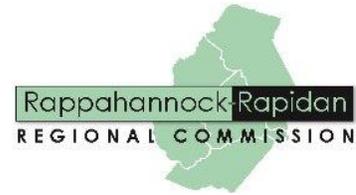


## Executive Director's Report October 20, 2021



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:**

- Thank you again to Orange County for hosting the Annual Meeting earlier this month at Lake of the Woods, and to everyone who attended. The leadership awards were a particular highlight for me, and I'm grateful that we had so many deserving honorees and especially grateful to Mrs. Sutphin and Ms. Schaeffer for their connecting me with Coleen Wood in advance of the meeting.
- Copies of the Commission's Annual Report will be provided at the meeting for those of you that missed the Annual Meeting. I will also briefly review the submission to DHCD for the PDC Annual Report.
- The FY 2021 audit is in draft form for your review. Terry Snead and I will be happy to provide answers to any questions you may have between now and December.
- Staff submitted FY 2023 budget request to Fauquier County earlier this month and will follow up with additional submissions later in 2021 and early in 2022. If you have new or adjusted budget request processes, please let me know.
- RRRC staff have participated in various outreach opportunities over the past few months, including Commuter Services at the Warrenton Street Festival and Culpeper AirFest and Tween Rivers Trail at the Prince Michel Outdoor Adventure Expo. We are happy to participate if you have local events that overlap with our program areas!

### **Transportation**

- Staff has worked with Rappahannock County and the Town of Remington to develop application materials for the Growth and Accessibility Planning Technical Assistance program offered by the Virginia Office of Intermodal Planning and Investment. Both applications are focused on planning for pedestrian safety and accommodations. RRRC will serve as applicant for the Town of Remington project and will commit to providing support to both projects, if they are funded.
- Staff is working on implementation of the AARP Community Challenge grant. To that end, we are looking for localities to provide guidance on the ability to install temporary marketing in support of the Regional Transportation Collaborative's *Trusted Community Partner* materials. This can include temporary painted sidewalk blocks, painted or logoed benches at bus stops or parks, or other temporary public art installations. Please contact Kristin Lam Peraza if there are processes to follow in your locality or if we can connect with local staff or other partners.
- Staff continues to track potential changes to the Smart Scale program, as well as other state transportation funding sources. For Smart Scale, the potential exists for the region to have the Land Use criteria added into our funding category. Initially, this would appear to benefit projects in parts of the region, but we will seek additional clarity from VDOT and report back to the Rural Transportation Committee and Commission as needed.

## **Homelessness & Regional Housing**

- Commission staff worked with People Incorporated to review and revise that agency's Permanent Support Housing grant in the Foothills Housing Network region. The program has been in existence since 2017, but the support and guidance from Rebecca Wareham was integral to the application revisions and ability to tie more directly to other existing FHN programs
- Olivia Samimy, our AmeriCorps VISTA member through next August, has taken the lead on revising Foothills Housing Network outreach materials and the FHN website. You can view the refreshed website at <https://www.foothillshousing.org>
- Jennifer Little and I will provide updates on the PDC Housing Development Program. There has been expressed interest from various non-profit developers and we are working to put the structure for the program in place to align with other funding timelines, while also allowing flexibility for the Commission to make awards that support local and regional priorities

## **Environmental & Natural Resources**

- The application to the Department of Forestry in partnership with Culpeper County and Friends of the Rappahannock was awarded. The project will enable planting of Canadian Red Cherry, Eastern Redbud and Serviceberry trees at Lenn Park in the County based on plans developed by FOR and the Culpeper County Parks and Recreation department.
- Liz Beling, RRRC's Farm to School Liaison, will provide a brief overview of her first two months working in the region. She has been active in schools across the area already and is building on our existing connections and partnerships with 4P Foods and the Virginia Farm to School Leadership team.

## **Economic Development & Tourism**

- We have conducted outreach to our existing Tween Rivers Trail site members to confirm various changes in operations over the past 12 months. Several sites have unfortunately closed, but those that remain active are excited about renewed marketing opportunities. We anticipate convening the regional tourism directors in the next month to discuss additional coordination possibilities.

## **Emergency Planning & Hazard Mitigation**

- The Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) grant program is open for applications. Commission staff have completed the pre-application process and expect to submit the full application in advance of the November 10<sup>th</sup> deadline to the Virginia Department of Emergency Management. This project will likely kick off in late 2022.

## **Local Technical Assistance**

- We have agreements in the works with Culpeper County, Rappahannock County and Town of Warrenton to provide redistricting assistance over the next several months. We also provided limited support to Orange County in revising its metes and bounds descriptions for voting districts and precincts.
- Staff will serve on a working group to support the Virginia Tech Biological Systems Engineering program as it performs a green infrastructure assessment for the Carver Center.
- The Regional Transportation Collaborative recently facilitated purchase, at significantly reduced cost, of two handicapped-accessible passenger vans through its partnerships in the

region and with the Department of Rail and Public Transportation. These vans will support RTC partners and enhance the collaboration between existing agencies.

- Michelle Edwards presented recently to the Rivanna River Basin Commission regarding our activities in support of the Rappahannock Watershed Plan and overall WIP III planning effort
- Kristin Lam Peraza presented information on the Regional Transportation Collaborative to several regions across the state, including Roanoke and Charlottesville area groups
- Provided mapping assistance to Center for Natural Capital and Rappahannock River Basin Commission regarding Rapidan River watershed
- Communicated with new Madison County Administrator and included on the September call with other regional CAOs. I am working to coordinate an appointment from the County for its vacant position resulting from Mr. Hobbs' retirement in July.
- Provided summary documentation of rehabilitation/economic revitalization funding opportunities to Rappahannock County
- Participated on transportation pipeline planning projects with Fauquier County and the Town of Warrenton for targeted projects in both localities