

## GENERAL PLANNING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE REPORT AS OF MAY 31, 2008

**Note:** Bullet (➤) indicates new project or significant change from previous report.

*All project management activities contracted or otherwise, will be tracked with the **Project Management Status Report** as a separate document.*

### **REGIONAL**

**LENOWISCO Broadband Initiative;** Nearly 120 miles of broadband backbone have been installed, with additional miles under construction and further expansion throughout the region being funded by the Economic Development Administration and Virginia Tobacco Commission. The Virginia Coalfield Coalition is a project partner.

**Regional Incubator Initiative;** Improvements funded by USDA Rural Development and the Virginia Tobacco Commission continue at the Duffield Pioneer Center.

**Powell River Ecosystem Restoration;** The first phase has been completed. DMME has accepted work and will take over O&M. The next phase (Lick Branch, Big Branch and the Everglades) is expected to be ready for construction this fall.

- **Duffield Regional Technology Center & Access Road;** Staff has assisted the Scott County EDA with securing \$5.4 million for this project. The project is currently out to bid and a notice to proceed to construction is expected sometime in mid-June. An additional grant of \$450,000 was awarded from the Appalachian Regional Commission in May. Requested VDOT information for the access road was submitted on 3/14/2008. The process to obtain VDOT and ARC funding for the access road is moving forward.

**LENOWISCO Rural Transportation Planning Program;** Staff completed Phase I of this four phase project in July 2007. Staff attended a Phase II workshop in Charlottesville in November 2007. Staff will hold a meeting with the RTP Technical Committee in June to discuss Phase II goals and objectives.

- **LENOWISCO Regional Water Supply Plan;** All deliverables for Phase 2 will be submitted to DEQ June 1. The balance of grant funding for Phase 2 has been requested from DEQ. As there will be no funding from DEQ for Phase 3, LENOWISCO will partner with Mount Rogers and Cumberland Plateau to secure funding for the final phase.

**LENOWISCO Lodging Capacity Study;** Staff has reviewed the study and has shared the study with local economic development staff, with ongoing discussions to be held.

## **LEE COUNTY**

**Lee Co. Zoning Update;** Staff has submitted the latest requested changes to the county for the county's approval.

**Red Hill and West Poor Valley Sewer Extension;** The Town of Pennington Gap's engineering firm has completed the PER to determine the feasibility of extending public sewer service to the Red Hill and West Poor Valley communities. DEQ has reviewed the PER and issued comments that the engineering firm is responding to.

**Silver Leaf Water Extension-Phase 1;** Community sparkplugs are obtaining the needed user agreements and income surveys. The engineering firm is preparing final plans and specifications. VDH is reviewing the PER.

- **Blackwater Water Extension;** The Lee County PSA is awaiting funding announcements from the Virginia Department of Health and the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development.

**Sticklelyville Water Extension;** Staff assisted the Lee County PSA with the re-submittal of a VDH funding application for this project which was successful in receiving a funding offer. An application is now pending with Rural Development for the balance of the project's funding package. Emergency funding has been secured for recent issues concerning the Sticklelyville Elementary School (see below).

**Thompson Settlement Water Extension;** Staff assisted the Lee County PSA and the Lane Group with the resubmission of funding applications to the Virginia Department of Health for this project.

**Robbins Chapel Water Extension - Phase 2;** A groundbreaking ceremony was held in January 2008. Construction is on-going at the present time.

**Robbins Chapel Water Extension - Phase 3;** Staff participated in the first community meeting for residents of Mud and Reeds Creeks. The PSA's engineering firm is preparing a PER to determine project construction costs and feasibility.

**Ocoonita Loop Water Extension;** The PSA's engineering firm has completed the PER to determine the feasibility of extending public water to the Ocoonita, Hagan and Hubbard Springs communities. Funding offers have been made by both VDH and RD and conditions set forth in the RD letter of conditions are being completed.

**Town of Jonesville Cumberland Bowl RV Park;** Staff continues to assist the Town with the planning phase of an RV park to be constructed at the Cumberland Bowl Park. The Town has thus far received two Virginia Tobacco Commission grant awards for this project.

**Town of Jonesville Water System Improvements;** The town's engineering firm has completed the mapping, hydraulic analysis, and leak detection work. The final report that will contain a plan to improve the town's accountability will be finished soon.

- **Town of Jonesville Business District Revitalization Project;** Staff has participated in the DHCD-led visioning process and will assist the Town with its formal planning grant application to DHCD.

**Stone Creek Water Extension;** A PER is being prepared for the St. Charles Water and Sewage Authority to determine project costs and feasibility.

**Woodway Water Authority System Improvements;** The Authority's engineering firm is conducting the leak detection study. VDH provided funding for the study.

**Constitutional Oaks Park development;** Staff continues to assist the Lee County IDA with various activities related to the initial phase of site development of the business park. The overall funding package continues to be developed.

- **Constitutional Oaks speculative building;** Work is under way on construction of a 30,000 square foot, expandable shell building in the Constitutional Oaks park. The Lee County IDA is expected to seek additional funding to increase the size of the building.

**Industrial Building Acquisition;** Following receipt of a \$487,000 Virginia Tobacco Commission award, the Lee County IDA acquired the former SuperSack building in the Lee County Industrial Park. In December, the IDA announced the location of a tenant for the property.

- **Dryden Water Authority;** Staff assisted the Authority with engineering procurement for its VDH planning grant for a water system improvement plan. The Authority has applied to VDH for funding to fix some areas of its water system. VDH funding announcements are expected by September.

**Pennington Gap Broadband Planning Grant;** Staff is assisting the Town with a CDBG planning grant to develop a comprehensive Community Telecommunications Plan, enabling the Town to take advantage of regional broadband infrastructure present within the locality, via implementation of various "last mile" projects to be identified.

- **Ewing Decentralized Wastewater Project;** Staff assisted the Lee County Board of Supervisors and the Lee County PSA to prepare and submit an application for funding from the DHCD Southern Rivers Watershed Enhancement Program for a decentralized wastewater project located in the community of Ewing.

## **SCOTT COUNTY**

**Holston Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion;** Construction is ongoing and should be finished in the spring or early summer of 2008.

**Clinch River Water Treatment Plant;** Staff and the Scott County PSA participated in a meeting with representatives from Congressman's Boucher's office, Rural Development, and Lane Engineering regarding potential funding sources for this project. Planning work continues for this project.

**Possum Creek Water Extension - Phase I;** Construction is complete.

**Possum Creek Water Extension - Phase 2;** Planning work continues for Phase II of this Possum Creek Project. Staff assisted the Scott County PSA with the submission of a Virginia Department of Health funding application in March 2008.

- **Natural Tunnel Water Extension;** Construction is complete and the project should be tested and in service very soon.

**A.P. Carter Highway / Route 614 Water Extension;** Funding has been awarded from both CDBG and VDH for this project. Construction is underway as of August 2007 and the project is nearing final completion.

**Boozy Creek Phase II Water Extension;** Staff submitted an application to VDH in March 2006 and a funding offer from VHD was presented to the Scott County PSA and accepted. The project engineer is moving forward with the project design portion of the project. The project should be under construction by Spring 2008.

**Yuma Sewer Extension;** Staff continues to assist Scott County and the Public Service Authority to work toward the completion of a funding package for this large project. Staff assisted the PSA with submission of a Southern Rivers Watershed Enhancement Grant application in January 2008. Funding from this program was awarded in April. Work continues on the outstanding environmental review and Rural Development planning issues.

**Wadlow Gap Water Extension;** Project is complete

**Rye Cove Water Extension;** Coalfield Water Development Funding has been awarded to extend the waterline an additional 1.5 miles in the community. PSA staff will start force account work on this project soon.

**Fort Blackmore Water Extension;** VDH recently awarded funding for this project. Staff will work with the Scott County PSA staff to complete the Environmental Review process. Mussel surveys, the lone outstanding environmental review issue, were completed in for April-May.

**Wadlow Gap Sewer Extension;** A PER is being prepared to determine feasibility and cost of extending public sewer service to the Wadlow Gap community.

**Scott County Zoning Ordinance;** The County has received Requests for Proposals from firms interested in helping to prepare the County's Zoning Ordinance. Staff will continue to assist the County in any manner requested with this matter.

**Revolving Loan Fund;** Staff continues to assist the Scott County EDA in the utilization of its USDA Rural Development-funded revolving loan fund.

**Carter Fold Improvements;** Staff continues to assist the Scott County EDA with renovation and expansion projects funded through numerous sources.

**DDA Map Updates;** Staff provides ongoing support to the DDA for map maintenance.

**Copper Creek Overlook;** The project was recently completed and a dedication ceremony was held on August 29, 2007. Photos from the event are posted on our website [<http://www.lenowisco.org>]. An additional VDOT Enhancement Grant application was submitted on November 1, 2007 to support paving work at the site.

**E-Corridor Park Walking Trail;** Staff is working with the Scott County EDA and Lane Engineering for this project which will create a walking trail around the soon to be completed E-Corridor Park in Duffield. A TEA-21 application was submitted for this project and funding has been awarded. The project engineer will continue design work for this project as staff assists the EDA with VDOT TEA-21 project management.

**Daniel Boone Bike & Walking Trail:** Staff is working with the Scott County EDA and Lane Engineering with the pre-application process for this project that will create a biking and walking trail from the western end of the Town of Gate City along Route 871 to the Hob-Nob Restaurant.

**Town of Gate City Downtown Revitalization;** Staff assisted the Town in preparing its 2008 CDBG application, submitted on March 26.

**eCorridor Park Phase II design;** With Staff assistance, the Scott County EDA received Virginia Tobacco Commission funding for initial design for eCorridor Park expansion.

**Daniel Boone Expo and Interpretive Center;** Consultant planning and design work continues on this project. Construction is expected to begin in late 2008. Planning and design for the exhibits is also underway. Staff will assist the Scott County EDA with a Virginia Tobacco Commission application due June 2, 2008.

**Blackwater Water Extension;** Staff assisted the Scott County PSA with the resubmission of a funding application to the Virginia Department of Health in March 2008.

- **Bishoptown Area Water Project;** Staff assisted the Scott County PSA with the submission of funding applications to the Virginia Department of Health and the Department of Housing and Community Development (CDBG) in March 2008. Funding announcements are expected for July-August 2008.
- **Appalachian Harvest facility;** Staff continues to assist the County and Appalachian Sustainable Development with matters related to ASD's construction of a packing and grading facility in the Duffield industrial park. The County served as Applicant for CDBG planning grant funds for feasibility analysis of a food production center on the site.

## **WISE COUNTY**

**Wise County Zoning Map Update;** Additional changes have been requested and are ongoing at this time. Staff is currently working on transferring and conflating existing zoning data to the 7 ½' vector base mapping using new software similar to Lee County. Digitizing work on zoning revisions received from Wise County is ongoing.

**Nanotechnology Facility;** The Wise County IDA received a \$1,000,000 Virginia Tobacco Commission award to support development of a nanotechnology research and development facility at the Lonesome Pine Regional Business & Technology Park. This award will be contingent on the successful securing of other project funding.

**Lonesome Pine Technology Center;** The Wise County IDA received a \$450,000 Virginia Tobacco Commission award to support the remaining build-out of the Lonesome Pine Technology Center to support placement of a prospect.

**Big Stone Gap Community Network;** This project has been incorporated into the larger LENOWISCO Rural Area Network. Fiber is expected to be placed downtown during October.

**Lower Birchfield Water Extension;** DHCD and VDH have awarded funding for the project and construction is underway.

**Crane's Nest and Tacoma Sewer Extension;** The PSA's engineering firm is finalizing the PER after the PSA reviewed the draft copy and made comments. It has been submitted to DEQ and VDH for review.

**Town of Pound Water System Improvements;** The Town has received a \$50,000 VDH grant for improvements to the town's water system. The Town has also received a loan/grant offer from its second VDH application for water system improvements.

- **Town of Pound's Leak Detection;** The Town received a VDH planning grant for leak detection work.

**Town of Appalachia's Leak Detection Study;** The Town's engineering firm has completed 95 percent of the mapping and is identifying leaks in the town's water system. The final report will contain a plan to improve the town's accountability.

**Right Fork of Bold Camp Sewer Extension;** The Wise County Public Service Authority has received funding from the Department of Housing and Community Development Block Grant Program for this project. An application is pending with the Southern Rivers Watershed Program for the remaining balance of the needed project funds. Announcements for this funding should be made in late summer.

**Esserville Sewer Extension;** A PER has been completed and approved by DEQ for public sewer service in the Esserville area.

- **Town of Big Stone Water System Improvements;** VDH has not made funding announcements regarding applications submitted in March. Funding announcements are expected by September. The Town has been awarded Rural Development funding for waterline replacement.

**Town of Pound Downtown Revitalization;** Activities are under way.

**Town of St. Paul Downtown Revitalization;** Staff continues to assist the Town as needed.

**St. Paul Hillman House Renovations;** Staff continues to provide technical assistance to the Town of St. Paul on this project. Town Council has hired Appalachian Technical Services as their design firm. The engineer is on board as of January 2008 and work is progressing. Staff will assist the town as they hire a contractor to investigate the site for lead and asbestos. The project could be under construction by the summer of 2008.

- **Wise Inn Redevelopment;** Staff continues to assist the Wise County Industrial Development Authority in activities related to the potential redevelopment of the former Wise Inn property.

**Lower Exeter Sewer;** Staff is assisting the County, the Upper Tennessee River Roundtable, the Town of Appalachia, and Hands across the Mountain with planning for public sewer to the lower Exeter community. Staff assisted the Town of Appalachia with a Southern Rivers Watershed Enhancement Program grant application in August of 2007 which was subsequently funded by DHCD.

**Upper Exeter Sewer;** Staff assisted Wise County to submit a Letter of Interest regarding possible planning grant funding and a future Community Improvement Grant application for a comprehensive project in the community to DHCD. The Town of Appalachia has also submitted a letter to DHCD requesting this project receive consideration for funding from the third and final competitive round of the Southern Rivers Watershed Enhancement Program.

**South Coeburn Housing Rehab;** Property could not be acquired for necessary community improvements; therefore the CDBG application was not submitted.

- **Innovation Highway;** Staff continues to assist Wise County in the preliminary planning activities of the Innovation Highway project which would connect US 58 and the Lonesome Pine Regional Business & Technology Park. A VDOT-funded corridor study has been approved and a project kickoff meeting was held with the consultant on January 28, 2008. Staff assisted the consultant and the VDOT Bristol District planner with preliminary data collection in April.
- **Town of Wise Water System Improvements Project;** Staff helped the Town of Wise submit a funding application to the Virginia Tobacco Commission Economic Development Program for funding to repair components of its water system, primarily the Bear Creek reservoir, the Town's water treatment plant, and a water tank on Modoc Hill.

## ***NORTON CITY***

**Country Cabin Water Extension;** Construction has been completed and the Country Cabin facility is being served by public water.

**Downtown Broadband Redundant Loop & Hotel Norton Build-out;** In conjunction with the Norton IDA, LENOWISCO, Inc., I, received a Virginia Tobacco Commission award to support redundant broadband infrastructure in the central business district.

- **City of Norton Sewer Rehabilitation and Extension Project;** The City of Norton has been awarded \$1,000,000 in grant funding from the DHCD Southern Rivers Watershed Enhancement Program for Phase 1 of their Sewer Rehabilitation and Extension Project. Phase 1 consists of repairs along the Benges Branch interceptor, which will enable the City to provide sewer service to the community of Josephine. The City applied for CDBG funding for Phase 2 of this project.

**Norton-Big Stone Gap Water Interconnection – Tank Project;** Staff will assist the City of Norton with a Virginia Tobacco Commission application due June 2, 2008 for this project which will install a storage tank on the Big Stone Gap – Norton water interconnect project.