



## February 2025 Update

### NRVRC Board Member Transitions

The New River Valley Regional Commission would like to thank Mary Trigiani for representing Virginia Tech Foundation and Michael Reis for representing the Town of Pulaski. Ms. Trigiani served on the Commission for two years as a citizen representative and Mr. Reis served on the Commission for two years as an elected official.

The Regional Commission welcomes two new members, Ken Smith, a citizen representing Virginia Tech Foundation and Wayne Seagle, an elected official representing the Town of Dublin.

### NRVRC Purchased a New Office Building!



In December, the New River Valley Regional Commission purchased the former American National Bank building at 2950 Market Street to become the agency's new office location following a construction project. The building in Christiansburg is adjacent to Enterprise Car Rental and in close proximity to the Uptown Christiansburg Mall. This project has been a tireless effort by the Regional Commission Board of Directors and its members over several years. The

board's work involved evaluating the current space for expansion purposes with an architect in late 2018 and into 2020. When the pandemic struck, the agency paused the effort and resumed evaluating space in 2023. Following the merger between Atlantic Union Bank and American National Bank, the 2950 Market Street property became available and Atlantic Union Bank worked diligently with the Regional Commission to make the project a reality.

It will be several months before the Regional Commission relocates to the new space. There are two construction projects being drawn up currently. One will involve closing in the drive through lanes to create a large meeting room, and the other will establish a medium sized meeting room on the second floor.

The organization is deeply appreciative of all the members for their participation in this project. It would not have come to fruition without a commitment to regionalism and investment from every corner of the New River Valley.

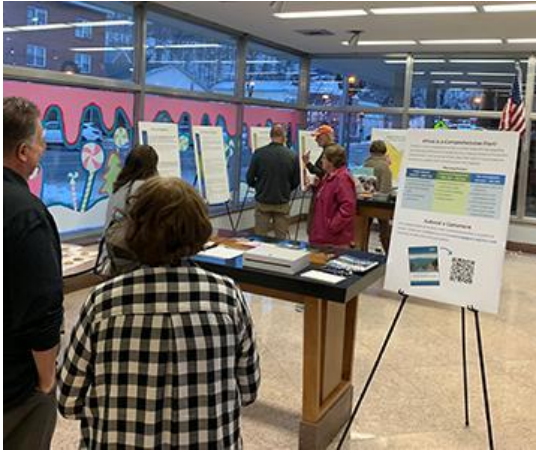
The Regional Commission was established in 1969. For the first 30 years the agency was located in Radford. The following 25 years the Regional Commission has been housed in Fairlawn at the Pulaski County Innovation Center. The Regional Commission looks forward to many future years serving the New River Valley from Christiansburg.



Commission staff toured the new space in December

## Town of Rich Creek Comprehensive Plan

The Town of Rich Creek hosted an open house in January to present the updated draft of its Comprehensive Plan. During the event, the public had the opportunity to explore the key



goals, objectives, and policies related to future land use, economic development, housing, transportation, infrastructure, public services, and recreation. Attendees also engaged in discussions with members of the Town Council and Planning Commission. An adoption hearing is expected to be announced within the next month.

We extend our gratitude to all the community members of Rich Creek who contributed to the updated Comprehensive Plan. Thank you!

For more information, contact Bethany Peters, [bpeters@nrvc.org](mailto:bpeters@nrvc.org).

## EDA ROADMAP Summitt

Emma Carroll attended the first U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF) and Economic Development Administration (EDA) ROADMAP Summit in Washington, D.C. During this event, which featured more than 20 sessions, leaders from government and industry discussed the importance of national competitiveness in science and technology, as well as the role of place-based innovation in increasing access to high-quality, high-wage jobs. The AM2 Tech Hub, supported by the EDA Tech Hubs program, aims to make the New River Valley and Danville region a global leader in innovative additive manufacturing and advanced materials solutions. Visit the project site here; <https://am2virginia.org/>

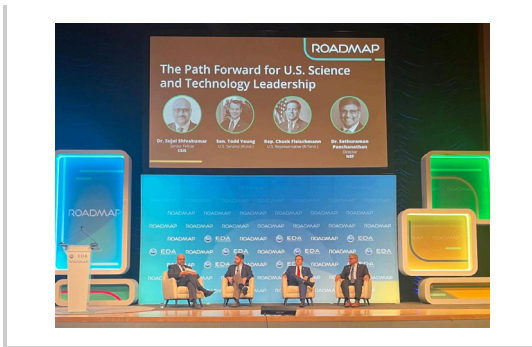
For more information contact Emma Carroll, [ecarroll@nrvc.org](mailto:ecarroll@nrvc.org).



## New River Valley Passenger Rail Station Authority

The New River Valley Passenger Rail Station Authority is happy to report that the Planning Grant from the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) is now officially under contract. ARC has awarded the Regional Commission \$252,500 for the architecture/engineering services related to the passenger rail station design/construction. These funds are matched with an additional \$240,000 in local funds from authority members and the NRV Metropolitan Planning Organization. This ARC grant not only saves a considerable amount of local resources, but also helps with the development of a significant economic asset for the region.

In anticipation of this contract, the NRV Passenger Rail Station Authority has already procured for architecture/engineering services. A contract has now been awarded, and Wendel, in partnership with Foresight



Design Services will begin the planning process.

For more information contact Chris Owens, [owens@nrvc.org](mailto:owens@nrvc.org).

## NRV Recovery Ecosystem Planning for FY26

The NRV Recovery Ecosystem is strengthening and growing in the second year of the 5-year Opioid Abatement Authority (OAA) funded work. The work spans efforts from prevention to harm reduction guided through the leadership of the four counties and city and supported by nine organizational partners delivering and tracking services. FY26 proposal submissions for OAA funding are open and the NRV Recovery Ecosystem technical teams are preparing recommendations for this third year. Below is the timeline for preparing both renewal and new proposals for year three.



## NRV RECOVERY ECOSYSTEM

### Timeline for FY26 Applications and Awards

- Technical Team Presentations for regional projects – early February
- Development of Locality Specific Applications – February – March
- Finalize Regional Application – March 15, 2025
- Submission of ALL applications – April 1, 2025
- Award Notification expected – June 2025
- FY26 – July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026

### Technical Team Recommendation Development

- January meetings finalizing recommendations
- Present recommendations to governmental leadership in February
- Finalize budgets and program adjustments by early March

If you are interested in participating on a technical team or want to receive the monthly electronic update for the NRV Recovery Ecosystem, contact Holly Lesko [hlesko@nrvc.org](mailto:hlesko@nrvc.org).



## New River Valley Peer Coalition

On January 13th, 80 individuals gathered to celebrate the launch of the New River Valley Peer Coalition, an initiative dedicated to providing peer-led pathways to recovery and collaboration, all through a trauma-informed lens. Speakers at the event, including Chris Alderman (New River Health District), Justin Griffith (Pulaski County Commonwealth Attorney), Whitney Chase-Petrie (Community Health Center of the New River Valley), Sarah Laurel (Savage Sisters, Philadelphia, PA), and Lindsey Eye (Strength in Peers, Harrisonburg, VA),

emphasized the importance of peer support in driving transformational efforts in harm reduction and recovery.

The coalition will continue to expand its reach through advocacy, training, and resources, creating a network of Peer Specialists and allies who can provide hope and healing through shared lived experiences. By supporting individuals on their recovery journeys and fostering community collaboration, the Coalition is committed to ensuring that peers and allies have the tools and connections they need to thrive.

For more information, contact Kinsey Weaver at [kweaver@nrvc.org](mailto:kweaver@nrvc.org).

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