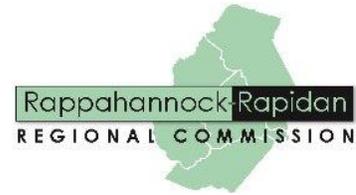


## **Executive Director's Report December 2, 2021**



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:**

- We welcomed a new Coordinated Entry Specialist to the Commission in early December. Ms. DeAngela Alexander began on December 2<sup>nd</sup> and brings a human services background with experience in local social services, homeless services providers and case management that will benefit the overall Coordinated Entry program.
- FY 2023 budget requests for Culpeper and Orange counties are in development. If other local jurisdictions have upcoming deadlines or new requirements, please let me know as you are able.

### **Transportation**

- The Regional Long Range Transportation Plan is in draft form. We will send out a press release for public comment later in December.
- You may see digital displays at various locations throughout the region highlighting the work of the Regional Transportation Collaborative and Foothills Housing Network. The displays are part of the additional outreach for the RTC funded via PATH Foundation and the AARP Community Challenge grant.
- Staff continue to work with local partners on various transportation planning efforts including the Culpeper area planning process, Fauquier County and Town of Warrenton pipeline projects, and submitted the applications for Growth and Accessibility Planning assistance for Town of Remington and Rappahannock County.

### **Homelessness & Regional Housing**

- Staff held a regional housing stakeholder meeting in November to determine common needs related to affordable housing across the region. Participants included local staff, elected officials, non-profit housing developers, and local banking representatives, among others. Initial feedback is that there is a need for a housing resource inventory for funding and housing options, as well as continued focus on tracking housing and development across the region.
- 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 updated logos, information and the refreshed website at <https://www.foothillshousing.org>
- Staff are working with partners to determine opportunities for shelter over the short and long-term. As you know, funding has been directed to service providers to place homeless individuals and households in hotels in the region, but the need continues to grow and many hotels are unable to make long-term commitments for room space. We also continue to see the number of literally homeless individuals contacting Coordinated Entry grow month to month.

### **Environmental & Natural Resources**

- Staff worked with the Department of Conservation and Recreation to host a virtual meeting for the Virginia Outdoors Plan in late November.
- The Land Use and Environment committee met in November and heard an update on the ongoing BMP Prioritization tool that is being developed by Chesapeake Conservancy through RRRC's NFWF grant.
- Staff facilitated discussion between 4P Foods and Rappahannock County schools regarding opportunities to expand local food use. Liz Beling continues to be active in each school system and is developing various models and lessons that can be adapted depending on class size and age group.

### **Economic Development & Tourism**

- Staff continue to reach out to Tween Rivers Trail partners to expand marketing and social media coordination. We expect to engage with the regional tourism directors in early 2022 to determine next steps and additional opportunities for regional collaborative efforts.
- The Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) application should be submitted in early 2022.

### **Emergency Planning & Hazard Mitigation**

- The Hazard Mitigation Plan update application was submitted in early November. We expect to receive feedback from VDEM staff in the next month or so regarding any revisions and should have more information on award from FEMA in mid-2022.
- The ongoing Wildfire Risk Analysis project is nearing draft form. Matthew Decatur has updated GIS layers and data sets and we anticipate sharing with regional committees in the first quarter of 2022.

### **Local Technical Assistance**

- Staff facilitated a work session with Culpeper County Board of Supervisors on the county's redistricting process in November. We are also planning to work with Rappahannock County and the Town of Warrenton to develop redistricting plans, as well as being attentive to the statewide process now under the direction of the Virginia Supreme Court.
- Staff attended the November meeting of the Town/County Liaison Committee in Fauquier County. Several items, including transportation and recycling, may be of regional interest moving forward.
- I presented at the Leadership Fauquier Human Services panel in November. This was a very interested group, and I appreciated the opportunity to present along with RRCS and Fauquier Social Services.
- Participated on transportation pipeline planning projects with Fauquier County and the Town of Warrenton for targeted projects in both localities