

GENERAL PLANNING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE REPORT AS OF JANUARY 22, 2010

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;** LENOWISCO LLC (formerly LENOWISCO, Inc. I) has recently been awarded two significant grants for last-mile applications - \$1,000,000 from the Virginia Coalfield Economic Development Authority and \$1,250,000 from the Virginia Tobacco Commission.

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.

- **Crooked Road Tech Center & Access Road;** Staff assisted the Scott County EDA with securing \$5.85 million for this project. The building is complete and the access road is being paved at the current time. A base layer of asphalt will be placed prior to the winter season and a finish coat will be placed in the spring.

Crooked Road Tech Center Phase II; Staff assisted the Scott County EDA with completion of a Federal EDA and Virginia Tobacco Commission grant application. All parties await Federal EDA's funding decision to determine next steps

- **Crooked Road Economic Impact Study;** A study was recently completed which reviews the economic impact of the "Crooked Road." A copy of this study is available on the LENOWISCO website at <http://www.lenowisco.org/>
- **FY 2009 Utility Rate Survey;** Staff has prepared the LENOWISCO FY 2009 Utility Rate Survey, available for download from the LENOWISCO website at <http://www.lenowisco.org/>. The FY2010 survey will be prepared in the coming months.

LENOWISCO Rural Transportation Planning Program; Staff has completed Phase I and Phase II of this four phase project. Work on Phase III will continue over the next several months as the transportation planner works with local VDOT staff and VDOT's consultant on data collection, etc.

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

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. The project engineer reports that construction bids were recently opened and construction should begin by May-June 2009.

Silver Leaf Water Extension-Phase 1; The engineering firm has prepared final plans and specifications and these have been submitted to the appropriate agencies for review. All of the easement documents have been drawn up and submitted to the PSA for acquisition.

- **Ocoonita Loop Water Extension;** A groundbreaking ceremony for this project was held in November and the project is currently under construction.
- **Blackwater Water Extension;** Staff has been assisting the County with pre-contract activities with the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development for the Community Development Block Grant portion of the project funding package.

Stickleyville Water Extension; Funding for this project has been awarded. Emergency funding was recently secured for water quality issues concerning the Stickleyville Elementary School. The project engineer is currently working on the design for this project to meet VDOT guidelines and currently estimates that the project will require approximately 200 easements. The PSA and the Woodway Water Authority are discussing a wholesale water rate for this project as well.

Thompson Settlement Water Extension; The LENOWISCO Board of Directors awarded \$44,644 to this project at its August 2008 meeting. LENOWISCO Staff assisted the Lane Group and Lee County PSA with the resubmission of a VDH application in March 2009. While no firm funding offers have been made yet, all parties involved feel that the 2009 funding application will be much more competitive than the previous submissions.

Robbins Chapel Water Extension - Phase 3; The project has been funded by AML and is currently under construction.

Town of Jonesville Cumberland Bowl RV 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.

Town of Jonesville Business District Revitalization Project; Staff has participated in the DHCD-led visioning and planning grant process. Staff assisted with the preparation of the CDBG application that was submitted in April 2009 but was not, however, among those selected for funding.

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.

Constitutional Oaks speculative building; Construction has been completed on the Lee County IDA's speculative building in the Constitutional Oaks business park.

- **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 continues to assist the Town as needed with its comprehensive Community Telecommunications Plan.

- **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.

- **Ingles Chapel Water Project;** Staff has been assisting the County with pre-contract activities with the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development for the CDBG Construction Ready funding.

Data Center Site Prep Project; The Lee County IDA was awarded Virginia Tobacco Commission funding to aid in preparation of a developable site in the Patriot Center complex in Pennington Gap, to support the potential location of a data center operation.

Wastewater Plant Expansion Design Project; The Lee County IDA was awarded Virginia Tobacco Commission funding to complete final design and permitting related to expansion of the Rose Hill wastewater treatment plant to accommodate and expedite future growth at the IDA's Constitutional Oaks business park in western Lee County.

SCOTT COUNTY

Holston Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion; Construction is complete and final testing is currently underway. The PSA is currently treating sewage from the Town of Gate City at the plant and the old Gate City plant is now offline and being dismantled.

Route 65 Spivey Store to 3-Way Grocery (Clinch River Highway Phase II) Water Project; LENOWISCO provided \$3,500 for a Preliminary Engineering Report in February 2009. LENOWISCO Staff has assisted the PSA with field work (water samples), mapping and the submission of a construction grant/loan application to the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) in March. We currently await VDH's funding decision.

Clinch River Highway Water Project – Phase I; Staff provided assistance to the Scott County PSA on the submission of a funding application to the Coalfield Water Development Fund for this project which was subsequently funded. The PSA recently completed construction on this project.

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 The Lane Group regarding potential funding sources for this project. Planning and environmental work continues for this project. The Scott County PSA Board of Directors has identified this as their top priority project for 2009.

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

Possum Creek Water Extension - Phase 2; Staff assisted the Scott County PSA with the submission of a Virginia Department of Health funding application in March 2008 and a funding award offer was recently made for this project. This project will be completed via force account utilizing the PSA's employees. Work will begin soon following the completion of easements, etc.

Stanley Valley Water Project; A Preliminary Engineering Report for this project is complete and has been submitted to VDH for review. The PSA is exploring funding options for this project.

Quarry Pond Water Supply Study; LENOWISCO provided funding assistance to study the feasibility of using the Quarry Pond (located on the west end of Gate City) as a water source. An earlier study completed on this project several years ago did not, it was felt, adequately test the regeneration rate of the water source. Scott County PSA staff and Crossroads Engineering completed testing in March 2009, drawing roughly 1.25 million gallons of water from the reservoir to test the regeneration rate. This study has been completed and is presently being reviewed by VDH.

Boozy Creek Phase III Water Extension; Planning work is underway for this project. The PSA plans to apply to the Virginia Department of Health for project funding in the future.

- **Otterhouse Water Extension;** LENOWISCO Provided \$3,500 for a Preliminary Engineering Report in 2008. Staff has assisted the PSA with field work (water samples), mapping and the submission of a construction grant/loan application to the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) which was due in March 2009. The PSA was recently informed that this project has been selected for funding under the American Reinvestment & Recovery Act (ARRA). A notice to proceed was issued in early January and work should begin by mid-February on this project.

Yuma Sewer Extension; Staff assisted the PSA with submission of a Southern Rivers Watershed Enhancement Grant application in January 2008, with funding awarded in April. Staff recently submitted the completed environmental report to Rural Development and the PSA expects to receive a letter of conditions in the coming weeks to begin moving forward. The project engineer estimates that construction could start in late 2009 or early 2010.

Daniel Boone Sewer Project; the Scott County PSA has expressed an initial interest in providing public sewer service to the Daniel Boone community west of Gate City. Staff will assist the PSA as planning work begins on this project.

Wadlow Gap Water Extension; Project is complete.

Rye Cove Water Extension; Project is complete.

Fort Blackmore Water Extension; This project is under construction

Duffield Gateway Project; Staff assisted with the VDOT Enhancement Grant application and will assist with grant administration for this landscaping and beautification project along the Highway 58 Corridor in Duffield. The project engineer recently submitted the final set of project plans to VDOT for review. We awaiting VDOT approval to move forward

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.

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

Little Valley Water Project; Staff assisted the Scott County PSA with the submission of a Virginia Department of Health application in March 2007 that was subsequently funded. Plans are approved and the project is currently under construction and nearing completion.

Copper Creek Overlook; Staff will work with the Scott County EDA and the local VDOT residency to complete the paving at this location in the Spring of 2009.

E-Corridor Park Walking Trail; Staff is working with the Scott County EDA and The Lane Group for this project which currently is funded from the VDOT Enhancement Grant Program. The project engineer will continue design work for this project as staff assists the EDA with VDOT TEA-21 project management.

Town of Gate City Downtown Revitalization; Staff assisted the Town in preparing its 2008 CDBG application which was subsequently funded. The project is being managed by the Town of Gate City and Sustainable Development Consulting International based in Lebanon, VA.

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 Fall 2009. Staff assisted the EDA with an application to the Virginia Tobacco Commission for preliminary planning and design for the exhibits. A \$70,000 award for exhibit design was awarded in 2008. Staff assisted with a \$100,000 Appalachian Regional Commission grant application in October 2009 for a Geothermal Energy Project for this site which has been selected for funding.

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 and a funding offer was extended in December 2008. Plans are being reviewed by VDH.

Bishtown 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 awards from both agencies have been announced and Staff recently completed a user mapping update for this project in order to get under contract with DHCD.

- **Mine Data Center Study;** Staff assisted the Scott County EDA in securing USDA Rural Development and Virginia Tobacco Commission funding for feasibility analysis for the former limestone mine at Sunbright, and has further assisted the EDA in the procurement of professional services to conduct the study.
- **Mendota;** The Scott County PSA working with the Washington County Service Authority to explore the possibility of serving the Mendota community with Scott County water. This would complete an important regional interconnection once completed. Staff will be available to assist as needed on this project.

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; Staff continues to assist the Wise County IDA with various items related to the project.

Lonesome Pine Technology Center; The Wise County IDA is utilizing a previous \$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 and construction is currently underway

- **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 & Sewer System Improvements;** The Town has been awarded Rural Development funding for waterline replacement and the project is currently under construction.

Town of Pound Downtown Revitalization; This project has been funded and project management activities are under way.

Town of St. Paul Downtown Revitalization; Staff assists the Town as needed.

Town of Big Stone Gap Downtown Revitalization; This project was awarded funding in January 2010. Both planning and project management staff will work with the Town as we move into the pre-contract phase of this project with DHCD. Staff will also continue work on the Department of Historic Resources' Programmatic Agreement which will be required prior to any construction activities.

- **Town of Wise Downtown Revitalization;** With Staff assistance, the Town is nearing completion of pre-contract activities with the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development.

St. Paul Hillman House Renovations; The project has been given approval to move to the construction advertisement phase.

- **Wise Inn Redevelopment;** Staff continues to assist the County and the IDA with various issues related to project funding and implementation.

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 completed and is available for review by contacting the Transportation Planner.

Town of Wise Water System Improvements Project; Following receipt of a Virginia Tobacco Commission grant award, the Town of Wise, with Staff assistance, also secured Coalfield Water Development Fund funding to aid in a sizeable water system improvements project.

- **Hickory Gap/Coeburn Mountain Water Project;** Staff is currently assisting the Wise County PSA on the environmental assessment required by VDH for this project. The environmental assessment was submitted to VDH in September for review.

NORTON CITY

Country Cabin Water Extension; Construction is complete.

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 its 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 and was recently awarded funding. An application for Phase II funding was submitted to the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) in September 2008 and subsequently funded in the amount of \$500,000. Staff continues to assist the City as needed on this project.

Norton-Big Stone Gap Water Interconnection-Tank Project; This project was not among those funded by the Virginia Tobacco Commission at its July 2008 meeting however staff will continue to work with the City on this project to identify other possible funding sources.