



Agenda

March 28, 2024

6:00 p.m.— Pulaski County Innovation Center, Fairlawn, VA

- I. **CALL TO ORDER**
- II. **CONSENT AGENDA**
 - A. Approval of Minutes for February
 - B. [Approval of Treasurer's Report for February](#)
- III. **COMMONWEALTH INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS**
 - A. Projects Signed-off by the staff
 - 1. [EDA Public Works Planning Grant- Giles County](#)
 - B. Regular Project Review
 - 1. [Reissuance of VPDES Permit No. VA0080837
Glen Creek WWTP, Glen Lyn, VA](#)
- IV. **PUBLIC ADDRESS**
- V. **CHAIR'S REPORT**
- VI. **[EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT](#)**
- VII. **REVIEW OF MUTUAL CONCERNS AND COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS**
- VIII. **OLD BUSINESS**
- IX. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - A. [Crab Creek Beautification Project Overview](#)
Aphi Fancon, Director of Community Development
Commission Discussion
 - B. [Regional Economic Strategy Update – Goals and Strategies](#)
Leo Priddy, Economic Development Specialist
Commission Discussion
 - C. Next Commission Meeting:
 - a. April 25th 6:00pm

All meeting materials posted on the Commission website www.nrvrc.org

The New River Valley Regional Commission provides area wide planning for the physical, social, and economic elements of the district; encourages and assists local governments in planning for their future; provides a means of coordinating federal, state, and local efforts to resolve area problems; provides a forum for review of mutual concerns; and implements services upon request of member local governments.



6580 Valley Center Drive | Suite 124 | Radford, VA 24141 | 540-639-9313

NRVRC.ORG

MEMORANDUM

To: NRVRC Board Members
From: Jessica Barrett, Finance Director
Date: March 20, 2024
Re: February 2024 Financial Statements

The February 2024 Agencywide Revenue and Expenditure Report and Balance Sheet are enclosed for your review. Financial reports are reviewed by the Executive Committee prior to inclusion in the meeting packet.

The Agencywide Revenue and Expense report compares actual year to date receipts and expenses to the FY23-24 budget adopted by the Commission at the May 25, 2023 meeting. The financial operations of the agency are somewhat fluid and projects, added and modified throughout the year, along with the high volume of Workforce program activities, impact the adopted budget. To provide clarity, Commission and Workforce Development Board activities are separated on the agencywide report.

As of month-end February 2024 (67% of the fiscal year), Commission year to date revenues are 61% and expenses are 68% of adopted budget. Salary, the largest expense line, is in line with the budget at 66%. Fringe Benefits are currently 77% of the budget expense line, which is higher than budgeted due to additional health insurance enrollments.

Looking at the balance sheet, Accounts Receivable is \$655,362. Of this total, Workforce receivables are \$252,319 (39%) and current. The Executive Committee reviews all aged receivables over 60 days and no receivables are deemed uncollectible. Net Projects (\$326,609) represents project expenses, primarily benchmark projects, that cannot be invoiced yet and posted to receivables.

Counties

Floyd | Giles
Montgomery | Pulaski

City

Radford

Towns

Blacksburg | Christiansburg
Floyd | Narrows | Pearisburg
Pembroke | Pulaski | Rich Creek

Higher Education

Virginia Tech | Radford University
New River Community College

New River Valley Regional Commission
Balance Sheet
2/29/2024

<u>Assets:</u>		<u>Prior Month</u>	<u>Current Month</u>
	Operating Account	230,731	285,053
	First Bank & Trust - Bland/Montgomery Broadband	1,910,030	1,916,631
	First Bank & Trust - Pulaski County Broadband	2,002,384	2,009,304
	Money Market	112,877	113,304
	Accounts Receivable	965,786	655,362
	Loans Receivable - Revolving Loan Fund	40,153	39,606
	Restricted Cash - Revolving Loan Fund	66,643	67,325
	Commission Vehicles	32,365	32,365
		<u>5,360,968</u>	<u>5,118,949</u>
	Total Assets:		
		<u>5,360,968</u>	<u>5,118,949</u>
<u>Liabilities:</u>	Accounts Payable	336,345	164,764
	Accrued Annual Leave	98,150	98,150
	Accrued Unemployment	32,327	33,258
	Funds Held for Others	0	0
	Expense Reimbursement	741	4,053
	Funds on Hand - Montgomery County Broadband	1,884,505	1,884,505
	Funds on hand - Pulaski County Broadband	2,000,000	2,000,000
	Funds on Hand - Montgomery County OAA	121,828	121,828
	Unearned Revenue - FY25 Dues	31,272	31,272
		<u>4,505,169</u>	<u>4,337,830</u>
	Total Liabilities:		
		<u>4,505,169</u>	<u>4,337,830</u>
<u>Projects:</u>	Net Projects	(194,305)	(326,609)
(Equity Accounts)	Current Year Unrestricted	120,442	172,151
	Unrestricted Net Assets	815,690	815,690
	Restricted Net Assets - Revolving Loan Fund	105,790	105,790
		<u>847,616</u>	<u>767,021</u>
	Total Projects (Equity)		
		<u>847,616</u>	<u>767,021</u>
		<u>5,352,785</u>	<u>5,104,852</u>
	Total Liabilities and Projects		
		<u>5,352,785</u>	<u>5,104,852</u>
		<u>8,183</u>	<u>14,097</u>
	Net Difference to be Reconciled		
		<u>8,183</u>	<u>14,097</u>
		<u>8,183</u>	<u>14,097</u>
	Total Adjustments to Post*		
		<u>8,183</u>	<u>14,097</u>
		<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
	Unreconciled Balance (after adjustment)		
		<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

*YTD adjustment to Accrued Leave. Final adjustment posted to general ledger at fiscal year end closeout.

**New River Valley Regional Commission
Revenue and Expenditures - February 2024**

FY23-24 Budget	(67% of FY)				
	February 2024	YTD	Under/Over	% Budget	
NRVRC Anticipated Revenues					
ARC	90,842	0	43,851	46,991	48.27%
ARC PemTel Painters School Road Broadband	0	0	68,395	(68,395)	0.00%
ARC POWER Water Trail Implementation	35,000	0	0	35,000	0.00%
ARC LDD READY Appalachia	60,000	20,050	38,367	21,633	0.00%
ARC Passenger Rail Station Development	574,000	0	0	574,000	0.00%
Local Assessment	238,220	0	238,220	0	100.00%
DHCD - Administrative Grant	89,971	0	67,478	22,493	75.00%
DHCD VATI 2022	90,000	0	1,195,374	(1,105,374)	0.00%
DRPT RIDE Solutions NRV	91,526	0	41,487	50,040	45.33%
DRPT NRVCAP RideSolutions Strategic Plan	15,000	0	9,297	5,703	61.98%
Department of Energy	37,500	0	0	37,500	0.00%
EDA	70,000	0	35,000	35,000	50.00%
Workforce Fiscal Agent	75,000	15,000	60,000	15,000	80.00%
Workforce Power Fiscal Agent	12,500	0	12,500	0	100.00%
Workforce YouthBuild Fiscal Agent	25,000	0	18,750	6,250	75.00%
Workforce Ready SWVA Fiscal agent	21,500	0	21,500	0	0.00%
Workforce WORC Fiscal agent	25,000	0	25,000	0	0.00%
Workforce Innovation Fiscal Agent	0	0	10,000	(10,000)	0.00%
Workforce WIOA Soft Skills Fiscal Agent	0	0	6,000	(6,000)	0.00%
Workforce WIOA Supplemental Fiscal Agent	0	0	6,000	(6,000)	0.00%
Workforce WIOA Technical Skills Fiscal Agent	0	0	8,000	(8,000)	0.00%
Workforce Trades Gap Fiscal Agent	0	0	15,000	(15,000)	0.00%
VDOT	58,000	0	35,848	22,152	61.81%
VDOT - Rocky Knob	0	0	50,460	(50,460)	0.00%
Floyd County	38,000	0	0	38,000	0.00%
Floyd Town	7,000	0	1,999	5,001	28.56%
Narrows Town	11,000	0	6,667	4,333	60.61%
Rich Creek Town	17,000	0	11,553	5,447	67.96%
Montgomery County	8,000	0	0	8,000	0.00%
Montgomery County VATI	0	0	115,495	(115,495)	0.00%
Montgomery County Opiod Abatement	0	66,688	255,223	(255,223)	0.00%
Blacksburg Town	25,500	0	13,000	12,500	50.98%
Christiansburg Town	54,250	0	22,864	31,386	42.15%
Pulaski County	10,000	0	6,179	3,821	61.79%
Radford City	66,370	0	38,463	27,908	57.95%
MM Interest	0	428	2,264	(2,264)	0.00%
Interest Income - VATI	0	13,522	41,440	(41,440)	0.00%
Miscellaneous Income	0	321	4,250	(4,250)	0.00%
Virginia's First	14,960	7,500	15,000	(40)	100.27%
NRV MPO	95,500	0	4,970	90,530	5.20%
Pembroke	17,000	0	5,585	11,415	32.85%
Dept of Environmental Quality	14,500	0	3,644	10,856	25.13%
VDEM	25,000	0	14,527	10,473	58.11%
Virginia Outdoors Foundation	42,241	0	63,716	(21,475)	150.84%
VHDA	50,375	0	14,783	35,592	29.35%
Southwest Virginia SWMA	7,000	3,500	7,000	0	100.00%
Virginia Recycling Association	14,000	7,500	11,250	2,750	80.36%
VDH New River Health District	345,000	0	53,364	291,636	15.47%
VOF SwVA Natives Campaign Project Match	0	0	8,250	(8,250)	0.00%
VDH Office of Drinking Water	80,000	0	39,119	40,881	48.90%
PemTel	0	4,250	4,250	(4,250)	0.00%
NRV Passenger Rail Authority	67,500	0	22,962	44,538	34.02%
Revolving Loan - Interest	0	134	1,161	(1,161)	0.00%
Grant income (anticipated)	12,723	0	0	12,723	0.00%
Direct Charge Reimbursement	0	0	346	(346)	0.00%
Sub Total Revenues	2,631,980	138,893	2,795,851	(163,871)	60.81%
Expenses					
Salaries	1,325,877	130,765	880,781	445,096	66.43%
Fringe Benefits	340,515	39,267	260,552	79,963	76.52%
Travel	33,283	1,084	8,850	24,433	26.59%
Office Space	68,730	5,727	45,819	22,911	66.67%
Communications	20,832	1,498	13,071	7,761	62.75%
Office Supplies	66,892	3,007	60,050	6,842	89.77%
Postage	900	80	920	(20)	102.22%
Printing	8,285	0	60,260	(51,975)	727.34%
Copier Usage/Maintenance	1,100	56	817	283	74.29%
Outreach/Media Adv	11,110	16,996	20,812	(9,702)	187.33%
Equipment Rent/Copier	3,000	223	1,787	1,213	59.57%
Fleet Vehicles	2,000	51	885	1,115	44.26%
Dues/Publications	20,395	1,024	15,633	4,762	76.65%
Training/Staff Development	26,170	1,101	27,340	(1,170)	104.47%
Insurance	4,700	0	3,503	1,197	74.53%
Meeting Costs	13,573	1,048	10,676	2,897	78.65%
Contractual Services	588,441	28,908	1,534,795	(946,354)	260.82%
Professional Services Audit/Legal	6,000	0	6,415	(415)	106.91%
Miscellaneous/Fees	49,700	260	2,153	47,547	4.33%
Reimbursed Expenses	0	(11,607)	(6,522)	6,522	0.00%
Sub Total Expenses	2,591,503	219,488	2,948,598	(357,095)	67.65%
NRVRC Balance	40,477	(80,595)	(152,747)		

**New River/Mount Rogers Workforce Development Board
Revenue and Expenditures - February 2024**

(67% of FY)

NR/MR WDB Anticipated Revenues		February 2024	YTD	Under/Over	% Budget
Workforce Development Area	4,564,775	187,030	1,537,618	3,027,157	33.68%
Sub Total Revenues	4,564,775	187,030	1,537,618	3,027,157	
Expenses					
Salaries	614,994	59,704	455,421	159,573	74.05%
Fringe Benefits	215,248	15,944	122,346	92,902	56.84%
Travel	26,000	1,744	20,707	5,293	79.64%
Office Space	37,000	1,943	23,573	13,427	63.71%
Communications	16,000	2,619	12,888	3,112	80.55%
Office Supplies	35,000	1,593	20,133	14,867	57.52%
Postage	250	10	14	236	5.78%
Printing	1,500	0	578	922	38.54%
Copier Usage/Maintenance	0	367	502	(502)	0.00%
Outreach/Media Adv	30,000	648	4,894	25,106	16.31%
Equipment Rent/Copier	1,700	0	996	704	58.58%
Dues/Publications	5,000	1,816	2,297	2,703	45.94%
Training/Staff Development	7,000	2,050	3,370	3,630	48.14%
Insurance	5,000	1,743	13,688	(8,688)	273.75%
Meeting Costs	7,000	1,564	15,375	(8,375)	219.64%
Capital Outlay	0	0	34,000	(34,000)	0.00%
Contractual Services	3,536,171	95,011	798,157	2,738,014	22.57%
Professional Services Audit/Legal	15,000	275	8,719	6,282	58.12%
Miscellaneous/Fees	11,912	0	0	11,912	0.00%
Workforce Grants Admin	0	0	(39)	39	0.00%
Sub Total Expenses	4,564,775	187,030	1,537,618	3,027,118	33.68%
NR/MR WDB Balance	0	0	0		

Total Agency R&E		February 2024	YTD	
Anticipated Revenue	7,196,755	325,923	4,333,469	60.21%
Anticipated Expense	7,156,278	406,518	4,486,216	62.69%
Balance	40,477	(80,595)	(152,747)	



6580 Valley Center Drive | Suite 124 | Radford, VA 24141 | 540-639-9313

N R V R C . O R G

February 28, 2024

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chris McKlarney, County Administrator, Giles County
FROM: Kevin R. Byrd, Executive Director, NRV Regional Commission
SUBJECT: Regional Clearinghouse Review of:

**EDA Public Works Planning Grant Application- Decommissioned Glen Lyn Coal
Fired Power Plant**

VA240228-01000400071

This is to advise you that the NRVRC staff has reviewed the application submitted by Giles County.

Staff has reviewed the project and determined it is not in conflict with regional plans, policies and goals.

Please be sure a copy of this review is attached to the application. Should you have any questions concerning the status of this review, please do not hesitate to contact us.

KRB/jp

Counties

Floyd | Giles
Montgomery | Pulaski

City

Radford

Towns

Blacksburg | Christiansburg
Floyd | Narrows | Pearisburg
Pulaski | Rich Creek

Universities

Virginia Tech | Radford University

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424											
* 1. Type of Submission: <input type="checkbox"/> Preapplication <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Application <input type="checkbox"/> Changed/Corrected Application			* 2. Type of Application: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> Continuation <input type="checkbox"/> Revision			* If Revision, select appropriate letter(s): _____ * Other (Specify): _____					
* 3. Date Received: _____			4. Applicant Identifier: _____								
5a. Federal Entity Identifier: _____			5b. Federal Award Identifier: _____								
State Use Only:											
6. Date Received by State: _____			7. State Application Identifier: _____								
8. APPLICANT INFORMATION:											
* a. Legal Name: Giles County											
* b. Employer/Taxpayer Identification Number (EIN/TIN): 546001304			* c. UEI: KUL1N8UJXEH5								
d. Address:											
* Street1: 315 North Main Street			_____								
Street2:			_____								
* City: Pearisburg			_____								
County/Parish:			_____								
* State: VA: Virginia			_____								
Province:			_____								
* Country: USA: UNITED STATES			_____								
* Zip / Postal Code: 24134-1522			_____								
e. Organizational Unit:											
Department Name: Giles County Administraion			Division Name: _____								
f. Name and contact information of person to be contacted on matters involving this application:											
Prefix: Mr.		* First Name: Christopher		_____							
Middle Name: Patrick		_____		_____							
* Last Name: McKlarney		_____		_____							
Suffix:		_____		_____							
Title: Giles County Administrator											
Organizational Affiliation: County Administrator											
* Telephone Number: 540-921-2525			Fax Number: 540-921-1329								
* Email: cmcklarney@gilescounty.org											

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424

*** 9. Type of Applicant 1: Select Applicant Type:**

E: County Government

Type of Applicant 2: Select Applicant Type:

Type of Applicant 3: Select Applicant Type:

* Other (specify):

*** 10. Name of Federal Agency:**

U.S. Economic Development Administration

11. Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number:

CFDA Title:

*** 12. Funding Opportunity Number:**

ED-900

* Title:

US EDA Public Works Planning Grant

13. Competition Identification Number:

Title:

14. Areas Affected by Project (Cities, Counties, States, etc.):

Add Attachment

Delete Attachment

View Attachment

*** 15. Descriptive Title of Applicant's Project:**

Industrial Site Reuse Planning Grant for the Decommissioned Glen Lyn Coal Fired Power Plant

Attach supporting documents as specified in agency instructions.

Add Attachments

Delete Attachments

View Attachments

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424

16. Congressional Districts Of:

* a. Applicant

* b. Program/Project

Attach an additional list of Program/Project Congressional Districts if needed.

17. Proposed Project:

* a. Start Date:

* b. End Date:

18. Estimated Funding (\$):

* a. Federal	<input type="text" value="200,000.00"/>
* b. Applicant	<input type="text" value="50,000.00"/>
* c. State	<input type="text" value="0.00"/>
* d. Local	<input type="text" value="0.00"/>
* e. Other	<input type="text" value="0.00"/>
* f. Program Income	<input type="text" value="0.00"/>
* g. TOTAL	<input type="text" value="250,000.00"/>

*** 19. Is Application Subject to Review By State Under Executive Order 12372 Process?**

- a. This application was made available to the State under the Executive Order 12372 Process for review on
- b. Program is subject to E.O. 12372 but has not been selected by the State for review.
- c. Program is not covered by E.O. 12372.

*** 20. Is the Applicant Delinquent On Any Federal Debt? (If "Yes," provide explanation in attachment.)**

Yes No

If "Yes", provide explanation and attach

21. *By signing this application, I certify (1) to the statements contained in the list of certifications and (2) that the statements herein are true, complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I also provide the required assurances** and agree to comply with any resulting terms if I accept an award. I am aware that any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statements or claims may subject me to criminal, civil, or administrative penalties. (U.S. Code, Title 18, Section 1001)**

** I AGREE

** The list of certifications and assurances, or an internet site where you may obtain this list, is contained in the announcement or agency specific instructions.

Authorized Representative:

Prefix: * First Name:
Middle Name:
* Last Name:
Suffix:

* Title:

* Telephone Number: Fax Number:

* Email:

* Signature of Authorized Representative: * Date Signed:



6580 Valley Center Drive | Suite 124 | Radford, VA 24141 | 540-639-9313

NRVRC.ORG

COMMONWEALTH INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW MEMORANDUM

TO: Regional Commission Board Members

FROM: Kevin R. Byrd, Executive Director

AGENDA ITEM: III. Intergovernmental Review Process, B. Regular Project Review, Item #1

CIRP Review

March 21, 2024

PROJECT: Reissuance of VPDES Permit No. VA0080837
Glen Creek WWTP, Glen Lyn, VA

SUBMITTED BY: DEQ

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Department of Environmental Quality is requesting comments on permit renewal.

PROJECT SENT FOR REVIEW TO: Commission Board Members

Strengthening the Region through Collaboration

Counties

Floyd | Giles
Montgomery | Pulaski
City
Radford

Towns

Blacksburg | Christiansburg
Floyd | Narrows | Pearisburg
Pembroke | Pulaski
Rich Creek

Higher Education

Virginia Tech
Radford University
New River Community College



Commonwealth of Virginia

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

BLUE RIDGE REGIONAL OFFICE

901 Russell Drive, Salem, Virginia 24153

(540) 562-6700

www.deq.virginia.gov

Travis A. Voyles
Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources

Michael S. Rolband, PE, PWD, PWS Emeritus
Director
(804) 698-4000

Robert J. Weld
Regional Director

March 8, 2024

Mr. Kevin Byrd
Executive Director
New River Valley Regional Commission
6580 Valley Center Drive, Suite 124
Radford, VA 24141

via E-mail: kbyrd@nrvc.org

RE: Reissuance of VPDES Permit No. VA0080837
Glen Creek WWTP, Glen Lyn, VA

Dear Sir:

Section 62.1-44.15:01 of the Code of Virginia requires DEQ to notify localities particularly affected when a permit action is pending. This letter transmits a copy of the public notice for a proposed permit action for your review. Public notice of this proposed action is also being published in a local newspaper. That publication will establish a 30 day public comment period for this proposal. If you wish to comment on this proposed action, please respond to:

Virginia DEQ
Blue Ridge Regional Office
901 Russell Drive
Salem, Virginia 24153

If no response is received within the 30-day public notice period, it will be assumed that you have no objections to the proposed action. If you have any questions, please contact me at (540) 597-0300.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Lynn V. Wise'.

Lynn V. Wise
Environmental Engineer, Sr.

Enclosure: Permit Public Notice

Public Notice – Environmental Permit

PURPOSE OF NOTICE: To seek public comment on a draft permit from the Department of Environmental Quality that will allow the release of treated wastewater into a water body in Giles County, Virginia.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: February 28, 2024 to March 29, 2024

PERMIT NAME: Virginia Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit – Wastewater issued by DEQ pursuant to applicable water laws and regulations.

APPLICANT NAME AND ADDRESS: Town of Rich Creek, P.O. Box 65, Rich Creek, VA 24147

FACILITY NAME, LOCATION, AND PERMIT NUMBER: Glen Creek WWTP; 356 Campground Dr, Glen Lyn, VA 24093; VPDES Permit No. VA0080837

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Town of Rich Creek has applied for reissuance of a permit for the public Glen Creek WWTP. The applicant proposes to release treated sewage wastewaters from residential areas at a rate of 0.2 million gallons per day into a water body. Sludge from the treatment process will be disposed of in a landfill. The facility proposes to release the treated sewage into the New River in the New River/East River watershed. A watershed is the land area drained by a river and its incoming streams. The permit will limit the following pollutants to amounts that protect water quality: organic matter, solids, and bacteria.

HOW TO COMMENT AND/OR REQUEST A PUBLIC HEARING: DEQ accepts comments and requests for public hearing on the draft permit by hand-delivery, e-mail, fax or postal mail. All comments and requests must be in writing and be received by DEQ during the comment period. DEQ must receive hand-delivery and postal mail by close of business and email and fax comments by 11:59 p.m. on the last day of the comment period. Submittals must include the names, mailing addresses or email addresses of the commenter/requester and of all persons represented by the commenter/requester. A request for public hearing must also include: 1) The reason why a public hearing is requested. 2) A brief, informal statement regarding the nature and extent of the interest of the requester or of those represented by the requestor, including how and to what extent such interest would be directly and adversely affected by the permit. 3) Specific references, where possible, to terms and conditions of the permit with suggested revisions. A public hearing may be held, including another comment period, if public response is significant, based on individual requests for a public hearing, and there are substantial, disputed issues relevant to the permit.

CONTACT FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS, DOCUMENT REQUESTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Lynn V. Wise, Blue Ridge Regional Office, 901 Russell Drive, Salem, VA 24153; Phone: (540) 597-0300; E-mail: lynn.wise@deq.virginia.gov. The public may review the draft permit and application at the DEQ office named above by appointment or may request copies of the documents from the contact person listed above.



6580 Valley Center Drive | Suite 124 | Radford, VA 24141 | 540-639-9313

N R V R C . O R G

March 22, 2024

Executive Director's Report

Economic Development:

- The NRV Recovery Ecosystem Program is working diligently with project partners to develop the FY25 grant proposal to the Virginia Opioid Abatement Authority. Proposals are due on April 1st. The team is focused on making the process transparent and engaging for all partners. To coordinate this complex proposal, there is an interactive google spreadsheet that allows everyone to review the proposed activities as projects are entered and amended. The leadership team met this week to receive brief project overviews, then next week there will be in-person workshops and virtual input opportunities on the proposal. The goal is to have a consensus developed budget by the end of the week.
- Broadband: The Montgomery/Bland and Pulaski County projects submitted updated project timelines that more accurately reflect the new construction schedules as a result of the extended make-ready process. Construction is underway in the Eastern Montgomery area and equipment has been ordered for both projects.
- The NRV/Danville Tech Hubs project will hold a two-part consortium meeting in April. On April 23rd the consortium will hold an industry panel webinar with partners explaining their technology. On April 25th there will be a consortium visit to MELD in Christiansburg so everyone can observe the technology.
- The Regional Economic Strategy (RES) committee will hold their third meeting of the year on April 26th. The group will be reviewing draft strategies and projects which will come to the board for review at the May meeting with a RES update at the June meeting.
- The Regional Commission has been supporting Giles County on a planning grant request to the US Economic Development Administration to evaluate potential re-use options for the Glen Lyn Coal-fired Power Plant. The application should be submitted formally next week.

Transportation:

- The NRV Passenger Rail Station Authority will not be meeting in March; however, activity continues on the project. A draft Term Sheet which is a roles and responsibilities document between Virginia Passenger Rail Authority (VPRA) and the Station Authority was shared with legal counsel this month. VPRA will hold another public input meeting on the project April 18th at the Montgomery County Government Center 4:30-7:30 with two presentations anticipated. Content will be similar to the Blacksburg meeting held in late January. Another public survey will be released in April and information will be distributed ahead of time to promote the survey. VPRA will be meeting the the three transit providers in the region on May 2nd to begin discussions on connections to the proposed station.

Housing:

- Jennifer Wilsie is making the rounds with local governments and non-government partners discussing the Regional Housing Trust Fund and forthcoming FY25 budget requests. Many partners are including the program in their budget for the coming year. Regional Commission

staff is working with legal counsel on finalizing organizational documents to establish the non-profit that will administer the program under the Regional Commission organization.

Natural Resources:

- The New River Water Trail Expansion project is progressing through an extended environmental review process for the proposed boat launches. Additional archeological/historical reviews were required at two locations. A facilitated planning session with project partners will take place in early April with a consultant team to discuss the governance model for implementing the expanded water trail since stewardship will shift from one county (Giles County) to include Montgomery and Pulaski counties along with the City of Radford.
- The New River Conservancy will be hosting the New River Symposium on April 11-12 at Radford University. A diverse range of partners attend and present at the symposium from the entire watershed. The theme for the event is Rivers³: Reconnect; Restore; Recreate. Anyone interested is welcome to attend. Kathleen Armstrong will be a plenary presenter discussing the New River Water Trail Expansion project. More information [here](#)

Regional:

- The NRV Livability Exchange co-hosted by the Regional Commission and the Community Foundation of the NRV was held this week. This marked the 10th year of the convening and there were a record number of participants with 175 people registered. Terrific lightning round presentations shared information on a wide-range of topics including Veterans support services in Floyd County, economic development in Narrows, the NRV Recovery Ecosystem, Christiansburg parks/recreation impacts and economic development in Uptown area, along with the Regional Housing Trust Fund among several other exciting local and regional initiatives.

Commission:

- Kyle Knight was hired this week as the Regional Innovation Officer to support the Tech Hubs program. Kyle comes to the Regional Commission with several years experience in technology business consulting and development. He will certainly be an asset helping firms understand their role and contributions in the Tech Hubs consortium.
- The Regional Commission is now fully staffed with the largest team to date with 22 employees.
- We held our annual Soup-r-Salad Bowl this month and Eli Sharp was awarded the trophy for best soup!
- Now that we are fully staffed, plans are taking shape for a staff retreat this spring to be facilitated by Shelley Fortier.



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MEMORANDUM

To: NRVRC Board Members
From: Aphi Fancon, Director of Community Development
Date: March 22, 2024
Re: Crab Creek Watershed Beautification Project Overview

At the March Regional Commission meeting there will be a presentation on the Crab Creek Watershed Beautification Project. The Crab Creek project is an effort to connect the Christiansburg community to the watershed through landscape improvements on private property. The watershed is identified as an impaired waterway and is eligible for improvement funds from the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). The Regional Commission received a grant from DEQ that provided cost-share reimbursement for qualified projects conducted by property owners that directly contribute water quality improvements. Qualified projects must be Best Management Practices (BMPs) as defined by DEQ which include rain gardens, pet waste disposal stations, rainwater harvesting and planters, impervious surface removal, and conservation landscaping.

As part of the grant deliverables, the Regional Commission developed a website to share information about the watershed and the private property owner water quality improvement program. This [link](#) will take you to the interactive site where you can learn more about Crab Creek and the partners involved in the project to include the Town of Christiansburg, Downtown Christiansburg, Inc., Balzer & Associates, Virginia Tech, DEQ, and Plant SWVA Natives.

Strengthening the Region through Collaboration

Counties

Floyd | Giles
Montgomery | Pulaski
City
Radford

Towns

Blacksburg | Christiansburg
Floyd | Narrows | Pearisburg
Pembroke | Pulaski
Rich Creek

Higher Education

Virginia Tech
Radford University
New River Community College



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N R V R C . O R G

MEMORANDUM

To: NRVRC Board Members
From: Leo Priddy, Economic Development Specialist
Date: March 22, 2024
Re: Regional Economic Strategy Update

The New River Valley Regional Commission maintains the Regional Economic Strategy (RES) report, annually updating economic data and aligning strategies with current goals and initiatives of the region. The RES document qualifies the region for funding assistance from the U.S. Department of Commerce-Economic Development Administration (EDA). A stakeholder committee of public and private sector representatives appointed by the Regional Commission actively participates the planning process.

Economic Insights and Equity Focus

The RES process reviews economic conditions for NRVRC jurisdictions as the committee prioritizes economic development projects the region can undertake to address community needs. EDA recently introduced new guidelines recommending an equity focus in developing the RES. For example, data used to consider this focus have revealed these points (in addition to other data updates and analysis):

- Black or African Americans show higher percentages below poverty, doubled in almost every NRV locality and at the state and national level.
- Median household income shows Whites earning roughly \$15-30k more than Black or African Americans in the same jurisdiction.

Next Steps & Updating the RES

The RES committee has used these data insights to review content, develop updated strategies, and assess top projects in the region for the annual update. In May, the board will review the updated top projects and priorities. A request for approval of the final report will be brought before the board in June.

Should you have any questions or wish to review information related to the RES, please contact me at lpriiddy@nrvc.org.

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