

ACCOMACK-NORTHAMPTON PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION

MINUTES OF THE

September 21, 2026 Meeting

ENTERPRISE BUILDING

ACCOMAC, VIRGINIA

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Robert Crockett	Accomack County
L. Dixon Leatherbury	Northampton County
Rev. Charles J. Kellam	Northampton County
Betsy Mapp	Northampton County
Vanessa Johnson	Accomack County
Calvin Washington	Accomack County
Gwendolyn F. Turner	Accomack County
C. Reneta Major	Accomack County
Donald L. Hart, Jr.	Accomack County
Mike Tolbert	Town of Chincoteague

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

Adam Charney	Northampton County
David "Jon" Dempster	Northampton County
Donna Smith	Accomack County

OTHERS PRESENT:

Sandy Taylor	Russ Williams
Eric Horito	Anne Doyle
Faith Lewis	Myra Riley Taylor
Rokiea Taylor	Colby West

1. Call to Order

The September 21, 2026 meeting of the Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission (A-NPDC) was called to order by Chairman Mapp at 7:02 p.m.

2. Invocation

Commissioner Hart offered the Invocation.

3. Minutes of the August 17, 2026 Meeting

The minutes of the August 17, 2026 Meeting were presented. Commissioner Hart moved to approve the minutes as presented. It was seconded by Commissioner Turner, the motion was carried by unanimous vote.

4. July & August Financial Status Report

The Report for Expenditures for July & August is unable to be printed until FY26 has been closed in the GMS accounting software. Updated reports will be presented when it is closed.

Auditors from Dunham, Aukamp, & Rhodes, PLC were scheduled to visit the A-NPDC office on Monday, September 21st and Tuesday, September 22nd. This was canceled because of sickness. It has been rescheduled for Tuesday, October 6th and Wednesday, October 7th.

5. Financial Statement / Bills Payable

The Financial Statement, including the current Bills Payable, were presented. Commission approval of the Financial Statement and current Bills Payable were requested.

Commissioner Crockett moved to approve the Financial Statement and Bills Payable. It was seconded by Commissioner Hart, the motion was carried by unanimous vote.

6. Projects

Director of Planning Report

Below is a comprehensive list of Planning Department projects, should you wish to contact the project manager for more information. Details about featured projects follow the list.

3220 - Economic Development Admin. - Economic Development Planning	S. Dudas
3071 - FAA College Initiative & Talent Pipeline with ESCC	A. Doyle
3640 - VA Department of Forestry Planning/Planting Grant	S. Dudas
3593 - DEQ Regional Water Supply Plan	R. Chandler
3547 - DEQ/CZM Technical Assistance & Resiliency Planning	R. Chandler
3675 - FHWA BUILD Grant for ESRT	A. Doyle
3589 - VDEM Hazard Mitigation Plan 2026	R. Chandler
3587 - Navigable Waterways Committee	K. Singleton
3353 - Waterway Dredging Northampton County - Nassawadox Creek Phase 1	K. Singleton
3352 - Waterway Dredging Accomack County - Folly Creek Phase 1	K. Singleton
3581 - Coastal Adaptation and Resilience Plan	S. Dudas
3354 - Dredge Material Management Initiative	S. Dudas/K. Singleton
3571 - A-N Ground Water Committee Projects	R. Chandler
3401 - VDOT Rural Transportation Plan	H. Spurlock
3218 - FHWA Safety Action Plan - Safe Streets for All Program	H. Spurlock
3620 - Delmarva Agricultural Community Resilience Project	S. Dudas
3201 - VDACS Agriculture & Forestry Industry Development Plan	S. Dudas
3010 - VBAF Assessment Grants	S. Dudas

3220 Economic Development Admin/Economic Development Planning Sherry Dudas

Federal funding through the Department of Commerce/Economic Development Administration was awarded as of July 6, 2026, and staff reconvened the ESVA Economic Development Committee (EDC) to prepare performing the region's economic development work in several key areas: providing grant writing support to local, county, and regional agencies, staffing and coordinating meetings for the region's only EDC, and performing specific task work on the region's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). Volunteers for subcommittees are being formed for the sectors of Visitor Services, Aquaculture/Agriculture, Forestry/Timber, Aerospace, and Health Care are sought. An RFP was issued for economic consulting services for assistance with the CEDS and eight proposals were submitted. A Selection Committee was formed and met to shortlist the eight proposals to three. In addition, on the grant side, staff prepared, submitted and was awarded two Virginia Brownfields Assistance Fund grants on October 17, 2025, and assisted a funding application for the Aerospace Academy of the Eastern Shore's junior and senior high school curriculum.

3071 FAA College Initiative & Talent Pipeline with ESCC Anne Doyle

A-NPDC is administering this \$788,700, two-year Virginia Growth and Opportunity Act (GO Virginia) grant. Coursework as part of the UAS workforce program has begun at the Eastern Shore Community College. 45 students are enrolled with more expected by Fall, 2026.

3640 VA Department of Forestry Planning/Planting Grant Sherry Dudas

This \$90,000 grant will be used to install native plants along the Treherneville/Birdsnest sections of the Eastern Shore Rail Trail, by a qualified landscape contractor using biochar as a soil amendment. A-NPDC staff is providing educational outreach to the community by having a dedicated page on its website devoted to the project for public education regarding the benefits of planting native species, providing a species list & their history on the Eastern Shore, and the benefits of using biochar in tree plantings.

3593 DEQ Regional Water Supply Plan Rita Chandler

Grant applications for FY27 were submitted August 14, 2026 for the anticipated award amount of \$39,240 to be disbursed within FY2027. Work continues with research and analysis for the plan update.

3547 DEQ/CZM Technical Assistance & Resiliency Planning Rita Chandler

Work has begun to update the A-NPDC website. Shore Strong round 2 exhibit was held on August 21st at the UVA Research Center in Oyster, focusing on the communities of Nassawadox, Silver Beach, Willis Wharf and Oyster. The event was attended by 37 community members. A locality meeting and training is scheduled for September 3rd with guest speakers Maura Christian and Heather Mackey to review the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act Guidelines, Lucas Manweiler from DEQ to review Public Access Resiliency funding, Lynne Keenan and Dov Marin from Kimley-Horn to review survey results for the Coastal Adaptation and Resiliency Plan and Gabrielle Rosario from Dewberry to review the Virginia Resilience Inventory Updates.

3675 **BUILD Eastern Shore Rail Trail Project** **Anne Doyle**

With the survey completed, the project is in active design. Environmental reporting work required by NEPA is complete with one agency (VA Department of Historic Resources) requiring additional submissions. A Categorical Exclusion determination by FHWA is still anticipated. A-NPDC's Engineer of Record has completed a stormwater needs assessment for BUILD project work that will benefit both US-13 and the ESRT roadway. Staff is continuing to work with STAR Transit to strategically place bus stops, including shelters paid for and provided by STAR Transit, in locations that marry the ESRT with bus routes.

3589 **VDEM Hazard Mitigation Plan 2026** **Rita Chandler**

All comments and revisions to the draft update of the Hazard Mitigation Plan have been addressed and submitted to FEMA. FEMA has provided final review and comments which will be updated before the end of the federal fiscal year in September. The final step will be for each locality to approve and certify the final plan. The project is on track for an on-time, on-budget completion.

3587 **Eastern Shore Regional Navigable Waterways Committee (ESRNWC)** **Kellen Singleton**

The Eastern Shore Regional Navigable Waterways Committee held its third quarterly meeting of CY2026 on August 20, 2026. The Committee reviewed active dredging and beneficial-use projects, the Eastern Shore Dredged Material Management Initiative (DMMI), regional aids-to-navigation concerns, and federal coastal and offshore actions affecting the Shore. Nassawadox Creek continues to advance through permitting and design. The revised application proposes approximately 24,200 cubic yards of dredging with beneficial use of the material as beach fill on Tangier Island; USACE is reviewing the project under NAO-2007-02923 and VMRC/VIMS under Permit #20261725. Since the August meeting, Moffatt & Nichol has advanced the project to 90% drawings and specifications, with the engineer's construction cost estimate still being finalized. For Folly Creek, work is proceeding under the executed \$1 million VMRC Waterway Maintenance Fund agreement, with the current work plan focused on advancing the beneficial-use pathway through site screening, owner and agency coordination, survey and geotechnical work, habitat assessment, and early design and permitting support. The concept under evaluation would use dredged material to support marsh elevation, habitat restoration, and coastal resilience while maintaining the navigation objective of the project. Regional DMMI work also continues. The channel catalog and mapping effort is complete, stakeholder prioritization is underway, and staff are finalizing the Waterway Characterization Services RFP for bathymetric survey, sediment sampling, and laboratory analysis of priority waterways. The DMMI Project Management Team continues work aligning near-term priorities, schedules, funding, and procurement needs as the initiative moves from regional planning into field characterization and project development. The next ESRNWC quarterly meeting is scheduled for October 15, 2026.

3353 **Waterway Dredging NH County - Nassawadox Creek Phase 1** **Kellen Singleton**

The revised Nassawadox Creek dredging and Tangier Island beneficial use application has now been submitted for state and federal review. USACE confirmed receipt on July 29, 2026, and assigned file NAO-2007-02923; the project is also being tracked by VMRC/VIMS as Permit

#20261725. The revised approach replaces the previously denied nearshore berm concept with beneficial use of the dredged material for beach renourishment on Tangier Island south of the airport. The application proposes mechanical dredging of up to 32,000 (est. 24,200) cubic yards from a 60-foot-wide channel to -6 feet MLLW, with allowable overdepth to -8 feet MLLW. April Terracon vibracores found predominantly poorly graded sand with approximately 2% fines and a d50 of 0.20–0.22 mm, supporting the proposed beach use. Material would be barged approximately 25 miles to Tangier, hydraulically offloaded, and graded within an approximately 100-foot-wide beach template. The application also proposes six single-buoy aids to navigation and incorporates completed survey, wetland delineation, sediment testing, and resource-agency coordination. Northampton County and the Town of Tangier have coordinated on acceptance of the material for beach placement. Pending regulatory review and continued Town coordination, implementation remains targeted for Fall 2026.

3352 Waterway Dredging Accomack County - Folly Creek Phase 1 Kellen Singleton

The Folly Creek Phase 1B package remains positioned for implementation, with the draft Joint Permit Application package, Folly Creek-specific Dredged Material Management Plan, sediment and vibracore data, and permit figures substantially advanced and in hand. The FY27 Waterway Maintenance Fund request was advanced as a mechanical dredging approach using barge or scow movement and transfer and offload at the Folly Creek Landing and boat ramp area, with contractor-sourced upland placement serving as the baseline disposal pathway. On April 21, 2026, the Virginia Marine Resources Commission Board approved \$1,000,000 in funding for Eastern Shore work. Although this award represents partial funding against the project's current estimated total cost of approximately \$2.744 million, it supports a staged path toward procurement and construction while additional coordination and disposal readiness work continues. In parallel, the ESRNWC has supported continued development of a beneficial use add-alternate as a parallel track to the core navigation project, including continued outreach and site-control discussions for screened marsh candidates, identification of feasible monitoring partners and realistic monitoring scopes, and targeted near-term feasibility work so that a beneficial use option can be advanced credibly if funding and permissions align. Staff will also continue agency coordination, finalize procurement strategy, and complete remaining readiness items, including the table of adjacent property owners.

3581 Coastal Adaptation and Resilience Plan Sherry Dudas

The project was reactivated once VRA agreed to reimburse the A-NPDC for funds expended. A consulting firm has been hired to prepare the Coastal Adaptation and Resilience Plan that will include staff-coordinated public outreach incorporation. The plan is expected to be completed in early 2027.

3354 Dredge Material Management Initiative Sherry Dudas/Kellen Singleton

The Dredge Material Management Initiative has been integrated with the Coastal Adaptation and Resilience Plan (CARP), with Kimley-Horn supporting GIS analysis, channel prioritization, placement-site screening, and early project development. The DMMI Project Management Team continues to coordinate implementation across A-NPDC, MPPDC, VMRC, ESRNWC, Carlexson Consulting, and technical partners. A regional DMMI/CARP stakeholder survey has

now been completed by local governments, public agencies, businesses, nonprofits, waterway users, property owners, and regional partners to identify priority channels, documented shoaling and access concerns, preferred beneficial uses of dredged material, and broader coastal adaptation needs. Survey results will directly inform waterway prioritization and future survey, sediment sampling, permitting, and funding decisions. Staff has also developed an RFP to procure a consultant for waterbody characterization work to advance technical evaluation of priority Eastern Shore waterways, building on the DMMI framework for channel condition assessment, mapping, and sediment characterization. Existing stockpiled, dewatered, and cured dredged material is also being evaluated for potential use in CARP projects.

3571 **Acck/NH Ground Water Committee Projects** **Rita Chandler**

The Groundwater Committee will hold another working meeting to review research needs and solidify plans for the coming year. The session will further develop and prioritize project planning for FY27. One priority candidate is the USGS Installation, Operation and Maintenance of a Subsidence Monitoring Network across the Eastern Shore. For this initiative, USGS has completed a project plan and cost estimate that is currently under review by the Groundwater Committee. On 8/26/26, the Groundwater Management Advisory Committee met to review the findings of Senate Joint Resolution No.25 Groundwater Supply East of Interstate-95.

3401 **VDOT Rural Transportation Plan** **Anne Doyle**

The FY 2027 Rural Work Program is underway and includes development of the Arterial Management Plan for the Eastern Shore, that includes the secondary routes off of US-13.. Accomack County submitted a Smart Scale application that was prepared by PDC staff for the Onley-to-Greenbush segment of the Eastern Shore Rail Trail. Finally, A-NPDC staff is updating the agency's Title VI Plan to comply with a VDOT audit. The updated Plan must comply with new federal executive orders as well as state regulatory changes.

3218 **Safety Action Plan - USDOT Safe Streets for All Program** **Harvey Spurlock**

The Safety Action Plan is complete and has been adopted by the Accomack Northampton Transportation District Commission. The plan, in conjunction with the crash statistics dashboard, is being published on A-NPDC's website. The plan can be viewed in the interim at the following link:

https://kimleyhorn-my.sharepoint.com/:b:/g/personal/devin_simpson_kimley-horn_com/IQByG_cjIGoDQ66bp-OyQnerAQzESO4VpLXjL7svfbWgUBA?e=MtDhpH

The Safety Action Plan will now be used to acquire public funding for roadway improvements in priority locations.

3620 **Delmarva Agricultural Community Resilience Project** **Sherry Dudas**

This project, led by Virginia Tech and NOAA, is developing a regional collaborative of local and regional governments and extension organizations in rural areas of coastal Virginia, Maryland, and Delaware with the goal to build enduring capacity for planning and implementation of

community supported risk reduction efforts that engage the strengths and capabilities of a broad range of actors in the rural coastal zone. The Eastern Shore of Virginia listening session took place and staff assisted with registration and facilitation at the meeting. The final report will be completed in approximately two years.

3201 VDACS Agriculture & Forestry Industry Development Planning Grant Sherry Dudas

Award of a \$34,910 grant to the A-NPDC for the aquaculture and timber/forestry sectors of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy was received. Staff coordinated meetings of forestry stakeholders with the VDOF area forester to discuss forestry initiatives, including workforce development and the recruitment of a sawmill operator. This Forestry Advisory Committee feels that a sawmill is needed and a location in central Accomack would be ideal. Amish/Mennonite sawmill operators and other community members may have an interest in relocating here since the quality and quantity of ESVA timber is high. Members of the Forestry Advisory Committee met with a DE sawmill operator in August, who is deliberating with his community regarding the meeting's discussion. The next Forestry/Timber Advisory Committee meeting will be in October and the Aquaculture Advisory Group had its first meeting in June.

3010 VBAF Assessment Grants Sherry Dudas

VEDP Brownfields Planning Grants

#1 7194 Lankford Highway, Exmore, VA 23350 & 7194 Lankford Highway, Nassawadox, VA 23413	\$50,000
#2 18554 Cassatt Avenue, Parksley, Virginia	\$50,000

The Planning Grant is for planning and assessment of the two locations and includes site cleanup at the Nassawadox site and environmental data analysis and a reuse plan for the other. A portion of one grant includes a \$2,380 A-NPDC administrative fee and \$2,375.00 for the other. Exterior clean-up of the Nassawadox site (Elliott Automotive) is nearly complete. VBAF staff is greatly interested in A-NPDC staff being trained for greater engagement in this program and, to that end, arranged for the A-NPDC to be awarded a \$20,000 grant for administrative purposes. A kick-off meeting is scheduled for early September with VBAF staff for this grant program. Also, VBAF has been awarded an EPA \$2M assessment grant, of which the A-NPDC will share in the monies and will use for additional property assessments in our project area of the Eastern Shore Rail Trail.

Director of Housing Services Report

Below is a comprehensive list of Housing Service Department projects, should you wish to contact the project manager for more information. Details about the featured projects follow the list.

336250- Continuum of Care	J. Hope
3661 - HUD-Housing Counseling Services	A. Wert
3662 - VHDA HCE Foreclosure/Housing Counseling	A. Wert
3607 - Update to Eastern Shore Housing Needs Assessment	R. Williams

366250

Continuum of Care (COC)

Jen Hope

The Community Partners of the Eastern Shore (CPES) General Membership meeting scheduled for September 9th was cancelled. Beginning July 1st Lead Agency duties for the local Continuum of Care moved to the Community Services Board. PDC staff will continue to work on associated CPES projects, including the Virginia Homeless Solutions program. The community application for CoC grant funding was submitted in June. Awards are expected some time in this month.

3661

HUD Housing Counseling Services

Andrea Wert

The Virginia Housing funding application was submitted on April 30, with award notifications expected in September. Virginia Housing has indicated that funding levels are anticipated to remain consistent with the previous cycle. The new 18-month performance period will begin retroactively on October 1, 2025. Program operations continue to progress, with eight active pre-purchase counseling clients and an additional six clients having reached mortgage-ready status. Despite continued challenges in the housing market, the program continues to achieve positive results, with ten clients successfully becoming homeowners through the project over the past three years.

3662

Virginia Housing Counseling & Education

Andrea Wert

Fair Housing, Rental Topics, and Financial Literacy classes continue to be incorporated into Section 8 briefings, providing participants with information on tenant rights, budgeting, and long-term housing stability. The HCE grant application has been submitted, and Virginia Housing has increased the funding available for this cycle. Award notifications are expected soon, with program adjustments to follow based on the final funding level awarded. Heirs' Property Educational Events at the Mary N. Smith Cultural Enrichment Center were held on September 8th and 9th. Attendance was in line with prior events. The program is also exploring the possibility of offering an additional Heirs' Property session in northern Accomack County, although identifying a suitable venue remains a challenge. The program continues to expand services addressing property rights and estate planning. These efforts demonstrate the continued need for outreach and the positive impact of the program's expanded focus on addressing Heirs' Property issues across the Eastern Shore.

3607

Update to Eastern Shore Housing Needs Assessment

Russ Williams

The Housing Needs Assessment, commonly referred to as the Housing Study, was released and circulated in the Spring of 2022. Staff has developed an update summarizing key housing, demographic, and implementation changes since publication, evaluating progress toward implementation of the study's recommendations. A copy of the update is made available for the commission to review.

Director of Housing Development Report

Below please find a list of A-NPDC related Housing Development Department projects, should you wish to contact the project manager for more information. Details about featured projects follow the list.

300640 - Town of Onancock-Northeast Neighborhood	E. Horito
4601 - Wishart's Point Planning Grant (CDBG)	K. Berryman
3801 - Horntown Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)	K. Berryman
3690 - Occhannock Neck Road Project	E. Horito
3823 - FEMA - VDEM Accomack County	E. Horito
4710 - HMGP - DR-4001 & DR-4411	E. Horito
3768 - Accomack County VA 4512-DR-VA-0026 Elevation /Acquisition	K. Berryman
4401 - VDH Septic and Well Assistance Program	E. Horito
3337 - Chincoteague Septic System Program	E. Horito

300640 Town of Onancock - Northeast Neighborhood Eric Horito

Mandatory radon testing will be conducted on September 20th for the six homes that received rehabilitation. Safari Group is working on three separate proposals regarding the sidewalks and drainage ditches along Pine Street and will be sending those to the Town and the PDC by the end of the month.

4601 Wishart's Point Planning Grant (CDBG) Kaitlin Berryman

Staff is transitioning the \$50k Atlantic Planning Grant into a competitive \$1.5M Implementation Grant application to substantially reconstruct 7 homes on Wishart's Point Rd and Smith Rd. Staff is also identifying properties eligible for demolition.

Because the CDBG Planning Grant contact left DHCD, PDC staff prepared a slideshow highlighting status, next steps, and clarifying questions to ensure a smooth transition to the new DHCD CDBG contact while emphasizing the urgent need through pictures of blight to onboard the new DHCD contact to the project. Slides can be viewed here: <https://tinyurl.com/wishartspoint2026>.

Staff is finishing confidential, door-to-door income and housing surveys with target area residents while beginning preliminary housing inspections. Throughout October, staff will conduct the housing inspections. In October and November, staff will coordinate certified engineering and architectural reports to establish precise, defensible construction cost estimates. Staff is also discussing a local match from Accomack County with Mike Mason to cover demolition, paralleling the Horntown grant.

3801 Horntown Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Kaitlin Berryman

Staff is awaiting application approval or denial (\$1.4M for 6 substantial reconstructions & 4 demolition-only properties). We expect to begin demolition and construction in the fall and winter of 2026.

3690 **Occohonock Neck Road Project** **Eric Horito**

Two homes are for sale and are listed with Weichert Realtors.

Accomack County VA Hazard Mitigation Program (HMGP)

3823 **4291-VA-009 Elevation Project** **Eric Horito**

All paperwork has been submitted. Pending additional information requested by VDEM and FEMA, this project will be closed out shortly.

4710 Accomack County VA HMGP 4401-VA -016 Elevation/Acquisition Eric Horito

A Cost-Benefit Analysis is being conducted for the final home to determine if FEMA will allow funds to be transferred to this property.

3768 Accomack County VA HMGP 4512-DR-VA-0026 Elevation Project Kaitlin Berryman

Staff is obtaining two remaining signatures for Participation Agreements from homeowners. The Request for Proposals (RFP) for engineering and floodplain surveying/elevation certification services has been extended to September 18. Staff will then review and rank the submitted proposals.

4401 VDH Septic and Well Assistance Program Eric Horito

All systems have been installed. All paperwork has been submitted to the Virginia Department of Health. The project should be closed out shortly.

3337 Chincoteague Septic System Program Eric Horito

Contracts have been signed for three septic systems to be installed. Bids for an additional installation are due back September 18 and will be awarded that day. Permits are pending for another four systems. Designs for the final three systems are in progress.

7. Grants

FY24 Flood Mitigation Assistance SWIFT Amendment 2	\$900,000
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The grant pre-proposal was due August 31, 2026 and requires 25% match which was proposed to come from the Coastal Flood Preparedness Fund and/or the participants. Staff prepared the pre-proposal to elevate 4-5 houses in Oyster, Virginia. With community input, twenty houses were identified in the Oyster Village Resilience Plan as needing elevation and a Benefit-Cost Analysis was completed on the twenty houses. VDEM responded on September 1 with an invitation to submit a complete application.

Commissioner Crockett moved to approve retroactive authorization to submit a pre-proposal and authorization to apply. It was seconded by Commissioner Leatherbury, the motion was carried by unanimous vote.

FY26-28 Focal Area Competitive Funding – Increasing resilience of public access sites in the Coastal Zone \$70,000

Public access sites provide a key connection for communities to water. Beaches, parks, piers, and boat ramps, among other types of public access, are important shared community spaces, but they are also often at high risk to impacts from floods, sea-level rise, and other hazards. The Virginia Coastal Policy Team recently ranked resilience and public access among the highest needs for Focal Area funding. Therefore, the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program (Virginia CZM) is requesting proposals for projects under the Resilience Focal Area cycle (FY26-28) that will prioritize resilient public access through a competitive process that funds the implementation, design, and inventory of projects which will improve the resilience of sites. A-NPDC is seeking to apply for the design and permitting for an ADA-compliant floating wildlife viewing observation deck with access ramp for a portion of the Saxis Wildlife Management Area adjacent to the Saxis Public Marina, with match funding coming from the CDACS AFID grant.

Commissioner Hart moved to approve the authorization to apply for the Focal Area Competitive Funding. It was seconded by Commissioner Major, the motion was carried by unanimous vote.

FY27- VMRC Marine Fishing Improvement Fund - Chincoteague Fisheries \$68,500

This grant application will revitalize Chincoteague's working waterfront by improving infrastructure efficiency and safety for the commercial fishing industry on the Eastern Shore of Virginia. Matching funds will be provided by a separate grant from the Governor's Agriculture and Forestry Industries Development Fund (AFID-see below) and by Chincoteague Fisheries, Inc. The grant application is due at the end of September.

Commissioner Tolbert moved to approve the authorization to apply for the VMRC Marine Fishing Improvement Fund. It was seconded by Commissioner Hart, the motion was carried by unanimous vote.

FY27- VDACS AFID Companion Grant - Chincoteague Fisheries \$40,000

This grant application, if successful, will supply the matching funds needed to undertake the Working Waterfront Infrastructure Project for Chincoteague's commercially caught American seafood. The application is due in October 2026.

Commissioner Tolbert moved to approve the authorization to apply for the VDACS AFID Companion Grant. It was seconded by Commissioner Hart, the motion was carried by unanimous vote.

8. Agreements and Contracts

Virginia Housing FY27 Housing Counseling and Education \$100,000

This contract has been offered by Virginia Housing to support the FY27 housing counseling and education program. It includes funding to support counseling services and administration. It supports financial literacy, home purchase, Fair Housing and tenant or landlord related classes and workshops as well as individual counseling sessions. This contract includes an additional \$20,000 over last year's contract.

Commissioner Crockett moved to approve the retroactive authorization to execute the VA Housing FY27 Housing Counseling and Education Contract. It was seconded by Commissioner Turner, the motion was carried by unanimous vote.

General Assembly FY27 Water Supply Planning Grant Agreement \$46,597.50

This grant agreement has been offered by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality to update the regional Water Supply Plan. It includes funds for consultant services, management, planning services and administration. It is the first year of funds in the biennial budget adopted by the General Assembly. The second year is currently in the budget for \$39,240. Additional funds were offered this year.

Commissioner Leatherbury moved to approve the authorization to execute the Water Supply Grant Agreement was seconded by Commissioner Hart, the motion was carried by unanimous vote.

9. Executive Director's Memo

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Virginia Rural Health Transformation

This is a developing item and no action is requested at this time. This is just for your information.

Executive Director Meil spoke to Heidi Hertz, Office of the Governor, regarding the August 28, 2026 Eastern Shore health tour which included Eastern Shore Rural Health, Eastern Shore Agency on Aging/Community Action Agency, the local office of the Virginia Department of Health and Riverside. On that tour, dental services, optometrist services, certain services delivered at the schools, adult day services, and other projects were discussed. Under the leadership of Executive Director Brandon Davis, Northern Shenandoah Valley Regional Commission has already initiated their process which has met the basic requirement which allows other Virginia projects to advance this year. That first initiative is limited to their planning district but to complete the necessary work the state will need PDCs to aggregate.

From the discussion, it appears that Eastern Shore will be the second Planning District Commission asked to launch the next initiative of Virginia's Rural Health Transformation. The particulars of the discussion revolved around capacity. Due to the rules of CMS, the state may

need A-NPDC to be the lead agency for this part of the state. The Eastern Shore (Planning District 22) is wholly considered rural by CMS. The specific other rural areas in the vicinity might include parts of Hampton Roads PDC, Middle Peninsula PDC and Northern Neck PDC.

The funds available for this area were estimated at \$8-10 million annually. The state has made an allowance that portions of the funds would be advanced and then paid out by the lead PDC in each rural area so as not to burden the cash flow of the lead PDC. Staff have been informed and are prepared to work on answering the practical questions of the various administrative elements. Additional discussions are planned.

10. Other Matters

There were no other matters at this time.

11. Public Participation

Myra Riley Taylor thanked the Board regarding the completion of two wells and 1 septic. She requested a status update.

12. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 19, 2026.

13. Adjournment

There was no further business to bring before the Commission. Commissioner Johnson moved to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Commissioner Leatherbury, the motion was carried by unanimous vote. The meeting was adjourned at 7:33 p.m.