

Agenda Item 10.b - Information Items

Buffer and Boats Field Day – Amherst County May 26th

Our region loves its rivers and trees. On Thursday, May 26th join the James River Association and other conservation partners, including the CVPDC, to learn about the important role trees and other Best Management Practices play in protecting the James River.

Participants will meet at Riveredge Park across the James from downtown Lynchburg. We will then tour an Amherst County property owner, Robert Schumacher's James River Buffer Program project, and then back to Riveredge Park to enjoy lunch (provided) and hear partners share information on local water quality initiatives. Also, for those that choose, enjoy a short, free guided trip on the James River!

Learn more, see a full schedule, and register here: <https://form.jotform.com/220725606869969>

Housing Project Update

The CVPDC applied for and has received a Community Impact Grant (CIG) from Virginia Housing to execute the CVPDC Regional Housing Market Analysis Study. The grant is \$100,000 and will examine the housing market in all of our communities. A RFP was issued in early May and our goal is to have a consultant firm on board and project underway in July.

This grant is in addition to the \$2 million received for the housing project implementation.

Brownfields Assessment Grant

In March 2021 the Commission authorized the application to EPA for Brownfields Assessment funds, which will provide funds to assess environmental hazards in abandoned or underutilized structures in an effort to make the sites more attractive for re-use and development. Since the City of Lynchburg already has this program in place, our grant was written to serve Amherst, Appomattox, Bedford and Campbell Counties.

I'm pleased to let you know that CVPDC was one of seven Virginia localities awarded funds in this year's application cycle. We have been awarded \$500,000 and have three years to expend the funds. The City of Lynchburg was also awarded \$500,000.

Helpful local government staff members who provided important information to make the application successful were:

- Pam Bailey, Bedford County
- Jeremy Bryant, Amherst County
- Mayor Richard Conner, Appomattox Town
- Sara McGuffin, Amherst Town
- Nina Rezai, Campbell County
- Gary Shanaberger, Appomattox Town
- Russell Thurston, Brookneal
- Mary Zirkle, Bedford Town