

Northern Neck Planning District Commission Annual Work Program FY 2020-21

INTRODUCTION

The 2020-21 Work Program for the Northern Neck Planning District Commission contains specific work elements and a budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021. The work program is based on requests from the Commission's member localities and on State and Federal grant activities. It is intended to be flexible and adaptable to meet varied and changeable requirements of the divisions of governments involved.

WORK PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

The Northern Neck Planning District Commission, a voluntary association of local governing bodies, endeavors to address local issues and to solve problems with regional significance and impact through mutual cooperation. These regional issues cannot be solved efficiently by each county alone.

Objectives of the 2020-21 Work Program are:

- To represent the unified needs of member governments through the role of a regional forum and/or spokesperson;
- To fulfill the need for developing regional plans and/or programs whenever compatible goals and objectives exist;
- To create an awareness of the need for regional compatibility along boundaries;
- To fulfill a collective need for all member government needs by providing up-to-date data and statistics.

WORK PROGRAM CATEGORIES

ADMINISTRATION: Administrative activities and costs include those necessary to maintain the Commission's operations. The administrative function is intended to provide efficient and responsive operations through sound financial, personnel, and program management. Administrative costs are distributed to all program areas by an indirect cost-allocation plan in accordance with state and federal guidelines. Work program elements include financial management and accounting, personnel management, work programming, commonwealth intergovernmental review, grant seeking, and release time (annual, holiday, sick leave).

REGIONAL PROGRAMS: Regional programming includes intergovernmental coordination, review and assistance, economic development activities, transportation planning, grant program identification and applications, environmental planning and local requests. A combination of the basic State PDC allocation, the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation, Virginia Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, the Department of Environmental Quality Virginia Coastal Zone

Management Program, Economic Development Administration, Department of Housing and Community Development, Department of Conservation and Recreation, Department of Emergency Management, USDA Rural Development, National Fish & Wildlife Foundation, and County contributions provide funding for these services. Specific activities include the following:

Environmental:

- Continue updating the Regional Waste Stream/Recycling Report
- Update the Regional Solid Waste Management Plan
- Continue reviewing and updating the Regional Hazardous Materials Response Plan and coordinate activities
- Attend meetings of the Rappahannock River Basin Commission, participate on and support the Commission's Technical Committee and the Potomac Watershed Roundtable
- Review Environmental Impact Statements, Assessments and/or Reviews, and Coastal Zone Management consistency determinations
- Pursue funding and opportunities for further study of groundwater in the region and water supply planning
- Administer the Regional "Assign-A-Highway" Program
- Seek additional funding to continue and expand the LMI Septic Pump-out Grant Program
- Continue administering the Energy Efficiency Weatherization Program
- Support the VA-DEQ Coastal Zone Management Program through participation on the Virginia Coastal Policy Team, the biennial Coastal Partners Workshop and quarterly Coastal PDC Committee meetings
- Continue to provide coastal management support and local planning coordination and training to member localities through the VCZM program
- Continue administering Flood Hazard Mitigation activities through the Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grant House Elevation Program
- Continue supporting living shorelines and other natural and nature-based best management practices through the Living Shoreline Initiative
- Continue to promote land conservation in the Northern Neck through a regional workshop conducted in collaboration with the Virginia Cooperative Extension, Virginia Department of Forestry and Northern Neck Land Conservancy
- Continue advancing ecosystem and community resilience through coordination with member localities and VCZM and coordinate implementation of the Resilience Adaptation Feasibility Tool (RAFT)
- Coordinate Regional Chesapeake Bay WIP III TMDL planning and implementation

Economic Development:

- Assist the Counties with planning, development and marketing of industrial sites and buildings; coordinate with the Virginia Economic Development Partnership
- Serve as administrative and fiscal agent for the Northern Neck-Chesapeake Bay Region Partnership

- Serve as administrative and fiscal agent for the Northern Neck Tourism Commission
- Support the University of Mary Washington Small Business Development Center
- Administer the Northern Neck Enterprise Zone
- Support workforce development and training initiatives throughout the region
- Serve as administrative and fiscal agent for the Northern Neck Broadband Authority
- Assist the Counties with planning, development and financing of broadband projects working with private service providers and other stakeholders
- Support the Mary Ball Washington Regional Council and the GO Virginia Initiative
- Administer small business revolving loan program
- Continue planning and technical assistance activities as a Designated Economic Development District
- Review and amend the Northern Neck Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy to include an Economic Restructuring and Recovery Plan and Resiliency Strategies

Transportation:

- Continue the Northern Neck Transportation Demand Management Program (NeckRide.org)
- Continue work on regional transportation planning matters, serving as staff to the Northern Neck Regional Transportation Technical Advisory Committee, and working on Regional Rural Transportation Plan tasks
- Work with VDOT to further develop a comprehensive Geographic Information System
- Provide information on FAST to localities, promote use of the enhancement program and assist in preparation of grant applications
- Continue work on regional trail networks
- Serve as administrative and fiscal agent for the Northern Neck- Chesapeake Bay Public Access Authority and assist counties in creating new public water access sites, enhancing existing public water access sites and creating an inventory of available sites
- Continue participation in the VDOT Long Range Plan process
- Continue to support Bay Transit and promote the use of public transportation

Other:

- Continue to coordinate meetings of the County Administrators and Land-Use Administrators to discuss regional issues and programs
- Coordinate regional legislative meetings with State and Federal legislators
- Assist counties with updating the Regional Emergency Operations Plan
- Coordinate activities related to the All Hazards Mitigation Planning process and implementation of the plan's goals, objectives, strategies and actions
- Administer and act as fiscal agent for Emergency Ambulance Services Revenue Recovery Program

LOCAL PROGRAMS: Local project assistance is provided by the Commission to the localities within the Northern Neck Region. These local projects include a wide range of categories including grant seeking, writing and management assistance, environmental planning and monitoring for compliance and computer assistance, and other regional planning. These services are funded by a combination of local member dues, the State PDC allocation, and specific grants or contracts where applicable. Specific activities include the following:

- Respond to local mapping and technical assistance requests, as needed
- Assist the Town of White Stone with Business District Revitalization Project
- Assist Northumberland County with Callao Business District Revitalization Planning
- Administer FEMA/VDEM grants when requested

STATE AFFILIATE DATA CENTER AND PUBLIC INFORMATION SERVICES:

The State has established its 21 PDCs as affiliate data centers for the U.S. Bureau of the Census and also as a repository of the various State Agencies information. The Commission functions as an information source and clearinghouse to State, local and private entities. This program is funded by the basic State PDC allocation. Specific activities include the following:

- The ongoing provision of information to organizations and residents concerning the social, economic, and demographic characteristics of the region
- The ongoing communication and convening function on topics of regional significance and/or urgency
- The ongoing publication of NNPDC project updates online
- Operation of the State affiliate data center office for the Census Bureau and other agencies
- Maintenance of the PDC website www.northernneck.us, the Northern Neck Tourism Commission website www.northernneck.org, the Northern Neck TDM website www.neckride.org, and the heritage website www.northernneckheritage.com
NNPDC also hosts a regional environmental information portal at www.nnkgreen.org