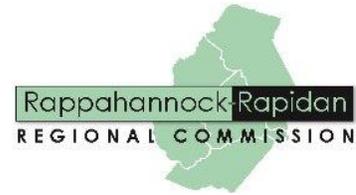


Executive Director's Report

April 21, 2021



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:

- The Commission is currently advertising for an AmeriCorps VISTA position to support Foothills Housing Network data analysis for a one-year term. Full description and application materials are available at https://www.rregion.org/about_us/employment_opportunities.php.
- The draft FY 2022 budget is included in the meeting packet today. Staff expects some revisions between now and June, and may work with the Executive Committee in the interim for any significant adjustments. The requested compensation and salary survey will be prepared between now and June, and will likely be reviewed by the Executive Committee for consideration as part of the budget review process.
- Staff will complete a compliance review for our Mobility Management program with Department of Rail and Public Transportation staff in May, as well as a financial compliance review for all DRPT programs during this quarter.
- Kristin Lam Peraza was asked to serve on the DRPT Stakeholder Advisory Committee developing a handbook on COVID-19 Recovery Strategies which will complete work in the next 4-6 months.

Transportation

- The Regional Transportation Collaborative, under direction from RRRC staff, held a transportation webinar outlining transportation options for older adults and individuals with disabilities across the region in late March. Presentations from numerous RTC partners and service providers were provided. The webinar was livestreamed on YouTube and on Culpeper Media Network and can be viewed on the Commission's YouTube channel at <https://youtu.be/9LNwGhNb6cA>.
- Staff continue updating the Regional Long Range Transportation Plan and will overview the process next week. We have also requested review of included projects from local planning staff and chief administrative officers and expect that to be ongoing through May.
- The draft Six-Year Improvement Program is currently available, with funding for transportation projects and programs from VDOT and the Department of Rail and Public Transportation open for comment. Included in the recommendations are funds for the Commission's Commuter Services program, as well as increased funding for the Commission's Mobility Management program that would support additional staffing for the FAMS Call Center and to support the Regional Transportation Collaborative. The draft SYIP is available on the [Commonwealth Transportation Board website](#) and comments can be submitted through that site.

Homelessness & Regional Housing

- Staff continues to support follow-up activities from the Regional Housing Study. At present, the primary tasks are production of an Affordable Housing inventory inclusive of subsidized units, housing choice voucher programs, as well as other identified units, and continued development of locally relevant materials including field reports focused on adaptive reuse or development considerations for areas in and around the region's towns.
- Rebecca Wareham will provide a summary of Foothills Housing Network activities at the April meeting, including Point in Time Count information from January, spending trends for non-congregate shelter. I would note here that FHN Coordinated Entry procedures and the FHN Racial Equity workgroup are both being used as models for Virginia Balance of State Continuum of Care pilot programs.

Environmental/Natural Resources

- Staff coordinated a kickoff meeting for the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation grant earlier this month with partners from Fauquier County, Town of Warrenton, John Marshall Soil & Water Conservation District, Friends of the Rappahannock, and Chesapeake Conservancy. The project will run through March 2023 and will result in BMP installations in Fauquier County and Warrenton, expansion of Virginia Conservation Assistance Program (VCAP) installations, and development of a GIS-based BMP prioritization tool for future projects.
- The Land Use and Environment Committee met in March and held a robust discussion on local stormwater and erosion & sediment control programs, and ongoing issues and local needs. We expect additional follow-up on the subject with potential to engage DEQ staff at the regional level moving forward.

Economic Development & Tourism

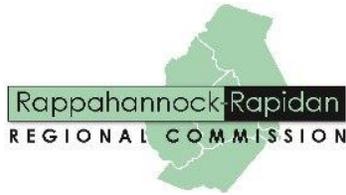
- In follow up to a presentation in December, staff continues to engage with the Young Entrepreneurship Program contacts on development of that program beyond the pilot phase. However, it appears that GO Virginia will not be the funding source for the expanded program as the return on investment criteria will not meet GO Virginia requirements. Partners continue to engage and look for alternate funding sources.
- We continue to pursue options for a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) plan and will look to convene the region's economic development partners in the fourth quarter to determine next steps.

Emergency Planning & Hazard Mitigation

- The Commission approved an application to VDEM and FEMA to fund an update to the Rappahannock-Rapidan Hazard Mitigation Plan in December. We are awaiting final confirmation from VDEM staff but based on plan expiration dates across the state and funding available from FEMA's Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program, our application is likely to be deferred to a future grant round, either the 2021 BRIC program or a Hazard Mitigation Grant Program that may be opened based on any federally declared disasters prior to the next BRIC application period.
- The regional wildfire analysis project is advancing, with staff continuing to run new data sources through the model process. We expect a draft report document available for review by the end of 2021.

Local Technical Assistance

- GIS assistance for Rappahannock County Broadband Authority for school system survey map development
- Staff worked with Culpeper County and Town of Culpeper staff on a proposal to the Office of Intermodal Planning and Investment (OIPI) Growth and Accessibility technical assistance program. This project was awarded and we expect to receive updates from OIPI in response to the response to their consultant advertisement in early May
- Presented information on solar developments to the Orange County Planning Commission in March. I am happy to share the presentation materials as needed.
- Developed a redistricting summary document outlining timeline impacts from the Census delays, as well as new requirements adopted by the General Assembly in 2020. This document is attached to this report. Staff anticipates working with several local governments over the next year-plus in development of redistricting maps and plans.
- Continued discussions with LOVE Orange Virginia on their Downtown Strategies plan process and tie-ins with Regional Housing Study and other Regional Commission projects
- Support for Fauquier County's request for proposals for legislative services that is to be advertised in early May
- Participated in several meetings related to housing opportunities in Culpeper and continue to work with Culpeper DSS to convene a meeting with potential partners in developing framework
- Participation and support for Carver Center workgroup activities, including review of Food Processing summary documents and Culpeper County requests to Representative Spanberger
- Presented Regional Housing Study information to Fauquier County Planning Commission in March



MEMORANDUM

To: RRRC Chief Administrative Officers
From: Patrick L. Mauney, Executive Director
Subject: 2021 Redistricting Updates

The following summary provides summary information regarding the current status of state and local redistricting efforts impacting the Rappahannock-Rapidan region, along with the impacts from the ongoing delays in receiving redistricting data from the U.S. Census Bureau.

Included here are summary highlights of the *Guide to Local Redistricting* document produced by the Virginia Division of Legislative Services, including legislative changes enacted since the last redistricting process in 2011, a summary of four methods used by localities in the region in 2011, and a general timeline for redistricting based on expected receipt of data from the U.S. Census Bureau.

I. Summary of Changes/Highlights of Local Guide

The Virginia Division of Legislative Services produces the *Guide to Local Redistricting for 2021*, a comprehensive document outlining Code of Virginia requirements for local election districts, precincts, and polling places, as well as legal standards applicable to local redistricting. The guide should be provided to any officials participating or assisting in local redistricting efforts and can be accessed on the [DLS website](#).

Source Links:

[Guide to Local Redistricting for 2021](#)

[Virginia Redistricting Commission March 30, 2021 Meeting Materials](#)

Census Data Delays

Usually, redistricting data from the decennial census is received from the U.S. Census Bureau in the February or March of the year following the decennial census. However, delays resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic and associated impacts on the Census Bureau's collection and processing of the decennial census data have pushed the deadline for delivery of the redistricting data until September 30, 2021. The March 30, 2021 meeting of the Virginia Redistricting Commission notes that Census data is anticipated to be delivered to Virginia by the second week in August. However, this data will be in legacy format and will require additional processing and reallocation by the Virginia Division of Legislative Services prior to use for local redistricting.

In addition to the timeline impacts, the delays in receiving redistricting data from the U.S. Census Bureau raise questions which likely will require court rulings related to requirements for local redistricting in the Constitution of Virginia. Article VII, Section 5 states, in part, "*When members are so elected by district, the governing body of any county, city, or town may, in a manner provided by law, increase or diminish the number, and change the boundaries, of districts, and shall in 1971 and every ten years thereafter, and also whenever the boundaries of such districts are changed, reapportion the representation in the governing body among the districts in a manner provided by law.*"

Should the requirement for redrawing districts every ten years (those years ending in 1) be upheld and the redistricting data be received in September 2021, it is possible that the local redistricting process may need to be completed before the end of 2021. However, it is also possible that the courts may grant localities a one-time reprieve from that requirement with the potential to conduct the redrawing of local districts in 2022.

Key Changes from 2011

There are a number of legislative changes enacted since 2011 that will impact local redistricting in 2021 or 2022.

Source of Population Figures: Previously, localities utilized census data obtained directly from the Census Bureau. However, in 2020, legislation was enacted that requires the Division of Legislative Services to adjust the data received from the Census Bureau to reflect the reallocation

of prison populations in the Commonwealth. In short, this means that any person incarcerated in a federal, state, or local correctional facility will be reallocated based on their address at the time of incarceration:

- If the person had an address in Virginia, they will be allocated to that address/jurisdiction
- If the person had an address outside Virginia or an address cannot be determined, they will be allocated to the location of the facility in which they are incarcerated

The Division of Legislative Services must make the revised data resulting from that reallocation adjustment available within 30 days of receipt of data from the U.S. Census.

Local Precinct Geography: In past redistricting years, local districts and precincts were developed concurrently with state redistricting efforts affecting Congressional, Virginia Senate and House of Delegate districts. This often resulted in split precincts and there were many instances where the state or congressional districts were later subject to minor amendments to match those local precincts.

However, legislation enacted in 2020 requires County and City precincts to be “wholly contained within a single congressional district, Senate district, House of Delegates district, and election district used for the election of one or more members of the governing body or school board for the county or city.” [The Code of Virginia 24.2-307](#) does include a clause that the local governing body may use the district boundaries that existed on June 15th of the year ending in one if those districts were not adopted by the appropriate authority by June 15th, with the further provision that the governing body shall establish precinct boundaries to be consistent with any subsequent changes to congressional, Senate, or House of Delegates districts.

II. General Timeline (From Date of Census Data Release) + Key Dates

As outlined above, there are several unknowns regarding redistricting in 2021 that limit the ability of local governments to develop specific timelines for redistricting at present. While it remains unknown whether the Court system in Virginia will rule on the requirements for local redistricting to occur in 2021, the below timeline assumes that localities will be unable to complete redistricting processes in advance of the November 2021 elections.

- On or before September 30: Census Bureau provides PL-194.71 data to state and local governments for redistricting purposes.
- On or before October 30: Virginia Division of Legislative Services makes adjusted population data to reflect prisoner reallocation available.
- On or before October 31: Local governments should have redistricting data available to begin reviewing population shifts from 2010 to 2020 and begin preliminary redistricting review.

NOTE: Due to the new requirement for local precincts to be entirely within Congressional, Senate and House of Delegates districts as of June 15th, local governments will need to determine whether to move forward with redistricting ahead of the Virginia Redistricting Commission. Currently, Fauquier County has areas

within two Congressional districts, Culpeper County and Fauquier County have areas within multiple State Senate districts and within multiple House of Delegates districts.

- On or before November 15: Within 45 days of receipt of census data, the Virginia Redistricting Commission must submit Senate and House of Delegates district maps to General Assembly.
- On or before November 30: Within 60 days of receipt of census data, the Virginia Redistricting Commission must submit Congressional district maps to General Assembly.

III. Summary of 4 Methods used in 2011

The Regional Commission worked with Culpeper County, Orange County, Rappahannock County and the Town of Warrenton to complete redistricting plans in 2011. Each jurisdiction utilized a unique approach to review the population shifts between 2000 and 2010 and developing its redistricting plan for adoption. The brief summaries below are intended to provide potential options for each jurisdiction to consider as part of its post-2020 Census redistricting process.

In addition to the members of the governing body, it may also be practical to include relevant local administrative/planning staff, general registrar, school board members, or other representatives as part of the redistricting process, in addition to public involvement and public hearings.

- Culpeper County

County Planning & GIS staff worked with RRRC staff to review population changes between 2000 and 2010 and developed a series of redistricting plan options to present to the Board of Supervisors. The Board of Supervisors provided feedback on the staff developed plans resulting in revisions and a development of the proposed redistricting plan for public hearing and consideration.

- Orange County

RRRC staff spent a day on-site at Orange County Administration building and worked individually with each member of the Board of Supervisors to review population changes and develop a redistricting plan with each member. Board members then worked to develop a single proposed redistricting plan for public hearing and consideration.

- Rappahannock County

RRRC staff was asked to produce a series of options to review with the Board of Supervisors and county staff. The Board of Supervisors reviewed the options, made recommendations for adjustments, and RRRC staff developed the proposed redistricting plan for public hearing and consideration.

- Town of Warrenton

Town of Warrenton Community Development staff worked with RRRC staff to review population changes and develop three options to present to the Town Council. Following Town Council presentation, a fourth option was developed and reviewed. RRRC staff then worked with one Council member, at the direction of Town Council, to develop the single proposed redistricting plan for public hearing and consideration.