

Staff Report

To: Central Virginia Planning District Commissioners

From: Executive Director Alec Brebner and staff

Date: September 18, 2025

Water Supply Planning

Each CVPDC member local government received correspondence in October 2024 from the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality notifying it of a state mandate to prepare a water supply plan. The regulations urged local governments to work together to achieve such a plan.

CVPDC staff contacted on-call consultants for cost estimates for a Central Virginia Water Supply Plan. Numbers ranged from \$350,000 to \$500,000. Staff met with Central Virginia's chief administrative officers to discuss regional collaboration. At that time, member local governments did not reach consensus that such an effort should be locally funded. The Commission was advised accordingly at its November 2024 meeting.

CVPDC staff has since sought other funding solutions. A preapplication to the Virginia Department of Emergency Management for a water supply plan with a robust drought mitigation component was successful. A full grant application has been submitted and is now under review.

The Virginia Association of PDCs has secured verbal commitment from DEQ Director Mike Rolband to recommend \$2 million in funding for inclusion in the Governor's next biennial budget. The budget for the current biennium provides \$460,000.

Approximately \$9,000 is available this fall to begin coordination and data collection. DEQ staff has provided some of the data via e-mail to help local and regional planners get started. CVPDC staff proposes to the Commission that we in Central Virginia get started. An application requirement is a resolution of the Planning District Commission indicating a desire to work together toward a regional plan.

The plan is due in October 2029. By starting now, we can defray costs across three fiscal years while additional funding opportunities develop. If we don't start now, we forego \$9,240 available from DEQ with no match requirement. (Supporting materials for the grant opportunity appear in the agenda packet for Commissioners' inspection.)

Water Supply Planning Background and Details

The Region 2000 Local Government Council commissioned Central Virginia's first regional water supply plan 15 years ago. The state funded the effort. The cost was \$285,000 by the planning effort's conclusion in 2012.

The last plan includes Nelson County. DEQ asks that the current planning effort incorporate Nelson County as well. County Administrator Candy McGarry would like to work with Central Virginia, has committed to matching dollars, and will ask her board of supervisors to adopt a resolution in support of Central Virginia's application.

DEQ directed Bedford County and, by extension, the Town of Bedford to work with the Roanoke Valley. VDEM, however, is requiring Central Virginia to incorporate Bedford to receive funding. Both the County and the Town have formally indicated a willingness to work with the CVPDC and provide matching dollars for the VDEM grant application.

CVPDC staff asked each county administrator to pledge \$5,400 to match the VDEM grant. We asked each town manager for a commitment of 4,000. These figures are preliminary, given the evolving funding situation. No formal commitment is required unless and until VDEM makes an award and the CVPDC completes a grant agreement.

The Counties of Amherst, Appomattox, Bedford, and Campbell; the City of Lynchburg; and the Towns of Altavista, Amherst, Appomattox, Bedford, and Pamplin have all agreed in writing to participate in a VDEM-funded planning effort at stated costs.

The resolution drafted for the Planning District Commission's consideration names only those seven member local governments who have affirmed participation. These seven lie in the "Middle James 2 Regional Planning Unit," a new geographic unit identified by the regulations promulgated by DEQ.

GO Virginia Region 2 Active Projects Report

Virginia Tech's Center for Economic and Community Engagement staffs the "**Growth and Opportunity Virginia**" (GO Virginia) Region 2 Council. Region 2 includes the Central Virginia, Roanoke Valley-Alleghany, and New River Valley planning districts. GO Virginia funds economic development projects that will create high-paying jobs.

Region 2 staff asked CVPDC staff to share their current projects with the Central Virginia Planning District Commission. Region 2 staff would like to visit the Commission, present an update, and discuss project ideas at an upcoming CVPDC meeting.

GO Virginia Region 2 Council is in the home stretch of an update to its *Growth and Diversification Plan*. A public unveiling will be held at its "**2025 State of the Region Event**" at 3:00 on October 29, 2025, at the Taubman Museum of Art at 110 Salem Avenue SE, Roanoke, VA. VEDP President & CEO Jason El Koubi will keynote. CVPDC staff will attend. CVPDC Commissioners interested are very welcome to attend and may [register here](#), free of charge.

Federal Surface Transportation Act Reauthorization

CVPDC Executive Director Alec Brebner is attending the conference of the national Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations September 16-18 as the Chairman of the Virginia Association of MPOs.

A focal point of conversation is federal surface transportation act reauthorization. A coalition of national organizations representing municipalities, counties, and regional agencies wishes to ensure that more federal resources intended for the nation's roads and bridges reach localities. Currently, 16 percent of federal revenue sent to Virginia is suballocated to local and regional entities. Localities maintain 1/3 of the roads. Regional entities manage most of the transit systems. This disparity is common in many states.

Alec will learn more and report back to VAMPO, VAPDC, and CVPDC.

Chesapeake Bay Watershed Implementation Plan & IIJA BMP Implementation Project

The CVPDC, along with Virginia's PDCs in the Chesapeake Bay watershed, continues to partner with DEQ, member local governments, and community stakeholders to advance initiatives that support the protection of local waterbodies and Chesapeake Bay tributaries. CVPDC secured a \$15,000 2025 Infrastructure, Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) Grant from DEQ called the Chesapeake Bay BMP Implementation Projects Sub-Award to advance completion of small Best Management Practices (BMP), or practices that directly reduce impact of stormwater, sediments and nutrients to local water bodies. This sub-award supplements CVPDC's annual Watershed Implementation Plan – Phase III (WIP 3) grant and program.

The 2025 Water Relief Mini-Grant Program provides this sub-award to create opportunities for organizations, including localities, in Central Virginia to receive \$4,500 in reimbursement funds to execute BMP projects. Camp Kum-Ba-Yah has been awarded a grant, which will be matched with in-kind contribution, to install a 10' x 18' permeable paver platform that will provide a seating area and capture runoff from a hill that approaches the recently completed Addison's Amphitheater.

CVPDC staff is coordinating with other local partners, including Amherst County, to fund and implement similar best management practices. More information and documentation of projects funded by the sub-award will be presented at an upcoming CVPDC Commission meeting.