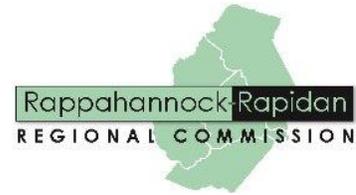


Executive Director's Report October 21, 2020



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:

- I am sharing links for several annual/biennial reports here for your reference:
 - [RRRC FY 2020 Annual Report](#)
 - [Biennial Report on Planning District Commissions](#): This document is compiled by the Department of Housing & Community Development from annual reports submitted by the 21 PDCs (including RRRC) and provided to the General Assembly. You may find use in reviewing some of the summaries of work completed by PDCs across the Commonwealth to help guide future efforts here in our region.
- As requested at the June meeting, I will share a draft Continuity of Operations Plan for the Commission's reference at the October meeting. This document is meant to be a high-level overview of ensuring that critical Commission functions are maintained in the event of the Commission offices being rendered unusable. Comments and suggestions from the Commission will be incorporated and brought back for consideration in December.

Environmental/Natural Resources

- Commission staff is coordinating a regional Food Processing meeting, co-hosted by Virginia Cooperative Extension, built on gaps in the food supply chain made apparent by the pandemic, as well as the ongoing work surrounding food processing facility development in the region. The goal of this meeting is to share information and discuss potential opportunities for collaboration, so we can better coordinate our individual efforts going forward to increase our collective impact. Dr. Jewel Bronaugh, VDACS Commissioner, will participate. The meeting is set for [November 5th at 2pm via Zoom](#).
- There is a local Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) implementation plan process beginning tonight (October 28th, 6:30 p.m.) for the Mountain Run watershed and various streams in Culpeper County. More information can be found on the [Department of Environmental Quality website](#). Commission staff will participate in the process, which is being led solely by DEQ.

Transportation

- Details on the Regional Transportation Collaborative project built on funding received from PATH are on the October agenda. This project is part of the continuing evolution of the Foothills Area Mobility System (FAMS) partnership as we have attempted to diversify funding support beyond the traditional funding received via grants from the Department of Rail and Public Transportation. A virtual introductory meeting for regional stakeholders and other interested parties is set for tomorrow, [October 29th at 1pm via Zoom](#).
- Staff continues to coordinate with state agency partners regarding existing funding for transportation and demand management programs. To date, the Commuter Services program has taken quarterly appropriations for operating (staff) costs for the first and second quarters of

FY 2021, along with carryover funding from FY 2020. We expect additional clarity from the Commonwealth Transportation Board by December.

Homelessness & Regional Housing

- Staff continues to coordinate with Foothills Housing Network partners on regional responses to the pandemic and directives from DHCD to provide hotel and motel rooms for unsheltered individuals and households in order to meet non-congregate shelter needs. This has primarily impacted Culpeper Housing and Shelter Services (CHASS), but we are also expecting additional capacity through Community Touch (CTI) in Fauquier County through the end of December.
- Staff coordinated an initial discussion between Culpeper Crisis Committee chair Lisa Peacock and Department of Housing and Community Development staff regarding the potential for additional support related to housing and/or shelter earlier this month. We will continue to support locally-supported efforts, as needed and requested.

Economic Development & Tourism

- Information on a potential GO Virginia application for regional entrepreneurship program will be shared with further details anticipated in December. There are multiple documents related to both the Young Entrepreneurship Program and rural entrepreneurship funded via GO Virginia.
- The regional Tourism Committee has continued minimal advertising via Facebook for the Tween Rivers Trail focused on safe activities and highlight TRT member events conducted with appropriate guidelines. Engagement via social media and website statistics continues to meet or exceed previous years, even with the end of the Virginia Tourism Corporation grant in December 2019.

Emergency Planning & Hazard Mitigation

- Data collection and mapping processes are underway for the regional Wildfire GIS analysis project funded through the Virginia Department of Emergency Management.
- As referenced in my September report, staff consulted with Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) staff regarding the timing of an application for funding to support the next update of the regional Hazard Mitigation plan. Based on available funding and other regions with plans set to expire prior to our adopted plan, VDEM suggested that we hold off on an application until next year's grant cycle.
- RRRC staff will coordinate with our local partners to conduct the annual milestone and progress report on the existing Hazard Mitigation plan before the anniversary date of December 13th.
- Staff continues to participate with Rappahannock-Rapidan Health District on jurisdiction calls related to COVID-19 and background support for outreach and testing sites

Local Technical Assistance

- Staff continue to assist Rappahannock County with mapping for the County comprehensive plan update
- Provided GIS and mapping assistance related to potential broadband projects in Madison County