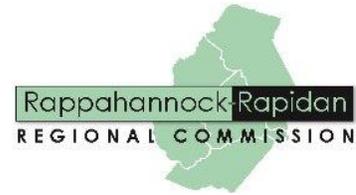


Executive Director's Report

February 15, 2022



The purpose of this 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 offer a warm welcome (back) to the Commission to Supervisor Tom Underwood from Culpeper County and to Councilmember Jeremiah Pent from the Town of Orange. I look forward to working with both and am grateful for the service of Supervisor Gary Deal (2 years) and Mayor Martha Roby (8 ½ years) to RRRC.
- Budget requests have been submitted to each member jurisdiction and I have also spoken to those governing bodies who have outside agency requests in open session. As always, I am happy to schedule time to speak with your governing body about RRRC as it benefits each of your jurisdictions.

Homelessness & Regional Housing

- Staff are entering all surveys collected during the annual Point in Time count that was conducted on the night of January 25th. We anticipate that the number of homeless individuals and households in the region will increase this year, and have noted a greater number of people living in their cars, in addition to those in emergency shelter, transitional housing, and unsheltered in various parts of the region. I do want to highlight the efforts of Social Services departments, service providers, and a number of churches in the region that participated in this year's PIT count.

Economic Development & Tourism

- The Regional tourism directors met earlier this month to provide guidance on efforts including Tween Rivers Trail, Purely Piedmont and the regional VA 250 activities. An application to Virginia Tourism Corporation is in development to support outreach and marketing for Tween Rivers Trail.
- RRRC's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy kicked off on February 14th with an overview of the planning process, engagement opportunities and brief initial feedback from strategy committee members. We are happy to include additional stakeholders throughout the planning process, which will last through early 2024.

Transportation

- Applications supporting the Mobility Management program (Regional Transportation Collaborative) and Commuter Services program were submitted to DRPT on February 1st. These are long-standing programs and we expect to answer any questions from grant reviewers before the Commonwealth Transportation Board takes action with final decisions in June.
- We will engage with Berkley Group on the Commuter Services Strategic Plan later this month. This is a requirement of DRPT for each commuter assistance program and will provide a 5-year plan for spending and strategic priorities for RRRC Commuter Services. We anticipate completion by early 2024.

- We are beginning to develop our FY 2024 Rural Transportation Work Program. If you have transportation planning assistance needs, please let us know and we can identify opportunities where RRRC can support your locality.

Environmental & Natural Resources

- We continue to support opportunities for Best Management Practice installations via the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation grant. We are in the process of shifting funds to a project at the Carver Center in partnership with Culpeper County and Friends of the Rappahannock after Fauquier County decided not to move forward with its planned BMP project due to an unsuccessful bid process. We also explored the possibility of using the funds to purchase nutrient credits for Fauquier, but NFWF ultimately determined that was not an eligible expense.
- The Land Use committee will meet this Thursday (February 18th) to discuss ongoing projects, as well as future BMP opportunities. If there are items of interest, please let me or Michelle Edwards know so that we can include on future agendas.
- RRRC's Farm to School Liaison has supported development of the Bringing the Farm to School Workshop hosted by Virginia Cooperative Extension and Virginia Department of Education. This workshop is targeted to producers seeking to sell food to schools and will be February 23-24 at Culpeper Baptist Church. Feel free to pass along the link to the [registration form](#) for anyone interested.

Emergency Planning & Hazard Mitigation

- We received word in January that we were successful in our application to the Commonwealth Flood Prevention Fund. This grant will support a regional Resiliency Plan that will be completed as part of the Hazard Mitigation plan update process to kick off later this year.
- We continue to wait on award from VDEM and FEMA for the regional Hazard Mitigation plan update. We submitted application materials in December 2021 and our five-year plan expiration is December 2023. We do have a consultant cost proposal to complete the plan update, so I anticipate being able to move quickly once we have award and contract from VDEM.

Local Technical Assistance

- We continue to support Madison County's Comprehensive Plan update. Jennifer Little is our staff lead on the project and a kickoff meeting with the County's steering committee was held in November with work to continue through 2023
- Along with VAPDC representatives, I met with Bryan Horn, Department of Housing and Community Development Director and his Deputy and Assistant in Richmond in January.
- Continued to support Town of Remington application to DHCD for Community Development Block Grant program to support downtown revitalization and continued focus on pedestrian safety in Town
- Staff participated in VDOT Project Selection discussions at all three VDOT residencies in late January.
- The quarterly Regional Planners Roundtable meeting will be held in March, and we continue to see great interest in roundtable discussions from your local planning, economic development and other staff.