



**NEW RIVER VALLEY
PLANNING DISTRICT
COMMISSION**

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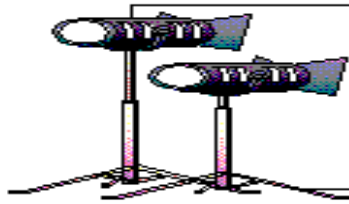
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New River Valley News & Views



“Regional Cooperation Improving Water and Sewer Infrastructure” in the Spotlight

Pulaski PSA and the New River Valley Commerce Park have accepted an award of \$3 million in grant funding from the United States Economic Development Administration (EDA). This EDA award provided for the extension of water and sewer infrastructure serving the New River Valley Commerce Park in Pulaski County. Construction of these new lines will provide increased service capacity to the Park. The service increases address a critical selling point to potential industries.

The sewer infrastructure will allow capacity to be expanded to one million gallons per day through an improved connection from the Park pump station to Route 11, eventually connecting to Pepper’s Ferry Regional Wastewater Treatment Authority. Additional onsite service will also be placed to serve the Park.

The water to be provided via these new lines will come from the City of Radford’s water treatment facility, a first step in regional cooperation to provide public drinking water to the New River Valley. Four years of water studies has explored the possibility of a regional water authority, transmitting water from treatment facilities to users in a large portion of the Valley.

The City of Radford’s water treatment facility and other current sources produce enough water to provide public water to not only the residents of the City, but also to parts of Pulaski, Montgomery, and Floyd Counties. These water systems are either totally unconnected or under-connected. By interconnecting systems, these localities can reliably provide their customers with access to public water, with abundant backup sources of drinking water.

To further facilitate this regional cooperation, several localities are in negotiations with the Virginia Department of Transportation to include infrastructure casings when the new bridge across the New River on Route 114 is constructed. VDOT has committed to providing the necessary engineering to ensure that the new bridge will be capable of carrying the additional weight of two water or sewer lines. By working together, the localities will be ensuring that the necessary construction is available at that future time when carrying water, sewer, or other utilities across the bridge over the New River becomes cost efficient and/or necessary.

Without the cooperation of multiple localities, the

construction of the necessary approaches and abutments to provide for carrying utility lines across the New River would not be possible. The River would then pose an almost impassable obstacle to the regionalization of these public services.

These projects highlight the advantages of regional cooperation when addressing the extension or improvement of traditional water and sewer infrastructure. Many times, when addressing infrastructure, economies of scale allow multiple localities to complete projects that may not be possible for one on its own. Interconnections between the localities will ensure that more residents of the Valley will have access to reliable and safe drinking water and wastewater disposal.

If you would like more information on regional water and sewer infrastructure projects in the NRV, please contact Regina Elsner at relsner@nrvdc.org, or (540) 639-9313.



NRVPDC Updates

Pulaski County Comprehensive Plan Update

In November the Planning Commission held their fourth work session on their final planning area of the County, the central Planning Area. This area encompasses both towns, Dublin and Pulaski. During the October and November meetings the Planning Commission discussed the final recommendations from the Central Pulaski Transportation and Land Use Master Plan, easements, and planning for two public input sessions. The public input sessions are tentatively scheduled for after the New Year, with sessions in both towns.

In December the Planning Commission will continue discussions regarding the public input sessions and will consider future land use in the planning area and future community facilities. *For further information, please contact Jack Whitmore, at (540) 639-9313, ext. 259.*

Town of Pearisburg Local Planning Assistance

The Town of Pearisburg completed updating its Subdivision Ordinance by adopting the Ordinance on November 10, 2008. Since April of this year the PDC has been working with the Town to draft the Ordinance which has not seen a major update since 1994. In addition, Charter Revisions required for the update have proceeded on schedule and are to be forwarded by the Town Council to the General Assembly in accordance with the Code of Virginia. With the completion of the Subdivision Ordinance Update, the Town's Zoning Ordinance is scheduled to be updated after the New Year. *For further information, please contact Jack Whitmore at (540) 639-9313, ext. 259.*

Employment Mobility

The Employment Mobility Study, funded by VDOT's Multimodal Planning Grant Program, has transitioned into the final stages of its study. There were a total of 900 responses to the survey: 750 online and 150 hardcopy responses. This data has been tallied, entered, and formatted for use. As a component of the grant, Pulaski Area Transit, Blacksburg Transit, and Community Transit are working jointly with this data in order to generate recommendations for a future rural public transportation system. These recommendations will include potential routes, suggested scheduling

options, vehicle type and quantity, and cost.

The remainder of 2008 and beginning of 2009 will be devoted to data analysis. A final meeting of the stakeholders group will be held at the beginning of January to discuss the findings. The final report will be completed by the end of January 2009. *For further information, please contact Jennifer Wilsie, at (540) 639-9313, ext. 204.*

Green Infrastructure

The Green Infrastructure steering committee met on October 8, 2008 to continue working on mapping the natural and cultural assets of the New River Valley. At this meeting, committee members spent time refining the wording of the network design goals. These goals outline precisely what types of land the committee will be focusing on and the potential value of these lands. Additionally, committee members reviewed base layer maps to be potentially included in the final regional map.

From that meeting, working groups were developed to address each of the six network design goals. These working groups will be evaluating the base layers associated with each specific goal and determine how best to incorporate the various layers into the regional map. The final map will utilize all the information to prioritize lands and clearly illustrate which lands in the New River Valley have the highest conservation values, based on the set of network goals.

The next meeting of the steering committee will be in December. At this meeting, members will be reviewing the working groups' progress and evaluating next steps. *For further information, please contact Regina Elsner at (540) 639-9313, ext. 205.*

Southern Rivers

The Advisory Management Team met on October 8, and November 12, 2008 to continue working on the regional sewer study. During the course of these meetings, the group worked on developing and approving a matrix with which to evaluate identified projects. Thompson & Litton have worked to meet and gather information from many of the member localities regarding areas in need of public wastewater disposal systems. These areas have then been evaluated to determine if they are best served by extensions of current centralized sewer systems or by the construction of public decentralized wastewater systems. Based on these

evaluations, a list of potential projects is being developed, along with cost estimates and some preliminary design.

As there will likely be many more projects than time and resources available to completely study, the group developed the matrix which addresses local concerns, such as eliminating health or environmental hazards and cost per connection. This matrix will allow for the prioritization of projects in an unbiased manner.

In the next few months, the group will be working to put together the final report, which is expected to be completed in late February to early March. At that time there will be a public meeting to discuss the findings of the study. *For further information, please contact Regina Elsner at (540) 639-9313, ext. 205.*

New River Valley HOME Consortium

At its last Board meeting, the New River Valley HOME Consortium unanimously approved a revised funding allocation process that will rotate annual HOME funds to a different locality each year. This system allows for both Consortium staff and localities to efficiently plan for the projects to be funded.

The Board is also working on program guideline language for its Rehab and Homeownership Programs. This new language involves balancing wealth building for the homeowner versus ongoing affordability for the Consortium.

Current projects include a mixed use, downtown rental project in Radford, a duplex in Blacksburg scheduled to be completed in the spring, applications are currently being accepted, several rehabs in Pulaski County, and a large-scale new construction project in the Town of Pulaski. All of these projects will benefit households who earn 80% of the area median income or below.

The HOME Consortium Board's next meeting is scheduled for December 18th at the PDC. *For further information, please contact Jennifer Wilsie at (540) 639-9313, ext. 204.*

New River/Mount Rogers Workforce Investment Board (WIB)

◆ The New River/Mount Rogers Workforce Investment Board, in partnership with the Wythe County Board of Supervisors and multiple One Stop Partners, continues to develop a truly Comprehensive One Stop Center in Wytheville. The following agencies/programs will be housed in the center and services will be delivered utilizing an integrated service delivery process as opposed to services delivered by separate agencies.

- Wythe County Department of Social Services
- People Incorporated of Virginia
- Virginia Employment Commission
- Virginia Department of Rehabilitative Services
- Wythe County Health Department
- Wytheville Community College
- Mt. Rogers Regional Adult Education
- Goodwill Industries of the Valleys
- District Three Governmental Cooperative
- Blue Ridge Job Corps.

It is projected that the Center will be open for business in early November 2009.

Due to the recent downturn in our economy, the unemployment rate in the New River/Mount Rogers Area has risen to exceed 6% resulting in many workers being laid off. In order to assist recently displaced workers, the Board requested and received \$150,000 of Rapid Response funds to provide training and services to displaced workers. Additionally the Board also received an additional \$30,000 of Incentive funds to support the NRCC Middle College program, to provide Career Readiness Certificate testing to high school seniors, and to provide Junior Achievement Success Skills Training (soft skills instruction) to high school seniors in order to meet the needs of local businesses. The Board continues to partner with local agencies and organizations to maximize resources to meet the needs of the WIB customers. *For further information, please contact Ronnie Martin at (540) 633-6764.*

RIDE Solutions

Even as gas prices have gone down, interest in the RIDE Solutions program remains high. Staff continues to meet with local employers interested in helping their employees save on commuting expenses and reduce their impact on the environment. PDC staff attended the New River Valley Job Fair in October to share information about the program with both employers and the general public.

On the planning front, RIDE Solutions is updating Park and Ride studies for both the New River and Roanoke Valleys. The study includes an inventory of known lots (official, unofficial, and informal) and the facilities, available spaces, and usage at each lot. The information will be used to update the on-line resource (www.ridesolutions.org) for park and ride locations as well as planning for additional lots and capacity. *For further information, please contact Christy Straight at (540) 639-9313, ext. 209.*

Long-Range Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Plan

The PDC, working in partnership with the Roanoke Valley Alleghany Regional Commission, will be developing a TDM plan for the region served by RIDE Solutions. Through coordination with the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT), this regional plan will be incorporated into the first statewide Travel Demand Management Plan along with 14 other regional TDM plans in the State.

The focus of the plan will be on TDM measures and their impacts in improving mobility, managing traffic congestion, improving air quality, and supporting economic development programs. Stakeholders will be invited to participate and provide their input through public meetings and an advisory committee. *For further information, please contact Christy Straight at (540) 639-9313, ext. 209.*

NRVPDC Commission Meeting Summary

November 20, 2008

Executive Director's Report

- **Federal Budget** - Continuing resolution currently until March; if there is an Infrastructure Stimulus program is still a question.
- **Reauthorization** - ARC Reauthorized October 8, 2008; Five years to 2012, new counties include Henry (includes Martinsville) and Patrick; match rate 75% - 25% at risk counties include Montgomery, the City of Radford was changed to transitional.
- **VAPDC** - Met with Department Heads on October 30th to discuss how PDCs might be of assistance; Winter meeting is scheduled for January 29 and 30, 2009 in Richmond.
- **Route 114 Bridge Replacement** - Resolution to provide opportunity for pipe crossings; VDOT has had the consultants strengthen the design to support the weight of two 16 inch pipes; local agencies considering the adoption; most likely conduit along approaches and through abutments and hanger attachments; cost is \$50,000 to \$100,000.
- **EDA** - Application for Pulaski-Radford-Commerce park water grant for \$3 million was accepted 10/16/08 by Pulaski PSA; working to identify matching funds for Wireless Grant \$2.5 million; Virginia Tech application for CRC expansion has been filed.
- **Employment Mobility Study** - Has had 900 survey responses; service providers working together to define a project to provide services for workers.
- **Bikeway-Walkway-Blueway Plan Update** - Committee met Nov. 18th; working hard on revising the vision; objectives shifting to address multimodal connections; several achievements since 2000 plan; new community connections were identified.
- **Ridesolutions** - NRV membership continues to increase; there has been no decline in interest with the falling gas prices; continue to work with employers such as Montgomery County Schools.
- **Staff Change** - Kevin Byrd has left the PDC and is now working for Montgomery County. We wish him the best.

NRVPDC Commission meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of every month, 6:00 p.m., at the New River Valley Competitiveness Center in Fairlawn. All meetings are open to the public.



NRV Economic Indicators

Labor Force and Unemployment

Almost all NRV jurisdictions experienced increases in their labor force between the 1st and 2nd quarters of 2008. Two NRV jurisdictions experienced decreases in their unemployment rate.

AGGREGATE LABOR FORCE

Jurisdiction	1st Qtr 2008	2nd Qtr 2008
Floyd County	21,794	22,136
Giles County	25,630	25,552
Montgomery County	130,410	130,805
Pulaski County	54,570	54,957
Radford City	21,740	21,906
New River Valley	254,144	255,356

Source: Virginia Employment Commission.

AVERAGE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

Jurisdiction	1st Qtr 2008	2nd Qtr 2008
Floyd County	4.0%	3.9%
Giles County	5.4%	4.8%
Montgomery County	3.8%	3.9%
Pulaski County	5.4%	5.8%
Radford City	4.9%	5.3%
New River Valley	4.4%	4.5%

Source: Virginia Employment Commission.

Labor Force

The NRV's 1st quarter wage data for 2007 and 2008 shows a decrease in average employment of 1,776 (0.03%) persons. The weekly wage increased (\$21) and the number of establishments increased (142 or 0.04%).

AVERAGE EMPLOYMENT

Jurisdiction	2007 1st Qtr	2008 1st Qtr
Floyd County	2,768	2,731
Giles County	4,772	4,616
Montgomery County	38,286	39,448
Pulaski County	14,735	12,070
Radford City	6,757	6,677
NRVPDC	67,318	65,542

Source: Virginia Employment Commission.

AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE

Jurisdiction	2007 1st Qtr	2008 1st Qtr
Floyd County	\$459	\$460
Giles County	686	692
Montgomery County	649	661
Pulaski County	638	669
Radford City	658	743
NRVPDC	643	664

Source: Virginia Employment Commission.

AVERAGE ESTABLISHMENTS

Jurisdiction	2007 1st Qtr	2008 1st Qtr
Floyd County	330	365
Giles County	335	355
Montgomery County	2,058	2,141
Pulaski County	699	715
Radford City	359	347
NRVPDC	3,781	3,923

Source: Virginia Employment Commission.

Farewell Kevin!

Kevin Byrd left the PDC on October 15th following three years of service as a



transportation and land use planner. Kevin will be working with Montgomery County's Planning Department as a Comprehensive Planner. In his new position he will be helping to develop Montgomery County's village plans and utilizing his transportation experience. Kevin was a tremendous asset to the PDC and we wish him the best!

*Season's Greetings
From the
New River Valley
Planning District
Commission*

Transportation News

Bikeway-Walkway Committee


The regional Bikeway-Walkway (BWWW) committee met on November 18th to continue their work on updating the regional Bikeway-Walkway-Blueway Regional Plan. The committee reviewed changes made to the objectives based on input from the previous meeting. The committee finished the meeting by discussing the policy statements that form the next section of the plan. It was decided that updated policy statements from the Commonwealth Transportation Board and other organizations would be gathered before the next meeting to ensure that the NRV's statements were in line with those. Committee

members were encouraged to research the projects that have been planned and completed locally since the plan was last revised in 2000. Those projects will form an important piece of the updated plan. The next BWWW meeting will be on January 20, 2009 at 8:30 a.m. at the New River Valley Competitiveness Center in Fairlawn.

Transportation Advisory Committee

The regional Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) met on November 18th to review progress made on the Rural Long Range Transportation Plan, as well as other regional transportation issues. Topics of discussion included an update on the Rideshare program, the Transportation Demand Management Plan currently in its beginning stages, and the Employment Mobility study in its final stages. The committee discussed comments for VDOT's Six Year Improvement Plan, but chose to table any comments pending the revision of the budget. The next TAC meeting will be on January 20, 2009 at 1:30 p.m. at the New River Valley Competitiveness Center in Fairlawn. For further information, please contact Regina Elsner, at (540) 639-9313 ext. 205.

December 2008

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25 	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Meetings

- Dec. 1-Narrows PC-6 p.m.
- Dec. 2-Blacksburg PC-7:30 p.m.
- Dec. 8-Pulaski Town PC-6 p.m.
- Dec. 9-Pulaski PC-7 p.m.
- Dec. 10-Montgomery PC-7 p.m.; VFRIFA-4:30 p.m.
- Dec. 15-Radford PC-7 p.m.
- Dec. 16-Floyd PC-7p.m
- Dec. 17-NRVPDC Commission Mtg.-6 p.m.; Montgomery PC-7 p.m.
- Dec. 18-Pearisburg PC- 7 p.m.
- Dec. 19-NRV Telecommunications- 1:30 p.m.
- Dec. 23-Giles PC-6:30 p.m.

January 2009

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Meetings

- Jan. 5-Narrows PC-6 p.m.
- Jan. 6-Blacksburg PC-7:30 p.m.
- Jan. 7-Montgomery PC- 7p.m.
- Jan. 12-Pulaski Town PC-6 p.m.
- Jan. 13 Pulaski PC-7 p.m.
- Jan. 14-VFRIFA-4:30 p.m.; Montgomery PC-7 p.m.
- Jan. 15-Pearisburg PC-7 p.m.
- Jan. 16-NRV Telecommunications- 1:30 p.m.
- Jan. 19-Radford PC-7 p.m.
- Jan. 20-BWVWV-8:30 a.m.; TAC- 1:30 p.m.; Floyd PC-7 p.m.
- Jan. 22-NRVPDC Commission Mtg.-6 p.m.
- Jan. 27-Giles PC-6:30 p.m.



New River Valley Planning District Commission
6580 Valley Center Drive, Suite 124
Radford, VA 24141

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NRVPDC Member Jurisdictions

Counties of Floyd, Giles, Montgomery,
Pulaski, and the City of Radford

Towns of Blacksburg, Christiansburg,
Floyd, Narrows, Pearisburg, Pulaski, and
Rich Creek

Radford University and Virginia Tech



David W. Rundgren, Executive Director
Jan R. Gilbertson, Newsletter Editor

Regional Water Supply Planning

The NRVPDC has been working with the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and the localities since late 2005 to develop a regional water supply plan. A draft of the plan was submitted to DEQ last year and has been reviewed to ensure its compliance with the Local and Regional Water Supply Planning Regulation (9 VAC 25-780). To facilitate the completion of this plan, the PDC has received funding from DEQ to work with the advisory committee to finalize the plan and to pass drought ordinances in all participating localities.

The advisory committee will meet in December to review the draft returned from DEQ and to begin working through the ordinance. The final regional water supply plan should be completed by June 2009. *For further information, please contact Regina Elsner at (540) 639-9313, ext. 205.*

Disability Services Board

At the Disability Services Board's (DSB) quarterly meeting in November, the Board discussed the recent budget cuts at the Department of Rehabilitative Services. At present, these cuts do not affect the funding of the DSB Staff Support.

The Board also discussed its upcoming Tri-Annual Needs Assessment survey, which looks at the quality of services available for those with physical and/or sensory disabilities. The final report is due in February of 2009. Copies of the surveys have been distributed to many of the area's service providers. **December 12** is the deadline for completed surveys to be collected – these surveys can be mailed to the PDC or turned in to a local service provider. A link to this survey in PDF format can be found on the PDC's website: www.nrvpdc.org listed as "2009 Needs Assessment Survey." *For further information, please contact Jennifer Wilsie at (540) 639-9313, ext. 204.*

THE COMPETITIVE EDGE

Official Publication of the New River Valley Competitiveness Center
A Small Business Incubator

Yolanda Y. Hunter, Incubator Manager

December 2008 - January 2009

From the Manager's Desk:

Preparation Matters

Many entrepreneurs ask me, "why do I have to complete a business plan"? I explain to entrepreneurs almost everyday it is their road map to a sustainable business. So, as you print the business plan outline and start completing it, you can become overwhelmed; but remember, keep writing! The outline will raise questions you may have not thought of and will help you work up realistic financials.

All of this preparation will help you through the startup process. Therefore, as a start-up business you are prepared and could avoid a lot of little surprises. It also means that suppliers and financial lenders will be more willing to help and work with you. Bank institutions are pleased with entrepreneurs who come in prepared rather than unprepared, just with an idea and a scrap of paper.

You've got to put a plan together, and you've got to be prepared.

A Small Business Incubator

Business incubators are programs designed to accelerate the successful development of entrepreneurial companies through an array of business support resources and services, developed and orchestrated by incubator management and offered both in the incubator and through its network of contacts. Incubators vary in the way they deliver their services, in their organizational structure, and in the types of clients they serve.

Incubators also differ from the U.S. Small Business Administration's Small Business Development Centers (and similar business support programs) in that they serve only selected clients. SBDCs are required by law to offer general business assistance to any company that contacts them for help. In addition, SBDCs do not target start-up and early-stage companies; they work with any small business at any stage of development. Many business incubation programs partner with their local SBDC to create a "one-stop shop" for entrepreneurial support.

Unlike many business assistance programs, business incubators do not serve any and all companies. Entrepreneurs who wish to enter a business incubation program must apply for admission. Acceptance criteria vary from program to program, but in general only those with feasible business ideas and a workable business plan are admitted. It is this factor that makes it difficult to compare the success rates of incubated companies against general business survival statistics.

Although most incubators offer their clients office space and shared administrative services, the heart of a true business incubation program is the services it provides to start-up companies.

(Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Business_incubator)

Space for Rent

The **New River Valley Competitiveness Center** is a 54,000 square foot facility designed as a "gateway" to the New River Valley and an example of innovative planning to incorporate a mix of uses. Developed by the New River Valley Development Corporation, the Center is part of an effort to enhance opportunities for businesses within the New River Valley.

Available space in the Competitiveness Center ranges from 125 square feet to 4,000 square feet, which includes office and industrial bay space. Monthly rent could be as low as \$150 for the smallest office. All tenants have access to reception services, telephone services, office equipment, the Internet, conference and training rooms, resource library, and business assistance as part of their lease. Also included in the monthly rent are all utilities, water, sewer, climate controlled space, convenient parking, and a kitchen which has a refrigerator and microwave.

If you are looking for a space to grow your small business, or if you want to find out more about the Competitiveness Center, please contact Yolanda Hunter at (540) 633-6730 or by email at yhunter@nrvc.org. The management staff is extremely proud of this facility and its wonderful location, and would like the opportunity to show you around.

New River Valley Competitiveness Center General Statement of Tenant Eligibility Criteria

Incubator staff is frequently asked what kind of business qualifies to become a tenant at the Competitiveness Center. The following is the Center's general statement of eligibility, but if you have an interest or an idea, please contact Yolanda Hunter (540-633-6730). The Center wants to help you get the best start you can with your business.

Eligibility

The incubator is established to assist companies which have a strong desire and potential to be successful over a long period of time. Their success should contribute to the economy of the region by providing jobs and investing in physical assets. Eligible businesses include light manufacturers, assemblers, wholesale distributors, service providers, and others. Generally, businesses requiring high traffic volume such as retailers are not eligible. The business should meet one of the following requirements:

1. Be less than three years old
2. Have a new product or service
3. Be located in a non-business environment such as a home, or
4. Be expanding from outside the geographic area.

Prospective tenants must present their business plan to the Tenant Selection Committee, which approves the tenant's eligibility. The critical aspects of the presentation include:

- Thoroughness of the plan
- Dedication of the owner to its success
- Need for the incubator services.

Preference is given to businesses that have developed innovative products or services that are not generally available in the region. The Tenant Selection Committee may grant exceptions in special cases based on the best interest of the Competitiveness Center.

Note: Statistics show successful completion of a business incubation program increases the likelihood that a start-up company will stay in business for the long term: Historically, 87% of incubator graduates stay in business.