

Hurricane Helene Updates and Support



Following the devastating wake of Hurricane Helene, VACo wants to share information and updates for impacted counties and their residents. The Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) has a dedicated [website](#) that provides information and contacts on such items as the emergency support team, relevant Executive Orders, press releases, and more. VDEM also is providing daily Emergency Support Team (VEST) Status reports. The latest report available to VACo for Thursday October 3 can be found [here](#).

The federal government has [granted](#) Virginia's request for an expedited Federal Major Disaster Declaration due to the impacts of the hurricane. The declaration allows for federal funding to be made available to affected individuals in Giles, Grayson, Smyth, Tazewell, Washington, and Wythe Counties and the independent city of Galax. The Youngkin Administration will continue to seek to add jurisdictions and at this time, federal funding is also available to state, tribal, and eligible local governments and certain private nonprofit organizations on a cost-sharing basis for emergency work in the Counties of Bedford, Bland, Buchanan, Carroll, Craig, Dickenson, Giles, Grayson, Montgomery, Pittsylvania, Pulaski, Russell, Scott, Smyth, Tazewell, Washington, Wise and Wythe, and the Independent Cities of Bristol, Covington, Danville, Galax, Norton, and Radford.

VACo will continue to provide information on resources available to county governments as the situation progresses.

VACo Contact: [Jeremy R. Bennett](#)

States EMS Advisory Board Holds Meeting with Updates Regarding Damning Internal Audit of OEMS and FITCH & Associates Report



On September 18, the Virginia State Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Advisory [Board](#) met to review an Office of Emergency Medical Services (OEMS) internal audit from Virginia Department of Health (VDH) senior leadership as well as a [report](#) from FITCH and Associates staff who were contracted to provide consultation and recommendations following failures and criminal behavior within OEMS discovered the previous year that impacted state support to local governments and EMS providers. The reviews provide a critical overview of actions taken by OEMS staff, failure of fiscal oversight and control by OEMS and VDH, concerns over the current EMS Council model and its relevancy, and indictment of the culture at OEMS as not customer centric. The reviews highlight several decision points that state policy makers should weigh in order to improve the mission and functions of OEMS.

Founded in 1974 to enhance Emergency Medical Services across Virginia, the OEMS is responsible for planning and coordinating an effective and efficient statewide EMS system. Its programs and services are designed to assure quality prehospital patient care, from when the call is received by the 911 center to the delivery of the patient to the trauma center or hospital. OEMS is part of VDH, which is led by the Commissioner of Health, who reports to the Secretary of Health and Human Resources. OEMS is directed by a leader who reports to the Deputy Commissioner of Population Health and Preparedness.

As previously [reported](#), due to mismanagement and criminal activities, OEMS programs were facing a multimillion-dollar deficit and several years' worth of past OEMS budgets were created not in-line with available funding. This significantly impacted OEMS aid to localities and first responders. Thankfully, many of the short-term implications caused by these failures were [addressed](#) through \$33 million contained in the state budget passed earlier this year. However, without significant changes, this funding will be insufficient beyond the current biennium. FITCH and Associates was contracted in January 2024 to provide onsite leadership, assist in resolving the financial crisis, and provide recommendations.

In summary, OEMS uncovered \$33 million in unpaid debts and over-obligations by July 2023. The Director and Associate Director resigned amid financial mismanagement. The Associate Director was convicted for \$4.3 million embezzlement by September 2023. Weak oversight in OEMS and VDH led to this crisis. OEMS failed the transfer of \$12.5 million, prompting an \$8 million carryover, and \$25 million budget allocation. Both hybrid EMS models bypassed legal review,

[More on Next Page](#)

and State employees were supervised by non-state boards. Compliance concerns were raised related to adherence to the State Code. The perception of OEMS as an enforcement agency, non-customer centric, and poor responsiveness drove agencies to rely on Regional EMS Councils, eroding trust and making OEMS appear more as an enforcement body than a supportive partner. In 2022, EMS symposium costs soared to \$1.6 million while funding was through the Western EMS Council. Changes in education and the education coordinator process created staffing challenges in rural communities. The Southwest Region alone has experienced a 27% decline since 2004. Before recent changes, the EMS Advisory Board's annual costs topped \$400,000, with 28 members and 21 subcommittees showing limited influence and selective OEMS adherence to its advice, fostering conflict and mistrust.

Critical findings include that OEMS had no systemic mission, expectations or controls; mission creep and mandates have increased cost without additional resources; the EMS Advisory Board mission needs to evolve and is costly in its current structure; the evolution of the Virginia EMS System necessitates review of the OEMS organization positions within the Commonwealth government hierarchy; and EMS education program changes have negatively impacted the workforce.

Key causes for these failures were identified to include years of minimal VDH oversight, lack of internal policies and financial control, challenges with manual financial tracking, use of EMS Regional Councils to circumvent procurement policies, escalating costs of the Virginia EMS Symposium, amongst other issues.

Following the discovery of financial regularities, VDH and FITCH undertook a series of interventions to try to stabilize OEMS. These include the introduction of daily and monthly financial reviews, centralization of contracts, restricting OEMS leadership, taking steps to strengthen financial integrity, and optimizing financial operations.

FITCH provided five decision points that state policy makers need to consider in providing long-term solutions to the challenges facing OEMS and also provided recommendations to reduce costs, which could potentially yield between \$1.89 to \$11.45 million in annual savings. These include:

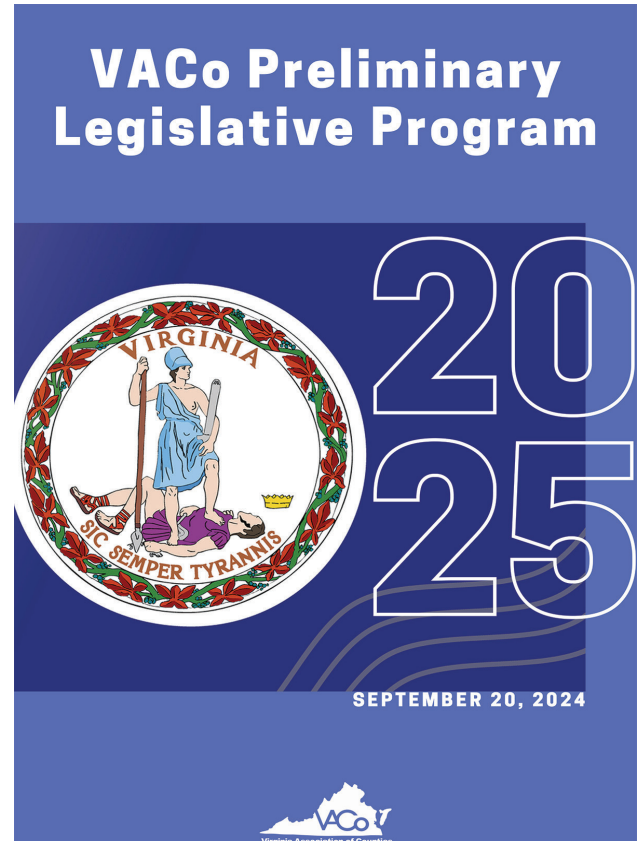
- 1) Position OEMS for Strong Oversight – OEMS can remain within VDH, be established as a Department within the Secretariat of Public Safety, merge with Virginia Department of Fire Programs, or be dissolved completely, parsing the various regulatory requirements to other agencies.
- 2) Regional Structure and Support – Reduce the current 11 Regional EMS Councils to 7, and/or change the structure of the EMS Regional Councils to either be more decentralized or more integrated.
- 3) Review Policy and Regulatory Process – this would introduce an OEMS formal approval process for policy or guideline modifications.
- 4) Enhance community input and EMS oversight – this would involve changing the authority and size of the EMS Advisory Board, essentially giving it more regulatory powers and independence.
- 5) Changes to education, EMS Portal, and departmental functions – this would involve changes to certification programs for education coordinators, distribution of the RSAF Grant Program, and other actions.

Finally, the recommendations include a range of options for legislative, regulatory, structural, employee, and funding changes. What is certain from these reports is that the status quo regarding OEMS cannot continue from an organizational or fiscal perspective and changes must be taken to avoid future failures and shortfalls within the agency that could again negatively impact the Commonwealth, local governments, and EMS providers. VACo will continue to monitor, engage, and report on this situation.

The full reports and PowerPoint presented at the meeting can be found [here](#).

VACo Contact: [Jeremy R. Bennett](#)

VACo Releases Its 2025 Preliminary Legislative Program



VACo has released its [2025 Preliminary Legislative Program](#), which was drafted through VACo's steering committee process. The document includes a host of important and timely proposed policy statements including language pertaining to K-12 education funding, local taxing authority, stormwater regulations, land use planning, transportation, broadband, health and human resources and other local budget and legislative issues.

Click on the link to read the [2025 Preliminary Legislative Program](#).

The 2025 Legislative Program will be adopted on November 12 during the Annual Business Meeting at the [VACo Annual Conference](#).

VACo's eight steering committees will finalize and adopt their policy sections on November 10. The Resolutions Committee will ratify the Legislative Program on November 11. VACo's membership will vote to adopt the Final Legislative Program on November 12.

VACo members are encouraged to continue to add their input to this document by working through their county's legislative process and the VACo steering committee process to put forward suggested changes to VACo's 2024 Legislative Program.

For questions regarding VACo's legislative process, contact Dean Lynch at dlynch@vaco.org or 804.343.2511.

VACo Contact: [Dean Lynch, CAE](#)



PHOTO SOURCE:
[Virginia Department of
Historic Resources](#)

Visit Page County and the Page County Historic Courthouse

Location: 116 South Court Street / West Page Street

Built: 1832 – 1833

Style: Greek Revival

Architect: William B Philips

Contractor: Malcolm F Crawford and William B Philips

Description: The building faces east and is a two story white colored brick structure. The building is located on landscaped grounds in the center of Luray. The east front has a projecting center section with four arches and an arch on the either end of the arcade. At the roof is a wide pediment with fanlight. Behind the pediment is a high square white colored cupola. The double doors at the front enter into the courtroom on the first story which has a balcony on the east side and judge's bench on the west side. The building houses the County Circuit Court, County General District Court and County Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court of the 26th Judicial District. There are north and south wings. The first addition on the left side was completed in 1974. The architect was Baughan & Baukhages Architects of Luray and the contractor was Baughan Construction Company, Inc. of Luray. The second addition on the right side was completed in 1997, bringing the building back into the symmetry of the original design by two disciples of Thomas Jefferson. The architect was Baughan & Baukhages Architects of Luray and the contractor was JHC Construction Company, Inc. of Culpeper.

Note: The courthouse was built by Malcolm F Crawford and William B Phillips, who were master builders working under Thomas Jefferson and the plans followed the Jefferson design for courthouses, as did the courthouse in Caroline County. William B Phillips designed and built the courthouse in Greene County. Malcolm F Crawford designed and built the courthouse in Madison County.

SOURCE: courthouses.co

SAVE THE DATES!

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Program (Budget Module)**

**January to March 2025
VACo Headquarters**

VACo County Government Day

**Thursday, January 23, 2025
Omni Richmond Hotel**

VACo Chairpersons' Institute

**Friday and Saturday, January 24-25, 2025
Omni Richmond Hotel and
VACo Headquarters**

Join us for these important events.

Call VACo at 804.788.6652 for more information





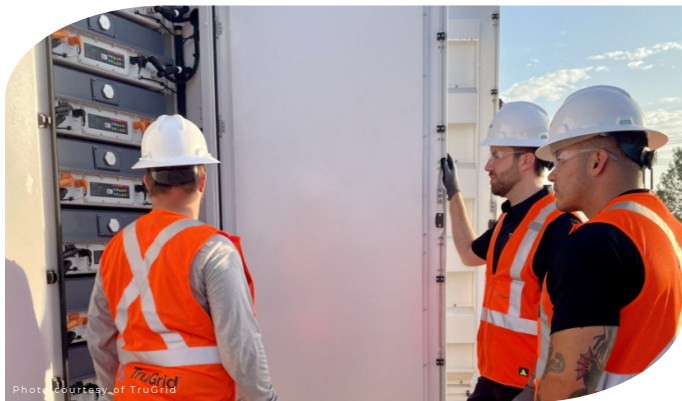
ABOUT US

East Point Energy is a development firm focused on the origination, construction, and operation of energy storage projects. Our team is currently developing gigawatts of energy storage projects throughout the country, helping to transform the grid into a renewable, resilient, and affordable system for generations to come.

COMPANY SNAPSHOT

- Founded in 2018
- 45 employees & growing
- Located in downtown Charlottesville, VA
- Projects under development in 15 states
- Active memberships in over 10 trade organizations

Photo on right from annual Earth Day litter pick up



WHAT'S AHEAD

The electric power industry will change more in the next decade than it has in the last 100 years. East Point Energy is uniquely poised to facilitate this transformation by providing stable, grid-scale storage solutions for renewable energy from wind and solar generators.

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Developed by the
Professional Development Academy

NACo AI Leadership Academy

Empowering County Government Leaders for the Future

About the Program

The NACo AI Leadership Academy is an innovative program designed to equip frontline county government leaders with the knowledge and tools to understand and utilize AI, enhancing operational efficiency, organizational effectiveness, and value for their constituents.

Six Practical Modules

Introduction to AI: Explore AI's history, technologies, societal impact, and an AI playbook for leaders.

The Promise & Peril of AI: Understand AI's unique opportunities and challenges in the digital transformation era.

Your AI Roadmap: Navigate AI's potential and pitfalls, set expectations, and measure stakeholder impact.

Leading People & AI: Lead digital transformation by focusing on people, not just technology.

AI Optimization, Meaning & Purpose: Ground AI optimization in ethical awareness, regulatory compliance, customer safety, and workforce impact.

What's Next - Three Horizons: Plan, operationalize, and leverage projects, programs, and progress over three horizons.

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**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

First District – William L. Hodges
 Second District – Benjamin J. Edwards III
 Third District – Justin Catlett
 Fourth District – Lindsay May Robinson
 Fifth District – Mary Sue Bancroft



County of King William, Virginia



(L-R) Deputy Administrator **Steve Hudgins**, Supervisor **Bill Hodges**, Vice Chair **Justin Catlett**, **Stacey Davenport**, Chair **Lindsay Robinson**, Supervisor **Mary Sue Bancroft** and Supervisor **Ben Edwards**

NEWS RELEASE

For immediate Release Phone: 804-845-4755

Email: lindsay.robinson@kwc.gov

King William, Virginia; September 24, 2024 - The King William County Board of Supervisors is pleased to announce that Stacey Davenport has agreed to accept the position of County Administrator. “The County will be well served by the Board’s selection, as Ms. Davenport has the knowledge, experience, and determination that will continue to move our community forward in a positive direction,” said Chair Lindsay Robinson. After weeks of interviews and negotiations, Ms. Davenport began in her new role on Monday, September 23rd and spent her first day meeting the Constitutional Officers and the King William staff.

Stacey Davenport served as the Commonwealth’s Attorney for Chesterfield County, Virginia from January 2020 until December 2023. She is a graduate of Wake Forest University with a major in Political Science and a minor in Religion, and where she went on to obtain her Juris Doctor from the University of Richmond School of Law. In addition to her work as a trial attorney, Ms. Davenport has also been a speaker at numerous trainings for attorneys, EMTs, law enforcement and victims advocates.

Lindsay M. Robinson, Chair, 4th District | Justin Catlett, Vice Chair, 3rd District
 Benjamin J. Edwards, 2nd District | William L. Hodges, 1st District | Mary Sue Bancroft, 5th District

Albemarle County Names Emily Kilroy as Economic Development Director

The Albemarle County Board of Supervisors announced the appointment of Emily Kilroy as the next Director of Economic Development for Albemarle County. Kilroy, who has served as interim director since May 2024, has assumed the role permanently, effective immediately.

“Targeted economic development is critical to the future of our county, and we have confidence in Emily’s ability to lead this effort,” said Jim Andrews, Chair of the Albemarle County Board of Supervisors. “Her knowledge, vision, and experience are exactly what we need to steer Albemarle County toward sustained success.”

“Albemarle County is on the cusp of incredible opportunities that will shape the regional economy for the future,” Kilroy said. “From advancements in biotechnology, intelligence, national security, to clean energy, these diverse sectors are bound by our community’s remarkable drive for innovation and discovery. I am eager to support this thriving ecosystem and work to create pathways for our local learners to succeed in these emerging sectors. It is an honor to continue serving Albemarle County in this new capacity.”



Trevor Henry, Deputy County Executive, added, “Emily’s breadth of experience, from her leadership in community engagement and her work with the County Executive’s Office on legislative priorities, gives her a unique and comprehensive understanding of the many elements involved in fostering economic growth. Her success exemplifies the importance of investing in the professional development of our employees, ensuring that we nurture and retain talent within our organization.”

Kilroy has been with Albemarle County for 10 years, starting in the County Executive’s Office working on public engagement. She was promoted to lead the new Communications and Public Engagement Office in 2018. She later served on the County’s Executive Leadership Team as the Assistant to the County Executive before taking on the interim role in Economic Development. As interim director, she oversaw key initiatives aligned with the County’s long-term economic strategy, including the partnership agreement with Home Depot for the first redevelopment at Fashion Square Mall and preliminary work for developing the next economic development strategic plan.

Kilroy’s educational background includes a Master’s in Urban and Environmental Planning from the University of Virginia and a Bachelor’s in International Relations from American University. She is also a graduate of the Senior Executive Institute at the University of Virginia.

New Parks & Recreation Director Tiffany Walker Gets Enthusiastic Introduction

REPRINTED WITH PERMISSION FROM THE ROYAL EXAMINER

By [Roger Bianchini](#) | September 20, 2024

During staff reports at the September 17 meeting of the Warren County Board of Supervisors board Chairman Cheryl Cullers acknowledged Deputy County Administrator Jane Meadows with some enthusiasm. “Ms. Meadows, you have great news?” Cullers asked Meadows, at the podium with a guest.

“Yes, great news,” Meadows replied in introducing her guest. “If you have not had the opportunity to meet Tiffany Walker, we have selected Tiffany as our new director for Parks & Recreation,” Meadows said with a nod her guest’s way as a round of applause from those present met the news. Walker, a department veteran of nearly two decades, replaces recently retired Director Dan Lenz after his total of 37 years at the helm of Parks & Rec.

County Human Resources Director Kayla Darr explained Lenz’s tenure to us beginning in late 1986 under Town oversight (14 years) to another 23 years beginning in late 2000 when oversight was handed over to the County, as we recall as part of the effort to end double taxation of Town of Front Royal citizens for county-wide services town citizens were being taxed for twice, as both county and town citizens.

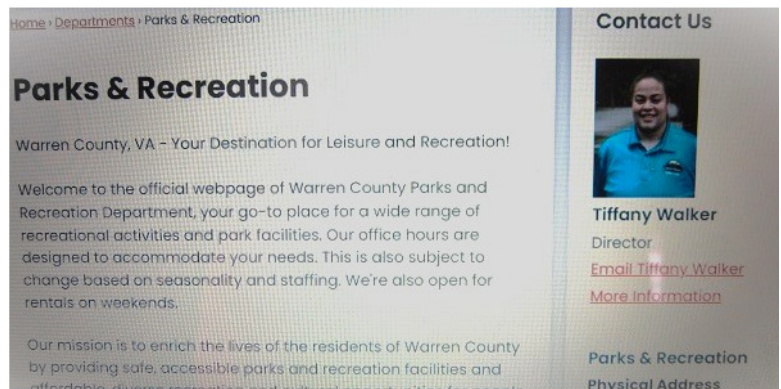
“Tiffany has actually been a part of our Parks & Recreation team for the last 19 years. She has continued to grow and develop with the department and we’re really excited to see the programming and expansion and growth that she’s been able to bring to partnerships with numerous people in the community – it has been amazing,” Meadows enthused of Walker’s impact as an organizational staffer.

Meadows acknowledged Walker’s Bachelor’s Degree from Ferrum College, observing, “Your degree is a mouthful, so I’m going to skip it,” drawing a smile from the new department director.

“But we’re really excited. I think Tiffany’s leadership is what the team needs. And I think it will be fantastic for the Recreation Commission and for the county as a whole,” Meadows added more seriously of the new director’s prospects leading the department she has been an integral part of for nearly two decades.

As Walker stepped toward the podium microphone, board Vice-Chairman “Jay” Butler commended her leadership qualities that he had observed from his oversight commission work.

“Well, thank you for that, and thank you guys for the opportunity. I’m very excited to continue to build



A portion of the front page of the Parks & Rec section of the official Warren County website, with its new director in place. **Royal Examiner by Photos Roger Bianchini**

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New Parks & Rec Department Director Tiffany Walker, right, is introduced by Deputy County Administrator Jane Meadows at the supervisors September 17 meeting. The 19-year Parks & Recreation staffer's appointment after Dan Lenz's retirement was met with enthusiasm. **Royal Examiner by Photos Roger Bianchini**

programming and recreational opportunities for the county. It's a passion of mine and I'll strive to do the best than I can do for you," Walker told the county's elected officials and its citizens.

Chairman Cullers then recalled that Walker had been a year or two ahead of her son in school here, observing, "And I remember your sportsmanship and how you played with passion. And I'm sure you're going to bring the same thing, so, thank you."

"Thank you for that, I appreciate it," Walker replied to applause from both the public gallery and board dais as she and Meadows left the podium. Walker officially began her director's tenure the previous day, Monday, September 16, 2024, according to the County Human Resources Department.

Walker seems a prime candidate to carry the County Parks & Recreation Department mission forward. That mission is described below on the department's portion of the Warren County website.

"Our mission is to enrich the lives of the residents of Warren County by providing safe, accessible parks and recreation facilities and affordable, diverse recreation and cultural opportunities for people of all ages to play, learn, and build community. We create community through people, parks, and programs.

"We strive to deliver top-notch services to our participants with individual attention to make your experience memorable. If you have any queries about our facilities or programs, want to report an issue, or wish to understand more about what we offer, don't hesitate to reach out to us."

Just a little math footnote to this story: were Tiffany Walker to match her predecessor's tenure as department head, someone will be acknowledging her retirement in 2061.

Chesterfield County Champions Central Virginia's First-Ever Monolingual Community Meeting for Spanish-Speakers



Photos Courtesy of Chesterfield County
Constituent and Media Services

Café Con La Comunidad allows more than 200 monolingual Spanish speakers the opportunity to ask questions in Spanish to Chesterfield's Board of Supervisors, county administration

In a first for Chesterfield County and Central Virginia, the Board of Supervisors and administration met exclusively with monolingual Spanish speakers during the county's inaugural Café Con La Comunidad event at Beulah Recreation Center on Aug. 27.

The event was designed to allow native Spanish speakers to meet Chesterfield Board of Supervisors Chair and Dale District Representative Jim Holland, County Administrator Dr. Joe Casey, and other key county leaders and administrators in Spanish. To hear questions in Spanish, county officials were equipped with headphone translation devices that allowed for simultaneous interpretation to engage directly with Spanish speakers present during the meeting.

Café con la Comunidad offered a unique mix of family-friendly festival – complete with a DJ, coffee, Spanish sweet bread and cookies, frescas, fruit popsicles – and community information session.

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Latinos In Virginia Empowerment Center supported innovative interpretation framework, which allowed community members to speak directly to leaders and vice versa. Bilingual county staff was also present to help facilitate community discussion.

Aside from an informal question-and-answer session, Café con la Comunidad also featured staff from several county departments providing information about local programs, services and resources. Each department had a Spanish-speaking representative and bilingual materials to help further immerse and engage residents with all Chesterfield has to offer. A kids zone, sponsored by Chesterfield County Public Library and the Parks and Recreation Department, offered several activities allowing parents to learn more about their program offerings.

The event was set up to accommodate about 85 residents. However, through strategic marketing and promotion by Chesterfield's Constituent and Media Service Department; and grassroots community leadership guided by the county's Community Engagement and Resources Department, more than 200 people and their families attended the historic event.

According to a July 2023 U.S. Census estimate, 12.2% of Chesterfield's 383,876 residents identify as Hispanic or Latino, with at least two or more family members speaking only Spanish in the household – making the county's Spanish-speaking population the largest in the Richmond region and one of the densest in Virginia.

Board of Supervisors Chair Jim Holland noted that residents “asked great questions on an array of topics,” including access to mental health resources, support for starting a small business, public transportation, housing affordability and employment opportunities.

“There are so many opportunities where we can break down walls and bridge the gaps in our community, and that's what we're about: enhancing quality of life, innovating and creating connections,” he said. “That's why we said ‘You're part of Chesterfield. We're here for you and we're here with you.’ We're sending a message that diversity is safe here. We want everyone to feel welcome in this county.”

Because of its sweeping popularity with monolingual Spanish speakers, another Café Con La Comunidad is being planned for the county's Bermuda District.

To view photos, video and read a complete overview about the creation of Café Con La Comunidad, visit the county's “[Chesterfield On Point](#)” blog about the event.

Fighting the battle together is how we roll!

**- Jason Berry
Washington County
Administrator
and
Gary Larrowe
Botetourt County
Administrator**

Botetourt County sent an Engine and crew to the Town of Damascus to help support the storm recovery efforts.

And on October 3, there was a fire call for a building outside of the Town of Damascus, and the crews fought the blaze side-by-side.

This is how it's done - helping each other in times of need.



VACo CLOSING GENERAL SESSION



Join us for political talk with former Delegates Chris Saxman and David Toscano at VACo's 90th Annual Conference.

NOVEMBER 12, 2024
9 am - 10:15 am
The Omni Homestead | Bath County



For more information
www.vaco.org

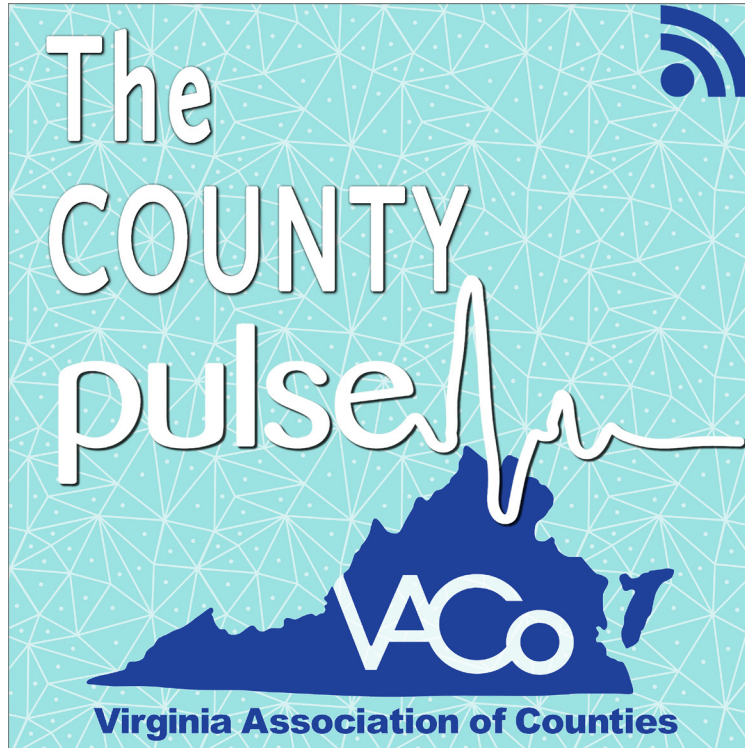
KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



Chris Saxman
Executive Director
Virginia FREE



David Toscano
Attorney and Author



Season 4 | 2024 | Mecklenburg Experience Energy Landscape of Virginia Series with Joe Lerch

Energy Landscape of Virginia Episode 3 | Data Centers and Utility-Scale Solar – Mecklenburg County | Part 1

[Listen to the Podcast](#)

Part 1. Mecklenburg Experience with County Administrator Alex Gottschalk

This 2-part episode was recorded on location in Mecklenburg County, which is located on the southern border with North Carolina. In Part 1, we sit down with County Administrator Alex Gottschalk to talk about the unique experience of a rural county that has seen significant growth in both data centers and utility-scale solar.

Energy Landscape of Virginia Episode 3 | Data Centers and Utility-Scale Solar – Mecklenburg County | Part 2

[Listen to the Podcast](#)

Part 2. Mecklenburg County Tour with Administrator Alex Gottschalk

Alex takes us on a windshield tour of examples of both land uses, and we discuss how Mecklenburg County has responded in terms of planning for how these fit within their community.

Congratulations!

We love presenting Achievement Awards
at Board of Supervisors Meetings



Congratulations Amherst County!

Amherst County public safety leaders, the Amherst County Board of Supervisors and Jeremy Bennett, of the Virginia Association of Counties (front row, center) pose for a photo on October 1. The county received an Achievement Award from VACo for its new fire training facility.

PHOTO CREDIT

[Justin Faulconer](#) | [The News & Advance](#)



Behavioral Health Commission Discusses Interactions Between Law Enforcement and Individuals in Crisis

The Behavioral Health Commission met on October 1, devoting the majority of its meeting to [a briefing by Commission staff](#) on the question of how to minimize assaults on law enforcement officers by individuals experiencing a mental health crisis. This issue was referred to the Commission by the Disability Commission; legislation was considered in 2024 that would have established an affirmative defense to prosecution for assault and/or battery of certain individuals (including law enforcement officers) if a defendant could prove that his or her behavior was the result of a mental illness or neurocognitive disorder or neurodevelopmental disability, or that he or she met the criteria for issuance of an emergency custody order. This legislation was vetoed by the Governor, but secured substantial support in the General Assembly, and Behavioral Health Commission staff had suggested that additional research into other states' statutes would be unlikely to change the outcome of legislation, proposing instead to determine to what extent law enforcement officers receive adequate training in interacting with individuals in crisis and what barriers might be impeding adequate training.

Commission staff found that most assaults on law enforcement did not involve injuries, but that major injuries occurred in about 2 to 3 percent of assaults, and that those injuries could have serious effects on officers. Based on the data available to staff, more than half of individuals with mental illness who assaulted a law enforcement officer were arrested; such negative interactions with law enforcement can have serious repercussions for those individuals, including psychological effects and disruptions to housing and employment. Law enforcement surveyed by Commission staff viewed Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training as improving interactions between officers and individuals experiencing mental health crises; while most of the law enforcement agencies responding to the staff survey reported offering CIT training and having a trained officer on duty 24/7, officers reported an interest in receiving additional "refresher" CIT training opportunities. The Department of Criminal Justice Services was directed in 2020 legislation to develop new CIT training that would include recertification and advanced training; these new standards are awaiting completion as part of the regulatory process and staff recommended moving those standards forward to the next phase of regulatory development.

Law enforcement officers also reported an interest in having additional access to clinicians to respond to mental health crises. Some law enforcement agencies use a co-responder model, but deployment of these programs has been limited by funding and workforce availability. Staff included a suggested policy option for the legislature to consider funding co-response programs, especially in localities that have not yet implemented the Marcus Alert initiative, or in smaller localities that are not required to implement all of the Marcus Alert protocols.

Commission staff also documented an increased risk of assaults by individuals in crisis during lengthy waits for psychiatric hospital admissions. Staff noted that given the sometimes extensive delays in inpatient admissions and the lack of alternative options in some areas, some law enforcement officers may view jail as a faster option for securing treatment for an individual in crisis, despite the limitations on psychiatric services in jails. Staff suggested that the General Assembly consider providing additional funding to private psychiatric hospitals that agree to increase their acceptance of involuntary admissions. Staff also suggested that further research could be done to clarify law enforcement's ability to defer arrest for certain alleged offenses by an individual involved in the civil commitment process until the individual is no longer subject to an emergency custody order, temporary detention order, or civil commitment order.

Commission members also received [a briefing on an initiative recently begun by the Department of Medical Assistance Services \(DMAS\)](#) to redesign certain community mental health services to be more evidence-based and trauma-informed, as directed by budget language. The new services are planned to be in place by summer 2026.

Two presentations focused on the state's workforce development initiatives. Staff to the Joint Commission on Health Care [presented the findings](#) of the Commission's recent study of health care workforce programs (discussed in [a recent County Connections article](#)), and the Virginia Health Workforce Development Authority [presented updates](#) on its efforts to match its programs with the health care needs of each region in the state. Commission members were concerned by reports on the state's lackluster performance in retaining medical professionals who complete residency training in Virginia and the small percentage of providers who completed residency training in Virginia who practice in medically underserved areas. Although the most recent state budget added slots for residents in psychiatry, it appears that these slots are underused due to institutions' lack of awareness of the program or perceived limitations on its use, or because the funded amount for each slot may be insufficient.

Commission members also received a [presentation](#) from the perspective of a peer in recovery on the importance of a recovery-oriented system of care that empowers individuals and avoids coercion in treatment.

The Commission's next meeting is scheduled for November 12.

VACo Contact: [Katie Boyle](#)

VACo Receives Responses from FDA to Members of the Virginia Congressional Delegation on Federal Regulatory Changes to Prescription Drug Box Program



VACo recently received letters sent by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to [U.S. Representative Abigail Spanberger](#) and [U.S. Representative Bob Good](#), members of the Virginia Congressional Delegation, in response to inquiries from those members regarding concerns over federal regulatory changes associated with the Drug Supply Chain Security Act, 21 U.S.C. § 351 et seq. (DSCSA), and the Protecting Patient Access to Emergency Medications Act, 21 U.S.C. § 823, which will cause major changes to the Virginia's Prescription Drug Program. The letters from the FDA provide additional information and clarity regarding the transition of the program. Of note:

- “FDA’s actions related to the DSCSA do not warrant Virginia EMS agencies and area hospital pharmacies changing their current practice of replenishing/rotating out minimal quantities of product needed for EMS medical kits, based on our understanding of the practice as described in your letter and other relevant correspondence.”

More on Next Page

- “FDA has provided guidance to industry that it generally does not intend to take action against a dispenser, such as a hospital pharmacy, who transfers ownership of product directly to a first responder where the dispenser does not provide the first responder with product tracing information, e.g., transaction information”
- “Additionally, apart from FDA’s compliance policy, there are potentially other flexibilities in the statute that may apply; for example, in certain situations an exchange of medication kits between a pharmacy and first responder would not be considered a “transaction” under the DSCSA, and FDA also retains authority to grant waivers from DSCSA requirements in certain situations including for emergency medical reasons.”

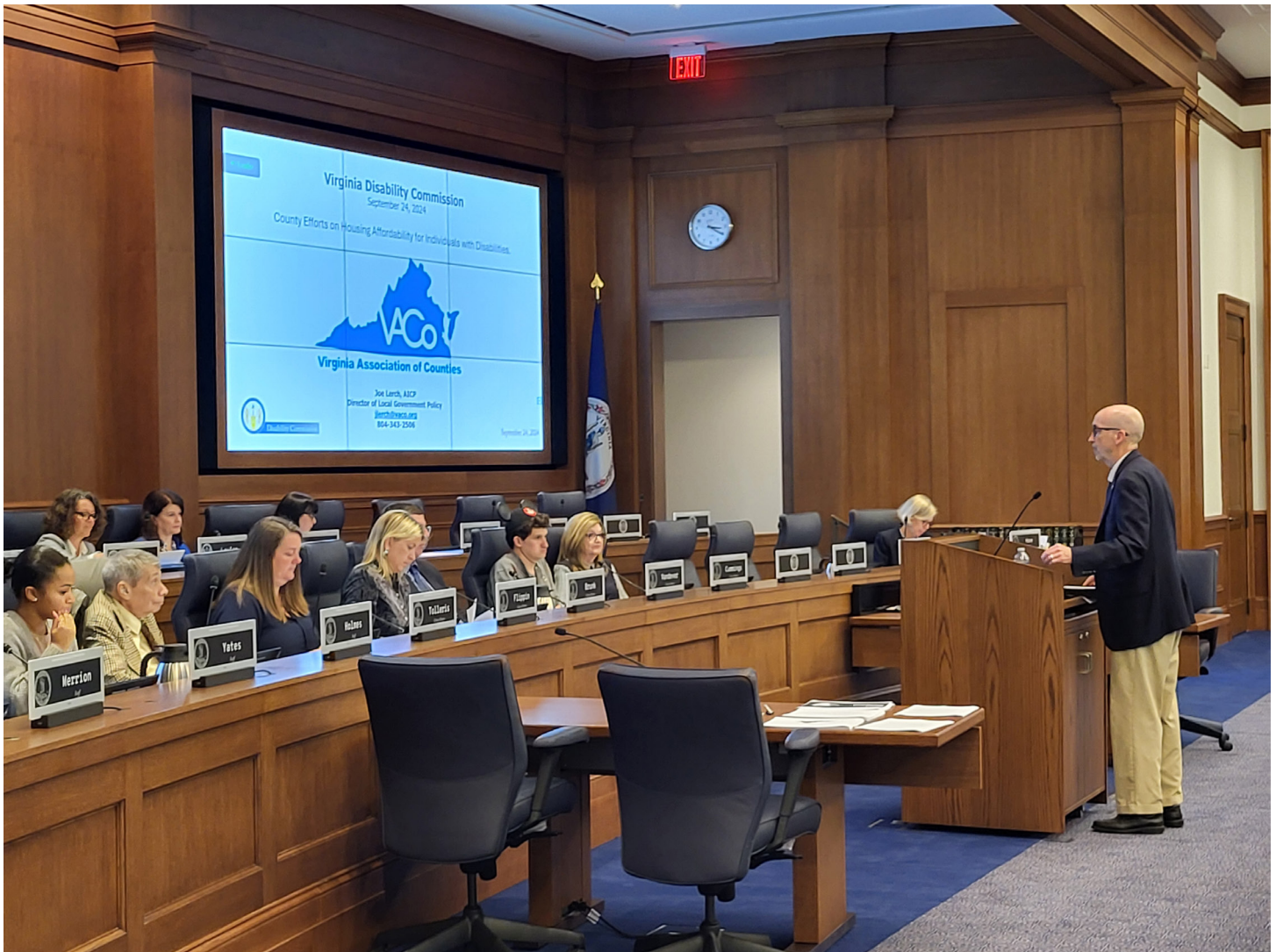
Based on this information, VACo encourages members to continue to coordinate with their EMS providers and area hospital pharmacies to seek opportunities to reduce cost burdens in the process of shifting responsibilities for the drug box program to local governments.

As previously [reported](#), VACo recently sent a letter to Administrator Anne Milgram of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Commissioner Robert M. Califf of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and members of the Virginia Congressional Delegation expressing concerns over this issue.

VACo will continue to provide updates and engage on this issue as they become available. VACo was recently added to the Virginia Regional EMS Medication Kit Transition Workgroup. This workgroup includes representation from the Regional EMS Councils, the Virginia Office of EMS, the Virginia Board of Pharmacy, the EMS Advisory Board Medical Direction Committee, the EMS Advisory Board EMS Next Steps Workgroup, the Virginia Society of Health System Pharmacists, the Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Association, the Virginia Association of Volunteer Rescue Squads, the Virginia Fire Chiefs Association, the Virginia Association of Governmental EMS Administrators, and the Virginia Ambulance Association. The tools and resources developed by the Workgroup and others across the Commonwealth to assist EMS Agencies have been placed on all the Regional Council websites as well as the Virginia Department of Health Office of EMS website.

If your county or EMS providers are still struggling to implement changes to the prescription drug box program as a result of the new regulations or are facing delays in the approval of waivers submitted to the FDA, VACo encourages you to contact members of your congressional delegation for assistance. A useful compilation of additional information and resources provided by the Peninsulas EMS Councils can be found [here](#).

VACo Contact: [Jeremy R. Bennett](#)



VACo Highlights County Initiatives at Disability Commission Meeting

Joe Lerch, VACo's Director of Local Government Policy, and Doug Bilski, Assistant Director for Clinical and Prevention Services at the Chesterfield County Community Services Board, [highlighted county initiatives](#) to create and retain affordable housing for individuals with disabilities at the September 24 meeting of the Virginia Disability Commission. The Commission's Chair, Delegate Amy Laufer, had requested a presentation from VACo on county efforts in this area.

Joe Lerch explained that VACo has considered various aspects of affordable housing policy and housing supports for individuals with disabilities in its steering committees as part of the Association's legislative program development over the course of several years. Noting that county affordable housing programs vary significantly based on community needs, he shared several examples, including Fairfax County's program to provide small-scale home repairs and accessibility modifications to eligible low and moderate-income homeowners who are

More on Next Page

older or have disabilities; Floyd County's VACo Achievement Award-winning Scattered-Site Housing Rehab project, which involves partnerships among nine public, private, and nonprofit organizations to address safety and livability issues; and Henrico County's new Housing Trust Fund, which is funded by revenues derived from data centers and managed by a local nonprofit, using a land trust model to help preserve affordability over time.

As a case study of local innovation through partnerships, Doug Bilski shared several projects implemented by the Chesterfield County Community Services Board (CSB). The Build-a-House program, a partnership among Chesterfield County, Chesterfield County Public Schools, the CSB, and a local nonprofit, Chesterfield Alternatives, Inc., involved the construction of four homes by students on County-provided land; these homes were specially designed to meet the needs of CSB clients with intellectual disabilities. The CSB also supports individuals with mental health needs through a shared home model, using housing units that were previously operated as group homes for individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities; these units generally use an independent living model, with some support from the CSB in the form of a housing case manager. The CSB also provides rental subsidies to support individuals who make their own housing arrangements and deploys funds provided through the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services for permanent supportive housing. The CSB has also worked with the County, in partnership with housing developers, to secure apartment units for CSB clients in new developments. In some cases, the CSB holds the lease and sub-leases to the client, and in other cases the client holds the lease directly.

Joe Lerch offered several concluding thoughts to the Commission regarding ways that the state could support local governments in developing creative solutions to affordable housing needs. Additional state and federal housing funds could magnify localities' ability to leverage local resources. VACo has also advocated for preserving and enhancing local flexibility to deploy innovative housing solutions. For example, VACo supported legislation in the 2024 session that would have expanded authority that is currently granted to seven jurisdictions to provide optional increases in density to meet affordable housing needs to allow this authority to apply statewide; this legislation passed the General Assembly, but was vetoed. Commission members discussed possible incentives to encourage localities to undertake programs similar to Chesterfield County's, noting that the ongoing cost of supportive services is an area where the state may be able to provide more assistance.

VACo appreciates the opportunity to showcase counties' innovative projects and thanks Chesterfield County for sharing some creative approaches to meeting a critical community need.

VACo Contacts: [Joe Lerch, AICP](#) and [Katie Boyle](#)

Virginia Association of Planning District Commissions Names Dixon Award Winner

Pictured L-R: **Jeremy Holmes**, Executive Director, RVARC; **Phil North**, Chair of the Roanoke County Board of Supervisors and current Commissioner; and **Jim Wallace**, Chair of RVARC and Vice Mayor for the City of Salem.



The Virginia Association of Planning District Commissions (VAPDC) has announced Mr. Phil North as the winner of its 2024 Gordon N. Dixon Award. The award was presented at a recent meeting of the Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission (RVARC), of which Mr. North is a member. The Dixon Award recognizes an executive director, VAPDC commissioner, or PDC commissioner who has provided leadership and made outstanding contributions to promote the concept of regionalism in Virginia.

Mr. North is the immediate past chair of RVARC and also is currently serving as chair of the Roanoke Valley Transportation Planning Organization, which is staffed by the Commission. As a former Norfolk Southern employee, Mr. North has a keen interest in transportation issues and the need for a regional approach to transportation planning and funding. “During recent state-level discussions about potential changes to SMART SCALE, Mr. North was a leader in coordinating messaging among our rural and urban communities,” said RVARC Executive Director Jeremy Holmes.

“He engaged regularly with our CTB member to advocate for our region’s needs, kept abreast of CTB and General Assembly issues surrounding potential policy changes, and engaged with our staff to develop strategies to support the region’s goals.”

Mr. North also has led efforts to engage the Commission more actively with its state elected officials. In FY23, the Commission crafted its first legislative agenda at the request of several member localities. Mr. North became the chair of the resulting Legislative Committee, leading the development of a focused set of legislative priorities that met the needs of the RVARC communities.

For 16 years, Gordon N. Dixon was an outstanding example of a regional leader while serving as Executive Director for two planning district commissions—the New River Valley and the Fifth Planning District Commission. He sincerely believed in regional planning and community development. Following his death, the VAPDC established the Dixon Award to recognize executive directors and commissioners who display exceptional dedication to the regional planning vision for Virginia.

Planning District Commissions were enabled by state legislation in 1968 and most were established the following year. There are 21 PDCs and Regional Commissions in Virginia made up of elected officials and citizens appointed by local governments. The purpose of Planning District Commissions is to encourage and facilitate regional solutions to problems of area-wide significance. This is done by promoting the efficient development of the physical, social, and economic policies of all districts by assisting local governments to plan for the future. The PDCs of Virginia joined together to create the Virginia Association of Planning District Commissions in 1987 to share best practices and further regionalism across the Commonwealth.



The Virginia Association of Planning District Commissions (VAPDC) is considering producing a bi-annual (every other year) conference that would cover the many aspects of financing for localities and regions in Virginia. You may remember the bi-annual Infrastructure Financing Conference previously hosted by the Virginia Resources Authority. This conference would be intended to cover many of those topics and additional sessions of interest.



Your feedback is very important to us! We greatly appreciate your time in responding to the survey at the link below by Friday, October 21. It should take no more than five (5) minutes of your time. Thank you!

[TAKE THE SURVEY](#)

Virginia Launches Clean Energy Innovation Bank

\$10 Million in Seed Funding to Accelerate Deployment of Clean Energy Infrastructure Statewide

Richmond, VA – Today, the Virginia Department of Energy announced the launch of the Virginia Clean Energy Innovation Bank (VCEIB) within the department’s State Energy Office to accelerate the deployment of clean power generation and energy infrastructure across the commonwealth. VCEIB will mobilize public and private capital to address critical financing gaps in the clean power generation and infrastructure sectors, supporting the goals outlined in Virginia’s All-American, All-of-the-Above Energy Plan.

“The Virginia Clean Energy Innovation Bank embodies our commitment to a diversified energy portfolio,” **said Virginia Energy Director Glenn Davis**. “By supporting projects at various stages of commercialization, we’re not just backing established technologies—we’re nurturing the innovations that will shape Virginia’s energy landscape for decades to come. This approach ensures we’re building a resilient energy sector that can adapt to future challenges and opportunities.”

VCEIB will serve as a hub for financing cleaner, more reliable energy infrastructure throughout the commonwealth. It will connect projects and companies with capital from federal, state, and private funding sources. The bank will partner with a range of other state agencies and programs to identify investment opportunities and will be seeded with \$10 million through the amounts as allocated in the 2024 State Budget. However, because of the economies of scale by housing it within the Department of Energy, only \$750,000 of the \$2 million set aside for administrative purposes is slated for use, leaving the remaining \$9.25 million used for investments into clean energy infrastructure projects.

“The Virginia Clean Energy Innovation Bank is more than just a funding mechanism—it’s a catalyst for economic transformation,” **said Commerce and Trade Secretary Caren Merrick**. “By strategically aligning public and private resources, VCEIB will help position Virginia as a leader for clean energy innovation. This initiative will attract cutting-edge companies, foster homegrown startups, and incentivize a skilled workforce ready for the jobs of tomorrow.”

The Virginia Clean Energy Innovation Bank will prioritize projects that not only create well-paying jobs for Virginians but also reduce energy costs and enhance the resilience and security of our energy grid. By strengthening the commonwealth’s competitiveness in both national and global markets, the bank aims to promote the growth of domestic supply chains while accelerating the transition to a diversified portfolio of clean power generation, including advanced nuclear and innovative grid modernization. With the bank in place, the State Energy Office will seek the designation as a “State Energy Financing Institution” (“SEFI”) from the U.S. Department of Energy’s Loan Programs Office (LPO) to unlock the bank’s ability to leverage additional public and private capital to finance large clean energy infrastructure projects. VCEIB will recycle its funds to spur a continuous cycle of reinvestment in the commonwealth.

The bank is currently accepting project proposals and seeking partners across the clean energy financing and deployment ecosystem.

Virginia Clean Energy Innovation Bank Contact:
Julianne Szyper | energybank@energy.virginia.gov



Join the Regional Elected Leaders Initiative for our webinar on **TRANSFORMING A HOUSE OF WORSHIP TO AFFORDABLE HOUSING**



Hon. Mary Hynes
Facilitator

The NOVA region is home to a number of faith communities who have transformed their underutilized properties into thriving affordable housing communities. How did they do it? The ins and outs of church processes, government processes and community involvement will be the focus of discussion.

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Virginia Counties Recognized for Model Programs



RICHMOND (August 29, 2024)—The Virginia Association of Counties (VACo) is pleased to announce the 45 recipients of the 2024 Achievement Awards, which recognize excellence in local government programs. VACo received 145 submissions.

Winning entries focused on addressing issues of housing, recreation, and communications, as well as finding solutions to other challenges that counties face daily.

[Winning Achievement Award Submissions](#)

[Winning Program Descriptions](#)

[2024 Achievement Awards Entries](#)

“Thank you to all who participated in the 22nd year of the Achievement Awards,” VACo Executive Director **Dean Lynch** said. “Last year we received 135 submissions, which was then our highest total ever. **[This year 145 entries were submitted.](#)** The program continues to grow because our member counties continue to do innovative work and find solutions to problems. The VACo Achievement Awards is a celebration of the hard work, good decision making, and problem-solving skills of county staffs and leadership.”

[More on Next Page](#)

This year's judges were **Charles Hartgrove, ICMA-CM**, Managing Director of the Virginia Institute of Government; **Dr. Sheryl Bailey**, Visiting Professor of Practice at Virginia Tech, and former Chesterfield County Deputy County Administrator; and **Canova Peterson**, former Hanover County Supervisor.

Smyth County and its **Smyth Grow** program won this year's **Best Achievement Award**.

"Housing is currently a big issue in counties, and Smyth County has found a way to build 100 new homes for its workforce," Dr. Bailey said. "Beyond the revenues and social impact of 100 new homes, the program promises to stimulate economic growth by attracting new residents, bolstering local tax revenues, and supporting long-term community stability. The program also hopes to create a ripple effect of positive socioeconomic impacts, including enhanced educational opportunities, increased business retention, and improved quality of life for residents."

The judges also selected a Best Small County Achievement Award (50,000 or less population) and a Best Large County Achievement Award. **Floyd County** and its **Floyd County Scattered Site Housing Rehab** program captured the **Best Small County Achievement Award** while **Montgomery County** and its **Sensory Museum** program earned the **Best Large County Achievement Award**.

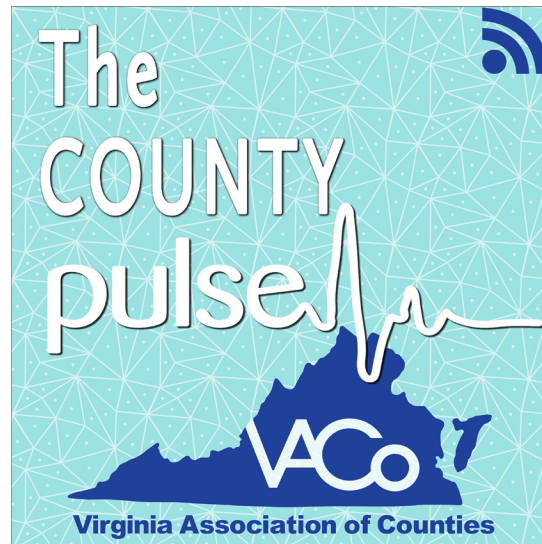
Hartgrove said Floyd County's winning program reflects an important criterion for the VACo Achievement Awards – collaboration. "Floyd County also tackled its housing challenge with an innovative program to rehab houses through broad collaboration," Hartgrove said. "What started as volunteers doing urgent repairs on the weekend for neighbors has grown into 10 organizations coordinating and contributing to home improvements around Floyd County. This is a replicable path in any rural county that is dedicated to improving housing."

Peterson praised Montgomery County for its unique program to help teens and adults with disabilities. "One positive takeaway from this program is that parents and caregivers often inquire about the materials used in the museum so they can replicate some of the tools in their homes after learning about the benefits of sensory play," Peterson said. "Montgomery County was able to make a direct and positive impact on an often-overlooked group of people."

Chesterfield County tops the all-time Achievement Awards list with 54. Chesterfield County has won an award in each year of the 22-year history of the program. **Henrico County** is second on the list with 46 Achievement Awards while **Loudoun County** is third with 31.

The VACo Achievement Awards is a competitive program open to local government members of the association.

[Winning Achievement Award Submissions](#) | [Winning Program Descriptions](#)
[Achievement Awards Website](#) | [2024 Achievement Awards Entries](#)
[Past Winners](#) | [Past Judges](#)



Season 4 | 2024 | Utility-Scale Solar Energy Landscape of Virginia Series with Joe Lerch

Energy Landscape of Virginia Episode 2 | Utility-Scale Solar | Part 1 [Listen to the Podcast](#)

Part 1. Utility-Scale Solar – Legislative Outlook with Dean Lynch

In the first of a 2-part episode, Joe Lerch sits down with VACo Executive Director Dean Lynch to discuss the big picture on state energy policy related to solar and recent attempts to preempt local authority on siting of facilities. Central to this discussion is the passage in 2020 of the [Virginia Clean Economy Act](#), which sets certain targets for deployment of utility-scale solar facilities.

Energy Landscape of Virginia Episode 2 | Utility-Scale Solar | Part 2 [Listen to the Podcast](#)

Part 2. Utility-Scale Solar – Erosion Control and Stormwater with Mike Rolband

In Part 2 of our episode on Utility-Scale Solar, Joe Lerch sits down with Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Director Mike Rolband to focus on issues related to erosion control and stormwater management. We learn about widespread and significant impacts due to developers not adhering to minimum requirements to prevent soil loss and runoff pollution. Director Rolband explains what DEQ has been doing to correct the situation through enforcement, education, and incentives. Counties are part of solving this problem and we'll learn the role they can play in avoiding and mitigating impacts to soils and waterways.

Additional Resources

- [Mike Rolband Slides](#) (specifically for the podcast).
- [Virginia Tech White Paper – Soil-Site Management Protocols & Best Management Practices \(BMPs\) for Utility Scale Solar Site \(USS\) Development and Management in Virginia](#)

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Premier Partner Spotlight

Blue Line Solutions Testimonials

Blue Line Solutions is making a positive impact on communities all over Virginia. In Smyth County - **Blue Line Solutions** recorded during a five-day period that there were 3,530 vehicles traveling through school speed zones at 10mph or higher above the speed limit. That's over 12,000 speeding vehicles a month during school days.

Blue Line Solutions uses information and communications rather than focus on enforcement to reduce speeds in school zones.

During **Blue Line Solutions** Public Information Phase of its program in Smyth County - the number dropped to 213 over a five-day period. That's without writing one ticket. The community heard the problem and reacted to it. During the warning phase - the number dropped to 175. Then during the enforcement phase - it dropped to 72. That's a 98 percent reduction of speeders compared to before the **Blue Line Solutions** program.

"That's absolutely fantastic that we can make a difference in a community," Blue Line Solutions CEO/Founder Mark Hutchinson said.

VACo 90th Annual Conference

November 10 – 12, 2024

The Omni Homestead | Bath County



This year's Annual Conference theme - **“Energizing County Governments”** - was selected because of VACo's collective energy and momentum that has jolted counties to many successes. We are proud of our accomplishments and service to our communities.

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VACo Seeks to Create Mentorship Program for Supervisors



Dear Members/County Administrators...

VACo is blessed to have many smart and experienced Supervisors. This year we welcomed a slew of newly elected Supervisors, some of whom have expressed interest in being mentored. VACo thrives when Supervisors connect and share experiences and challenges. Therefore, we would like to establish an informal, voluntary mentoring program to offer opportunities for personalized connections among Supervisors.

If you are interested in being a mentor or being connected with a mentor, please contact Karie Walker, kwalker@vaco.org or 804-343-2504.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Sincerely,

Karie Walker
Director of Programs and Development
Virginia Association of Counties



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Know Who You Are

Because you are VAcorp itself, we think it is critical that you understand exactly what VAcorp is and why it exists. Many simply think of us as their “insurance carrier” – writing customized coverages and handling claims when they occur – but we are so much more!

Our History

The Birth of Risk Pools

VAcorp is not an insurance company, but rather a Risk Pool.

Unstable economic conditions in the mid-1980s led to a commercial insurance crisis with ballooning premiums and widespread policy cancellations. As a result, Risk Pools began to form as an alternative to volatile traditional carriers, allowing Pool members to exert more control over their coverages and costs. Today, almost all public sector entities throughout the country get their coverage from Risk Pools rather than from commercial insurance companies.

VAcorp’s Origin

VAcorp was founded by a handful of Virginia counties in 1993. The ultimate goals of the program were to provide **cost stability**, the most **comprehensive coverages** possible, and **custom services** tailored specifically to the unique needs of our members. While we are pleased by how well our prices compare against the competition, our goal was never to guarantee the lowest cost. Instead, we promised to avoid the wild price swings that we’ve seen in other providers and provide stable pricing year after year, and that is exactly what we have delivered. VAcorp rates are actually **lower today in 2024 than they were in 1993!**

VAcorp’s Growth

Today, VAcorp is the **largest self-insurance risk pool** for public sector entities in the Commonwealth with a membership retention rate of better than 98%. Over the years, we have expanded beyond counties to include municipalities, school divisions, authorities, volunteer fire & rescue companies, state agencies, and non-profits funded by taxpayer dollars. **Over 560 members** have joined VAcorp, including 8 of the 10 largest counties, 8 of the 10 largest cities, and 8 of the 10 largest school divisions. We believe that the extraordinary success of the program can be attributed to our unwavering commitment to our founding principles.

VAcorp Exists to Serve You

VAcorp was created solely to serve Virginia's public sector entities, and from day one until now, we have never lost sight of that purpose. Because we answer only to our members, every decision is designed to benefit the group over the long haul.

VAcorp advocates for local government through a myriad of partnerships with affiliated associations including: VACo, VSBA, VLGMA, VASS, VFGOA, VASBO, LGA, Regional Jail Association, PDC, etc. While there is a cost associated with these partnerships, they add value to the group by aiding in our ability to lobby the General Assembly on behalf of our members.

You may not always see the immediate payoff, but every VAcorp decision is made in alignment with our vision to serve our members and promote the health and longevity of your program.

Take a look at a few of VAcorp's milestones over the years:

- **1993** - VAcorp is established with 12 founding members and less than \$700,000 in annual contribution.
- **1998** - VAcorp terminates service contract with claims administration vendor and hires staff to promote more control and efficiency.
- **1999** - VAcorp offers coverage to K-12 Public Schools across the Commonwealth.
- **2001** - VAcorp begins offering Public Officials Liability coverage in response to VARisk offering limited coverage.
- **2004** - VAcorp begins providing Environmental Liability coverage to all members at no additional cost. Even in 2024, VAcorp is the only provider offering this coverage with a low \$25,000 deductible. Other providers offer this coverage with a \$250,000 deductible.
- **2008** - VAcorp responded to the great recession by freezing rates and providing financial relief with over \$8,000,000 in dividends to members.
- **2011** - VAcorp introduces Line of Duty Act (LODA) coverage, creates the only LODA trust in the state, and absorbs existing LODA losses in response to the state pushing this cost to the local level. VAcorp paid all of its members' 2010 past liability for over \$1,000,000.
- **2013** - VAcorp merges with the VSBA Self-Insurance Group and assumes their liabilities to prevent School Boards from being assessed. This action saves Local Governments in excess of \$5,000,000.
- **2013** - VAcorp becomes the first to offer Cyber Risk coverage in Virginia offering the broadest coverage available to local governments anywhere in the US.
- **2016** - VAcorp offers Student Accident and Catastrophic Accident coverage in order to fill VHSL coverage gaps.
- **2020** - VAcorp provides over \$5,000,000 in rate credits during the COVID pandemic to assist members.
- **2023** - VAcorp includes security risk management coverage (active shooter) for all members (coverage has been included for Schools since 2013).





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OneDigital has a track record of providing cost-saving solutions to counties. This has been achieved through creative funding strategies, rate holds, and exclusive partnerships with various carriers. One of these exclusive partnerships is through VACORP and Anthem Life. OneDigital is responsible for the inception of the Virginia Local Disability Program (VLDP) which is through the Virginia Retirement System (VRS). Our team of fierce advocates negotiated a 5-year locked rate, including short-term and long-term disability benefits. Your division may already work with us in this capacity, as we currently serve over 270 public sector entities in the VLDP program.



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The Virginia Association of Counties accepts employment ads in a PDF file or a link to a job site. Please include information for applying, and a link to other important information. Please do not fax your employment ad. VACo members are not charged for placing an employment ad. **The cost is \$100 per ad for non-VACo members.** VACo publishes the ad on its website and mobile app as well as the upcoming County Connections issue. If you have any questions or concerns, please email [Valerie Russell](mailto:Valerie.Russell).

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[ASSISTANT COUNTY ATTORNEY](#) | Hanover County | Posted September 30

[BUILDING OFFICIAL](#) | Northampton County | Posted September 30

[SENIOR ENGINEER \(PART TIME\)](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted September 30

[EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES](#) | Spotsylvania County | Posted September 30

[INTERN - PLANNING DEPARTMENT](#) | Hanover County | Post September 27

[DIRECTOR OF FINANCE](#) | Town of Ashland | Posted September 27

[COUNTY PLANNER IV](#) | Henrico County | Posted September 25

[CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER](#) | Fauquier County | Posted September 25

[ELECTRICAL CODE INSPECTOR I or II \(RESIDENTIAL COMVINATION INSPECTOR \)](#) | City of Alexandria
| Posted September 25

[PRINCIPAL ENGINEER](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted September 25

[EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES](#) | Spotsylvania County | Posted September 24

[DEPUTY CHIEF OF EMS](#) | Montgomery County | Posted September 24

[PARAMEDIC \(PART TIME; MULTIPLE OPENINGS\)](#) | Montgomery County
| Posted September 24

[PARAMEDIC/FIRE TECHICIAN](#) | Montgomery County | Posted September 24

[EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN/EMT \(PART TIME;MULTIPLE OPENINGS\)](#) | Montgomery County
| Posted September 24

[ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER](#) | City of Lincolnton, NC | Posted September 24

[CITY ASSESSOR](#) | City of Colonial Heights | Posted September 24

[SENIOR HUMAN RESOURCES SPECIALIST](#) | Virginia Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
| Posted September 24

[RECOVERY HIGH SCHOOL CLINICIAN](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted September 24

[RESIDENTIAL AIDE \(HARROWGATE GROUP HOME\)](#) | Chesterfield County
| Posted September 24

[SENIOR CLINICIAN - CAST](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted September 24

[ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted September 24

[INTAKE COORDINATOR \(PART TIME\)](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted September 24

[SERVICE COORDINATOR \(PART TIME\)](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted September 24

[HUMAN RESOURCES SPECIALIST](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted September 24

[MHSS EMPLOYMENT SPECIALIST/ JOB COACH](#) | Chesterfield County
| Posted September 24

[TAX TECHNICIAN I](#) | Montgomery County | Posted September 19

[SENIOR PLANNER](#) | Town of Culpeper | Posted September 19

[UTILITY SUPERVISOR](#) | Prince George County | Posted September 17

[EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF MIDDLESEX WATER AUTHORITY AND COUNTY ENGINEER](#) | Middlesex County | Posted September 17

[PLANNER II \(TRANSPORTATION/DEVELOPMENT\)](#) | Montgomery County | Posted September 17

[SENIOR PLANNER II](#) | Albemarle County | Posted September 17

[ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT ANALYST](#) | Albemarle County | Posted September 17

[ZONING ADMINISTRATOR](#) | New Kent County | Posted September 17

[MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR](#) | New Kent County | Posted September 17

[DEPUTY CLERK PT -CC](#) | New Kent County | Posted September 17

[LT OPERATIONS](#) | New Kent County | Posted September 17

[ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM SPECIALIST](#) | New Kent County | Posted September 17

[P&R RECREATION SPECIALIST I or II](#) | New Kent County | Posted September 17

[ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE MANAGER](#) | Mecklenburg County | Posted September 17

[ASSISTANT COUNTY ATTORNEY](#) | Prince George County | Posted September 16

[SENIOR BUILDING INSPECTOR](#) | Prince George County | Posted September 16

[POLICE OFFICER \(CERTIFIED\)](#) | Prince George County | Posted September 16

[POLICE OFFICER](#) | Prince George County | Posted September 16

[PLANNING & ZONING TECHNICIAN](#) | Prince George County | Posted September 16

[METER TECHNICIAN](#) | Prince George County | Posted September 16

[MANAGER VI, BUDGET](#) | Prince George County | Posted September 16

[KENNEL ATTENDANT](#) | Prince George County | Posted September 16

[FIRE & EMS CHIEF](#) | Prince George County | Posted September 16

[PLANT MANAGER](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted September 16

[MHSS SERVICES SUPERVISOR-CHESTER HOUSE](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted September 16

[PEER RECOVERY SPECIALIST-OUTREACH](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted September 16

[PLUMBING/MECHANICAL INSPECTOR](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted September 16

[STAFF AUDITOR-100% TELEWORK ELIGIBLE \(RICHMOND REGION\)](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted September 16

[RADIO INSTALLATION TECHNICIAN](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted September 16

[EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES](#) | Spotsylvania County | Posted September 16

[TOWN MANAGER](#) | Town of Beaufort, NC | Posted September 16

[ZONING ADMINISTRATOR](#) | Stafford County | Posted September 13

[SCHOOL BUS TECHNICIAN](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted September 13

[SENIOR SCHOOL BUS TECHNICIAN](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted September 13

[EMERGENCY VEHICLE TECHNICIAN](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted September 13

[CLINICIAN \(OUTPATIENT/PART-TIME\)](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted September 13

[NATURAL RESOURCES TEAM LEADER](#) | Loudoun County | Posted September 13

[NATURAL RESOURCES ENGINEER III](#) | Loudoun County | Posted September 13

[HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR](#) | Cleveland County, NC | Posted September 12

[PRESIDENT/CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER](#) | Dulles Area Transportation Association | Posted September 12

[BUILDING INSPECTOR](#) | Montgomery County | Posted September 12

[QUALITY ASSURANCE COORDINATOR](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted September 10

[SENIOR ADMINISTRATIVE ANALYST](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted September 10

[PEER RECOVERY SPECIALIST-CHESTER HOUSE](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted September 10

[SENIOR CLINICIAN](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted September 10

[CHILD ADOLESCENT SERVICES SENIOR CLINICIAN BFOQ/BILINGUAL \(SPANISH/ENGLISH\)](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted September 10

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VACo's lobbying efforts have helped stem the tide of unfunded mandates and have saved Counties millions of dollars every year.



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Our educational programs offer County leaders and staff opportunities to become more effective in their communities.



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VACo exists to support county officials and to effectively represent, promote and protect the interests of counties to better serve the people of Virginia.

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