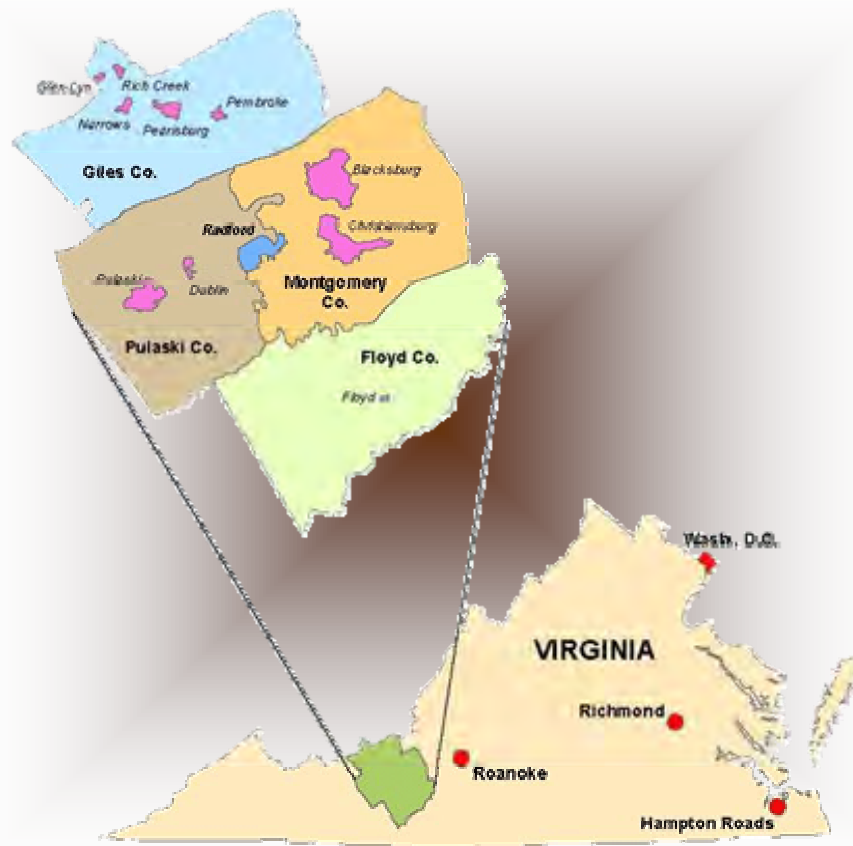


FY 2005-2006 Annual Report

**NEW RIVER VALLEY
PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION**



Virginia's New River Valley



New River Valley Planning District Commission

6580 Valley Center Drive, Suite 124

Radford, VA 24141

Phone: 540.639.9313

FAX: 540.831.6093

nrvpdc@nrpdc.org

www.nrvpdc.org

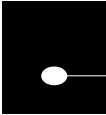
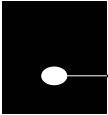


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Executive Director's Report

Dear Commissioners and Regional Citizens,

Coordination and cooperation became strong themes during FY 2005-2006.

Within the region, efforts continued in economic development, the sharing of regional water sources, and regional telecommunications.

The telecommunications project is aimed at assuring available and affordable broadband telecommunications infrastructure to support governmental operations and provide necessary infrastructure to help maintain a competitive position for the region in the 21st Century economy.

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

The drought conditions in the State over the last several years prompted the General Assembly and the Department of Environmental Quality to fund Water Supply Planning. The program is requiring localities either individually or as regions to evaluate their water supply needs over the next 50 years.

Floyd, Giles, and Pulaski Counties and the Towns located in those Counties, the City of Radford and Montgomery County have agreed to work jointly to evaluate their water supplies and actions which may need to be taken in emergency conditions. The Planning District Commission is providing staff support for their work.

The Towns of Blacksburg and Christiansburg supported the

planning efforts however they chose to conduct their water supply planning through the Blacksburg - Christiansburg -Virginia Tech Water Authority.

As noted last year, the US Bureau of Census designated Blacksburg, Christiansburg, Radford as a Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA). The designation resulted in the three localities receiving Entitlement Community Block Grant Funding and an encouragement to create a HOME Consortium to increase the amount of funding available to address housing issues. Blacksburg is serving as the lead entity for the Consortium. A joint application was submitted to the US Department of Housing and Community Development by the Counties of Giles, Montgomery, and Pulaski, the Towns of Blacksburg, Christiansburg, Pearisburg, and Pulaski, and the City of Radford.

The 2005 General Assembly passed the Stormwater Law which became effective on July 1, 2006. The Department of Conservation and Recreation has been given responsibility for the implementation of the Law coordinating between the Federal and State requirements and the certification of local governments to implement the program for land disturbing activities of more than 2500 square feet.

The General Assembly passed an amendment to the Code of Virginia Section 15.2-2222.1 Coordination of state and local transportation planning. Regulations are being prepared to implement this section, however the law requires VDOT to review comprehensive plans, zoning and subdivision regulations and any

amendments to these documents for their impact upon the transportation network. The regulations should be available in the Fall and implemented July 1, 2007.

In July this year VDOT initiated a four year program that would create regional transportation plans for Virginia's Rural Planning Organizations. This planning process would complement those in metropolitan areas. VDOT will work with the region to evaluate the transportation network and recommend a range of transportation improvements to satisfy existing and future transportation needs. The work elements will include: Phase I - Setting of Goals and Data Collection, Phase II - Analysis and Problem Identification, Phase III - Public Outreach and Recommendation Development, and Phase IV - Public Endorsement and Regional Adoption.

This project will focus on major routes and a twenty year time frame.

It is clear that working together regionally to achieve local results is good public policy.

The following report outlines a number of projects which the Commission undertook during FY 2005-2006.

For further information on the region or the programs of the Commission please visit www.nrvpdc.org.

Sincerely,

David W. Rundgren

Executive Director

Virginia's First Regional Industrial Facility Authority

Virginia's First Regional Industrial Facility Authority's first project is the creation of the New River Valley Commerce Park. The work of the Commerce Park Participation Committee is reviewed in another section of this report.

The Authority continues to seek quality economic development opportunities which create local benefits by being jointly undertaken. Projects can be undertaken by all fifteen members or a subset of them.

During FY 06 the Authority authorized the participants in the telecommunications plan to create a Participation Committee. The development of this Committee, in addition to involving local governments, will establish the public/private partnership desired in the implementation of the Community Broadband Network Project.

Emerging Regional Cooperative Efforts

State and local cooperation and coordination appears to be an emerging trend. Communications interoperability, water supply, stormwater management, transportation, and land use are all appearing more often on agendas with the focus of inter-jurisdictional cooperation.

The calls for cooperation are also becoming more detailed. Cooperation in specialized services and emergency events have surfaced across the region. The coordination and cooperation are expanding in

context as well. In the area of emergency preparedness, tourism, and natural resources, there are many relationships beginning to emerge.

Vision 2020: Putting Community First

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

Administrator's Forum

The Commission continues to organize bi-monthly meetings of city and town managers, and county administrators. The participant list has been expanded to include Craig, Bland, Carroll, and Wythe Counties and the Town of Wytheville. Meeting agendas include time for sharing, review of regional projects, and consideration of state and federal programs. The Administrator's Forum also meets semi-annually with a similar group of administrators and managers from the Roanoke Valley.

'Round the Mountain

Southwest Virginia's Artisan Network, 'Round the Mountain, is a non-profit organization whose mission is to promote sustainable economic development of the region's communities by assisting

local artisans with marketing, educational, and entrepreneurial opportunities. The PDC serves on the Board of Directors for the organization. During the past year, the PDC assisted with developing the organizational by-laws, creating a model trail network, and providing guidance in developing a website.

New River Valley HOME Consortium

In June of 2006, the Counties of Giles, Montgomery, and Pulaski, the City of Radford, and the Towns of Blacksburg, Christiansburg, Pearisburg, and Pulaski submitted a joint application to the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the creation of the New River Valley HOME Consortium. The HOME program provides an opportunity for the participating localities to plan for and address housing needs on a regional basis.

HOME funds assist in the construction of affordable housing, the purchase of property for development, the rehabilitation of existing property, and/or rental assistance and security deposit payments.

The Town of Blacksburg will serve as the lead entity on this initiative. The Consortium board will consist of two representatives from each participating county and the City. The NRVPC will partner with the participating jurisdictions to undertake the consolidated planning process and assist in the program administration. The HOME program will offer localities the flexibility to develop projects that capitalize on community partnerships to offer affordable housing to the region.

NRV Foreign Trade Zone/ Port of Entry

The New River Valley International Airport in Pulaski County was designated a Foreign Trade Zone (FTZ) and a User Fee Airport in August 1999. Since that time, the Port of Entry presence has been of substantial benefit to many New River Valley companies which engage in international trade. Before the establishment of the Airport's Customs Office, companies receiving imported items had been forced to make use of a larger port of entry such as Norfolk, Baltimore or Philadelphia. Companies utilizing the Customs Office located at the New River Valley International Airport have experienced greater convenience and reduced costs in processing the importation of items from abroad. May 19, 2006 marked the opening of the Port of Entry of the New River Valley International Airport by U.S. Customs and Border Protection.



The opening of the Port of Entry concludes the region's journey of establishing customs service to a fully designated Port of Entry. The Port provides another significant resource in the transition of the region's economy.

New River Valley Development Corporation

The New River Valley Development Corporation will end its twenty-third year of operation on September 30, 2006. The fiscal year for the Corporation opened with a hope for increased interest from entrepreneurs for rental space in the New River Valley Competitiveness Center. We were pleased to welcome seven new businesses to the Center and to help five existing tenants expand to additional space, and help finance two tenants through the Revolving Loan Program.

The Corporation's staff remained active in economic development activities during the year. The Corporation's 501(c)3 status was used to successfully apply for a grant from Rural Development for the third year of a regional water study project. Additionally, the Corporation has continued its strategic partnerships to assist in advancing the Corporation's mission.

The following report presents the highlights of the past year.

New River Valley Competitiveness Center

The Competitiveness Center is a small business incubator located in the Fairlawn section of Pulaski County. It provides approximately 35,000 square feet of space for rent to entrepreneurs and regional economic development groups. The Center opened in 1999 and added a second phase in 2003. In addition to the leaseable space, there is approximately 20,000 square feet of common areas, support space and meeting rooms.

Tenants in the Competitiveness Center receive benefits that are included in their rent. Among the benefits are: internet access, digital telephone service, use of office equipment including laser printers, meeting rooms, business assistance, and utilities. There are 24 small business incubator tenants and 7 regional tenants in the facility.

The following new tenants were welcomed to the Competitiveness Center in fiscal year 2006.

Affordable Cab

Randy Bayne began this new cab service after his wife attended the Partners for Self-Sufficiency job readiness class. He focuses on late night and weekend service and transportation for social service clients. Affordable Cab's vision is to grow its business while helping others become self-sufficient. On July 17th the company signed a contract with Logistics Care, broker for the Medicare Program for Region II - the New River Valley and beyond which could create 17 new jobs.

Hall and Sons Developers, Inc.

Hall and Sons Developers moved into the Center in January 2006, occupying a small office with expectations of needing more space. As of May 1st they have expanded into an adjoining office and added two employees. Hall and Sons is developing approximately 23 acres in the Pulaski County Technology Park. Their first construction is a custom restaurant complete with a microbrewery. The developers have cleared the land and are ready for construction to begin. In addition, they have plans for other commercial projects in the future.

OTGPR - The Original Tail Gate Party Rug

The primary owners are Bob Harman, Benny Keister, and Harriet Anderson. Harriet will serve as their Business Manager. This business came to the Center in January 2006. They design and develop tailgate rugs and mat products for sports aficionados. This company soon changed their name to broaden their services. The new company is Smiling Bulldog Enterprises, LLC.

Ivy League Mortgage

Ivy League Mortgage is operated by Owen McKinnie. They are a full service mortgage bank with an experienced staff offering expertise in every area of mortgage lending...from purchase to refinance to construction lending. They have access to a full range of mortgage sources. As a division of American Home Bank they are fully licensed in each state giving their clients additional loan options unique to their situation.

Jeff Greenough, Photographer

Jeff is a nationally recognized photographer whose work has been published in *Elegant Bride*, *In Style Weddings*, *The Knot Florida*, *The Breakers Traditions Magazine*, and many others. Jeff travels throughout the U.S. catering to discerning clients who will settle for quality and service second to none. He is known for fashionable imagery, unbelievable subtleness, and attention to detail and emotion.

Metal Guard, Inc.

Metal Guard, Inc. occupies Bay #311. Metal Guard, Inc. is closely associated with Wessex Inc. as the applicator of their Emisshield® Products to metal parts. Metal Guard's capabilities include metal cleaning and finishing, spraying of Emisshield® Products and other coatings, and sintering of metal parts up to five feet in length to

temperatures over 1500F. Metal Guard will serve not only Emisshield® customers but eventually others in the New River Valley with metal cleaning needs.

ServiceMaster Janitorial Service

Adam Thompson opened this franchise in September 2005 to provide janitorial service to businesses throughout Southwest Virginia. They leased a storage space to begin service October 1, 2005. They intend to move into a 322 square foot storage space in October of 2006 and convert existing storage space into an office.

Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)

The VDEM works with local government, state and federal agencies and volunteer organizations to provide resources and expertise in four major areas: Preparedness, Response, Recovery and Mitigation. When citizens face an emergency situation, they call 911. When local governments need assistance in responding to a crisis, they call VDEM.

Expanding Tenants

Luxine, Inc.

Luxine continues to increase production and sales. Three new employees were added in the production area this past year. They also expanded into a 382 square foot office space for their management team and expanded from a 1,915 square foot bay to a 4,000 square foot bay for production.

Mobile Medical Diagnostic Services of New River Valley, LLC

Leigh-Anne Cumbee, Executive Vice President, manages the business. They have two mobile x-ray units in vans, which are transported to a patient's site for processing the x-rays. They have the capability to transmit the film

digitally to radiologists for remote reading. New accounts have been added in the NRV and Roanoke areas. MMDS is committed to patient care and strives to provide quality service to patients and their physicians.

trenia b. and company

Due to successful growth planning, Trenia Bell has grown from 659 square feet to approximately 2000 square feet this year. She added 7 employees; 2 full-time and 4 part-time, including her office administrator. The company produces high-end soft goods such as drapes, slipcovers, and bed spreads. The company has added drapery hardware, fabrics, blinds and shades to the product offerings. Trenia has over twenty-five years of experience in the business of design, construction, and installation of soft custom furnishings. Although most of the work is done for interior designers, Trenia is keeping the option open to develop some direct to the consumer business to increase margins.

Revolving Loan Fund Recipients

Austin-Morgan & Associates, Inc.

Randy Kinder, owner of Austin-Morgan and Associates, continues to expand business opportunities in the trucking industry. Five months ago Austin-Morgan took a major step forward by opening their own dispatch and billing service, freeing them from depending on a single source broker for loads. In mid-March Austin-Morgan began offering dispatch and billing services to owner operators of trucks with trailers. This move is a strategic step to continue to grow the business he started and to offer high quality service to truck owners in order to help them maximize the return on their investment in equipment.

Austin-Morgan is a recipient of the Revolving Loan Fund Program. Kinder is adding three owner operators and growing the dispatch department.

Smiling Bulldog Enterprises, LLC – Formally OTGPR, LLC

Harriet Anderson, Owner and President. The business started in January 2006 and in that short time has put an organizational structure in place. They have met the requirements to be a licensed user of Virginia Tech trademarked logos. They released their first product in early April and are now working to secure other licenses. To further the growth of the Company, they received financing through the Revolving Loan Fund Program.

Special Programs and Marketing

The Center continues to rent room space to **Partners for Self-Sufficiency** at a discounted rate for their Job Readiness program. Additionally, meeting space is available for non profits and regional tenants, the meetings on site exposes the Center to potential users of the meeting spaces or possible entrepreneurs that could become tenants.

The Competitiveness Center hosted the third Fall Job Fair presented by the **Partners for Self-Sufficiency**. This group is composed of the Social Service Agencies from around the Valley. The job fair was held October 19, 2005 and more than 350 job seekers attended.

Economic Development

The Development Corporation is chartered to be an economic development organization and continues to seek opportunities to be a force in developing economic initiatives throughout the NRV.



Bo Keister, VP for Sales and Marketing and Harriet Anderson, Owner and President of Smiling Bulldog Enterprises, LLC, display their introductory collegiate product, the Virginia Tech Tailgate Party Rug.

A grant of \$72,200 was approved for the continuation of a regional water supply plan. The original grant was awarded in the same amount in 2003 making \$144,400 available during the two-year period.

Before retiring in May, Wayne Carpenter, manager of the Competitiveness Center, presented entrepreneurial workshops during the year to various groups. The groups included middle school students, university students, and public school teachers, tenants and guests at the Jacksonville Center, and prospective new business owners.

Business Technical Assistance Program

The NRVPCDC's Business Technical Assistance Program offered small business owners the opportunity to work with experienced technical providers at no cost. This is made possible by a Grant sponsored by the USDA Rural Development Department (RD).

The Rural Development Technical Assistance Program has consisted of a mixed assortment

of projects to further the understanding and growth of small business. The program sponsored various financial and marketing workshops, disseminated business information, produced printed promotional materials, helped build resources and networks, and assisted with financial packages. Additionally, the program has provided support to the downtown businesses, localities, individuals, entrepreneurs, as well as

the New River Valley Competitiveness Center Business Incubator tenants.

One-on-One Technical Assistance

NRVPDC employee, Yolanda Hunter, provided one-on-one technical assistance to over 17 existing businesses and start-ups by way of workshop sessions, business locations, telephone calls, and one-to-one scheduled appointments held at the PDC offices. Wayne Carpenter, manager of the Competitiveness Center at the time, and David Shanks, SBDC (Radford University office) partnered with the program to provide financial and management expertise to non-incubator businesses through review of business and financial plans for loan applications prior to their presentations at financial institutions. Mr. Carpenter's and Mr. Shanks knowledge and networks provided participants with additional resources.

Incubation Services

NRVPDC staff offered services to the New River Valley Competitiveness Center business incubator tenants. Assistance was provided to tenants in the following

areas: one-on-one counseling, business and marketing plans, industry research, financial statements, loan applications, business needs assessment, workshop session, hands-on windows program training, and promotional document composition.

Networking Events

- Several lending institutions (Bank of America, Sun Trust, Truliant Credit Union) co-sponsored financial seminars at the Competitiveness Center to aid startups, entrepreneurs, and incubator tenants in locating capital and banking service resources.
- Angela Covey's session focused on New River Community Colleges Workforce Development program and the important role they could play in providing training to local small businesses who do not have ample facility space or monetary means to provide training themselves.
- David Shanks, Small Business Development Center at Radford University, sponsored sessions geared to marketing and the benefits of good networks.
- Dusty McPeak, Cumulus Radio, addressed the Incubator tenants to discuss the importance of Radio Advertising and to introduce affordable media packages.

New River Valley Commerce Park

The economic development world has changed during the last five years and the Commerce Park Participation Committee is keeping pace with the changes. The Commerce Park is a joint economic development location which was not affordable by individual local governments. It was envisioned as a premiere location for computer chip manufacturing or other high end

computer based manufacturing which required space, high investments in machinery and the tools of production, quality water supplies, and potentially international travel and shipping. The Commerce Park includes nearly 900 acres, is immediately adjacent to the New River Valley International Airport where US Customs is providing Port of Entry Services as Port 1412, and is in a suitable location with low potential for natural disaster interruption of business.

The eleven member Participation Committee has elected Chris McKlarney, Giles County representative, as its Chairman and Clay Goodman, Montgomery County representative, as Vice Chairman.

Mr. McKlarney and Mr. Goodman are leading the Committee's effort to establish an action plan to jointly take advantage of the changing world economy and emerging industrial sectors for the enhancement of the economy in *Virginia's* First Region.

The localities who jointly invested in the future include the Counties of Bland, Craig, Giles, Montgomery, Pulaski, Roanoke, the Cities of Radford and Roanoke, the Towns of Dublin, Pearisburg, and Pulaski.

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy

The Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy is updated annually by the PDC staff and reported to the Economic Development Administration and the Appalachian Regional Commission. The goals and strategies as outlined in the CEDS for 2005-2006 includes leadership, education and training, human resources, natural and cultural environments, economic

development, and physical infrastructure.

The NRVPC CEDS report reflects information provided by the local governments, as well as regional projects being sought by multi-jurisdictions. While project types link the project to the CEDS Goals and Strategies, there are other important factors and criteria in ranking individual projects. This year the criteria included investment relationship, regional participation, unemployment of the locality, relationship to public investment and previous investments, readiness to initiate projects, and participation of a public/private partnership. Level 1 priority projects included water, sewer, and communications, as well as entrepreneurial small business assistance, local school & educational facilities, employment creation and retention of technology and industry, roads, and technology career facilities.

Town of Floyd Downtown Revitalization

The Town of Floyd had a busy year kicking off its downtown revitalization. The physical project elements include façade improvements, creation of a plaza space, and development of the Heritage Pathways of Floyd. In addition, business owners in the project area have access to loan funds for business expansion through job creation. This project is funded with grants from the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development's Block Grant and the Virginia Department of Transportation Enhancement Program, as well as contributions from public and private sources. The project is expected to take two years to complete.



Housing Partnership of the New River Valley

The Housing Partnership continues to serve as a forum for housing providers and service providers to discuss housing issues and opportunities in the region. The Partnership met on a monthly basis to discuss availability of services to those who are homeless or who are endangered of becoming homeless. Critical challenges facing the group include access to funds for service, reaching the clients who are most in need, and educating the public about rural homelessness and poverty issues.

City of Radford CDBG

The NRVPDC staff continued to assist the City of Radford with the administration of their Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. Projects funded with CDBG funds in Radford include housing rehabilitation, site revitalization, and youth training. Over a two year period, more than 100 City residents have benefited from the CDBG program. The City looks forward to the third year of this program beginning July 2006.

New River Valley Disability Services Board

The NRVPDC continues to serve as staff support to the New River Valley Disability Services Board (NRVDSB). In the spring of 2006 the NRVDSB completed its 2006 Needs Assessment. The Needs Assessment is conducted every

three years and submitted to state agencies and local governing bodies. This most recent needs assessment showed that the top three needs for the disabled community are 1) access to assistive technology, 2) accessible housing, and 3) access to transportation. The NRVDSB has developed a work program focused on addressing the needs of the community during the current program year.

Partners for Self-Sufficiency

The Departments of Social Services from the New River Valley, known collectively as the Partners for Self-Sufficiency (PSS), have been receiving grant funding for approximately seven years to provide additional regional programming to the hard-to-serve population. PSS was awarded over \$600,000 by the Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) for the period of July 2004 through May 2006 to implement a new model called Partners for the Advancement of Competitive Employment (PACE). During this period PSS under the PACE model enrolled 316 individuals in the Job Readiness Training and the Vocational Specialists worked intensively with 185 individuals. The PACE grant was renewed for the period of June 2006 through May 2007.

The overarching goal of the regional employment placement, retention and advancement model is to successfully prepare Virginia Initiative for Employment not Welfare (VIEW) participants for entry-level positions that are in demand by employers who offer benefit packages, greater job security, and potential for skill advancement. The PACE program

offers a three-tiered approach that uses a comprehensive screening and assessment process to match clients with specially designed tracks, offering a continuum of strategies that are mindful of both retention and advancement objectives and can be adapted as individual clients' needs dictate.

PSS continues to operate under a regional employment services model, which includes: 1) a job readiness training program, operated by New River Community College; 2) an intensive, team-based vocational case management model for job development, placement, and retention services, operated by Virginia Tech's Institute for Policy Outreach; and 3) the continuation of the great success they have had in other employer involvement activities, such as employer-led internship programs, job fairs, and working with the regional Society for Human Resource Managers (SHRM).

PSS continues its partnership with Radford University's Waldron College of Health and Human Services to place 4 Masters of Social Work students in 16-hour a week internships to work closely with the PSS vocational specialists in delivering one-on-one intensive vocational services.

Another successful collaborative venture has been community agencies working together to host a job fair targeted at entry-level positions. PSS is working closely with the New River Valley Competitiveness Center and the Planning District Commission to host the sixth bi-annual job fair on October 18, 2006 at the Event Centre in Christiansburg, Virginia.

New River/Mount Rogers Workforce Investment Board (WIB)

The following is a summary of the PY 05-06 program year:

Special Projects

The first project involved the renovation of the former Meadowbrook Nursing Home in Shawsville. Through a collaborative initiative among many partners including Montgomery County, Shawsville Citizens Coalition, WIB, New River Community College, VEC, Montgomery County Department of Social Services, Head Start, and other local partner agencies, an application was submitted requesting HUD funding; however this project was not funded. The funding would have been used for facility renovations and upon completion, the facility would have housed a Workforce Center, Head Start Facility, Food Pantry, Wellness Center, Library, etc.

The second project involved assisting partner organizations in Floyd County in the development, preparation and submission of a grant for HUD YouthBuild funds. Partner agencies included Floyd County, Floyd County High School, New River Community Action, Floyd County Department of Social Services and Goodwill Industries of the Valleys. Funding was requested to create work training opportunities for youth in Floyd County. This grant was also not funded.

Rapid Response Funding

The WIB requested and received \$180,000 to provide training and services to displaced workers from the Radford Foundry and Celanese. These funds were used to serve 69 displaced workers of which 59 were placed at an average wage rate of \$11.87 per hour.

Additionally, the WIB requested and received \$100,000 to serve displaced workers from Rohm & Haas, Volvo and Bristol Compressors. Program activities are ongoing and funding is available through December 31, 2006. Forty displaced workers are projected to be served, with thirty two or 80% being placed in unsubsidized employment. The Board is projecting a replacement wage rate of \$11.00 to \$12.00 per hour.

Coordination/Collaboration

The WIB, in an effort to increase coordination, communication and cooperation between the WIB and Economic Development organizations within their service region, offered a non-voting Ex-Officio seat on the Board to the Executive Director of both the NRV Economic Development Alliance and the Virginia aCorridor in exchange for the WIB Executive Director being offered a similar seat on their Boards. Currently Mr. Aric Bopp, NRV Economic Development Alliance, sits on the WIB while the WIB Executive Director now sits on the Alliance Board.

The WIB, in collaboration with the Pulaski County Board of Supervisors and the NRV Economic Development Alliance, received a \$15,000 grant to create a joint marketing brochure for all of Workforce Investment Area 2 to identify the top 10 high growth industries and to arrange and implement a marketing mission outside of Virginia to attract additional companies that are found in those high growth sectors thereby strengthening existing clusters in our region. The awarding of the grant was made at the State Symposium on Workforce and Economic Development. Grant funding is available through June 30, 2007.

Governor's Career Readiness Certificate

The Career Readiness Certificate (CRC) introduced by former Governor Mark Warner was extensively promoted by the WIB. Free CRC testing was offered to Wytheville Job Fair attendees with over 400 individuals signing up for the free testing. Additionally, free CRC testing was offered at the Washington County Job Fair and the New River Valley Job Fair held at New River Community College. The WIB committed \$20,000 to fund free CRC testing. The Board is very optimistic that the establishment of a local CRC database will be a positive recruiting tool for economic development initiatives.

Incentive Award

The WIB was awarded \$50,000 in Incentive Funds by the Virginia Workforce Council at its December 6, 2005 meeting. The award was for the Board achieving exemplary program performance by exceeding all 17 mandated WIA performance standards and for local coordination activities during the most recently completed program year.

Marketing/Publicity

The WIB Marketing and Publicity Committee developed and implemented an area wide marketing plan/strategy. A brochure and folder were developed, printed and distributed. A PowerPoint presentation was prepared and presentations conducted by Board staff at Chambers of Commerce, Rotary, Board of Supervisors and City Council meetings in various locations. Currently the Board is developing an annual report, which will be finalized and distributed in the Fall of 2006.

Performance

During the period July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2006, the Workforce Investment Board achieved the following performance standards.

<u>Performance Standard</u>	PY'05 Negotiated Level	PY'05 Actual Performance
Adults Entered Employment Rate	75.0	83.5
Adult Retention Rate for 6 Months	80.0	82.3
Adult Average Earnings Change in 6 Months	\$2,500	\$3,365
Adult Employment and Credential Rate	62.5	63.9
Dislocated Worker Entered Employment Rate	80.0	85.4
Dislocated Worker Employment Retention Rate at 6 Months	86.0	90.3
Dislocated Worker Earning Change in 6 Months	\$160	\$1,957
Dislocated Worker Employment and Credential Rate	62.5	65.2
Older Youth Entered Employment Rate	68.0	81.3
Older Youth Employment Retention Rate	79.5	84.4
Older Youth Average Earnings Change in 6 Months	\$1,800	\$1,998
Older Youth Credential Rate	51.5	73.7
Younger Youth Skill Attainment Rate	83.0	90.6
Younger Youth Diploma or Equivalent Attainment	63.0	86.6
Younger Youth Retention Rate	55.0	79.1

Adult/Dislocated Workers Served - 541
Funds Expended - \$1.5 Million

Youth Customers Served – 413
Funds Expended - \$1 Million

Pulaski County Comprehensive Plan

The NRVPC is assisting Pulaski County in the update of their Comprehensive Plan. The effort during 2005-2006 focused on the Northeast portion of the county with particular emphasis on residential and retail growth, along with land use relationships. This upcoming year the central portion of the County will be reviewed and public meetings held for comment on the Northeast area.

Local Emergency Planning Committee

The NRVPC serves as staff to the Montgomery/Blacksburg LEPC, and participates in Pulaski County's LEPC. For the Montgomery County/Blacksburg LEPC, staff collected and disseminated SARA Title III Tier II inventory reports for those businesses obligated to make hazardous material data available to the public. The LEPC continues to broaden its partnerships to include industries, citizens, and local emergency response staff.

Giles County Water Service Extension

In Giles County, County officials are wrapping up the planning stages of a water line extension planned for the Route 100 South corridor, just south of Pearisburg. The subdivisions of Oney and Mutter, which have been operating on private, spring-fed systems for over 30 years, will be connected to the County's public water supply. A recent drought has shown that these springs are in danger of not being able to reliably provide enough

water to all 106 households in the project area. Preliminary designs have been completed, and the PDC is partnering with County officials to meet all of DHCD's 90-day criteria, as well as Rural Development's Letter of Conditions. Construction is expected to begin in early 2007.

NRV Water Source Study

In cooperation with the New River Valley Development Corporation, the NRVPC has led a series of regional water source studies. Year one (2003-2004) examined the physical and financial feasibility of interconnecting public water systems among the New River Valley. Year two (2004-2005) examined providing water to largely un-served areas such as Floyd County and southern Pulaski County. During the third year (2005-2006), an extensive engineering analysis was conducted by a consortium of three engineering firms, Anderson and Associates, Draper-Aden, and Thompson and Litton. The engineering study provided detail on the types of interconnections required to move water between water providers. Rural Development has provided funding for a fourth year of the study. Final details for making interconnections and models to manage the system will be evaluated.



NRV Water Supply Planning

The State Code of Virginia (9 VAC 25-780) requires local governments to prepare and submit a water supply plan to the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) by the year 2011 (deadline determined by population/regional plan). The first half of the Water Supply Plan regulation requires extensive data collection pertaining to existing water source (treatment capacity), existing water use (demand), and existing resource information (natural resources). The second half of the regulation requires water demand projections 30 to 50 years into the future, a statement of community needs/alternatives, a conservation management statement, and a drought response plan.

In an attempt to meet the regulations in the most efficient manner, the Planning District Commission coordinated a funding request to DEQ on behalf of thirteen New River Valley governments. The Commission was successful in obtaining two cycles of funding from DEQ with support from USDA-Rural Development. Considering the success in funding, the plan participants are only required to provide an in-kind match.

The New River Valley Water Supply Plan is scheduled for completion in the summer of 2007, four years ahead of the 2011 regulation deadline for regional plans.

New River Valley Hazard Mitigation Plan

The New River Valley Planning District Commission staff attended several Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) hazard mitigation and disaster preparedness events throughout the year. These events provided an opportunity for staff to receive guidance on plan implementation and education regarding mitigation practices. The PDC staff is looking forward to working with localities on the plan review and implementation over the next couple of months.

New River Valley Community Broadband Network Plan

The Commission's Telecommunications Committee received a third year of funding to detail the implementation of the NRV community broadband network plan. The vision for enhanced broadband service in the New River Valley is a network providing 283 miles of fiber interconnecting some 127 public facilities where private providers of internet and other broadband services can access the network. In the absence of completing the Rt. 58 fiber, this network can provide interconnection between the networks of Southside and Southwestern Virginia.

The project has been developed with an organizational structure which encourages a public/private partnership. As there appears to be a strong likelihood that the project can be real, opportunities for sharing of fiber resources are becoming evident. The sharing possibilities drops the miles of new construction to approximately 90 from the 283 with the remainder being initially leased. This approach should dramatically upgrade

telecommunications services in the New River Valley.

Pulaski County Water and Sewer Projects

Pulaski County and the Pulaski County Public Service Authority (PSA) received three grant and loan packages totaling over \$6.5 million from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Office of Rural Development. With these funds, the PSA plans to serve 353 households with clean water and 827 households with public sewer service.

The first of these projects, which will extend water and sewer service to six mobile home parks in the County, is already underway. Construction of water and sewer infrastructure has been completed in the Polyester Mobile Home Park in the Fairlawn area. Engineering designs are being completed for the remaining five parks, with construction work to be bid in November of this year.

The second and third of these projects will extend the public sewer infrastructure to serve four subdivisions in the Dublin area of the County. Currently, the Planning District Commission staff, in collaboration with County staff, is undertaking the task of gathering easement forms from property owners to allow for the routing of sewer lines through these neighborhoods. It is anticipated that construction of these projects will begin in Spring of 2007.

Glen Lyn Housing Rehabilitation Project

The Town of Glen Lyn was awarded a \$500,000 grant from the Department of Housing and Community Development in January of 2005 for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of 14 houses within the Town. To date, four houses have had significant rehabilitation work completed, one house has been built as a "relocation house" for project participants, and one other home is under construction. Tests have also been completed to determine the source of persistent odors within the Pinecrest Apartments.



Glen Lyn project residence prior to rehabilitation.



The same house after rehabilitation work.



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 NRVPC to maintain a rural transportation planning effort. To facilitate the rural planning partnership with VDOT, the NRVPC provides staff support to the Transportation Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) which meets 5 to 6 times each year. The TAC includes representatives of local governments, regional bodies, and State institutions in the New River Valley, as well as representatives of VDOT. The TAC advises the NRVPC on transportation matters and serves as a forum for discussion of regional transportation issues. The TAC is responsible for drafting a rural transportation planning scope of work each year for recommendation to the NRVPC. The TAC also annually drafts comments on

regional highway and transportation needs for recommendation to the NRVPC and eventual presentation to the Commonwealth Transportation Board. The TAC provides guidance and input to PDC staff responsible for carrying out project activities identified in the rural transportation planning scope of work.

Trails, Greenways, and Bicycle/Pedestrian Facilities

An initial report was produced that summarized the FY2005 efforts for linking up the communities in Blacksburg/Christiansburg/Radford/Dublin/Pulaski. This year that report was developed further to produce a feasibility study for those communities along with the communities in Montgomery (Villages of Price's Fork, Belview, Plum Creek) and Pulaski (Villages of Fairlawn and Newbern). The Commission has been working closely with the Department of Recreation to work out right of way issues with NS Railroad on the proposed routes.

This year the Commission formalized the regional Bikeway-Walkway working group of the TAC. This group consists of members from local government, local bike/pedestrian advocacy groups, state agencies and other institutions like Radford University and Virginia Tech. The primary purpose of this group is to address regional bike and pedestrian safety issues, communicate trail development efforts within local communities, provide outside resources and connections to trail implementation efforts and more.

Additionally, the Commission has been involved in efforts to promote

US Bike Route 76, organizing a regional trails conference, providing guidance for collaborations among local bike organizations, and communicating with adjoining PDCs in their trail development plans.

NRVPC staff has also provided resources to localities to develop Safe Routes to School Programs to local elementary and middle schools. This includes scheduling two separate workshops for the localities and their citizens.

The Commission has provided the initiative to develop a regional green infrastructure plan over the next two years to coordinate local greenway efforts as well as to inventory and develop a regional greenway and trail plan.

Also, PDC staff sits on the board of BikeWalk VA, a statewide trails/bike/pedestrian group and attends local bike advocacy group meetings to communicate locality needs to volunteer organizations, and citizen needs to the localities.

Blueway/Canoe Trail

The Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation continues to pursue development of a blueway/canoe trail along the New River. The Planning District Commission held two visioning meetings where the proposal to develop a Recreation Access Plan for the district was supported. Additionally, a Trails illustrated map will be produced in 2006-2007 that highlights local businesses along the river.

FY 2005-06 Commissioners

Floyd County

Fred Gerald
Evelyn Janney
David Ingram

Giles County

Richard McCoy
Leon Light

Montgomery County

Mike Harvey
Annette Perkins, Chair

Pulaski County

Joe Sheffey
Tom Owen

Radford City

Tom Starnes
Helen Harvey

Town of Blacksburg

A.T. Leighton
Stuart Mease

Town of Christiansburg

Michael Barber
Scott Weaver, Treasurer (non-voting)
Brad Stipes

Town of Floyd

Mike Patton

Town of Narrows

Richard Skidmore

Town of Pearisburg

Rebecca Moses

Town of Pulaski

Dan Talbert
Joe Weddle

Town of Rich Creek

Darlene French

Radford University

David Burdette, Vice Chair

Virginia Tech

Bill Elvey/David Dent
Joe Meredith/Kevin Sullivan

FY 2005 - 06 Staff



Full Time

David Rundgren

Executive Director

Shirl Quesenberry

Director of Finance and Personnel

Wayne Carpenter

Incubator Manager

Jan Gilbertson

Information Systems Manager

Janet McNew

Program Administrator

Ali Whitaker

Regional Planner

Kevin Byrd

Regional Planner

Patrick Hughes

Regional Planner

Abigail Convery

Regional Planner

Shelia Smith

Regional Planner

Yolanda Hunter

Business Development Specialist

Phil Gilbertson

Cartographer

Part Time

Daphne Smith

Maintenance

WIA



Ronnie Martin

Executive Director

Clay Stein

Assistant Executive Director

Angela Alley

Systems Administrator

Marty Holliday

Program Planner

Bonnie Lawson

Administrative Assistant

Statement of Revenues & Expenditures

Year Ended June 30, 2006

	BUDGET	ACTUAL
REVENUES:		
Floyd County	13,442.00	13,442.00
Town of Floyd	432.00	432.00
Giles County	11,152.00	11,152.00
Town of Narrows	2,111.00	2,111.00
Town of Pearisburg	2,729.00	2,729.00
Town of Rich Creek	665.00	665.00
Montgomery County	27,109.00	27,109.00
Pulaski County	25,654.00	25,654.00
Town of Pulaski	9,473.00	9,473.00
City of Radford	13,247.00	13,247.00
Radford University	2,612.00	2,612.00
Town of Christiansburg	16,947.00	16,947.00
Town of Blacksburg	31,673.00	31,673.00
Virginia Tech	7,900.00	7,900.00
Total Local Revenue	165,146.00	165,146.00
Interest Income	0.00	1,164.99
Contract Income	696,643.00	535,353.56
Miscellaneous Income	0.00	3,672.56
Revenue from the Commonwealth:		
DHCD Operating Grant	90,000.00	89,002.00
WIA	338,400.00	309,400.34
Department of Rehab. Services	13,040.00	16,300.00
Virginia Department of Transportation	48,000.00	46,192.75
Revenue from the Federal Government:		
Appalachian Regional Commission	68,616.00	78,790.00
ARC Telecommunications	50,000.00	6,509.60
Economic Development Administration	52,000.00	52,000.00
Other	0.00	14,933.73
Total Other Revenue	1,356,699.00	1,153,319.53
TOTAL REVENUES	1,521,845.00	1,318,465.53
EXPENDITURES		
Salaries	741,041.15	714,436.46
Benefits	211,468.32	208,992.60
Travel	44,683.79	31,177.00
Office Space	46,951.40	46,385.28
Telephone	7,486.94	4,270.41
Office Supplies	29,365.16	20,902.61
Postage	8,750.56	5,908.55
Printing/Copies/Plotting	17,367.26	13,161.73
Map Purchases	0.00	0.00
Media Adv.	3,050.63	2,467.58
Equip. Rent/Equip. Maint.	18,663.68	16,960.91
Dues & Pubs	6,930.00	5,801.77
Training	1,134.99	634.99
Comm. Comp. (now included in salaries)	0.00	0.00
Depreciation	4,392.00	4,136.59
Insurance	6,103.00	6,114.00
Capital Outlay	5,437.33	2,937.33
Contract Serv.	236,949.92	183,401.82
Audit Fee	4,725.00	4,500.00
Misc.	2,379.70	1,166.58
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	1,396,880.83	1,273,356.21
RESERVES/FUND BALANCE AT BEGINNING OF YEAR	251,794.19	251,794.19
RESERVES/FUND BALANCE AT END OF YEAR	376,758.36	296,903.51