

# Local Projects Receive Virginia Tobacco Commission Funding

Lisa Watson McCarty  
Publisher

Several Southwest Virginia localities and non-profit groups benefited from Monday's announcement of the disbursement of more than \$4 million for special projects and another \$2.9 million for economic development from the Virginia Tobacco Commission.

And the some of the biggest winners are from the Lenowisisco Planning District Commission's area.

During the announcement held at 10 a.m. in the Lenowisisco Boardroom, local recipients were excited to earn some much-needed financial assis-

tance. First District Del. Terry Kilgore (R-Gate City) and State Sen. William C. Wampler Jr. (R-Bristol) announced 10 tobacco commission grant awards during the press conference.

Funding provided by the Virginia Tobacco Commission will be used to promote positive change on a variety of fronts ranging from the arts to broadband communications, explained Kilgore, who serves as vice chairman of the commission.

Monday's announcement is one of a series of grant award events that will be taking place in Southside and Southwest Virginia in the near future, Kilgore said. We have worked

with Gov. Tim Kaine to solidify our trust funds, so the money will be there for our tobacco region to reinvest in the community, he added.

"We're really at the start of something new . . . We went to the market and invested and we now have \$1 billion in the trust fund. Virginia will help to protect this fund so that future legislatures cannot go in and use the funds for other purposes," he said.

Money goes to indemnify farmers for their losses due to reductions in tobacco quotas and for development projects in communities, Kilgore noted.

See VTC page 2



State Sen. William Wampler and Del. Terry Kilgore present a replica check of \$200,000 to Scott County Economic Development Authority representatives, board member Joe Fuller, director John Kilgore Jr. and chairman Robert Barker.

## Scott Republicans

## Chamber Honors Local Business, Agency

"We are the only state to make sure funds are used the way they were intended to be used," Kilgore said.

"We were able to securitize our dollars. Our dollars are safe. Now we are guaranteed that payments will go to the growers to be compensation for their losses," Wampler noted.

Representatives of the Fairview Citizens Corporation were on hand to receive \$25,000 designated to help the non-profit group replace the roof on the Fairview Community Center. The total project cost is \$81,150 and additional funding is provided by the Virginia Department of Historic Resources.

**Scott County**



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The Scott County Economic Development Authority received \$200,000 for design and engineering expenses for the development of the Duffield Regional Technology Center. The new center will be the first tenant in the eCorridor Regional Park, located adjacent to the Duffield Regional Industrial Park.

The total project cost is \$6.7 million with both Kilgore and Wampler stating the project was important and would be considered for future funding. Scott County EDA is also seeking funding from the Virginia Coalfield Economic Development Authority, Department of Housing & Community Development, the Scott County Board of Supervisors and the Duffield Development Authority for the technology center.

Other regional projects approved by the Tobacco Commission include:

- Technology grants of \$1.25 million to the Lenowisco Inc. fiber optic backbone construction project and \$1.5 million to the Virginia Coalfield Coalition's Southwest Virginia fiber optic backbone project.

- The Crooked Road: Virginia's Heritage Music Trail, for "Off the Beaten Path, Crooked Road's Hidden Gems" marketing plan, \$228,697.

- Lenowisco Planning District Commission, Return to Roots, \$226,550.

- Pro-Art Association, Performing Arts Center sound and lighting equipment, \$50,000. For equipment installation at J.W. Adams Elementary in Pound, where many performances are held, so organization will not have to rent equipment. Total project cost, \$125,000.

- Planning District 1 Behavioral Health Services, for the Big Stone Gap Interagency Facility feasibility study, \$25,000. Total project, \$27,500; Town of Big Stone Gap providing \$2,500. This project will study the feasibility of constructing a wellness center for Gap citizens, to include a pool, boys' and girls' clubs and other athletic facilities.

- Town of Jonesville, Cum-

berland Bowl RV park and campground, \$50,000 for site design. Total project cost, \$689,250.

- Lee County Industrial Development Authority, for 40,000-square-foot Constitutional Oaks speculative building, \$425,000. Total project cost, \$800,000.

Additional announcements by the Tobacco Commission are expected to be made over the next few weeks.

**TRAIL** From page 1

enable students to label native plants and invasive species."

Jamie Lawson volunteered to cut out trail, and after that process additional volunteers contributed to the trail's progress.

Inmates from the Duffield Regional Jail Authority as well as juvenile community service workers spent numerous hours on the trail. The Scott County Career and Technical Center refurbished several picnic tables. The Town of Gate City's maintenance crew and the Gate City Volunteer Fire Department were also quick to lend a hand at any time of need.

Over 100 loads of wood chips were hauled by county vehicles from the Scott County Landfill saving county taxpayers the cost of renting equipment. In all approximately \$3,000 in county funds were used in order to open the trail.

The Scott County Park Staff of Golf Course Manager Mark Wolfe, Brad Speaks, Jeff Oaks, Tommy Tipton, and Dean Frye, and assistant recreational director Brian Hill were instrumental in the development of the trail.

Henry Darnell, Sonny Brooks, Troy Funkhouser, Mark Jenkins, Cindy Coates, Roger Cassell and Ralph Quesinberry were also credited by Sheets for their tremendous support and assistance in the development of the trail.

Contact the Scott County Recreation Department at 452-2442 or by email at [recreation@scottcountyva.com](mailto:recreation@scottcountyva.com).