

Virginia's Planning District Commissions and Regional Councils

Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission, Website: www.a-npdc.org

Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission, Website: www.cspdc.org

Commonwealth Regional Council, Website: www.virginiasheartland.org

Crater Planning District Commission, Website: www.craterpdc.org

Cumberland Plateau Planning District Commission, Website: www.cppdc.org

LENOWISCO Planning District Commission, Website: www.lenowisco.org

George Washington Regional Commission, Website: www.gwregion.org

Hampton Roads Planning District Commission, Website: www.hrpdcva.gov

Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission, Website: www.mppdc.com

Mount Rogers Planning District Commission, Website: www.mrpdc.org

New River Valley Regional Commission, Website: www.nrvrc.org

Northern Neck Planning District Commission, Website: www.nnpdc.org

Northern Shenandoah Valley Regional Commission, Website: www.nsvregion.org

Northern Virginia Regional Commission, Website: www.novaregion.org

Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission, Website: www.rrregion.org

Richmond Regional Planning District Commission, Website: www.richmondregional.org

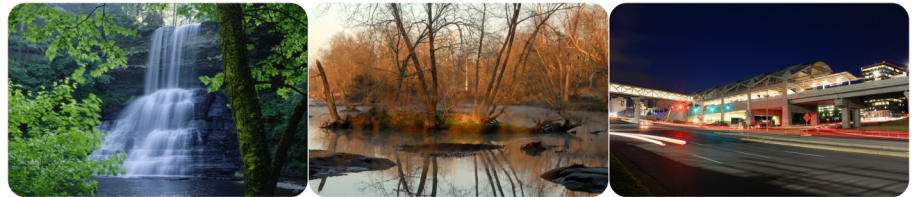
Region 2000 Local Government Council, Website: www.region2000.org

Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission, Website: www.rvarc.org

Southside Planning District Commission, Website: www.southsidepdc.org

Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission, Website: www.tjpd.com

West Piedmont Planning District Commission, Website: www.wppdc.org



WWW.VAPDC.ORG



Celebrating 50 Years of Regional Collaboration

In the coming year, the Virginia Association of Planning District Commissions (VAPDC) will be celebrating 50 years since the formation of the first Planning District Commissions (PDCs) in the state. The Virginia General Assembly created the statutory framework for the creation of PDCs in 1968 through the passage of the Virginia Area Development Act, and over the course of the following year, regional boundary lines were established and 18 of the initial 22 commissions were established.

Now 21 in number, PDCs serve every region of the state as voluntary associations of local governments that bring together local elected and appointed officials, and citizens, to

facilitate regional solutions to community and state issues, as well as to provide technical and programmatic assistance to their members governments. PDCs benefit the Commonwealth of Virginia by 1) serving as a comprehensive statewide network that achieve economies of scale through regional approaches; 2) partnering with state agencies to accomplish state projects, thereby reducing the need for additional state personnel; and 3) leverage state funds to deliver essential services in communities across the Commonwealth.

The importance of regionalism in Virginia continues to grow. Most recently, the state enacted the *GO Virginia* initiative to grow and diversify the economy of each regions. PDCs were requested to craft boundaries for the nine GO Virginia regions, and in most cases, they remain

integral participants of the enacted regional councils. Several years ago, a Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission study on local collaboration focused on how the Commonwealth could help greater levels of regional cooperation among counties, cities and towns in K-12 education, public safety, public utilities and procurement.

Services to Local Member Governments

Virginia's PDCs are continually expanding the types of services they provide to their member governments. Some PDCs provide economic development activities to their members, while others have taken on a significant role in transportation planning and tourism development. More recently, many PDCs have been heavily involved in promoting expansion of highspeed broadband in both urban and rural communities. They also have worked with both state and federal agencies to obtain grants to help ensure that counties, cities and towns are ready for the new economy of the 21st century.

No doubt, the work of PDCs will continue to evolve as new demands are placed on state and local governments to do more with less. Regional cooperative activities that create efficiencies will help governments to continue to provide needed services, while keeping costs reasonable. PDCs are committed to promoting opportunities for regional collaboration and expanding the types of services they provide to their member governments.

The Virginia Association of Planning District Commissions (VAPDC) was established in 1987 to promote coordination and cooperation among the PDCs to heighten their effectiveness and efficiency; provide mutual

assistance and the exchange of ideas; and promote understanding for how PDCs can help save their regions and the Commonwealth time and money.

Recognizing Regional Partners

Over the years, the VAPDC has recognized individuals that have been involved in, provided leadership for, and made outstanding contributions to, promoting planning district commissions and regional planning/regionalism. Regional entities that have initiated or built upon an innovative regional approach or activity that has contributed to regional cooperation also have been recognized. Six years ago, the VAPDC also began honoring a Legislator of the Year to recognize a lawmaker who has provided leadership or has contributed significantly to promoting regional planning and the planning district commissions. Previous winners are as follows: 2018 U.S. Senator Mark Warner; 2017 Senator Frank Ruff; 2016 Delegate Keith Hodges; 2015 Delegate Steve Landes; 2014 Senator Janet Howell; and 2013 Delegate Kirk Cox.

