



Agenda

May 30, 2019

6:00 p.m.— New River Valley Business Center, Fairlawn

- I. **CALL TO ORDER**
- II. **CONSENT AGENDA**
 - A. Approval of Minutes for April
 - B. [Approval of Treasurer's Report for April](#)
- III. **COMMONWEALTH INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS**
 - A. Projects (Signed-off by the staff)
 1. Public Notice, Lower Stroubles Creek WWTP, Reissuance VPDES Permit VA0060844
 - B. Regular Project Review
None
 - C. Environmental Project Review
 1. [Draft Permit for New River Resource Authority \(NRRA\) Regional Solid Waste Management Facility, SWP548](#)
 2. [VADEQ Grant Application - PM 2.5 Monitoring Workplan](#)
 3. [U.S. Army's Proposed Solvent Propellant Pack-Out Facility at the Radford Army Ammunition Plant in Radford, Virginia](#)
- IV. **PUBLIC ADDRESS**
- V. **REVIEW OF MUTUAL CONCERNS AND COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS**
- VI. **CHAIR'S REPORT**
- VII. [EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT](#)
- VIII. **OLD BUSINESS**
- IX. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - A. [Montgomery Regional Solid Waste Authority Overview](#)
Presentation: Teresa Sweeney, Education & Training Coordinator
Commission Discussion
 - B. [Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy \(CEDS\) Update](#)
Presentation: Patrick O'Brien, Regional Planner II
Commission Discussion
 - C. [SolSmart Regional Organization Designation](#)
Presentation: Aphi Fancon, Senior Planner
Commission Action
 - D. FY20 Nominating Committee Report – Slate Presented
Commission Action

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

MEMORANDUM

N R V R C . O R G

To: NRVRC Board Members
From: Janet McNew, Finance Director
Date: May 15, 2019
Re: April 2019 Financial Statements

The April 2019 Revenue and Expenditure Reports and Balance Sheet are enclosed for your review. Financial reports are reviewed by the Executive Committee prior to inclusion in the meeting packet.

The Revenue and Expense report compares actual year to date receipts and expenses to the FY18-19 budget adopted by the Commission at the June 28, 2018 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, separate revenue and expense reports are now provided for Commission and Workforce Development Board activities.

As of month-end April 2019 (83% of the fiscal year), Commission overall year to date revenues are 72% and expenses are 77% of adopted budget. The two largest budget expense lines, Salary and Fringe, are in line with fiscal year at 82% and 86%, respectively. The revenue lag over expense monthly (\$17K) and year to date (\$78K) is not unusual and is due primarily to expenses incurred on projects that are not yet invoiced. This amount is reflected in Net Projects on the balance sheet. Commission revenue fluctuates as most projects are not invoiced on a monthly fixed amount basis.

We have previously reported on heavy expenses year to date in several line items. Printing expense is related to annual report production. Expenses for Communications, Office Supplies, Postage, Dues/Pubs and Miscellaneous Fees are anticipated and budgeted. Overages in Advertising and Professional Services are due to unbudgeted, but reimbursable, project expenses.

Looking at the balance sheet, Accounts Receivable total is \$518,442. Of this total, Workforce receivables are \$350,374 (68%) and current. The Executive Committee reviews all aged receivables over 60 days and no receivables are deemed uncollectible. Net Projects (\$127,281) represents current year project expenses, primarily quarterly and benchmark projects, that cannot be invoiced yet and posted to receivables.

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Counties

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Montgomery | Pulaski
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Radford

Towns

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**New River Valley Regional Commission
Revenue and Expenditures - April 2019**

FY18-19 Budget Adopted 6/28/2018		April 2019	YTD	Under/Over	(83% of FY) % Budget
NRVRC Anticipated Revenues					
ARC	68,666.00	17,166.50	68,667.00	-1.00	100.00%
ARC - Prices Fork	369,552.13	105,413.93	240,518.69	129,033.44	65.08%
LOCAL ASSESSMENT	233,866.68	4,905.50	233,866.49	0.19	100.00%
DHCD - Administrative Grant	75,971.00	0.00	56,978.00	18,993.00	75.00%
EDA	70,000.00	17,500.00	70,000.00	0.00	100.00%
Workforce Fiscal Agent	65,000.00	10,000.00	65,000.00	0.00	100.00%
Workforce Pathways Fiscal Agent	50,000.00	12,500.00	50,000.00	0.00	100.00%
VDOT	58,000.00	0.00	44,924.87	13,075.13	77.46%
VDOT - Rocky Knob Project	73,000.00	0.00	4,434.83	68,565.17	6.08%
Floyd County	10,000.00	0.00	5,691.02	4,308.98	56.91%
Floyd Town	6,750.00	925.53	4,886.47	1,863.53	72.39%
Giles County	0.00	0.00	1,000.00	-1,000.00	0.00%
Narrows Town	28,000.00	0.00	0.00	28,000.00	0.00%
Pearisburg Town	0.00	0.00	2,500.00	-2,500.00	0.00%
Rich Creek Town	3,000.00	0.00	5,487.91	-2,487.91	182.93%
Montgomery County	40,745.12	289.96	21,761.77	18,983.35	53.41%
Blacksburg Town	13,000.00	1,166.67	11,666.70	1,333.30	89.74%
Christiansburg Town	35,000.00	0.00	9,962.33	25,037.67	28.46%
Pulaski County	35,000.00	0.00	31,671.32	3,328.68	90.49%
Pulaski Town	41,500.00	744.24	8,182.00	33,318.00	19.72%
Radford City	0.00	0.00	7,000.00	-7,000.00	0.00%
Radford University	55,500.00	0.00	7,093.60	48,406.40	12.78%
Miscellaneous (Meetings/Interest/Recovered Costs)	0.00	1,113.19	1,585.30	-1,585.30	0.00%
Virginia's First RIFA	27,500.00	2,291.66	22,916.60	4,583.40	83.33%
New River Community College	1,500.00	0.00	2,574.20	-1,074.20	171.61%
NRV MPO	35,000.00	0.00	27,845.42	7,154.58	79.56%
Pembroke Town	10,000.00	0.00	0.00	10,000.00	0.00%
RV-ARC RideSolutions	33,680.00	0.00	26,379.05	7,300.95	78.32%
VHDA Regional Housing Local Support	30,000.00	0.00	15,837.41	14,162.59	52.79%
Dept of Environmental Quality	10,000.00	0.00	7,500.00	2,500.00	75.00%
VECF - Smart Beginnings	102,343.00	0.00	50,658.17	51,684.83	49.50%
VECF - Innovative Partnership	0.00	23,939.84	32,326.55	-32,326.55	0.00%
VECF - Mixed Delivery	0.00	5,648.36	5,648.36	-5,648.36	0.00%
VA Housing Development Authority	55,312.50	3,347.12	35,794.02	19,518.48	64.71%
VECF - Early Childhood Workforce Data Initi	0.00	3,370.50	3,370.50	-3,370.50	0.00%
Southwest Virginia SWMA	2,000.00	0.00	2,000.00	0.00	100.00%
New River Health District	25,000.00	0.00	14,745.82	10,254.18	58.98%
New River Valley Development Corporation	25,000.00	1,808.33	18,083.30	6,916.70	72.33%
Friends of Southwest Virginia	6,000.00	0.00	0.00	6,000.00	0.00%
One Care Southwest Virginia	15,000.00	0.00	0.00	15,000.00	0.00%
United Way Southwest Virginia	7,500.00	0.00	0.00	7,500.00	0.00%
Backsburg Partnership (for Rail Study)	0.00	0.00	15,000.00	-15,000.00	0.00%
Habitat for Humanity Newtown Road Grant App	0.00	0.00	3,000.00	-3,000.00	0.00%
ReNew the New	3,444.57	0.00	727.95	2,716.62	21.13%
Region I Planning & Development (WV)	10,500.00	0.00	9,882.67	617.33	94.12%
Smart Beginnings Fund Raising	790.00	0.00	0.00	790.00	0.00%
Local Match ARC Jan-Jun 2019	9,750.00	0.00	0.00	9,750.00	0.00%
Sub Total Revenues	1,742,871.00	212,131.33	1,247,168.32	495,702.68	71.56%
Expenses					
Salaries	760,103.00	60,072.84	619,834.38	140,268.62	81.55%
Fringe Benefits	198,032.00	16,301.35	169,515.53	28,516.47	85.60%
Travel	17,650.00	394.80	12,011.72	5,638.28	68.06%
Office Space	49,968.00	4,164.00	41,640.00	8,328.00	83.33%
Communications	9,789.00	742.81	9,219.49	569.51	94.18%
Office Supplies	29,355.00	385.28	31,681.41	-2,326.41	107.93%
Postage	1,775.00	18.99	1,531.85	243.15	86.30%
Printing	4,400.00	0.00	4,341.66	58.34	98.67%
Copier Usage/Maintenance	1,800.00	291.25	1,707.72	92.28	94.87%
Outreach/Media Adv	900.00	4,718.47	5,985.33	-5,085.33	665.04%
Equipment Rent/Copier	4,219.00	351.52	3,515.20	703.80	83.32%
Fleet Vehicles	8,471.00	306.91	1,470.31	7,000.69	17.36%
Dues/Publications	15,807.00	0.00	14,848.80	958.20	93.94%
Training/Staff Development	15,250.00	1,554.00	7,677.86	7,572.14	50.35%
Insurance	3,200.00	246.33	2,463.30	736.70	76.98%
Meeting Costs	10,850.00	2,535.24	7,486.10	3,363.90	69.00%
Capital Outlay	20,000.00	0.00	0.00	20,000.00	0.00%
Contractual Services	559,274.00	140,640.68	376,850.28	182,423.72	67.38%
Professional Services Audit/Legal	4,700.00	0.00	5,365.50	-665.50	114.16%
Miscellaneous/Fees	4,150.00	383.08	4,003.52	146.48	96.47%
Reimbursed Expenses	0.00	-4,093.56	3,642.50	-3,642.50	0.00%
Sub Total Expenses	1,719,693.00	229,013.99	1,324,792.46	394,900.54	77.04%
NRVRC Balance	23,178.00	-16,882.66	-77,624.14		

**New River/Mount Rogers Workforce Development Board
Revenue and Expenditures - April 2019**

(83% of fiscal year)

NR/MR WDB Anticipated Revenues		April 2019	YTD	Under/Over	% Budget
Workforce Development Area	2,241,650.00	207,439.52	1,799,916.35	441,733.65	80.29%
Sub Total Revenues	2,241,650.00	207,439.52	1,799,916.35	441,733.65	
Expenses					
Salaries	464,696.00	40,612.54	396,621.19	68,074.81	85.35%
Fringe Benefits	135,070.00	10,875.96	109,123.39	25,946.61	80.79%
Travel	28,000.00	3,344.28	20,529.96	7,470.04	73.32%
Office Space	52,000.00	4,271.29	42,034.65	9,965.35	80.84%
Communications	11,000.00	815.26	8,086.84	2,913.16	73.52%
Office Supplies	15,000.00	735.65	5,258.58	9,741.42	35.06%
Postage	250.00	0.00	134.03	115.97	53.61%
Printing	1,500.00	245.86	733.47	766.53	48.90%
Copier Usage/Maintenance	1,500.00	31.30	282.88	1,217.12	18.86%
Outreach/Media Adv	46,000.00	2,885.88	38,540.43	7,459.57	83.78%
Equipment Rent/Copier	1,600.00	93.89	1,063.15	536.85	66.45%
Dues/Publications	3,500.00	500.00	3,717.00	-217.00	106.20%
Training/Staff Development	14,500.00	0.00	1,317.82	13,182.18	9.09%
Insurance	2,500.00	0.00	2,237.00	263.00	89.48%
Meeting Costs	8,000.00	396.95	5,571.79	2,428.21	69.65%
Contractual Services	1,444,984.00	142,630.66	1,157,424.47	287,559.53	80.10%
Professional Services Audit/Legal	10,200.00	0.00	6,180.00	4,020.00	60.59%
Miscellaneous/Fees	1,350.00	0.00	1,059.70	290.30	78.50%
Sub Total Expenses	2,241,650.00	207,439.52	1,799,916.35	441,733.65	80.29%
NR/MR WDB Balance	0.00	0.00	0.00		

Total Agency R&E		April 2019	YTD	
Anticipated Revenue	3,984,521.00	419,570.85	3,047,084.67	76.47%
Anticipated Expense	3,961,343.00	436,453.51	3,124,708.81	78.88%
Balance	23,178.00	-16,882.66	-77,624.14	

New River Valley Regional Commission
Balance Sheet
Period From : 07/01/2018 to 04/30/2019

Assets:

Operating Account	257,161.52
Certificate of Deposit	103,070.16
Money Market Account	84,713.18
Accounts Receivable	518,441.82
Prepaid Item	1,159.60
Total Assets:	\$964,546.28

Liabilities:

Accounts Payable	162,901.91
Accrued Annual Leave	73,071.22
Accrued Unemployment	25,814.41
Unearned Revenue	22,493.00
Expense Reimbursement	532.20
Total Liabilities:	\$284,812.74

Projects:

(Equity Accounts)	Net Projects	(127,281.37)
	Current Year Unrestricted	57,302.70
	Unrestricted Net Assets	740,485.78
	Total Projects (Equity)	\$670,507.11
	Total Liabilities and Projects	\$955,319.85
	Net Difference to be Reconciled*	\$9,226.43
	Total Adjustments to Post*	\$9,226.43
	Unreconciled Balance (after adjustment)	\$0.00

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



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COMMONWEALTH INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW MEMORANDUM

TO: Regional Commission Board Members

FROM: Kevin R. Byrd, Executive Director

AGENDA ITEM: III. Intergovernmental Review Process, C. Environmental Project Review, Item #1

CIRP Review

May 17, 2019

PROJECT: Draft Permit for New River Resource Authority (NRRA) Regional Solid Waste Management Facility, SWP548
VA190429-03600400155

SUBMITTED BY: DEQ

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

PROJECT SENT FOR REVIEW TO: Commission Board Members

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PUBLIC NOTICE

ENVIRONMENTAL PERMIT

PURPOSE OF NOTICE: To seek public comment and announce a public hearing on a draft permit from the Department of Environmental Quality regarding a landfill in Pulaski County, Virginia.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: April 30, 2019 to June 20, 2019

PUBLIC HEARING: New River Resource Authority Administration Building (Asbury Starnes room) located at 7100 Cloyd's Mountain Rd, Dublin, Virginia 24084 on Wednesday, June 5, 2019 at 6:00 pm.

PERMIT NAME AND NUMBER: New River Resource Authority (NRRA) Regional Solid Waste Management Facility, SWP 548

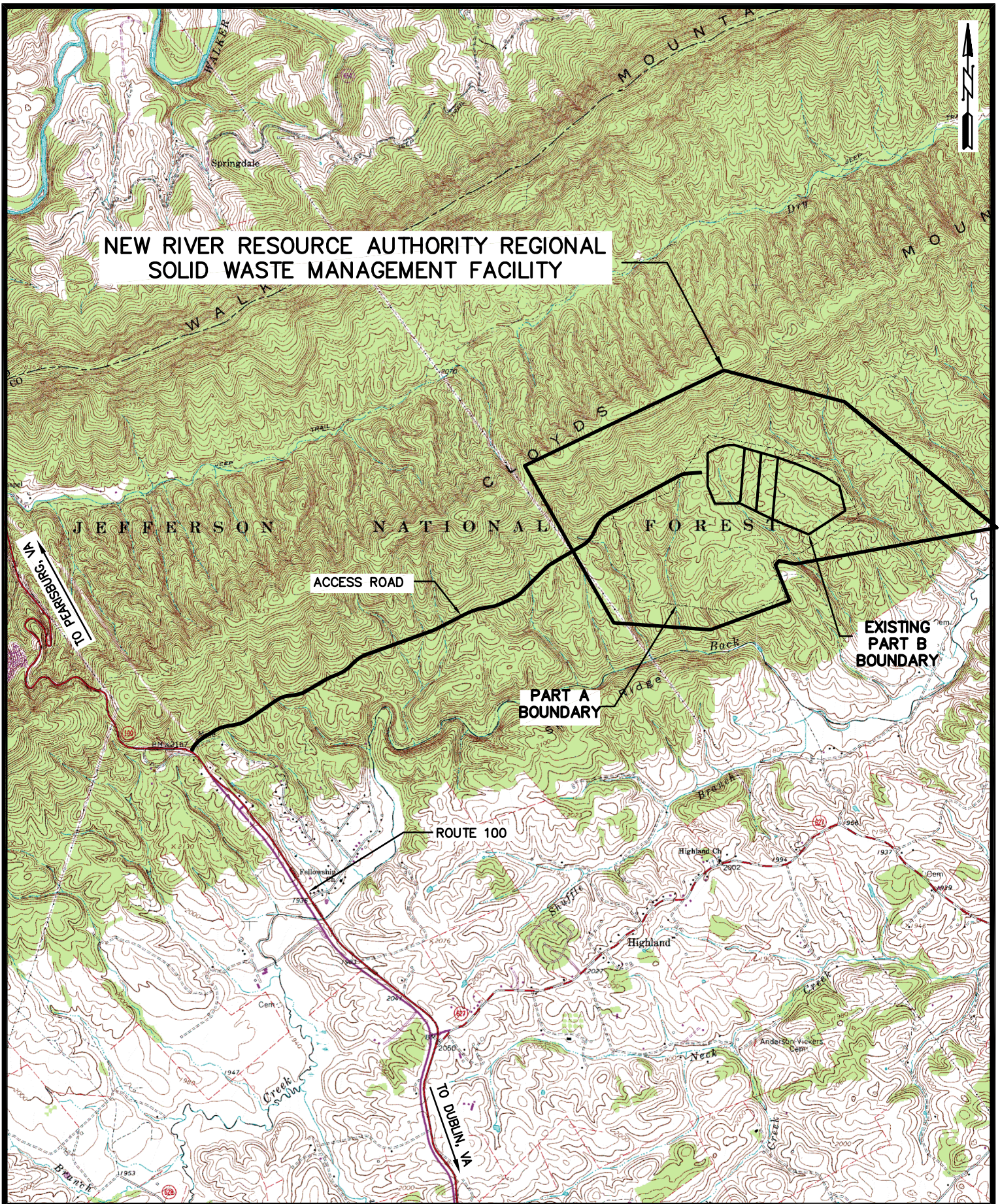
PERMIT APPLICANT: New River Resource Authority (NRRA)

FACILITY NAME AND LOCATION: NRRA Regional Solid Waste Management Facility, 7100 Cloyd's Mountain Road, Dublin, Virginia 24084

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: NRRA has applied for a modification to a permit that allows the NRRA Regional Solid Waste Management Facility to operate an existing landfill in Pulaski County, Virginia. This modification to the permit would allow an increase in landfill capacity from 14,036,005 cubic yards to 16,156,338 by (1) dividing the existing Area D into Areas D through F and slightly increasing disposal unit boundary (0.02 acres); (2) lowering the base grades of Areas D through F; and (3) with no increase of the maximum landfill elevation, replacing the permitted terrace system with berms on the final cover system.

HOW TO COMMENT: DEQ accepts comments by hand-delivery, e-mail, fax or postal mail. All comments must include the name, address, and telephone number of the person commenting and be received by DEQ within the comment period. DEQ also accepts written and oral comments at public hearings. The public may view the draft permit and the application at the DEQ office named below:

CONTACT FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS, DOCUMENT REQUESTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: JengHwa Lyang, Blue Ridge Regional Office, 901 Russell Drive, Salem, VA 24153; Phone: 540-574-7800; E-Mail: brro.landprotection@deq.virginia.gov; Fax: 540-562-6725



**NEW RIVER RESOURCE AUTHORITY REGIONAL
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT FACILITY**

ACCESS ROAD

PART A
BOUNDARY

EXISTING
PART B
BOUNDARY

ROUTE 100

DESIGNED BY	SCALE
DRAWN BY	1" = 3000'
PROJECT NO.	DATE
12462	AUGUST 2016

NEW RIVER RESOURCE AUTHORITY
REGIONAL SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT FACILITY

LOCATION MAP



SHEET



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

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COMMONWEALTH INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW MEMORANDUM

TO: Regional Commission Board Members

FROM: Kevin R. Byrd, Executive Director

AGENDA ITEM: III. Intergovernmental Review Process, C. Environmental Project Review, Item #2

CIRP Review

May 17, 2019

PROJECT: VADEQ Grant Application - PM 2.5 Monitoring Workplan
VA190501-03700400400

SUBMITTED BY: DEQ

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Department of Environmental Quality is requesting comments on a grant application.

PROJECT SENT FOR REVIEW TO: Commission Board Members

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PM2.5 NAAQS 103 Grant Work Plan			
Agency:	VA		
Period:	April 1, 2019 through March 31, 2022		
EPA Contact	Loretta Hyden, Alice Chow	State Contact	Charles Turner, Anton Sorkin
Goal 1: Core Mission – Deliver real results to provide Americans with clean air, land and water.			
Environmental Outcome: Reduce Levels of PM2.5 in Region 3			
Objective - Improve Air Quality: Achieve and maintain health-based air pollution standards and reduce the risk from toxic air pollutants and indoor air contaminants.			
Programs affecting environmental outcome: 1) Air Quality Planning: 2) Air Quality Monitoring			
Reports due: Semi-annually - 11/31 and 4/30			
Environmental Outcome: Data from PM2.5 FRM/FEM and NCORE monitoring sites submitted to AQS.			
a. Environmental Output: Submit PM2.5 data to AQS quarterly, as required by 40 CFR Part 58, in particular 58.16 (SLAMS data submittal) and Appendix A (Section 3, Measurement Quality Check Requirements.)			
Comments:			
b. Environmental Output: Data shall be collected from PM2.5 monitors, operated in accordance with 40 CFR Part 58.12 and Appendices A, D and E.			
Comments:			
Environmental Outcome: Annual Monitoring Network Plan			
Environmental Output: Submit annual network plans, in accordance with 40 CFR part 58.10, by:			
	July 1, 2019	July 1, 2020	July 1, 2021
Comments:			
Environmental Outcome: State Certification Documentation for PM2.5 data.			
Environmental Output: Provide Certification of PM2.5 data, per requirements in 40 CFR Part 58.15. Certification packages are due to the Regional Office:			
	2018 data by May 1, 2019	2019 data by May 1, 2020	2020 data by May 1, 2021
Comments:			

Environmental Outcome: PM2.5 Speciation Data.			
Environmental Output: Operate 1 Chemical Speciation network site in accordance with applicable guidance and operating procedures.			
	2019	2020	2021
Comments:			
Environmental Outcome: AQI daily reports for Metropolitan Statistical Areas with populations greater than 350,000.			
Environmental Output: Report to public, on a daily basis, an AQI for PM2.5, per 40 CFR Part 58.50 and Appendix G.			
	2019	2020	2021
Comments:			
Environmental Outcome: Data Quality Assesments for PM2.5 speciation data.			
Environment Output: Provide, or identify source of PM2.5 speciation Data Quality Assesment reports for:			
	2018 due August 31, 2019	2019 due August 31, 2020	2020 due August 31, 2021
Comments:			
Environmental Outcome: PM2.5 monitors are required at to be collocated at near-road NO2 stations for CBSAs with a population of 1,000,000 or more persons.			
Environmental Output: Operate a continuous PM2.5 FEM and a collocated FRM at the Richmond Near Road Site and a continuous PM2.5 FEM at the Northern Virginia Near Road site. Establish the Hampton Roads Near Road site.			
Comments:			



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COMMONWEALTH INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW MEMORANDUM

TO: Regional Commission Board Members

FROM: Kevin R. Byrd, Executive Director

AGENDA ITEM: III. Intergovernmental Review Process, C. Environmental Project Review, Item #3

CIRP Review

May 17, 2019

PROJECT: U.S. Army's Proposed Solvent Propellant Pack-Out Facility at the Radford Army Ammunition Plant in Radford, Virginia
VA190513-03800400155

SUBMITTED BY: DEQ

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Department of Environmental Quality is requesting scoping comments.

PROJECT SENT FOR REVIEW TO: Commission Board Members

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
RADFORD ARMY AMMUNITION PLANT
P.O. BOX 2
RADFORD, VIRGINIA 24143-0002

May 13, 2019

SUBJECT: Intergovernmental and Interagency Coordination of Environmental Planning in support of an Environmental Assessment of the U.S. Army's Proposed Solvent Propellant Pack-Out Facility at the Radford Army Ammunition Plant in Radford, Virginia

Ms. Valerie Fulcher, Environmental Program Specialist
Office of Environmental Impact Review
PO Box 1105
Richmond, VA 23218
Submitted via: eir@deg.virginia.gov

Dear Ms. Fulcher,

The United States Army (Army) is proposing to construct and operate a New Solvent Propellant Pack-Out Facility at the Radford Army Ammunition Plant (RFAAP) in Radford, VA (**Figure 1**). To evaluate the environmental, cultural, and socioeconomic impacts associated with implementation of the solvent propellant pack-out facility project (Proposed Action), the Army is preparing an environmental assessment (EA) pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended (42 U.S. Code (USC) §4321 et seq.); the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Parts 1500-1508); and 32 CFR Part 651 (*Environmental Analysis of Army Actions*; Final Rule, 29 March 2002).

Background: RFAAP produces large amount of single base solvent propellant. All single based solvent propellant grains are processed through a coating, blending, screening and metal detecting process. All of the larger caliber solvent propellants are currently processed and packed for transport in Building 1814, which results in having a single point failure (Building 1814) for this production process.

Project Description: The proposed project involves construction and operation of a new solvent propellant pack-out facility in a central location at RFAAP (**Figures 2 and 3**). Construction and use of a new solvent propellant processing and pack-out facility would provide more efficiency through modernized production, increase overall production capacity, and create redundancy by having two facilities that can run the solvent propellant pack-out process (thus minimizing down time). The proposed pack-out facility would include two buildings separated by an enclosed conveyer to move

material between the buildings. One building would house the blending, glazing, and filling process, and the other building would house the packing and quality control portion of the process.

The entire proposed project site has been previously disturbed. The project site contains a road running through the middle of the site at a diagonal, and previously held two structures that have been demolished. Construction is anticipated to last between 2 and 3 years, with limits of ground disturbance encompassing approximately 4 acres.

Water Resources:

- US Fish and Wildlife Service National Wetlands Inventory (NWI): No mapped wetlands identified within or near the proposed project area.
- US Geological Service National Hydrography Dataset (NHD): No mapped wetlands identified within or near the proposed project area.
- Recent aerial imagery review: An existing stormwater drainage ditch can be seen running across the northern portion of project site.
- Site visit results: A site visit conducted on May 3, 2019 by BAE Systems confirmed that the stormwater drainage ditch is the only water feature at the site; there are no Waters of the U.S. at the project site.
- Federal Emergency Management Agency floodplain maps: The majority of the project area is in the 500-year floodplain (**Figure 4**).
- Stormwater: An existing stormwater drainage ditch runs across the northern portion of the site. The ditch flows to RFAAP Outfall 030, which receives monthly sampling per the Army's Virginia Pollutant Discharge and Elimination System permit. Depending on final design, the proposed project may impact the stormwater conveyance ditch; if so, RFAAP would reroute the open ditch or route the flow through newly installed underground pipes for the portion of the ditch impacted by the project.
- Conclusion: Based on the information above, the project will not impact jurisdictional waters or wetlands. Design and construction of the proposed project would be done in accordance with applicable requirements of the Clean Water Act, Virginia Stormwater Management Regulations, State Water Control Law, and the Virginia Erosion and Sediment Control Regulations.

Biological Resources: Database search results from the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries Virginia Fish and Wildlife Information System, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Online Project Review, and Department of Conservation and Recreation Natural Heritage Data Explorer listed federal- and state-listed threatened and endangered species with a potential to occur in the project vicinity. No suitable habitat for any listed species occurs in the project footprint.

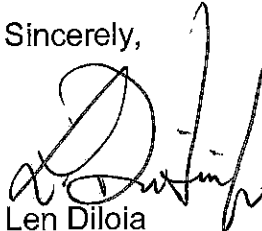
Air Quality: RFAAP currently operates under Virginia Title V air permit VA-20656. In 2014, RFAAP submitted an air permit application to Virginia Department of Environmental Quality for a Minor New Source Review permit for the new energy center. RFAAP will evaluate the proposed project for compliance with and/or modifications needed to the existing air permit.

Cultural Resources: RFAAP is coordinating directly with Virginia Department of Historic Resources regarding effects to architectural and archaeological resources in the project area. RFAAP does not anticipate any effects to historic properties from the proposed undertaking.

Database search results and other resource information are enclosed for your review.

Please review the proposed project and provide any recommendations that you may have regarding construction no later than 30 days from receipt of this letter. Please direct comments and questions via phone or e-mail to: Mr. Len Diloia, at (540) 731-5780 or leonard.l.diloia.civ@mail.mil. Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Sincerely,



Len Diloia
Environmental Engineer
Radford Army Ammunition Plant

Enclosures



FIGURE 2
TOPOGRAPHIC MAP
 PROPOSED SOLVENT PACK-OUT FACILITY

0 2,000 4,000
 Feet

Radford, Virginia



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May 24, 2019

N R V R C . O R G

Executive Director's Report

Economic Development:

- A portion of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy update is in the packet for Commission review before the full report is prepared in anticipation of the June meeting. Patrick O'Brien will present progress and changes to the CEDS to date at the May meeting.
- The Montgomery County/Radford Broadband Assessment launched a community broadband survey less than one week ago. There are 615 responses so far. Please share the survey widely <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BroadbandSurvey> The RFPs for consulting services were due at the end of April and seven firms responded. A sub-set of the project management team will meet on June 14th to interview the top four firms.

Transportation:

- VDOT's Revenue Sharing and Transportation Alternatives application period opened last week. Pre-applications must be submitted by July 1. Final deadline for project applications is October 1. If your community would like assistance on an application please contact Elijah Sharp. We have staff time available through the Rural Transportation program to support application development and/or review.

Regional:

- The Regional + Local Housing Study is approaching 50% completion. All local and publicly available data was collected and being analyzed. We are currently working on Multiple Listing Service (MLS) data provided through our partnership with the NRV Association of Realtors. Focus group meetings will be scheduled in communities across the region in June/July. Following focus groups, the project team will be able to prepare specific analysis for each community then begin working with Housing Virginia, a firm with expertise in strategies to address housing challenges. An interim report will be available in late summer with the final report anticipated in winter.
- The next New River Watershed Roundtable meeting is scheduled for 5/29 10:30-12:00 at the NRV Business Center. A key agenda item will be planning for the 2019 ReNew the New event scheduled for 8/31.

Commission:

- The office space external evaluation continues to move forward. Two weeks ago Mike Harvey (Board Chair) and I had the opportunity to tour a space. This week I met with our current architect along with two partner organizations to discuss space needs to determine whether the space will work for our needs. Once the architect prepares a couple of concept designs we will reconvene the committee to review options and tour the space, provided it works for our needs.
- The Annual Dinner event took place on 5/22 at Virginia Tech's Lane Stadium. We had nearly 100 attend the event with great representation across the region. The mobile workshops also had good participation.



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MEMORANDUM

N R V R C . O R G

To: NRVRC Board Members

From: Kevin Byrd, Executive Director

Date: May 24, 2019

Re: Montgomery Regional Solid Waste Authority Overview

At the May Regional Commission meeting there will be a presentation by Teresa Sweeney, Education and Training Coordinator, about the Montgomery Regional Solid Waste Authority (MRSWA). The authority handles integrated solid waste management for the New River Valley and specifically Montgomery County, the towns of Blacksburg and Christiansburg along with Virginia Tech. In their daily operations they work closely with the New River Resource Authority. The mission of MRSWA is to progressively manage solid waste and recyclable materials in an environmentally safe, reliable and efficient manner. Their services include closed landfill management, education, a transfer station and recycling. The closed landfill property is carefully monitored and regulated to ensure safety. Their public education program encourages conserving resources and saving landfill space through active recycling programs for residents, businesses and schools.

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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MEMORANDUM

N R V R C . O R G

To: NRVRC Commissioners

From: Patrick O’Brien, Regional Planner

Date: May 23, 2019

Re: 2019 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy update process

The New River Valley Regional Commission is in the process of an annual update to the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), which NRVRC will submit to the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA). A CEDS is a prerequisite to qualify for Economic Development Administration financial assistance under its public works, economic adjustment, and planning programs. In addition, other state and federal funding programs prioritize projects that communities have identified in the CEDS process. Current and past New River Valley CEDS documents can be reviewed at <http://nrvc.org/what-we-do/economic-development/>.

As part of the 2019 update, NRVRC staff has convened the CEDS committee, also known as our CEDS ‘Think Tank,’ to review progress on CEDS projects and provide input on changes for this year’s CEDS update. The committee met on March 1st and April 26th to discuss progress on CEDS projects over the past year, update the regional SWOT analysis (a listing of the region’s strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats as relates to the economy and economic development issues), and provide input on updates and revisions to the CEDS goals and strategies, with a focus on ensuring the CEDS aligns with the strategies of regional stakeholders’ existing economic development-related initiatives. Notes from the meetings are attached to this memo.

The CEDS committee will meet again in June to review the CEDS project list and update projects for this year. NRVRC staff has requested project updates from local government administrators and economic development staff regarding projects in their localities to include in the CEDS. Last year’s project list appears in the CEDS document at the link above.

If you would like more information about any of the topics referenced in the notes, please contact Patrick O’Brien at: pobrien@nrvc.org. Similarly, please let me know if there are updates to the CEDS document, or other economic development trends or issues that are facing the region which you feel are important for the CEDS committee to consider.

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

CEDS Committee Meeting Notes

March 1, 2019

CEDS committee members present: Diane Akers, James Cabler, Jim Flowers, Diane Grey, Nichole Hair, Mack Hilton, Katie Holfield, Marty Holliday, Susan Kidd, Chris Lawrence, Tommy Loflin, Mike Miller, Gary Reedy

NRVRC staff: Kevin Byrd, James Jones, Patrick O'Brien

The group reviewed the list of related plans from other organizations/initiatives that can guide the development of the CEDS content (see agenda), and identified additional plans to include:

- The NR-MR WDB produces quarterly reports that can provide data points for dashboards and CEDS metrics tracking
- Virginia Tech and Radford University strategic plans/master plans
- Long-range transportation plans for Virginia and the MPO
- Integrate with Roanoke region CEDS
- Integrate with Southwest Virginia GO Virginia plan

The group reviewed the proposed data points for CEDS-related dashboards and tracking metrics (see agenda), and identified additional data points to include (if possible):

- Growth/availability/speed of broadband services in NRV communities (especially rural areas) by number of customers (ACS?)
- Average house price by community
- Onward NRV has CREC COLA estimates if needed to supplement JobsEQ data
- Commute patterns by locality
- Longitudinal education data available from SCHEV, includes degrees by locality, wage outcomes of degree completers, etc. <http://research.schev.edu/>
- County health rankings (as indicators of workforce readiness)
- Educational attainment by locality
- Virginia Tech and Radford University statistics (employment, students by degree type, etc.)

The group discussed updates to the region's SWOT analysis in small groups, with each group considering strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats in turn.

Strengths:

- Access to a variety of outdoor recreation amenities
- Culture of lifelong learning
- Opportunities that have developed from the Livability Initiative strategies
- Engaged citizens
- Small town charm- slower pace of life and a strong sense of place
- Cultural amenities (Pulaski Theater, Mary Engels, Moss Arts Center, history heritage, etc.)
- Sports at youth, college and professional levels (Pulaski Yankees)
- Proximity to major mid-Atlantic metros and interstate access (I-81 and I-77)

- Diversified regional economy, with strengths in higher ed, health care, manufacturing, and agriculture
- Access to freight rail and passenger rail
- Growing focus and investment in historic downtown 'Main Streets'
- Work well as a region across jurisdictional boundaries
- Private airports, including foreign trade zone and port of entry at New River Valley Airport
- Growing IT and high tech sectors with many promising mid-size firms (Block One, 1901 Group, Rackspace, TORC)
- Several successful, longstanding large employers (Volvo, Carilion, VT, Radford University, Celanese)
- Health care/university collaboration (Jefferson College/Radford University, VT/Carilion)
- Variety of assisted living and long-term care facilities/communities for aging residents
- Mixed culture/diversity
- Local government incentives for development (opportunity zones, capital stacking, leverage public investments)

Weaknesses:

- Broadband access is uneven throughout the region, and limited or not available at all in some areas- many trunk lines are in place but are not lit. In areas with connections, bandwidth may be limited for the next generation of wifi and 'internet of things' devices
- Lingering perception of the region as not welcoming and with little diversity- in many cases, this perception comes from negativity among residents, not outsiders
- Uneven quality of educational opportunities throughout the region (real or perceived), and poor reputation of some jurisdictions for diversity, inclusiveness, and real or perceived limits on access to a variety of educational program/opportunities
- Aging population in many communities limits workforce availability
- Lack of housing inventory and mismatch of ownership and rental opportunities in some areas- price points may not align with incomes
- Few local treatment options and high cost of programs and prescriptions to address the opioid crisis and other chronic health issues
- Uneven access to medical care and doctor visits
- Limited air travel options
- Access to natural gas is unavailable in parts of the region (especially Floyd Co.)
- Deteriorating road quality on important primary and secondary routes
- Conflicts/lack of coordination between town and county governments working together

Opportunities:

- Growth of 'unmanned systems' technology and commercialization opportunities
- In-migration of people seeking the superior quality of life in the region, especially those returning to the area from employment opportunities in large metro areas (locals, college grads, retirees)
- Growth of region as 'health care destination' through VT/Carilion research specialization (esp. neuroscience) and various health care profession training institutions (VCOM, Jefferson College)
- Improving coordination of small business support resources and incubators (SBDC, RBTC, etc.)
- Housing renovation and updates to improve housing stock

- Revitalization of historic downtown commercial districts (several projects underway)
- Improved access and utilization of New River recreation facilities
- Strong community college technical training programs and custom training capabilities
- Education and improved perception of living conditions in different areas of the New River Valley (NRVHBA and Realtors helping to provide info on schools and diversity in communities outside 'college towns')
- Diversity of high school career education options
- Millennials living preferences align well with NRV, such as social amenities, low-maintenance living (housing costs), walking trails/outdoor recreation, etc.
- Growing interest in outdoor recreation tourism- can tap visitors from nearby metro areas
- Virginia Tech and Radford University's potential to support business growth and provide a pool of skilled workers that help employers retain young professionals
- Wages in many industries are competitive/'affordable' for firms looking to locate in the mid-Atlantic (especially manufacturing and healthcare), and are competitive/comparable for workers (with COLA)

Threats:

- Deteriorating or insufficient infrastructure constrains growth and affects quality of life (notably I-81 congestion and safety issues, but also broadband, water/sewer)
- Concentration of employment at a handful of large firms- can these firms retain employees and grow?
- Opioid crisis and related health, social and workforce issues
- Housing inventory- mismatch between available properties and desired housing can make recruiting difficult for employers, and create a cost burden for residents in certain communities
- Access to public transportation is limited, especially in rural and 'suburban' areas, limiting workforce mobility
- Capital availability for growth firms is limited, and the region faces competition from larger areas (Boston, Silicon Valley), meaning promising firms may leave the area
- Uncertainty of state and federal funding sources for major projects and support programs
- Potential for over-development affecting quality of life
- Climate change will have multiple impacts, including extreme weather events, impacts on agriculture, construction delays, and the potential to impact Claytor Lake
- Wages are too low for high-tech sectors/occupations, even after COLA, causing many skilled workers and graduates from universities to leave for bigger metro areas

SWOT Analysis from previous CEDS on following page for reference

Strengths

- Interstate 81 and 77 Accessibility
- **Middle mile broadband fiber network is strong and expanding both speed and access**
- New River is a recreation asset, and ample source of water/power
- Clean air/water
- **Low cost of living and high quality of life**
- Access to range of healthcare options
- **Available, affordable industrial space/land**
- Virginia Tech (especially applied research and support for innovation)
- Radford University
- Access to local foods/agriculture
- Manufacturing workforce and strong work ethic of residents generally
- Multiple airports (private)
- K-12 system is relatively strong and is growing options for students
- Music, arts, sports, and cultural events attract visitors and promote the region
- Engaged community organizations
- Engaged, collaborative business community
- Foreign Trade Zone
- Natural beauty and outdoor recreation assets
- Recreation opportunities
- Temperate climate
- Growing economic diversity and strong base of large, stable employers
- **Low utility costs and tax rates**
- New River Community College
- VT Corporate Research Center
- NRV Economic Development Alliance
- Southwest Virginia 'brands' (Crooked Road)
- Elected officials
- Strong track record for collaboration among region's business and gov't.

Weaknesses

- **Loss of historic buildings from blight**
- **Lack access to capital for start-ups**
- **Few entrepreneurial leaders**
- **Low population, lack critical mass**
- Workforce skills not matching available jobs
- **Few 'high-end' amenities (hotels, restaurants, etc.)**
- **Lack of affordable child-care options**
- Lack of coordination and resources at regional level for many marketing efforts
- **Few 'shovel-ready' large (50+ ac.) industrial sites**
- **Brain drain – losing young talent and families**
- Lack of diverse energy sources
- Deteriorating housing in some areas
- **Struggle to define regional identity**
- **Poverty**
- Drug abuse issues in some communities

Opportunities

- Public engagement
- Proximity to large east coast population centers
- K-12 and higher education partnerships with businesses
- Strong support for entrepreneurship development, and growing network for mentoring and support
- Growing momentum to define regional 'brand' for both internal and external marketing
- Downtown revitalization is gaining momentum in most towns
- 'Reshoring' and international investment in manufacturing
- Growing interest in incorporating work experience components into educational programs
- Interregional collaboration
- Economic gardening
- Seed and venture funding are growing
- Growing collaboration/partnership with nearby regions (especially Roanoke and 'Southwest Virginia')
- Strong support for preservation/promotion of natural resources
- Strong support for a growing array of youth development programs in communities, but need to 'regionalize'
- Businesses in similar sectors are uniting to support each other and address common needs

Threats

- Lack of influence at the state level
- Competition with other regions for talented youth and college graduates (brain drain)
- Lesser opportunities/resources in rural areas of region vs. urban areas
- Increasing congestion/worsening commutes on key routes (esp. I-81)
- Worsening substance abuse and related social/economic issues
- Unequal civic engagement/access to regional opportunities among citizens
- State/federal regulations can increase cost of doing business
- Uncertainty about regional 'brand' identify (perception as 'hillbilly' region)
- Aging building stock needs maintenance/replacement
- Aging of skilled workers with insufficient pipeline of young workers with right skills to replace them
- Shortage of affordable housing and 'aging in place' options in some areas
- Fast or uncontrolled growth may threaten natural resources or quality of life
- Online competition can threaten local retailers and other businesses

Notes from 4-26-19 CEDS committee meeting

Present: Jim Flowers, Diane Grey, Nichole Hair, Marty Holliday, Meredith Hundley, Susan Kidd, Chris Lawrence, Jim Loux, Mike Miller NRVRC staff: James Jones, Patrick O'Brien

The group discussed the revised SWOT analysis compiled in small groups at the previous meeting. The group suggested several additions/revisions:

- add aeroprobe/meld to list of growing IT companies
- add opportunity for low risk of climate change impacts, adequate water supply, minimal severe weather impacts
- add weakness about access to qualified teachers and programs across K-12 and preschool system
- add weakness about difficulty in preparing 'shovel-ready' industrial sites, especially in 5-10K sqft range and warehousing
- reframe weakness of conflicts/coordination between towns and county governments as an opportunity to improve
- more interest in commerce park is an opportunity
- add RU/Jefferson College to health care opportunity
- add opportunity for coordinated events schedule/calendar, building on next 3 days
- add opportunity for child care 'franchise' or adding childcare to new developments
- add opportunity for 'opportunity zone' investments in industrial projects
- add threat related to automation job losses
- add weakness about shortage of 'c-suite'/executive talent to support high- growth firms
- add threat related to competition/wage inflation for skilled workers esp. in healthcare and IT

Based on the group discussion, NRVRC staff drafted a revised set of goals and strategies for review at the next meeting (see below).

1. Support small business development and entrepreneurship

1.1 Provide a comprehensive array of support services for small business development and growth

- Support the adoption of the 'Main Street approach' to encourage small business success in the region's downtown commercial districts
- Develop and support peer networks and events to bring together small businesses in similar industries, such as tourism/outdoor recreation, technology, and health
- Coordinate and improve accessibility of counseling, technical assistance, and financing resources offered by local, regional and state partners

1.2 Improve the region's ability to foster and retain fast-growing businesses in target sectors

- Improve capital access for high-growth firms through the development of angel investor groups and increasing linkages between angel groups, venture capital sources and fundable firms
- Support the development of university technology commercialization and industry research partnerships, building on existing efforts in unmanned systems, health/medical technology, and cloud computing/internet/IT
- Support and develop business incubator and technical resources targeted to firms with growth potential

1.3 Promote entrepreneurship and provide resources for NRV residents to start their own business

- Support local entrepreneurship promotion initiatives, such as business plan competitions, youth entrepreneurship programs, and university-based entrepreneurship initiatives
- Coordinate local incentives to encourage business development in targeted sectors that align with local economic development strategies, such as tourism/hospitality, agribusiness, manufacturing support services, etc.
- Develop incubators, co-working spaces, maker-spaces, and similar resources to allow low-cost options to support entrepreneurs through the start-up phase

Ongoing efforts by regional stakeholders:

Valleys Innovation Council

Virginia Main Street

Friends of Southwest Virginia

Roanoke Regional Small Business Development Center

2. Preparation and continued support of qualified, available workforce

2.1 Align education and training programs with the current and future needs of the region's existing employers, and targeted industry sectors

- Establish partnerships between industry/business and all levels of education and provide students with more "real world" learning opportunities
- Improve awareness of career options in local industries among K-12, community college, and university students and graduates
- Develop career pathways approach to ensure regional colleges and universities provide training, credentials and degrees that allow workers to advance their careers in local industries

2.2 Establish a strong foundation for lifelong learning and career success for NRV residents

- Ensure quality, affordable pre-school programs are available throughout the New River Valley
- Ensure career counseling, technical education and enrichment activities are available throughout the region, to support K-12 students plans and preparation for careers or post-secondary education

2.3 Increase the availability and accessibility of supporting services that NRV residents may need to participate fully in the workforce

- Increase the availability of quality, affordable childcare facilities for all areas of the NRV
- Increase the availability of quality, affordable treatment options for substance abuse and mental health
- Coordinate resources to provide low-cost options or tuition assistance for residents seeking college degrees or workforce training

Ongoing efforts by regional stakeholders:

New River-Mount Rogers Workforce Development Board Strategic Plan

Virginia Tech, Radford University and New River Community College

Smart Beginnings

K-12 systems

3. Available land and quality infrastructure

3.1 Expand transportation options to meet the needs of businesses and residents

- Develop and expand regional transit systems, ride-sharing, or other initiatives that connect population centers to employment centers, and improve access for rural residents
- Promote and support the development of a passenger rail station in the New River Valley that will provide rail service to the Northeast Corridor
- Promote land use policies that maximize the opportunities of regional access to transportation networks, including interstates and major highways, freight rail, and airports
- Expand the regional system of walking and biking trails, bike lines, and pedestrian safety improvements
(other goals as identified in: NRV MPO long range transportation plan)

3.2 Identify opportunities to expand on the region's existing network of fiber trunk lines to ensure sufficient, affordable bandwidth is available to meet the needs of modern households and businesses throughout the New River Valley

- Encourage development of broadband networks to unserved rural areas and improve capacity of broadband connections in underserved communities
- Assess availability and quality of broadband options in towns and population centers in unincorporated areas
- Retrofit historic downtown buildings to provide improved telecommunication options

3.3 Develop and maintain available sites and buildings to meet the needs of industrial and commercial users

- Incentivize rehabilitation of deteriorating structures in historic downtown districts, and encourage mixed-use development in growth areas and downtown districts
- Inventory and assess vacant industrial and commercial properties, identify appropriate uses for the buildings and related retrofitting needs
- Develop shovel-ready mid-size and large industrial sites
- Promote and support energy efficiency of buildings through efforts to increase demand for these features (public education, valuation for energy efficiency improvements)

Ongoing efforts by regional stakeholders:

Virginia's First Regional IDA

Onward NRV

Local/county economic development agencies

4. Marketing and promoting the region to attract visitors, new businesses and residents

4.1 Focus local and regional economic development marketing efforts on target industries and firms that build on the region's strengths

- Assess the ability of the region to meet the workforce, infrastructure and facility requirements of firms in the region's target industry sectors, and prioritize projects that address these needs (industrial sites, workforce initiatives, etc.)
- Coordinate and promote the technical expertise, research capabilities, and pipeline of skilled graduates that the region's community college and universities can provide to business and industry
- Target recruitment to firms with significant supplier relationships to existing NRV firms, and firms that can benefit existing regional assets, including FTZ, interstate access, Commerce Park, university research, etc.
(other strategies from Onward NRV strategic plan)

4.2 Coordinate marketing and promotion campaigns to create a consistent brand and message for the New River Valley

- Explore options to provide regional support and coordination for the tourism promotion campaigns of county/city/town destination marketing organizations (CVB, regional DMO, etc.)
- Leverage state and regional tourism marketing and economic development marketing programs that align with NRV marketing initiatives (Friends of Southwest Virginia, VEDP, VTC, neighboring DMOs and EDAs)
- Identify, develop, and package the region's inventory of historical assets and arts and cultural activities, natural features and outdoor recreation amenities, and events to support external marketing.

Internal marketing?

Ongoing efforts by regional stakeholders:

Onward NRV

Local destination marketing organizations

Friends of Southwest Virginia

5. Preservation of natural and cultural resources

5.1 Preserve the NRV's natural and historic assets to protect the character and quality of the regional environment.

- Support and encourage the continuation of family farms through efforts to increase the market for local agricultural products, including farmers markets, regional aggregation facilities, and "Farms to School" programs
- Utilize tourism initiatives to preserve open spaces, historic sites and key natural attractions, in partnership with local non-profit historical societies, conservation groups, etc.
- Coordinate conservation, outdoor recreation and tourism initiatives related to the New River within the region and in neighboring regions
- Improve land use planning and practices to preserve the region's rural character, and encourage development in existing population and employment centers.

6. Business Friendly Governance and Representation

6.1 Promote a business friendly environment through governments cooperating with businesses at the local level and advocating for them at the state and federal levels.

- Seek representation on State Commissions and Committees, and the GO Virginia region 2 council.
- Provide input to State agencies from regional economic development organizations and the NRVRC to ensure state policies and programs address local issues.
- Support police, fire, and medical (emergency and non-emergency) operations throughout the region.
- Coordinate state and regional resources to expand the capacity and resources of local governments to implement desired economic development programs

Notes for additional strategies to be added:

Availability of quality, affordable housing that meet residents needs

(to follow next year after housing study is complete)

Resilience and hazard mitigation

From hazard mitigation plan

Quality of life???



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MEMORANDUM

N R V R C . O R G

To: NRVRC Board Members
From: Aphi Fancon, Senior Planner
Date: May 23, 2019
Re: SolSmart Regional Organization Designation

In recent months, Regional Commission staff evaluated the SolSmart (<https://www.solsmart.org/>) program and its Regional Organizations Pathway campaign (<https://www.solsmart.org/apply-for-designation-legacy/regional-organizations-pathway/>).

SolSmart is a national solar designation and technical assistance program which is led by the Solar Foundation and the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) and is funded by the US Department of Energy (DOE) through its Solar Energy Technology Office (SETO). SolSmart helps communities go solar and realize associated economic benefits, and awards communities that are taking actions to go solar faster. SolSmart uses various objective criteria to award points to member communities, and recognize communities with sufficient points as SolSmart Gold, Silver, or Bronze communities. The criteria mostly include member communities taking actions in various categories that reduce barriers to solar energy development. The list of categories and the criteria can be found at <http://www.solsmart.org/get-started/eight-categories/>. The program has the goal of designating 300 US communities as a SolSmart community by October 2020.

In 2019 SolSmart announced the SolSmart Regional Organizations Pathway, which is their regional organization campaign. This program is specifically designed to encourage regional organizations like NRVRC to play a key role in advancing solar efforts in their regions. If our organization is interested in pursuing SolSmart designation, we will need to start by providing a letter of interest (sample letter provided as attachment).

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Virginia Tech
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New River Community College

The following are the SolSmart designations we can pursue and the points requirement for each designation:

		
<input type="checkbox"/> Complete 3 prerequisites <input type="checkbox"/> 20 points in Permitting <input type="checkbox"/> 20 points in Planning/Zoning <input type="checkbox"/> 60 total points	<input type="checkbox"/> SolSmart Bronze <input type="checkbox"/> Complete 2 prerequisites <input type="checkbox"/> 100 total points	<input type="checkbox"/> SolSmart Silver <input type="checkbox"/> Complete 1 prerequisite <input type="checkbox"/> 200 total points

Source: SolSmart

The following table outlines the various prerequisite requirements for the three designations:

Action	Points	We've done this!	Documentation										
Planning and Zoning Guidance PR-2: Provide guidance on solar PV planning, zoning and development best practices to communities and counties in the entire region through webinars, in-person meetings, one-on-one calls or trainings.	Req'd for Bronze	<input type="checkbox"/>	Share link: <input type="text"/>										
Inspection Checklist PR-3: Collaborate with local inspection departments to develop an inspection checklist for the region, and share results region-wide through webinars, in-person meetings, training and/or the regional website. Encourage communities to integrate the checklist into their inspection processes.	Req'd for Bronze	<input type="checkbox"/>	Share link: <input type="text"/>										
Permitting & SolSmart Training PR-4: Host regional training or discussion on best practices in solar permitting for communities and counties and introduce the SolSmart program and process.	Req'd for Bronze	<input type="checkbox"/>	Share link: <input type="text"/>										
Community Engagement PR-5: Post a solar landing page on the regional website with information on the region's solar goals and local resources for solar development, including the inspection checklist developed in PR-3.	Req'd for Bronze	<input type="checkbox"/>	Share link: <input type="text"/>										
Planning PR-6: Include quantifiable metrics and/or specific actions for solar PV development in the most current version of relevant region-wide plans (e.g. energy plan, comprehensive plan, economic development plan).	Req'd for Silver	<input type="checkbox"/>	Share link: <input type="text"/>										
Designation PR-7: Meet the threshold of SolSmart designations in your region. Potential designees are municipalities and counties that are members of a regional organization and have the jurisdiction required to achieve SolSmart designation: <table border="1" style="width: 100%; margin-top: 10px;"> <thead> <tr> <th>Localities in the regional organization</th> <th>Number of SolSmart designees</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Up to 10</td> <td>40% of localities (1-4)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11-25</td> <td>35% of localities (4-9)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>26-50</td> <td>30% of localities (8-15)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>51+</td> <td>16+ designations</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Localities in the regional organization	Number of SolSmart designees	Up to 10	40% of localities (1-4)	11-25	35% of localities (4-9)	26-50	30% of localities (8-15)	51+	16+ designations	Req'd for Gold	<input type="checkbox"/>	Share link: <input type="text"/>
Localities in the regional organization	Number of SolSmart designees												
Up to 10	40% of localities (1-4)												
11-25	35% of localities (4-9)												
26-50	30% of localities (8-15)												
51+	16+ designations												

Source: SolSmart

To be designated Bronze level the following five prerequisite actions are required:

1. Solar Statement (PR-1)
2. Planning and Zoning Guidance (PR-2)
3. Inspection Checklist (PR-3)
4. Permitting and SolSmart Training (PR-4)
5. Community Engagement (PR-5)

To earn SolSmart Silver designation we must complete all Bronze prerequisites and PR-6. To earn SolSmart Gold designation all Bronze and Silver prerequisites must be completed as well as PR-7.

It can be beneficial for NRVRC to at least pursue the bronze level designation as we can be the main source of helping guide our member organizations in developing and implementing solar programs. We can be the repository of information and best practices and can host seminars for topics such as solar permitting and inspections. We can also assist the member organizations in efforts such as creating permitting checklists and increasing transparency for community members and solar installers.

Commission staff is recommending the Regional Commission board authorize the staff to submit a letter of interest to pursue Bronze-level regional designation. This action would position the Commission to serve as a resource for interested communities and does not commit any local governments in the region to participate.

Solar Statement:

Solar statement - a letter of interest committing staff time to receive technical assistance in pursuit of designation

Template:

Friday, May 24, 2019

International City/County Management Association
777 North Capitol St. NE, Ste. 500
Washington, DC 20002

The Solar Foundation
1717 Pennsylvania AVE NW, Ste. 750
Washington, DC 20006

Dear Scott Annis and Zach Greene:

On behalf of **organization name**, I am proud to announce our commitment to become a SolSmart-designated regional organization. In partnership with the SolSmart team, **organization name**'s dedicated staff members will work to improve solar market conditions, making it faster, easier, and more affordable for the residents and businesses in our region to install solar energy systems. These efforts will also increase the efficiency of regional processes related to solar development, which may save local governments time and money.

Organization name will leverage SolSmart to achieve the following goals for our region: *[insert as many as you would like]*

- *Insert goal*
- *Insert goal*

Examples:

- *Provide educational resources for solar consumer and installer*
- *Provide solar PV best practice resources for member local governments in our region*

These efforts demonstrate that our organization is committed to driving continual improvement in our regional solar market and, in the process of doing so, all the related areas identified as organizational priorities in our **List relevant plans or initiatives**.

Inquiries related to **organization name**'s participation in SolSmart can be directed to **organizational contact** at [Company E-mail] or [Company Phone].

Sincerely,

Signed name

Printed name
Title