

# New River Valley News & Views

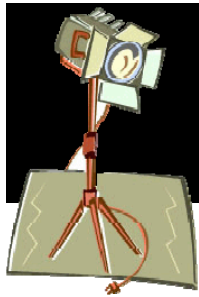


NEW RIVER VALLEY PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION

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## “Hazard Mitigation” in the Spotlight

Do you know when and where the last major earthquake occurred in the New River Valley? How strong was it on the Richter scale? (Answers at the end.)

Did you know that flooding affects almost every locality in the New River Valley? Even just one foot of water is enough to float many vehicles – something to keep in mind when the streams rise over the roadways.

Flooding and earthquakes are just two of the most dramatic natural hazards being studied as the NRVPC updates the region's All Hazards Mitigation Plan. Other hazards included in the plan are drought, severe weather, landslides, and wildfires.

A Hazard Mitigation Plan is required by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for localities that wish to apply for federal funds to mitigate the impacts of natural hazards on their communities. Mitigation is defined as sustained actions taken to reduce or

eliminate long-term risk from hazards and their effects. For example, some communities have used mitigation funds to acquire flood-prone properties and turn them into community green spaces and parks.

The Hazard Mitigation Plan is developed to identify the hazards specific to our communities and analyze the risks associated with those hazards. Once the hazards have been identified and the risks assessed, communities develop strategies to mitigate the risks and identify specific projects to pursue.

Projects identified in this plan are eligible for funding from FEMA and other sources. Some common projects funded from these efforts include measures to mitigate the repeated effects of flooding on residences and businesses.

The original NRV All Hazards Mitigation Plan was developed in 2004 and approved by FEMA in 2005. Since this approval, several regional projects have been completed, including the official organizing of a regional swiftwater rescue team.

FEMA requires an update of the plan every 5 years, so in 2009 the NRVPC received funding to collaborate with Radford University to complete this update. For the past year, a steering committee has been meeting to discuss the plan and regional hazards. Since the beginning of 2010, working groups have been meeting for in-depth discussions of individual hazards and to brainstorm mitigation strategies specific to each hazard.

As part of the update, new mapping has been created by Radford University. This mapping is unique to the NRV and sets it apart from other regions in the state with its higher level of analysis and the new information for our communities.

Now that the working groups have completed their work, it is time for public review and input. In the coming months, the NRVPC will be hosting meetings for the public to review the information and provide input and comments on *(continued on page 2)*

## NRVPDC Commissioners

- **FLOYD COUNTY**  
EVELYN JANNEY  
FRED GERALD
- **GILES COUNTY**  
RICHARD MCCOY  
VACANT
- **MONTGOMERY COUNTY**  
ANNETTE PERKINS  
JAMES POLITIS  
MIKE HARVEY
- **PULASKI COUNTY**  
JOSEPH SHEFFEY  
DOUG WARREN
- **CITY OF RADFORD**  
HELEN HARVEY  
TIM COX
- **TOWN OF BLACKSBURG**  
DON LANGREHR  
HOLLY LESKO, VICE CHAIR
- **TOWN OF CHRISTIANSBURG**  
HENRY SHOWALTER  
SCOTT WEAVER, TREASURER
- **TOWN OF FLOYD**  
MIKE PATTON
- **TOWN OF NARROWS**  
TOM GARRETT
- **TOWN OF PEARISBURG**  
VACANT
- **TOWN OF PULASKI**  
LARRY CLEVINGER  
MORGAN WELKER
- **TOWN OF RICH CREEK**  
VACANT
- **RADFORD UNIVERSITY**  
VACANT
- **VIRGINIA TECH**  
DAVID DENT  
KEVIN SULLIVAN

KEVIN R. BYRD, AICP  
 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
 kbyrd@nrvpdc.org

## Condolences...

The recently elected Chair of the New River Valley Planning District Commission, **Rebecca Moses**, passed away on July 23, 2010. Mrs. Moses represented the Town of Pearisburg on the Commission and was an active member of her community. She served 21 years on the Pearisburg Town Council, Vice-Mayor of Pearisburg for eight years, and served on the Pearisburg Planning Commission. Mrs. Moses was a valuable and dedicated member of the NRVPC for over 7 years, serving the last two years as Vice Chair. She will be deeply missed and our condolences go out to her family, friends, and her community.

the plan. In the meantime, section drafts will be posted on the website hosted by the NRVPCD (available at: <http://www.nrvpcd.org/HazardMitigation/HazardMitigationPlanning.html>). Comments on the plan can also be submitted at this site which will be sent to PDC planners to incorporate as they draft the plan.

Following public input and review by the localities, a draft plan will be sent to the Virginia Department of Emergency Management and then to FEMA for review and approval. Once approved by those agencies, local governments will adopt the final plan, making them eligible to apply for federal mitigation funds. The NRVPCD anticipates having the plan written and in the review process by the end of the year.

(Answer: In 1897 a 5.8 magnitude earthquake struck southeast of Pearisburg.)

For further information on Hazard Mitigation, please contact Christy Straight at [cstraight@nrvpcd.org](mailto:cstraight@nrvpcd.org) or Regina Elsner at [relsner@nrvpcd.org](mailto:relsner@nrvpcd.org) or by phone at (540) 639-9313.

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## NRVPCD Updates

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### Floyd County Comprehensive Plan Update

Floyd County is currently in the process of a Comprehensive Plan update. This update is being completed to reflect changes that have occurred in the County since the last adopted Comprehensive Plan (2002). Focus groups have been held concerning agriculture, tourism planning, infrastructure, economic development, recreation, wellness, solid waste management, public safety, and housing and human service issues in the County.

Two of four community input meetings were held on July 15, 2010 at the Indian Valley Elementary School and on August 3, 2010 at Willis Elementary School. Additional meetings are scheduled for August 12, 2010 at the Jessie Peterman branch library in Floyd and August 19, 2010 at Check Elementary School. All input meetings will be held from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Information gathered at these meetings will allow for additional information to be included in the draft. For further information, please contact Jack Whitmore at (540) 639-9313, ext. 259.

### Town of Floyd Comprehensive Plan

The Town of Floyd has begun the process of creating a Comprehensive Plan for the Town. With data and primary focus group information being analyzed, plan elements are being drafted. Information related to the Town Comprehensive Plan is also being augmented with County data to provide

cohesive information related to infrastructure, community services, and economic development. This plan has been envisioned to be a stand alone plan while simultaneously incorporating into the Floyd County Comprehensive Plan. Additionally, Town residents and business owners are encouraged to come to any of the community input meetings to discuss issues related to the Town and County. For further information, please contact Jack Whitmore at (540) 639-9313, ext. 259.

### Mobility Management

The PDC has just completed a draft of the Mobility Resource Manual, a document that compiled information on each major transportation provider in the New River Valley to be used by a Mobility Manager in the project's implementation phase. The manual will allow the Mobility Manager to have first-hand knowledge of the transportation options in the New River Valley and direct clients to the most appropriate provider.

The PDC will be working closely with its stakeholders to review and revise the draft before a final document is published. For further information, please contact Jennifer Wilsie at (540) 639-9313, ext. 204.

### Pulaski Adult Day Care and Fall Prevention Center

Pulaski County is applying for a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Planning Grant for a proposed adult day care facility in the County. Currently, the project is assembling a management team and surveying beneficiaries who may be interested in this service. If funded, the County could request up to \$700,000 for this project. For further information, please contact Jennifer Wilsie at (540) 639-9313, ext. 204.

### Pulaski County Community Development Block Grant: Baskerville Neighborhood Rehab Project

The Baskerville Neighborhood Rehabilitation grant submitted on behalf of Pulaski County has been funded for its full \$1,000,000 request by the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD). In addition, the project has leveraged \$48,700 in local funds, \$207,345 in HOME funds, \$25,000 from Southeast Rural Community Assistance Program (SERCAP), and \$43,050 in State Weatherization funds available through Community Housing Partners. The funds will be used to rehabilitate or substantially reconstruct 18 single-family households in the Baskerville neighborhood, as well as to fund infrastructure improvements in the neighborhood.

The County has already begun work on the preliminary activities required before getting under contract with DHCD. 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, through its partnership with surrounding Workforce Investment Areas or through a State wide collaborative effort, has received funding for participation in the following grant initiatives.

#### ► Green Grant Initiative

Western Virginia CREATES (Construction, Retrofitting, and Energy-Efficiency Assessment Training and Employment Systems) is a regional partnership that was funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) through a U.S. Department of Labor "Energy Training Partnership" grant (award total \$3.8 million) to teach workers the skills required in emerging energy efficiency and renewable energy industries and to connect those workers with employers needing to move their businesses forward in the green economy. This collaborative partnership includes Community Housing Partners, Virginia Tech, NewVA Corridor Technology Council, New River Community College, Wytheville Community College, Virginia Western Community College, New River/Mount Rogers Workforce Investment Board and Virginia Western Workforce Development Board and covers 21 jurisdictions in Southwest Virginia (the counties of Bland, Carroll, Floyd, Giles, Grayson, Montgomery, Pulaski, Smyth, Washington, Wythe, Alleghany, Botetourt, Craig, Roanoke, and Franklin and the cities of Bristol, Galax, Radford, Salem, Roanoke, and Covington). Community Housing Partners is the grant recipient and acts as fiscal agent. Currently the two WIBs are in the process of outreach and taking applications from the unemployed, under-employed and small business owners for program participants (and assessments being done to determine eligibility), equipment is being purchased by the community colleges, new curriculum is being developed between VT and the three community colleges, and outreach to employers is ongoing by all partners. The grant runs January 15, 2010 through January 14, 2012.

#### ► Western Virginia HITE Grant

Western Virginia HITE (Health Information Technology Education) initiative is a regional partnership that was funded through a U.S. Department of Labor "Community-Based Jobs Training" grant (award total \$4.7 million) to provide training opportunities for medical records specialists/health information technicians, medical assistants, pharmacy technicians, licensed practical nursing (LPN) and registered nursing (RN) occupations. The HITE initiative will provide training to incumbent workers, unemployed and under-employed in electronic medical records management through the five community colleges. This collaborative partnership

includes Mountain Empire Community College, Southwest Virginia Community College, New River Community College, Virginia Western Community College, and grant recipient & fiscal agent Virginia Highlands Community College, Southwest Virginia Workforce Board, New River/Mount Rogers Workforce Investment Board, Western Virginia Workforce Development Board, Virginia Tech, University of Virginia's College at Wise, Carilion Clinic, Montgomery Regional Hospital (HCA), Pulaski Community Hospital (HCA), Clinch Valley Medical Center (Lifepoint), Holston Medical Group, Buchanan General Hospital and select locations of Mountain States Health Alliance. HITE covers 29 jurisdictions in Southwest Virginia including the counties of Buchanan, Dickenson, Lee, Russell, Scott, Tazewell, Wise, Bland, Carroll, Floyd, Giles, Grayson, Montgomery, Pulaski, Smyth, Washington, Wythe, Alleghany, Botetourt, Craig, Roanoke, and Franklin and the cities of Norton, Bristol, Galax, Radford, Salem, Roanoke, and Covington. This grant was awarded July 1, 2010. The partners will be scheduling a meeting in the next month to set out the process for implementing this grant.

► **Statewide On the Job Training Grant**

This Statewide collaborative initiative will provide funding of \$1.5 million across the State to support on the job training for displaced workers who are experiencing prolonged unemployment. Participants will be given a chance to "earn and learn" which means they will develop applicable occupational skills while earning a paycheck. Employers participating in this on the job training project will receive partial reimbursement to offset the extraordinary cost of training workers. This project will help workers become proficient in needed skills more quickly, which will serve to encourage employers to hire workers sooner than perhaps initially planned, facilitating the private sector hiring of well-qualified individuals to contribute to their bottom line and spur economic recovery. For further information, please contact Ronnie Martin at (540) 633-6764 or email [rmartin@nrvc.org](mailto:rmartin@nrvc.org).

**RIDE Solutions**

RIDE Solutions welcomes Warm Hearth Village to its Workplace Partner program! Their leadership in recognizing the benefits of commute options available in the region will contribute to cost-savings for their staff, improved air quality, and reduced energy consumption.

Through its Workplace Partner program, RIDE Solutions assists area businesses and organizations with implementing employer-based alternative transportation programs. Working directly with businesses has two impacts on traffic in the region: 1) RIDE Solutions can more easily educate employees about the cost-savings and

environmental benefits of commuting options other than the single-occupant vehicle (SOV) even as little as one day a week and 2) RIDE Solutions reaches an audience with a common destination or employment center, improving their opportunity to find matches for carpooling.

RIDE Solutions also supports its employer partners with promotional materials, contests, communication plans, even bike racks and signage, all free of charge. A complete list of RIDE Solutions Workplaces and more information about the Workplace program can be found at [ridesolutions.org/workplace](http://ridesolutions.org/workplace). For more information, please contact Christy Straight, at (540) 639-9313, ext. 209 or [cstraight@nrvc.org](mailto:cstraight@nrvc.org).

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## NRVPDC Commission Meeting Summary

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**June 24, 2010**

**EDA Community Trade Adjustment Grant**

- Focus on Transportation Industry between Roanoke Region through NRV to Mount Rogers Region
  - Site visit with EDA for 6/25 to discuss grant details; Very positive to receive this much interest in project from EDA; Great collaboration between EDD's/PDC's, VT and Industry (Volvo)

**Congressman Boucher Conference: Build Local Economy in Global Market**

- July 19, 9:30-1:00, no charge; Southwest Higher Ed Center (Abingdon); Focus on Small Business Development Resources; Register by July 15

**Vision 2020/CEDS**

- Drafting "Consumer" version of Vision 2020 and will be distributed in draft for review at next meeting

**Workforce Investment Board**

- Establishing independent agency
  - Previously PDC employees
  - PDC performed all payroll, human resource, and fiscal agent duties for WIB
- Decided on revised agreement
  - Provided clarity on WIB employees=consortium employees
  - Defined responsible parties and illustrated processes
  - Revised agreement to be executed before June 30, 2010

**Go Green NRV**

- NRVPDC accepted as a Participating Business
- Christy Straight serving on Exec. Comm. as Secretary
- Current Green Practices at NRVPDC: Mixed paper recycling, plastic recycling, composting, calculating carbon footprint, all recyclables are carried off site by staff volunteers

**Green Infrastructure Planning**

- New website, primarily a resource site: <http://www.nrvc.org/GreenInfrastructure/greeninfrastructure.html>; To be launched on PDC website, Monday, 6/28
  - August/September presentation on Green Infrastructure Planning in the NRV

**Regional Partnership**

- PDC website to host page dedicated to partnership
  - Offer surplus items to other governments/agencies
  - Host 5-year equipment purchase list, identify purchasing partners
  - Adding a widget for notification when items are added to site

**VAPDC Summer Conference**

- July 29-31 (Thursday-Friday p.m.); Virginia Beach, Cavalier Hotel
- Key Topics: Government Reform, Early Childhood Education, Port of VA Tour - focus statewide, economic development, Governor McDonnell (Keynote Speaker - invited), Secretary of Commerce (Keynote Speaker - confirmed), Secretary of Transportation (Keynote Speaker - confirmed)
- Kevin Byrd nominated to VAPDC Board of Directors

**'Round the Mountain**

- Total members = 493; 306 artisans; 72 agritourism businesses; 115 craft venues; 378 trail sites in 19 counties
- Trail Brochures: Floyd - complete; Pulaski/Radford - August; Montgomery - August; Giles - Fall

*(The July meeting was cancelled)*



## NRV Economic Indicators

### Employment and Wages

The NRV's 4th quarter wage data for 2008 and 2009 shows a decrease in average employment of 3,627 (5.3%) persons. The weekly wage increased (\$22) and the number of establishments decreased (10 or .2%).

AVERAGE EMPLOYMENT		
Jurisdiction	2008 4th Qtr	2009 4th Qtr
Floyd County	2,801	2,740
Giles County	4,827	4,664
Montgomery County	40,537	39,488
Pulaski County	13,401	11,513
Radford City	6,600	6,134
NRVPDC	68,166	64,539

Source: Virginia Employment Commission.

AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE		
Jurisdiction	2008 4th Qtr	2009 4th Qtr
Floyd County	\$521	\$535
Giles County	650	703
Montgomery County	708	732
Pulaski County	650	633
Radford City	744	791
NRVPDC	688	710

Source: Virginia Employment Commission.

AVERAGE ESTABLISHMENTS		
Jurisdiction	2008 4th Qtr	2009 4th Qtr
Floyd County	381	386
Giles County	363	363
Montgomery County	2,196	2,191
Pulaski County	737	731
Radford City	351	347
NRVPDC	4,028	4,018

Source: Virginia Employment Commission.



Source: Virginia Employment Commission

### New Vehicle Registrations

Car and truck registrations increased throughout the District between the 1st and 2<sup>nd</sup> quarters of 2010. Montgomery County showed the largest increase in car registrations with Pulaski County showing the largest increase in truck registrations, 146 and 13 respectively.

CAR REGISTRATIONS			TRUCK REGISTRATIONS		
Jurisdiction	1st Qtr 2010	2nd Qtr 2010	Jurisdiction	1st Qtr 2010	2nd Qtr 2010
Floyd County	39	85	Floyd County	11	12
Giles County	58	95	Giles County	17	20
Montgomery County	311	457	Montgomery County	63	69
Pulaski County	111	177	Pulaski County	26	39
Radford City	42	75	Radford City	13	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>561</b>	<b>889</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>146</b>

Source: Virginia Automobile Dealers Association.



The next Operation Milestone for the U.S. 2010 Census is **Quality Assurance Operations**. During the next several months, the Census Bureau will conduct three major quality assurance operations and other processes to ensure that the 2010 Census is an accurate and complete picture of everyone living across the nation. These efforts are an

investment in the quality of the Census that will pay off for the next 10 years. **Coverage Follow-Up Operation (4/11/10 - 8/13/10)** - During this operation, the Census Bureau will call households who have responded to the 2010 Census if they need to clarify any answers about the number of people living at the address on April 1st. **Vacant Delete Check (7/24/10 - 8/25/10)** - They collect additional information to ensure housing units classified as vacant (or nonexistent) were in fact unoccupied on April 1st. **Field Verification (8/6/10 - 9/3/10)** - They send Census workers to verify whether an address exists and to confirm its geographic location, if it does not match an address in their file. Source: <http://2010.census.gov/2010census/how/2010-census-progress.php>.

## NRV Transportation News

► The Transportation Technical Advisory Committee is currently reviewing the draft Statewide Rural Long Range Plan technical document. This first round of reviews involves ensuring local and statewide transportation planning efforts are aligned in the plan. Ultimately, the Virginia Department of Transportation seeks local endorsement of the plan and will utilize the document for guidance of future project investments. The plan is currently being reviewed for consistency with local policies and strategies. Public Hearings will also be scheduled in the Fall to collect input on the plan.

► In August the Region's Bikeway Walkway Committee will participate in a joint meeting with the Roanoke Valley Alleghany Regional Commission's Bicycle Advisory Committee. The event will provide a unique opportunity to share local planning efforts and discuss future connections between the regions.

► The City of Radford and Radford University continue to make strides towards the implementation of their new public transportation system. The City was successful in securing federal and state funding to assist with initiating the new services. In the coming months, the City will be advertising for a new service operator, finalizing routes, and branding the new system. A great deal of work lies ahead, but once completed, residents will have a new way to explore, shop, get to work, go to class, visit friends and family, ride to and from doctors offices and medical facilities. For further information on transportation related issues, please contact Elijah Sharp at (540) 639-9313, ext. 210.

# August 2010

## Meetings

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				

- Aug. 3-Blacksburg PC-7:30 p.m.
- Aug. 5-MPO Policy Board Meeting-MC Gov't Center-2 p.m.
- Aug. 10-Pulaski PC-7 p.m.
- Aug. 11-Montgomery PC-7 p.m.; NRV Commerce Park-Noon
- Aug. 16-Pulaski Town PC-6 p.m.
- Aug. 17-Floyd PC-7p.m.
- Aug. 18-Montgomery PC-7 p.m.
- Aug. 19-MPO TAC-MC Gov't Center-10 a.m.
- Aug. 20-NRV-Roanoke Joint Bikeway-Walkway Committee-Elliston-1:00-3:30 p.m.
- Aug. 23-Radford PC-7 p.m.
- Aug. 24-Giles PC-6:30 p.m.
- Aug. 26-NRVPDC Commission Mtg.-6 p.m.
- Aug. 31-Hazard Mitigation Mtg.-NRVPDC-9 a.m.

# September 2010

## Meetings

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		

- Sept. 2-MPO Policy Board Meeting-MC Gov't Center-2 p.m.
- Sept. 7-Blacksburg PC-7:30 p.m.
- Sept. 8-Montgomery PC-7 p.m.
- Sept. 13-Pulaski Town PC-6 p.m.
- Sept. 14-Pulaski PC-7 p.m.
- Sept. 15-Montgomery PC-7 p.m.
- Sept. 16-MPO TAC-MC Gov't Center-10 a.m.
- Sept. 20-Radford PC-7 p.m.
- Sept. 21-BWVW Mtg-NRVPDC-11:30 a.m.; TAC Mtg-NRVPDC-1:30 p.m.; Floyd PC-7p.m.;
- Sept. 23-NRVPDC Commission Mtg.-6 p.m.
- Sept. 28-Hazard Mitigation Mtg.-NRVPDC-9 a.m.; Giles PC-6:30 p.m.

# THE COMPETITIVE EDGE

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

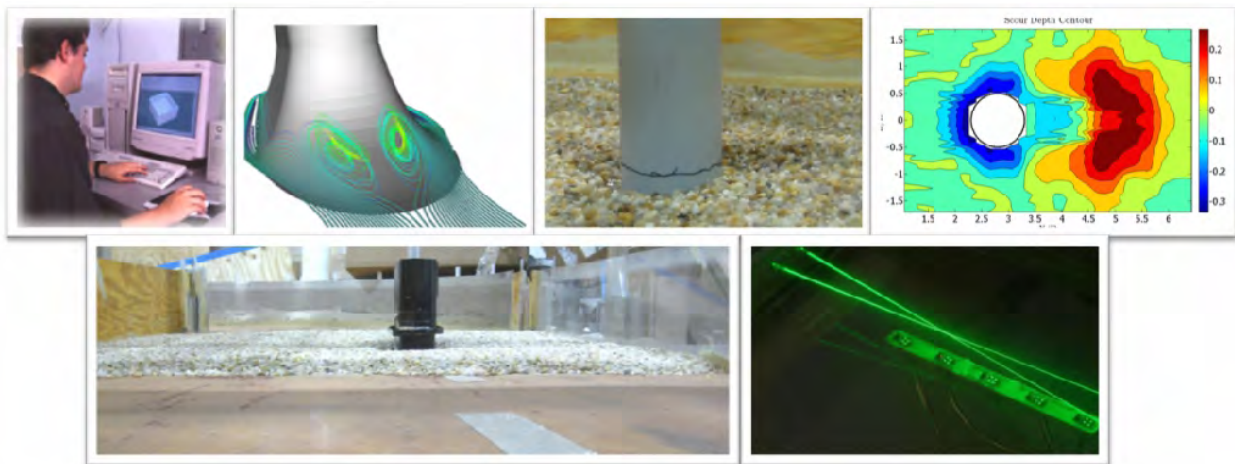
Shawn Utt/Doug Hudson,  
Acting Incubator Managers

August – September 2010

## AUR, Inc. keeps things flowing in the NRVCC

How a group of aerospace engineers came upon a breakthrough in protecting the integrity of highway and railway bridge foundations is no mistake, despite the apparent disciplinary disconnect. “Whenever I speak with aerospace engineers about our company’s solution to the bridge scour problem, I always mention the old adage: the mark of a great idea is when you are baffled by the question, ‘why has no one ever thought of this before?’”, says Dr. Todd Lowe, the Vice President for Research and Development at Applied University Research, Inc. (AUR) Lowe’s question is driven largely by his background as an aerodynamicist who is used to seeing complex solutions for air flow problems. Perhaps the truest answer to the question lies in the experience of AUR President, Dr. Roger L. Simpson, a registered Professional Engineer with a background in aerospace and mechanical engineering. As an expert aerodynamicist, Simpson spent years studying and documenting flows with features very similar to those occurring at the bases of bridge piers, and he is recognized in the field as the world’s expert in such ‘junction flows’. The bridge scour problem is one of fluid flow, and understanding this class of flows better than anyone before him gave Simpson the unique vision to solve the problem.

For some background, bridge scour is a potentially catastrophic and deadly phenomenon in which the soil and rock that is used to stabilize the foundations of bridge piers and abutments is moved away from the pier and abutment footings. In extreme cases, sufficient soil and rock can be removed to the extent that the bridge foundation shifts and causes the roadway deck to collapse into the waterway beneath. The problem is a serious risk to public safety and infrastructure, and it is pervasive throughout the U.S. and the world: more than 20,000 bridges in the U.S. alone have been marked by engineers as at risk to scour effects.



*AUR’s bridge scour solution, the scaUR™ product, went through extensive design evaluation, from computer simulations to real flow experimentation using custom developed flow apparatus and laser instruments.*

Since moving to the NRVCC in September of 2007, AUR has plotted a steady course toward bringing their bridge scour solution, the Patent Pending scAUR™ device, to market. Dr. Quinn Tian, also with a background in aerospace and mechanical engineering, guided the product development from computer simulations and design to scale water flow testing in AUR facilities at the NRVCC to current developments in efficient manufacturing of the scAUR™ technologies. The company is currently speaking with potential customers across the entire U.S., with plans to extend their reach to Europe and Asia.

When asked about his belief and commitment to this product and its potential to improve the safety of bridges throughout the world, Simpson leaves no doubt as to his stance: “No bridge should ever fail again due to local scour around piers and abutments - if the proper scAUR™ products are installed.” AUR plans to deliver the fruits of that promise of safety and infrastructure protection to many bridges soon.

If you would like to learn more about AUR’s scAUR™ product or its line of laser instrumentation for flow measurement, please visit their websites: <http://www.noscour.com/> and <http://www.aurinc.com/>.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS and UPCOMING EVENTS

### ENTREPRENEUR EXPRESS: MOVING YOUR BUSINESS FORWARD

You are invited and encouraged to attend the Entrepreneur Express Workshop on Thursday, August 19, 9 a.m. - 12 noon, at the New River Valley Competitiveness Center, in Fairlawn. This workshop is designed to deliver practical, hands-on training and provide information on available business resources. Attendees with specific interests or resource needs will receive follow-up attention from the workshop's sponsoring and participating organizations. They include local, state, and federal resource providers. Workshop participants will be introduced to many potential programs of interest to start-up companies and growing small businesses, from business plan counseling through increasing sales and obtaining financing.

**Sponsored by:** Pulaski County Chamber of Commerce; Virginia Economic Bridge; Virginia Department of Business Assistance; New River Valley Competitiveness Center; Wachovia Bank.

Admission is **FREE**, including breakfast, but advanced registration is required by August 16<sup>th</sup>. Register at: [www.vastartup.org](http://www.vastartup.org) or call the Pulaski County Chamber of Commerce at (540) 674-1991.

Reserve your spot today for this session. It could make a big difference in your current or planned business.

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**For Competitiveness Center information contact:**  
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**New River Valley Planning District Commission**  
 6580 Valley Center Drive, Suite 124  
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## Green Infrastructure Website Update

Jan R. Gilbertson, Newsletter Editor  
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The New River Valley Green Infrastructure Website Update was successful and the site launched in late June. Staff worked together to develop a visually appealing and informative place for interested communities and individuals to access information about this regional project. The new website highlights significant aspects of the overall project,

including the planning process, mapping, conservation strategies or “Best Management Practices”, and contact information for partners and PDC staff. The website also highlights photos taken around the region by PDC staff and friends. In the coming months, as part of the larger initiative, project partners will be going to various elected and

appointed boards throughout the region to share the information developed through this process.

Following these presentations, it is anticipated that the new website will be a place for individuals throughout the community to go to learn more. Please visit the new site at: <http://www.nrvpdc.org/GreenInfrastructure/greeninfrastructure.html>.

For more information on Green Infrastructure, please contact Regina Elsner at [relsner@nrvpdc.org](mailto:relsner@nrvpdc.org), or at (540) 639-9313, ext. 205.



**All email addresses for NRVPC staff have changed. They now end in [nrvpdc.org](http://nrvpdc.org). Please change your records accordingly.**

**Please continue to visit us on the web at [www.nrvpdc.org](http://www.nrvpdc.org).**