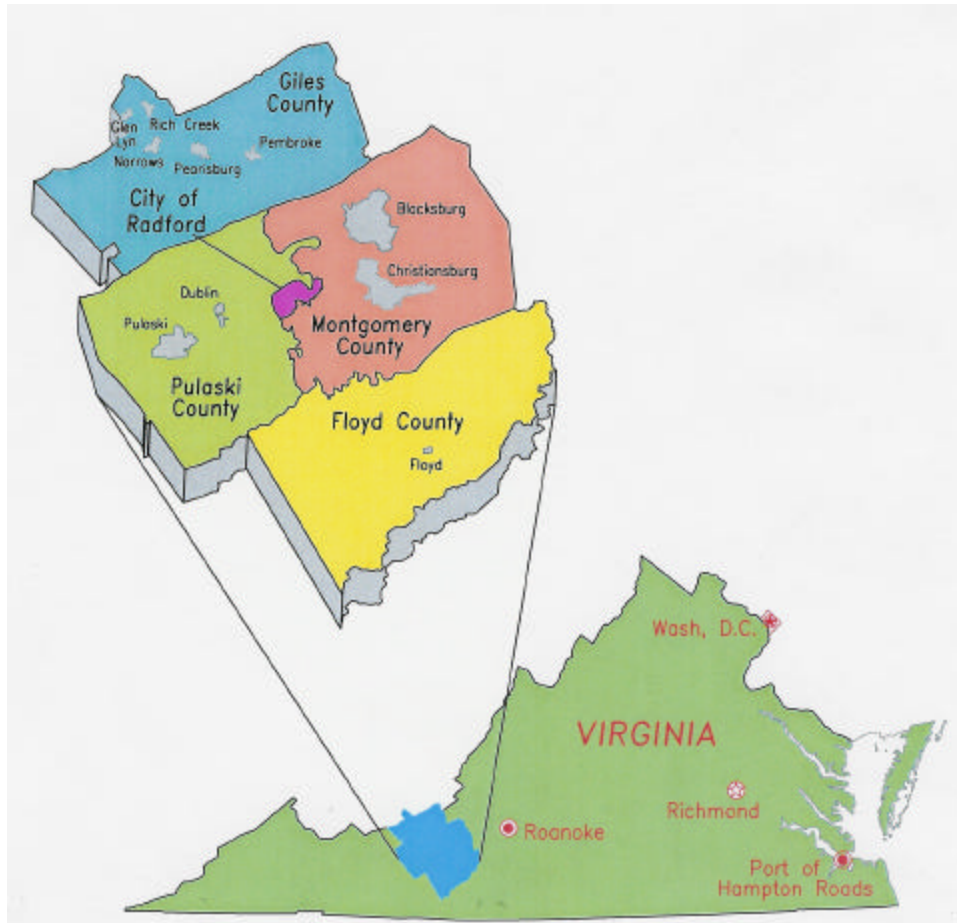


New River Valley Planning District Commission

Annual Report FY 2003–2004



Virginia's New River Valley



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Executive Director's Report

Dear Commissioners and
Regional Citizens,

Fiscal Year 2003-2004 was another year full of change. Much of the Commission's focus for the year was on continuing to assist in putting infrastructure in place to allow the region to compete in the economy of the 21st Century.

Regional telecommunications and regional water sources held major places in the planning program for the year. The telecommunications project is aimed at assuring available and affordable broadband telecommunications infrastructure to support governmental operations, provide necessary infrastructure to help maintain a competitive position for the region in efforts to attract 21st Century industry, and to have available the infrastructure that existing companies need to continue to compete and remain viable in the region.

The regional water source plan is directed at increasing the availability, security, and reliability of public water supplies.

As noted last year, the US Census Bureau designated the Blacksburg Urban Area to include the Towns of Blacksburg, Christiansburg, and a portion of Montgomery County. In addition, the Census designated Blacksburg, Christiansburg, and Radford a Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA).

With the designation of the MSA, the US Department of Housing and Urban Development determined that the Towns of Blacksburg and Christiansburg and the City of Radford were eligible for entitlement funding under the Community Block Grant Program. The designation provides the three communities approximately \$1.2 million dollars per year to assist low/moderate income people and neighborhoods. In addition, the communities are eligible for a similar amount in HOME funds.

The communities and the Commission are working to identify other federal financial benefits. Non-financial benefits include the fact that many businesses utilize the MSA listings and data to make business location decisions. Often these decisions are made with no contact which the community can influence. Not being on an MSA listing leaves the community as an unknown place.

The Commission and region's local governments joined together to prepare the first regional Hazard Mitigation Plan in the State. Plans are required by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Plans identify the hazards and actions which may be taken to mitigate the impact of the hazard. Congress has required that all communities or regions in the country adopt such plans by November 2004, however, the time required and the complexity of the adoption process review may not allow enough time for the achievement of that goal.

The New River Valley is ahead of many areas in the country in the implementation of the program.

The following report outlines a number of projects which are underway at the Commission or have received funding during the year.

For further information on the region or the programs of the Commission please visit our web site: www.nrvpc.org.

Sincerely,

David W. Rundgren
Executive Director

Regional Cooperation

Virginia's First Regional Industrial Facility Authority

Virginia's First Regional Industrial Facility Authority, a fifteen member multi-jurisdiction authority, continues with its focus on the development and marketing of the New River Valley Commerce Park. The Authority continues to hold regular meetings and is aggressively seeking other regional economic development opportunities that can be implemented under the Regional Industrial Facility Authority Act.

New River Watershed Roundtable

The New River and its tributaries provide water for residential, commercial, industrial, and recreational uses. As the watershed develops further, both the demand for water and the threat to water quality will increase. There is a need to think critically and strategically about water quality in the New River watershed.

The New River Watershed Roundtable seeks to provide a continuing and cooperative forum for engaging citizens, stakeholders, and government entities in discussing and

addressing the future of the watershed. During FY 2004, the Roundtable released an initial watershed strategic plan, held a watershed conference, and worked to address organizational development issues. The Roundtable also received a small grant from the Community Foundation of the New River Valley to support communication and outreach efforts.



I-81 Corridor Council

The development of proposals to improve I-81 and the VTRANS 2025 proposal identifying the I-81 Corridor as one of Virginia's multi-modal Corridors has prompted the Planning District Commissions along the Corridor in Virginia as well as in Tennessee and West Virginia to consider re-establishing the I-81 Corridor Council. This Council will provide a forum for local governments and others to discuss various issues found along the Corridor and their relationships. During FY-05 a further defining of the roles which an established Council may serve will be explored.

Virginia's New River Valley Regional Competitiveness Partnership

Virginia's New River Valley Regional Competitiveness Partnership was formed at the request of the local governments. It is composed of representatives of the New River Valley Planning District Commission (NRVPDC) and the New River Valley Economic Development Alliance. The Partnership reports on the status of regional projects and encourages other regional projects through the investment of funds provided to the Partnership by the General Assembly. In FY 02, the General Assembly cut the funding for the RCP Program, therefore no monies were allocated during FY 03 and FY 04.

Vision 2020: Putting Community First

The NRVPDC continues to monitor progress on the region's Vision 2020 strategic plan, *Community First*. Several regional initiatives in the areas of telecommunication, regional housing assessment, and cooperative regional governmental and planning forums have begun under the impetus of this vision. Greater connections between local governments and the non-profit and grassroots community groups can also be attributed to efforts under the regional *Community First* umbrella.

This plan was never intended to be a project unto itself, it is a vehicle and tool for assessing and building projects to reach the goals and vision of this community.

Planners' Forum

The Planners' Forum continued to meet through FY 2004 through the staffing and coordination of the NRVPDC staff. Local planning staff from across the region met to discuss issues of regional and local concern. This forum is also an opportunity to discuss current projects in the region and the localities and to gain insight from local professionals about hurdles these projects may be facing. The group of planners are helping to set the agenda and this year's topics were about subdivision planning, affordable housing, regional project brainstorming, and new rules in transportation and sight distance regulations. In some cases, experts or regulators from various fields were brought in to present information and take questions from the group. The forum will be setting a regular schedule of bi-monthly meetings for the FY 2005 year.

Administrators' Forum

The NRVPDC began hosting a forum for local City, County, and Town Administrators in FY 2004. The group meets bi-monthly with staff support from the NRVPDC. This is an important opportunity for these local leaders to discuss regional and local projects and issues. It

also provides a regular forum for regional and local organizations to bring information and regional project information to this group. This forum has been involved in conversations about opportunities for collaboration to reduce costs in the areas of maintenance procurement and state-mandated cost coverage items.



New River Valley Foreign Trade Zone/Port of Entry

The Foreign Trade Zone (FTZ) and Port of Entry designations of the New River Valley Airport enhance the region as a location for companies involved in international trade. Approximately 40-50 companies are now utilizing the U.S. Customs office located at the Airport. A subzone of the FTZ has been established at the site of an industrial building owned by the Pulaski County IDA.

Using funds from a successful Rural Business Assistance Grant application prepared by NRVPDC staff, the NRV Economic Development Alliance worked in conjunction with Radford University's International Trade Center to

develop and implement a technical assistance program and outreach/marketing effort for small businesses within a 90-mile radius of the FTZ.

In addition, the NRV Economic Development Alliance is working with Congressman Boucher's office to secure federal funds to support operation and staffing of the local Customs office.

New River Valley Competitiveness Center

The year ending June 30, 2004 was an exciting and challenging year for the small business incubator. Phase 2 which added 23,000 square feet of space was substantially complete in March 2003, however, final completion was not achieved until June 2004 due to some remaining issues with site work. The Center saw three tenants graduate during the year all of whom continue their businesses in the area. Two new businesses were added during the year while two additional ones were approved for occupancy and will move in during the first quarter of next year. Finally, two tenants expanded their occupancy at the Center.

On September 1, 2003 **McIntyre & Associates** graduated after three years of occupancy. McIntyre & Associates began their business specializing in UNIX operating system installation and

maintenance. However, they have found a new niche as Internet security specialists. Jim McIntyre, owner, moved his operation to the Corporate Research Center in Blacksburg.

Covenant Software provides service to users of the Oracle database software. They graduated on November 1, 2003. The Covenant Software office has moved to downtown Radford.

Barry Duncan a Financial Advisor with the AXA Network and **Debra Chase** a Retirement Specialist with AXA joined the Center on October 1, 2003. They began by sharing one office space in Phase 2, but have since added an additional office. Barry provides advice to clients throughout the New River Valley. Debra assists individuals and groups with retirement planning throughout the New River Valley

The **New River Valley Development Corporation's** Board reviewed two potential tenant applications at their June meeting and approved the business plans for both businesses to be tenants. **Ralph Cummings** and **Safe Water, Inc.** will be joining the Center in the first quarter of next year. Ralph will provide mortgage brokerage services and Safe Water is a water testing lab that

will test water for citizens, developers, and governments throughout southwest Virginia.

During the year the **Pulaski County Department of Social Services** left their 100 square foot office because funding for a special project housed in the regional office space was not renewed.



Special Programs and Marketing

Phase 2 of the Competitiveness Center includes a large meeting room, The New River Room, that has been used by a variety of groups for projects of regional interest. Such programs as workshops on telecommunications and regional water studies have been held in this space. The space has also become the regular meeting place for the Virginia Employment Commission's (VEC) Employer Advisory Committee. This group presents timely programs to area employers on a quarterly basis. Additionally, the Center

provides space for bi-weekly meetings of the VEC's Re-employment Services Orientation class. Having the meetings on site exposes the Center to potential users of the meeting space or possible entrepreneurs that could become tenants. As a result of hosting the VEC's programs the Center has been designated a Partner for the VEC providing even more public exposure.

The Competitiveness Center was the site chosen for the first Job Fair presented by the Partners for Self Sufficiency (PSS). This group is composed of the Social Service Agencies from around the Valley. The job fair was held in October 2003 and more than 400 job seekers attended and met fifty prospective employers.

The Center also participated in the Pulaski County Chamber of Commerce Small Business Expo this Spring and was a co-sponsor of the second job fair presented by PSS at New River Community College in April.

Wayne Carpenter, Manager of the Competitiveness Center, presented entrepreneurial workshops during the year to various groups. The groups included middle schools, university students, and public schools.

Giles Business Incubator

The Giles Business Incubator has been functioning under the Giles County Industrial Development Authority for the past four years and Chris McKlarney, Giles County Economic Development Director, is serving as Director of the Business Incubator.

The following are some changes that have taken place over the past year:

Allstate Insurance opened their doors in March 2004. Agent Tim Anderson offers auto, home, business and life insurance.

Giles County Social Services moved from their location in Pembroke, VA to the new renovated Incubator in May 2004. They continue to offer a wide variety of services to the citizens of Giles County.

Precision Machine and Design reopened in April 2004 after the loss of owner Roger Fleeman. Johnny and Lisa Lucas, brother-in-law and sister of Roger continue to provide custom machining jigs, fixtures, molds and parts to suit customer needs with state of the art CNC machining equipment.

Businesses that are still operating at the Incubator include :

Pervasive Technologies Inc., owned by Dave Stafford,

continues to provide high-speed internet service, computer software systems for businesses and computer hardware services.

Mountain Sporting Goods owned by Don Waldron of Narrows, VA. This is a retail store which specializes in outdoor sports, collectibles, rare and limited edition firearms, and various gifts for any sportsman.

Giles County Partnership for Excellence provides a variety of services to the residents in Giles County. Representatives from the Virginia Employment Commission and Veteran's Benefits continue to visit the Incubator on a regular basis to meet with clients.

Jacksonville Center

A three-day celebration held the weekend of September 12-14, 2003 marked the grand opening of the **Jacksonville Center**. The **Jacksonville Center**, a small business incubator with a cultural focus, is located in a renovated 1940's era dairy barn. A full time incubator manager has been appointed to market the tenant space and oversee tenant activities. A variety of small businesses are now located in the Center. In addition to supporting small business ventures, which emphasize arts, crafts and other tourism related endeavors, the second floor houses a gallery

and community space. The Hayloft Gallery offers continually changing exhibits and the Hayloft Community Room is in demand for meetings, classes and social events. The Virginia Department of Business Assistance, the Appalachian Regional Commission and USDA's Rural Development Agency provided funding for the renovation.

The space provided by the renovation has also allowed the Center to offer a variety of arts related classes and the addition of a full time educational programming director has allowed for expansion of this important element of the Center. The USDA has recently announced two grants, one for a residential structure and studio and one for equipment to stock pottery, blacksmithing and glass-working studios. This funding will assist the Center in its efforts to become the state's first residential crafts school.

Floyd Regional Commerce Center

The Floyd Regional Commerce Center developed with funding assistance from the Economic Development Administration, Department of Housing and Community Development, and the Virginia Department of Transportation. These awards are in addition to the Appalachian Regional Commission and Rural Development funds used to

provide water and wastewater facilities to the Center and neighboring community. Private investment in the venture included a commitment of \$1.8 million by Dreaming Creek Timber Frame Homes, Inc. Construction is complete on all divisions of the initial development of 37 acres of the Commerce Center. Resulting products include a temporary access road and lot grading to enable the construction of the expanded Dreaming Creek operations, a permanent access road, water and sewer line installed to support six small and medium size ready to build industrial pads. A second private venture is a 50,000 SF flexible use facility located at the entrance to the Center. Built and marketed by Branwick Associates, this facility was completed in Spring 2004 and represents a \$2.5 million investment. Total public, private and local investment in the Floyd Regional Commerce Center and related projects is over \$6.8 million.

Narrows Downtown Revitalization

The Narrows Downtown Revitalization effort continued into Phase 3 with the Virginia Department of Transportation's TEA-21 grant program. The NRVPDC has been contracted to assist the Town in administering the grant for the following activities: farmer's market, pedestrian walkway,

stream-bank restoration, parking lot rehab, and streetscape improvements. The engineering firm has been contracted and plans are underway for the improvements.

Pearisburg Downtown Revitalization

PDC staff provided technical and grant-writing assistance to the Town of Pearisburg during FY 2004 for the Town's downtown revitalization effort. The project resulted in



Citizen involvement in Pearisburg TEA -21 Application

development of a CDBG project funding application focusing on improvement of building facades, rehabilitation and production of upper floor housing, and renovation of two key historic buildings in downtown Pearisburg. In August 2004, the Town of Pearisburg received a Letter of Intent for \$800,000 in CDBG funds to support the Pearisburg Downtown Revitalization

Project. The overall effort also includes a VDOT Transportation Enhancement Program-funded element which will support streetscaping and sidewalk/crosswalk improvements in downtown Pearisburg.

New River Valley Commerce Park

The Virginia's First Regional Industrial Facility Authority continues in the development and marketing of the New River Valley Commerce Park with assistance being provided by the New River Valley Economic Development Alliance, Roanoke Valley Economic Development Partnership and the Virginia Economic Development Partnership. The Commerce Park, an approximate

500-acre facility, at present offers a 40 acre graded pad, one mile of industrial access road and approximately 100,000 gpd of water and wastewater capacity. Additional infrastructure at the site consists of gas and telecommunication services.

The Commerce Park is located adjacent to the New River Valley International Airport and

currently offers approximately 24 acres of property that is being marketed as the New River Valley Airpark. The Airpark is unique as it is located with direct access to the existing 6,200-foot runway. The New River Valley Commerce Park and Airpark is located in an Enterprise and Foreign Trade Zone with easy access to Interstates 81 and 77.

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy

PDC staff updated the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), the strategic plan for the Economic Development Administration. Embodied in the update was a revision to Vision 2020 which outlines goals and strategies for economic development, education and training, health and human development, natural and cultural environment, and physical infrastructure in the New River Valley.

The CEDS document also includes an Annual Project Package Report which lists and ranks projects in the region according to specific criteria and priority levels. The criteria this year included: regional significance, relationship to locally adopted comprehensive plans, per capita income and unemployment in the locality, relationship to private investment and previous investment, and readiness to

initiate projects. Level 1 priority projects include water and sewer improvements, employment creation/retention, microenterprise assistance, tourism, roads, local schools and educational facilities, and technology career facilities.



Human Services

The five Departments of Social Services, known collectively as the Partners for Self-Sufficiency (PSS), have been receiving grant funding for four years to provide additional regional programming to the hard-to-serve population. PSS was awarded over \$300,000 by the Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) for the period of July 2003 through November 2004. These funds were used to identify successful interventions for TANF clients enrolled in the VIEW program who are experiencing multiple barriers to employment. Local VDSS clients go through a series of components, including a two week job readiness class, and vocational, mental health, substance abuse, and learning disability assessments, and job retention services. These components are designed to increase welfare clients' chances of becoming and remaining self-sufficient.

The hallmark of the collaborative is the regional partnerships forged by PSS. Partners include New River Community College, Optimal Rehab Professionals, the Community Services Board, and Virginia Tech's Institute for Policy Outreach. For the 2004/05 grant cycle, PSS is expanding their regional model and adding a partnership with Radford University's Waldron College of Health and Human Services. If funded, PSS will expand services by having a class of 6-8 Master-level students who will assist with a vocational outreach program for the hard-to-serve population.

Another successful collaborative venture has been agencies working together to host a job fair targeted at entry-level positions. PSS has partnered with New River Community College, Mount Rogers/New River Valley Workforce Investment Board, the Virginia Employment Commission, the Department of Rehabilitation Service, the New River Valley Planning District Commission and the New River Valley Competitiveness Center to host a job fair representing over 60 employers in the New River Valley, with over 450 job seekers in attendance. PSS is working closely with the New River Valley Competitiveness Center and the Planning District Commission to host the third bi-annual job fair in September, 2004.

This past year, PSS presented their innovative practices at a promising practices conference in Richmond hosted by the Virginia Department of Social Services. The agency directors and community partners discussed the NRCC job readiness program, their work with New River Valley employers, and the success of the Virginia Tech internship program.

New River Valley Disability Services Board (NRVDSB)

The NRVDSB contracted with the NRVPDC for staff support services. NRVPDC staff assisted the DSB in performing a number of different services, including assistance with the overall operation of the New River Valley satellite office of the Blue Ridge Independent Living Center, surveying and inspecting area businesses for accessibility issues, and the



Tekoa Administration Building

development and completion of the NRV Needs Assessment of the disabled community. This needs assessment will be instrumental in helping guide disability programs and issues in the NRV and statewide. The final needs assessment was forwarded to all local governing bodies, agencies that come into contact with the disabled population, and the state Delegates and Senators that represent the NRV. The NRVDSB staff support position also serves as a liaison between the NRVDSB and the Virginia Disability Services Commission and the Virginia

Disability Council.

Community Housing Partners

Commission staff is administering a Community Improvement Grant awarded the Town of Christiansburg by the Department of Housing and Community Development. The \$700,000 grant will help pay for construction of the Community Housing Partner's Youth Housing Facility. Known as Tekoa, the 10,000 square foot building will house a total of 20 low-income, at risk adolescent males. The dormitory and administration building and the separate dining hall structure were substantially complete in late March 2004 and the school has admitted its first students.



Tekoa Dorm Room

Planning/Technical Assistance

Town of Narrows Zoning Ordinance

The NRVPDC continued to assist the Town of Narrows with the overall update and upkeep of the Town's Zoning Ordinance as policies are in need of change. This update is in line with the recent full revision to the Zoning Ordinance.

Town of Pulaski Zoning Ordinance

NRVPDC staff assisted The Town of Pulaski Planning Commission in finalizing a zoning ordinance and map update prior to adoption by the Pulaski Town Council.

City of Radford Zoning Ordinance

The NRVPDC is supporting the Radford City Planning Commission in reviewing and updating their zoning ordinance to bring it into compliance with their Comprehensive Plan. This work began in the Spring of 2004 and a fully updated zoning ordinance for the City is expected in the Spring of 2005.

Town of Pembroke Comprehensive Plan

With assistance from the NRVPDC staff, the Pembroke Planning Commission integrated hazard mitigation planning into their Comprehensive Plan update. Council adopted the integrated plan.

Town of Pulaski Comprehensive Plan

NRVPDC staff assisted the Town of Pulaski Planning Commission in reviewing and preparing to update their Comprehensive Plan.

Floyd County Manufactured Home Park Ordinance

The Floyd-Floyd County Planning Commission, with assistance from PDC staff, has revised the County's Manufactured Home Park Ordinance.

Assistance to the Floyd-Floyd County Planning Commission

In addition to the Manufactured Home Park Ordinance work, PDC staff also assisted the Floyd-Floyd County Planning Commission in updating their by-laws. The PDC also scoped out a land use evaluation for the Planning Commission.

Town of Floyd

PDC staff has provided grant-writing and community organizing assistance to the Town of Floyd and the Partnership for Floyd as they seek to enhance the Town for residents and visitors. A Transportation Enhancement application was submitted to request funding for a sidewalk connecting important heritage sites as well as streetscaping improvements. That project has been awarded funding. Additionally, PDC staff assisted the Town in revising its zoning ordinance.



Citizen meeting for the Town of Floyd TEA -21 Application

Enterprise Zone Application

PDC staff prepared an Enterprise Zone application for Floyd County. This designation would bring business incentives to encourage job creation in the County.

Floyd County Economic and Community Development Center with Medical Arts Space

PDC staff prepared a successful ARC application for Floyd County to fund medical arts space in conjunction with a community center in Floyd. This effort included documenting the considerable unmet medical service needs in the County.

Floyd County Industrial Access Road Study

PDC staff sponsored a Radford University student to conduct an initial assessment of industrial access options for the two industrial parks in Floyd. The Study identified at least 3 options that would improve access for industrial traffic and improved safety for other motorists and pedestrians in Floyd.

Floyd County Solid Waste Plan

Floyd County and the Town of Floyd completed a new Solid Waste Management Plan as required by the Virginia

Department of Environmental Quality. The PDC conducted the process and drafted the plan with assistance and guidance from County and Town staffs and citizens.

Community Facilitations

Two joint events of non-profits, service agencies and private citizens were facilitated by PDC staff, in conjunction with community groups. Initially, a "summit" afforded 12 community groups the opportunity to update one another on their work and identify possible collaborations. The second meeting was to gather input and questions for a Floyd County community survey to be conducted by the Virginia Tech Sociology Department. The survey will help guide future planning efforts.

Town of Narrows Capital Improvements Plan (CIP)

The NRVPDC contracted with the Town of Narrows to provide technical assistance to the Town's Planning Commission to create the Town's first CIP. This project is ongoing and expected to be completed in time to be used during the Town's FY05 budget process.

Radford CDBG Entitlement

The NRVPDC staff assisted the City of Radford in the development of their five-year

Consolidated Plan and annual Action Plan to activate the funding stream available to the City upon its designation as an Entitlement Community for the Community Development Block Grant program. The City submitted this plan in May 2004 and is expecting to begin implementing housing rehabilitation, public service outreach, and rental inspection programming in the City in the first year of this new program. The City will receive \$248,000 annually as their entitled CDBG funds. The NRVPDC will assist the City with administration of the program into FY 2005.

NRV Housing Partnership

The NRVPDC staff received funding from DHCD in the Spring of 2004 to provide staff assistance to the New River Valley Housing Partnership in pursuit of a Continuum of Care application for funding to support homeless persons in the region. The Continuum of Care will include services, housing, and information gathering strategies to assist outreach organizations in coordination and efficiencies in a more collaborative approach to serving this at-risk population. The grant application is expected to be submitted in the Spring of 2005.

RFAAP Assessment

NRVPDC staff developed a successful proposal to the Virginia Commission on Military Bases (VCOMB) to assess the economic impacts of the RFAAP on the New River Valley community. Local governments provided the necessary matching funds to pursue this important project. Assessment will include recommendations for investment and mixed use opportunities at the RFAAP to ensure its military and economic viability in the future. This project will begin in the Fall of 2004.

Glen Lyn Housing Rehabilitation Project

The NRVPDC assisted the Town of Glen Lyn with the submission of a CDBG Community Improvement Grant application for the rehabilitation/reconstruction to 25 housing units. This project will rehabilitate 9 owner-occupied units and 12 rental units. The project will also involve the demolition and replacement of 3 owner-occupied homes. The final portion of the project will be the construction of a new home to be used to create new homeownership. The project has received full funding and has begun to move forward. The project is expected to conclude within 24 months.

NRV Water Supply Planning

In conjunction with the Institute for Policy Outreach at Virginia Tech and the New River Valley Development Corporation, the NRVPDC has led a study of regional water supply issues. The physical and financial feasibility of interconnecting public water supply systems is being considered.

Pulaski County Water and Sewer Project Planning

The NRVPDC has contracted with the Pulaski County Public Service Authority (PSA) to assist in project planning and grant writing for numerous water and sewer expansions. The PSA was successful in receiving funding for the Dublin Area Sewer project (\$1,849,400; 250 connections) and Highland Park Sewer project (\$2,274,042; 233 connections). These projects bring the total grant amount to \$6,676,342 in funds brought to the PSA in the past 24 months. Several projects are currently in the Planning Phase, including: the Riverbend Sewer Extension Project, Fairgrounds Sewer Extension, Dunkard's Bottom Water Extension, Oakwood Subdivision Sewer Extension and Fair Acres Sewer Extension.

Giles County Waterline Service Extensions

The NRVPDC continued to assist Giles County with surveying residents in several communities for their interest in public water service. These communities include Eggleston Community (160 residences), Route 100 South (155 residences), and Shute Hollow Community (36 residences). The PDC was successful with gaining nearly 100 percent response rate on these surveys. The County has used the data obtained from these surveys to apply for grant funds for each project. The Shute Hollow Community project has been designated "Self-Help" eligible and should be funded through DHCD's Self Help program.

Montgomery County–Town of Blacksburg Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)

The NRVPDC contracted with Montgomery County to provide staff support to the LEPC. This committee is mandated to oversee and update the Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Plan (ERP) as well as provide an outlet to the County's fire and rescue squads to discuss relevant issues. NRVPDC staff worked with Montgomery County and Blacksburg staff to completely rewrite the LEPC's Hazardous Materials ERP. This 150-page document serves as an

appendix to the County's Emergency Operations Plan. The LEPC has been active over the past year, being a part of several practice drills set-up to prepare for large-scale emergency situations, such as a chemical contamination or an event caused by a weapon of mass destruction (WMD). The LEPC has formed a close partnership with the Radford Army Ammunition Plant and has been a participant with several of their WMD drills. This partnership is expected to continue.

Hiwassee Fire Department Expansion

The NRVPDC contracted with Pulaski County to provide technical assistance to the Hiwassee Fire Department with the proposed expansion of the Fire Hall. This proposed project began with REMSI's (the County's EMS provider) need for space in the Hiwassee community. The Fire Department has proposed an addition to its current fire hall that will include 2 bays (one for REMSI and one for the FD) as well as office space, restrooms, and a community meeting room. REMSI has pledged \$60,000 toward the project and further financing is still being negotiated.

Service Training for Environmental Progress

NRVPDC hosted a Service Training for Environmental Progress (STEP) program intern during June 2004. Fernina Taliaferro prepared background information regarding NRV water supply planning.

New River Valley Hazard Mitigation Plan

NRVPDC staff, in partnership with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the Virginia Department of Emergency Management, and many other federal, state and local agencies completed a draft New River Valley Hazard Mitigation Plan. FEMA is now reviewing the plan in its pre-approved process.

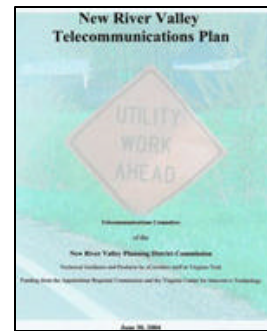
Hazard Mitigation Grant Program

PDC staff submitted two pre-applications for hazard mitigation projections in the NRV. One was for a water system to mitigate drought and wildfire hazards in Floyd County. The other application was for reverse-911 funding for several jurisdictions.

NRV Telecommunications Plan

A PDC Telecommunications Committee concerned about lack of affordable access to broadband in the NRV lead a

telecommunications planning effort to assess the current situation and future needs. With support from the eCorridors team from Virginia Tech, PDC staff formed a vision, a goal and a schematic design to support that goal. The plan calls for collaboration of local governments and telecommunications providers to dramatically upgrade telecommunications in the NRV. Funding was provided by the Appalachian Regional Commission and the Center for Innovative Technology.



Radford University and Foundation

NRVPDC staff completed a feasibility study of a business incubator for the Radford University/St. Albans site.

Christiansburg Institute

PDC staff assisted Christiansburg Institute by writing a planning grant application seeking funding to transform that historic property to a new center for learning in the NRV.

Transportation

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) allocates a portion of its State Planning and Research (SPR) funds, available through the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21), to provide transportation planning assistance for rural areas of the State. In VDOT's program guidelines, rural areas are defined as those "outside the metropolitan study area boundaries approved by metropolitan planning organizations under Section 134 of Title 23, United States Code." VDOT delivers this planning assistance by partnering with Virginia's Planning District Commissions (PDCs). Through this partnership, PDCs assist VDOT in meeting State Planning Process requirements for rural, non-metropolitan areas. Annual funding agreements, which include specific scopes of work, are established between VDOT and each PDC.

Funding support from VDOT enables the NRVPDC to maintain a rural transportation planning effort. To facilitate the rural planning partnership with VDOT, the NRVPDC established and provides staff support to the Transportation

Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) which meets 5 to 6 times each year. TAC includes representatives of local governments, regional bodies, and State institutions in the New River Valley, as well as representatives of VDOT.

TAC advises the NRVPDC on transportation matters and serves as a forum for discussion of regional transportation issues. TAC is responsible for drafting a rural transportation planning scope of work each year for recommendation to the NRVPDC. TAC also annually drafts comments on regional highway and transportation needs for recommendation to the NRVPDC and eventual presentation to the Commonwealth Transportation Board. TAC provides guidance and input to PDC staff responsible for carrying out project activities identified in the rural transportation planning scope of work.

During FY 2004, PDC staff initiated a parking study of downtown Pearisburg as well as an industrial access study focusing on a portion of Floyd County. Staff also provided grant-writing and technical assistance to the Towns of Floyd and Pearisburg for

preparation of Transportation Enhancement funding applications.

PDC staff worked in coordination with City of Radford and VDOT staff to pursue extension of a competitive Rural Transportation Planning Grant project to study Radford's Main Street corridor and help plan the management of future traffic flows through the corridor. The planning study has been held up due to delays in completion of the Memorial Bridge replacement project.



During FY 2004, the NRVPDC cited the closed Rt. 114 bridge as a priority transportation project.

Administrative Operations

Commissioners

Floyd County

Fred Gerald
Evelyn Janney

Giles County

Howard Spencer
Leon Light

Montgomery County

Beth Fisher
Annette Perkins, Vice Chair

Pulaski County

Joe Sheffey
Tom Owen

Radford City

Tom Starnes
Helen Harvey

Town of Blacksburg

A.T. Leighton
Stuart Mease

Town of Christiansburg

Eddie Lester
Scott Weaver, Treasurer
Brad Stipes, Chair

Town of Floyd

Skip Bishop

Town of Narrows

Richard Skidmore

Town of Pearisburg

Rebecca Moses

Town of Pulaski

Charles Stewart
Dan Talbert

Town of Rich Creek

John Lovely

Radford University

David Burdette

Virginia Tech

Bill Elvey
Joe Meredith

FY 2003 - 04 Staff



Full

David Rundgren
Executive Director

Shirl Quesenberry
Director of Finance and Personnel

Wayne Carpenter
Incubator Manager

Jan Gilbertson
Information Systems Manager

Janet McNew
Project Manager

Kim Alger
Office Manager

Lydeana Martin
Regional Planner

Time

Shawn Utt
Regional Planner

Patrick Burton
Regional Planner

Shelia Smith
Regional Planner

Phil Gilbertson
Cartographer

Part Time
Holly Larson Lesko
Regional Planner

Daphne Smith
Maintenance

WIA

New River/Mount Rogers



Workforce Investment Board

Ronnie Martin
Executive Director

Clay Stein
Assistant Director

Angela Alley
Executive Assistant

Marty Holliday
Program Planner

Bonnie Lawson
Administrative Assistant

**Statement of Revenues and Expenditures
Year Ended June 30, 2004**

	BUDGET	ACTUAL
REVENUES:		
Floyd County	10,082.00	2,520.50
Town of Floyd	324.00	324.00
Giles County	8,364.00	7,500.00
Town of Narrows	1,583.00	1,583.00
Town of Pearisburg	2,047.00	2,047.00
Town of Rich Creek	499.00	499.00
Montgomery County	20,332.00	20,332.00
Virginia Tech	5,925.00	5,925.00
Pulaski County	19,241.00	19,241.00
Town of Pulaski	7,105.00	7,105.00
City of Radford	9,935.00	9,935.00
Radford University	1,959.00	1,959.00
Town of Christiansburg	12,710.00	12,710.00
Town of Blacksburg	23,755.00	23,755.00
Total Local Revenue	123,861.00	115,435.50
Interest Income	0.00	493.41
Contract Income	390,855.00	344,498.00
Miscellaneous Income	0.00	8,069.72
Revenue from the Commonwealth:		
DHCD Operating Grant	65,043.00	66,239.00
WIA	335,000.00	306,784.00
Virginia Department of Transportation	48,000.00	48,000.00
Revenue from the Federal Government:		
Appalachian Regional Commission	56,856.00	63,677.00
Economic Development Administration	52,000.00	52,000.00
FEMA	16,500.00	16,831.00
Total Other Revenue	964,254.00	906,592.13
TOTAL REVENUES	1,088,115.00	1,022,027.63
EXPENDITURES		
Salaries	646,532.55	640,151.13
Benefits	204,139.04	204,039.05
Travel	41,273.52	34,233.62
Office Space	44,492.00	42,181.20
Telephone	4,800.48	4,850.41
Office Supplies	31,392.09	19,904.02
Postage	8,890.56	8,060.16
Printing/Copies/Plotting	17,999.57	15,786.25
Map Purchases	95.00	95.00
Media Adv.	1,940.00	1,942.47
Equip. Rent/Equip. Maint.	13,918.51	15,748.42
Dues & Pubs	6,040.39	6,141.10
Training	2,000.00	0.00
Comm. Comp.	8,325.00	7,400.00
Insurance	7,293.00	7,618.00
Capital Outlay	19,397.00	7,130.03
Contract Serv.	20,200.00	13,799.16
Audit Fee	6,000.34	5,500.08
Misc.	3,306.87	273.48
Regional Competitiveness	0.00	3,750.35
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	1,088,035.92	1,038,603.93
RESERVES/FUND BALANCE AT BEGINNING OF YEAR	232,063.70	232,063.70
RESERVES/FUND BALANCE AT END OF YEAR	232,142.78	215,487.40