

Regional Progress

An Annual Report of Activities on the Eastern Shore of Virginia

Fiscal Years 2005-2007

Accomack-Norhampton Planning District Commission--Accomack-Norhampton Housing and Redevelopment Corporation--Accomack-Norhampton Regional Housing Authority

Governor Kaine tours Downtown Projects



Governor Tim Kaine and First Lady Ann Holton visited the Eastern Shore in May 2006 and extensively toured Exmore's newly revitalized downtown. Then, in July 2007, Governor Kaine and his Cabinet toured the Chincoteague revitalized downtown.

Kaine and his wife toured the new Exmore Town Hall and local businesses. The Town, using funds from DHCD, USDA, and VDOT, and the administrative services of the A-NPDC, has completely changed its look and busi-

ness prospects.

It began in 2001 with the town's purchase of a former bank building for use as the new town hall. Over the past five years, derelict buildings were demolished, parking lots were created, and streetscape improvements were installed. An expanded wastewater collection and treatment facility made it possible for restaurants and other businesses to locate in the downtown area and has resulted in private investment amounting to \$572,000.

A year later, Governor Kaine and his Cabinet toured the revitalized downtown Chincoteague, including the new Farmers' Market and Robert N. Reed Waterfront Park, a former seafood loading dock area. This revitalization was the result of substantial Town funds and grants from DHCD, VDOT, VDH, and VDCR.

Kaine noted how pleased he was to see the how well these towns had used state-administered funds.

Crispus Attucks Apartments Funded

Applications to the Virginia Housing Development Authority and Southeast R/CAP for funds to construct the Crispus Attucks Apartments in the New Road community of Exmore were approved in May 2007. The eleven 2-story duplexes will include 2 and 3 bedroom units, five of which will specifically target families with persons with disabilities. The units will be located on existing building lots provided by the New Road Community Development Group and the Virginia Eastern Shore Economic Empowerment and Housing Corporation.

The agencies providing funds or techni-

cal assistance to the development include the Accomack-Norhampton Regional Housing Authority, the Accomack-Norhampton Housing & Redevelopment Corporation, the Housing & Development Advisors, the Virginia Community Development Corporation, and NCALL Research Inc.



Street Scene

Hill Studio of Roanoke provided the designs and specifications.

The project was unanimously endorsed by the Exmore Town Council on March 5, 2007, and will go a long way in helping complete the redevelopment of the New Road community.

"On behalf of the Housing Authority Board of Commissioners, I want to thank all of the individuals, agencies, and the Town who worked with us to make this project a reality," said Steve Miner, Chair of the Authority Board. "This was truly a community-wide effort."

Accomack Manor Opens and Onancock Square Apartments Re-open



Linda White cuts Grand Re-Opening ribbon

In May 2007, Federal, state, county and town officials joined the Accomack-Northampton Regional Housing Authority Board and staff, Onancock Square Apartments residents, and the Apartments' former owner to celebrate completion of the substantial renovations to the 40-unit Apartments.

Over \$1.3 million was spent on renovations to the 20-year-old affordable apartment units. In addition to complete renovations of all 40 apartments, the project built a new playground, repaved the parking lot, and constructed a community meeting room that will be available to the tenants for community events, and to other local agencies that provide support services to the tenants. The renovation included installing new roofs and roof sheathing, siding, windows and doors, exterior lighting, heat pumps, kitchen cabinets and appliances, and floor coverings. Three of the units are handicap accessible.

Ms. Linda White, a resident of the Apartments since their opening in 1987, cut the ribbon. Onancock Mayor Bruce Paone, Authority Chair Steve Miner, project developer Bob Margolis, and contractor Larry Canterbury addressed the gathering.

Meanwhile, applications are now being accepted from persons interested in living at Accomack Manor Apartments. The facility is located just off U.S. Route 13, about a mile north of Fisher's Corner. The apartment complex includes 14 two-bedroom units,

and 74 one-bedroom units, all at very affordable rents. To be eligible for an apartment, applicants must be at least 55 years old. A limited number of residents may be 45 to 55 years old. Some income restrictions will apply.

Accomack Manor was developed through a local partnership of Accomack County, the Accomack-Northampton Housing and redevelopment Corporation and the Mark-Dana Corporation. Together, \$7.7 million in grants, loan and tax credits were assembled to build the affordable housing projects.



Accomack Manor Main Entrance

190 Families Benefit From Housing Improvements

Thirty-two families in 2006 and 158 families in 2007 benefited, or will soon benefit, from housing improvements provided by the various housing programs administered by the A-NPDC, the A-NHRC, and the A-NRHA.

During the two-year period, lead-paint hazards were eliminated from 15 homes whose families include children under the age of six. Eighteen families become first-time homeowners, and 10 families were provided with first-time indoor plumbing. A new 90-unit apartment project, Accomack Manor Apartments, was funded and the 30-unit Onancock Square was rehabilitated. Twenty-five new homes were built. Approximately \$12.4 million of State and Federal program funds were accessed to provide the improvements.



Accomack-Northampton
Regional Housing Authority

Steven B. Miner, Chairman
Donald Sawyer, Vice Chairman
Vincent Holt
Katherine H Nunez
Leona Mapp

PDC Now a HUD- Approved Housing Counseling Agency

The Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission is now a HUD-approved Housing Counseling Agency serving Accomack and Northampton Counties. This program requires that an agency must be non-profit, have experience administering a housing counseling program, have served the specific geographic area they detail in their application, and be able to follow a housing counseling plan.

The PDC has two counselors on staff and anticipates another staff member becoming certified in the spring. The counselors focus on homeownership education, budget counseling, mortgage delinquency, relocation, and money and debt management.

Staff assist over 600 local families with these issues every year through the Housing Choice Voucher Program, Community Development Block Grant Project, Indoor Plumbing Program, and Homelessness Intervention Program. Over the course of the next year, the staff will be working on ways to expand this program to include more families.

West Fairview Funded



West Fairview Houses slated for assistance

In June 2007, Governor Kaine announced that Northampton County will be offered a Community Development Block Grant from the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development to implement a housing rehabilitation project for the West Fairview area.

The West Fairview Housing Rehabilitation Grant would include all areas of Fairview not covered by the 2000 East Fairview Community Development

Block Grant (CDBG). The \$592,400 of CDBG funds will be used to rehabilitate 5 occupied houses and replace 7 occupied, unrepairable houses, including 2 with no indoor plumbing.

The project also has funding commitments from VESHEEC to help convert tenant families into first time homeowners, and Southeast Rural Community Action Project to help with the cost of installing 10 new deep wells and 9 septic systems.

Work in the Fairview community was initiated by the District One Community Development Group, a community-based organization dedicated to building and repairing affordable housing in the Election District #1 of Northampton County, as well as advocating for other community improvements.

Support of DOCDG initiatives by the Northampton County Board of Supervisors resulted in the successful CDBG applications.



Accomack-Northampton Housing and Redevelopment Corporation

Anthony P. Sacco, President
J. W. Jeffries, Vice President
Paul F. Berge, Secretary
Diana Giddens, Treasurer
Delores Bailey
Chris Bannon
Louise Coles
Angel Collins
Valentine Evans
Katherine H. Nunez
Steven B. Miner
Lenora Mitchell
Ellen Richardson
Donald Sawyer
Michael Selby
Duke J. Shannahan
Faith Showell
Shirley P. Taylor
Hon. Laurence J. Trala
Martha C. Young

Regional Housing Coordinating Committee

Eleanor Drewniak, Chair
Sandra Benson
Hon. Robert S. Bloxom
Joe Bulin
Rev. Charles Cannon
Carmen Colona
James Eskridge
Saul Hernandez
Brenda Holden
William Hughes
Charmin Horton
Williams Hughes
Leona Mapp
Pauline Milbourne
Diane Musso
John W. Nottingham
Mary Parker
Althea Pittman
Jason Pruitt
Robert Ritter
Berran Rogers
Michael Selby
Denard Spady
Richard Sterrett
Suzanne Taylor
Nancy Gonzalez
Linda Martin Warner

Housing Corporation Commits to New Name, Mission

The Accomack-Northampton Housing and Redevelopment Corporation Board of Directors has decided to rename its organization. The new name will be the "Eastern Shore of Virginia Housing Alliance." The decision comes after a two-year strategic planning process that was facilitated by staff of the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development and NCALL Research, Inc, a non-profit housing development agency from Dover, Delaware.

The new name will be formally launched when approved by the Virginia State Corporation Commission. Also needing SCC approval are changes in corporate documents.

The Corporation's strategic plan also reaffirms the organization's commitment to provided new and rehabilitated af-

fordable housing, either to rent or to own, to residents of Accomack and Northampton counties.

Two new standing committees have been formed, an indoor plumbing committee and an advocacy/fundraising/communications committee, to go with the current standing executive committee. This action reaffirmed the group's commitment to eliminate homes lacking indoor toilets and running water in the region, and to be more active in supporting the development of critically needed workforce housing.

Corporation President Tony Sacco said, "These changes are a retooling of a 27-year-old housing agency that needs to adapt to the housing needs of the 21st Century. We anticipate that they will help us serve our customers more effectively and efficiently."

2006 Groundwater Awards Presented



Bill Shockley of Woodland Farms and Groundwater Chairman Donald Hart

The Eastern Shore of Virginia Ground Water Committee has awarded Bill Shockley and Dixon Leatherbury of Woodland Farm and Richard Davis of Ivy Farm Nursery the 2006 Groundwater Awards. The Award was made at the February meeting of the Ground Water Committee.

The Award recognizes Mr. Shockley and Mr. Leatherbury's work on maintaining farm ditch buffers and upgrading irrigation equipment to use less water. Mr. Davis is recognized for using technology to recycle irrigation water and reduce impacts of fertilizer on our groundwater. These projects have greatly benefited our groundwater resource. The Woodland Farm project uses the water table aquifer and runoff to supply irrigation water. The new



Art Turner of Ivy Farms Nursery and Groundwater Chairman Donald Hart

center pivot irrigation equipment reduces irrigation water needs by approximately 30% over the hardnose traveling gun spray equipment previously used. The agricultural ditches also have 35' wide grassed buffers. These buffers trap sediments and nutrients and reduce runoff. Ivy Farm Nursery has installed an irrigation recovery system. Grading of the land maximizes overland sheet flow through a vegetated buffer to clean the water before it is collected into a farm pond. The water in the pond is tested for nutrient levels so fertilizer application can be adjusted and reused on the nursery plants. The Committee congratulates all who received a 2006

Groundwater Committee Updates Model, Starts Water Supply Planning

Highlights of Eastern Shore Groundwater Committee activities in 2006 and 2007 include:

- Oversaw update to the Eastern Shore of Virginia Ground Water Model by the U.S. Geological Survey.
- Started developing Water Supply Plans for Northampton County, Accomack County and their towns as mandated by the Commonwealth of Virginia.
- Held Household Hazardous Waste Collection days in June 2006 and April 2007.
- Started the Ground Water Web Page to educate and inform residents about the regional ground water resource.
- Continued the Ground Water Awards Program to recognize actions that protect and/or preserve the resource.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection held in Belle Haven and Oak Hall

Almost ten tons of hazardous waste were collected in the 2006 and 2007 Household Hazardous Waste Collections sponsored by the Eastern Shore Ground Water Committee.

Over 1,000 pounds were collected in June 2006 at the ESO Arts Center in Belle Haven and nearly 2,000 pounds were collected in April 2007 at Arcadia High School in Oak Hall. Care Environmental Corporation of Landing, New Jersey collected the materials for safe processing. The Food Bank of the Eastern Shore also collected useable paint at these Collections for sale at its Tasley Thriftshop.

The Ground Water Committee holds these collections in an effort to protect water resources since these wastes often enter the water table when inappropriately disposed.

The Committee was assisted by project sponsors including Accomack County, Northampton County, the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, Eastern Shore Soil and Water Conservation District, the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, Accomack County Public Schools and the ESO Arts Center.

Items collected included leftover gar-

den chemicals, poisons, repellants, degreasers, fuels, fungicides, wood preservatives and stains, paint products and removers, and asbestos.



Household Hazardous Waste Collection

A-NPDC Transportation Technical Advisory Committee

Nancy Duncan, Chair
Tim Holloway, Vice Chair
Paul F. Berge, Secretary
Mary Ardolino
Sandra Benson
Tom Bonadeo
Hon. Donald L. Hart, Jr.
Larry LeMond
Linda Martin
Jim McGowan
Robert Johnson
Susan Scott
Eric Stringfield
Hon. Wanda J. Thornton
Rob Ritter
Ivan Ruker (non-voting)

Northampton County Bicycle Trail Funded

In 2007, VDOT announced the award of a \$73,000 Transportation Enhancement Grant for engineering and design of Phase I of the Northampton Bike Trail.

The project develops a 1.35-mile link between the southern boundary of Kiptopeke State Park and the National Wildlife Refuge along Refuge land. This land was once the Penn Central railroad right-of-way. Federal officials from the Refuge now own the property and have offered the area for a bicycle path since the trail is included in Refuge long term plans for that area.

The Refuge has also contributed \$100,000 for design of the project.

The Northampton Bicycle Committee started meeting in 2006 following the adoption of the Northampton Bicycle Plan and the Eastern Shore Bicycle Plan. The committee recommended this trail as the first project of the plan to be implemented. The Northampton County Board of Supervisors subsequently approved this recommendation.

Phase I is part of a four phase plan to develop bike trails to the Kiptopeke Park entrance and then loop back to the Refuge on Route 600.

Ecotourism Public Access Improvements with Floating Docks

The A-NPDC worked with the Towns of Chincoteague and Wachapreague, Virginia Coastal Program and NOAA to improve public access to our water resources. Two new floating docks were installed in the Towns of Chincoteague and Wachapreague in early 2006.

In 2007, A-NPDC staff worked with Northampton County and Accomack County officials and residents to construct similar facilities at Willis Wharf and Quinby.

The Chincoteague floating dock is located at the Town's Eastside Landing Dock off Eastside Landing Road. The Wachapreague floating dock is located at the Town's Marina off Atlantic Avenue.

At Willis Wharf, A-NPDC staff oversaw construction of a floating dock, improvements to the bathroom facilities, and construction is planned for an observation platform. Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries staff constructed the observation deck. All of these improvements are funded by the CZM's Seaside Heritage Program.

At Quinby, a floating dock was constructed at the mouth of Quinby Harbor.

The floating docks provide improved public access to the Seaside Water Trail. This trail connects the Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge with the Eastern Shore of Virginia National Wildlife Refuge. The entire trail is over 70 miles long. There is a link to the Trail guide at www.a-npdc.org.

Eastern Shore of Virginia Ground Water Committee

Hon. Suzanne S. Wescoat, Chair
Hon. Donald L. Hart, Jr., Vice Chair
Paul F. Berge, Secretary
Eugene R. Hampton
J. W. Jeffries
Hon. C. Reneta Major
Robert H. Meyers
Steven B. Miner
Katherine Nunez
John H. Price, Jr.
Hon. Wanda J. Thornton
H. Mapp Walker
Jeff Walker



Wachapreague Floating Dock

Wallops Research Park



Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission

- Hon. Andrew R. Barbour, Chairman
- Hon. C. Reneta Major, Vice Chair
- Roland "Butch" Bailey
- Hon. Laura Belle Gordy
- Hon. Donald L. Hart, Jr.
- Rev. Charles J. Kellam
- Hon. Sandra Hart Mears
- Thomas E. Riennerth
- Hon. John H. Tarr
- Hon. Richard B. Tankard
- Hon. Wanda J. Thornton
- Gwendolyn F. Turner
- Hon. Jeffrey K. Walker

Governor Kaine announced in 2006 that Accomack County would receive \$700,000 in Community Development Block Grant funds for development of the Wallops Research Park. The funds will be used to develop a master plan for the park, extend the water and wastewater lines, and improve the roadways.

The A-NPDC prepared the Community Economic Development Fund prospectus to secure the funding and facilitated an Industry Agreement between Accomack County and BaySys Technologies, the park's first tenant.

A project manager and engineering firm have been selected for the project. A feasibility study and business plan for

a higher education center and business incubator in the Park is planned. Planning for broadband service is also underway.

A-NPDC staff currently sits on the Marketing Committee for the Wallops Research Park project.

Broadband-Telecommunications Studies Findings

The broadband community telecommunications studies for Chincoteague, Accomack County, and Exmore have been finalized. The results of the consultant's research and cost estimates indicate that the northern loop – Chincoteague/Wallops area -- is the most feasible to construct first. This recommendation is based on the number of available users for high-speed fiber connections in that area, the fact that access to the backbone through Maryland Broadband Cooperative already exists, the higher population density of the Town of Chincoteague, and the potential for additional high-speed fiber users in the developing Wallops Research Park.

The next step will be to develop a business plan for the new fiber "distribution

loop" that will serve the Town of Chincoteague, T's Corner, Wallops Research Park, the Navy, Mid-Atlantic Regional Spaceport, NASA and other federal facilities and contractors on Wallops Island. With a comprehensive business plan, costs for operation and maintenance will be determined, and construction costs will be investigated further. Construction funding will be sought upon completion of the business plan.

The final report(s) is posted on the A-NPDC webpage. If you have questions or comments, contact Barb Schwenk at 757-787-2936, ext 115, or email bschwenk@a-npdc.org.



Groundbreaking Held for ESCC Business Development and Workforce Training Center



The Eastern Shore Community College held a groundbreaking ceremony on April 13, 2007 for the new Business Development and Workforce Training Center. The 21,000 square foot building will have classrooms, office space, computer labs, an applied health lab, industrial training lab, distance learning lab, a conference room, lecture hall and warming kitchen. The new facility will offer comprehensive training and development services to meet the workforce development and continuing education needs of the Eastern Shore in a way that no other or-

ganization can. This will improve the quality of life on the Shore by helping employers enhance their profits and productivity and helping individuals enhance their earning power. Some of the ESCC's career-technical education credit classes include: Business, Electronics and Information Technology, Computer-Aided Design and Drafting, Early Childhood Development, Nursing and other Allied Health Programs, Welding and Heating/Ventilation/Air-Conditioning/Refrigeration.

The A-NPDC assisted in the funding

for the new center by preparing grant applications to two federal agencies: \$500,000 from U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development Fund and \$1.1 million from the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration. Completion of the building is expected by next spring.

Regional Partnership Activities End

The Board of Directors of the Eastern Shore of Virginia Regional Partnership formally ended its operations in April 2007. The Partnership's few remaining funds were distributed to the Virginia Space Flight Academy and the Eastern Shore of Virginia Portal, two Partnership-sponsored economic development projects.

Established in 1997, the Partnership was a coalition of leaders in business, education, government and civic groups. The partnership's purpose was to improve the economic competitiveness of the Eastern Shore region in the global economy. Funding was provided by 1996 Regional Competitiveness Act of Virginia.

Successful projects included starting the Space Academy and Portal, as well as building the Eastern Shore Community College's Workforce and Business Development Center and reviving the Eastern Shore Small Business Development Center.

Schedule of Revenues and Expenses

	A-NPDC	A-NHRC	A-NRHA
REVENUES:			
Local	\$ 392,012	\$ 36,934	\$ 235,034
State	232,502	9,266	0
Federal	1,665,872	1,246,918	4,722,836
Other	128,393	155,454	183,110
TOTALS	\$2,418,779	\$1,448,572	\$5,140,980
EXPENSES:			
Personnel/Management	\$1,718,592	\$ 203,390	\$ 719,334
Contractual Services	338,147	189,964	133,730
Other Operating Expenses	317,606	252,963	204,205
Construction/Capital	10,667	786,152	0
Rental Assistance	0	0	4,095,506
Reserve (Deficit)	33,767	16,103	(11,795)
TOTALS	\$2,418,779	\$1,448,572	\$5,140,980

Meil to Succeed Berge as A-NPDC Director

Chair Andrew Barbour announced that Elaine K. N. Meil has been appointed to replace Paul Berge as Executive Director effective January 1, 2008. Meil is currently the A-NPDC Director of Planning. Berge is retiring December 31, 2007.

Meil has worked for the A-NPDC for the past 4 years, first as Regional Planner and then as planning director since 2005. She holds a bachelors degree in geology from Virginia Tech and a masters in planning from Virginia Commonwealth University. Prior to joining the A-NPDC, she was a Hazard Mitigation Planner for the Virginia Department of Emergency Management.

Berge was appointed as chief administrative officer of the A-NPDC in 1979. During his tenure, the Accomack-Northampton Housing and Redevelopment Corporation and the Accomack-Northampton Regional Housing Authority were established resulting in a sus-



Executive Director Paul F. Berge and Elaine K. N. Meil

tained effort to improve housing and community development on the Eastern Shore for the past 28 years. The A-NPDC has also had important roles in local and regional planning, economic development, and infrastructure development during his tenure.

“We want to thank Paul for his leadership and significant contributions towards the improvement to our region, said Barbour. “And we welcome Elaine joining us as we carry on this tradition of progress into the future.”



A-NPDC Staff

Paul F. Berge, Executive Director
David F. Annis, Dir. of Housing Production
Kat Edwards, Dir. of Housing Develop.
Susan P. Haycox, Dir. of Administration
Debbie Andersen, Grant Accountant
Elaine Meil, Dir. of Planning
John Aigner, Community Develop. Coor.
Bobbie Wert, Community Develop. Coor.
Josie James, Community Develop. Coor.
Patti Merritt, Community Develop. Coor.
Barbara Schwenk, Economic Develop. Coor.
Robert Williams, Housing Specialist
BK Kurzbard, Housing Specialist
Leslie A. Mason, Admin. Assistant
Tabatha C. Walker, Admin. Assistant
Keith Townsend, Clerical Assist/Recept

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