

# West Piedmont Planning Dispatch

FALL 2011



West Piedmont

## WEST PIEDMONT PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION

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SERVING THE COUNTIES OF FRANKLIN, HENRY, PATRICK, AND PITTSYLVANIA, THE CITIES OF DANVILLE AND MARTINSVILLE, AND THE TOWN OF ROCKY MOUNT

## Hazard Mitigation

The West Piedmont Planning District Commission, along with its member jurisdictions and the consulting firm of Dewberry, has been tasked with advancing hazard mitigation strategies throughout the region. Two of the most significant hazards that can affect the WPPD Region include winter storms and flooding.

The WPPDC's original hazard mitigation plan was adopted in 2006, and local governments must review and update the plan every five years to remain eligible for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) hazard mitigation assistance.

## Water Supply Planning

A pristine, potable, and reliable supply of water is essential to civilization and ecosystems, and the West Piedmont Planning District is certainly no exception. The region is fortunate to possess an abundant supply of water which is provided by both surface (lakes, rivers) and ground (aquifers) sources, but is nevertheless vulnerable to droughts and the effects of over-consumption.

The State of Virginia requires that a comprehensive state-wide water supply planning process be developed to ensure the availability of adequate drinking water supplies and to develop alternative water sources. The Local and Regional Water Supply Planning Regulation requires all counties, cities, and towns in the

After months of work and reviewing the 2006 Plan, an updated draft version of the West Piedmont Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan, dated June 24, 2011, was created.

The draft version of the plan can be viewed at [www.wppdc.org/Web\\_Data/Haz%20Mit/wpied\\_HMP\\_Update%20v12.pdf](http://www.wppdc.org/Web_Data/Haz%20Mit/wpied_HMP_Update%20v12.pdf).

The project schedule, the next steps include:

- FEMA review and conditional approval pending adoption by early September;
- Public hearings/mitigation plan adoption by local gov-

erning bodies by the end of October;

- FEMA final approval letters by mid-November;
- Finalization of the project, printing, and distribution of copies of the final plan by late November.



Commonwealth to submit local water supply plans or to participate in such plans at the regional level. The Plan is required to be revised every five years and submitted to DEQ every ten years. Over a 3-phase planning process, WPPD staff has worked with Draper Aden to develop the WPPD 2011 Water Supply Plan.

The Plan provides an inventory of water supplies, current consumption, and projected consumption for Patrick, Henry, and Pittsylvania Counties, and as well as the cities of Martinsville and Danville and, the Towns of Chatham, Gretna, Hurt, Ridgeway, and Stuart. Franklin County and the Towns of Rocky Mount and Boones Mill are participating in the Roanoke Valley/Alleghany

Regional Commission's Regional Water Supply Plan.

This fall, each local area covered by the Plan will be holding public hearings to adopt various elements and drought ordinances, drought response and contingency plans, and the regional water supply plan in order to meet the November deadline.

You may view the Executive Summary of the 2011 Water Supply Plan Update here: [www.wppdc.org](http://www.wppdc.org). Once at the home page, scroll down to Water Supply Planning and click Water Supply Plan 2011 Update—Executive Summary.



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## WPPDC Commissioners

### Franklin County

William Brush  
Bobby Thompson  
Leland Mitchell

### Henry County

Tommy Slaughter  
Jim L. Adams  
Wesley E. George, III

### Patrick County

Lock Boyce  
Karl Weiss  
Jerry Adams

### Pittsylvania County

James E. Astin, Jr.  
James H. Snead  
William Pritchett

### City of Danville

Dr. Gary P. Miller  
Albert K. Rawley, Jr.  
Verna Graham

### City of Martinsville

Kimble Reynolds, Jr.  
Kathy Lawson  
Kim Adkins

### Town of Rocky Mount

Jerry W. Greer, Sr.  
Ralph A. Casey  
Gregory B. Walker

### Aaron Burdick

Executive Director

[aaronburdick@wppdc.org](mailto:aaronburdick@wppdc.org)

The West Piedmont Planning District Commission has been serving the Counties of Patrick, Henry, Pittsylvania, and Franklin; the Cities of Martinsville and Danville; and the Town of Rocky Mount for more than 40 years.

## *Adoption of Rural Long-Range Transportation Plan*

A general goal of the WPPDC and the Commonwealth with regard to the region and state's transportation system is to provide "for the effective, safe, and efficient movement of people and goods." The West Piedmont Planning District is well-suited to multi-modal transportation system development and integration, as the region comprises numerous primary and secondary roadways, two public transit agencies, two regional airports, and passenger and freight rail services.

The WPPDC 2035 Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), adopted in May 2011, will be integrated into Virginia's 2035 State Highway Plan with the intention of identifying needs and recommending solutions for Interstate and primary highway systems throughout the Commonwealth. In addition, the LRTP contains a wealth of information and recommendations pertaining to regional modes of transportation including alternative transportation and public transit.

Rural Transportation Plan at: [www.wppdc.org/Web\\_Data/Transp/RTP/WestPied\\_RL RTP.pdf](http://www.wppdc.org/Web_Data/Transp/RTP/WestPied_RL RTP.pdf).

You may view the Long-Range



## *Danville-Pittsylvania MPO*

The WPPDC administers the Danville-Pittsylvania Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), which is responsible for continuing, comprehensive, and cooperative transportation planning.

The MPO is currently engaged in several corridor studies, including improvements to Mount Cross Road (Route 750), efforts to establish a connection between Route 58 West and Route 863, a Route 58 West access manage-

ment study, and efforts to establish a connection between the Ringgold Trail in Pittsylvania County and the Dan Riverwalk Trail in the city of Danville.

## *Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)*

Since 1991, the WPPDC has been designated an Economic Development District by the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA). Along with this designation, the WPPDC has been awarded total funding comprising \$23 million for infrastructure and site work for industrial parks throughout the region, the Mid-Atlantic Broadband Cooperative fiber-optic backbone initiative, and other activities.

The EDA revised the guidelines of the CEDS development to include a Strategy Committee identified by the Planning District Commission; the Committee will be responsible for developing, revising, or replacing the CEDS. EDA's guidelines state that: "The Strategy Committee must represent the main economic interests of the region, and must include private sector representatives, public officials, community leaders, representatives of workforce development boards, representatives of institutions of higher education, minority and labor groups, and

private individuals."

### Meeting Schedule

- First meeting will be held during the last week of September and will involve discussion of the CEDS document regarding the Vision Statement, District Goals, and Project Priority Process.
- Second meeting will be held in November and participants will review the region's Potentials and Constraints.
- Third meeting will be held in mid-February and participants will review the Project Priority List submitted by each locality.

*"TEACHING THE PUBLIC ABOUT POTENTIAL HAZARDS WILL HELP EACH OF THE AREA'S JURISDICTIONS PROTECT THEMSELVES AGAINST THE EFFECTS OF HAZARDS, AND WILL ENABLE INFORMED DECISION MAKING ON WHERE TO LIVE, PURCHASE PROPERTY, OR LOCATE BUSINESSES"*



Left: Philpott Lake.

Right: One of the West Piedmont Planning District's many agricultural areas.



## Staffing News

### **Aaron Burdick**

Aaron Burdick is the WPPDC's new Executive Director and assumed this role with the Commission on April 18th, 2011. Aaron is originally from Loudoun County, VA, and previously worked with Franklin County as a Senior Planner/Current Planning Manager and the Town of Rocky Mount as Planning and Zoning Administrator. Burdick replaces long-time executive director Robert Dowd who retired on June 30th, 2011. Dowd served the Commission for 34 years and is known as a pioneer in regional governance.

*"We keep moving forward, opening new doors, and doing new things, because we're curious and curiosity keeps leading us down new paths. We're always exploring and experimenting."*

-Walt Disney

### **Leah Manning**

Leah Manning was promoted to the position of Deputy Director/Economic Development Planner on August 1st, 2011. Leah's previous position with the Commission was Cartographer/Planner; she has served with the Commission since 1992. Manning replaces Joan Hullett who served WPPDC for more than 40 years and left her mark on the region by assisting with securing more than \$23 million in economic development grants.

### **Jacob Bullins**

Jacob Bullins began serving the WPPDC on March 16th, 2011, as an Administrative Assistant/Bookkeeper. Jacob is a native of Patrick County and has previously worked in the housing industry as a staff accountant and accounts receivable and payables manager.

*"The achievements of an organization are the results of the combined effort of each individual."*

-Vince Lombardi

### **Joe Bonanno**

Also a new addition to the WPPDC, Joe Bonanno began serving the region as a Regional Planner on August 1st, 2011, focusing on transportation and land use issues. Joe is from Mahopac, NY, and has previously worked with the Southern Windsor County Regional Planning Commission in Ascutney, VT and Westchester County, NY, in regional and county planning capacities, respectively.

### **David Rakes**

David Rakes has served the WPPDC since December 1999 as the organization's Cartographer and Planning Technician, and has been a major contributor to the WPPDC's mapping activities. David is a native of Patrick County and has a background in land surveying and engineering.

### **Tracy Meade**

Tracy Meade has been serving the WPPDC since October of 1997 as the organization's Office Assistant, a position in which she has thrived in serving the day-to-day needs of the PDC. Tracy is a native of Henry County.

## **STAFF**

**AARON BURDICK—EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**LEAH MANNING—DEPUTY DIRECTOR/  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLANNER**

**JOSEPH BONANNO—REGIONAL PLANNER**

**JACOB BULLINS—ADMINISTRATIVE  
ASSISTANT/BOOKKEEPER**

**TRACY MEADE—OFFICE ASSISTANT**

**DAVID RAKES—CARTOGRAPHER/  
PLANNING TECHNICIAN**

*"IMPROVING THE TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM REMAINS VITAL TO IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE AND CONTINUED ECONOMIC GROWTH AND PROSPERITY IN VIRGINIA"*

*"OVER THE DECADE...THE REGION'S LOCALITIES HAVE CONTINUED TO INVEST IN INFRASTRUCTURE AND PROGRAMS AIMED AT STRENGTHENING THE ECONOMY AND IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR ITS CITIZENS"*



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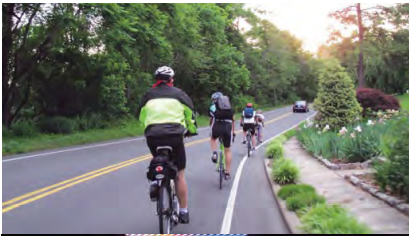
WEST PIEDMONT PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION

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**The purpose of Planning District Commissions, as set out in the Code of Virginia, Section 15.2-4207, is:**

*"...to encourage and facilitate local government cooperation and state-local cooperation in addressing on a regional basis problems of greater than local significance. The cooperation resulting from this chapter is intended to facilitate the recognition and analysis of regional opportunities and take account of regional influences in planning and implementing public policies and services. The planning district commission shall also promote the orderly and efficient development of the physical, social, and economic elements of the district by planning, and encouraging, and assisting localities to plan, for the future."*



## **Fiscal Year 2012 Elected Officers**

- Chairperson—Kathy C. Lawson, City of Martinsville
- Vice Chairperson—Albert K. "Buddy" Rawley, Jr., City of Danville
- Treasurer—James E. Astin, Jr., Pittsylvania County

**The WPPDC holds its regularly scheduled meetings on the fourth Thursday of each month.**

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