

## **Regional Strategic Planning Discussion**

Virginia Code 15.2-4209 requires each PDC to have a regional strategic plan. Over the past several years we have used the Partnership Strategic Plan as our regional plan to meet this requirement. Now that the Partnership has dissolved it is appropriate to refresh our regional plan.

Kelly Hitchcock will lead a discussion about a regional plan at the July meeting.

## **Operation of Youth Program**

At the November meeting the Commission authorized a contract with the Workforce Development Board to operate the Youth Workforce Program for the 2019-2020 fiscal year. The Workforce Board is expected to authorize this contract shortly for a July 1 implementation date.

## **Personnel Policy Re-write**

Staff has contracted with Margaret Schmitt of the Berkley Group to review and update our personnel policies. An initial draft was presented to the Executive Committee who suggested that the revised document be circulated to CVPDC staff for comments. This circulation is underway and we'll review the document and the comments at the July meeting.

## **CEDS Update**

The CEDS was approved by EDA in September 2018 and expires December 2022. The CVPDC provides oversight to CEDS Initiative Councils – Arts & Culture, Rivers & Communities, and Transportation. Each of these Initiative Councils (IC) meet intermittently, with the exception of the TTC/Transportation IC which meets monthly, to gauge and advance Implementation Action Plan activities. IC progress is reported to the CEDS Steering Committee.

It is the intention to continue to solidify our relationship with the Federal Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration by seeking recognition as an Economic Development District. EDD designation would allow a more streamlined application process when seeking development grant funds from EDA and provide annual planning support to develop CEDS updates and advance project implementation.

Kelly Hitchcock recently met with EDA officials to discuss the Economic Development District designation, a detailed approval and program auditing evaluation process. It was suggested that the CVPDC region utilize the Hazard Mitigation Plan to advance the region's economic resiliency component, an area that EDA recognized was light in the current CEDS, and to more adequately reflect the region's rural and agricultural sector, prior to beginning the EDD approval process.

## **Workforce Development Center**

It's a priority in our 2016 CEDS (Key Initiative #7) to create a Workforce Development Center for the region. Initially it was thought that we should prioritize it on the campus of the Central Virginia Community College. (Key Initiative #7, Develop a Regional Workforce Center to deliver necessary workforce training). Later, the CEDS Committee dropped the community college campus as the preferred location and did not identify a preferred location.

This Workforce Training Center is envisioned to provide expanded services from the services offered by Career Center that is now in operation at the former Virginia Employment Commission building on Odd Fellows Road. At the Career Center employers and job seekers offer counseling, information, and job matching services. A regional workforce training center may have those services, but more importantly will offer training classes and certificates. It was the CEDS Committee's initial thinking that combining the services of the Workforce Board's Career Center and the education component of a training facility would provide a continuum of educational services to employers and job seekers.

The Career Center building on Odd Fellows Road is a Commonwealth of Virginia owned facility that offers significantly discounted, below market rent to the Workforce Development Board and its partners. Short of a state allocation through the biennial budget, we have not found a scenario that puts the Career Center at any other location for the overhead costs we currently pay.

In the meantime, the community college is still pursuing opportunities to improve their services and educational offerings. Dr. John Capps will join us at our April 18 meeting and discuss a vocational education grant that most community colleges are receiving to analyze and develop some options to expand vocational education in the region.