



**Central Virginia Planning
District Commission**
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Staff Report

To: Planning District Commissioners
From: Alec Brebner and staff
Date: July 18, 2024

A new fiscal year has begun. The Planning District Commission has adopted a budget, and with it, most of the formal business of the Commission is concluded. A very notable exception is the election of officers.

Appomattox Mayor Richard Conner has admirably led the Planning District Commission for the past year. Mayor Conner oversaw investments approaching \$400,000 in brownfields assessments, a pledge of nearly \$500,000 to three affordable housing developments in two Central Virginia localities; CVPDC's participation in the Southeast Crescent Regional Commission; successful application for funding of a regional agribusiness initiative; successful funding applications for the ACA Classical & CTE Academy in Appomattox totaling almost \$900,000; successful application to USDOT's Thriving Communities program; and ongoing community development activities in Altavista, Appomattox, Bedford, and Madison Heights.

As CVPDC Chairman, Mayor Conner hosted Congressman Bob Good, General Assemblyman and Congressman-elect John McGuire, Delegate Wendell Walker, VAPDC Executive Director David Blount, Lynchburg Regional Airport Director Andrew LaGala, former Commissioner Dean Rodgers representing the US Refugee Resettlement Program, Central Virginia Workforce Development Board Chairman Nat Marshall, Virginia Deputy Secretary for Workforce Development Nicole Overley, and US EDA Economic Development Representative for Virginia Lauren Stuhldreher (virtually). Mayor Conner also hosted the CVPDC's second annual holiday social and participated in a CVPDC panel on local government successes at the Lynchburg Regional Business Alliance's Transportation & Infrastructure Summit.

Altavista Vice-Mayor Reggie Bennett has agreed to succeed Mayor Conner as CVPDC Chairman for Fiscal Year 2025. CVPDC Bylaws provide that the chairmanship must rotate each year. Drew Wade of Amherst County, the locality that follows Altavista in alphabetical order, has offered to step into the vice-chairman's seat.

The role of treasurer follows the locality and serves as a second signature for expenditures on behalf of the Commission. Altavista Town Manager Gary Shanaberger has agreed to serve as CVPDC Treasurer for FY2025 should Vice-Mayor Bennett be elected chairman. The slate of officers for Fiscal Year 2025 appears on the CVPDC's July 18 meeting agenda.

CVPDC July 18 Agenda

A wide range of speakers and topics populate the Planning District Commission's regular meeting agenda. Special guests will speak to emerging opportunities on issues critical to Central Virginia. Additional presenters will cover the evolving work of the CVPDC and its partners advancing regional priorities. Staff will provide updates about ongoing initiatives on transportation and economic development.

The July meeting agenda aims to offer Planning District Commissioners opportunities to engage in dialogue about important topics and how local governments might work together to support or facilitate solutions. Questions and conversation are encouraged!

Jerry Silva

Jerry will present the Virginia Tobacco Revitalization Commission's new Energy Ingenuity Fund. Jerry visited Central Virginia in June to discuss the opportunity and ideas with PDC staff and key contributors to workforce development and economic development in Central Virginia. He'll brief the Planning District Commission about the Tobacco Commission's newest initiative.

Mr. Silva (bio) is a highly experienced professional in the energy industry, specializing in government relations, capital infrastructure, renewable projects, and community grants. With a distinguished career spanning over 30 years, he has played a crucial role in securing major transmission and substation regulatory approvals, contributing significantly to the sector's growth.

Currently, Mr. Silva advises Virginia's tobacco commission and is leading the establishment of a \$12 million energy fund, focusing on energy projects in Virginia's Southern and Southwest regions. Additionally, he co-founded Right Energy Group, a consulting firm specializing in energy strategy, permitting, government relations, and infrastructure approvals.

Previously, Mr. Silva served as a Senior Advisor and compliance manager at Southern California Edison (SCE), where he managed various operational and public affairs initiatives. He played a key role in industry restructuring and securing licenses and permits for significant renewal projects totaling \$500 million.

His expertise extends to serving as a Senior Advisor at the Department of Energy's Office of Economic Impact and Diversity, executing the Workforce Development Pillar of the 'Equity in Energy' Initiative.

Outside his professional roles, Mr. Silva is actively engaged in various organizations, serving on boards and holding notable positions such as Governor Appointee to the Professional Engineer and Land Surveyor Commission.

Kim Soerensen

The United Way of Central Virginia is working on a Childcare and Workforce Development Center, about which she will update the Planning District Commission.

Kim Soerensen (bio) has held the position of CEO & President at United Way of Central Virginia in Lynchburg, Virginia since 2023. She is an advocate for thriving communities as well as an entrepreneur

with an extensive career in design and global business. Kim currently serves as a member of the Economic Development Authority for the City of Lynchburg and is an active Rotarian.

Originally from Germany, Soerensen immigrated to L.A. in 1986 after earning her degree in Design from the Blocherer School of Design at the University of Munich. Kim relocated to Lynchburg in 1998 where she concurrently began a family and her own businesses. The latter included DK Spaces (a property investment company) and Omniterrum (provider of rare, antique world globes and related planetary ephemera) for which she was published in the New York Times, Washington Post and Oprah Magazine as well as appearances in various international news shows.

She served on the board of the James River Arts & Cultural District Program of the City of Lynchburg and the Virginia Commission for the Arts while in her leadership role as Executive Director at the Arts non-profit Riverviews from 2016-2022. During that time the organization evolved from the "Best Kept Secret" of Central Virginia to the "Best Arts Center" as voted by patrons of the local News & Advance.

If you want to speak with her about the importance of creating healthy and thriving communities, you might be able to catch her riding around town on her Vespa as a member of the local Scooter Club, or spending time with family and numerous pets..

CVPDC Position Reclassification

The CVPDC provides staff to Virginia Career Works – Central Region as well as financial management and benefits administration. Traci Blido and Tim Saunders are staff hired by the Central Virginia Workforce Development Board while appearing on CVPDC payroll. In its administrative support function, CVPDC manages job compensation and classification for these positions along with Region 2000 Services Authority personnel.

Federal workforce development funding has declined precipitously in past couple of years. Shrinking resources have led to force reductions in Central Virginia. The Workforce Development Board has partnered with adjacent workforce regions to share costs and has reassigned duties among remaining staff.

A revised position description and a new title are proposed for Tim Saunders. The Workforce Development Board has afforded Tim additional compensation for the increased role, which necessitates a change in pay grade. The WDB has promoted Tim from Business Engagement and Outreach Coordinator to Assistant Director. The revised position description and pay grade appear in this agenda packet for review and approval by the Planning District Commission.

CVPDC Flood Resilience Plan 2024

By Kelly Hitchcock (Kelly Hitchcock@CVPDC.org)

The CVPDC received a \$54,000 Virginia Community Flood Preparedness Fund (CFPF) from the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), matched by \$6,000 in local funds, to inventory and evaluate areas prone to stormwater flooding issues and establish strategies to mitigate impact.

Completion of a flood resilience planning process, according to DCR CFPF requirements, approved by a regional entity and locality provides eligibility to apply for CFPF construction grant funds to implement projects. The Berkley Group was procured to develop the regional resiliency plan.

The CVPDC Flood Resilience Plan 2024 (CVPDC Resilience Plan) seeks to increase resiliency – the ability of communities, infrastructure and ecosystems to withstand, adapt to, or quickly recover impacts from all forms of flooding, including but not limited to riverine, pluvial or heavy rain, and stormwater flooding. The Regional Resiliency Plan was developed in coordination and cooperation of locality staff and area stakeholders and included consultant led interviews, focus-group sessions, and locality staff review throughout.

The CVPDC Flood Resilience Plan 2024 focuses primarily on addressing threats from flooding, a DCR CFPF program-focus requirement. The CVPDC Resilience Plan stakeholders noted impacts of extreme heat especially for the region’s vulnerable communities. The Plan therefore includes evaluation and recommendation for extreme heat mitigation factors. The CVPDC Resilience Plan builds on the 2020 CVPDC Hazard Mitigation Plan, utilizing data and building on goals and recommended mitigation actions. Finally, the CVPDC Resilience Plan has been developed such that each locality can adopt the full document or the single locality chapter as a unique document and integrate into local plans.

Resilience Action Prioritization Matrix

A CVPDC Flood Resilience Plan 2024 includes an action matrix for prioritized flood and heat mitigation strategies for each locality. Additionally, a more detailed implementation recommendation summary is presented for identified priority projects.

Amherst County **75** Action Score
Stream Restoration and Nature-Based Solutions

Action Description
 Evaluate stream conditions and implement streambank stabilization and green infrastructure to promote natural function and mitigate riverine flooding, impacts of dam failure, and stormwater at the following locations: Williams Run, Lovesville, Moravian Park, Peddler river at Buffalo Spring, Ware's Gap Road near Puppy Creek.

Key Steps for Implementation

1. Field investigation of current stream conditions
2. Assessment of stream and riverine capacity and flooding under future climate conditions.
3. Identification of priority project areas and coordination with private owners.
4. Implementation of restoration and green infrastructure solutions along stream and areas of known flooding

Action Lead
 Department of Public Works

Supporting Partners

- Private property owners abutting waterways
- CVPDC
- Amherst Watershed Coordinator for the Robert E. Lee Soil and Water Conservation District

Ease of Implementation

- Locality can complete in-house.
- Requires locality to hire a staff person.
- Requires hiring a technical consultant.

Measures of Success

- Reduction of stormwater and riverine flooding
- Monitored and improved water quality and stream health
- Restoration of riverine vegetative buffer zones
- More agreements with private property owners to create conservation easements

Legend

Action Initiation Timeframe
 Short: 0-2 years
 Medium: 3-6 years
 Long: 7+ years

Cost*
 \$: less than 10k
 \$\$: 10-50k
 \$\$\$: 50-500k
 \$\$\$\$: 500k-2mill
 \$\$\$\$\$: 2 mil+
 \$\$\$\$\$\$: 50-500k

*Cost associated with the actions refers to how much it is expected to cost the Town to implement. This does not include costs for ongoing maintenance.

Action Initiation Timeframe
 Short Medium Long

Resilience Considerations
 Stream restoration and nature-based solutions will be located and implemented based on information from a hydraulic and hydrologic model that shows impact on reducing flooding. Nature-based solutions can also help reduce urban heat island impacts.

Co-Benefits & Equity Considerations
 Cost-sharing with private property owners to help improve their properties and reduce flooding through conservation measures. Prioritized flood-prone areas in which socially-vulnerable populations also live.

Cost
 \$\$\$-\$\$\$\$

Possible Funding Sources
 Virginia Department of Environmental Quality Local Stormwater Assistance Fund, Virginia Community Flood Preparedness Fund

Next Steps

Consultants from the Berkley Group will introduce findings and plan content at the Commission’s July 18 meeting. Select slides appear in this agenda packet.

The Draft CVPDC Flood Resilience Plan 2024 will be provided to the Commission and made available for public review and comment beginning Monday, August 22, 2024. The document will be available on the CVPDC website along with information available for posting on locality websites for a 30-day comment period. Comments will be reviewed and documented.

The final CVPDC Flood Resilience Plan 2024 will be brought to the CVPDC for consideration of approval at its regular September 19, 2024, meeting. Additionally, CVPDC staff will provide a CVPDC Resilience Plan overview and tailored locality strategy summary and work to support locality approval as requested in Autumn 2024.

CVPDC Brownfields Redevelopment – Building Program Impact

By Kelly Hitchcock (Kelly.Hitchcock@CVPDC.org)

Activity	Locality	Notes
Property Owner Program Information Request	Amherst (2) Appomattox (2) Bedford (2) Campbell (12) Altavista (3) Appomattox Town (4) Bedford Town (5) Brookneal (2)	This includes direct property owner communication with CVPDC, and in some cases, Environmental Standards/Montrose consultants, to discuss their property and potential grant program/assistance. In each case, CVPDC staff followed up letter/email was provided by CVPDC staff.
Property Approval Questionnaire (PAQ) Submitted for EPA Approval	Amherst (0) Appomattox (1) Bedford (0) Campbell (6) Altavista (1) Appomattox Town (1) Bedford Town (5) Brookneal (2)	13 PAQ, or Phase 1 Assessment funding approval requests have been submitted to EPA. 100% were approved by EPA. Some PAQ/Phase I Assessment approval included multiple, contiguous, single-owner parcels.
Phase I Assessments Performed	Amherst (0) Appomattox (1) Bedford (0) Campbell (7) Altavista (1) Appomattox Town (1)* Bedford Town (5) Brookneal (1)**	12, or 92%, of the 13 PAQs approved by EPA resulted in a completed, or under development, Phase I Assessment activity. 4 Phase I Assessments are directly involved in property transfer activity. 5 Phase I Assessments are supporting anticipated property transfer or expansion initiatives.
Phase II Assessments Performed or Active	Campbell (2)* Appomattox Town (1) Bedford Town (1) Brookneal (1)	Phase II activity includes development of Field Service Plans, submitted to EPA for approval, which outline the range of exploratory activity. In some cases, this has included old tank removal, soil boring activity, and mitigation recommendations.
Appomattox Brownfields Area-Wide Plan	Town of Appomattox	Stromberg Gerrigan & Associates (SGA), Environmental Standards/Montrose subconsultant, guide a redevelopment/reuse planning project for Confederate Blvd, Main Street and Church Street in the Town. Project includes corridor and designated property site reuse renderings.
Regional Brownfields Inventory and Prioritization	Regional	Stromberg Garrigan & Associates (SGA), Environmental Standards/Montrose subconsultant, leading brownfields inventory and parcel attribute mapping for EPA grant region.

* Denotes project where additional funding through DEQ is being sought.

** Property owner did not advance Phase 1 Assessment, some work completed.

In December 2021, the CVPDC was awarded a \$500,000 EPA Brownfields Community-Wide Assessment grant requiring no cash match. The program has been successful and is 97% expended. A summary of Phase I and Phase II Assessments and Area-Wide Planning activities appears in the table above.

CVPDC staff and the project consultants, Montrose Environmental, continue to receive communication from area interested property owners for Phase I and Phase II evaluations. More importantly, property owners of executed Phase I and Phase II Assessments are actively seeing continued assistance to advance property transfer and redevelopment opportunities. CVPDC staff is coordinating with DEQ to assist in continued mitigation and redevelopment assistance.

In order to capitalize on the program momentum and to respond to the continued needs and reuse opportunities, CVPDC staff recommends submittal of future EPA Brownfield Program applications in Autumn 2024. CVPDC staff recommends submittal of a second EPA Brownfields Community-Wide Assessment \$500,000 grant, now a four-year grant program, and additionally, submit an EPA Cleanup \$500,000 grant, also a four-year grant program.

CVPDC staff at this time seeks approval by the Commission to investigate the application and procure a firm to assist in the grant development process. A summary of the proposed applications, timing, and formal approval process will be brought back to the Commission in November 2024 (estimated).

Resolution of Support: SMART SCALE Round-6 Applications

Project applications to be submitted for SMART SCALE funding for projects within the Central Virginia Planning District by Locality include the following:

(Projects with * represent projects within the CVTPO study area.)

BEDFORD COUNTY

- Route 122 Corridor Improvements
- Route 608 Left Turn Lanes at Route 654 Intersection

CAMPBELL COUNTY

- Route 29 Southern Section – (Colonial Highway to Calohan Road) *
- Timberlake Road improvement project – (Greenview Drive/Laxton Road) *
- Route 501 passing lane improvement – (South of Gladys)
- Clanders Mountain Road turn lane improvements – (City limits to Sunnymead Road) *

CITY OF LYNCHBURG

- Clanders Mtn Rd/ U.S. 460 & Liberty Mtn Roundabout *

CVPDC Virtual Meeting and Participation Policies

The Code of Virginia has been amended to increase allowances for virtual meetings and virtual participation in in-person meetings. The CVPDC can now conduct two virtual meetings each calendar year per § 2.2-3708.3. A Commissioner can now attend two in-person meetings virtually if the Commission wishes to amend its current policies to align with recent code changes.

Financial Report, Month Ending May 2024

Commissioners will note that project revenues are lagging budgeted expectations. This is quite normal for a planning district commission. Grants operate on a reimbursement basis. Collections drag into July, making this a busy time of year at CVPDC offices.

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CVPDC Staffing

Patricia (Patti) Lassiter has joined the CVPDC team as Financial Services Professional/Office manager and is assisting with meeting minutes. Patti performed a similar role for Chesterfield County Schools. She and her family have relocated to Forest.

The CVPDC is currently advertising for a Regional Planner/Special Projects Manager and has one additional vacancy.

ConnectingVA – Commuter Assistance by CVPDC

By Ada Hunsberger (Ada.Hunsberger@CVPDC.org)

Staff has been conducting a Commuter Needs Assessment to identify commuting patterns as well as challenges, interest, and opportunities in using all modes – carpooling, biking, walking, transit, and single-occupant vehicle – to access resources in the region. The Assessment will serve as the Commuter Assistance Program's Strategic Plan, which outlines the program's activities, goals, and objectives. A steering committee is overseeing the development of the document, which will be presented to the Transportation Technical Committee in August for review. The CVPDC/TPO Boards will be presented with the documents in September and, once the draft is revised based on the feedback received, a 30-day public comment period will commence. The final draft will be presented for consideration for adoption at the PDC's November meeting.

Electric Vehicles (EV) Charging Infrastructure Initiative

By Mariel Fowler (Mariel.Fowler@CVPDC.org)

CVPDC staff is collecting information and staying current on available resources, grants, and funding opportunities to support local efforts that align with national and state electric vehicle charging infrastructure initiatives. A summary of resources, potential funding sources, and links to detailed information are routinely shared with your TTC members.

To qualify for funding from programs like VDOT NEVI, an applicant will need a partnership between site hosts (property owners), EV technology providers, and utility companies. CVPDC staff can help by connecting economic development and tourism directors with EV experts and resources, such as the Virginia Clean Cities (VCC) Coalition for stakeholder outreach. This initiative can help identify businesses along the NEVI corridors (Rt. 460 and Rt. 29) and gauge their interest in a partnership. The VCC can assist and act as a neutral intermediary with EV technology vendors.

Looking ahead, the CVPDC could explore developing a regional-scale plan. The purpose of this plan would be to identify and recommend priority locations within our communities for EV charging and alternative fueling stations in a way that advances national efforts to facilitate access to a convenient, affordable, reliable, equitable, and safe fueling and charging network. In line with future CVPDC initiatives, we can consider including an Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure component as we develop our Long-Range Transportation Plan. A regional plan could improve securing funding for implementation and construction as well as address infrastructure gaps to meet growing demand.

The table below lists examples of the various approaches taken by local and regional governments to advance EV infrastructure plans. The link points to the full document published online.

RESOURCE	DESCRIPTION
Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments	Regional EV readiness working group and clearinghouse with resources for local governments.
Richmond EV Initiative Readiness Plan	Developed in 2013 with VCC, funded by DOE, it sets the stage for the region's EV adoption.
PlanRVA Priority Climate Action Plan	Received funding from EPA's Climate Pollution Reduction grant, currently in the survey phase for a Comprehensive Climate Action Plan.
South Central Regional Council of Governments & Live Green Connecticut Municipal EV Readiness Toolkit (2020)	Presents results from a 12-week training series on EV readiness topics relevant to local governments.
Kings County Association of Governments Electric Vehicle Readiness Plan (2020)	Maps multifamily housing density in each municipality within their region as part of an initiative to ensure equitable investment in EV infrastructure.
San Bernardino Council of Governments Zero-Emission Vehicle Readiness and Implementation Plan, California (2019)	Details existing conditions, future infrastructure needs, and a comprehensive plan to help the region meet those needs.
Flint Hills MPO EV Readiness Plan, Kansas	(website) . In the works, currently in the stakeholder outreach phase. A timeline and the project task list are posted on their website for an idea of the process.
Hillsborough TPO Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Plan, Florida (2023)	Shares result from community engagement efforts and propose policy recommendations and strategies for EV infrastructure deployment.
Eagle County Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Plan, Colorado (2023)	A county-focused plan that describes siting criteria and outlines the strategies intended to help the county meet its EV adoption goals.