



## MEETING SUMMARY

### Carver-Piedmont Feasibility Study

April 15, 2015 | 1:30pm  
RRRC, 420 Southridge Parkway, Ste. 106, Culpeper, VA 22701

#### Meeting Attendees

Patrick Mauney, RRRC  
Michelle Edwards, RRRC  
Jenny Biche, RRRC  
Khalil Hassan, Rural Madison  
Ren LeVally, Rural Madison  
Janet Bearden, VAFEC  
Becky Sheffield, Virginia Cooperative Extension  
Ben Craig, VAFEC  
Paul Howard, Jr., Culpeper County  
Carl Stafford, Virginia Cooperative Extension  
Thunder Lane, Youth Visions  
Marilyn Poris, Rural Madison  
Dink Kreis, Rural Madison  
Ramona Chapman, DHCD

#### 1. Welcome and Introductions

Meeting attendees provided brief introductions and interest in the project.

#### 2. Review of Project Work Plan

P Mauney discussed the draft project work plan that was distributed via email to the committee in advance of the meeting. The work plan details the various tasks associated with the project, the team member/group that is responsible for those tasks and an estimated timeline for the completion of each task.

B Craig described the activities included in the multi-use processing feasibility study already underway. Through May and June, VAFEC will be gathering data from USDA and other sources and conducting focus groups in each of the five counties in the region, focusing on farmers, small producers and other interested stakeholders. There are two sessions scheduled in Madison with the other four counties to follow. Following the data gathering and analysis phase, VAFEC will develop a business case using the focus group discussions as a guide along with proposed work with Union Kitchen D.C.

*Additional background information can be found at <http://www.rrregion.org/carver.html>*

*This project was funded in collaboration with the Commonwealth of Virginia's Building Collaborative Communities Program.*

J Bearden discussed the potential partnership with Union Kitchen. Union Kitchen is a food incubator in Washington, D.C. and there is mutual interest in pursuing potential partnership opportunities between the proposed multi-use processing center and Union Kitchen. The potential benefits for the processing center at Carver are the lessons learned from Union Kitchen's development, as well as potential market opportunities in the D.C./Northern Virginia area.

C Stafford provided an overview of the research inventory assessment portion of the project. This portion of the project would likely be completed in the Fall and would include analysis of the demand for agriculture-related research opportunities. Potential opportunities include research greenhouses, small-scale demonstration plots, incubator plots for beginning farmers and agriculture research and testing opportunities on the adjacent land. The feasibility study would also address whether there is market demand for such uses and identify potential users of such a facility.

B Sheffield and J Bearden presented information regarding a pilot training project that would match low-income families in Culpeper and Madison with food safety and food service training programs offered through Virginia Cooperative Extension. The program would provide basic food safety, food preparation and food service training to a small group of individuals identified by Culpeper Department of Human Services, Madison Department of Social Services, Madison Emergency Services Association and other partner organizations. R Chapman indicated that stipends would not be allowed through this grant program.

### 3. Facility Assessment RFP

P Mauney discussed the facility assessment portion of the project and provided the committee with draft copies of a Request for Proposals for its review. The committee provided feedback on the need to prioritize water quantity and quality and septic capacity. P Howard answered several questions about the existing situation at the site, including number of wells, water quality and existing site plan availability.

The committee also discussed other items to be included in the facility assessment, including potential to use recycled water, roof condition, zoning or building code issues and potential equipment requirements for the targeted uses.

### 4. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

*Additional background information can be found at <http://www.rrregion.org/carver.html>*

*This project was funded in collaboration with the Commonwealth of Virginia's Building Collaborative Communities Program.*