



A-NPDC NEWSLETTER

ACCOMACK-NORTHAMPTON PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION

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A-NPDC NEWS SUMMARY: At the January 29, 2001 A-NPDC meeting, the Commission learned that:

- In the Bayview Community, a contract has been signed for construction of two new replacement houses and bids go out next week for another replacement house and 2 rehabilitations.
- In the New Road Community, construction is complete on five homes and two others are nearly complete.
- Four applicants have completed all requirements for admission to the **Build for the Future Training Program**.
- The first two issues of the e-mail newsletter for Cape Charles Sustainable Technology Park have been sent out.
- On November 20, 2000 representatives of the Virginia Port Authority Foreign Trade Zone (FTZ) toured the Wallops FTZ site. Staff from the Dulles FTZ was also on hand to formally transfer the FTZ project to the Port Authority.

WEB SITE OF THE MONTH:

Eastern Shore Economic Development: This local site is presented by the **Eastern Shore of Virginia Economic Development Commission** and contains a business directory, local lifestyle information, and facts about taxes, the workforce, real estate, and other topics. Find tools and links to help locate your next business facility or expand your existing business at www.easternshore.org.

TANGIER DISASTER RECOVERY INITIATIVE PROGRAM FUNDING UPDATE

An application prepared by A-NPDC staff and submitted to the DHCD for Disaster Recovery Initiative funds for the Town of Tangier has resulted in \$441,975 in grant funding being awarded to the Town. The grant is designed to assist owner-occupants on Tangier with the repair of storm-damaged houses. Program funds will be used to jack-up and rehabilitate eight houses, demolish and reconstruct four houses, and demolish two irreparable vacant dwellings. All of the rehabilitated and reconstructed houses will be raised above the 100-year flood elevation requirements. Construction on the first group of houses in this 18-month grant contract is scheduled to begin at the end of February 2001. A-NPDC staff will provide administrative services for the project.

SEMINAR ON LOCAL ENTERPRISE ZONE

The Economic Development Commission and the Eastern Shore Chamber of Commerce are hosting an **Enterprise Zone Seminar on February 15, 2001 from 6 - 8 p.m. at the Chamber of Commerce** at the entrance to the Airport Industrial Park in Melfa. Officials from the state will be on hand to describe the substantial financial incentives available to businesses in the Enterprise Zone. The event is free and is open to all interested persons.

NEXT A-NPDC MEETING
Monday, February 26, 2001
7:30 PM
THE ENTERPRISE BUILDING
ACCOMAC, VIRGINIA

STUDY SAYS NORTHERN NECK - EASTERN SHORE FERRY FEASIBLE

The Northern Neck Planning District Commission (NNPDC), in cooperation with VDOT and the A-NPDC, has completed the Mid-Chesapeake Bay Ferry Feasibility Study. The \$60,000 study, which was funded by VDOT and the counties of Northumberland, Lancaster, Richmond, and Westmoreland, indicates that a vehicle ferry between the Northern Neck and the Eastern Shore is feasible. The study was done in response to a recommendation in the Northern Neck's Enterprise Zone Designation to assess the feasibility of a vehicle ferry to the Eastern Shore that would improve transportation to and from the Northern Neck.

At a January 22, 2001 presentation on the Northern Neck, the NNPDC and member government representatives heard project consultant Joe Savage of KJS Associates outline the study's findings and identify the steps needed to make the ferry a reality. Mr. Savage's market analysis indicates that the demands for freight, tourism, work-related, and personal travel between Central Virginia and Delmarva would support a privately operated, year-round ferry operation if landing facilities were provided on both sides. The study estimates that a ferry making the 25-mile, 95-minute crossing at a cost of \$10 - \$20 per car with two-hour headways would generate a demand of 200,000 to 250,000 annual vehicle boardings. Initially, the ferry would make two round-trips per day during winter and four round-trips per day during summer.

The study identifies state and federal funding sources available to develop landing facilities, which would cost between \$3,000,000 and \$12,000,000 each depending on the condition of available sites, excluding land acquisition and permitting costs. While the study confirms that there are viable landing areas near Reedville on the Northern Neck and at the mouths of Onancock Creek and Pungoteague Creek on the Eastern Shore, further study is needed to identify specific sites. The NNPDC has applied for a grant to fund a phase two ferry study, which will include planning for site selection, capital facilities, permitting, finance and administration, ferry operations, and a bid prospectus for potential ferry operators.

EASTERN SHORE HOME WATER QUALITY STUDY FINDINGS RELEASED

The Virginia Cooperative Extension Service offices in Accomack and Northampton Counties conducted a home water-quality testing program in late 1999. Participation in the program was open to any resident of the two counties utilizing a private water supply (well). During the project, 353 participants submitted water samples for analysis. The recently released findings identified the main household water-quality problems on the Shore as iron/manganese, total dissolved solids, and bacteria. Copies of the study may be obtained from your local extension agent (Accomack Office 787-1361, Northampton Office 414-0731).

Accomack-Northampton Facts **HOUSEHOLD WATER QUALITY ON THE EASTERN SHORE OF VIRGINIA**

Households reporting "unpleasant" tasting water	20%
Of households with unpleasant tasting water, those with sulfur tasting water	44%
Of households with unpleasant tasting water, those with metallic tasting water	32%
Samples that tested positive for total coliform bacteria	22%
Samples that tested positive for <i>E. coli</i> bacteria	2%
Samples exceeding the standard for iron	26%
Samples exceeding the standard for sodium	53%

Source: Virginia Cooperative Extension. 2000. Evaluation of Household Water Quality in Accomack and Northampton Counties, Virginia. Publication 442-936, Household Water Quality Series 46. Department of Biological Systems Engineering, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, Virginia 24060.

1970 - 2001

"31 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE EASTERN SHORE OF VIRGINIA"

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