



VIRGINIA: A SCHEDULED MEETING OF THE SURRY COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
HELD IN THE GENERAL DISTRICT COURTROOM OF THE SURRY COUNTY GOVERNMENT
CENTER ON THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2023, AT 7 PM.

PRESENT: SUPERVISOR ROBERT ELLIOTT, JR.
SUPERVISOR JUDY LYTTLE
SUPERVISOR WILLIAM (TIM) CALHOUN
SUPERVISOR BRENTON BYRD
SUPERVISOR BREYON PIERCE

ABSENT:

ALSO

PRESENT: MS. LOLA PERKINS, COUNTY ATTORNEY
MS. MELISSA ROLLINS, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
MR. DAVID HARRISON, DEPUTY COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
MS. DOREATHA PIERCE, COUNTY ADMINISTRATION
MR. HORACE WADE, PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR
MR. RAY PHELPS, CHIEF OF EMERGENCY SERVICES
MS. RENEE CHAPLINE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
SHERIFF CARLOS TURNER, SURRY COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

INVOCATION

The invocation for tonight's meeting was given by Pastor Marian King.

CALL TO ORDER/MOMENT OF SILENCE/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/ADOPT AGENDA

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Elliott, who then asked for a moment of silence. Following the moment of silence, he asked those present to stand and recite the pledge of allegiance. Chairperson Elliott then asked if there were any corrections or changes to the agenda. There being none, Supervisor Pierce made a motion to accept the agenda as presented. Supervisor Byrd seconded the motion. All present voted affirmatively.

(Approved)

SUPERVISOR ROBERT ELLIOTT, JR.	AYE
SUPERVISOR JUDY S. LYTTLE	AYE
SUPERVISOR WILLIAM "TIM" CALHOUN	AYE
SUPERVISOR BRENTON BYRD	AYE
SUPERVISOR BREYON PIERCE	AYE



CONSENT ITEMS

1. Approval of Draft BOS Minutes - October 5, 2023
2. Approval of Account Payables in the amount of \$1,631,488.39
3. 2024 Pay and Holiday Calendar

Chairman Elliott read the items listed for consent and asked Board members if any items needed to be pulled for discussion. There being none, Supervisor Pierce made a motion to approve the consent items as enumerated. Supervisor Byrd seconded the motion. All present voted affirmatively. (Approved)

PRESENTATIONS

1. Agency Update-Crater Planning District Commission

Jay Ellington, Executive Director of the Crater Planning District Commission, presented an overview and update of the Crater Planning District Commission. The commission serves the counties of Surry, Sussex, Charles City, Chesterfield, Dinwiddie, and Greensville and the cities of Hopewell, Petersburg, Colonial Heights, and Emporia.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATORS REPORT

1. Economic Development Update: Renee Chapline, Economic Development
Ms. Chapline provided a detailed update on the progress of Surry Marketplace and the Mexican restaurant.
2. Animal Control Award: No Kill Shelter
3. Department of Health County Ranking: Surry County ranks 66 out of 133 communities.
4. Radio Communication Project
5. New Emergency Equipment: Expected delivery in 2024.
6. Consideration of Items for 2024 Legislative Priorities:
 - Constitutional Funding for Offices and Positions
 - Transportation Funding
 - Housing
 - State Funding for Education (Seek Lower Composite Index)
7. 24-25 Budget Season and Calendar Development



8. Virginia Clean Marina Award
9. October Events Success
10. Citizen's Academy

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Lola Perkins, County Attorney, read a portion of the Citizens' Comments guidelines, which can be found in the Board of Supervisors Bylaws on the County's website.

- Mike Eggleston, Dendron District – Stated Solar Farms are destroying roads and asked if language was included in the contracts stating who is responsible.
- Helen Eggleston, Dendron District – Stated the Dendron Community Center is not available to all citizens.
- Robert Chandler, Bacon's Castle = Asked if there were Veterans programs in the county to honor our veterans.
- Lynetta Davis, Surry District – Asked what has been done to place restrictions on Air BnB and when will a committee be established.
- Brandice Richards, Surry District – Shared concerns with Air BnBs and asked that regulatory considerations be implemented.
- Fenton Wyatt, Dendron District - Concerned with Real Estate Tax Increases
- Dianne Cheek, Surry District – Inquired about face-to-face citizens meeting regarding the AES solar project.

Lola Perkins, County Attorney responded to the comments regarding Air BnBs.

BOARD COMMENTS

- Supervisor Brenton Byrd – Thanked citizens for their comments and thanked staff for collaborating on investment updates.
- Supervisor Brenton Pierce - Thanked citizens for attending and thanked staff for their presentations. Recognized the Animal Shelter and the Marina on their recent award.
- Supervisor Tim Calhoun – Thanked staff for their presentations. Thanked citizens for their comments. Reiterated a comment given by Diane Cheek regarding AES



solar project. Encouraged everyone to vote on Election Day if they hadn't already done so.

- Supervisor Judy S. Lyttle – Shared her appreciation for what the staff is doing and what citizens are doing. Reminded citizens that the County must follow certain guidelines mandated by the State of Virginia. Elaborated on the success of the Sheriff's Office Truck or Treat Event.
- Supervisor Robert Elliott – Thanked Ms. Lyttle for her kind words and her service to Surry County. Reminded staff and citizens of the Veterans Programs forthcoming in the County. Elaborated on the initiatives that are going on in the County. Encouraged staff and citizens to exercise their right to vote on Election Day if they haven't already done so.

REPORTS

1. Building Official's Report
2. Blackwater Regional Library Director's Report

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

1. LGIP Investment Letter
2. Veteran's Day Event

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board, Supervisor Pierce made a motion that the Board continue their meeting to December 7, 2023, at 7 p.m. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Byrd. All present voted affirmatively. (Approved)

The meeting Adjourned at 8: 30PM.

This meeting can be viewed in its entirety through the Surry County Government YouTube Channel: [Surry County Government - YouTube](#)

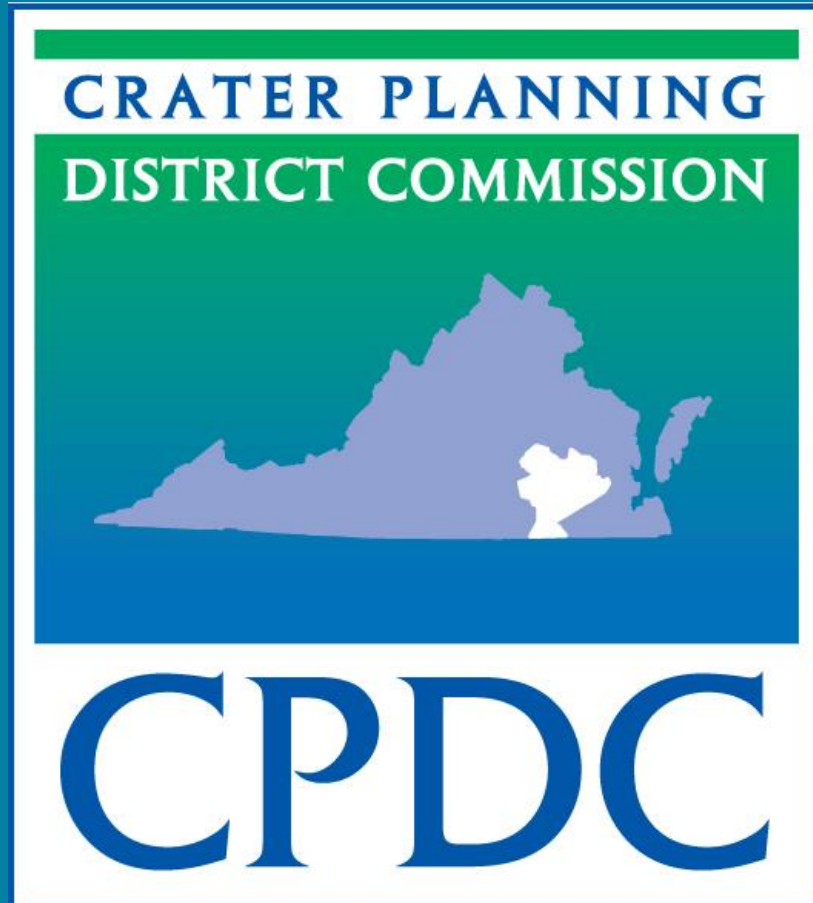
NOVEMBER AGENDA NOTE

Agenda Item: Approval of November, 2023 Payables
(Note: FY23-24 payables are for the month of September 2023)

	<i>FY22-23</i>	<i>FY23-24</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
	<i>PAYABLES</i>	<i>PAYABLES</i>	
General Fund	\$ 5,999.77	\$ 1,536,789.20	\$ 1,542,788.97
Debt Services	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Capital	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 52,592.01	\$ 54,592.01
Water & Sewer	\$ -	\$ 478.41	\$ 478.41
CSA	\$ 5,914.00	\$ 27,715.00	\$ 33,629.00
Economic Dev.	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Juror Payments	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Payables	\$ 13,913.77	\$ 1,617,574.62	\$ 1,631,488.39

Required Action:

~ **Approve payables for November 2, 2023 in the amount of**
\$ 1,631,488.39



WELCOME TO CRATER PDC & THE TRI- CITIES MPO!

Understanding the Crater Planning District
Commission and Tri-Cities Area MPO

1

BACKGROUND

What is a PDC?
Where is Crater?

WHAT IS A PDC?

In Virginia, Planning District Commissions (PDCs) are associations of local governments, enabled by Chapter 42 of the Code of Virginia – The Regional Cooperation Act (1968). The PDCs are intended to:

- Foster intergovernmental cooperation to address regional issues
- Coordinate regional responses to issues at a greater scale
- Develop a regional strategic plan

PDCs are funded by:

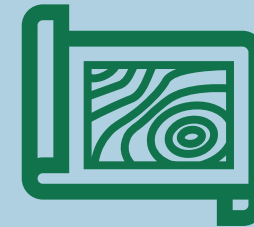
- State and federal funding as determined by appropriations committee
- Dues from member localities
- Grants



OKAY...BUT WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

Some services provided by PDCs include:

- Grant management and administration
- Feasibility and location studies
- Emergency preparedness planning
- Mapping and information services for localities with limited resources
- Technical assistance for member localities and partner organizations
- MPO staffing
- Regional coordination and convening

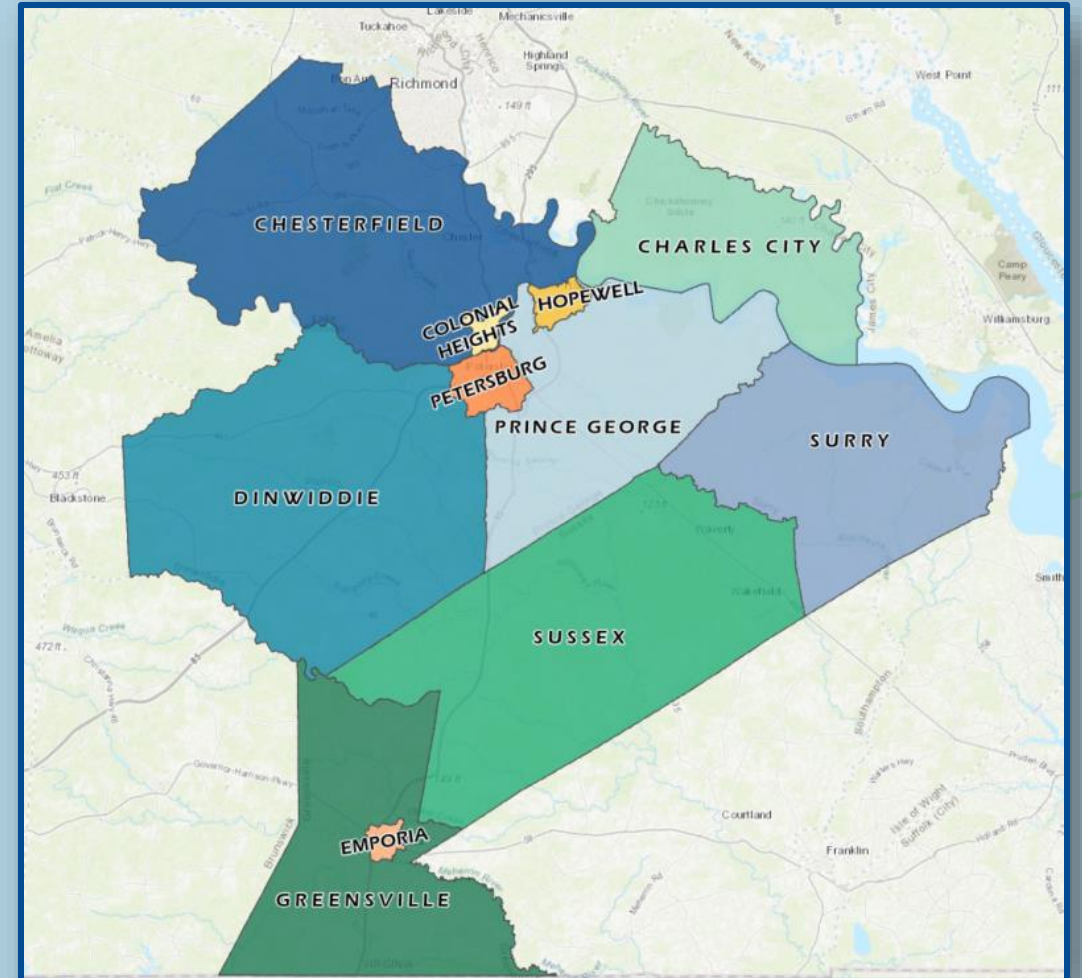


WHERE IS THE CRATER REGION?

The Crater region covers roughly 2500sq mi in South-Central Virginia, encompassing the Tri-Cities area and straddling I-95 to the North Carolina border.

It is composed of 11 localities and 1 military base, including:

- 4 Cities: Hopewell, Petersburg, Colonial Heights, Emporia
- 7 Counties: Chesterfield, Charles City county, Prince George, Dinwiddie, Surry, Sussex, Greensville
- Fort Gregg-Adams



Dual PDC Localities:

Crater/ PlanRVA

Charles City County

Chesterfield County

Crater/Hampton Roads

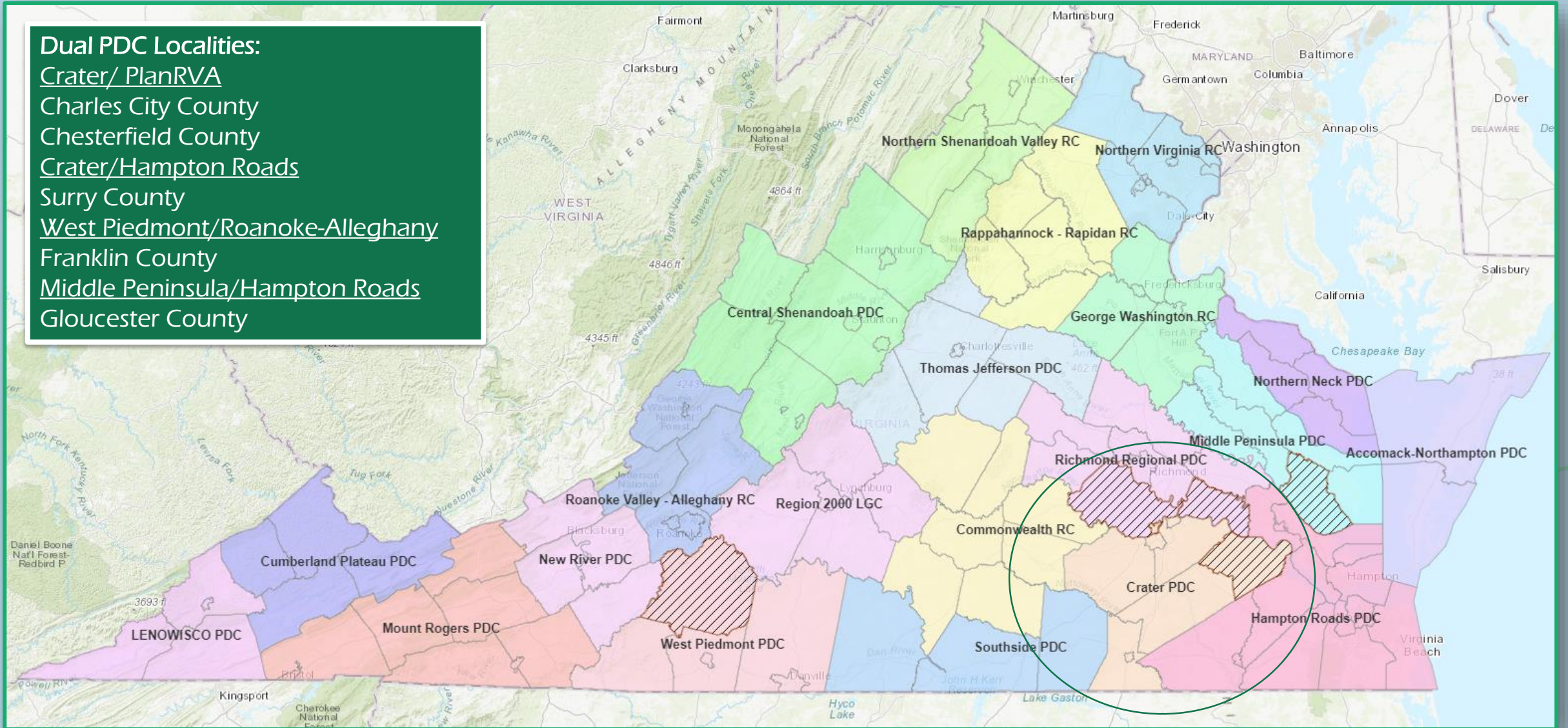
Surry County

West Piedmont/Roanoke-Alleghany

Franklin County

Middle Peninsula/Hampton Roads

Gloucester County

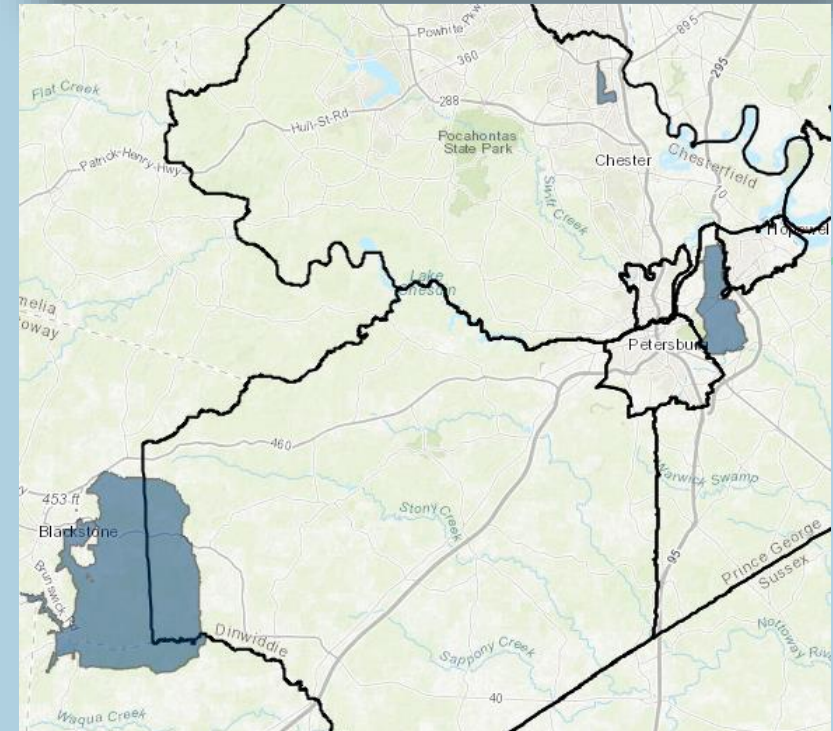
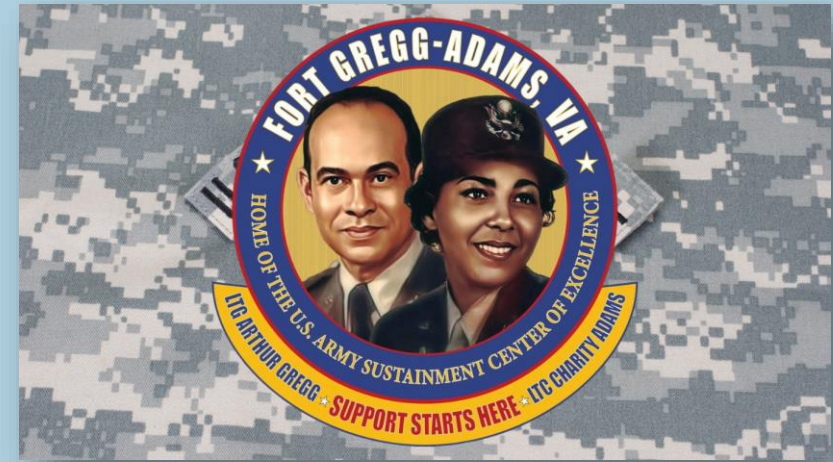


FORT GREGG-ADAMS

Fort Gregg-Adams, originally Camp Lee, is located in Prince George County along Route 36 between Hopewell and Petersburg.

The Fort serves primarily as a training center for Army troops in its capacity as headquarters of the United States Army Combined Arms Support Command (CASCOM) and Sustainment Center of Excellence (SCoE)

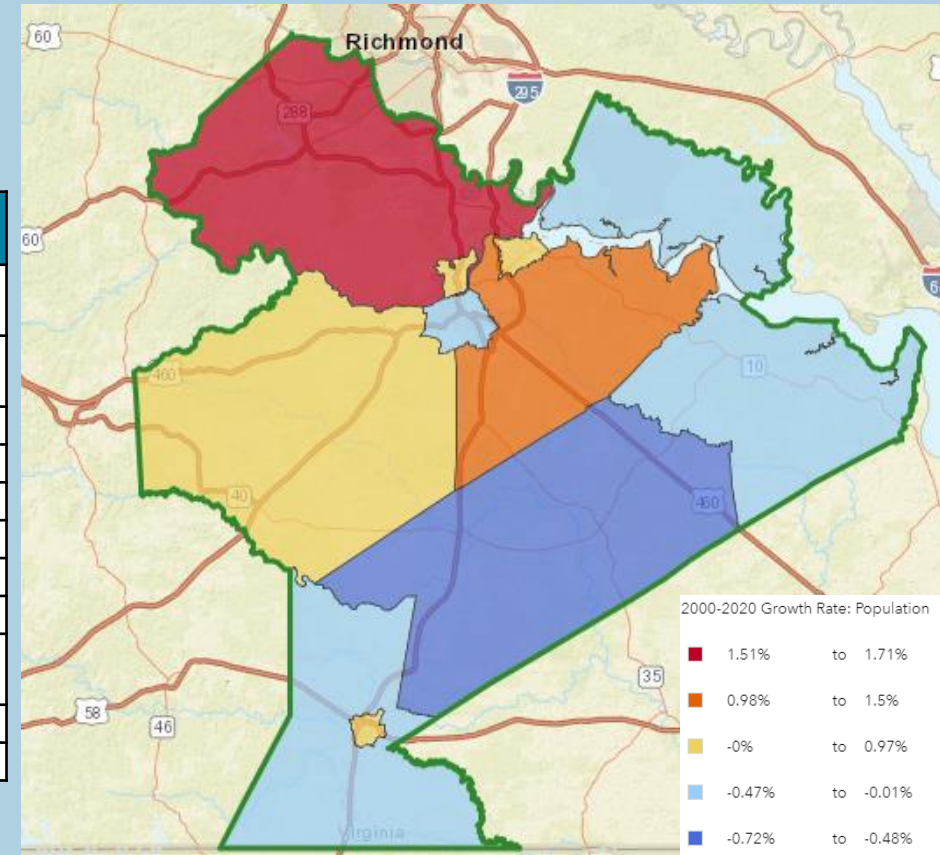
Fort Barfoot is partially in Dinwiddie County, and the Defense general Supply Center is located in Chesterfield County



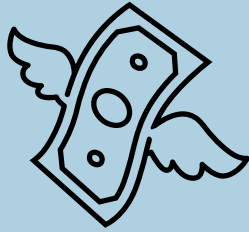
CRATER REGION QUICK STATS

- **Area: 2500 sq mi**
- **Who Lives in the Crater Region?**
 - ~568k people
 - Median Age: 41.4 Years Old
 - Median Household Income: \$59.8k
 - 14% of Households below the poverty line
 - 5% Unemployment
 - 67% are Homeowners, 32% are Renters
 - Average Household Size of 2.4 People

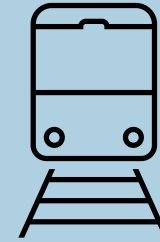
County	2023 Total Population
Chesterfield County	380,722
Prince George County	43,717
Petersburg	33,820
Dinwiddie County	28,140
Hopewell	23,102
Colonial Heights	18,269
Greensville County	11,285
Sussex County	10,612
Charles City County	6,613
Surry County	6,462
Emporia	5,723



CRATER PDC OPERATES IN 4 MAIN AREAS



Economic Development



Transportation



Environment



Housing



2

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Ongoing Initiatives



EDD DESIGNATION

The Crater Region has also been designated as an **Economic Development District (EDD)** by the U.S. Economic Development Agency (EDA).

EDDs are responsible for the regional economic development planning process.



ONGOING INITIATIVES

**Comprehensive
Economic
Development
Strategy (CEDS)**



**Small Business
Development
Center**

Commonwealth Centers

3

TRANSPORTATION

TRI-CITIES AREA MPO

Member Localities

Petersburg
Colonial Heights
Hopewell

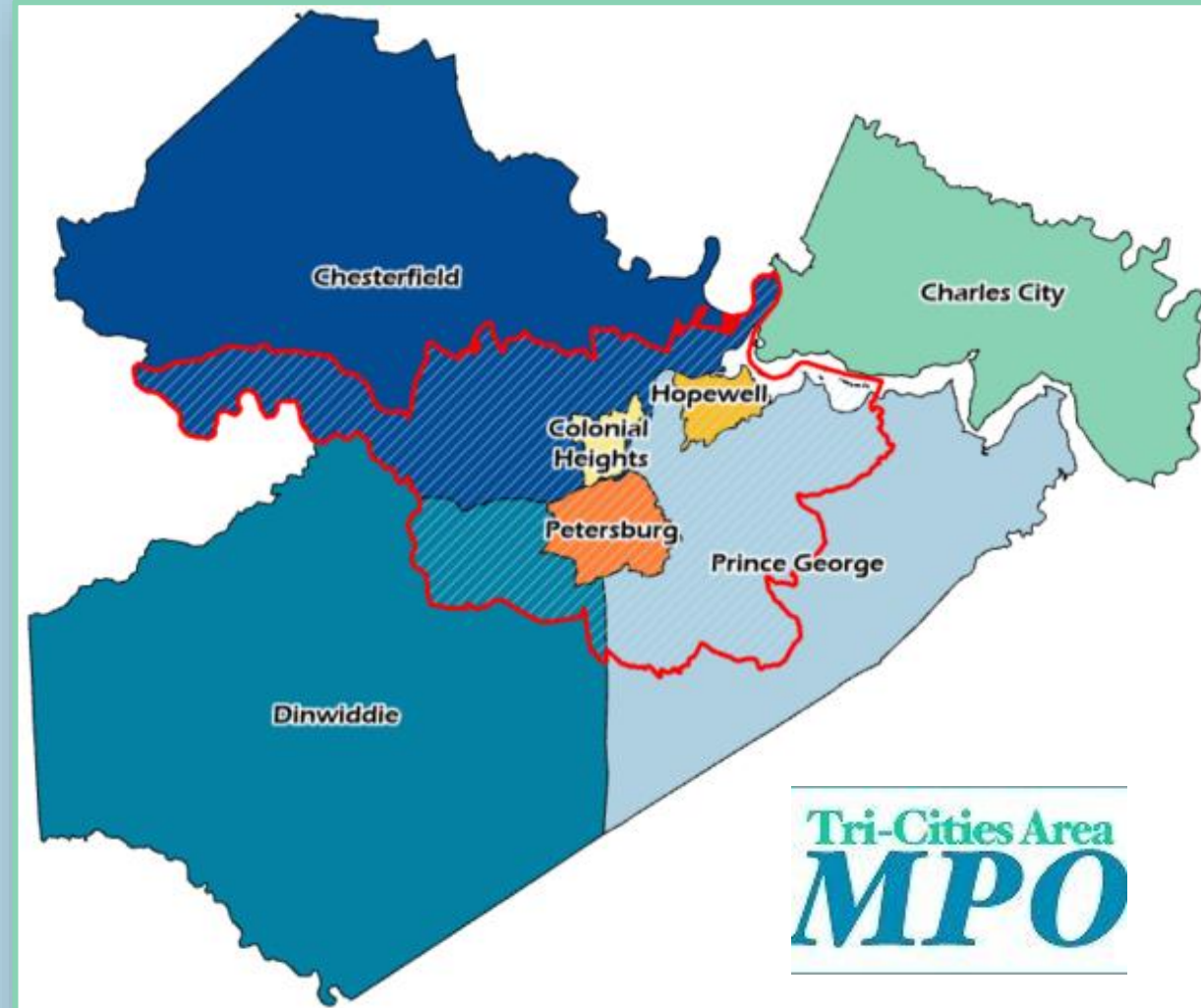
Chesterfield County
Prince George County
Dinwiddie County

Functions & Responsibilities

Setting for impartial collaboration and negotiation between member localities in regional transportation planning matters

Strategize regional context-specific transportation solutions ; help localities navigate the SmartScale system and provide grant-writing assistance, as well as match funds in certain cases

Develop Long-Range Plan (LRP) and Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP)



TCAMPO COMPOSITION

Committees

Technical Advisory Committee:

- Provides technical review, comments, and recommendations on specific transportation plans, programs, studies, and other appropriate documents and regional transportation issues.
- Meets on the first Friday of each month, final recommendations inform policy committee action

Policy Committee:

- Develops and implements transportation policy through funding approvals, long-range plans, multimodal plans, and prepares Unified Planning Work Programs to outline annual activities.
- Meets the second Thursday of each month

Member Agencies

Voting Members:

Chesterfield County
City of Colonial Heights
Dinwiddie County
City of Hopewell
City of Petersburg
Prince George County

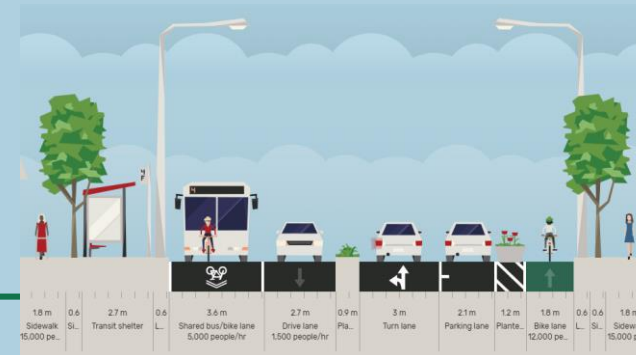
VDOT
Petersburg Area Transit
VA Dept of Rail and
Public Transit (DRPT)
Crater PDC

Non-Voting Members:

Fort Gregg-Adams
Petersburg National Battlefield Park
RideFinders
Federal Highway Administration (FHA)
Federal Transit Administration (FTA)

TCAMPO PROJECTS AND PLANNING EFFORTS

- **Metro. Transportation Plan (Long Range Planning)**
 - Performance-based, federally mandated plan guided by a vision, goals, and objectives
 - Addresses transportation needs of the region over the next 20+ years, with updates added every 5 years
- **Metro. Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**
 - Lists the highway, transit and multi-modal improvement projects or project phases expected to receive federal obligation funding over the next four-years
- **Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)**
 - Sets the scope of work and priorities for the MPO over the program period
- **Multimodal Mobility Plan**
 - Inventory of existing mobility network (bike, pedestrian, and transit)
 - Identification of vital multimodal corridors, districts, and centers
 - Development of recommendations and implementation strategies to achieve multimodal mobility goals



RURAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

Member Localities

Surry County

Sussex County

Greensville County

City of Emporia

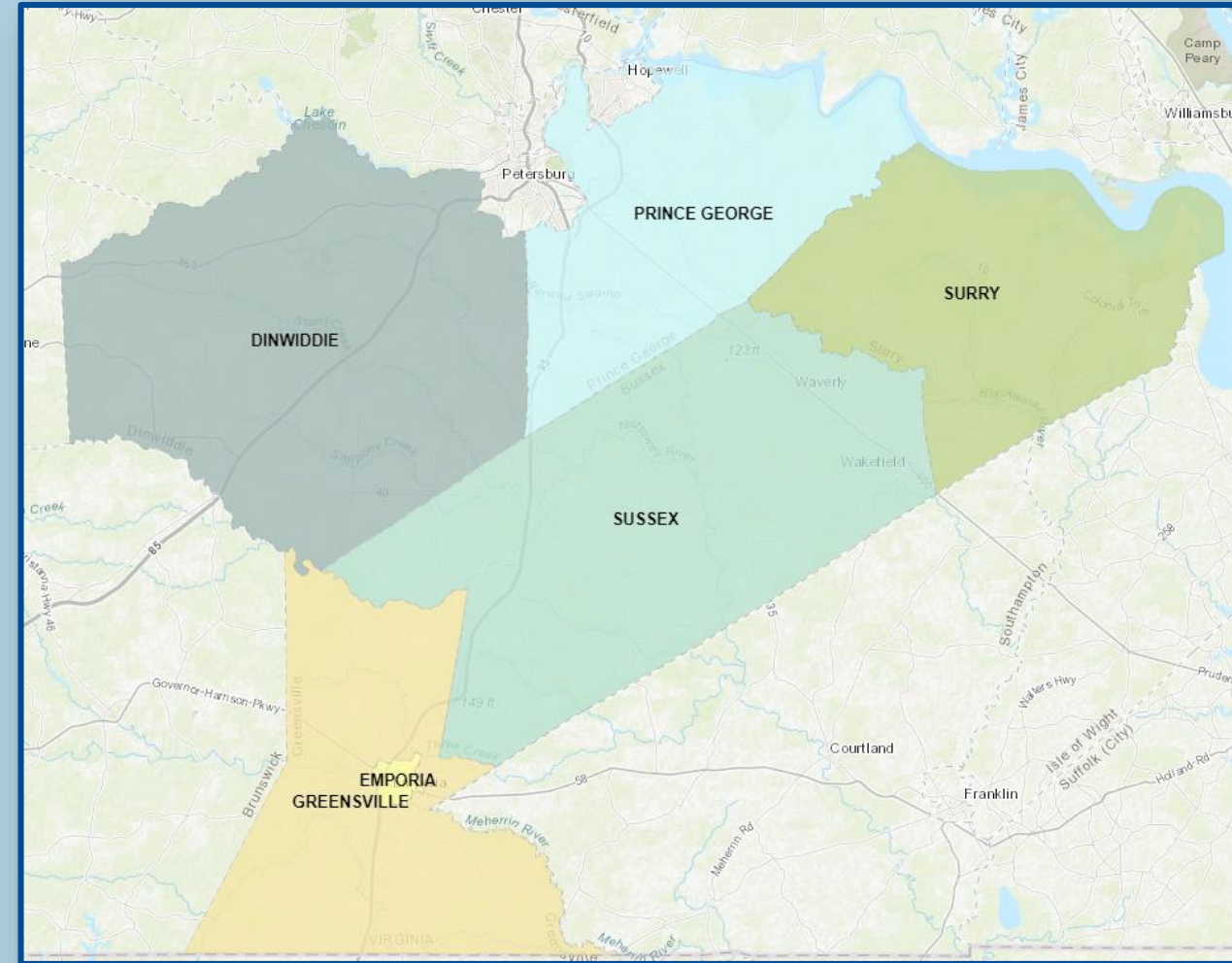
Portions of:

Dinwiddie County

Prince George County

Functions & Responsibilities

- Transportation project Grant Preparation
- Planning Grants Technical Assistance
- Performance Measures
- Transportation Planning Studies
- Comprehensive Plan Technical Assistance
- GIS Mapping and Data Management
- Participation in Other Studies and Plans





4

ENVIRONMENT

CZM, WIP, & FOLAR



CRATER IS INVOLVED IN 2 PRIMARY STATE ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES



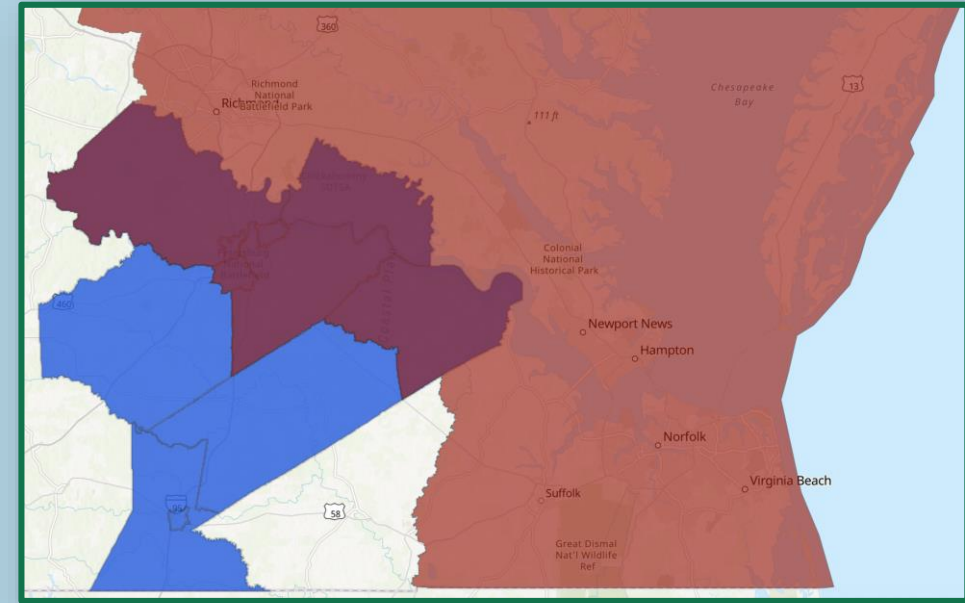
Coastal Zone Management (CZM)

- Flooding Resilience Projects



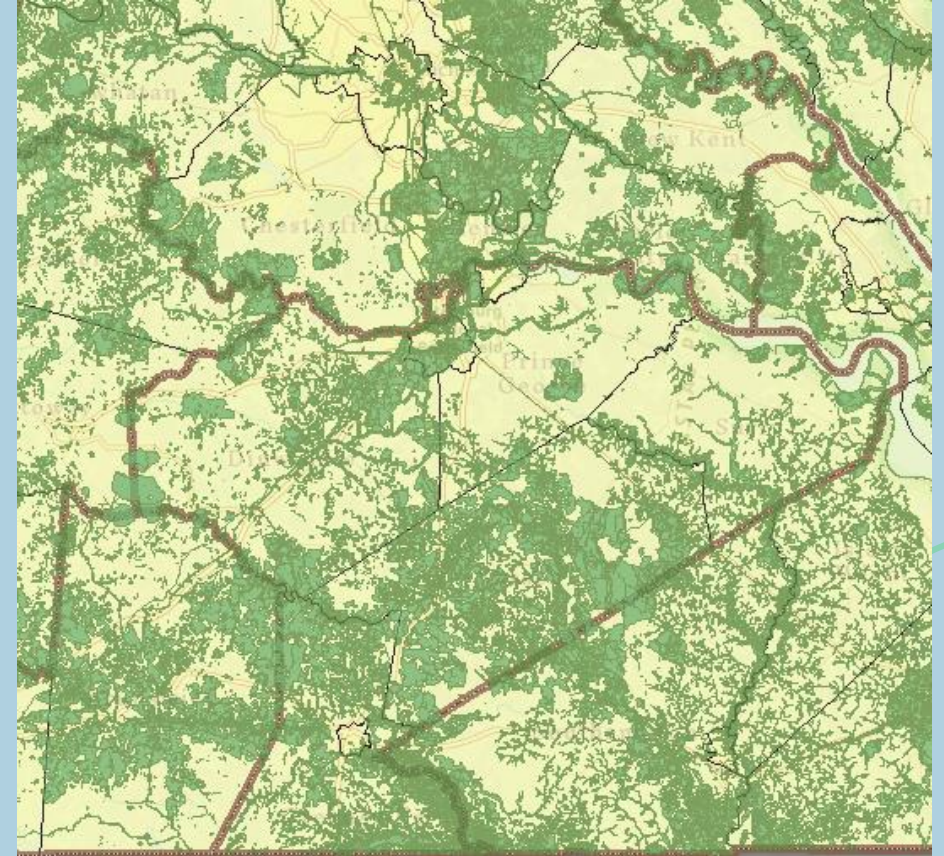
Watershed Implementation Plans (WIPs)

- Water Quality Improvement Projects



EXPANDING OUR SERVICES

- The Crater Region is much larger than our coastal zone, so we are working to identify opportunities to broaden our scope of environmental services
- Our region is rich in natural heritage and cultural resources that are eligible for funding programs to promote sustainable use, conservation, preservation, and restoration.
- Initial thoughts include brownfield restoration and redevelopment, wetlands conservation, promoting sustainable land management practices, promoting renewable/clean energy, and getting more involved in statewide emergency/hazard mitigation planning efforts



Areas shown in green are eligible for funding conservation projects as noted in the ConserveVirginia 3.0 criteria



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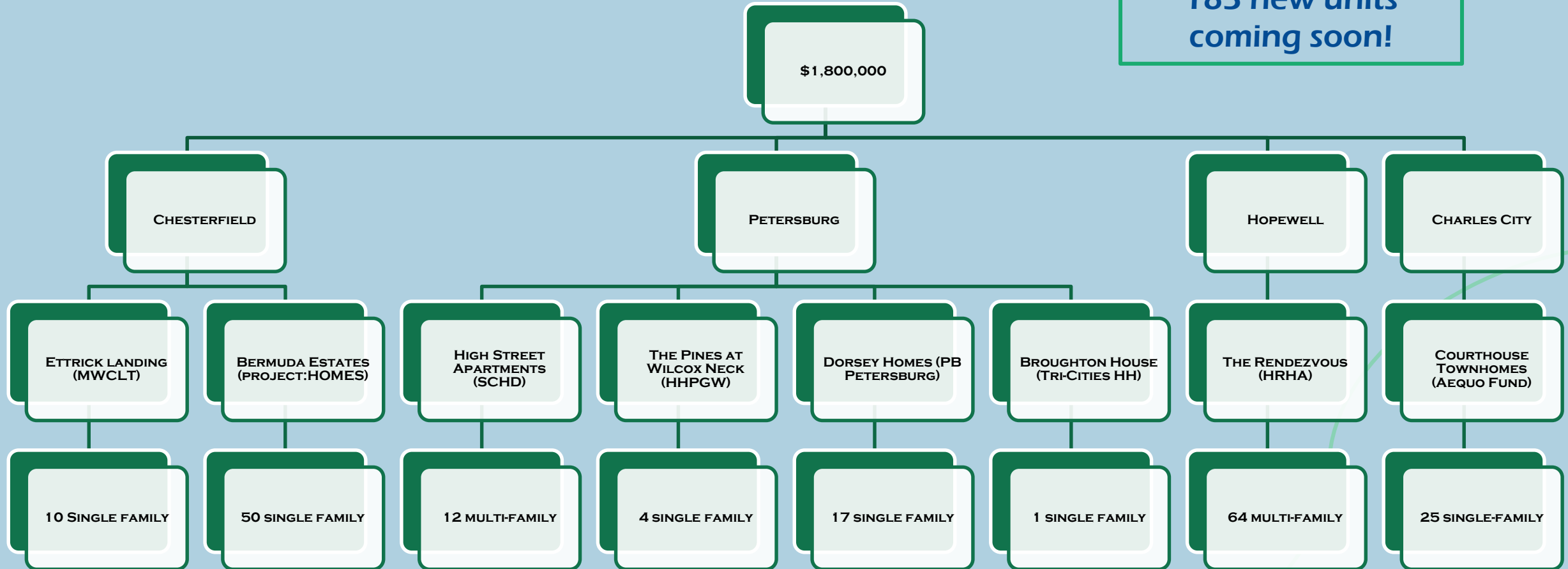
HOUSING

Virginia Housing Development Program



VIRGINIA HOUSING DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (VHDP)

183 new units
coming soon!





6

APEX ACCELERATOR

Procurement Assistance



CRATER APEX ACCELERATOR

- The APEX Accelerator (partially funded by the U.S. Department of Defense) for the Crater Region is based out of the CPDC offices, but their service area reaches beyond that of the PDC. They assist small businesses with finding, applying for, and obtaining government contracts
- They serve as an *axis for existing and new businesses to strengthen the defense industrial base by accelerating innovation, fostering ingenuity, and establishing resilience and diverse supply chains*

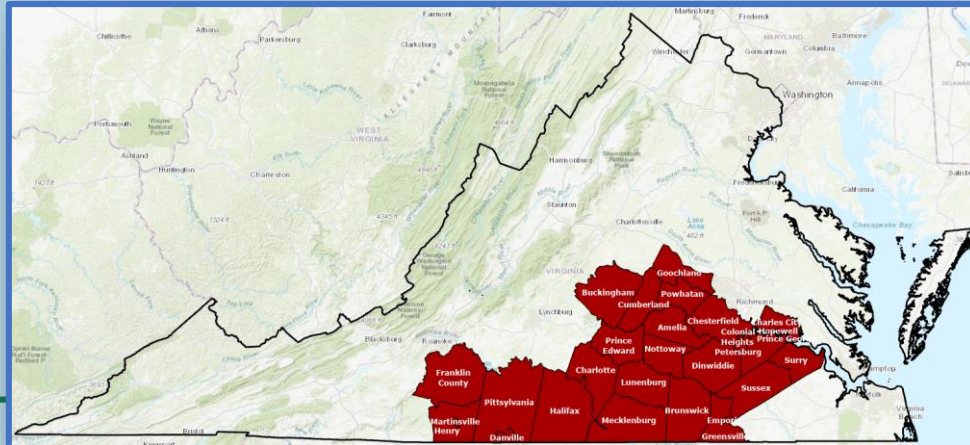
Services Include:

Counseling: tailored assistance from portal registrations to completing forms

Education: educational workshops and webinars covering a number of procurement topics

Marketing Research: identifying appropriate agencies and buying centers interested in purchasing from a certain business

Bid Match Service: locates federal, state, local, and foreign bid opportunities to save companies' time and money





7

STAFF

Meet our team!



LEADERSHIP



E. Jay Ellington

Executive Director



Judy Smith

Operations Manager

DEPARTMENT DIRECTORS



Andrew Franzysen

Director of Housing,
Economic Development
& Environmental
Planning



Ron Svejkovsky

Director of GIS &
Transportation



Jaime Poole

Director of Finance

PLANNERS



Hannah Woehrle

Housing & Economic
Development



Kit Friedman

Transportation, GIS, &
Environment

APEX ACCELERATORS



Lynne Mann

Director of Procurement
Assistance



Margaret Edmond

Procurement Specialist



**THANKS FOR
LISTENING!**
Questions? Let's Talk!

VACo Preliminary Legislative Program



20
24

2024 Draft Legislative Program Virginia Association of Counties

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EDITOR'S NOTE

The draft steering committee positions in this packet consist solely of language that was previously reviewed and discussed by each steering committee during VACo's August meetings at the VACo County Officials Summit. Any additional policy statements requested by members of the steering committees or proffered by counties during the VACo Regional Meetings will be presented to the Committees for further review at the November VACo Annual Conference.

AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Priority

Farm and Forestland Preservation

VACo supports increasing state allocations to the Office of Farmland Preservation (OFF) Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) locality matching funds program. VACo also supports increasing allocations to the newly established Forest Sustainability Fund, created as an incentive for the establishment and maintenance of local forest land use valuation programs. Such programs preserve prime soils for food production and protect important forest land and environmentally sensitive areas in the Commonwealth.

VACo supports preserving and enhancing the ability for counties to balance growth and development, as it pertains to farm and forestland, within their jurisdiction.

Positions

Agriculture and Forestry Best Management Practices

VACo supports voluntary state and federally-funded conservation programs, including the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Environmental Quality Incentives Program and the Conservation Stewardship Program, to assist producers with the implementation of best management practices.

Biosolids

VACo supports an effective statewide regulatory program governing land application of biosolids. Such a program should not infringe upon the authority of local governments to monitor compliance. VACo supports the ability of local governments to propose amendments to biosolids permits as they are considered by DEQ. VACo supports a study to determine the impact of biosolids on agriculture and forest land.

Invasive Species and Noxious Weeds

VACo supports funding for, and the complete implementation of, the Virginia Invasive Species Management Plan. All programs and proposals should be evaluated for their commercial impact, allowing no more than a negligible impact on Virginia's agricultural industry. Finally, VACo supports state prevention and mitigation practices, including coordination with the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) to assist counties in species control.

Predator Control

VACo urges state and federal agencies to support the agricultural industry by allowing farmers and producers sufficient flexibility when protecting livestock and crops against predatory animals. VACo encourages the USDA Wildlife Services Division, the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources and the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to allow producers access to

the predator control tools required for the continuation of effective livestock and crop production. VACo also supports USDA’s Livestock Indemnity Program and the financial relief it provides to producers who have lost livestock to the attacks of federally protected predators. Furthermore, VACo supports the USDA’s various crop and livestock insurance policies as well as the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance program (NAP) as these programs seek to provide financial assistance to producers who have undergone crop or livestock loss.

Technical Assistance

VACo supports increased state funding for entities that provide critical resources and technical assistance to localities in their efforts to comply with environmental policies and regulations.

Water Usage

VACo supports streamlined permitting and application processes for water usage. VACo also supports a review of regulations and supports education initiatives that promote reclamation of water on a local level for industrial and irrigation uses to offset future demands on all ground and surface water used for human consumption. VACo supports water use and water rights decisions be made at the local level.

Solid Waste

VACo supports maintaining local authority to regulate solid waste and opposes any effort to interfere with local “flow control” ordinances.

COMMUNITY, ECONOMIC, AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Priority

Broadband

VACo requests that the Commonwealth provide 100 percent funding to counties to build the necessary telecommunications infrastructure to deploy universal affordable access to the internet for all areas, particularly in underserved and rural areas, and streamline the application process for Virginia Telecommunication Initiative (VATI) grants. Additionally, VACo supports legislation that provides additional tools for counties to finance, build and operate open access networks in partnership with commercial internet service providers. VACo also supports efforts to streamline the permitting of broadband infrastructure in the VDOT right-of-way, at railroad crossings, and within utility easements.

Affordable and Workforce Housing

VACo supports increasing federal and state funding and appropriate incentives to assist localities in fostering affordable housing, as well as workforce housing for employees such as teachers and first responders.

Position

Economic Development

VACo supports economic development policies and programs that bolster local and regional development efforts by maintaining and expanding state funding, streamlining state and federal processes, and granting additional funding and authority to promote local and regional initiatives. VACo also supports the provision of state funding to support the mission of regional economic development organizations (REDOs) to foster regional cooperation in expanding business and job opportunities.

Impacts of Federal and Military Facilities

VACo supports maintaining federal and state funding and technical assistance to mitigate the impacts on counties affected by federal budget cuts and to sustain current and future federal facilities in Virginia. VACo supports state and local partnerships that work to prevent encroachment and non-compatible land uses next to military installations. VACo also supports workforce training and retraining for programs that support defense activities in Virginia.

Impacts of State Facilities

VACo recommends that prior to the proposed closure of any state facilities, the Department of General Services shall provide a detailed plan to the locality

180 regarding removal, demolition, rehabilitation and/or adaptive reuse of buildings.
181 VACo also recommends that the state provide technical and financial resources to
182 assist localities in ameliorating the impacts any closure will have on the local
183 economy.

184 **Maintain Public Sector Role in Onsite Sewer Program**

186 VACo supports an onsite sewage program at the Virginia Department of Health
187 (VDH) that protects public health and the environment in all regions of the
188 Commonwealth. The Commonwealth should give special focus to addressing the
189 challenge of failing septic systems and allow localities authority to develop and
190 implement policies that support the state's program. VACo supports the private
191 sector providing onsite sewage system design, installation, and repair services if
192 the services can be provided at affordable rates and in a timely manner, and as
193 long as VDH continues to provide these direct services as well.

194 Additionally, VACo supports legislation ensuring that potential buyers of
195 real property are told about the type, size and maintenance requirements and
196 associated costs of the wastewater systems on the property prior to the signing of
197 the initial sales contract and the recordation of engineered systems plat and deed
198 at the time of sale.

199 **Workforce-Ready Students**

200 VACo supports changes in curriculum and funding that will increase the number
201 of students leaving the K-14 system with workforce-ready credentials. VACo
202 supports incorporating career and technical education curriculum at the
203 elementary and middle school levels. VACo supports high school students
204 earning academic credit for participating in an internship, apprenticeship,
205 credential, and other work programs. VACo supports innovative models for
206 schools to give academic credit for students that earn industry workforce skills
207 through certifications, or licensure from an approved education or training
208 provider.

210 VACo supports establishing partnerships to strengthen the school-to-
211 workforce pipeline in a variety of ways including guaranteed employment
212 opportunities with local businesses and learning opportunities shared between
213 local community colleges and high schools. VACo supports opportunities for
214 students to physically visit and train at actual work sites in cooperation with local
215 employers and economic development entities.

216 VACo supports the expansion and funding of workforce training programs
217 such as the Virginia Talent Accelerator Program and the Virginia Jobs
218 Investment Program to leverage federal grant programs with state funding.

219 VACo supports the mission and activities of local Workforce Development
220 Boards across the Commonwealth of Virginia to assist businesses in securing a
221 qualified workforce that meets current and future job demand, including efforts
222 to coordinate actions across state agencies within Virginia under the
223 Commonwealth Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) plan.

EDUCATION

Priority

Education Funding

VACo supports full state funding for public education, including the Standards of Quality (SOQ) as recommended by the Board of Education and the Joint Legislative Audit & Review Commission (JLARC). As long as these recommendations coincide with prevailing local practice, targeted incentive programs, capital, and maintenance support, and teacher salaries. Full state funding should be achieved without reduction to other parts of state public education budgets or to other core services.

VACo supports additional state resources and additional statewide funding options for localities for capital and school construction costs, including expanding dedicated local sales and use tax authority first given to select counties by the General Assembly in 2019 as well as continuing to fund the School Construction Grant Program and School Construction Assistance Program.

VACo supports state incentives that encourage localities to increase teacher salaries to reflect the national average in compensation, as long as this is done without a required minimum local match. The state share of compensation for the base rate of salaries should reflect the actual average salary as determined by prevailing local practice.

Positions

Appointed School Boards

VACo supports local authority to choose the selection process for school board members.

Charter Schools

VACo supports the continuation of local authority to establish charter schools.

Laboratory Schools

VACo supports innovative approaches to K-12 education as long as they do not divert state or local funds away from local public schools.

Childhood Development and School Readiness

VACo supports efforts to increase at-risk children's access to high-quality, enriching learning environments, including more resources and flexibility for localities participating in programs like the Virginia Preschool Initiative and Head Start.

VACo supports additional federal and state funding for programs such as the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) to support increased demand for childcare services. VACo supports local flexibility to administer or expand support services for childcare.

VACo supports the work of and local government representation on the Commission on Early Childhood Care and Education to provide recommendations for and tracking progress on the financing of Virginia’s comprehensive birth-to-five early childhood care and education system.

Critical Thinking Skills

VACo supports changes to educational programs and standards that rely less on standardized testing and more on critical thinking skills such as performance-based assessments. VACo opposes efforts to impose additional standardized testing burdens on students and school staff.

Funding Support Personnel

VACo supports full restoration of budget cuts, including the elimination of the funding cap on support positions, and full reinstatement of the Cost of Competing Adjustment “COCA” for support staff. In addition to meeting its obligations to fully fund instructional staff, the Commonwealth should meet its obligation to fully fund K-12 support staff.

Library System

VACo supports additional state resources for the funding of the local library system.

Reversion of Funds

VACo supports the current practice whereby all year-end funds appropriated to the school divisions by the locality revert to the locality, retaining discretion with the governing body to evaluate and approve the reallocation of year-end fund balances.

School Consolidation and Regionalism

VACo supports additional state incentives that allow counties to voluntarily consolidate or regionalize K-12 services to increase operational efficiencies.

School Safety and Security

VACo supports efforts to improve school safety and preparedness. VACo supports continued local authority and state funding to implement appropriate security, preparedness, and health measures. VACo supports dedicated state funding that may include capital and operational costs.

Special Education Regional Tuition Reimbursement Program

VACo supports enhancing local capacity to serve children with high-level support needs in the least restrictive environment, including regional special education programs. VACo supports local flexibility in the structure of such programs.

K-12 Staff Shortage and Retention

VACo urges the General Assembly to approve and fund strategies addressing the teacher shortage in the Commonwealth. VACo supports a targeted approach to teacher shortage by prioritizing areas in critical need, as recommended by the

318 Virginia Department of Education. VACo supports using district-level data to
319 determine how to best fill shortage gaps, especially in hard-to-staff divisions.

320 VACo supports reducing burdens on the teacher workforce in the
321 Commonwealth. VACo supports programs aimed at reducing student debt for
322 teaching in public schools. VACo also supports programs that encourage teachers
323 to stay in the profession including measures that provide mentorship, guidance
324 and other forms of support for teachers in their first five years in the profession.

325 VACo also supports similar efforts to address the shortage of school bus
326 drivers at both the state and federal level including incentives to recruit and
327 retain drivers and additional flexibility regarding driver requirements.

ENVIRONMENT, ENERGY, AND LAND USE

Priorities

Energy Policy

VACo supports energy policies and goals that reduce greenhouse gas emissions without compromising reliable and affordable access to electricity, and that address potential environmental impacts and life cycle costs for the manufacture, disposal, re-use, or recycle of material inputs. New sources of potential energy generation should include a range of technologies such as solar, wind, hydroelectric, hydrogen, and small modular nuclear reactors. Such policies should allow for responsible coal and natural gas extraction, processing, and transport while protecting agricultural interests and natural resources.

Water Quality Funding

VACo supports sufficient and sustained financial and technical assistance to counties to improve water quality and meet all federal and state standards to reduce pollution.

Positions – Environment

Chesapeake Bay

VACo supports efforts to continue to restore and protect the Chesapeake Bay but opposes additional nutrient regulations on wastewater treatment facilities that are scientifically unsound, economically infeasible, or unnecessary for meeting the Commonwealth's goals.

Dam Safety

VACo supports programs that keep downstream owners and developers aware of potential inundation zones. VACo also supports sufficient state and federal funding for the repair and maintenance of dams.

Flood Preparedness

VACo supports continued funding and resources that assist localities in preventing and reducing the impacts of flooding. VACo supports greater flexibility in these programs and funding sources that will maximize their benefits and best suit local and regional needs.

Hydraulic Fracturing

VACo supports a stringent state regulatory program for hydraulic fracturing ("fracking") that addresses the potential to tap into natural gas reserves in ways that protect public and private groundwater supplies and preserve local government authority to regulate and/or ban this type of mining activity through their land use ordinances. VACo supports transparency efforts that require the

disclosure of all chemicals and chemical mixes used in the fracking process prior to their use.

Southern Rivers Watershed

VACo supports continued funding for the Southern Rivers Watershed Enhancement Program to improve water quality in non-Chesapeake Bay watersheds.

Stormwater Programs

VACo supports state funding that enables local governments to fully satisfy the resource and funding needs associated with local stormwater management programs. VACo supports legislation that proposes creative and cost-effective stormwater management practices. VACo supports initiatives that clarify and modernize stormwater regulations and permitting processes, including measures that make permitting more efficient, reevaluates the fee structure system, and allows for consideration of factors such as long-term maintenance costs. VACo supports legislation that proposes new and innovative solutions to facilitate compliance with stormwater standards in ways that promote economic development while achieving water quality goals.

Tree Conservation and Replacement

VACo supports strengthening and expanding tree replacement and tree conservation statutes to include all localities in Virginia. VACo supports providing greater flexibility to all local governments to achieve their specific goals.

Uranium Mining

VACo supports continuation of a moratorium on uranium mining and milling within the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Technical Assistance

VACo supports robust state funding for entities that provide critical resources and technical assistance to localities in their efforts to comply with environmental policies and regulations. This includes, but is not limited to, organizations such as Soil and Water Conservation Districts, the Virginia Cooperative Extension, and Planning District Commissions (PDCs).

Water Supply

VACo supports appropriations adequate to ensure full funding by the state for the ongoing development and implementation of state-mandated water supply plans. VACo does not support overly burdensome permitting processes or applications for water usage. VACo supports initiatives by the state to assure adoption of actions to reduce high chloride concentrations and loss of artesian head pressure in Virginia's aquifers. VACo also supports a review of regulations and supports

education initiatives that promote reclamation of water on a local level for industrial and irrigation uses to offset future demands on all ground and surface water used for human consumption.

Positions – Energy

Local Tax Revenue

VACo opposes any imposition, expansion, or extension of state-mandated exemptions on local property taxes for energy generating and storage equipment.

Renewable Energy Production and Energy Efficiency

VACo supports legislation allowing counties to implement renewable energy and energy efficiency goals. This includes the allowance of third-party power purchase agreements (PPAs) to serve local government electric accounts, as well as other creative financing mechanisms that enable the development of renewable energy sources and energy efficiency programs and measures.

Utility-Scale Renewable Energy Generation and Energy Storage

VACo supports maintaining local authority to address all impacts and all choices associated with utility-scale installations of solar power, wind power, and energy storage facilities.

Utility-Scale Energy Generation and Transmission Projects

VACo supports the provision of adequate direction and resources at the state level to improve monitoring and enforcement of erosion and sediment control (ESC) and stormwater (SWM) requirements by entities constructing utility-scale projects for energy generation or transmission (including fuel). The state should have relevant agencies conduct an annual review of the standards, specifications, and construction general permit requirements to determine adequate protection of water quality, water supply, and natural resources.

Siting of Transmission Lines

VACo supports requiring utilities to seek input from localities and property owners before any actions to construct, modify or enlarge transmission facilities.

Electric Grid Capacity Planning

VACo supports legislation and policy that requires electric grid operators to continually share with localities where current and planned infrastructure to transmit and store energy exists that may feasibly accommodate the development of large-scale renewable energy facilities.

Positions – Land Use

Local Authority

VACo supports maintaining and expanding local authority to plan and regulate land use and opposes any legislation that weakens these key local responsibilities.

VACo also supports legislation that grants localities additional tools to adequately meet increasing needs for public services driven by new development without burdening current residents with the cost of new growth through increased real estate taxes. Such additional tools may include broad impact fee authority for all counties, and adequate public facilities provisions.

Regulation of Event Spaces

VACo opposes exemptions to local review and enforcement of building, fire, and other health and safety regulations for event and assembly spaces.

Regulation of Home-based Businesses

VACo opposes any legislation that limits or restricts local authority to regulate home-based businesses, including short-term rentals regardless of whether services or goods are purchased through an online hosting platform.

FINANCE AND ELECTIONS

Priority

Local Finance

VACo supports preserving the authority of county governments to collect revenues necessary to provide local public services.

VACo appreciates the starting point that the discussions in the 2022 legislative session took regarding adjustments to sales taxes on food purchased for human consumption and essential personal hygiene products -- that any local revenue losses would be replaced. VACo believes that the compromise forged in the budget negotiations in 2022 protects local K-12 revenue and respectfully requests that no further changes be made that would negatively affect this important local funding source.

Positions

Appeals of Tax Assessments

VACo supports preservation of the current appeals processes for real or tangible personal property assessments, including the assessor's presumption of correctness and the role of the state Tax Commissioner with respect to valuation of property.

Election Administration

[Note: To be redrafted and discussed at 11/12 Steering Committee meeting]

Federal Relief and Infrastructure Funds

VACo encourages coordination with local governments in deployment of American Rescue Plan Act and Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act funds so that each federal dollar can be maximized for the benefit of the residents of the Commonwealth.

Funding for State Mandated Positions and Jails

The Commonwealth must meet its obligations to fund appropriate staffing, to include competitive salaries, for the state's system of justice, to include clerks, magistrates, Commonwealth's Attorneys, public defenders, district court employees, and probation office employees.

In the absence of adequate state support for this critical function of government, localities are frequently placed in the untenable position of providing supplemental funding in order to ensure its continued functioning. VACo urges the Commonwealth to meet its full funding obligations, to include realistic levels of staffing to enable constitutional offices to meet their responsibilities and limit the need for localities to provide additional locally-funded positions.

VACo supports flexibility in the use of state funds for compensation of constitutional officers and state-supported local employees, as well as state

funding levels for compensation increases that more closely reflect the true cost of providing such increases across the state-supported local workforce, which encompasses both state-supported and locally-funded positions. For example, state-funded salary increases typically provide funding only for Compensation Board-funded positions for employees in Constitutional offices and for instructional and support positions recognized in the Standards of Quality for school divisions. In these instances, in addition to any required local matches for state-recognized positions, localities must provide comparable salary increases for locally-funded positions purely from local dollars in order to preserve parity between state-funded and locally-funded positions in the workforce.

Jails: VACo supports a more robust state-local partnership in funding local and regional jails. In FY 2021, the Compensation Board reported \$1.04 billion in total expenditures, including capital costs, to house inmates in local and regional jails – localities contributed \$601.4 million of these costs, and an additional \$16.4 million to house inmates in other jurisdictions, while the state contributed \$364.1 million.

A key mechanism through which the state assists with operating costs is per diem payments. Prior to action by the 2022 General Assembly, per diem rates had not been adjusted since FY 2011, when the payment of \$8 per day for local-responsible inmates was reduced to \$4 per day, and the state-responsible rate was adjusted from a bifurcated rate of \$8 per day for the first 60 days and \$14 per day thereafter to a standard rate of \$12 per day. VACo is grateful for action taken in 2022 to increase the state-responsible rate by \$3 (from \$12 to \$15), a step toward more realistic funding levels.¹ VACo supports continued efforts to increase per diem rates to levels that better represent the costs of housing inmates and to adjust the rates in the future so that payments keep pace with rising costs. While the increase in the state-responsible rate is an important step in the right direction, and the numbers of state-responsible inmates in local jails have declined significantly, the current rates remain inadequate and require counties to subsidize care for individuals who should be housed at the Department of Corrections. The Compensation Board estimated a total average daily cost of operating local and regional jails at \$107.09 per inmate in FY 2021, of which \$59.03 was contributed by localities.

VACo supports a requirement for the Department of Corrections to accept state-responsible inmates into the state correctional system unless a local or regional jail agrees to continue holding such inmates at the applicable per diem rate. The Department of Corrections is better equipped than local and regional jails to provide intensive re-entry programming, offering more than 125 academic, job training, and therapeutic programs to offenders who are in prison and individuals under community supervision. The Department of Corrections reports that state-responsible inmates who spend their entire sentences in local or regional jails recidivate at a higher rate than offenders who spend at least part of their incarceration in a Department of Corrections facility (26.9 percent and 21 percent, respectively).

¹ Committee to consider updates in November to reflect General Assembly budget action on local-responsible per diem rates in September 2023.

VACo supports payment of the medical costs of inmates using a cost-effective program jointly funded at the federal and state levels.

The state must provide sufficient funding to enable local and regional jails to meet any new standards for the provision of health care, including behavioral health care, for individuals incarcerated in these facilities. A report issued in 2021 by the Department of Criminal Justice Service and the Compensation Board estimating compliance costs for proposed behavioral health standards suggests that jails will need certain baseline staffing to comply with the standards, to include 24/7 coverage, either on-site or on-call, by a registered nurse; on-call and regularly scheduled services from a psychiatric provider; a qualified mental health professional to provide group and individual therapy services; and behavioral health case management services, to include discharge planning. The 2022 Appropriation Act included funding for 125 behavioral health case manager positions and 127 partially-funded medical/treatment positions, to be phased in over the biennium, representing approximately half of the staffing recommended by the Compensation Board. This funding is a significant investment in helping jails to comply with proposed behavioral health standards. VACo supports a continued state partnership with localities in ensuring that jails are able to meet state standards in caring for these vulnerable individuals.

Mitigation of the Effects of Tax-Exempt Property on the Local Tax Base

VACo supports reinstating state payments (PILT) to counties that mitigate the impacts of state correctional and behavioral healthcare facilities on county revenue. VACo supports measures to ameliorate the effects of large amounts of other tax-exempt property on the local tax base, including state assistance with the costs of state-mandated property tax exemptions.

Legislation with Local Fiscal Impact

VACo supports legislation or other measures providing additional time for localities to review legislation that may have an impact on local revenues or expenditures.

Modernization of Communications Sales and Use Tax Structure

VACo supports updating the Communications Sales and Use Tax (CSUT) to ensure that it reflects the modern telecommunications landscape, which has evolved since the CSUT took effect in January 2007.

VACo opposes any further diversion of Communications Sales and Use Tax Trust Fund dollars beyond the uses already specified in statute. These revenues should be held in trust for localities and not diverted for general state purposes. Currently, funds from the Communications Sales and Use Tax Trust Fund are taken “off the top” for the Department of Taxation’s costs to administer the tax, the telephone relay center operated by the Department for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, and any franchise fees owed to localities. Language adopted in the 2018-2020 biennium budget and continued in the 2021 Appropriations Act provides for an additional diversion of funds to the state General Fund from

assumed savings in the telephone relay contract; these funds would otherwise flow to localities.

Real and Personal Property Tax Exemptions Enacted Prior to 2003

VACo supports providing localities the ability to decide whether to maintain property tax exemptions granted by the General Assembly prior to passage of the Constitutional amendment vesting the authority to grant such exemptions with localities. The Constitutional amendment which was passed by the voters in 2002 and took effect in January 2003 placed decision-making authority about local tax exemptions with local governing bodies, within certain limits, and this authority should apply to exemptions granted before 2003 as well.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Priorities

Local Authority

VACo supports relaxation of the Dillon Rule by enhancing local authority and autonomy in matters including land use, revenue measures, procurement, and other issues of local concern. VACo supports extending powers currently granted to some local governments to all local governments. VACo opposes legislation that erodes local authority.

Unfunded Mandates

VACo opposes unfunded mandates and shifting fiscal responsibility for existing and new programs by the Commonwealth from the state to localities. When funding for a mandated program is altered, the mandate should be suspended until full funding is restored. When legislation with a cost to localities is passed by the General Assembly, the cost should be borne by the Commonwealth, and the legislation should contain a sunset clause providing that the mandate is not binding on localities until funding by the Commonwealth is provided.

Positions

Collective Bargaining for Public Employees

VACo opposes any effort to mandate collective bargaining for public employees.

Emergency Management

VACo supports efforts to study emergency management needs and associated funding, evaluate the sustainability of present funding models, and assess alternative funding strategies employed in other states.

Ethics Reform

VACo supports common sense efforts to strengthen Virginia's public ethics and conflicts of interest laws that are applicable and practical at the local level.

First Responder Recruitment, Retention, Training, and Support

VACo urges the General Assembly to provide additional resources that would assist local governments with the recruitment, retention, training, and support of first responders such as law enforcement, fire and EMS personnel, and 9-1-1 dispatchers.

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)

VACo opposes changes to the Virginia Freedom of Information Act that would impose additional burdens on localities. VACo supports the option for local and regional bodies to meet electronically. VACo supports protecting the confidentiality of citizen complainants' personal information from disclosure under FOIA.

774
775 **Grievance Hearings**

776 VACo supports legislation authorizing localities to use an administrative hearing
777 officer and existing grievance panels and procedures, and opposes the mandate of
778 a three-member panel. VACo also supports providing immunity to local
779 government employees, officers, volunteers, administrative hearing officers and
780 panel members for claims arising out of participation in personnel grievance
781 procedures.

782
783 **Interoperability**

784 VACo supports the state's goal that agencies and their representatives at the local,
785 regional, state and federal levels be able to communicate using compatible
786 systems to respond more effectively during day-to-day operations and major
787 emergencies.

788 VACo supports increased interoperability and the Commonwealth's
789 transition to Next Generation 9-1-1 (NG9-1-1) in a way that does not unfairly
790 burden localities, financially or otherwise.

791
792 **Local EMS Involvement**

793 VACo supports increased local involvement in state EMS planning to ensure
794 statewide needs are met and to avoid imposing unnecessary barriers to
795 volunteerism.

796
797 **Pretrial Services**

798 VACo supports increased funding for and expansion of pretrial services. If the
799 Commonwealth adopts a funding formula for pretrial services, it must hold
800 harmless the localities currently participating.

801
802 **Public Notice, Public Hearing and Public Procurement**

803 VACo supports legislation to streamline required newspaper advertising for
804 public notices, public hearings and public procurement including legislation to
805 give localities the option to use electronic or other forms of notification as an
806 alternative to newspaper advertising.

807
808 **Public Safety – Body Worn Cameras**

809 VACo supports maintaining the ability of local governments to adopt policies and
810 practices regarding body worn cameras that reflect local needs and fiscal realities.

811
812 **Sovereign Immunity**

813 VACo opposes any substantive change in local governments' present defense of
814 qualified immunity and sovereign immunity. VACo opposes bringing counties
815 under the Virginia Tort Claims Act.

816
817 **State Assistance for Police Departments**

818 VACo supports increasing state assistance for police departments through "599"
819 Aid to Localities. This funding is designed to equalize state funding between

820 counties in which the sheriff department provides law enforcement and those
821 cities, counties, and towns with a police department.

822
823 **Workers' Compensation Presumptions**

824 VACo opposes any effort to expand workers' compensation presumptive illnesses
825 eligibilities for public employees that is not done in concert with additional state
826 funding assistance to local governments to offset additional insurance liabilities.

827
828 **Cybersecurity**

829 VACo supports dedicated state and federal funding for local governments to
830 acquire and maintain advanced cybersecurity to protect vital systems and
831 sensitive data. Incident reporting requirements should not impose an undue
832 burden or interfere with local incident response.

HEALTH AND HUMAN RESOURCES

Priorities

Health and Human Resources Funding

VACo supports transparent state policies and funding to ensure the Commonwealth's at-risk families have access to high quality and appropriate services. The Commonwealth should provide full funding to localities and their state administrative entities for state-mandated human services and provide the necessary program flexibility to enable localities to provide comprehensive and case-tailored services.

VACo supports resources necessary for behavioral health and mental health facilities to ensure the protection of residents' and staff health and safety, such as appropriate staff qualifications, training, compensation, and condition of the facilities.

Crisis Services and State Hospital Capacity to Accept Individuals Subject to Temporary Detention Orders

VACo supports efforts to address census pressures at state hospitals through near-term funding measures that will ensure that all state hospitals have the capacity to receive admissions of individuals subject to temporary detention orders without delays. VACo supports competitive salaries and training for state hospital direct care staff. In addition, ongoing efforts to support community-based crisis services must continue.

Positions

Aging/Long-Term Care

VACo supports efforts that allow seniors to remain at home in a safe and secure environment. VACo urges the General Assembly to provide sufficient funding for companion services, in-home services, and home-delivered meals. Due to the increasing number of older adults in Virginia and the rise of Adult Protective Services (APS) cases, VACo supports additional state resources to ensure adequate training for APS workers on topics such as financial exploitation.

Behavioral Healthcare

VACo supports continued funding by the Commonwealth sufficient to allow Community Services Boards (CSBs) (or equivalent county agencies)² to meet adequately the charge of providing services through a community-based system of care. State support must adequately enable CSBs to provide the services mandated by the General Assembly as part of the STEP-VA initiative, as well as

² The term "Community Services Boards" is used here to encompass the operating or administrative policy Community Services Boards, behavioral health authority, and local government departments with policy-advisory Community Services Boards.

any additional requirements that may be added. Funding must be sufficient to ensure adequate staffing in a competitive market.

Any changes to CSB funding should involve meaningful consultation with localities as key funding partners in the behavioral health system. In addition to local contributions to CSBs, localities make significant commitments to behavioral health through support for services funded through the Children's Services Act and local spending on behavioral health care in local and regional jails, among other funding commitments.

Proposed changes to the funding structure, such as the creation of new funding formulae, should apply only to new funding. As an alternative, hold-harmless funds must be provided to those CSBs that would stand to lose state funding under any new funding structure.

VACo supports the ability of the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services to waive local matching requirements for CSB funding for localities experiencing financial hardships.

Realignment of the behavioral health funding structure to incentivize community-based treatment rather than use of state hospitals will require additional state dollars and must not rely on local funding to backfill unanticipated costs for hospitalization.

VACo supports the provision of additional resources to meet the behavioral health needs of justice-involved individuals, such as mobile crisis services and other diversion programs that may be appropriate substitutes for, or supplements to, law enforcement responses. Such work should be coordinated with existing local and state efforts. A sustained commitment of resources from the state will be necessary to ensure successful implementation of the Marcus Alert system; these resources must be in addition to, and not at the expense of, the funding needed to provide the array of community-based services established under STEP-VA.

VACo recognizes the need for specialized services for individuals with cognitive impairments who may experience behavioral health challenges, and supports the provision of resources to enable these individuals to remain in the community, such as continued funding for dementia behavioral specialists and other supports for caregivers.

VACo supports the creation of additional Medicaid waiver slots to serve individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in the community, approximately 14,528 of whom were on a wait-list as of June 2023.

VACo supports efforts to improve efficiency and save staff time for child abuse or neglect or family abuse cases in juvenile and domestic relations courts by allowing behavioral health care providers the ability to submit written reports documenting mental health conditions, similar to the current ability for documentation of physical conditions or injuries to be submitted in writing by certain health care providers, provided that all current standards of confidentiality are preserved.

Children's Services Act

VACo supports equitable cost-sharing between the state and localities for the costs involved in the placements of children in residential treatment facilities for

non-educational reasons. VACo opposes proposals to limit state participation in funding services for children and youth who are mandated to be provided with special education and foster care services.

VACo supports enhancing the ability of local school divisions to serve children with disabilities, to include flexibility in use of state pool funds to serve children with high-level needs in local or regional programs tailored to meet those needs, at local option; exploration of enhancements to the Students with Intensive Support Needs Application (SISNA) or a similar funding mechanism within the Department of Education to enable more children to be supported within the public school environment; and additional support for special education wraparound services to help support children in their communities.

VACo supports state assistance to localities with contracting for CSA services to improve localities' ability to negotiate with providers of these services, such as private day placements. Rate setting by the state must not limit the state's funding obligation at the expense of localities if a provider refuses to accept the negotiated rate.

VACo appreciates the investment of an additional \$500,000 per year in state administrative funds in the 2022 Appropriation Act and supports continued investment of state resources to assist in the local administration of CSA programs. As CSA becomes increasingly complex and the Office of Children's Services is charged with ensuring effective implementation, the state should provide funding and other resources to support local programs.

Early Intervention

VACo supports sustainable funding for Part C Early Intervention, which is an entitlement program that provides services for Virginia's infants and toddlers. VACo requests that the General Assembly continue to increase state general funding to address growth in caseloads and fund rates that address the costs of providing the services. Underfunding this entitlement program puts pressure on local revenues to fill funding gaps for this mandated service.

Foster Care

VACo supports continued state efforts to ensure successful implementation of federal legislation governing federal funding for children placed in foster care, to include improving access to the evidence-based prevention services that may be funded by Title IV-E dollars and ensuring that congregate care providers are able to meet new standards required in the law. This legislation will allow federal participation in prevention services that previously have been funded by state and local dollars, but services must meet certain standards in order to qualify for federal funding.

VACo supports state assistance in recruiting appropriate foster families to care for children who must be removed from their homes. Continued state assistance with finding placements for youth with high-acuity needs is particularly important in building on the progress made by the Safe and Sound Task Force. VACo supports state assistance in recruiting and retaining child welfare workers to address high rates of turnover in local departments of social services, such as by increasing the number of partnerships with universities in

Virginia, improving training for child welfare workers by implementing an academy model, and expanding the Child Welfare Stipend program.

Healthcare

VACo supports continued state funding for dental care, school nurses and preventive services and maternal and child health programs offered through local health departments and local school systems. VACo encourages the state to prepare for emergency health services access to care and to develop and fund incentives that would alleviate the nursing shortages felt in many communities.

VACo supports efforts to reduce the cost of prescription drugs for individual consumers as well as for local governments' health insurance plans for county employees, such as through an affordability review process and the establishment of Upper Payment Limits for high-cost prescription drugs, provided there is an opportunity for local representation in such a process.

Human Trafficking

VACo supports treating survivors of human trafficking as victims, not criminals, and supports their access to services available to other trauma victims, such as job placement services, housing assistance, access to education, legal services, and mental health services.

Implementation of Medicaid Expansion

VACo supports continued state funding for the local costs associated with Medicaid expansion, such as local eligibility workers, as well as state assistance with reviewing the Medicaid eligibility of more than 1.2 million cases as required after the termination of the federal public health emergency (which has barred disenrollment of individuals during the emergency period as a condition of the state's receipt of the enhanced federal match rate).

Prevention Services

VACo supports increased stable, predictable funding, through state general fund appropriations or federal funding streams, for voluntary home visiting programs. Investments in programs that ensure a strong start for children can help reduce the need for costlier interventions later in life.

Substance Use Disorder

Efforts to address substance dependency must be comprehensive and coordinated with localities. The state should develop and support evidence-based prevention initiatives and should continue to improve access to treatment.

Telehealth

VACo supports the use of electronic information and telecommunications technologies to support long-distance clinical health care, patient and professional health-related education, public health and health administration. Flexibility in the delivery of these services is essential in meeting the needs of residents.

TRANSPORTATION

Priority

Transportation Funding

VACo supports continued study and action to address the causes for declining growth in transportation revenues and to develop recommendations to grow revenue over time to meet increasing demands for new construction and maintenance for existing transportation infrastructure. Such action must address the secondary road needs of counties throughout the Commonwealth, including additional funding for the paving of unpaved roads.

VACo supports changes to simplify the Smart Scale process for allocating transportation funds to reduce time and costs to prepare and review applications. VACo supports adequate funding levels to maintain existing transit capital state match rates.

VACo supports continuing efforts to replace the regional funding that was redirected from the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority.

While VACo supports the passage of the 2021 Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), this funding should not replace the necessary funding the Commonwealth should provide localities regarding their transit and infrastructure needs. VACo supports flexible funding for transportation, transit and infrastructure projects across the Commonwealth.

Local-State Cooperation

VACo is committed to the protection of local government authority to regulate land use. This authority must be recognized by Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) and the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) when evaluations are conducted to determine the consistency between local transportation plans and the Commonwealth's transportation priorities. VACo also opposes the reduction of local control that is associated with the CTB's process of designating Corridors of Statewide Significance and the implementation of Arterial Preservation. Additionally, VACo supports additional flexibility within the VDOT project approval process and standards to be responsive to localities' individual needs. VACo supports the expansion of authority and discretion of Resident Administrators of VDOT to approve modifications to design standards where appropriate with local needs, including reduction of speed limits.

Positions

Airports

VACo supports additional state and federal funding for the maintenance and expansion of airports to foster regional economic development.

Autonomous Vehicles

VACo supports continued collaboration with local governments on the development, deployment, and restrictions of use for autonomous vehicles, aerial systems, and related support infrastructure.

Electric Vehicle Charging Stations

VACo supports increased state and federal funding that provides for the availability and installation of interoperable, electric vehicle charging stations in collaboration with localities.

Devolution of Secondary Roads

VACo opposes legislative or administrative initiatives that would transfer to counties the responsibility for the construction, maintenance or operation of new and existing roads.

Maintenance Priorities

VACo supports a requirement imposed upon VDOT to implement a notification plan with the local governing body to establish maintenance priorities.

Orphaned Drainage Outfalls

VACo supports the recommendations of the Evaluation of Drainage Outfalls Final Report to mitigate the impacts of drainage outfalls with no assigned maintaining entity across the Commonwealth.

Parking

VACo supports general authority for counties to adopt ordinances regulating, including prohibiting, the parking of boats, RVs, utility trailers, campers, etc. on subdivision streets. In addition, VACo supports additional authority that would allow localities with parking ordinances the ability to enforce such ordinances using law enforcement, uniformed local employees, or uniformed personnel under contract with the locality.

Railways

VACo supports efforts by the Commonwealth to expand sustainable passenger and commuter rail service, including Transforming Rail in Virginia, to currently unserved areas of the Commonwealth as well as areas where demand exceeds available service. VACo supports continued collaboration with local governments regarding Commonwealth Rail Fund projects funded by the state and constructed within their jurisdictions. VACo supports efforts to safely improve mobility issues on roads that cross railway lines.

Recordation Tax Distribution to Localities

VACo supports the restoration of state recordation tax revenues distributed to counties and cities for use of transportation or public education purposes.

1142 **Regional Transportation Funding**

1143 VACo opposes any efforts to divert existing dedicated regional transportation
1144 revenues to areas and purposes outside of that region unless additional dedicated
1145 funding sources are provided to hold such funding harmless.
1146

1147 **Truck Size and Weight**

1148 VACo opposes any legislation that seeks to increase truck size or weight beyond
1149 the current federal standards, thereby stressing the capacity of the
1150 Commonwealth's road systems and putting highways, roads and bridges at risk of
1151 increased damage or deterioration.
1152

1153 **Transit**

1154 State funding for transit should account for the needs of each region and
1155 community to foster regional economic development.
1156

SURRY COUNTY BUILDING OFFICIAL'S OFFICE

MONTHLY REPORT

Building Permits Issued for the Month of **SEPTEMBER 2023**

Total Permits Issued for Surry County Va.

<u>TYPE</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>VALUE</u>	<u>FEES</u>
New Construction	3	\$ 859,100.00	\$ 1,636.16
Manufactured Homes.Doublewide	1	\$ 207,600.00	\$ 388.62
S-F Dwelling	2	\$ 651,500.00	\$ 1,247.54
Two Family Dwelling		\$ -	\$ -
Singlewide Mobile Homes		\$ -	\$ -
Commercial		\$ -	\$ -
 Additions/Renovations	 6	 \$ 820,192.00	 \$ 9,312.60
Garage		\$ -	\$ -
Additions	5	\$ 20,192.00	\$ 821.10
Commercial Addition	1	\$ 800,000.00	\$ 8,491.50
Renovations			
Storage Building/Shed		\$ -	\$ -
 Electrical	 20	 \$ 226,412.00	 \$ 4,368.39
 Plumbing	 7	 \$ 27,950.00	 \$ 1,267.94
 Mechanical	 5	 \$ 19,200.00	 \$ 900.66
 Demolition			
 <u>TOTAL</u>	 41	 \$ 1,952,854.00	 \$ 17,485.75

INSPECTIONS

Number of inspections performed 78

Plans Reviewed within 10 business Day 100%

Inspections conducted within 24 hrs. 100%



Franklin, Isle of Wight, Southampton, Surry, and Sussex
www.blackwaterlib.org

Director's Report

September 2023

Admin Updates

- Initial steps in FY23 Audit underway from audit firm
- BRL participated in three National Night Out events earlier in month, bringing a total of NNO events participated in this year to seven in our service area
- Holiday Food Drive (Food for Fines) launches in November for local food pantries
- No open positions as of 10.11.23



BRL in the Community



Library Booth at
Franklin Fall Festival



Partnership with
Community Harvest
Outreach for Book
Giveaways



Bookworms' apple-activity
at Windsor Castle Park (in
conjunction with IOW
Museum)

15 Outreach Programs and Events in September reaching over 700 people

City of Franklin

- Fall Programs commenced at the Franklin branch with monthly Craftsy program, Paws to Read, and Full STEAM Ahead.
- Full STEAM Ahead program featured a guest speaker from Western Tidewater Health Department to talk about the science behind hand-washing and good hygiene habits
- Franklin & Courtland branch welcomed new Youth Services Programmer, Barbara Kent



Isle of Wight County

- Carrollton Branch's Chapter Chat Teen Book Club continues to be a hit! It returned in September with 16 participants; elsewhere two super-readers finished the 1000 Books Before Kindergarten program!
- Friends of the Windsor Library hosted an Author-Palooza in September with local author Allie Marie as well as authors from Scotland and Australia.
- Smithfield Branch had an array of programming, including its BookSTEAM program which featuring young participants making Minifigure Self-Portraits.

55 In-House or Outreach Programs in Isle of Wight County reaching nearly 900 people



Southampton County

- Full STEAM Ahead program also featured WTHD representative explained about germs, how we come in contact with germs, how germs can make us sick, and ways to prevent contact and sickness from germs and best practices to stay healthy.
- Adult Craftsy is back and in September, had a full house for our Sunflower-themed activity.
- Teen and Family programs are back with Family Movie Night, Little Explorers StoryTime, and Teen Time!



Surry County

- BRL had a booth at the Nottoway Powwow in Surry and gave out free books and library information.
- Claremont's new Senior Library Assistant, Owen Kelsey, is leading the branch's popular Craftsy Program
- Surry's youth programs including Lego Lab are off to a good start for the Fall season!



Sussex County

- Waverly Farmer's Market still going strongly as we head into fall. This seasonal monthly event provides a way for Waverly community to come together and find local goods & produce.
- Waverly Branch is hosting local homeschool group twice a month, which has been a lively addition to branch activities.
- Wakefield and Waverly book clubs read "The Sundown Motel" and "Anxious People," respectively.





Surry County Treasurer's Office

Onike N. Ruffin, Treasurer

Telephone: (757) 294-5206
Fax: (757) 294-5208
Web: www.surrycountyva.gov

45 School Street
Post Office Box 286
Surry, Virginia 23883

August 31, 2023

Surry County Board of Supervisors
Mr. Robert Elliot, Chairman
Post Office Box 65
Surry, VA 23883

Lady and Gentlemen:

Please be advised that we last reported a balance in the Local Government Investment Pool totaling \$12,609,261.26.

Since that report, we received our accrued interest for August 2023 in the amount of \$53,280.07 increasing our balance in LGIP to \$12,662,541.33.

Since our last report, we transferred \$2,500,000.00 from the Local Government Investment Pool to the General Fund, bringing the LGIP balance to \$10,162,541.33.

We have the following investments:

		Rate	Days	Matures
LGIP	\$ 10,162,541.33	Variable rate		
EVB CD Plus accrued Int.	\$ 500,000.00	.40%	730	01/28/2024

This gives us a total investment of **\$10,662,541.33**.

Respectfully submitted,

Onike N. Ruffin

Onike N. Ruffin, Treasurer
County of Surry



Surry County Treasurer's Office

Onike N. Ruffin, Treasurer

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45 School Street
Post Office Box 286
Surry, Virginia 23883

September 29, 2023

Surry County Board of Supervisors
Mr. Robert Elliot, Chairman
Post Office Box 65
Surry, VA 23883

Lady and Gentlemen:

Please be advised that we last reported a balance in the Local Government Investment Pool totaling \$10,162,541.33.

Since that report, we received our accrued interest for September 2023 in the amount of \$41,119.22 increasing our balance in LGIP to \$10,203,660.55.

Since our last report, we transferred \$4,500,000.00 from the Local Government Investment Pool to the General Fund, bringing the LGIP balance to \$5,703,660.55.

We have the following investments:

		Rate	Days	Matures
LGIP	\$ 5,703,660.55	Variable rate		
EVB CD Plus accrued Int.	\$ 500,000.00	.40%	730	01/28/2024

This gives us a total investment of **\$6,203,660.55**.

Respectfully submitted,

Onike N. Ruffin

Onike N. Ruffin, Treasurer
County of Surry