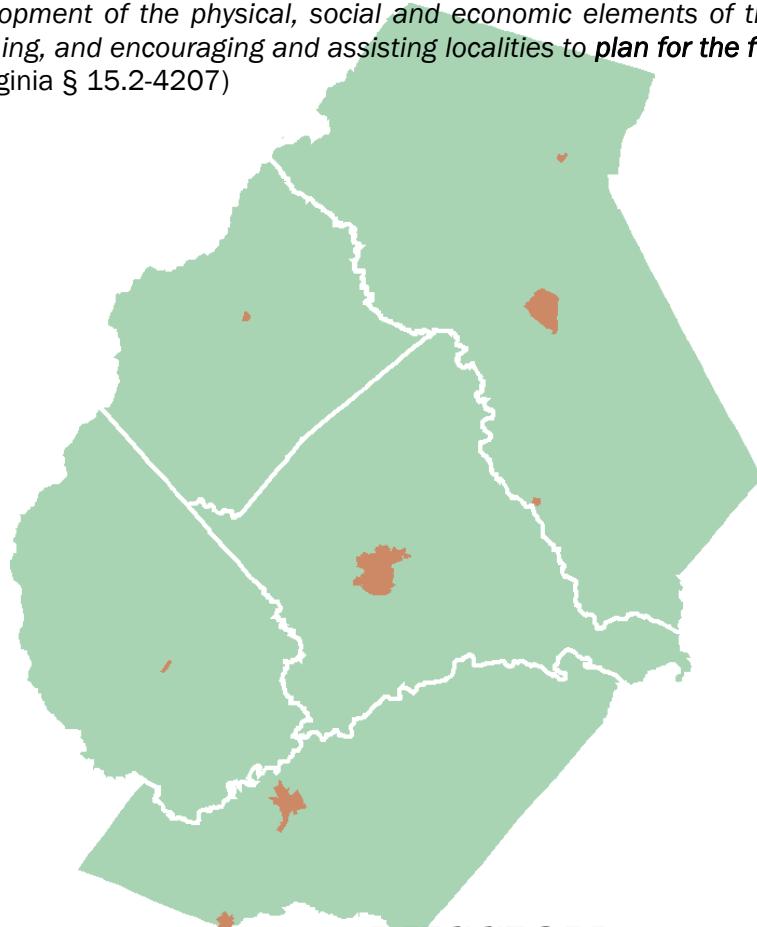
FY 2016 ANNUAL REPORT & HIGHLIGHTS



THE **PURPOSE** OF PLANNING DISTRICTS

“...to encourage and facilitate local government cooperation and state-local cooperation in addressing on a regional basis problems of greater than local significance. The cooperation resulting from this chapter is intended to facilitate the recognition and analysis of regional opportunities and take account of regional influences in planning and implementing public policies and services.

The Regional Commission shall also promote the orderly and efficient development of the physical, social and economic elements of the district by planning, and encouraging and assisting localities to plan for the future.” (Code of Virginia § 15.2-4207)



OUR **MISSION**

The Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission exists to serve our members by providing professional planning and technical resources, a concerted approach to regional cooperation, planning assistance with program delivery, and a forum for the interaction of appointed and elected local government officials and citizen members.



COMMISSIONERS

Culpeper County

John Coates

Steven Walker, *Executive Committee*

Town of Culpeper

Chris Hively

Meaghan A. Taylor

Fauquier County

Christopher N. Granger

Paul S. McCulla, *Treasurer*

Town of Gordonsville

Robert Coiner, *Vice-Chair*

Madison County

Daniel Campbell, *Executive Committee*

Charlotte Hoffman

Town of Madison

William L. Lamar

Orange County

James Crozier, *Chair*

R. Bryan David

Town of Orange

Martha B. Roby

Greg Woods

Rappahannock County

Deborah Keyser, *Executive Committee*

Roger Welch

Town of Remington

Evan H. "Skeet" Ashby

Town of The Plains

Christopher R. Malone

Town of Warrenton

Sean Polster

Jerry Wood

As Of October 2016

Town of Washington

John Fox Sullivan

ENHANCING REGIONAL ***COLLABORATIONS***



FAMS EXPANDS COMMITTEE STRUCTURE INTO EMPLOYMENT, RECREATION, AND VOLUNTEER TRANSPORTATION

Building on its successful history of coordinated human services transportation and transit needs assessment, the Foothills Area Mobility System (FAMS) expanded its efforts to three priority areas based on feedback from advisory members and regional stakeholders. The three new subcommittees will focus on unmet transportation needs for underserved populations in the region, including seniors, persons with disabilities, and persons with low incomes related to:

- Employment transportation: Improving transportation options for underserved populations to access employment
- Volunteer transportation: Improving recruitment and retention of volunteer drivers within the region
- Recreation transportation: Increasing opportunities for underserved populations to access transportation for non-medical needs

FAMS also continued its work on identifying intra-regional and inter-regional transportation needs. The Foothills Express transit route between Culpeper and Charlottesville was approved for additional funding from the Virginia Department of Rail & Public Transportation, enabling additional marketing and outreach efforts, while a new transit route between Orange and Culpeper, operated by FAMS partner Virginia Regional Transit, officially commenced in August 2016.

REGIONAL FARM & FOOD SYSTEM PLAN IMPLEMENTATION BEGINS

In late 2015, the Regional Commission adopted and released the Rappahannock-Rapidan Farm & Food System Plan following a comprehensive economic analysis and study of the region's food system, outreach to agricultural producers in the five counties, and a series of focus group meetings.

One of the chief recommendations from the strategic planning process was the formation of a Regional Food Council to serve as an advisory body to ensure continuity between the planning process and subsequent implementation projects. Each of the five counties in the region was asked to appoint a representative to the Food Council, and the Regional Commission approved the addition of six technical area experts related to production, consumption, distribution, health, education, and farmland preservation and conservation. Member towns are also invited to appoint representatives to the Food Council.

Following the initial convening of the Rappahannock-Rapidan Food Policy

Council, members moved to address another recommendation from the Farm & Food System Plan: the development and implementation of a regional foods marketing plan to raise public awareness, educate consumers, and provide support to the region's agricultural producers. In October, the Regional Commission was awarded a USDA Farmers Market Promotion Program grant to help fund that branding, marketing and outreach in collaboration with Culpeper Renaissance, the Madison County Farmers Market, and Piedmont Environmental Council's Buy Fresh/Buy Local guide. The project and public outreach will occur over a three-year period.





INITIAL FEASIBILITY STUDY COMPLETED FOR CARVER-PIEDMONT FACILITY

In early 2016, the Regional Commission and a host of partners released a feasibility study for adaptive re-use of the former George Washington Carver Regional High School in Culpeper County. The study was funded through a Building Collaborative Communities grant from the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development, private funds committed to the G.W. Carver Food Enterprise Centers by the Bauman Foundation, and in-kind services from the Regional Commission. Four reports were designed and produced to guide future efforts by the Food Enterprise Center and G.W. Carver Agriculture Research Center as those organizations seek to develop a multi-use food processing facility, indoor and outdoor agriculture research stations, and agriculture-based educational and training programs at the site.

Reports generated through the feasibility study include:

- Carver-Piedmont Facility Assessment: Architectural assessment of the facility and grounds
- Education, Research, and Training Opportunities: Inventory of existing programs and potential for expansion of agriculture programs
- GWCFC Market Assessment: Analysis and assessment of a potential value-added food processing and food incubator operation
- Carver-Piedmont Conceptual Plan: Conceptual plan for management and operations of potential food incubator, completed by Union Kitchen

Since the study's completion, Culpeper County has committed funding for multiple projects to improve existing sections and demolish one outbuilding. Project partners also received a grant through the Ohrstrom Foundation to begin implementation of a New Farmers training program, including equipment purchases and wind tunnel installation.

COORDINATING REGIONAL NEEDS & ASSETS

'TWEEN RIVERS TRAIL AGRITOURISM TRAIL ENTERS 2ND YEAR

Following the development of the 'Tween Rivers Trail in 2015, the Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Tourism Committee continued its collaborative efforts through expansion of the regional network of agriculture and forestry-related businesses and support sites, including farm-to-fork restaurants and local inns and bed & breakfasts.



'TWEEN RIVERS TRAIL

crafted in the foothills

To date, over 60 partners have signed up to be included on the 'Tween Rivers Trail across the five-county region. Membership on the 'Tween Rivers Trail is free of charge for qualifying members. The focus of the Trail is on supporting agricultural and forestry-related businesses that use or produce local products, and businesses must maintain regular business hours (seasonal hours are acceptable).

The Regional Commission and Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Tourism Committee look forward to the continued expansion and joint marketing opportunities afforded by the 'Tween Rivers Trail throughout the region in the future.



FOOTHILLS HOUSING NETWORK CENTRAL ENTRY PROGRAM IMPLEMENTED

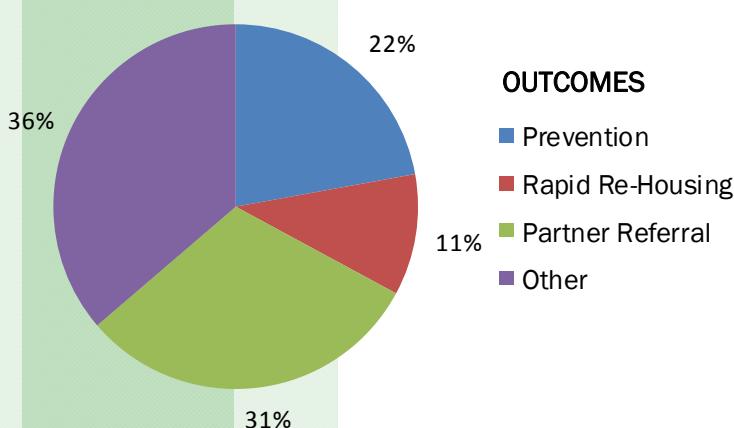
The Regional Commission serves as the coordinating agency for the region's Continuum of Care Local Planning Group, known as the Foothills Housing Network (FHN). In 2016, longtime FHN partners including each County's Social Services agency, Fauquier County (as fiscal agent), Community Touch, Inc., Culpeper Housing and Shelter Services, and Rappahannock-Rapidan Community Services continued their Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing programs that have provided short-term assistance to nearly 750 adults, 675 children, and over 550 households from 2013 to 2016.

Key successes over the past year for FHN include the implementation of a Central Entry program to improve the program entry process for clients and enhance the data collection and analysis process for FHN and its partners. Individuals and households requesting services now have one point of entry to determine qualification for FHN programs. For those that do not qualify, referrals to other regional programs and resources are provided.

FHN also began a new partnership with People, Incorporated and was successful in competing for a grant to support Permanent Supportive Housing in the region through a grant from the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development and U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The grant awarded to People, Inc. and FHN was the only new grant awarded to a non-entitlement area in Virginia.

FHN Central Entry Requests (November 2015-September 2016)
1,414 Requests for Assistance

Culpeper :	596	Orange :	141
Fauquier :	502	Rappahannock :	35
Madison :	60		



IMPLEMENTING ***COOPERATIVE*** SOLUTIONS



BACKYARD RAINSCAPING PROJECT COMPLETED

The Regional Commission worked with Friends of the Rappahannock, Virginia Cooperative Extension and regional Master Gardeners organizations on a Backyard Rainscaping project funded through the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation.

The collaborative effort resulted in the development of the *Homeowner's Guide to a Watershed Friendly Backyard* containing information on residential best practices related to stormwater management, landscaping, fertilizer use, native plantings and invasive control, pet waste disposal, and septic system maintenance.



In addition, the grant enabled the project team to provide personalized assessments at 24 home sites, with 22 of those residences installing some or all of the recommended stormwater or nutrient management best practices. Examples of installations included rain gardens, rain barrels, bioswales, bayscapes, dry wells, and nutrient management plans. In all, these installations totaled 2,155 square feet of bioretention and 5.8 acres under best management practices.

CONVENING REGIONAL PARTNERS

Identifying, communicating with, and bringing together a wide-ranging group of stakeholders is a key part of regional planning initiatives undertaken by the Regional Commission. While our member local governments are the foundation of the Regional Commission's annual work plan, the importance of engaging with individuals, non-profit and private organizations, and other public sector agencies is a cornerstone of RRRC initiatives both past and present. Regional committees, outlined below are a central part of that engagement.

Foothills Housing Network serves as the Continuum of Care planning group for the region. Members include shelter providers, county Departments of Social Services, Aging Together, Skyline CAP, People, Inc., Rappahannock-Rapidan Community Services, Quin Rivers, Piedmont United Way and other area housing stakeholders.

The **RRRC Rural Transportation Technical Committee** is made up of town and county planners, Virginia Department of Transportation representatives and regional transportation stakeholders.

The **Foothills Area Mobility System** steering committee includes representatives from the Regional Commission, Rappahannock-Rapidan Community Services, Virginia Regional Transit, both hospitals in the region and other transportation providers.

The **Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Tourism Committee** is comprised of tourism directors, visitors center representatives and other interested tourism-related stakeholders.

The **RRRC Land Use & Environment Committee** includes local land use and zoning administrators, planners and environmental managers.

The **Rappahannock-Rapidan Food Policy Council** includes private agriculture producers, public and private school representatives, Virginia Cooperative Extension agents, technical area experts, agricultural development representatives, and non-profit partners.

The **RRRC Chief Administrative Officers Committee** is made up of regional County Administrators and Town Managers.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT ROUNDTABLE WORKSHOP

More than 50 participants attended an August workshop held at the Daniel Technology Center in Culpeper to learn about USDA Rural Development grant and loan programs, including broadband, agribusiness, water and sewer infrastructure, and community facilities.



AGRITOURISM GRANTS & NETWORKING WORKSHOP

The RRRC Regional Tourism Committee hosted a regional agritourism grants information meeting for small businesses and tourism stakeholders in April at Prince Michel Winery in Madison County. Virginia Tourism Corporation speakers were on hand to provide details on various grant programs and capacity building opportunities.



GOOSE CREEK TMDL WORKING GROUPS

The Regional Commission collaborated with the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality on a Total Maximum Daily Load Implementation Plan for the Upper Goose Creek Watershed in Fauquier and Loudoun counties, including formation of Government, Agriculture, and Residential Working Groups.





RECOGNIZING REGIONAL **LEADERSHIP**

The RRRC annual *Distinguished Leadership—Citizen & Government Awards* were initiated in 2007 to acknowledge the achievements and contributions of member jurisdiction citizen and government leaders who have gone above and beyond in their promotion and encouragement of enhanced regional communication, coordination and planning across the region.

In 2015, the Regional Commission honored the past (and present) service to the public of retiring Madison County Board of Supervisor member Doris Lackey and longtime environmental planner and advocate in the region, Deirdre Clark. Ms. Lackey was awarded the *Distinguished Leadership Government* award for her contributions to the region during her two non-consecutive terms on the Madison County Board of Supervisors and as past Chair of the Regional Commission. Ms. Clark was awarded the *Distinguished Leadership Citizen* award for her achievements in advancing environmental best practices throughout her career in the region, including significant involvement with John Marshall Soil & Water Conservation District, Fauquier County, and the Regional Commission.

PAST REGIONAL DISTINGUISHED LEADERSHIP RECIPIENTS

	<i>Government</i>	<i>Citizen</i>
2007	Harry Atherton	Khalil Hassan
2008	Ruth Updike	David Scott
2009	Robert Anderson	Bev Hunter
2010	Frank Bossio	John J. "Butch" Davies
2011	John McCarthy	Mary Root
2012	Rick Carr	Bill Speiden
2013	Grover Wilson	Hunt Cheatwood
2014	Harry Hopkins	Sallie Morgan
2015	Doris Lackey	Deirdre Clark



The past year was marked by a number of significant changes for the Regional Commission with several long-serving Commissioners and past RRRC Executive Director Jeff Walker coming to the end of their tenures with the Regional Commission. Mr. Walker ably led the Regional Commission as Executive Director for 10 years, having previously served as Deputy Director and Regional Planner for five years prior to his appointment as Executive Director.

Commissioners ending their terms on the Regional Commission over the past year included John McCarthy (Rappahannock County, 21 years as RRRC Commissioner), Sue Hansohn (Culpeper County, 14 years), Chester Stribling (Fauquier County, 12 years), Robert Gurtler (The Plains, 7 years), Doris Lackey (Madison County, 7 years), Yak Lubowsky (Warrenton, 2 years), Wells Nevill (Warrenton, 2 years), and Michael Olinger (Culpeper, 2 years).



STEWARDSHIP OF LOCAL RESOURCES

ANNUAL FINANCE REPORT

FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2016

REVENUES

FEDERAL GRANTS	\$ 450,330
STATE GRANTS	\$ 204,893
LOCAL DUES & OTHER ALLOCATIONS	\$ 193,703
OTHER	\$ 66,135
INTEREST	\$ 260
TOTAL	\$ 915,061

EXPENSES

DIRECT GRANT EXPENSES	\$ 312,724
PERSONNEL EXPENSES	\$ 464,894
OPERATING & OTHER EXPENSES	\$ 61,352
TOTAL	\$ 838,970

FUND BALANCE (END OF YEAR)	\$ 210,162
FUND BALANCE (BEGINNING OF YEAR)	\$ 134,071
NET CHANGE	\$ 76,091



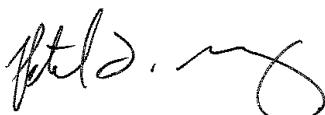
FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends of the Rappahannock-Rapidan Region:

The 2016 fiscal year was one of significant changes for the Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission as an organization. I am grateful to the members of the Regional Commission for the opportunity to move into the Executive Director's role, first in an interim capacity and then permanently in April. Having spent the previous 10 years working within the organization in a variety of roles has certainly helped ease this period of transition for myself and for the organization. I am deeply indebted to our hard-working and highly capable staff for their support and diligence in managing our existing portfolio of projects and programs, but also for their forward-looking vision and attentiveness to new and emerging opportunities for regional partnerships and collaborations.

Over the past year, the Regional Commission has assisted our member jurisdictions with grantwriting, data and technical assistance, project management and administration, development of public education and outreach materials, and helping bridge the gaps and build partnerships to tackle issues common to each of our member governments at a regional level. The formation of the Rappahannock-Rapidan Food Policy Council—a key recommendation of the Regional Farm & Food Plan—has already yielded positive results via the award of a three-year Farmers Market Promotion Program grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, one of just 50 such grants awarded nationwide. The Food Council represents what regional partnerships are all about, with representatives from private agri-businesses, County Agricultural Development and Virginia Cooperative Extension agents, public and private school representatives, non-profit organizations and technical experts working in collaboration to support, nurture, and grow the region's agricultural economy.

On behalf of the Regional Commission, I thank you for your continued engagement with us, and your support of programs and initiatives that help to foster a shared sense of place in the Rappahannock-Rapidan region. I encourage you to connect with the Board and staff of the Regional Commission over the coming year as we look forward to continuing our nearly 45 year history of regional collaboration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "ftld. m.s." followed by a stylized surname.



The Town of Washington



@RRRCVA
@RRCommute
@weenriverstrail
@famscommittee



@RRRegion

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