



COMMISSIONERS

Essex County

Hon. Edwin E. Smith, Jr.
Hon. John C. Magruder
Ms. Sarah Pope

Town of Tappahannock

Hon. Katherine B. Carlton

Gloucester County

Hon. Ashley C. Chriscoe
(Chairman)
Hon. Michael W. Hedrick
Dr. William G. Reay

King and Queen County

Hon. Sherrin C. Alsop
Hon. R. F. Bailey
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King William County

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(Vice-Chairman)
Mr. Otto O. Williams
Mr. Percy C. Ashcraft

Town of West Point

Hon. James M. Pruett
Mr. John B. Edwards, Jr.

Mathews County

Hon. Melissa Mason
Hon. David Jones
Mr. Harry Meeks
Ms. Ramona Wilson

Middlesex County

Hon. Wayne H. Jessie, Sr.
(Treasurer)
Hon. Reggie Williams, Sr.
Ms. Kendall Webre

Town of Urbanna

Hon. Dr. William T. Goldsmith

Secretary/Director

Mr. Lewis L. Lawrence, III

MEMORANDUM

TO: MPPDC Board of Commissioners
FROM: Lewis Lawrence, Executive Director
DATE: October 19, 2023
RE: October Commission Meeting

The Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission will host its monthly meeting on Wednesday, October 25 at 7:00 p.m. in the Regional Board Room at the Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission office in Saluda.

Enclosed are the October meeting agenda and supporting materials for your review prior to the meeting.

If you have any questions concerning material in your agenda packet, please give me a call at (804) 758-2311 or email me at LLawrence@mppdc.com

I look forward to seeing you on **October 25th**!

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Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission Meeting

7:00 P.M.

Wednesday, October 25, 2023

125 Bowden Street

Saluda VA 23149

- I. Welcome and Introductions
- II. Approval of September Minutes
- III. Approval of Financial Report for September (*handout*)
- IV. Executive Director's Report on Staff Activities for the month of October
- V. MPCBPAA Update
- VI. MPA Update
- VII. MPPDC Public Relations/Communications Update – *Full presentation below*
- VIII. Public Comment

AGENDA ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

- IX. Transportation Discussion with VDOT: The Honorable Laura Sellers, Commonwealth Transportation Board Member and Fredericksburg VDOT staff
- X. Communication – Public Relations and Outreach Update: Stephanie Heintz, Consociate Media
- XI. VAPDC requests for locality support for PDC's
- XII. Other Business
 - Three Rivers Health District Community Health Assessment
- XIII. Adjournment

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MIDDLE PENINSULA PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION
September 27, 2023
Saluda, Virginia

I. Welcome and Introductions

The monthly meeting of the Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission was held in the Regional Board Room at the Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission office in Saluda, Virginia on Wednesday, September 27, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. MPPDC Chairman, Chriscoe welcomed everyone in attendance.

Commissioners Present

Essex County: Bud Smith, John Magruder

Gloucester County: Ashley Chriscoe, Michael Hedrick

King and Queen County: Vivian Seay

King William County: Ed Moren, Travis Moskalski, Otto Williams, Percy Ashcraft

Mathews County: David Jones, Harry Meeks

Middlesex County: Wayne Jessie

Town of Tappahannock: Kay Carlton

Town of Urbanna: Dr. William Goldsmith

Town of West Point: Jamie Pruett

Commissioners Absent

Essex County: Sarah Pope

Gloucester County: Dr. Willy Reay

King and Queen County: Sherrin Alsop, R.F. Bailey

Mathews County: Melissa Mason

Middlesex County: Reggie Williams, Kendall Webre

Town of West Point: John Edwards

Also in Attendance

Lewie Lawrence, MPPDC Executive Director

Curt Smith, MPPDC Deputy Director

Heather Modispaw, MPPDC Chief Financial Officer

Taylor Ovide, MPPDC Coastal Resilience Planner

Dawn Mantell, MPPDC Executive Assistant

Guests

II. Approval of July Minutes

Chairman Chriscoe asked whether there were any corrections or changes to the July Minutes. There being no corrections to the Minutes, Chairman Chriscoe requested a motion to approve the July Minutes. Mr. Moskalski moved that the July Minutes be approved. Mr. Meeks seconded the motion; motion carried.

III. Approval of Financial Reports for July & August

MPPDC Chief Financial Officer, Heather Modispaw presented the Financial Reports for July and August and reported project closeout continues. Ms. Modispaw expects to have the final closing entries in October and the final report available at the October Commission meeting. FY23 contracts receivable was \$677,493.00 on June 30th; \$204,130.00 on July 31st; and \$109,539.00 on August 31st. Chairman Chriscoe asked

whether there were any questions regarding the MPPDC financial reports for July and August before being approved subject to audit. There being no questions, Chairman Chriscoe requested a motion to approve the financial reports for July and August subject to audit. Mr. Moskalski moved to approve the financial reports for July and August subject to audit. Mr. Jones seconded the motion; motion carried.

IV. Executive Director's Report on Staff Activities for the Months of August and September

MPPDC Chairman Chriscoe requested MPPDC Executive Director, Lewie Lawrence review the Executive Director's Report on Staff Activities for August and September. The Executive Director's Report on staff activities is developed at a monthly staff meeting, organized by PDC Service Centers, and the activities are used to report grant funding activities.

Mr. Lawrence stated due to the lengthy Agenda, he will just share 3 brief videos of the smaller scale dredging project at Captain Sinclairs utilizing flocculant and geotextile bags. Mr. Lawrence encouraged all in attendance to review the August and September reports and contact him with any questions they may have.

V. MPCBPAA Update

None.

VI. MPA Update

MPA Chairman, Ashley Chriscoe reported he is continuing to determine an agreeable date to reconvene the MPA. MPPDC Executive Director, Lewie Lawrence reported the MPA has received federal funding from the Southeast Crescent Regional Commission (SCRC) which it intends to provide to the MPA so that it can once again offer the small business training course required for small businesses to access the available loan funds MPPDC has to support new and existing businesses in the region. The SCRC is an economic development partnership agency of the federal government and seven state governments which includes Virginia. The SCRC's mission is to build sustainable communities and strengthen economic growth across the Southeast Crescent Region.

VII. MPPDC Public Relations/Communications Update

None.

VIII. Public Comment

None.

IX. Update on Regional Assessment Findings: Gloucester County

MPPDC Chairman Chriscoe introduced Mr. John Atkinson, District Manager of Eagleview. Eagleview provides imagery solutions to State and Local governments for a variety of critical roles, including property tax assessment, GIS data management and mapping, directing emergency responders, managing, and maintaining infrastructure, and helping public safety and emergency management teams plan for, respond to, and recover from disasters utilizing drone technology. Mr. Atkinson provided a presentation

outlining Orthogonal and Oblique Imagery; Viewing and Measurement Software; Assessment Integrations; Third Party Integrations; Analytics Tools for Property Assessment; and Beneficial Use by Multiple Governmental Departments.

MPPDC Chairman Chriscoe introduced Mr. Dan Thomas, Gloucester County Assessor. At the request of the Commission, Mr. Thomas met with the Commissioners of Revenue (COR) of the localities interested in a regional approach over the past few months. The three areas of concern were: a lack of consistency, equity, and accountability; ever-increasing costs; and the dwindling number of reassessment companies. Mr. Thomas provided a presentation reviewing the history of discussions surrounding a regional approach; Overview of concerns regarding quality and accountability; Virginia Code §58.1-3379 and §58.1-3295.1; Duties of a Consultant; Duties of a Regional Reassessment Director; Benefits of an In-house Solution; and Hybrid Options. Mr. Thomas stated a district-wide approach would be more expansive than independent reassessments and discussed the (5) options available for consideration:

1. Maintain Current Reassessment Policy – The current responsibilities and duties of the Commissioner of Revenue would continue without change and involves no budgetary impact.
2. Consolidated Reassessment Contracting – Involves a universal contract with one mass appraisal company to serve the 5 Middle Peninsula localities on a rotating basis.
3. Hiring a Regional Director – Involves hiring an individual to oversee the reassessment process and clerical support staff. This would have a budgetary impact consisting of salaries and benefits, equipment, tech support, and leased office space.
4. Rotational Reassessment Staff – Involves increasing the two-person staff in Option #3 to an eight person staff that includes four additional appraisers and two additional clerical support staff members. Rent-free office space would be provided to appraisers and possibly one or two clerical support staff by the county during their respective reassessment. This would have a budgetary impact consisting of salaries and benefits for eight employees, equipment, tech support; and leased office space.
5. Fully Staffed Regional Reassessment Office – Involves the hiring of a full staff including a Real Estate Assessor, a full complement of appraisers, and clerical support staff. This would have a budgetary impact consisting of salaries, automobiles, equipment, tech support, office space fully equipped with a networked computer system utilizing a CAMA software program that would be integrated with the computer systems in each of the participating localities. Benefits would be comparable to other real estate assessment offices in Virginia. This option would be the most expensive of the five options.

At the direction of the Commission, MPPDC Executive Director will continue to share related information and materials. This will also continue to be a topic of discussion at the Local Government Administrators meetings.

X. Local Wetland Board Discussion: Ashley Chriscoe and Special Invited Guest

MPPDC Chairman Chriscoe introduced former King & Queen County Administrator and County Attorney, Tom Swartzwelder who was in attendance via Zoom.

It was explained that all development within the tidal and intertidal areas of the Commonwealth requires the submittal of a Joint Permit Application to be reviewed by the Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC) and US Army Corps of Engineers and then is received by the local Wetlands Board. Board members review each application to ensure the applicant is designing their project following all applicable regulations and technical guidance administered by the Planning and Zoning staff. If a permit is required, a public hearing takes place within the locality to allow citizens the chance to comment on the proposal. As requirements become more complex, County staff can become unequipped to efficiently manage the process. Mr. Swartzwelder provided examples of how the time involved in this process is unnecessary and can result in missed financing opportunities for landowners among other challenges. He also explained how during his tenure, the King & Queen County Wetlands Board Ordinance was repealed and the Wetlands Board was disbanded. It was further explained that the biggest inconvenience following these changes was that the applicant must travel to VMRC Board meetings for their public hearing, however many applicants use a paid agent for representation. The travel burden is on the consultant and not the homeowner.

Discussion ensued amongst the Commission with many voicing repeal support for their local Wetlands Ordinance and Wetlands Board. MPPDC Chairman, Ashley Chriscoe stated this topic will be discussed at Gloucester County's next Board of Supervisors Meeting.

XI. General Assembly Budget

MPPDC Executive Director, Lewie Lawrence encouraged all in attendance to review the General Assembly Budget Overview from Advantus Strategies, included in their meeting packet.

Delegate Keith Hodges reported ~\$5B budget surplus; \$250k for Blue Catfish Industries Fund; \$4M Waterway Maintenance Fund; Funding to address healthcare workforce crisis and mental health; and Record funding in education of \$650M. It was noted that issues with the Waterway Maintenance Fund persist and restructuring of the program is needed.

XII. Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation: Community Flood Preparedness Fund Grants and Loans

MPPDC Deputy Director, Curt Smith reminded the Commissioners the Community Flood Preparedness Fund Round 4 (CFPF) has a total of \$80,000,000 available in loans and grants for Start-Up Funding; Planning & Capacity Building, Studies; and Resilience Projects. The Resilient Virginia Revolving Fund Round 1 (RVERF) has a total

of \$18,500,000 available in loans and grants for non-federal match for federal resilience grants to localities; Hazard Mitigation of Buildings; Capitalization for Local Flood Resilience Programs; and Capacity Building for Local Flood Resilience Funding Programs.

In July, the Virginia Department of Conservation & Recreation released manuals for 30-day public comment. As a result, DCR modified their definition of “community scale”. Community Scale projects must now provide flood protection benefits to at least 25% census block. Match requirements for low-income geographic areas have been lowered and the Department will consider match waivers up to \$1M for projects in those areas. Language regarding payback requirements in the event of project failure has been amended in both the CFPF and the RVERF to clarify that project failures due to conditions that exceed normal operating conditions may not trigger this requirement.

Grant/Loan rounds opened at the beginning of September and will close at the beginning of November 2023. At their monthly meetings, local planners were encouraged to submit project ideas. DCR and the Review Committee will evaluate applications in November/early December and awards will be announced in mid-late December.

XIII. Other Business:

2022 Tourism Economic Impact Data: MPPDC Executive Director, Lewie Lawrence drew the Commission’s attention to a handout containing the local tourism economic impact data for 2022. All localities, except for King William County, have fully recovered from 2020 expenditures exceeding those in 2019 due to Covid. This data is received quarterly and was shared with the Local Government Administrators via email.

Portadam: MPPDC Deputy Director, Curt Smith provided a handout illustrating a new Fight the Flood participating business, Portadam. Portadam offers flood risk mitigation products which can be used to divert floodwaters away from buildings and key infrastructure. A deployment demonstration was provided on the grounds of the MPPDC office complex after the LGA meeting on September 8th.

VDOT: MPPDC Deputy Director, Curt Smith reported the differences for Round 6 Smart Scale applications includes the development and submission of Pre-scoping Modules for prospective projects prior to November 17th. VDOT Fredericksburg District staff indicated that only half the number of engineers are employed at the District office as compared to what was available during Round 5 and due to these internal staff capacity restraints, each County and PDC in the District may only request District assistance for 3 projects via the Pre-scoping Module in the VDOT Smart Portal. The 3 projects can only include one “new” project which has not previously been applied for and where VDOT engineers have previously not provided designs, cost estimates, etc. and 2 projects which would be re-applications where VDOT engineers only need to make slight modifications and adjustments to existing designs, cost estimates, etc. Anyone wishing to submit more than 3 would need to fund and contract with their own engineer.

Regional Grant Position: Commissioner and Mathews County Board of Supervisors Chairman, David Jones reported his Board has discussed the proposal of a regional grant writer position and has tabled passing a resolution until they receive more solid information. For those who may not have been present at the last Commission Meeting, MPPDC Executive Director, Lewie Lawrence reported a need was expressed by Local Government Administrators for additional staff whose sole responsibility would be to research, apply for, and obtain additional infrastructure awards for the Middle Peninsula region. These would be funding opportunities outside of the service centers the MPPDC submits proposals for on behalf of the Commission. The exact cost to each locality cannot be determined until a coalition of the willing is set. Mr. Lawrence polled the Commissioners in attendance for their interest in creating a regional grant writer position. Gloucester, King & Queen, Middlesex, Mathews Counties, as well as the Towns of West Point and Tappahannock expressed their interest in creating this position. The interest of Essex and King William Counties along with the Town of Urbanna remains unknown.

XIV. Adjournment

Chairman Chriscoe requested a motion to adjourn. Mr. O. Williams so moved, Mr. Moskalski seconded; motion carried.

**Note: All handouts distributed at a meeting are filed in the official MPPDC record book of the minutes. Copies of all PowerPoint presentations, if any, are filed with the official minutes.*

COPY TESTE:

(Secretary)

Project Financial Report

Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission
 Period Ending: 9/30/2023

Run Date: 10/18/2023
 Run Time: 2:27:16 pm
 Page 1 of 1

Expenditures

Code	Description	Budget	Curr Month	Project Total	Un/Over	% Budget	Revenues	Balance
30013	Housing Loan Admin - EE&CBG I	500.00	116.29	116.29	383.71	23.26%	566.92	450.63
30124	FY24 PDC Staff Support for Adm	0.00	2,428.02	2,428.02	(2,428.02)	0.00%	0.00	(2,428.02)
30170	Sm Bus Loan Admin - MPBDP St	29,202.34	177.85	24,846.41	4,355.93	85.08%	29,661.80	4,815.39
30184	Tappahannock Comp Plan	25,279.00	495.04	25,729.64	(450.64)	101.78%	25,279.00	(450.64)
30186	DHCD Elevated Septic Pilot (\$10	120,000.00	972.11	7,759.96	112,240.04	6.47%	120,000.00	112,240.04
30187	VHDA Housing Development	1,000,000.00	13,251.71	178,643.15	821,356.85	17.86%	166,908.92	(11,734.23)
30190	DCR/Tapp CFPF Hoskins Crk (Ta	83,030.00	288.18	4,052.29	78,977.71	4.88%	3,764.11	(288.18)
30191	DCR/Msex CFPF MillCreek (Mse:	58,851.00	(3,286.79)	20,768.35	38,082.65	35.29%	12,774.21	(7,994.14)
30192	DCR/FEMA FTF GIS Tool	129,244.00	9,479.12	108,205.18	21,038.82	83.72%	89,866.25	(18,338.93)
30195	CFPF Piank-MarronMatch\$22,9	53,637.50	0.00	53,637.50	0.00	100.00%	0.00	(53,637.50)
30198	Gwynns Island Onsite Septic Rep	10,000.00	204.45	204.45	9,795.55	2.04%	10,000.00	9,795.55
30220	DRPT CAP Operating FY24	91,474.00	15,585.45	16,729.67	74,744.33	18.29%	2,779.56	(13,950.11)
30321	VDOT RTP FY24	72,500.00	10,960.28	10,960.28	61,539.72	15.12%	2,200.33	(8,759.95)
30420	Onsite Loan Management	201,991.82	1,315.79	198,569.61	3,422.21	98.31%	222,647.22	24,077.61
31002	GA Lobby	71,253.00	3,750.00	11,250.00	60,003.00	15.79%	57,681.00	46,431.00
31500	Living Shoreline Incentive Progr	40,978.36	975.83	32,642.75	8,335.61	79.66%	50,088.20	17,445.45
32021	PAA GOVA Sea Grant Resilience	88,413.50	0.00	88,413.50	0.00	100.00%	88,413.50	0.00
32022	PDC Staff Support for Admin of	4,200.00	981.37	981.37	3,218.63	23.37%	3,400.00	2,418.63
32024	PAA VOF Get Outdoors-Trailblaz	5,000.00	498.74	498.74	4,501.26	9.97%	0.00	(498.74)
32157	NFWF Mathews-(VIMS In-Kind \$	289,409.80	500.00	290,346.41	(936.61)	100.32%	267,468.86	(22,877.55)
32163	DEQ 319(h) BMP Res Septic \$57	137,560.47	6,552.53	107,876.29	29,684.18	78.42%	101,143.76	(6,732.53)
32166	DCR FTF Homeowner Fees	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%	9,195.00	9,195.00
32167	DEQ Flo Disaster (\$30k Homeow	120,000.00	11,787.36	120,253.96	(253.96)	100.21%	88,466.60	(31,787.36)
32169	US DOT RAISE	2,018,476.00	12,283.09	40,412.14	1,978,063.86	2.00%	28,129.05	(12,283.09)
32170	DEQ CZM CoastalTA FY22(Consc	129,700.00	39,434.31	130,854.28	(1,154.28)	100.89%	110,630.62	(20,223.66)
32171	DEQ CZM Next Gen PLANS - Yr2	50,000.00	35,679.26	51,541.15	(1,541.15)	103.08%	15,861.89	(35,679.26)
32172	DEQ CZM ANPDC Eco 6 FY23	26,000.00	7,514.47	26,192.21	(192.21)	100.74%	22,372.99	(3,819.22)
32173	VDH Local SWAP	299,980.00	6,415.13	31,192.06	268,787.94	10.40%	21,589.93	(9,602.13)
32174	NFWF & DEQ CZM Hog Island Re	947,200.15	29,448.51	683,144.76	264,055.39	72.12%	493,156.75	(189,988.01)
32175	DEQ WIP TA 2023	72,500.00	16,525.96	29,216.64	43,283.36	40.30%	15,959.07	(13,257.57)
32176	NFWF Veterans Partnership	75,000.84	5,520.63	30,325.20	44,675.64	40.43%	24,804.57	(5,520.63)
32177	EDA TA (FTF\$35,250/VHDA\$34,	70,000.00	3,012.51	9,008.80	60,991.20	12.87%	5,996.29	(3,012.51)
32178	(BIG) VDH - SWAP	214,000.00	4,066.18	6,844.63	207,155.37	3.20%	222.45	(6,622.18)
32179	DEQ ARPA SLPP Septic Repair	730,196.00	25,732.24	26,401.25	703,794.75	3.62%	4,716.01	(21,685.24)
32180	FEMA Ware Cove (H.Owner Mai	213,695.00	0.00	0.00	213,695.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00
33001	Loan Fund C-515771 Septic and	12,925.00	3,070.55	3,222.55	9,702.45	24.93%	6,591.70	3,369.15
38023	FY23 Local Projects	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%	57,360.02	57,360.02
38024	FY24 Local Projects	207,196.00	57,861.74	58,134.01	149,061.99	28.06%	207,700.70	149,566.69
38809	Mathews HITW Dredging (VDOT	155,364.00	7,404.48	134,427.81	20,936.19	86.52%	127,023.33	(7,404.48)
38810	VPA Aberdeen Dredging	156,364.00	0.00	44,722.47	111,641.53	28.60%	44,722.47	0.00
38812	DCR CFPF Whiting Crk Dredging	138,622.00	0.00	0.00	138,622.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00
Totals:		<u>8,149,743.78</u>		<u>2,610,553.78</u>		<u>32.03%</u>		<u>(71,410.70)</u>
			<u>331,002.39</u>		<u>5,539,190.00</u>		<u>2,539,143.08</u>	

Balance Sheet by Category

Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission
Period Ending: 9/30/2023
Format: 1 Board

Run Date: 10/18/23
Run Time: 2:28:23 pm
Page 1 of 1

Assets:

Cash in Bank	442,550.19
Cash in Bank, Restricted	429,191.43
Receivables	657,146.98
Property & Equipment	4,717.73
Prepaid Pension (Deferred Outflows)	48,680.91

Assets:	\$1,582,287.24
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Liabilities:

Accounts Payable	90,955.36
VRA Loan Payables	678,142.65
Payroll Withholdings	1,213.82
Accrued Leave	69,782.80
Deferred Revenue	76,646.09
Deferred Inflows (VRS)	117,112.00
Net Pension Liabilities	(14,365.00)
Cost Allocation Control	3,123.76

Liabilities:	\$1,022,611.48
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Equity:

Local Initiatives/Information Resources	245,322.36
Economic Development	2,387.37
Transportation Programs	(30,135.32)
Onsite Repair & Pumpout	5,760.70
Housing	450.63
Coastal Community & Environmental	(331,424.57)
Public Access Auth Programs	5,124.26
Temporarily Restricted	177,307.09
General Fund Balance	484,883.24

Equity:	\$559,675.76
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Total Liabilities and Equity	\$1,582,287.24
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Balance:	\$0.00
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Agencywide R&E by Category

Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission
 Period Ending: 9/30/2023
 Format: 1 Agencywide R&E

Run Date: 10/18/2023
 Run Time: 2:28:43 pm
 Page 1 of 1

With Indirect Cost Detail

Code & Description	Budget	Current	YTD	Un/Over	% Bud
Revenues					
Local Match	153,796.00	56,138.12	56,138.12	97,657.88	36.50%
Local Annual Dues	247,113.00	70,004.00	200,044.00	47,069.00	80.95%
Local Other Revenues	253,212.00	22,158.00	61,081.00	192,131.00	24.12%
Local Other Organizations	120,000.00	0.00	10,000.00	110,000.00	8.33%
State Revenues	2,188,403.00	0.00	5,867.98	2,182,535.02	0.27%
Federal Revenues	4,161,744.00	0.00	0.00	4,161,744.00	0.00%
Miscellaneous Income	70,005.00	2,908.11	12,857.47	57,147.53	18.37%
RevolvingLoan Program Income	23,500.00	1,076.69	202,739.81	(179,239.81)	862.72%
Revenues	7,217,773.00	152,284.92	548,728.38	6,669,044.62	7.60 %
Expenses					
Personnel	724,004.00	191,012.21	191,012.21	532,991.79	26.38%
Facilities	34,393.00	2,840.15	8,488.95	25,904.05	24.68%
Communications	9,955.00	473.93	3,242.61	6,712.39	32.57%
Equipment & Supplies	10,000.00	1,007.69	2,074.17	7,925.83	20.74%
Travel	12,534.00	726.93	2,411.64	10,122.36	19.24%
Professional Development	12,773.00	320.00	6,049.00	6,724.00	47.36%
Contractual	5,624,724.00	58,315.42	352,126.41	5,272,597.59	6.26%
Miscellaneous	14,868.00	1,538.12	4,898.40	9,969.60	32.95%
Regional Share	153,796.00	56,138.12	56,138.12	97,657.88	36.50%
Expenses	6,597,047.00	312,372.57	626,441.51	5,970,605.49	9.50 %
Agency Balance	620,726.00	(160,087.65)	(77,713.13)		

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**Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission
Executive Director's Report of Regional Progress
October 17, 2023**

Note: On May 23, 2018, the Commission voted to direct staff to email all future documents including the Commission meeting packets to save on postage. As we strive to make this report more informative and user friendly, some previously contained information may now be accessed by clicking on the following link(s):

- For Demographic Information: [Community Profiles \(viriniaworks.com\)](http://viriniaworks.com)
- For MPPDC Website: <https://www.mppdc.com/>

MPPDC Staff and Contact Information

Executive Director: Lewis Lawrence

Contact Info: llawrence@mppdc.com (804) 758-2311x24 (804) 832-6747 (cell)

Programs: *Coastal Zone Technical Assistance, Local Initiatives, Public Access Authority*

Deputy Director: Curt Smith

Contact Info: csmith@mppdc.com (804) 758-2311x28 (804) 384-7509 (cell)

Programs: *Rural Transportation Planning, Dredging Coordination, General Environmental and Community Development Management*

Chief Financial Officer: Heather Modispaw

Contact Info: hmodispaw@mppdc.com (804) 758-2311x22

Programs: *Commuter/Employer Transportation Services, Septic Repair Assistance, Living Shoreline Incentive Program, Revolving Loan Programs Administration, PDC Finance & Grants Administration, PAA Staff Support, MPA Staff Support*

Special Projects Planner: Jackie Rickards

Contact Info: jrickards@mppdc.com (215) 264-6451 (cell)

Programs: *Environmental Programs, Hazard Mitigation Planning, Grant Writing, Graphic Arts*

Coastal Resilience Planner I: Taylor Ovide

Contact Info: tovide@mppdc.com (804) 758-2311x26

Programs: *Fight the Flood Program, Septic and Well Assistance Programs*

Executive Assistant: Dawn Mantell

Contact Info: dmantell@mppdc.com (804) 758-2311x21

Programs: *Septic Pumpout, Repair/Replacement Assistance Programs, PDC Staff Support, MPA Staff Support, PAA Staff Support, Facilities Scheduling, Website Management*

INFORMATION RESOURCES/ASSISTANCE

- Updated www.mppdc.com website – meeting notices, reports, news releases, GO Va meetings, and MPA notices, etc.

COASTAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT/ ENVIRONMENTAL

Funding – VDEQ, VIMS, VDCR, local match from MPPDC General Fund & partners

Project 30186 – Elevated Septic Pilot FY22

Construction of a vertically elevated septic system will occur at the King & Queen Telehealth and Business Development Center as part of a three-year pilot program to analyze an engineered septic unit that houses and treats all sewage effluent in a vertically elevated, self-contained unit suitable for areas with high water tables and flooding in Coastal Virginia.

- Continued to coordinate with Triangle Environmental regarding designs and structural modifications for elevated septic systems for commercial application at the King and Queen facility.
- Reported that King and Queen County has completed the bid process and is negotiating contract terms with selected contractor for the construction of the new facility where the elevated pilot septic system will be showcased.

Project 30190 – DCR Flood Fund - Hoskins Creek (Tappahannock)

Project is to design, obtain permits for, and construct a living shoreline on the Town-owned property adjacent to the Rte. 17 bridge over Hoskins Creek in Tappahannock.

- Submit quarterly progress and financial report.
- Continued to prepare to apply for the shoreline permit and continue working towards construction.

Project 30191 – DCR Flood Fund – Mill Creek Boat Ramp (Middlesex)

Project is to design and develop a draft Joint Permit Application for the shoreline and structures adjacent to the boat ramp at the Carlton Road (Mill Creek) public wharf in Middlesex. The designed solution will help mitigate the shoaling of the boat ramp and enhance the overall resilience of the public wharf.

- Continued the review of the draft report prepared by Ingrid Bauer, Senior Associate Engineer Wetland Studies and Solutions, Inc. The report offers multiple solutions to address shoaling at the public boat ramp. Participants in the meeting included, Department of Wildlife Resources, private property owners, VDOT representatives, Middlesex County staff, Middlesex County elected officials, and PDC's staff. Inquired if on-the-ground conditions because of Tropical Storm Ophelia warranted modifications to the report.

Project 30192 – DCR/FEMA - Fight the Flood GIS Tool Enhancements

Improvements will be made to the FTF online and GIS tools which are intended to enhance the GIS data tool capabilities and the overall management of the program. Improvements will include automated programs to expedite and streamline the grant application process, programs for identifying needs and advancing projects which align with available funding resources, improvements which will help feature products and services for participating FTF businesses, and training for MPPDC staff.

- Submit quarterly progress and financial report.
- Continued to update the Regional Living Shoreline Incentive Funding Program survey and the Regional On-Site Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Funding Program survey as both will be added to the Fight the Flood website.
- Finalized scope of work and contract to Consociate Media for the development of website materials featuring FTF business living shoreline products to enhance the educational and interactive experience of the website.

- Photographed installation of Fight the Flood solutions at Captain Sinclairs in Gloucester.
- Developed analysis of low-income areas based on the definition provided by VDCR for Round 4 of the Community Flood Preparedness Fund.
- Worked to update status of projects in Fight the Flood. Created tracking for designed, permitted, and amount of funding needed to complete projects. This included draft development of survey and ARCGIS tools to better manage this data. Created GIS tools to collect data currently contained in ARCGIS. Upon compiling this data, it was further refined by reaching out by email and phone to get current figures from appropriate participants. This completely up to date information was then compiled into a spreadsheet.
- Communicated with a beneficial reuse paver company that has interest in dredge material being used in their products.
- Overall management of the Fight the Flood program this period included 19 administrative tasks, 36 phone calls, and 19 correspondences.
- Continued to refine the Fight the Flood tool by modifying survey questions so that information provided is clear as to how specific needs and concerns are reported to MPPDC staff. This process is under review and no changes have yet been implemented.

Project 30195 – Community Flood Preparedness Fund (CFPF) – Round 3 Supplemental (Piankatank)

VDCR CFPF funding for one shoreline protection construction project on private property within the Piankatank River watershed.

- Submitted the final report and reimbursement requests to DCR. Project is closed out upon processing of reimbursement.

Project 30196 – Community Flood Preparedness Fund (CFPF) – Round 3 Supplemental (York)

VDCR CFPF funding for two shoreline protection construction projects on private properties within the York River watershed.

- Submit quarterly progress and financial report.
- Sent CFPF onboarding grant agreement packet to the two private property owners. Addressing property owner questions and concerns related to the landowner maintenance agreement required by DCR. Waiting on the construction initiation of the project by contractors.

Project 30197 – Community Flood Preparedness Fund (CFPF) – Round 3 Supplemental (Mobjack)

VDCR CFPF funding for three shoreline protection construction projects and one stormwater flood protection project. All are located on private property within the Mobjack Bay watershed.

- Submit quarterly progress and financial report.
- Sent CFPF onboarding grant agreement packet to the two private property owners who have indicated they wish to proceed with their projects. Addressing property owner questions and concerns related to the landowner maintenance agreement required by DCR. Waiting on the construction initiation of the project by contractors.
- One project has completed all necessary agreements to initiate the work including submission of final design and permit to DCR staff.

Project 32015 – Staff Support to Middle Peninsula Chesapeake Bay Public Access Authority (MPCBPAA)

Middle Peninsula Chesapeake Bay Public Access Authority Special Project – Support of Executive Order 23, Goal 8 Coastal Management Coordination Public Access: Continue implementation of adopted annual work program, including identifying land, either owned by the Commonwealth or private holdings that can be secured for use by the general public as a public access site; researching and determining ownership of all identified sites; determining appropriate public use levels of identified access sites; developing appropriate

mechanism for transferring title of Commonwealth or private holdings to the Authority; developing appropriate acquisition and site management plan. This Program allows the Authority to function by supporting the individual projects and operations of the Authority, as well as by responding to daily requests for assistance from local government staff.

- Forwarded Dominion Power bill for the Captain Sinclair Pool House to Daniel Hogge of Gloucester Rowing Association for reimbursement.
- Received rental payment from Dan Knott of Hold-Fast for Aug/Sep/Oct (\$900 each) for the Lyell property as well as Sep/Oct (\$500 each) for The Corduroy property.
- Received Dominion Energy bill for The Corduroy in error. Reported this to renter, Dan Knott of Hold-Fast, who relayed the error to Dominion Energy to be corrected. When a SmartMeter was installed, the account reverted to the default homeowner rather than to the renter responsible for the billing. Will follow up if another bill arrives next month.
- Finalized BonFire drop-shipping and print-on-demand e-commerce store featuring official MPCBPAA merchandise for sustainable fundraising initiatives.
- Built SHOP page on Virginia's Coastal Wilds website for ongoing e-commerce and brand ambassador programs.
- Finalized Perfectly Natural Soap brand ambassador program.

Project 32021 – PAA GO VA Sea Grant Resilience Economy

Virginia Sea Grant was awarded a GO Virginia award to assist the Middle Peninsula and other coastal areas with developing a water management economy to combat flooding and sea-level rise. This project will utilize land owned by the MPCBPAA as field stations to encourage business innovation in the flood resiliency space.

- Continue to provide assistance to companies such as NATRX when permitting agencies inadvertently and overtly utilize reports provided by science advisors to VMRC that do not contain science or data. The following is an example of a retraction/clarification on product performance issued by VMRC:

Subject: NATRX monitoring

Dear Team,

I've been looped into the discussion related to the distribution of the monitoring report for the NATRX structures, which came about following a boat visit hosted by VMRC in preparation for an upcoming grant application. I'd like to clarify that our visit to the NATRX structures wasn't a full-fledged monitoring trip; rather, it involved a brief observational pass during mid/high tide to gain insights and conduct a visual check post-Ophelia.

During our visit, although we did notice some resettling, we couldn't perform a comprehensive assessment due to the tide conditions. Based on our observations, it appeared that the structures had settled but remained within their original footprints. Furthermore, we could visually confirm that these structures were effectively serving as barriers to wave energy, evident by comparing rack lines and recent erosion between the protected shoreline and the unprotected shoreline.

Subsequent to our visit, I engaged in discussions with Lewie Lawrence and the NATRX company to explore potential design modifications aimed at preventing scouring. I also shared images of similar structure layouts that minimize vertical facing. It's important to note that this project serves as a pilot endeavor for crafting site-specific, adaptable structures within a high-energy environment while minimizing the footprint within submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) areas.

I'm aware that NATRX structures can be tailored to address site-specific requirements, and the engineers/designers have the flexibility to continually adapt and refine designs to meet stability, aesthetic, fetch, and environmental considerations. Therefore, despite our observations of some settling and the lessons we've discussed, I remain confident that through collaboration and technical

evaluations of test structures the NATRX has the ability to adjust designs based on site-specific demands, ensuring that each project is custom-tailored to the property owner's needs and environmental considerations.

Let's work collaboratively to ensure the success of innovative designs, while also providing constructive feedback to ensure these structures align with the requirements of both regulators and landowners. If you have any additional questions or suggestions, please feel free to reach out.

- Received update from Sabine Rogers of VA Sea Grant that the budget and amendment with additional funds is sitting with Connie Motley of VIMS OSP awaiting her signature.
- Continue discussion with Virginia Sea Grant regarding ongoing permitting challenges and different approaches for a regulatory sandbox to help companies with innovative solutions to bring products to market.
- Business frustration with the permitting process is growing. Planning for a mini- permit workshop/summit among the breadth of regulatory players (public health, DEQ, DCR, VMRC, county, Army Corps, maybe VIMS) is being planned.
- Provided training to a group of William and Mary Public Policy students researching permitting challenges associated with water management solutions.
- Attended a Coastal Policy Practicum class taught by Dr. Molly Mitchell and Dr. Sarah Stafford to speak on public trust doctrine and low water property ownerships and barriers to accessing Federal funding.

Project 32024 – MPPDC Virginia Outdoors Foundation (VOF) Get Outdoors

This project will provide the Middle Peninsula Chesapeake Bay Public Access Authority with nature trail demarcation and location services on the Captain Sinclair's complex in Gloucester by partnering with Knott Alone Hold Fast, a veteran support program.

- Continued discussion with Dan Knott, Principle with Knott Alone Hold Fast for trail planning. Provided draft maps and discussed various routes for the trails, including approach for trails. Set meeting date for next trail planning meeting.
- Delivered tractor to Kubota for maintenance prior to trail creation.

Project 32157 – NFWF Mathews – East River Yr2

This project will design, permit, construct and monitor living shorelines in targeted shorelines on the East River.

- VIMS completed the monitoring and final photographic documentation of the site. They provided MPPDC staff with a report titled, “Riverview Living Shoreline Installation Post-Construction Monitoring Survey” which included drone imagery and pre- and post- construction survey data. This will be submitted to NFWF.
- Reached out to NFWF for the next steps needed to close out the project.

Project 32164 – CZM 306 Next Generation Shoreline Plan (Pilot Project – Yr1)

VIMS Shoreline Studies Program will develop a whitepaper to examine the use of technology, modeling, alternative materials, proprietary products, and innovative nature-based mitigation measures in the planning process for “next generation shorelines” which are intended to provide an enhanced level of shoreline resilience and water quality in response to more frequent and severe flooding and accelerated sea-level rise. One design of a next generation shoreline for a publicly owned property in a high energy wave environment will be completed. Year 2 will involve further development of the whitepaper and a next generation shoreline design for a moderate wave energy publicly owned site.

- Submitted semi-annual report.
- Finalized PowerPoint presentation summarizing shoreline planning process.

Project 32166 – Fight the Flood Participant Grant Application Development

MPPDC staff work regularly to develop and oversee grant applications for property owners who have submitted flooding-related needs and projects to the Fight the Flood program.

- Continued to monitor grant funding prospects for citizens who have paid MPPDC staff for the development of grant applications.

Project 32167 – DEQ Florence Disaster Living Shoreline Micro-grants

This project will offer grant funds as micro-grants to property owners in the Piankatank River, Gwynn's Island, Milford Haven Implementation Plan area to install living shorelines and other eligible BMPs to improve water quality and coastal resilience. It is estimated that four micro-grants of \$20,000 each will be accomplished under this project.

- Continued communication and refinement of the draft narrative for the final report previously sent to Justin Williams, DEQ Manager, Office of Watersheds and Local Government Assistance for review prior to final submission and project close out.
- Continuing project close out, all project certifications of completion are received.

Project 32170 – Virginia Coastal TA FY22

This project provides ongoing support to member localities of the Planning District Commission and other stakeholders committed to improving community development and coastal management within the coastal zone.

- Finalized BonFire drop-shipping and print-on-demand e-commerce store featuring official MPCBPAA merchandise for sustainable fundraising initiatives.
- Built SHOP page on Virginia's Coastal Wilds website for ongoing e-commerce and brand ambassador programs.
- Finalized Perfectly Natural Soap brand ambassador program.
- Hosted VDCR Director for tour of Middle Peninsula waterfront and coastal resilience project sites on September 20.
- Participated in the VA Coastal Resilience Master Plan TAC meeting on September 19.
- Participated in the VA Coastal Policy Team meeting on September 21.
- Drafted and submitted the semi-annual annual report to the Coastal Zone Management Program.
- Began work on compiling annual Accrued Benefits report.

Project 32171 – CZM 306 Next Generation Shoreline Plan Yr2

VIMS Shoreline Studies Program will continue to develop a whitepaper to examine the use of technology, modeling, alternative materials, proprietary products, and innovative nature-based mitigation measures in the planning process for "next generation shorelines" which are intended to provide an enhanced level of shoreline resilience and water quality in response to more frequent and severe flooding and accelerated sea-level rise. One design of a next generation shoreline for a publicly owned property in a moderate energy wave environment publicly owned site will be completed.

- Submitted semi-annual report.
- Reviewed final draft literature review white paper and Sinclairs West Shoreline Management plan. Provided feedback and requested additional edits. Further edits and review anticipated before finalizing the documents in October.
- Finalized PowerPoint presentation of planning process. Scheduled voiceover of presentation and video development which can be posted to website and shared via social media.
- Scheduled additional site photographs of the pilot site.

Project 32172 – DEQ CZM ANPDC Ecotourism VI FY23

This project will build on the efforts completed between 2020-2021. During this project, PDCs will focus on implementing actions identified in the 36-month Marketing Strategy and Action Plan. MPPDC staff will also develop a grant application to seek funds which address resilience needs identified in the 2022 resilience assessment of MPCBPAA properties. PDCs will also collaborate to identify a long-term sustainability plan for maintaining the site for years to come.

- Provided ANPDC with product summaries for the semi-annual report and for the final project report and summary.
- Project closeout has been initiated.

Project 32174 – NFWF & VCZMP Hog Island Restoration

Project is for permitting and constructing a nature-based shoreline protection solution along the perimeter of the MPCBPAA-owned Hog Island property which continues to experience substantial erosion. The project is funded in part with federal funding from NFWF and NOAA via the VA Coastal Zone Management Program.

- Developed and installed signage recognizing NOAA/VCZMP funding to be installed.
- Submitted the final report and final project summary for the Hog Island Project funded by NOAA via VA Coastal Zone Management Program.
- Coordinated with the contractor regarding schedule for remainder of project utilizing NFWF funding.

Project 32175 – DEQ Chesapeake Bay WIP Technical Assistance (2023)

MPPDC will continue to engage localities and regional and state partners regarding Bay WIP III programmatic actions and implementation activities with funding provided by DEQ.

- Submitted permit application in partnership with FTF business, Native Shorelines, regarding construction of living shoreline to protect eroding tidal marsh at the MPCBPAA Captain Sinclairs Recreational Area.
- Submitted 14 projects focused on the implementation of Best Management Practices to DEQ to be considered for Infrastructure, Investments and Jobs Act (IIJA) funding to Virginia.
- Submitted a NOAA Climate Resilience Challenge letter of intent in partnership with VIMS. Proposal includes over \$15M in funding requests for construction of living shoreline BMPs at Gloucester Point and many MP-PAA owned sites.
- Submitted a NOAA Climate Resilience Challenge letter of intent requesting \$25 M in partnership with VA Sea Grant to assist with further development and expansion of the Water Management and Coastal Resilience Industry within the Middle Peninsula.
- Coordination with Local Government Planners included the following topics during the September monthly meeting:
 - CBPA Comprehensive Plan Requirements coordination with DEQ staff
 - DEQ Stormwater Act for subdivisions
 - New FEMA Community Disaster Resilience Zones
 - VDOF Trees for Clean Water Grant opportunity review
 - Tree Cover Loss in Chesapeake Bay watershed research review
 - DCR Flood Fund and Revolving Fund Manuals review and brainstorming for proposals
 - UVA Weldon Cooper Center Population Projections review
- Coordinated with DEQ staff regarding additional funding for the MPPDC Section 319(h) Septic System Repair and Replacement program.
- Developed proposal templates for CFPF Round 4.

- Developed analysis of low-income areas based on the definition provided by VDCR for Round 4 of the Community Flood Preparedness Fund.
- Received phone call from a local septic contractor, who to better serve his customers, requested information on all available septic grant and loan programs the MPPDC is currently administering. Contractor has a DPOR license and requested to be added to our list of qualified septic contractors.
- Participated in the VA Coastal Resilience Master Plan TAC meeting on September 19.
- Hosted VDCR Director for tour of Middle Peninsula waterfront and coastal resilience project sites on September 20.
- Met with marina owner in Deltaville regarding living shoreline design.
- Assisted Middlesex County citizen with design and financing for living shoreline solution.
- Met with Chesapeake Bay Trust staff to discuss prospects for future MPPDC grant applications for Trust funding.
- Met with DCR SEAS to educate SEAS staff on how to connect Middle Peninsula property owners with the MPPDC Fight the Flood program when SEAS is working to advise local citizens regarding shoreline solutions.
- MPPDC staff is continuing to correspond and work with a Mathews County homeowner who has had a repair permit in hand and 319(h) funds encumbered since May, but their local septic contractor has been purchased by a Massachusetts based company and was a no-show for their July appointment date to install an alternative septic system. Homeowner has already signed a contract and paid a deposit.
- Received a phone call from elderly Middlesex County homeowner on Social Security seeking to be reimbursed for an expensive septic repair performed 2 months prior. At this time, MPPDC does not have any programs that will reimburse for work already performed. Homeowner was referred to VA DHCD, VHDA, SERCAP, Bay Aging, Gloucester Rural Housing, local Churches, and the Department of Social Services for possible assistance.
- Received phone call from local septic contractor who offered to post the information of all MPPDC's septic grant and loan funding programs on their new website, to better assist Middle Peninsula homeowners with affordability.
- Continue to receive phone calls from Middle Peninsula homeowners seeking septic pumpout assistance. To-date, (33) Essex; (10) Mathews; (10) King William; (9) King & Queen; (9) Gloucester; and (18) Middlesex County homeowners are on the waiting list for when septic pumpout funding becomes available.
- MPPDC staff received phone calls from (6) Middle Peninsula homeowners in need of septic assistance under the 319(h) grant program. (1) King & Queen; (3) Gloucester; (1) Mathews; and (1) Middlesex County.
- To-date, (5) Alternative Septic Systems in Mathews County have been installed; (1) Conventional Septic System in Gloucester County has been repaired; (2) Septic Systems in Middlesex County, (2) in Gloucester County, and (2) in Mathews County have been pumped out under the 319(h) grant program. All 12 homeowners were approved and reimbursed 50% of the average practice cost set DEQ. Funding is currently encumbered for the installation of (3) Alternative Septic Systems and (1) Septic Pumpout in Mathews County.
- MPPDC staff screened 8 homeowners on Gwynn's Island in Mathews County for septic repair/replacement assistance under a grant funded by the Mathews Community Foundation to assist LMI homeowners on Gwynn's Island. One homeowner's project qualifies for 50% grant assistance.
- Overall management of the Fight the Flood program this period included 19 administrative tasks, 36 phone calls, and 19 correspondences.

Project 32176 – NFWF Veterans Partnership

MPPDC will develop and formalize an operating agreement between the MP-PAA and Knott Alone-Hold Fast, Inc, a nonprofit organization providing counseling and coastal eco and restoration workforce development services focusing on leveraging Chesapeake Bay coastal environs for veterans. The project will build capacity to address a known gap in local workforce for resilience and restoration activities.

- Coordinated meeting for second draft of MOU review between Knott Alone Hold Fast and MP-PAA based on comments received.

Project 32181 – Virginia Coastal TA FY23

This project provides ongoing support to member localities of the Planning District Commission and other stakeholders committed to improving community development and coastal management within the coastal zone.

- Discussed Public Access Authority Americans with disabilities act, master plan, grant application concepts, to be submitted to the National Park Service in Chesapeake Bay program.
- Developed analysis of low-income areas based on the definition provided by VDCR for Round 4 of the Community Flood Preparedness Fund.
- Submitted 14 projects focused on the implementation of Best Management Practices to DEQ to be considered for Infrastructure, Investments and Jobs Act (IIJA) funding to Virginia.
- Submitted preapplication to FEMA for Public Assistance funding for the elevation of the MP-PAA owned pool house structure at the Captain Sinclairs Recreation Area.
- Drafted and submitted a pre-application to FEMA’s Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program to explore legal questions associated with low-water states receiving federal and state funding for the implementation of resiliency projects.
- Resubmitted two applications for NPS Chesapeake Network Grant funding. One application is for the development of experiential video footage of MPPDC water trails for inclusion on the VA Water Trails website. The other is for the development of an ADA Accessibility Plan for the MP-PAA Captain Sinclair Recreational Area.
- Submitted a NOAA Climate Resilience Challenge letter of intent in partnership with VIMS. Proposal includes over \$15M in funding requests for construction of living shoreline BMPs at Gloucester Point and many MP-PAA owned sites.
- Submitted a NOAA Climate Resilience Challenge letter of intent requesting \$25 M in partnership with VA Sea Grant to assist with further development and expansion of the Water Management and Coastal Resilience Industry within the Middle Peninsula.
- Submitted a VA Tourism Corporation application for Marketing Leveraging funding to support an ecotourism promotional campaign for MP-PAA properties entitled “Pier Pressure”.
- Consulted with locality staff regarding the Virginia Outdoors Foundation-Get Outdoors Program for several local government expressing need for recreational access master planning.
- Consulted with representatives from Virginia Sea Grant, Virginia Marine Resources Commission, Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program concerning numerous National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration grant opportunities for submission of shoreline restoration projects on publicly owned property.
- Consulted with a Virginia Dept. of Emergency Management regarding FEMA BRIC scoping grant to better understand the relationships between FEMA and low water property ownership.
- Consulted with Gloria Henderson, Chief Executive Officer for New Paradigm underwriter insurance company offering parametric insurance regarding tide gauge data requirements. Set a meeting for New Paradigm staff to discuss technical requirements with the Virginia Institute of Marine Science for a

possible grant submission under the DCR Flood Fund to provide parametric insurance across the Mobjack Bay area and tributaries.

- Convened the bi-monthly meeting of the Public Access Authority. The primary focus of the meeting was a presentation by Meridian Health on their behavioral services program proposal to the MP-PAA. An unsolicited presentation on the concept of providing behavioral health for veteran assistance by using public access and outdoor recreation was provided. The Public Access Authority motioned to continue negotiating with Meridian Health to establish a partnership or a lease arrangement at the Captain Sinclairs property.
- Consulted with the Bill Goldsmith, Mayor of Urbanna concerning software application, allowing for GPS data collected through mobile phones to help understand where and how people are visiting the Middle Peninsula.
- Participated in the final JMU Coastal Resilience Class review on designs for living with the water from a form and function perspective for projects on PAA lands.
- Met with DCR SEAS to educate SEAS staff on how to connect Middle Peninsula property owners with the MPPDC Fight the Flood program when SEAS is working to advise local citizens regarding shoreline solutions.
- Met with marina owner in Deltaville regarding living shoreline design.
- Assisted Middlesex County citizen with design and financing for living shoreline solution.
- Met with Chesapeake Bay Trust staff to discuss prospects for future MPPDC grant applications for Trust funding.
- Coordinate with Fight the Flood business, Portadam, regarding prospective projects within the region and developed concept for new regular FTF public informational webinar series where FTF businesses can educate and demonstrate their products and services to the greater public. Portadam is committed to conduct the first webinar during 2024.
- Convened the October LGA meeting. Continued the discussion of Data Centers and infrastructure needs to attract centers. Timmons Consulting and Dominion Energy presented on the technical and policy barriers.
- Overall management of the Fight the Flood program this period included 19 administrative tasks, 36 phone calls, and 19 correspondences.

Project 32182 – VCZMP Working Waterfront Resilience Assessments

MPPDC staff will be contracting with Accomack-Northampton, Northern Neck, and Hampton Roads PDCs to conduct vulnerability assessments of publicly owned working waterfronts in each region with the intent of identifying and advancing solutions at the properties which are eligible and competitive for various state and federal grant funding opportunities.

- Finalized contract with NOAA/VCZMP. Initiated development of subcontracts for the three PDCs.

Project 32183 – FY2023 SCRC Local Development District Capacity Building

MPPDC received funding from the Southeast Crescent Regional Commission to provide technical assistance for economic and community development activities within the region. This year's grant will focus on partnering with the Middle Peninsula Alliance to hire a trainer who can relaunch a business development course which is a requisite for accessing available MPPDC small business loan funding.

- Finalized contract with SCRC.
- Awaiting first MPA meeting to initiate hiring of trainer for business development course.

Project 38809 – VPA Hole-in-the-Wall Dredging Implementation

Mathews County was awarded VA Port Authority Waterway Maintenance Funding to dredge the Hole in the Wall channel to –7 feet Mean Low Water and place the dredged sand at the county-owned Haven Beach property. MPPDC is administering the grant on behalf of the County with procurement and permitting assistance and project oversight.

- Held bid opening for Phase 1 dredging and Phase 2 breakwater construction utilizing invitation for bid.
- Coordinated with Mathews County regarding contract(s) with low bidders for Phase 1 and 2 IFB and proposals submitted previously for Phase 3 (dune grass planting and fencing) and bid for required monitoring at Haven Beach.

TRANSPORTATION

Funding – VDRPT, VDOT, local match from MPPDC General Fund

Project 30220 – Commuter Assistance Program (CAP) Operating FY24

This program assists local commuters and employers with transportation issues. The main emphasis is on lowering the number of single occupancy vehicle commutes within and from the Middle Peninsula region through marketing and promotion of the program through local media and provision of ride matching services to commuters.

- Participated in monthly conference calls with Kathy Molin of DRPT.
- Awaiting receipt of fully executed FY24 contract from DRPT.
- Transition from old app to new ConnectingVA platform app seems to have been completely a seamless transition executed by AgileMile.
- Consociate Media completed all website changes/updates, new links, and new ConnectingVA logo received from Kathy Molin of DRPT.
- Submitted final FY23 project reports to DRPT and deobligated the remaining unspent balance in OLGA.
- Attended DRPT Connects Business Webinar.
- Updated CAP Operating Program’s 1st Quarter Performance Data in OLGA.
- Received information regarding training sessions for new grants application software, Webgrants. Will register for the most convenient date.
- Distributed monthly newsletter to MidPenRideShare email database.
- Published blog post on Carpooling Tips for Beginners
- Published blog post on the Economics of Carpooling
- Published blog post on Carpooling Health Benefits
- Monthly maintenance and security updates to website.
- ***Current commuter database in September - 451***
- ***Number of Commuters with logged alt mode trips in September - 87***
- ***Number of logged alt trips in September - 496***
- ***Reduced miles (VMT) in September – 14,685***
- ***Commuter Savings in September – \$9,179***

Project 30320 – Rural Transportation Planning FY24

This program provides rural transportation planning services through the Rural Transportation Planning Work Program which outlines specific tasks and goals to guide the rural planning of transportation services.

- Coordinated and hosted the MPPDC Local Government Planners meeting on September 20 and developed meeting agenda for next meeting on October 25. September topics included:
 - General Assembly Updates pertaining to dredging
 - Smart Scale Round 6 coordination and strategic planning with MPPDC localities including training for submittal of Pre-scoping Modules to VDOT Fredericksburg District staff and review of VTrans priorities.
 - VDOT Engineering Review of Local Intersections with Safety Needs -
It was reported that VDOT engineers are currently reviewing and evaluating the sites. VDOT anticipates returning to the Local Planners with proposed solutions during Fall 2023.
 - DCR Community Flood Preparedness Fund and Resilient VA Revolving Fund Manuals review and strategic planning for proposals with MPPDC localities including two transportation related projects.
 - UVA Weldon Cooper Center Population Projections review.
- Development of proposal for DCR Flood Fund funding for development of a VDOT Saluda Residency Resiliency Plan including development of solutions for roads in the region most vulnerable to flooding and sea-level rise.
- Development of proposal for DCR Flood Fund funding for development of flood protection strategies for the Town of West Point including strategies for road flooding and inundation.
- Participated in USDOT FY2023 Thriving Communities Program webinar and coordinated with PlanRVA regarding multi-regional proposal focusing on publicly owned working waterfronts.
- Continued to coordinate with the Fredericksburg District representative on the Commonwealth Transportation Board and District staff regarding transportation related challenges within the region. CTB member and District staff are scheduled to meet with MPPDC staff and attend the October meeting of the MPPDC Board for further discussion.
- Coordinate with VDOT regarding flooding issues at Rt. 614 The Corduroy in Gloucester County.
- Coordinated and hosted meetings with Middlesex County, USACE Norfolk District, and US Coast Guard regarding dangerous shoaling conditions which have occurred in the entrance of the Broad Creek channel in Deltaville. Reviewed and distributed USACE bathymetric survey conducted in September and met with County staff and elected officials to determine optimal solution. MPPDC staff are developing a service agreement with the County to advance surgical and immediate dredging to resolve the immediate public safety and marine commerce needs.
- Participated in six individual meetings between Middle Peninsula counties, MPPDC staff, and VDOT Residency and District staff to kickoff and prepare for Smart Scale Round 6 applications.
- Consulted with several local government, staff and elected officials concerning VDOT Smart Scale, application limitations of submissions placed on local government by the Fredericksburg District. Continued conversation with Fredericksburg District staff to clarify.

Project 32169 – USDOT RAISE Public Working Waterfront Designs

Project is to conduct a region-wide planning project that will result in a suite of shovel-ready, high-priority multi-modal transportation infrastructure improvements intended to address critical needs related to the region's publicly owned working waterfronts in order to meet the modern and future needs of the region's growing commercial seafood and maritime industries. The project will involve three distinct tasks: 1) State of Good Repair Condition Assessments, 2) Multimodal Working Waterfront Needs Assessment and Improvement Strategies, and 3) Multimodal Working Waterfront Improvement Plan Development.

- Published notice of intent to award contract to VHB and negotiated scope of work and work schedule accordingly. Developed contract with MPPDC legal counsel and submitted final contract for review and approval to MARAD prior to executing the contract.

Project 38810 – VPA Aberdeen Dredging

Gloucester County was awarded VA Port Authority Waterway Maintenance Funding to dredge the Aberdeen Creek channel to –7 feet Mean Low Water and place the dredged material at an upland disposal site. MPPDC is administering the grant on behalf of the County with procurement and permitting assistance and project oversight.

- Continued to research dredge material disposal options and will reconvene to meet with the County and DCR in the near future. Develop a list of landowners willing to consider placing material along the shoreline to protect shoreline. Initiated development of proposal for DCR Flood Fund funding for the design and construction of an eroded spit and tidal marsh near the mouth of the creek using dredged material.
- Researched the stacking of Geo Tubes, using flocculants and planting grass to reclaim a lost island which once provided protection to houses along the mouth of Aberdeen creek.
- Contract jointly signed on August 22 by the MPPDC and Shore Consulting Group for SCG to provide project management services and held coordination meeting to prepare SCG.
- Researched the potential for use of boat wake zones in the designing of effective measures to ensure that sand is beneficially placed on shorelines in such a way as to prolong its useful life.
- Reviewed the August 2023 USACE Technical Note regarding "Dredged Material Can Benefit Submerged Vegetation Habitats".
- Contacted Dan Adams, Coastal Program Manager with the City of Virginia Beach, VA, regarding dredge material transfer stations and dewatering technologies.
- Contacted Dan Baker with DEL Corporation regarding dewatering technologies.
- Contacted Ron Gorton with Golden Oyster Marine Services, Inc. regarding dewatering technologies and to schedule a site visit to observe said technologies in use during the current dredging efforts at Whitaker Creek.
- Contacted Nathalia Castro with SOLMAX regarding the use of geotubes to temporarily place dredge material in upland disposal sites.
- Submitted quarterly progress and financial reports.

Project 38811 – DCR Flood Fund – Broad Creek Dredging and Jetty Design (Middlesex)

Project is for designing and dredging Broad Creek while concurrently designing and developing a draft joint permit application for the construction of shoaling protection structures along the mouth of the channel to ensure long-term navigability.

- Submitted quarterly progress and financial report.
- Continued discussions with County staff and Broad Creek marina owners regarding immediate locations at the mouth of the creek where shoaling has become a public hazard.
- Coordinated with County staff regarding the status and condition of the County-owned dredge material disposal area in Deltaville. Coordinate with DEQ regarding dewatering of dredged material from the County owned disposal area.
- Provided USCG ATON (Federal Assessment of Virginia Waterways) report to the MPPDC and the Norfolk District USACE.

- Participated in a joint Webex conference call with the MPPDC and the Norfolk District USACE in order to discuss potential short-term and long-term actions for addressing shoaling conditions and developed and coordinated notes from the Webex conference call with the MPPDC and the Norfolk District USACE.
- Coordinated with Donna Milligan and Scott Hardaway of VIMS regarding historic shoaling rates in Zone 1 and Zone 2, composition of dredge material and prior dredge material placement areas. Information from that coordination effort was provided to the MPPDC and the Norfolk District USACE.
- Contract signed jointly on August 22 by the MPPDC and Shore Consulting Group for SCG to provide project management services.
- Conference call held with Middlesex County, the MPPDC, the Norfolk District USACE and the USCG officials regarding shoaling issues.
- MPPDC notified the Norfolk District USACE of the desire of Middlesex County to have the USACE initiate discussions with the USCG regarding realignment of ATONs. USCG will not move ATONs but posted a shoaling notice on the Waterway Guide.
- Traveled to Broad Creek to verify survey control benchmarks and provided copy of benchmark locations to the MPPDC.
- Conducted an assessment of Project Condition Survey work currently being performed by the Norfolk District USACE as well as historic background regarding metals (copper) which were detected in sediments (dredge material) during the 2010 dredging effort.
- Provided copy of notification of barge aground to the Norfolk District USACE.
- Project Condition Survey field work completed by USACE during September.

Project 38812 – DCR Flood Fund – Whiting Creek Dredging (Middlesex)

Project is for designing and developing draft permit applications for dredging and beneficial reuse or disposal of dredged material and flood/shoaling protection structures at Whiting Creek in Middlesex County.

- Submitted quarterly progress and financial report.
- Anticipated kickoff during Fall 2023.
- Contract jointly signed on August 22 by the MPPDC and Shore Consulting Group for SCG to provide project management services.

Project 30101 – DCR Community Flood Preparedness Fund (CFPF)/VPA Waterway Maintenance Fund (WMF) Davis Creek Dredging

Project is for finalizing dredged material disposal solution and implementing dredging of Davis Creek.

- Submit quarterly progress and financial report.
- Continued to finalize service agreement for Mathews County.

ONSITE REPAIR & PUMPOUT

Funding – Grants, VRA Loan Funds, local match from MPPDC General Fund, cost-sharing

Project 30198 – Gwynn’s Island Septic

To support the MPPDC Regional On-Site Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Funding Program, this grant from Mathews Community Foundation provides septic repair assistance to LMI homeowners on Gwynn’s Island.

- As of October 13, MPPDC staff has income qualified 1 of 8 potential homeowners and continues to screen septic assistance inquiries for eligibility to receive financial assistance through this grant program provided by the Mathews Community Foundation. The physical addresses of each of these septic

systems were entered into the mapping tool to verify their location is within the program's target area, Gwynn's Island.

- Met with MPPDC Executive Director to discuss programmatic questions regarding combining 319(h) and Gwynn's Island grant funding to assist elderly Mathews County homeowner. Homeowner is qualified for 50% grant funding.
- Contacted Farmer's Septic and requested estimate for Mathews County homeowner's septic repair/replacement project.
- Received estimate from Farmer's Septic via email for Mathews County homeowner's septic repair/replacement project. Project cost is estimated at \$28,505.00. Homeowner's income qualifies for 50% grant funding assistance.
- Received request from Farmer's Septic to share MPPDC septic repair/replacement assistance program information on their new website.
- Received email from Mathews County homeowner stating their property will need to be surveyed in mid-November before they can apply for a repair permit. Reminded homeowner funds are first-come, first-served and cannot be encumbered until a repair permit has been received.
- Contacted Farmer's Septic with questions regarding Mathews County homeowner's septic repair/replacement project. AOSE, Larry Madison required a land survey be performed as the property line wasn't clear enough to complete the design. Discussed the potential effect the current project timeline may have on available funding.

Project 32163 – DEQ 319(h) NPS IP for BMP Residential Septic 2021

This project provides cost-share assistance to landowners, homeowners, and agricultural operators as an incentive to voluntarily install nonpoint source (NPS) best management practices (BMPs) in designated watersheds.

- As of September 30, MPPDC staff has received phone calls from 161 homeowners in Gloucester, Mathews, and Middlesex Counties in response to the press release for available 319(h) funding. The physical addresses of each of these septic systems were entered into the mapping tool to verify their location is within the program's target areas. **(58)** homeowners had miscellaneous requests, declined moving forward, requested ineligible practices such as voluntary upgrades and reimbursement for work completed prior to program launch; **(6)** Mathews County homeowners placed their project on hold; and **(75)** homeowners' septic system isn't located in the program's target area. To-date, **(5)** Alternative Septic Systems in Mathews County have been installed; **(1)** Conventional Septic System in Gloucester County has been repaired; **(2)** Septic Systems in Middlesex County, **(2)** in Gloucester County, and **(2)** in Mathews County have been pumped out. All 12 homeowners were approved and reimbursed 50% of the average practice cost set DEQ. Funding is currently encumbered for the installation of **(3)** Alternative Septic Systems and **(1)** Septic Pumpout in Mathews County.
 - (4)** Homeowners remain on the Septic Pumpout list. (3 Mathews, 1 Middlesex)
 - (7)** Homeowners remain on the Septic Repair/Replacement list. (6 Mathews, 1 Middlesex)
- Continue to receive inquiries from King William, King & Queen, and Essex County residents seeking septic assistance and are not in the designated target area set by DEQ to be eligible for 319(h) septic reimbursement funding. When applicable, these inquiries are screened for interest and eligibility in other MPPDC program funding, referred appropriately to VA DHCD, VHDA, and SERCAP for possible septic repair/replacement assistance and those seeking septic pumpout assistance are placed on the waiting list for when funding becomes available.
- Met with MPPDC Executive Director to discuss programmatic questions regarding combining 319(h) and Gwynn's Island grant funding to assist elderly Mathews County homeowner with a failing septic system. Homeowner is qualified for 50% Gwynn's Island grant funding.

- Received email requesting address verification from Mathews County homeowner interested in obtaining 319(h) assistance with septic repair/replacement. The address of the homeowner's septic system wasn't in the target area set by DEQ. Email was forwarded to MPPDC Coastal Resilience Planner for SWAP eligibility and CFO for possible loan funding.
- Contacted Farmer's Septic and requested estimate for Mathews County homeowner's septic repair/replacement project.
- Received estimate from Farmer's Septic via email for Mathews County homeowner's septic repair/replacement project.
- Received request from Farmer's Septic to share MPPDC septic repair/replacement assistance program information on their new website.
- Received phone call from Farmer's Septic requesting address verification of Mathews County homeowner in need of assistance with their septic repair/replacement project. The same address had been received by the homeowner via email two days prior. The address of the septic system isn't in the target area set by DEQ.
- Received email from Mathews County homeowner stating their property will need to be surveyed in mid-November before they can apply for a repair permit. Reminded homeowner funds are first-come, first-served and cannot be encumbered until a repair permit has been received.
- Contacted Farmer's Septic with questions regarding Mathews County homeowner's septic repair/replacement project. AOSE, Larry Madison required a land survey be performed as the property line wasn't clear enough to complete the design. Discussed the potential effect the current project timeline may have on available funding.
- Received voicemail from son of Mathew's County homeowner interested in 319(h) septic repair/replacement assistance for his mother.
- Received phone call from frustrated Mathews County homeowner providing an update on their septic repair/replacement project. Homeowner has had 319(h) funds encumbered since May and reported ChurchView Septic/Wind River Environmental, missed their July septic repair/installation date, and now assures their project will be completed in October. According to homeowners, communication and customer service has suffered since locally owned ChurchView Septic was purchased by the Massachusetts based company.
- Returned phone call from son of Mathews County homeowner interested in 319(h) septic repair/replacement assistance for his mother. Unfortunately, the homeowner passed away the previous evening. Requested more information on our assistance programs to apply for after the estate is settled. Homeowner was provided information on SWAP, Fight-the-Flood, Living Shoreline and Septic grants and loans, as well as our web address for additional information and applications.
- Received revised estimate via email from Farmer's Septic for Mathews County homeowner's septic repair/replacement project.
- Uploaded information related to Gloucester County homeowner's septic pumpout into the DEQ BMP Warehouse as part of reporting requirements. Received confirmation of receipt from DEQ.
- Received revised estimate for septic repair/replacement project from Mathews County homeowner via email.
- Responded to Mathews County homeowner's email confirming receipt of estimate and informed them MPPDC CFO is working on their loan application. Requested repair permit be submitted as soon as it becomes available to proceed with next steps and encumber funding.

- Received phone call from King & Queen County homeowner interested in obtaining 319(h) assistance with septic pumpout. The address of the homeowner's septic system wasn't in the target area set by DEQ. Homeowner was added to the septic pumpout waiting list as requested.
- Received voicemail from Gloucester County homeowner requesting 319(h) septic repair/replacement assistance.
- Returned phone call from Gloucester County homeowner requesting 319(h) septic repair/replacement assistance and left voicemail requesting the physical address of the septic system.
- Received phone call from local septic contractor requesting 319(h) program information to share with clients.
- Drafted Quarterly Report.
- Received email requesting address verification from Middlesex County homeowner interested in obtaining 319(h) assistance with septic repair/replacement. The address of the homeowner's septic system wasn't in the target area set by DEQ. Homeowner wasn't interested in loan funding and was referred to MPPDC Coastal Resilience Planner for SWAP eligibility.
- Submitted Quarterly Report to Madison Whitehurst, DEQ TMDL NPS Data Coordinator.
- Received phone call from Gloucester County homeowner requesting 319(h) septic pumpout assistance. Address of the septic system is not in the target area set by DEQ. Homeowner was added to the septic pumpout waiting list as requested.

Project 32173 VDH Septic Well Assistance Program (SWAP)

This project will provide grant funding to assist VDH approved low-income Middle Peninsula homeowners with costs associated with septic repair/installation, private well installation/abandonment, and connecting to public water and sewer for the purposes of wastewater/water improvements.

- As of October 13, MPPDC staff have received inquiries from (51) Middle Peninsula homeowners in need of well and/or septic repair/replacement assistance. Homeowners begin the intake/application process for SWAP assistance at the MPPDC. Staff have received (18) complete applications. Staff have collected and submitted (17) homeowners' income documents for verification by Local Health Department Staff to verify the applicant's income is at or below 200% FPG. To date (15) applicants have been low income verified, (1) applicant has not submitted adequate income documentation, (1) applicant is awaiting income verification by the LHD, and (1) applicant has been found to be over income and not eligible for SWAP funds and was referred to other resources. MPPDC Staff has worked with LHD staff generating permits for (13) applicants projects: (1) applicant's project was denied LHD permits and will need private design; (2) applicants have been submitted to the LHD for permits; (1) project isn't eligible for the program; (1) hasn't progressed to permitting; (1) applicant's project has moved to notice to proceed; (3) are pending review of bids for notice to proceed; and (2) are currently open for bids. MPPDC staff continues to move qualified and permitted homeowner's projects into procurement.
- Management of SWAP LP included performing (28) administrative tasks, (28) phone calls, and (35) correspondences.
- To-date, applications have been received from (4) Gloucester, (5) Essex, (3) King William, (2) Mathews, (3) King and Queen, (1) Middlesex County households.

Project 32178 VDH Septic Well Assistance Program (SWAP) Direct to Partner Initiative (D2PI)

This project will utilize American Rescue Plan Act Funding (ARPA) through the SWAP Program to expedite the installation and completion of ~5 VDH approved Middle Peninsula low-income homeowner's shovel-ready septic, sewer, and well installation projects for the purposes of wastewater/water improvements.

- As of October 13, (1) project has received a bid and is under review for a notice to proceed; (3) projects

are currently posted for bid solicitation; and (1) project needs a solution for shoreline erosion but first requires a survey be performed. The project is currently posted for bids for a survey.

- Management of SWAP D2PI included performing (12) administrative tasks, (10) phone calls, and (26) correspondences.

Project 32179 DEQ ARPA Septic Local Partner Program

This project will utilize American Rescue Plan Act Funding (ARPA) through the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality to utilize a new and more cost-effective septic repair pilot program approach for participating Middle Peninsula homeowners with failing septic systems.

- Continued to consult with DEQ staff, Lauren Linville and Lars Bolton concerning the recently awarded, DEQ Septic Local Partners Program and the draft of the MPPDC Program Design. Awaiting DEQ review and approval of submitted re-draft document.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Funding – EDA, local match from MPPDC General Fund, BDP Loan Program Income

Project 30124 – Staff Support to Middle Peninsula Alliance (MPA) FY24

MPPDC staff are providing clerical and fiscal assistance to the Middle Peninsula Alliance.

- Prepared vouchers, processed A/P, processed deposits (if any), and reconciled bank statements. Prepared monthly financial statements.
- Received IRS Tax Penalty Notice #CP141L charging MPA a \$7,760 penalty for filing June 30, 2020 taxes late. Forwarded letter to Chairman Ashley Chriscoe, Secretary Lewie Lawrence, David Gundlach of Sands Anderson, and Shantel Eilenfield, CPA. Sands Anderson responded to the IRS with a Reasonable Cause letter.
- Sent MPA financials for Tax Year Ending June 30, 2023 to Shantel Eilenfield, CPA so that she can work on filing the Form 990.

Project 301702 – Small Business Revolving Loan Fund

MPPDC agreed to service Middle Peninsula Business Development Partnership's (MPBDP) Small Business Loan Portfolio after MPBDP's dissolution November 30, 2011. MPPDC established a revolving loan fund and staff initiate ACH loan payments from clients' bank accounts and manages the accounts. Principal repaid will be held until the Commission determines the best use for these funds as allowed by the USDA (RBEG) original lending restrictions. Interest earned will be used to offset administration costs.

- **Funds available – \$147,105**
- MPPDC received notice of award for Southeast Crescent Regional Commission funding to hire the required business training course trainer and allow for reactivation of the loan fund.

Project 32177 – EDA Technical Assistance Program

MPPDC will facilitate the maintenance, update, and implementation of the Middle Peninsula Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) utilizing existing regional partnerships and building upon recent and ongoing regional initiatives focusing on fostering economic growth within the region.

- Continued updating the CEDS plan including expansion of the plan's economic resilience section.
- MPPDC received notice of award for Southeast Crescent Regional Commission funding to hire the required business training course trainer and allow for reactivation of the loan fund.
- Worked to identify status of projects in FTF. Created tracking for designed, permitted, and amount of funding needed to complete projects. This included draft development of survey and ARCGIS tools to better manage this data. Created GIS tools to collect data currently contained in ARCGIS. Upon compiling this data it was further refined by reaching out by email and phone to get current figures from appropriate participants. This completely up to date information was then compiled into a spreadsheet.

- Communicated with a beneficial reuse paver company that has interest in dredge material being used in their products.
- Overall management of the Fight the Flood program this period included 19 administrative tasks, 36 phone calls, and 19 correspondences.
- Submitted a NOAA Climate Resilience Challenge letter of intent requesting \$25 M in partnership with VA Sea Grant to assist with further development and expansion of the Water Management and Coastal Resilience Industry within the Middle Peninsula.
- Managed site assessment and planning activities for the Town of West Point-owned property adjacent to the Middle Peninsula Regional Airport. The site is being developed as a key location for supporting new and expanded businesses focusing on water management and coastal resilience activities.
- Launched development of nine DCR Flood Fund and Resilient Virginia Loan Fund Round 4 proposals. Applications due November 12.

Project 321771- GO Virginia – West Point Adjacent Land Airport Study

Project studies the needs for moving the land adjacent to the airport to the next tier under the VEDP site readiness program.

- MPPDC staff is continuing procurement development to start the project.

Project 321772 – DCR Flood Fund - West Point Bridge Study

Project is to conduct a Hydrologic and Hydraulic Study and Structural Design and Level of Service Study to address ongoing flooding for a Town owned bridge adjacent to the Middle Peninsula Regional Airport.

- MPPDC staff is continuing procurement development to start the project.

LOCAL INITIATIVES

Funding – local dues, PDC base-funding from VDHCD and/or MPPDC General Fund. Funding for specific projects may come from a locality requesting assistance.

Project 30184 – Tappahannock Comprehensive Plan & GIS Mapping

Technical assistance for reviewing and updating data in the Town Plan and digitizing with GIS and printing the Town Zoning and Land Use maps.

- Project is closed.

Project 38024 – FY24 Local & Regional Technical Assistance

This program responds to daily requests for technical assistance which other commission programs are unable to provide.

- Coordinated with member jurisdictions staff regarding project needs which funding can be sought by new MPPDC staff positions focusing on seeking Federal Infrastructure funding opportunities.
- Drafted and submitted a pre-application to FEMA’s Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) program to elevate the pool house on the Captain Sinclair Recreational Area Property.
- Drafted and submitted a pre-application to FEMA’s Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program to explore legal questions associated with low-water states receiving federal and state funding for the implementation of resiliency projects.

HOUSING

Funding – Housing Loan Program Income

Project 30187 – VHDA Affordable Workforce Housing Development

The three-year project will involve planning, designing, and constructing approximately ten affordable workforce housing units on property owned by the Middle Peninsula Public Access Authority. The project goals involve creating resilient and safe housing for citizens who need to live and work on or near the water. The

designs will involve long-range planning for increased flooding and sea-level rise where the units can be readily moved once a site becomes unsafe for continued residential use.

- Continued to work with Virginia Department of Health, Gloucester County, and Dominion Energy on various septic and right of way permits issues.
- Construction plans & bid documents of the tiny homes & Pool House addition are complete & remain under County review.
- Bid documents for the Main House renovation are complete & ready for bid once the CBPA approval & VDH permits are finalized.

Project 300132 – Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Revolving Loan Fund

The program emphasizes a community-based approach to help meet energy and climate protection goals. MPPDC was awarded a contract to provide weatherization renovations to 12 homeowners ineligible for LMI weatherization programs in each of the 6 counties. MPPDC subcontracted the promotion and construction portions of this project to Bay Aging but was tasked with administering the overall project. MPPDC is administering the revolving loan program per DMME.

- **Funds available – \$45,942**

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Funding – VDEM/FEMA/Homeland Security

Project 32180 – FEMA Ware Cove

This project is for the mitigation reconstruction of a residential structure in Gloucester County. The current structure will be demolished and a smaller, more code-compliant and more hazard-resistant structure on an elevated foundation system will be constructed. The mitigation reconstruction project will mitigate for flood risk and the associated costs.

- Coordinate with FEMA regarding procurement so MPPDC legal can develop appropriate bid documents.

LOAN FUNDS FOR SEPTIC AND LIVING SHORELINES

Funding – VRA

Project 30420 – On-Site Technical Guidance Assistance and Loan Program

The On-Site Technical Guidance Program aids the Middle Peninsula localities and residents in the technical understanding and implementation of approaches to address On-Site Disposal Systems and improve water quality by assisting local homeowners with repairing failing septic systems through low-interest loans and/or grants. In addition, MPPDC received funding under the Water Quality Improvement Fund (WQIF) to provide grants to low-to-moderate income Middle Peninsula and New Kent County homeowners to repair failing septic systems impacting water quality and health in the region. Grants can be paired with loans from the MPPDC Onsite Wastewater Revolving Loan Fund to provide matching funds as required. It is anticipated this funding will be used to provide assistance to 20-27 homeowners.

- Continued to work with various clients interested in loan financing for septic repair.
- Continued to work with clients who have closed on their loans but are waiting for their project to be complete.
- **Remaining uncommitted septic repair funds: \$25,283 in loan funds – \$21,641 in grant funds.**

Project 31500 – Living Shoreline Loan Program

The MPPDC Living Shoreline Incentive Program Loan Fund provides low interest loans to local homeowners to implement living shorelines. These funds will be used for erosion prevention and water quality control and to protect and enhance natural shoreline habitats using strategically placed plants, stone, sand fill and other structural and organic materials.

- **Remaining uncommitted living shoreline funds: \$0**

Project 33001 – Loan Fund Program for Septic and Living Shoreline

During 2022, the MPPDC received a \$3M line of credit for living shoreline and septic repair projects from the VA Resources Authority. The fund provides a single financing program for activities historically covered by the MPPDC’s On-Site Technical Guidance and Living Shoreline Incentive Programs.

- Continued to work with various clients interested in loan financing for septic and living shoreline.
- Submitted quarterly Loan Aging Report to VRA.
- **Remaining uncommitted funds: \$2,130,831 in loan funds - \$300,000 in grant funds.**

AGENCY ADMINISTRATION

Funding - Indirect cost reimbursements from all PDC projects

MPPDC Administration

Administrative services provided to MPPDC programs. Planned FY23 Indirect Cost rate = 25.25%.

- Prepared vouchers, processed A/P, processed deposits, and reconciled bank statements. Prepared monthly payroll run. Prepared monthly financial statements.
- Completed and submitted all financial reports and/or reimbursement requests for all projects requiring them. Finalized close out of projects ending June 30, 2023 and began close out process for those ending September 30, 2023.
- Waiting on FY23 final audit to be returned from auditor so that FY24 Indirect Cost Allocation Plan approved by Commission in July can be submitted to our Cognizant Agent for review and approval.
- All FY24 Locality Dues have now been paid in full with the exception of Middlesex County who owes for General Assembly Representation.
- Reviewed internal budgets created by staff, made recommendations and corrections as necessary.
- Received VAcorp Annual Workers’ Compensation Final Audit 2022-2023 letter from RTS Auditor, Andy Krawiec.
- Completed and submitted 2023 VAPDC Salary Survey.
- Registered Deputy Director for ChatGPT and Project: Leveraging AI for Project Management Excellence.
- Attended VRS Political Subdivision Roundtable: Group Life Insurance with Special Guest NaTosha Palmer.
- Distributed FY24 TLC Creditable Coverage to PDC Staff via email on October 3, 2023.
- Updated quarterly staff allocations.
- Reminded staff to complete timesheets and update award/grant Master File.
- Replenished office and kitchen supplies.

Closed Projects

Project 30194 – RAFT Dupont LMI Pumpouts

This project will provide grant funding to ~55 LMI Middle Peninsula homeowners to assist them in complying with the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act requirement to have their septic tanks pumped out or inspected every 5 years.

Project 30219 – Commuter Assistance Program (CAP) Operating FY23

This program assists local commuters and employers with transportation issues. The main emphasis is on lowering the number of single occupancy vehicle commutes within and from the Middle Peninsula region through marketing and promotion of the program through local media and provision of ride matching services to commuters.

Project 30320 – Rural Transportation Planning FY23

This program provides rural transportation planning services through the Rural Transportation Planning Work Program which outlines specific tasks and goals to guide the rural planning of transportation services.

Project 30428 – On-Site Technical Guidance Assistance and Loan Program

The On-Site Technical Guidance Program aids the Middle Peninsula localities and residents in the technical understanding and implementation of approaches to address On-Site Disposal Systems and improve water quality by assisting local homeowners with repairing failing septic systems through low-interest loans and/or grants. In addition, MPPDC received funding under the Water Quality Improvement Fund (WQIF) to provide grants to low-to-moderate income Middle Peninsula and New Kent County homeowners to repair failing septic systems impacting water quality and health in the region. Grants can be paired with loans from the MPPDC Onsite Wastewater Revolving Loan Fund to provide matching funds as required. It is anticipated this funding will be used to provide assistance to 20-27 homeowners.

Project 31212 – Middle Peninsula All-Hazards Mitigation Plan Update Yr2

MPPDC staff will work with participating localities to update the 2016 All-Hazards Mitigation Plan (AHMP). The plan will address mitigation of several natural hazards impacting the region.

Project 32019 – Sinclair’s Public Fishing Pier

The MPCBPAA has contracted the MPPDC to administer a grant from the VA Saltwater Recreational Fishing Development Fund to rehabilitate the public fishing pier at the Captain Sinclair’s Recreational Area, which had fallen into a state of disrepair. The project will consist of procuring a qualified contractor to rebuild a traditional wooden framed open pile 400-foot long public use fishing pier that will provide year-round opportunities for saltwater fishing and recreational viewing.

Project 38023 – FY23 Local & Regional Technical Assistance

This program responds to daily requests for technical assistance which other commission programs are unable to provide.

Project 30123 – Staff Support to Middle Peninsula Alliance (MPA) FY23

MPPDC staff are providing clerical and fiscal assistance to the Middle Peninsula Alliance.

MPPDC: Membership, Appointments, Committee Assignments, and Networks

Coastal Policy Team (CPT): The CPT, whose members and alternates represent the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program's key partners and eight planning district commissions, provides a forum for discussion and resolution of cross-cutting coastal resource management issues. Members serve on the team at the discretion of their agency or planning district commission director. The CPT recommends funding levels to the DEQ Director for coastal zone management projects. (MPPDC Staff 15 years +)

Virginia Coastal Resilience Master Plan Technical Advisory Committee: As appointed by the Governor in EO-71, a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) with representatives of state agencies, coastal planning districts and regional commissions, and academic advisors, among others will facilitate the coordination and the development of the Virginia Coastal Resilience Master Plan. The Commonwealth's Chief Resilience Officer, Special Assistant to the Governor for Coastal Adaptation and Protection, and TAC will work with localities, regional entities, citizens, and stakeholder groups to identify critical infrastructure, at-risk communities, adaptation strategies, and specific resilience projects for inclusion in the Plan.

Congressman Robert Wittman's Fisheries Advisory Committee and Environmental Advisory Committee: (MPPDC Staff 8 years +)

Virginia Sea Grant Program External Advisory Committee (EAC): The EAC provides stakeholder input on the strategic planning process, the research proposal review process, and on Commonwealth-wide trends and needs. The EAC is a diverse group of end-users including representatives from state agencies, the education community, coastal planning and management, the private sector, and NGOs. (MPPDC Staff 9 years+)

The Association for Commuter Transportation (ACT) (Telework Council Secretary): ACT is the premier association for professionals and organizations whose focus is the delivery of commuting options and solutions for an efficient transportation system. The Telework Council is concerned with promoting telework and providing telework information and technical assistance to employers (MPPDC Staff 10 years+)

The Coastal Society: The Coastal Society is an organization of private sector, academic, and government professionals and students. The Society is dedicated to actively addressing emerging coastal issues by fostering dialogue, forging partnerships, and promoting communications and education. (MPPDC staff serves as a Director)

Virginia Shoreline Working Group: The Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program launched the working group in 2022 to focus in on complex regulatory and legal matters pertaining to shoreline management and to help advance shoreline protection and habitat restoration projects that can compete for federal funding.

Virginia Bay Enhancement Working Group (BEWG): The Northam Administration and VMRC launched BEWG in 2020 as result of administration policy of no future overboard discharge of dredged material. The group is tasked with identifying beneficial reuse opportunities for the 1 Million cubic yards of material that is dredged every 3-5 years from the York Spit Navigation Channel which is the primary shipping channel for the Baltimore Harbor in the southern section of the middle of the Chesapeake Bay. MPPDC staff were requested to serve to evaluate alternatives from around the Bay and including the Middle Peninsula.

Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA): The Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA), founded in 1906, represents public finance officials throughout the United States and Canada. The association's more than 20,000 members are federal, state/provincial, and local finance officials deeply involved in planning, financing, and implementing thousands of governmental operations in each of their jurisdictions. GFOA's mission is to advance excellence in public finance. (MPPDC Staff 9 years)

National Grants Management Association (NGMA): NGMA provides national and international leadership, helping its members achieve success in the grants management community through the advocacy of best practices and the promotion of professional excellence. (MPPDC Staff 2 years)

Opportunities Identified to Implement Commission Priorities

Proposals Status for Grant Applications Submitted

FY2024

Service Center	Project Title and Description	Date Applied	Funding Requested	Status
Environmental	DEQ 319(h) Septic Repair – Mod 2	Oct. 2023	\$95,340	Submitted
Environmental	DEQ 319(h) Septic Repair – Mod 3	Oct. 2023	\$36,902	Submitted
MPCBPAA	FEMA Public Asst. Sinclairs Pool House Elevation preapplication	Oct. 2023	\$164,580	Submitted
MPCBPAA	Captain Sinclairs ADA Accessibility Plan (Second Submittal)	Oct. 2023	\$54,650	Submitted
MPCBPAA	VA Water Trails Experiential Upgrades for Website (Second Submittal)	Oct. 2023	\$52,415	Submitted
Environmental	DEQ Ches. Bay WIP – Elrod Property Shoreline Construction	Sep. 2023	\$225,225	Submitted
Environmental	DEQ Ches. Bay WIP – Abassi Property Shoreline Construction	Sep. 2023	\$115,830	Submitted
Environmental	DEQ Ches. Bay WIP – Buckhalter Property Shoreline Construction	Sep. 2023	\$351,063	Submitted
Environmental	DEQ Ches. Bay WIP – Hostenske Property Shoreline Construction	Sep. 2023	\$193,050	Submitted
Environmental	DEQ Ches. Bay WIP – Breeden Property Shoreline Construction	Sep. 2023	\$107,250	Submitted
Environmental	DEQ Ches. Bay WIP – Grubbs Property Shoreline Construction	Sep. 2023	\$150,000	Submitted
Environmental	DEQ Ches. Bay WIP – Robens Property Shoreline Construction	Sep. 2023	\$390,383	Submitted
Environmental	DEQ Ches. Bay WIP – Harvey Property Shoreline Construction	Sep. 2023	\$116,654	Submitted
Environmental	DEQ Ches. Bay WIP – Parker Property Shoreline Construction	Sep. 2023	\$81,023	Submitted
Environmental	DEQ Ches. Bay WIP – Hodges Property Shoreline Construction	Sep. 2023	\$134,356	Submitted
Environmental	DEQ Ches. Bay WIP – Case Property Shoreline Construction	Sep. 2023	\$175,318	Submitted
Environmental	DEQ Ches. Bay WIP – New Point Comfort Natural Area Preserve Shoreline Construction	Sep. 2023	\$637,000	Submitted
Environmental	DEQ Ches. Bay WIP – Captain Sinclair Recreation Area West Shoreline Construction	Sep. 2023	\$880,000	Submitted
Environmental	DEQ Ches. Bay WIP – Hogg Island Phase 3 Shoreline Construction	Sep. 2023	\$330,000	Submitted
MPCBPAA	VTC Marketing Leveraging – Pier Pressure Campaign	Sep. 2023	\$17,450	Submitted
Environmental	NOAA Climate Resilience Challenge – VIMS Resilience Projects (including Gloucester Point Beach, PAA Sites) Letter of Intent	Sep. 2023	\$15,881,200	Submitted
Community Development	DHCD Regional Coop. Act Technical Assistance FY24	Sep. 2023	\$85,971	Submitted
Environmental	DEQ Ches. Bay WIP Technical Assistance 2024	Sep. 2023	\$72,500	Submitted
Economic Development	Southeast Crescent Regional Commission Technical Assistance 2024	Sep. 2023	\$24,000	Submitted
Environmental	NOAA Climate Resilience Challenge Letter of Intent – VA Sea Grant Resilience Industry Development	Aug. 2023	\$25,000,000	Not Awarded
Environmental	NOAA Climate Resilience Challenge Letter of Intent – VIMS Resilience Projects (including Gloucester Point Beach, PAA Sites)	Aug. 2023	\$15,881,200	Submitted
Community Development	DCR VLCF Middlesex Bushy Park Farm Acquisition	Aug. 2023	\$2,448,255	Submitted
Environmental	NOAA BIL Habitat Restoration Planning: VMRC Extreme Creek Makeover LOI	Jul. 2023	\$650,000	Not Awarded
Environmental	NOAA BIL Habitat Restoration: New Point Comfort NAP Shoreline, Hog Island Shoreline, & Captain Sinclairs Shoreline LOI	Jul. 2023	\$4,350,000	Submitted
MPCBPAA	NERRS BIL West Point Airport Property Acquisition LOI	Jul. 2023	\$787,000	Not Awarded
MPCBPAA	NOAA BIL West Point Airport Property Acquisition LOI	Jul. 2023	\$787,000	Not Awarded
Community Development	NERRS BIL Middlesex Co. Bushy Park Farm Acquisition LOI	Jul. 2023	\$5,971,248	Not Awarded
Community Development	NOAA BIL Middlesex Co. Bushy Park Farm Acquisition LOI	Jul. 2023	\$5,971,248	Not Awarded
Community Development	Boating Infrastructure Grant – Urbanna Marina Floating Docks	Jul. 2023	\$159,550	Submitted
MPCBPAA	Captain Sinclairs Stormwater BMPs	Jul. 2023	\$10,000	Not Awarded
FY 2024 Awarded Total (July – October 2023)			\$0 (0 awards)	

FY 2024 Requested Total (July – October 2023)			\$82,387,661 (35 proposals submitted)	
FY 2024 Funding Request Remaining Award Potential Total			\$43,211,165 (28 proposals awaiting award decision)	
<i>Status of Pending Applications Submitted during FY2023</i>				
Service Center	Project Title and Description	Date Applied	Funding Requested	Status
Haz. Mitigation	FEMA HMGP – All Hazards Mitigation Plan Update	Jun. 2023	\$148,143	Submitted
Community Development	VCZMP New Point Comfort NAP Boardwalk Replacement	Jun. 2023	\$183,952	Submitted
Environmental	NFWF Small Watershed Grant: Ware River Shoreline Construction (Phase 2)	Apr. 2023	\$349,835	Submitted
Environmental	NOAA/VCZMP Coastal Technical Assistance FY23	Mar. 2023	\$129,000	Awarded
Community Development	VCZMP Working Waterfronts Resilience Assessments	Feb. 2023	\$54,505	Awarded
FY 2023 Awarded Total (July 2022 – June 2023)			\$6,333,200 (23 awards)	
FY 2023 Funding Request Remaining Award Potential Total			\$681,930 (3 proposals awaiting award decision)	
FY 2023 & FY 2024 Cumulative Funding Request Remaining Award Potential Total			\$43,893,095 (31 proposals awaiting award decision)	

ACRONYMS

ACH	Automated Clearing House	PAA	Public Access Authority
AFID	Agricultural and Forestry Industries Development	RBOG	Rural Business Opportunity Grant
AHMP	All Hazards Mitigation Plan	RFP	Request for Proposal
BCC	Building Collaborative Communities Project	RFQ	Request for Qualifications
BOS	Board of Supervisors	RLF	Revolving Loan Fund
CBPA	Chesapeake Bay Preservation Area	RTP	Rural Transportation Planning
CDBG	Community Development Block Grant	SERCAP	Southeast Rural Community Assistance Project
CEDS	Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy	SHSG	State Homeland Security Grant
CIP	Capital Improvement Plan	SWCD	Soil and Water Conservation District
COI	Conflict of Interest	SWM	Storm Water Management
CZMP	Coastal Zone Management Program	SWRP	State Water Resource Plan
DEQ	Department of Environmental Quality	THIRA	Threat & Hazard Identification & Risk Assessment
DCR	Department of Conservation & Recreation	TMDL	Total Maximum Daily Loads
DGIF	Department of Game and Inland Fisheries	USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
DHR	Department of Historic Resources	USDA	U.S. Department of Agriculture
DHCD	Department of Housing and Community Development	USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
DMME	Department of Mines Minerals and Energy	VACORP	Virginia Association of Counties Risk Pool
DOE	Department of Energy	VAPA	Virginia Planning Association
DRPT	Department of Rail and Public Transportation	VAPDC	Virginia Association of Planning District Commissions
EDA	Economic Development Administration	VASG	Virginia Sea Grant
EDO	Economic Development Organization	VCP	Virginia Coastal Program
EECBG	Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant	VCRMP	Virginia Coastal Resilience Master Plan
EOC	Emergency Operation Center	VCWRLF	Virginia Clean Water Revolving Loan Fund
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency	VCZMP	Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency	VDEM	Virginia Department of Emergency Management
Fracking	Hydraulic Fracturing	VDH	Virginia Department of Health
GIS	Geographic Information System	VDOT	Virginia Department of Transportation
HRPDC	Hampton Roads Planning District Commission	VEE	Virginia Environmental Endowment
LGA	Local Government Administrators	VIMS	Virginia Institute of Marine Science
LPT	Local Planning Team	VLCF	Virginia Land Conservation Fund
LSIP	Living Shoreline Incentive Program	VMRC	Virginia Marine Resource Commission
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding	VOAD	Volunteer Organization Active in Disasters
MPA	Middle Peninsula Alliance	VOP	Virginia Outdoors Plan
MPBA	Middle Peninsula Broadband Authority	VRA	Virginia Resources Authority
MPCBPAA	Middle Peninsula Chesapeake Bay Public Access Authority	VSMP	Virginia Stormwater Management Program
MPEDRO	Middle Peninsula Economic Development and Resource Organization	VTA	Virginia Tourism Association
NIMS	National Incident Management System	VTC	Virginia Tourism Corporation
NFWF	National Fish and Wildlife Foundation	VWP	Virginia Water Protection
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration	VWWR	Virginia Water Withdrawal Reporting
NPS	National Park Services	WIP	Watershed Implementation Plan
OCVA	Oyster Company of Virginia	WQIF	Water Quality Improvement Fund
OLGA	Online Grant Administration		



September 29, 2023

The Honorable Glenn Youngkin, Governor
Commonwealth of Virginia
P. O. Box 1475
Richmond, VA 23218

Dear Governor Youngkin:

The purpose of this letter is to request that you include additional state funding for regional planning district commissions (PDCs) in the FY25/26 budget that you will introduce to the General Assembly's money committees in December.

In your remarks to the joint money committees on August 23, you spoke of your Administration's "culture of striving to improve, of carving out pockets of savings.....empowers more investments to increase the effectiveness of government." Planning district commissions are critical components of the work that the state and local governments do to promote and provide efficient and effective services on a regional basis. Indeed, PDCs are charged with doing just that under the Regional Cooperation Act (15.2-4207), "to encourage and facilitate local government cooperation and state-local cooperation in addressing on a regional basis, problems of greater than local significance."

Each of the 21 PDCs in Virginia is unique. While all are active in spearheading affordable housing development, many serve as strategic and administrative partners in implementing economic development and rural broadband expansion projects. Others guide oversight and administrative services for their GO Virginia region, trigger tourism enhancement, and facilitate actions that protect the Chesapeake Bay and our other natural resources. What they share is their experience and expertise in convening, cooperating, and collaborating with these other partners to facilitate the "recognition and analysis of regional opportunities and take account of regional influences in planning and implementing public policies and services."

In performing these duties, PDC's have been challenged by the adequacy of resources to carry out these functions, or at the expense of other worthwhile projects that assist the state and local governments. Accordingly, we respectfully request your consideration of increasing state funding for PDCs in the next biennial budget by \$150,000 per PDC.

As I am sure you are aware, PDCs have been vital partners for effective and efficient state and local government, providing critical services to the state through implementing state programs and administering statewide processes in collaboration with state agencies. Unfortunately, previous Administrations have not recognized the value of PDCs, and so PDCs remain challenged to provide greater support and assistance in part due to inconsistency in state funding. Funding for PDCs remains

below the level provided in FY2006, with the amount of state support for our three largest PDCs having fallen much further behind. To further illustrate this point, please see the chart below:

Source	Fiscal Years	Amount per PDC	Notes
CHPT 899 (HB30) 2002 Session	2003-2004	\$81,274	Lenwisco--\$116K Cmbrland--\$119K NOVA--\$364K HRds--\$353K RRPDC--\$204K Fifth--\$96K CSPDC--\$90K CVPDC--\$86K WestPied--\$93K
CHPT 951 (HB 1500) 2005 Session	2006	\$90,000—supplemental funding of \$511,454 brought each PDC to \$90K minimum	Lenwisco--\$128K Cmbrland--\$132K NVRC--303K HRds--\$293K RRPDC--\$165K
CHPT 874 (HB30) 2010 Session	2011-2012	\$66,062	NVRC--132K HRds--\$132K RRPDC--\$99K
CHPT 890 (HB1500) 2011 Session	2012	\$75,971	NVRC--152K HRds--\$152K RRPDC--\$114K
CHPT 552 (HB 1800) 2021 Special Session	2022	\$89,971	NVRC--\$166K HRds--\$166K RRPDC--\$128K

We are glad to discuss this request with you, your staff, and other leaders in your Administration. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Lou Ann Wallace, President

(Insert locality logo here)

(Insert date)

The Honorable Glenn Youngkin, Governor
Commonwealth of Virginia
P. O. Box 1475
Richmond, VA 23218

Dear Governor Youngkin:

I write this letter to express strong support for increased funding for Planning District Commissions (PDC) to be included in your biennial budget for FY25/26 to be introduced in December. Additional state funding of \$150,000 per PDC/per year in Virginia is critically needed, is long overdue and would enhance the capacity of PDCs to support and assist the State and their communities.

Despite a small bump several years ago, state funding for most PDCs remains at about the same level as 15 years ago, in the aftermath of the Great Recession. State dollars for the largest PDCs remain even farther behind previous levels. Many state agencies benefit from strong and capable PDCs that work cooperatively with them to address and administer state programs and to assist state agencies with statewide planning processes.

Further, in our locality, _____ *(insert local testimonial/anecdote here to emphasize the value/benefits that your PDC provides to your locality)*.

We feel strongly that the _____ *(name of PDC)* has been a critical partner to help our community and region to proactively address collective challenges. But there is more that can be done. We are at an opportune time with the availability of grant funding being available; adding resources to PDCs will help bring federal dollars to the state and regions. This additional state funding being requested also could be used to extend PDC staff capacity to assist the State and to prepare and execute additional projects with their member local governments, driving more effective and efficient local government.

We appreciate the efforts of the Youngkin Administration to work alongside localities to promote and enhance efficiency in government. On behalf of _____ *(name of locality)*, thank you for your consideration of these views and this request. Your support and favorable action would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

(City/County Manager/Administrator/Executive)

cc:

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PLEASE SUPPORT ENHANCED STATE FUNDING for PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSIONS

Background:

The Virginia Association of Planning District Commissions is seeking to increase state funding for Planning District Commissions (PDCs) by \$150,000 per PDC (total funding request of \$3.15 million per fiscal year in both FY25 and FY26). The amount requested for inclusion in the governor's introduced budget (to be submitted in December) would extend PDC staff capacity to assist the State on joint work; to execute regional projects and plans; and to help create more efficiencies in how local citizens are served.

Rationale:

- >State funding for PDCs remains below the \$90,000 per year level (for most PDCs) provided in FY2006, with the amount of state support for our three largest PDCs having fallen much further behind previous amounts.
- >State and federal agencies rely on PDCs to convene key players and to administer and broker key local and regional projects of importance to the State; this requires a core competency that has had stagnant funding the past 15 years.
- >With an unprecedented amount of federal grant funding being available, additional resources for PDCs will help bring these dollars to the State and regions.
- >The State benefits from the key activities performed by PDCs in working cooperatively to address/administer state programs and assist state agencies with statewide planning processes.

Summary:

WHAT: Request for additional state funding for PDCs to be included in the next state budget.

HOW MUCH: \$150,000 per PDC in both FY25 and FY26.

WHY: To increase PDC capacity to secure federal dollars, to push collaborative projects and to assist the State.

**Please support increasing state base funding for Planning District
Commissions.**

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