ANNUAL REPORT 2023

VCEDA

VIRGINIA COALFIELD ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

The Honorable Glenn Youngkin
Governor of Virginia
Patrick Henry Building, 3rd Floor
1111 East Broad Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Larry Mosley
Chairman

Dear Governor Youngkin,

We are pleased to submit to you and the General Assembly the 2023 Annual Report of the Virginia Coalfield Economic Development Authority (VCEDA).

Fifteen new projects and two expansions were announced in 2023, involving 373 full-time and 51 part-time jobs. These projects plan more than $25 million in private investment in the region. New project announcements included one of the largest manufacturing announcements in the region in years, the location of Tate Access Floors to St. Paul, Va., projecting 170 new jobs. Other significant announcements include the expansion of company headquarters of CNX Resources in Tazewell County and the location of Ronald Blue Trust to Wise County. Funding from VCEDA's Seed Capital Matching grant program assisted 10 new business start-ups with 58 full-time and part-time jobs projected.

In 2023, VCEDA approved 41 loans and grants for $13,250,633 in new VCEDA funding. Funding was approved for projects in all eight localities in the VCEDA region. In providing administrative assistance to the Virginia Coalfields Expressway Authority (CFX), VCEDA, in conjunction with the region's federal legislators, raised $7 million in federal funding for the CFX and as a result saw the opening of the first 2.57 miles of the Virginia CFX as a four-lane, which is deemed a crucial component in the economic development future of Southwest Virginia.

VCEDA is committed to its mission and crucial role in helping to diversify the region's economy. We look forward to working with the Governor's Office and the General Assembly to help our region continue to diversify and grow.

Sincerely,

Larry Mosley

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VCEDA
VIRGINIA COALFIELD ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Mission of the Virginia Coalfield Economic Development Authority

The primary purpose of the Authority is to enhance the economic base for the seven-county and one-city coalfield region of Virginia (Lee, Wise, Scott, Buchanan, Russell, Tazewell and Dickenson Counties and the City of Norton). The Authority shall provide financial support for the purchase of real estate, construction of buildings for sale or lease, installation of utilities, direct loans and grants to private for-profit basic employers; may apply for matching funds from the state or federal government, or the private sector; and any other support improvements it deems necessary.

Code of VA Title 15.2 Chapter 60, Section 15.2-6002

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Jonathan Belcher
Executive Director/
General Counsel

The Virginia Coalfield Economic Development Authority (VCEDA) was formed by the Virginia General Assembly in 1988 to enhance and diversify the economy of the seven-county, one-city coalfield region of Southwest Virginia, which includes the counties of Buchanan, Dickenson, Lee, Russell, Scott, Tazewell and Wise and the City of Norton. Since VCEDA was formed, the region has seen the creation of tens of thousands of jobs, billions in private investment, the economic diversity index of the region has improved by more than 250%, and the region's unemployment rate has been cut by at least half.

2023 was another successful year for the region, with the following being some of the highlights of the year:

» The announcement of 15 new projects in the region, projected to create 297 full-time and 50 part-time jobs and $25,051,013 in private investment.

» The announcement of 2 expansion projects in the region, projected to retain 67 full-time jobs, create 9 new full-time and 1 part-time jobs, and $900,000 in private investment.

» The approval by the VCEDA Board of 41 loans and grants for $13,250,633.10 in new VCEDA funding for projects in all 8 localities in the VCEDA region, projected to help create or retain 516 full-time and 110 part-time jobs and $27,665,152 in private investment.

» Ten new business start-ups in the region supported by grants from VCEDA's Seed Capital Matching Fund program, projecting a total of 31 full-time and 27 part-time jobs.

» Thirty-three outreach marketing events to promote the region, which VCEDA promotes as Southwest Virginia's e-Region, throughout the United States.

» The initiation of a new foreign direct investment (FDI) initiative to encourage European companies to invest and create jobs in the region.

» The opening of the first 2.57 miles of the Coalfields Expressway in Virginia, completed as a four-lane thanks to federal funding obtained with the assistance of the region's federal legislators and the Virginia Coalfields Expressway Authority, for which VCEDA provides staff support.

Important projects announced during the year in the region included the location of Tate Access Floors, Inc. to St. Paul, Virginia, which at 170 projected new jobs is one of the largest manufacturing announcements in the region in years; the CNX Resources expansion in Tazewell County; the Heart Stone Lodge announcement in Buchanan County; and the location of Ronald Blue Trust to Wise County. The year also saw the announcement of new business start-ups through the VCEDA Seed Capital Matching Fund program in all seven counties in the VCEDA region. Loan and grant funds were announced by VCEDA for a variety of important projects throughout the year including for industrial site development, shell building construction, broadband, workforce development and training, and tourism development including several grants for the Breaks Interstate Park.

VCEDA staff includes, from left, Mitzi White, Office Manager; Jean Jordan, Funds Administrator; Jonathan Belcher, Executive Director/General Counsel; Marketta Horton, Economic Development Specialist; and Susan Copeland, Marketing Coordinator.

As always, the successes of 2023 were possible because of the region's team approach as VCEDA and its economic development allies work towards a common goal for the betterment of the region. It is this team approach that will continue to be critical as the region perseveres in its challenge to enhance and diversify the economy of the coalfields of Virginia.

2023 NEW PROJECTS

NEW PROJECTS	LOCALITY	JOBS	PRIVATE INVESTMENT
Air Repair, Inc.	Buchanan	6 FT	$10,000
Heart Stone Lodge	Buchanan	17 FT / 23 PT	$7,820,865
Bona-Fide Barbecue, LLC	Dickenson	2 FT / 1 PT	$23,605
The Well on Main LLC	Dickenson	2 FT / 3 PT	$16,000
Good ol Boys Processing, LLC	Lee	3 FT / 3 PT	$82,293
Breath of Dawn, LLC	Russell	4 FT / 4 PT	$34,000
Tate Access Floors, Inc.	Russell/Wise	170 FT	$14,900,000
Carl Scott Leather Company, LLC	Scott	3 FT	$14,000
Stoney Ridge Farm and Retreat, LLC	Tazewell	2 FT / 8 PT	$38,500
R&R Automation	Tazewell	27 FT	$2,050,000
Appa Bagworks LLC	Tazewell	1 FT / 2 PT	$14,000
Just Adventure Productions LLC	Wise	4 FT / 2 PT	$20,000
Vonda's Hometown Restaurant, LLC	Wise	4 FT / 4 PT	$27,750
Ronald Blue Trust	Wise	22 FT	$0
AnswerNet	Regional	30 FT	$0
TOTAL NEW PROJECTS (15)		**297 FT / 50 PT**	**$25,051,013**

2023 EXPANSIONS/RETENTIONS

EXPANSIONS/RETENTIONS	LOCALITY	JOBS	PRIVATE INVESTMENT
CNX Resources	Tazewell	75 FT*	$900,000
Heart of Appalachia Tourism Authority	Regional	1 FT / 1 PT	N/A
TOTAL EXPANSIONS/RETENTIONS (2)		**76 FT / 1 PT**	**$900,000**
TOTAL NEW PROJECTS & EXPANSIONS/RETENTIONS (17)		**373 FT / 51 PT**	**$25,951,013**

FT = full-time; PT = part-time; CNX includes 67 retained FT jobs.

HIGHLIGHTS

VCEDA Executive Director/General Counsel Jonathan Belcher, right, and Ernie McFaddin, Executive Director of the Russell County Industrial Development Authority, pose for a photo for Virginia Business magazine at the St. Paul buildng where Tate is establishing a manufacturing operation. Photo by Tim Cox.

Tate to invest $14.9 million in St. Paul, creating 170 new jobs manufacturing data center components

VCEDA was pleased to play a part in helping to recruit Tate, a global provider focused on the research, development and manufacturing of next-generation raised access floors, airflow management and infrastructure solutions for commercial and data center applications, to St. Paul, Va.

Governor Glenn Youngkin made the announcement of the company's decision to locate to Virginia in November, pointing out Tate will invest $14.9 million to establish its new manufacturing facility in Russell County.

The new production plant will focus primarily on data center component manufacturing and containment products to serve customers in Virginia and other data center sites. Virginia successfully competed with numerous states for the project, which will create 170 new jobs.

VCEDA's investment in the project began in 2020 when VCEDA provided the IDA with $2.5 million in financing that enabled the IDA to acquire the building in St. Paul that will be occupied by the company for the project.

VCEDA also approved $250,000 in workforce development and training funds for the company.

The Virginia Economic Development Partnership worked with Russell County and VCEDA to secure the project for Virginia. Governor Youngkin approved a $700,000 grant from the Commonwealth's Opportunity Fund to assist Russell County with the project.

The Virginia Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission also approved a $146,000 Tobacco Region Opportunity Fund grant to support the project.

Support for Tate's job creation will be provided through the Virginia Talent Accelerator Program, a workforce initiative created by VEDP in collaboration with the Virginia Community College System and other higher education partners, with funding support from the Governor's administration and the Virginia General Assembly.

HIGHLIGHTS

A ceremonial groundbreaking for the CNX Resources Virginia Headquarters office was held in October at the Richlands Professional Building in downtown Richlands, Va. Shovels and sledge hammers in hand, the ceremony marked the start of the building renovation project. Virginia Deputy Secretary of Commerce and Trade James Campos (fourth from right) was the guest speaker at the event. He is joined by VCEDA, county, town, RPB and CNX officials in addition to Del. Will Morefield and Sen. Travis Hackworth.

CNX Resources Relocates, Expands Virginia Headquarters Office

A $900,000 loan from VCEDA to the Tazewell County Industrial Development Authority was approved which is being used to assist CNX Resources in the relocation and expansion of the gas company's Virginia headquarters to the Richlands Professional building location on Front Street in Richlands, Va. The company has been leasing space in Claypool Hill, Va. which it is outgrowing. The move is expected to be complete in 2024.

Sixty-seven retained and eight new full-time jobs, for a total of 75 jobs will be coming to Richlands, Va. as the project is completed. As part of the agreement, the Tazewell County IDA has purchased some 121 acres of land in Tazewell from CNX Resources, giving the IDA property it can use for future economic development. CNX has entered into a 15-year lease with RPB Properties on the new building location.

CNX, a publicly traded company on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) is the largest producer of natural gas in Virginia, with operations primarily in Buchanan, Tazewell and Russell Counties. The company is a premier, low carbon intensive natural gas development, production, midstream and technology company. Its corporate headquarters are located near Pittsburgh, Pa.

Virginia Deputy Secretary of Commerce and Trade James Campos came to Southwest Virginia in October to celebrate the groundbreaking for the new office.

In announcing the move, CNX officials noted its Virginia operations are an important and integral part of CNX, both historically and going into the future and indicated the decision to locate its Virginia Headquarters in Richlands was indicative of its continuing commitment to Virginia and its employees here.

Virginia Coalfields Expressway / Buchanan County

The first 2.57 miles of the Coalfields Expressway (CFX – U.S. Rt. 121) in Buchanan County was celebrated with a ribbon-cutting ceremony in November marking the opening of 8.7 miles of the U.S. Rt. 460/U.S. Rt. 121 Corridor Q road project from the Breaks Park Road area to Southern Gap. The ceremony, hosted by the Virginia Department of Transportation, was held at the Southern Gap Visitor Center in Buchanan County. The CFX mileage in the project is the first mileage to be completed and opened to traffic in the overall CFX project in Virginia which ultimately will link Buchanan, Dickenson and Wise counties with Interstates 26, 81 and 77. Additional areas of the roadway are still in the design phase. VCEDA provides staff support to the Virginia Coalfields Expressway Authority.

Ronald Blue Trust / Wise County

VCEDA joined state and local officials to welcome Ronald Blue Trust during the grand opening of the company's newest office location in the Lonesome Pine Regional Business & Technology Park in Wise, Va. The company, which has more than $14.5 billion of assets under advisement and a nationwide network of 18 offices, offers comprehensive financial services and objective advice to 10,500 clients across the wealth spectrum in all 50 states. The company projects up to 22 new jobs in Wise within five years. VCEDA assisted the Wise County Industrial Development Authority with the purchase of the office property in the form of a $1.2 million loan in 2022.

Heart Stone Lodge / Buchanan County $700,000 Loan

VCEDA was pleased to be in attendance for the site dedication for Heart Stone Lodge, a planned assisted living facility to be located at Southern Gap in Buchanan County. VCEDA previously approved an up to $700,000 forgivable loan to the Buchanan County Industrial Development Authority to be used to finance building construction in the development of the project. As planned, Heart Stone Lodge will be built as a 53-suite/61-bed assisted living facility. The project is expected to create 17 full-time and 23 part-time jobs within five years of its opening. The Heart Stone Lodge project is being spearheaded by the Coalfields Health Foundation (CHF). Its overall direct, indirect and induced economic impact is projected to infuse $1.1 to $1.7 million in new payroll and $2.5 to $5.3 million in total contribution to GDP, according to CHF officials.

HIGHLIGHTS

Southern Gap Shell Building / Buchanan County $1.53 Million Loan

VCEDA approved an up to $1.53 million loan to the Buchanan County Industrial Development Authority (IDA) to be used to construct a new 20,000-30,000-square-foot shell building at Southern Gap. The last industrial building constructed by the IDA was an 80,000-square-foot shell building built in 2019 as part of Phase II of the IDA's Southern Gap Industrial Park, and it was immediately taken by a local manufacturer, Paul's Fan Company. The building is projected to be expandable to 50,000-square-feet. The proposed building site is on approximately five acres, located near Paul's Fan Company, and is less than a half mile from the U.S. 460/U.S. 121 (Coalfields Expressway) Southern Gap intersection, which is now open from Kentucky to Southern Gap. The remaining sections from Southern Gap to Grundy are projected to open by 2027.

Project Intersection / City of Norton $3.16 Million Loan

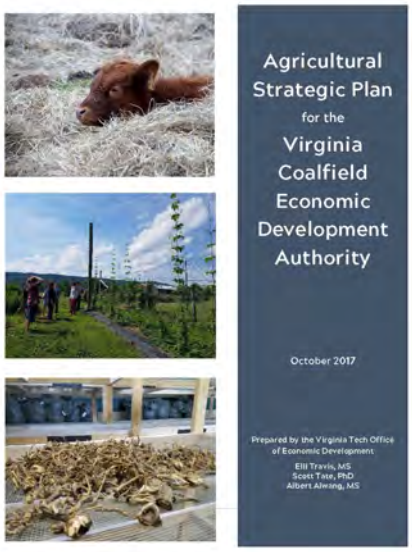
VCEDA approved an up to $3.16 million loan to the Norton Industrial Development Authority (IDA) to be used to finance the construction and development of an approximately 20,000-square-foot industrial building at Project Intersection. The loan is to be used to finance site development, building construction, other improvements and costs, including architectural and engineering fees to assist with the location of an unnamed prospect that would become the second tenant in the park. EarthLink, LLC, the first tenant in Project Intersection, is scheduled to open its newly built customer support center in 2024. VCEDA approved an up to $100,000 grant from the VCEDA Coalfield Workforce Development and Training Fund to assist EarthLink with its location.

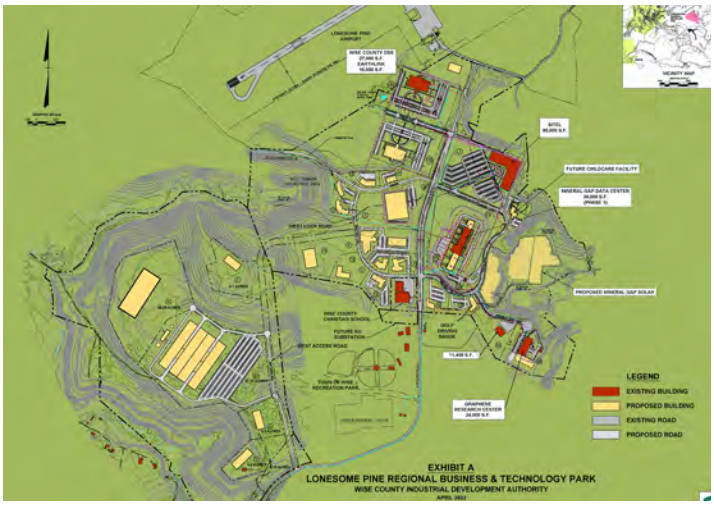
Bates Family Farm, LLC / Russell County $250,000 Loan

VCEDA approved an up to $250,000 loan to the Russell County Industrial Development Authority (IDA) to be used to finance additional renovations and improvements at the former Acme building in Lebanon, Va., where Bates Family Farm, LLC is expanding and locating a manufacturing/processing plant for its goat milk skin care products. The planned expansion projects 35 full-time jobs within five years. In 2021, VCEDA approved an up to $500,000 loan to assist with the purchase and renovation of the former Acme building, and in 2022 approved an up to $200,000 loan for additional renovations and improvements. Governor Glenn Youngkin announced in December that Bates Family Farm's expansion into the 40,000-square-foot building will allow for the development of new products and construction of a new creamery to produce food products, bottled goat milk and artisan cheeses for wholesale and retail distribution.

Meat Processing Center / Tazewell County $800,000 Loan

VCEDA approved an up to $800,000 loan to the Industrial Development Authority of Tazewell County to be used to finance site development, building construction, other improvements and costs for the construction and development of a meat processing facility in Tazewell County, Va. The need for a USDA certified meat processing facility in the region was one of the primary recommendations in a 2017 Virginia Tech agricultural study commissioned by VCEDA. The regional meat processing facility will be leased to an operator which will be announced by the IDA.





Elam Phase 1 & 2 / Wise County / $300,000 Loan & $700,000 Grant

VCEDA approved an up to $300,000 loan to the Wise County Industrial Development Authority (IDA) to assist with the Phase 2 development of the IDA's Elam Farm property which is adjacent to the Lonesome Pine Regional Business & Technology Park. VCEDA approved an up to $700,000 grant to assist with Phase 1 site development of the Elam property to include access road construction, utilities installations and extensions, and other improvements. In 2013, VCEDA approved an up to $834,250 loan to the IDA to help to purchase an approximately 203-acre tract of real estate known as the Elam Farm. This property was purchased for economic development and as a future expansion to the technology park.

Heart of Appalachia Tourism Authority / Regional $50,000 Grant

The marketing of tourism-related businesses and assets in the seven-county, one-city VCEDA region received a boost when VCEDA approved an up to $50,000 grant to the Heart of Appalachia Tourism Authority (HOA) from the VCEDA Tourism Capital Improvement Matching Fund. Planned uses for the grant are the printing of tourism marketing materials including the Appalachian Backroads map and Heart of Appalachia Travel Guide. The funds also will be used to develop and revive the Heart of Appalachia Scenic Drive and Bike Route, which was established more than 20 years ago and stretches more than 100 miles though Tazewell, Russell and Wise counties. Since 2001, HOA has received multiple grants totaling $310,000 from VCEDA which have been utilized for operational and marketing costs as well as for equipment and for the HOA destination center project in St. Paul.

HIGHLIGHTS

Southern Gap Industrial Site / Buchanan County $2.5 Million Grant

VCEDA approved an up to $2.5 million grant to the Buchanan County Industrial Development Authority (IDA) to be used to develop an approximately 20-acre industrial site in the Phase II section of the Southern Gap Industrial Park in Buchanan County. The Southern Gap development, a 3,153-acre area controlled by the IDA, has been developed through the years utilizing funding from the county and from VCEDA and is now home to hundreds of workers and several facilities including the primary customer service call center of the Virginia Employment Commission (VEC); Paul's Fan Company; the Southern Gap Transportation and Logistics Center which is operated by Southwest Virginia Community College; Southern Gap Outdoor Adventure; and the new location of Appalachian Power Company's Buchanan County office.

Breaks Interstate Park / Buchanan and Dickenson Counties /$694,645 Grant

VCEDA approved an up to $694,645 grant to the Breaks Interstate Park to develop infrastructure and improvements at the park, specifically an expansion of the waterpark including swimming pool construction. The overall waterpark project will include the construction of a 3,200-square-foot swimming pool, estimated to cost some $1.37 million, which includes funding from other sources. VCEDA also approved an up to $88,809 grant earlier in the year for seven projects at the park, including the construction of a wildlife viewing tower and other maintenance and aesthetic improvements. Currently, the park has six full-time and 80 part-time employees. The park estimates it will add one full-time employee and 20 part-time employees within two years.

Green Lot / Dickenson County / $30,000 Grant

VCEDA approved an up to $30,000 grant to the Dickenson County Industrial Development Authority (IDA) to be used for additional site development in Clintwood, Va. The funds will be used for the construction of a permanent entrance and installation of roller compacted stone at the 1.14-acre site, adjacent to Clintwood Lumber in Clintwood, and known as the "Green Lot." VCEDA has supported the development of the Green Lot project previously, approving a $300,000 loan toward the project in 2016 and a $60,000 loan in 2021 to assist in the development of the site. VCEDA also approved a $50,000 grant to the IDA for a feasibility study to assist in the marketing and economic development of both the Green Lot and the IDA's Haysi High School Lot properties.

Space-Based Broadband / Dickenson County $169,152 Grant

VCEDA approved an up to $169,152 grant to the Dickenson County Industrial Development Authority (IDA) to be used to finance the provision of low earth orbit space-based broadband to unserved and/or underserved children in Dickenson County. A portion of the funding, $124,800, comes from the VCEDA Education and Telehealth Access Fund, and the remaining amount, $44,352, comes from the VCEDA Dickenson County account. The grant will be used for hardware, wiring and two-year subscriptions for each household served. The most recent request approved builds upon prior successes by providing the service to another 48 households with 74 children. VCEDA was appropriated $500,000 each year in the Virginia state budget for FY2022, FY2023 and FY2024 "for initiatives intended to expand education and telehealth access."

Chip Mill Site Redevelopment / Dickenson County $217,000 Grant

VCEDA approved an up to $217,000 grant to be used to assist the Dickenson County Industrial Development Authority (IDA) in its Chip Mill Site Redevelopment Project in the Red Onion area of Dickenson County. The funds will be used to repurpose the abandoned chip mill site and to provide a build ready pad of approximately 23.5 acres. In 2021, VCEDA approved an up to $1.175 million loan to the IDA to be used to finance the purchase of the former Mountain Forest Products chip mill site containing 433.17 acres of real estate more or less in Dickenson and Wise counties in Virginia for economic development purposes. The property is adjacent to the IDA's Red Onion Industrial Park, located between the towns of Pound and Clintwood, Va.

Honaker Amphitheater & e-Bike Charging Station Russell County / $50,000 Grant

VCEDA approved up to a $50,000 grant from the VCEDA Tourism Capital Improvement Matching Fund to be used to install a new e-bike charging station and the construction of an amphitheater in the Town of Honaker Community Park and Recreation area. The grant will help to fund the projects which are located in the park situated along the TransAmerica Bicycle Trail in the Town of Honaker. Known as the 'Redbud Capital of the United States,' Honaker hosts an annual Redbud Festival which is now in its 40th year. The national TransAmerica Bicycle Trail, founded in 1973, runs from Astoria, Oregon to Yorktown, Virginia. The construction of an e-bike charging station will offer cyclists a place to charge their bikes while visiting the town and enjoying its other amenities.

HIGHLIGHTS

Education and Telehealth / Dickenson County $171,000 Grants

VCEDA approved two grants totaling $171,000 to the Dickenson County Industrial Development Authority (IDA) to provide funding to finance the provision of Starlink low earth orbit space-based broadband service to further expand education and telehealth access in Dickenson County. Up to $150,000 is available for the service expansions to households using telemedicine services in the county which will include two-year subscriptions for each household served. The IDA, working with the St. Mary's Health Wagon, has identified an estimated 50 households, which include an estimated 65 telemedicine patients, as eligible for the services. The second grant, which is for up to $21,000, will be used to finance the provision of Starlink services to mobile telehealth units operated in Dickenson County by the Cumberland Plateau Health District. Included is a two-year subscription for each mobile unit.

Laurel Bed Lake Study / Russell County $25,000 Grant

VCEDA approved an up to $25,000 grant to the Russell County Industrial Development Authority (IDA) to be used to conduct a feasibility study examining the development of a road to Laurel Bed Lake between Lebanon, Va. and Rosedale, Va. Laurel Bed Lake is considered the most pristine in the state, and the 20,000 acres surrounding it are said to have true wilderness features and diverse flora and fauna. The study will determine if there is sufficient support by landowners and agencies involved to allow for its construction which in turn would support hunting, fishing, non-motorized boating, hiking, picnicking and other low impact activities consistent with wildlife management. The IDA sees the feasibility study as an opportunity to evaluate a new access point to a great tourism resource within the county.

Appalachia Visitor Center / Wise County $30,000 Grant

VCEDA approved an up to $30,000 grant to the Industrial Development Authority of Wise County to assist the Town of Appalachia with the development of the Appalachia Visitor Center to be located in the downtown Main Street area on property owned by the town. Funding from the grant will be used for site development, building improvements, construction, renovation and other improvements to a manufactured building that will serve as the visitor center. The project is described as the focal point of the town's downtown revitalization efforts and the goal is to provide a central point of information for visitors who may be visiting the area and local attractions including the Powell River Trail and motorsports initiatives such as the "Dragon Slayer" Highway 160 route.

Broadband and Telehealth Services / Wise County $332,250 Grants

VCEDA approved three grants totaling $332,250 to expand broadband service and to finance the provision of Starlink low earth orbit space-based broadband service to further expand education and telehealth access in Wise County. Up to $150,000 is available for service expansions through the Wise County Industrial Development Authority's project with the St. Mary's Health Wagon to identify telehealth/telemedicine patients in Wise County in need of services. This will help provide high speed Internet services for an estimated 50 households, including an estimated 65 telemedicine patients. Also approved was up to $161,250 for the IDA's Mountain Empire Older Citizens broadband access project for an estimated 50 unserved and/or underserved Wise County senior citizens with telemedicine or telehealth needs; and up to $21,000 to the IDA for mobile telehealth services provided by the LENOWISCO Health District.

Workforce Development and Training / Mountain Empire Community College / $200,000 Grant

VCEDA approved up to a $200,000 grant to the Mountain Empire Community College Foundation from the VCEDA Coalfield Workforce Development and Training Fund to be used for workforce development and training at Mountain Empire Community College (MECC). The funds will be used for scholarships, tuition, training instructional costs, retraining costs and customized workforce training for area businesses as well as for assessments for residents of the VCEDA region. In total, more than $1 million in grants have been approved by VCEDA to the MECC Foundation, including more than $200,000 approved from the VCEDA Renewable Energy Fund in support of renewable energy training in the area. VCEDA has provided workforce development and training funding assistance several times to the MECC Foundation, as well as to the Southwest Virginia Community College Educational Foundation.

Entrepreneurial Skills Training / Regional $50,000 Grant

VCEDA approved an up to $50,000 grant to the Napoleon Hill Foundation in Wise, Va. to be used for continued workforce development. The funds from the VCEDA Coalfield Workforce Development and Training Fund will be used to assist with the continued development of a free online interactive course in entrepreneurial skills for high school students in the VCEDA region. A similar grant was approved for the foundation in 2021 which resulted in 148 students in the VCEDA region registering for the online course, exceeding the initial goal of 100 students. Students from the VCEDA region are eligible to participate in the online program which is also well-aligned with VCEDA's seed capital program that encourages regional entrepreneurs to pursue their goals of starting and maintaining small businesses and creating jobs.

HIGHLIGHTS

Solar Workforce Accelerator Program / Regional $117,150 Grant

VCEDA approved an up to $117,150 grant to the Mountain Empire Community College (MECC) Foundation for the college's Solar Workforce Accelerator Program. MECC previously applied jointly with Southwest Virginia Community College (SWCC) to develop the program which focuses on workforce development and training in the solar field. Through the program, students are trained and placed in paid internships. MECC recently applied to VCEDA for a second round of funding to be used to continue to grow the MECC program after a successful start to the program in 2022. Based on a completed market analysis, it is estimated VCEDA's funds will help to directly support 19 commercial and institutional solar projects in Southwest Virginia, create 84 new jobs, attract $2.4 million in private investment and generate $1.6 million in energy cost savings through the program.

Federal Funding / Coalfields Expressway / $7 Million

On January 3, it was announced that by working with the region's federal legislators, a $7 million request submitted by the Virginia Coalfields Expressway Authority for paving of the CFX in Buchanan County, was included in the FY23 federal budget. The first 2.57 miles of the CFX in Virginia opened in November and was able to be completed as a four-lane thanks to the $7 million in FY23 federal funding raised. VCEDA provides the staff support for the Virginia Coalfields Expressway Authority.

Sunset Holler Amphitheater / Buchanan County $50,000 Grant

VCEDA approved an up to $50,000 grant from the VCEDA Tourism Capital Improvement Matching Fund to Sunset Holler, Inc. to help finance the construction of a large amphitheater to be called Sunset Holler and located at the Southern Gap development in Buchanan County. Sunset Holler, Inc. and Southern Gap Outdoor Adventure, Inc. recently have entered into a non-binding Memorandum of Understanding to collaborate on the planned amphitheater. The project will involve a land swap between Sunset Holler, Inc., the Buchanan County Industrial Development Authority and Southern Gap Outdoor Adventure, Inc. and is subject to final approval by all parties. Once complete, this will be a major tourism destination for the county.

Theatre Guild of Buchanan County / Buchanan County / $50,000 Grant

VCEDA approved a $50,000 grant from the VCEDA Tourism Capital Improvement Matching Fund to the Theatre Guild of Buchanan County (TGBC) to finance building renovations including electrical upgrades, the purchase and installation of an HVAC system, outdoor shed renovations and other improvements at a former Coca-Cola bottling facility, renamed by the group as the Community Arts Mainstage (CAM) where the Theatre Guild has housed performances since 2021. Its goal is to bring the highest standard of community theatre to the county and to cultivate arts appreciation. Since its inception in 2016, TGBC has had yearly performances from both the youth and adults in the community and continues to strive to be a professional theatre organization by bringing Broadway musicals, plays and original productions to Buchanan County.

AnswerNet / Regional / Job Fair

As part of its outreach marketing efforts to attract jobs to Southwest Virginia's e-Region, VCEDA worked with AnswerNet, a Pennsylvania-based company, to assist in the company's hiring project searching for regional residents interested in applying for remote data service jobs. AnswerNet operates more than 20 contact centers in the United States and Canada and is a full-service provider of inbound, outbound and automated contact center services. VCEDA assisted in helping AnswerNet hold a virtual job fair in August to fill remote data service jobs. The Virginia Economic Development Partnership, Southwest Virginia Workforce Development Board (SWVWDB), Virginia Employment Commission (VEC), Southwest Virginia Community College (SWCC) and Mountain Empire Community College (MECC) also assisted in the project.

Ronald Mark Associates / Tazewell County Ribbon Cutting

VCEDA was pleased to attend and participate at Ronald Mark Associates (RMA) September ribbon cutting in Bluefield, Va. RMA located in the building formerly occupied by Komatsu bringing an investment of $13.5 million and the creation of at least 29 new jobs to Tazewell County. In choosing Tazewell County, the company cited the mechanical talent available in the region as a perfect match for the infrastructure fabrics and technical textiles Ronald Mark produces.

HIGHLIGHTS

Russell Theater Grand Opening / Russell County $150,000 Grant

VCEDA was honored to take part in the ribbon cutting marking the opening of the Russell Theater in Lebanon, Va. VCEDA approved an up to $150,000 grant in 2019 to be used to assist in financing the renovation and rehabilitation of the historic theater. The total cost of the project was $1.381 million. Additional funders included the Town of Lebanon, the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development through a Community Development Block Grant, Cumberland Plateau Planning District Commission, Virginia Tobacco Commission and the Appalachian Regional Commission. The theater projects two full-time employees and three part-time employees.

Lyric Theater Opening / St. Paul / $100,000 Grant

VCEDA took part in the ribbon cutting marking the official opening of the Lyric Theater in St. Paul in January. VCEDA has been involved in helping to fund the restoration of the theater. An up to $100,000 grant to the Town of St. Paul Industrial Development Authority (IDA) was approved in 2020 for building construction, rehabilitation and improvements as well as the purchase of furniture, fixtures and equipment. VCEDA also assisted the St. Paul IDA with Phase I of the project, approving a $40,000 grant in 2018 to help pay for the new marquee.

Breaks Interstate Park / Buchanan and Dickenson Counties / $79,971 Grant

VCEDA approved an up to $79,971.33 grant from the VCEDA Civil Penalties Fund to be used to develop infrastructure and improvements at the Breaks Interstate Park, including repainting, repairs, and improvements to the park's existing potable water tank, Phase II improvements to the Chafin Lodge including fire suppression upgrades, the purchase of additional furniture, new flooring, expansion of the gift shop, new drywall, and other improvements.

EarthLink, LLC / Wise & Norton / $100,000 Grant

VCEDA announced an up to $100,000 grant approved in 2021 from the VCEDA Coalfield Workforce Development and Training Fund to be used for workforce development and training to further assist with the location of EarthLink, LLC to the Wise/Norton area. A leading high-speed Internet service provider, the company temporarily located its operations in a portion of the old Sykes call center building in the Lonesome Pine Regional Business & Technology Park in Wise, while a new building is under construction at Project Intersection in Norton. The workforce training grant approved by VCEDA is to be used to train local talent in sales, customer service, and advanced technical support skills. EarthLink projects creating 288 full-time jobs within five years.

Special Guests / VCEDA Local Economic Developers Meeting with VEDP

On May 23, VCEDA was honored to have top Virginia Economic Development Partnership officials and Delegate Israel O'Quinn join VCEDA and the counties' local economic developers for a quarterly VCEDA Local Economic Developers Meeting at the VCEDA Office.

Breaks Interstate Park / Buchanan and Dickenson Counties / $168,155 Grant

VCEDA approved an up to $168,155.12 grant from the VCEDA Civil Penalties Fund to be used to develop infrastructure and improvements to the Breaks Interstate Park, specifically including renovations and new furniture at the park's hotel and restaurant/conference buildings, improved park entrance lighting, swimming pool construction, an HVAC unit for the Visitor Center, swinging bridge site improvements, bike rental facility improvements, and other improvements.

SEED CAPITAL PROJECTS

VCEDA SEED CAPITAL MATCHING FUND

VCEDA established the VCEDA Seed Capital Matching Fund in 2017 to provide a source of matching grant funds to assist new, start-up, and emerging small businesses located within the region, and to attract small businesses from outside the region to locate within the region.

VCEDA region for-profit businesses in qualifying business sectors one year and under with less than 10 full-time employees are eligible to apply for dollar-for-dollar matching grants up to $10,000 from the VCEDA Seed Capital Matching Fund. Applicants work with the Small Business Development Centers at Mountain Empire and Southwest Virginia community colleges to prepare the applications to VCEDA that include detailed business and financial plans. Businesses must be located in, or plan to operate in, the VCEDA region.

Six small businesses which have previously received VCEDA seed capital grants were recognized in December for their job creation activities, celebrating the success of the overall seed capital program since its inception. The six businesses recognized were the largest job creators by calendar year class of the seed capital program and combined, those businesses – all of which continue to be in business today – have created 98 jobs to date – 44 full-time and 54 part-time jobs – through their first and second years of reporting.

A February 2021 study of the Seed Capital Matching Fund completed by Virginia Tech's Center for Economic & Community Engagement found that the VCEDA seed capital program had a very high return on VCEDA's investment of approximately 34:1. The study also found VCEDA has played a critical role in the development of small businesses and in support of entrepreneurship.

Stats on Seed Capital Matching Fund
SINCE 2017

NEW START-UPS	184
PROJECTED JOBS	1,355 (754 FULL-TIME; 601 PART-TIME)
PROJECTED INVESTMENT	$10,662,994

In 2023, VCEDA approved grants from the Seed Capital Matching Fund to assist 10 new small business start-ups throughout the region. A total of 31 full-time and 27 part-time jobs are projected by those businesses in a five-year period. Since the seed capital program was created in 2017, a total of 184 businesses have been approved, creating 656 full and part-time jobs to date. Jobs projected to be created within five years total 1,355. Total investment by these businesses over a five year period is projected to be nearly $10.7 million.

Six small businesses which have previously received VCEDA seed capital grants were recognized at the December VCEDA board meeting as the largest job creators in the program by calendar year since the program began in 2017. From left are Larry Mosley, VCEDA chairman; Becki O'Quinn-Purdie, Mountain Empire Community College Small Business Development Center (SBDC) director; Chris Williams, Black Bear BBQ LLC; Allison Sparks, Valley Animal Clinic, PLLC; Sharon Thomas, Bargain Mart, LLC; Kaylyn Laws, Far Fetched Grooming LLC; Debbie Ratliff, Foxtail Orchards Cabins and Campgrounds, LLC; Margie Douglass, SBDC program manager at Southwest Virginia Community College; and Jonathan Belcher, VCEDA executive director/ general counsel. Not pictured is Curklin's LLC, who was present at the luncheon, but left prior to the photo being taken. Collectively, these six businesses created 98 jobs through their second year of reporting.

Air Repair, Inc. / Buchanan County

The custom manufacture of ductwork and the added ability to serve both residential and commercial HVAC needs is something Tony Owens, of Air Repair, Inc., offers as a service in the four-county area of Buchanan, Dickenson, Russell and Tazewell counties. In addition to doing his own ductwork in the sheet metal shop he established as a part of the new business, Owens has the ability to provide for the custom ductwork needs of other companies as well. The business projects six full-time employees within three years.

Bona-Fide Barbecue, LLC / Dickenson County

With few dining options in the Clintwood area of Dickenson County, Wesley Rose decided the time might just be right to turn his long-held love of cooking barbecue for family and friends into the dream realized of operating his own small business. He began the process to outfit a food truck and to complete necessary certifications in late 2023 and has plans to open Bona-Fide Barbecue, LLC in early spring 2024 offering a unique take on classic barbecue with a fair food twist, using fresh, local ingredients whenever possible. The business projects two full-time and one part-time employees within five years.

The Well on Main LLC / Dickenson County

From gourmet coffees and iced coffees, to smoothies and juices, The Well on Main LLC in Clintwood, VA, offers a little something for everyone, including bakery items featuring old favorites and a changing menu of daily specials. Owner, Melinda Edwards, noted the new business, located near the Ralph Stanley Museum and Jettie Baker Center, sells to the local community as well as to visitors. Ingredients are locally sourced whenever possible. Dine-in options are available and catering services are also offered. The business projects two full-time and three part-time employees.

Good ol Boys Processing, LLC / Lee County

Helping to support beef and hog producers, as well as regional deer hunters, Good ol Boys Processing, LLC, plans to open its doors in September 2024 to begin processing meats at its new facility now under construction in the Rose Hill area of Lee County. Owner, Jesse Hoskins, who previously worked in a meat processing plant in Tennessee, said he decided to look at opening one in his home county to provide services to local farmers and hunters. The business projects up to three full-time and three part-time employees within five years.

Breath of Dawn, LLC / Russell County

Primitive camping, dry cabins and renovated RVs are among the alternative overnight accommodations, Breath of Dawn, LLC will offer as it opens in 2024. The new business will also offer classes focused on backyard gardens, food preservation and sustainable living on 35 acres of what owner, Jessica Monroe, calls an educational homestead. A new pavilion will be constructed and will open in late spring 2024 allowing planned agritourism facets of the business to be shared along with the rich heritage of Southwest Virginia. The business projects four full-time and four part-time employees.

SEED CAPITAL PROJECTS

The Well on Main LLC

Bona-Fide Barbecue, LLC

Breath of Dawn, LLC

Air Repair, Inc.

Good ol Boys Processing, LLC

Carl Scott Leather Company, LLC / Scott County

Leather slip covers for Bibles, patches for hats and clothing and belts are among the leather goods items Carl Scott Leather Company, LLC is manufacturing from its new location in Duffield, Va. With a contract from an Ohio-based company in hand to make Bible slip covers in four different sizes, Carl Scott began looking for ways to expand his new custom leather manufacturing business. Scott also hopes to train and teach others in the art of leatherworks and periodically offers classes in the community. The business projects up to three full-time employees within five years.

Stoney Ridge Farm and Retreat, LLC / Tazewell County

Visitors to the region looking for a "glamping" experience need look no further than Tazewell County as Laura Hunt and David Belanger open Stoney Ridge Farm and Retreat, LLC and its first yurt camping. Additionally, the business is a working farm and will provide opportunities for guests to learn about farming and farm animals and to explore its 200 acres of pasture and mountain trails. Guests are housed in luxury-equipped yurts constructed on the mountainside overlooking acres of pastures, where cows, alpacas, goats, chickens and donkeys graze and live. It projects up to two full-time and eight part-time employees within five years.

Appa Bagworks LLC / Tazewell County

Functional and fashionable artisan-made leather purses, bags, wallets, belts and accessories are the primary goods manufactured and sold at Appa Bagworks LLC, a new business operating on Main Street in Tazewell. The retail store opened at the end of the year and also features a workshop where owner, Tanner Hale, crafts the leatherworks items. The business mission is to create high-quality, long-lasting leather products reflecting commitment to sustainability, ethical production practices and timeless design. The business projects one full-time and two part-time employees within three years.

Just Adventure Productions LLC / Wise County

Assisting other small businesses with their digital production and marketing needs is the primary goal of Just Adventure Productions LLC. Justin Falin officially opened the business which provides full-service videography, drone videography and social media marketing. A full range of consulting is offered under one roof and is intended to propel businesses into the digital age of media and marketing. Expansion plans for the future include web design, mobile apps and social media training services. The business projects up to four full-time and two part-time employees within five years.

Vonda's Hometown Restaurant, LLC / Wise County

The desire to give back to their community and to create a homestyle dining option in Pound was the primary reason Mark Pilkenton and his daughter, Kelsey, began planning to open Vonda's Hometown Restaurant, named after Mark's wife and Kelsey's mother, Vonda. The new restaurant will feature homestyle cooking, utilizing local produce and local meats. Additionally, it will offer retail space for local artisans and crafters to sell their products. The business projects up to four full-time and four part-time employees within five years.

SEED CAPITAL PROJECTS

Vonda's Hometown Restaurant, LLC

Appa Bagworks LLC

Stoney Ridge Farm and Retreat, LLC

Carl Scott Leather Company, LLC

2023 VCEDA MARKETING EVENTS

EVENT	DATE	LOCATION
Virginia Chamber of Commerce Reception	January 17, 2023	Richmond, VA
VEDA Legislative Reception	January 18, 2023	Richmond, VA
Center for Rural Virginia Reception	January 18, 2023	Richmond, VA
Southwest Virginia Legislative Reception	January 31, 2023	Richmond, VA
MCPA Legislative Breakfast	February 1, 2023	Richmond, VA
SVAM Women in Manufacturing Symposium	March 8, 2023	Abingdon, VA
VEDA Spring Conference	March 15-17, 2023	Newport News, VA
Site Selectors Guild Annual Conference	March 29-31, 2023	San Antonio, TX
Mid-America Trucking Show	March 30-April 1, 2023	Louisville, KY
SelectUSA Investment Summit	May 1-4, 2023	National Harbor, MD
Data Center World	May 8-11, 2023	Austin, TX
AUVSI Xponential	May 8-11, 2023	Denver, CO
Virginia Consultants Forum	May 15-17, 2023	Virginia Beach, VA
VEDP Business Investment Call Trip Wisconsin	May 15-19, 2023	Virtual
MCPA Annual Conference	May 21-23, 2023	Roanoke, WV
Southwest Virginia Economic Forum	May 25, 2023	Wise, VA
VEDA Summer Membership Meeting	June 5-6, 2023	Harrisonburg, VA
Semicon West	July 11-13, 2023	San Francisco, CA
SEDC Annual Conference	August 13-15, 2023	Williamsburg, VA
ACI Annual Awards Banquet & Gala	August 16, 2023	Abingdon, VA
CreatorCon	August 23-24, 2023	Norton, VA
Southwest Virginia Manufacturers Expo	August 31, 2023	Abingdon, VA
PACK EXPO	September 11-13, 2023	Las Vegas, NV
VEDA Fall Conference	September 20-22, 2023	Portsmouth, VA
Governor's Summit on Rural Prosperity	October 10-11, 2023	Blackstone, VA
SWVA Alliance for Manufacturing Banquet	October 12, 2023	Abingdon, VA
Southwest Virginia Veterans Expo	October 13, 2023	Abingdon, VA
Site Selectors Guild Fall Forum	October 16-18, 2023	New Orleans, LA
DatacenterDynamics Connect	November 6-7, 2023	Leesburg, VA
Classroom to Careers Cybersecurity Summit	November 9, 2023	Abingdon, VA
Private Label Manufacturers Association Show	November 12-14, 2023	Chicago, IL
VEDA Winter Membership Meeting	November 30, 2023	Richmond, VA
VA Economic Summit & Forum on International Trade	December 1, 2023	Richmond, VA
TOTAL MARKETING EVENTS (33)		

MARKETING SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA'S e-REGION

VCEDA continued to promote Southwest Virginia's e-Region through marketing and business development in 2023, and VCEDA participated in 33 outreach events throughout the year. In 2023 VCEDA had 43 prospect visits and handled 212 inquiries about Southwest Virginia's e-Region.

VCEDA attended the Private Label Manufacturers Association (PLMA) show in Chicago, IL with the Virginia Economic Development Partnership (VEDP). VCEDA also participated with VEDP in sponsorship of private dinners at the Site Selectors Guild (SSG) Annual Conference in San Antonio, TX and the SSG's Fall Forum in New Orleans, LA. VCEDA joined the Guild Partner Program in 2023, a first-of-its-kind networking partnership that aims to build strong, working relationships between economic development professionals and the industry's top site selection consultants and offers economic development organizations enhanced access to site selection consultants through partner-only networking events with Guild members.

From left: Marketing Ambassadors for VCEDA–Charlotte Mullins, Diane Thomas, and Cathy St. Clair–help promote the region in addition to full-time VCEDA staff.

VCEDA began a new Foreign Direct Investment initiative in 2023, a program to reach out to companies in several foreign countries through a digital media marketing campaign to promote Southwest Virginia's e-Region internationally and through specific one-on-one meetings with companies identified in the course of the program.

VCEDA exhibited and was a sponsor at the Southern Economic Development Council (SEDC) Annual Conference, held in Virginia this year in Williamsburg. VCEDA also was a sponsor of the Virginia Pavilion at the AUVSI Xponential in Denver, CO; participated and exhibited at SelectUSA Investment Summit in National Harbor, MD; and led a team to Data Center World in Austin, TX, where the e-Region team of local economic developers and VCEDA met with companies and exhibited at the expo. VCEDA attended and featured an exhibit at the Metallurgical Coal Producers Association (MCPA) annual conference in Roanoke, WV, and also attended the PACK Expo in Las Vegas. VCEDA participated and exhibited at several regional events such as Southwest Virginia Alliance for Manufacturing (SVAM) expos and awards banquet, the Appalachian Council for Innovation's annual gala, the Southwest Virginia Veterans Expo and the annual Southwest Virginia Economic Forum at the University of Virginia's College at Wise.

VCEDA Marketing Ambassadors Diane Thomas, left, and Charlotte Mullins, right, with Tazewell County Economic Development Director Tim Danielson, attended the 2023 PACK Expo in Nevada. The show features cutting edge packaging technology, processing equipment and supply chain resources.

In state, VCEDA participated and sponsored the Virginia Economic Developers Association (VEDA) legislative reception in Richmond in January and the spring meeting in Newport News, VA; participated in the Governor's Summit on Rural Prosperity and the Virginia Chamber of Commerce's Economic Summit and Forum on International Trade.

Social media channels continue to gain followers and attention for VCEDA and Southwest Virginia's e-Region. VCEDA placed several ads in Virginia Business magazine during the year, including a two-page spread for the Virginia Coalfields Expressway Authority, for which VCEDA provides administrative support.

VCEDA Makes an Impact in Southwest Virginia's e-Region

Assisting new companies and helping existing industries in the region expand and find sites that suit their needs is one of the advantages of working with the Virginia Coalfield Economic Development Authority (VCEDA), a regional economic development organization that not only promotes Southwest Virginia's e-Region as an excellent business location, it also manages unique financing programs that can be combined with local and state incentives.

Southwest Virginia's e-Region is a seven-county, one city area in the southwestern tip of the Commonwealth - focusing on electronic IT, energy, education, emerging technologies and entrepreneurs.

A region known for its scenic beauty and growing outdoor recreational opportunities and entrepreneurial culture, VCEDA helps recruit companies to the region and get their facilities move-in ready. Since 1988, VCEDA has helped hundreds of companies locate and expand in the region involving thousands of new jobs. Just since 2017, VCEDA has helped 178 new business start-ups in the region through a seed capital matching grant program with more than 1,000 jobs projected.

Examples of VCEDA's impact in the region include helping a local industrial development authority turn a technology shell building into the flagship design of a customer service center where the 800+ employees of The Sitel Group handle questions for Intuit's TurboTax and QuickBooks. VCEDA also assisted in helping Samuel Pressure Vessel Group, a key supplier to major compressor OEMs and distributors, and its 260 employees produce 50,000 pressure vessels a year in a building revamped through a VCEDA loan. VCEDA also helped companies such as CGI, SAIC, and Tempur Sealy locate in the area.

VCEDA works to enhance the economic base for the coalfield region of Virginia encompassing Lee, Wise, Scott, Buchanan, Russell, Tazewell, and Dickenson counties, and the City of Norton. Read about VCEDA's impact at vceda.us/impact.

VCEDA supports companies, employees, and Southwest Virginia's e-Region

The Virginia Coalfield Economic Development Authority (VCEDA) helps recruit companies to the region and get their facilities move-in ready. The organization also aids regional partners in building and filling up buildings, marketing business parks, and obtaining workforce development and training dollars.

Hear how VCEDA has played a part in helping these companies locate and grow in the region. Use the QR code. Or www.vceda.us/impact.

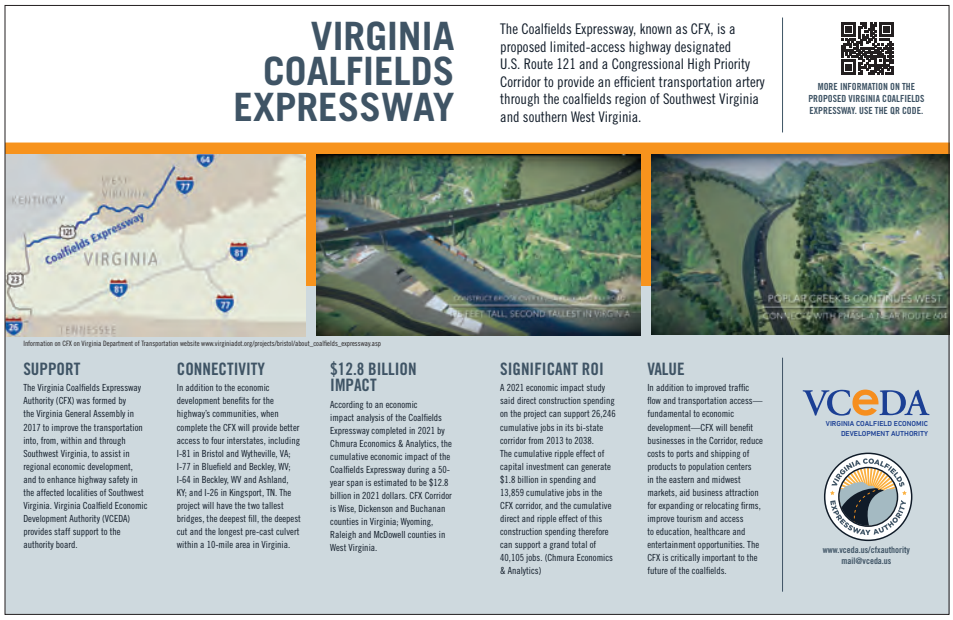
In 2017, VCEDA established a seed capital matching grant fund to provide a source of matching grant funds to assist new, start-up, and emerging small businesses located within the region, and to attract small businesses from outside the region to locate within the region. A total of 178 new start-ups have been approved, like the Cluck Truck, a mobile food truck serving customers in the region and seasonally at fairs and festivals. More than 1,000 full and part-time jobs are projected in these new businesses.

VCEDA Virginia Coalfield Economic Development Authority

mail@e-Region.org • www.e-Region.org • www.vceda.us

VCEDA's two-page ad in the August 2023 issue of Virginia Business, the annual site selection edition. VCEDA also had an ad in the December 2023 issue of Virginia Business.

VCEDA Marketing Ambassadors Charlotte Mullins and Diane Thomas attended the SEMICON West conference in San Francisco, CA. The event focused on key challenges affecting the global microelectronics industry, including supply chain disruptions, climate change and talent shortages.



VIRGINIA COALFIELDS EXPRESSWAY

The Coalfields Expressway, known as CFX, is a proposed limited-access highway designated U.S. Route 121 and a Congressional High Priority Corridor to provide an efficient transportation artery through the coalfields region of Southwest Virginia and southern West Virginia.

MORE INFORMATION ON THE PROPOSED VIRGINIA COALFIELDS EXPRESSWAY. USE THE QR CODE.

Information on CFX on Virginia Department of Transportation website www.virginiadot.org/projects/bristol/about_coalfields_expressway.asp

SUPPORT

The Virginia Coalfields Expressway Authority (CFX) was formed by the Virginia General Assembly in 2017 to improve the transportation into, from, within and through Southwest Virginia, to assist in regional economic development, and to enhance highway safety in the affected localities of Southwest Virginia. Virginia Coalfield Economic Development Authority (VCEDA) provides staff support to the authority board.

CONNECTIVITY

In addition to the economic development benefits for the highway's communities, when complete the CFX will provide better access to four interstates, including I-81 in Bristol and Wytheville, VA; I-77 in Bluefield and Beckley, WV; I-64 in Beckley, WV and Ashland, KY; and I-26 in Kingsport, TN. The project will have the two tallest bridges, the deepest fill, the deepest cut and the longest pre-cast culvert within a 10-mile area in Virginia.

$12.8 BILLION IMPACT

According to an economic impact analysis of the Coalfields Expressway completed in 2021 by Chmura Economics & Analytics, the cumulative economic impact of the Coalfields Expressway during a 50-year span is estimated to be $12.8 billion in 2021 dollars. CFX Corridor is Wise, Dickenson and Buchanan counties in Virginia; Wyoming, Raleigh and McDowell counties in West Virginia.

SIGNIFICANT ROI

A 2021 economic impact study said direct construction spending on the project can support 26,246 cumulative jobs in its bi-state corridor from 2013 to 2038. The cumulative ripple effect of capital investment can generate $1.8 billion in spending and 13,859 cumulative jobs in the CFX corridor, and the cumulative direct and ripple effect of this construction spending therefore can support a grand total of 40,105 jobs. (Chmura Economics & Analytics)

VALUE

In addition to improved traffic flow and transportation access—fundamental to economic development—CFX will benefit businesses in the Corridor, reduce costs to ports and shipping of products to population centers in the eastern and midwest markets, aid business attraction for expanding or relocating firms, improve tourism and access to education, healthcare and entertainment opportunities. The CFX is critically important to the future of the coalfields.

VCEDA Virginia Coalfield Economic Development Authority

Virginia Coalfields Expressway Authority

www.vceda.us/cfxauthority
mail@vceda.us

VCEDA published this two-page ad on the Virginia Coalfields Expressway in the March 2023 issue of Virginia Business.

VCEDA attended the Private Label Manufacturers Association (PLMA) trade show in Chicago, IL in November along with members of the Virginia Economic Development Partnership (VEDP). VCEDA Marketing Coordinator Susan Copeland, center, attended along with Deirdre O'Rourke, left, and Chris Burger, of VEDP. While there, they met with several companies in the food and beverage sector.

MARKETING SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA'S e-REGION

VCEDA Marketing Ambassadors Charlotte Mullins and Diane Thomas represented VCEDA at the Governor's Summit on Rural Prosperity, hosted by the Virginia Rural Center, October 10-11 in Blackstone, VA. VCEDA was also a sponsor of the event and had an exhibit at the conference. Also in photo, Secretary of Commerce and Trade Caren Merrick and Deputy Secretary of Commerce and Trade James Campos.

VCEDA Marketing Ambassador Diane Thomas and Wise County IDA Executive Director Brian Falin attended the DatacenterDynamics (DCD) Virginia conference in Leesburg, VA in November. DCD brings together top professionals in the data center industry to hear from more than 100 industry experts discussing the future of digital infrastructure, new technologies and services which impact the data center industry supply chain.

VCEDA was pleased to exhibit at the Mid America Trucking Show in Louisville, KY in March. The show is known as the largest heavy-duty trucking trade show in the world. VCEDA Marketing Ambassadors Charlotte Mullins and Diane Thomas, along with Buchanan County Industrial Development Authority Executive Director Matt Fields and Southern Gap Transportation and Logistics Center (SGTLC) Manager Angie Farmer had an opportunity to learn more about industry needs and trends and to speak with fleet managers and other attendees about training opportunities at the SGTLC.

VCEDA participated in the Site Selectors Guild Fall Forum, held in New Orleans in October. VCEDA is now a Guild Partner organization and participated in a private partner networking event and a dinner event with the Virginia Economic Development Partnership.

VCEDA Marketing Coordinator Susan Copeland represented Southwest Virginia's e-Region at the Site Selectors Guild's largest ever annual conference in San Antonio, TX March 29-31. VCEDA joined the Guild's Partner Program in 2023.

VCEDA was one of the economic development sponsors at the Virginia Pavilion with the Virginia Innovation Partnership Corporation (VIPC) at the AUVSI Xponential conference in Denver, CO. AUVSI, the Association for Uncrewed Vehicle Systems International, is the world's largest nonprofit organization dedicated to the advancement of uncrewed systems and robotics and represents corporations and professionals from more than 60 countries involved in industry, government and academia.

MARKETING SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA'S e-REGION

VCEDA was pleased to exhibit at and help to sponsor the 8th Annual Southwest Virginia Economic Forum: Pursuit of Prosperity on May 25, 2023 at the University of Virginia's College at Wise. Representing VCEDA were Jean Jordan, Charlotte Mullins and Marketta Horton.

VCEDA attended and exhibited at the SelectUSA summit in National Harbor, MD. More than 4,200 attendees from 82-plus foreign markets and more than 53 states and territories were represented. Pictured are Wise County Industrial Development Authority Executive Director Brian Falin and VCEDA Marketing Ambassadors Charlotte Mullins and Diane Thomas.

The VCEDA team exhibited at Data Center World in Austin, TX, May 8-11 and met with several companies at the show and others located in the Austin area to promote the advantages and amenities available to businesses locating in Southwest Virginia's e-Region. The VCEDA team of economic developers included, in photo from left, Susan Copeland, VCEDA marketing coordinator; John Kilgore, Scott County; Natalie Chapman, Wise County; Dana Cronkhite, Dickenson County; and Richard Johnson, Lee County.

Southwest Virginia was well represented in Williamsburg at the annual conference of the Southern Economic Development Council (SEDC). VCEDA was a sponsor of the event and exhibited. Jason El Koubi, President and CEO of the Virginia Economic Development Partnership (VEDP), joined the e-Region team at the booth. Pointing out Virginia is Number 1! In photo are John Kilgore, Scott County; Fred Ramey, Norton; Natalie Chapman, Wise County; Susan Copeland, VCEDA; Brian Falin, Wise County; Jason El Koubi, VEDP; Dana Cronkhite, Dickenson County; Richard Johnson, Lee County; and Charlotte Mullins, VCEDA.

COALFIELDS EXPRESSWAY (CFX)

Members and officers of the Virginia Coalfields Expressway Authority pose for a photograph at the December 11, 2023 board meeting at Grundy, Va. Pictured, from left to right, are Keith Viers; Ed Talbott, III; James Keen; Philip Cook; J.H. Rivers, Vice-Chairman; Scott Mullins; Peggy Kiser (designee of Josh Evans); Jay Rife, Chairman; Harry Childress; John Schoolcraft, and Jonathan Belcher, Executive Director and Secretary/Treasurer. Not pictured are Bonnie Bates and Melanie Salyer.

Keeping the Momentum Going

2023 continued to be a productive year for the Virginia Coalfields Expressway Authority, despite the fact that the Authority continued to remain unfunded operationally. Keeping the momentum going on the Coalfields Expressway (CFX) project remains a major focus for the Authority. VCEDA provides the staff support for the CFX Authority.

The year started off on a high note with the news that $7 million in congressionally directed spending requested by the Authority last year was included in the FY2023 federal budget. This funding was requested by the CFX Authority to add additional lanes to the U.S. 121/U.S. 460 intersection and Hawk's Nest sections of the Coalfields Expressway in Buchanan County to make those sections a four-lane. The funding was distributed by the federal government to the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) for this purpose. The assistance of the region's federal legislators in obtaining this funding was crucial.

In March, the CFX Authority, with the assistance of VCEDA, had a two-page ad in Virginia Business magazine to promote awareness of the Coalfields Expressway and its importance to the economic development of the coalfield region. Also in March, the Authority, working in coordination with the region's federal legislators, requested an additional $7 million in congressionally directed spending to add additional lanes to the Poplar Creek Phase A & Phase B sections of the CFX, which will provide a four-lane highway from the Town of Grundy, Va. to Southern Gap, which is Buchanan County's primary industrial park for new economic development.

November 8, 2023 may have been the most significant date in the history of the entire CFX project. On that date, VDOT held a ribbon cutting on 8.7 miles of Corridor Q (U.S. 460/121) in Buchanan County, 2.57 miles of which included the first section of the Coalfields Expressway (U.S. 121) to be completed and open for travel in Virginia. Thanks to the FY2023 federal congressionally directed spending requested by the Authority and the region's federal legislators, this first section of CFX was able to be completed as a four-lane, thereby complying with the intent of Virginia Code § 15.2-6015.1 which specifies that the CFX is a "proposed four-lane."

At the CFX Authority board's December 11, 2023 meeting, VDOT made a presentation to the board on the results of the Grundy to West Virginia state line pre-engineering study which was funded with FY2022 congressionally directed spending requested by the Authority and distributed by the federal government to VDOT. The alignment options presented in this study will help provide a basis for future work by the Authority and VDOT regarding those sections of the road. Identifying and obtaining further funding for the Coalfields Expressway remains the most pressing issue going into 2024.

VCEDA BOARD

In photo, from left, front, are Jonathan Belcher, Executive Director/General Counsel; Larry Mosley, Chairman; J.P Richardson, Vice Chairman; and Andy Hrovatic, Secretary. Back row, Carroll Branham; Barbara Altizer; Becky Coleman; Troy Nichols; Kathy Still; Maggie Asbury; Brian Hess; Scotty Wampler and Sonny Ciampanella. Not pictured are board members Esther Bolling, Treasurer; Rhonda Sluss; Duane Miller and Tim Stuller.

Virginia Coalfield Economic Development Authority Board

OFFICERS

Larry Mosley | Chairman
J.P. Richardson | Vice Chairman
Andy Hrovatic | Secretary
Esther Bolling | Treasurer

GOVERNOR'S APPOINTEES

Maggie Asbury
Esther Bolling
Becky Coleman
Larry Mosley
Kathy Still

COAL PRODUCERS

Troy Nichols
Paramont Contura, LLC
J.P. Richardson
Surface Minerals Company
Brian Hess
Coronado IV LLC

GAS PRODUCER

Sonny Ciampanella
Pocahontas Gas

VIRGINIA COAL & ENERGY ALLIANCE

Barbara Altizer
Metallurgical Coal Producers Association

PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSIONS

Scotty Wampler
Cumberland Plateau PDC
Duane A. Miller
LENOWISCO PDC

COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Carroll Branham | Buchanan County
Rhonda Sluss | Dickenson County
Andy Hrovatic | Tazewell County

VIRGINIA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP

Tim Stuller

VCEDA
VIRGINIA COALFIELD ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

2023 VCEDA LOAN APPROVALS

LOANS	PROJECT NAME	APPROVED	AMOUNT
Buchanan County	Buchanan County IDA/Shell Building #2	6/15/23	$1,530,000.00
City of Norton	Norton IDA/Project Lasso	10/19/23	$3,160,000.00
Russell County	Russell County IDA/Acme Building Improvements	2/16/23	$250,000.00
Tazewell County	Tazewell County IDA/CNX Resources	2/16/23	$900,000.00
Tazewell County	Tazewell County IDA/Meat Processing Facility	12/14/23	$800,000.00
Wise County	Wise County IDA/Elam Phase 2 Development	8/17/23	$300,000.00
TOTAL LOANS (6)			**$6,940,000.00**

2023 VCEDA GRANT APPROVALS

GRANTS	PROJECT NAME	APPROVED	AMOUNT
Buchanan County	Sunset Holler, Inc.	4/27/23	$50,000.00
Buchanan County	Theatre Guild of Buchanan County	4/27/23	$50,000.00
Buchanan County	Air Repair, Inc.	6/15/23	$10,000.00
Buchanan County	Buchanan County IDA/Southern Gap Site 20 Development	10/19/23	$2,500,000.00
Buchanan/Dickenson County	Breaks Interstate Park/Spring 2023 Improvements	2/16/23	$88,809.00
Buchanan/Dickenson County	Breaks Interstate Park/Summer 2023 Improvements	4/27/23	$168,155.12
Buchanan/Dickenson County	Breaks Interstate Park/Pool & Bridge Construction	10/19/23	$694,645.65
Buchanan/Dickenson County	Breaks Interstate Park/Water Tank & Chafin Lodge	12/14/23	$79,971.33
Dickenson County	Dickenson County IDA/Green Lot Development	4/27/23	$30,000.00
Dickenson County	Dickenson County IDA/Space-Based Broadband	4/27/23	$169,152.00
Dickenson County	Bona-Fide Barbeque, LLC	12/14/23	$10,000.00
Dickenson County	The Well on Main LLC	12/14/23	$10,000.00
Dickenson County	Dickenson County IDA/Chip Mill Site Redevelopment	4/27/23	$217,000.00

2023 VCEDA GRANT APPROVALS

Dickenson County	Dickenson County IDA/Telehealth Broadband	10/19/23	$150,000.00
Dickenson County	Dickenson County IDA/Mobile Telehealth Unit Broadband	10/19/23	$21,000.00
Lee County	Good ol Boys Processing, LLC	12/14/23	$10,000.00
Russell County	Town of Honaker/Amphitheater & e-Bike Charging	4/27/23	$50,000.00
Russell County	Russell County IDA/Laurel Bed Lake Road Study	6/15/23	$25,000.00
Russell County	Breath of Dawn, LLC	12/14/23	$10,000.00
Russell/Wise County	Tate Access Floors, Inc.	10/19/23	$250,000.00
Russell/Tazewell County	Simmons Equipment Company	12/14/23	$187,500.00
Scott County	Carl Scott Leather Company, LLC	12/14/23	$10,000.00
Tazewell County	Stoney Ridge Farm and Retreat, LLC	6/15/23	$10,000.00
Tazewell County	Appa Bagworks LLC	12/14/23	$10,000.00
Wise County	Wise County IDA/Appalachia Visitor Center	2/16/23	$30,000.00
Wise County	Just Adventure Productions LLC	6/15/23	$10,000.00
Wise County	Vonda's Hometown Restaurant, LLC	6/15/23	$10,000.00
Wise County	Wise County IDA/Telehealth Broadband	10/19/23	$150,000.00
Wise County	Wise County IDA/Mobile Telehealth Unit Broadband	10/19/23	$21,000.00
Wise County	Wise County IDA/Seniors Telehealth Broadband	10/19/23	$161,250.00
Wise County	Wise County IDA/Elam Phase 1 Development	12/14/23	$700,000.00
Regional	Napoleon Hill Foundation/Entrepreneurship Training	2/16/23	$50,000.00
Regional	Mountain Empire Community College Foundation/Solar Workforce Accelerator	4/27/23	$117,150.00
Regional	Heart of Appalachia Tourism Authority	4/27/23	$50,000.00
Regional	Mountain Empire Community College Foundation/Workforce Development and Training	10/19/23	$200,000.00
TOTAL GRANTS (35)			**$6,310,633.10**
TOTAL LOANS & GRANTS (41)			**$13,250,633.10**

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

The Board of Directors
Virginia Coalfield Economic
Development Authority
Lebanon, Virginia 24266

REPORT ON THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying statement of cash receipts and disbursements of Virginia Coalfield Economic Development Authority (the "Authority") for the year ended December 31, 2023 and the related notes to the financial statement.

In our opinion, the financial statement referred to in the first paragraph presents fairly, in all material respects, the statement of cash receipts and disbursements of the Authority for the year ended December 31, 2023, in accordance with the cash receipts and disbursements basis of accounting described in Note 1.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Authority, and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Emphasis of Matter – Basis of Accounting

We draw your attention to Note 1 of the financial statement, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial statement was prepared on the cash receipts and disbursements basis of accounting, which is a basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Our opinion is not modified with respect to this matter.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of this financial statement in accordance with the cash basis of accounting described in Note 1, and for determining that the cash basis of accounting is an acceptable basis for the preparation of the financial statement in the circumstances. Management is also responsible for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to error or fraud.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Authority's ability to continue as a going concern within one year after the date that the financial statements are available to be issued.

Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditors' report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards* will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards*, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Authority's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about Authority's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control related matters that we identified during the audit.

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated February 27, 2024, on our consideration of the Authority's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the Authority's internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Authority's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Rodefer Moss & Co, PLLC
Norton, Virginia
February 27, 2024

NOTE 1 - NATURE OF ACTIVITIES AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Financial Reporting Entity – Virginia Coalfield Economic Development Authority was created, effective July 1, 1988, as a political subdivision of the Commonwealth of Virginia, pursuant to the Code of Virginia, Chapter 60, Sections 15.2-6000-6015. Virginia Coalfield Economic Development Authority accounts for all funds received from tax and grant receipts, investment earnings, loan collections and related expenditures for the eight participating localities.

Cash basis of accounting – As is the case of many funds of this type, the accounts are maintained, and the statements are presented, on a cash receipts and disbursements basis, reflecting only recorded cash receipts and cash disbursements. Therefore, cash collected and not recorded in the general ledger, receivables, and payables, inventories, accrued revenue and expenditures, and equipment and depreciation, which may be material in amount, are not reflected, and this statement is not intended to present the overall financial position or results of operations in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

Cash and cash equivalents – For purposes of reporting cash, the Authority considers all certificates of deposit, savings accounts, and money market funds with an original maturity of three months or less to be cash equivalents.

Deposits with banks are covered by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) and collateralized in accordance with the Virginia Security for Public Deposits Act (the "Act") Section 2.2-4400 et. Seq. of the *Code of Virginia*. Under the Act, banks and savings institutions holding public deposits in excess of the amount insured by the FDIC must pledge collateral to the Commonwealth of Virginia Treasury Board. Financial Institutions may choose between two collateralization methodologies and depending upon that choice, will pledge collateral that ranges in the amounts from 50% to 130% of excess deposits. Accordingly, all deposits are considered fully collateralized.

CLASSIFICATION OF ACCOUNTS:

Coal and Gas Funds

On September 1, 1988, and on the first day of each month thereafter, each county and city shall remit to the Virginia Coalfield Economic Development Authority twenty-five percent of the revenues

collected during the next to last calendar month from the (i) gas road improvement tax pursuant to Section 58.1-3713 and (ii) local coal road improvement severance licenses tax pursuant to subsection B of Section 58.1-3741.

Pursuant to Section 58.1-3713.4, a county or city may levy an additional license tax on every person engaging in the business of severing gases from the earth. The license tax shall be at a rate not to exceed one percent of the gross receipts from the sale of gases severed within the county or city. In the counties of Buchanan, Dickenson, Lee, Russell, Scott, Tazewell, and Wise, and the City of Norton one-half of the revenues derived from such tax shall be paid to the Virginia Coalfield Economic Development Authority.

Tax Credit Funds

Pursuant to Section 58.1-439.2, Coalfield employment enhancement tax credit, for tax years beginning on and after January 1, 1996, but before January 1, 2017, and or after January 1, 2018, but before January 1, 2022 (for metallurgical coal only), any person who has an economic interest in coal mined in the Commonwealth shall be allowed a credit against the tax imposed by Section 58.1-400 and any other tax imposed by the Commonwealth. If the credit exceeds the person's state tax liability for the tax year, the excess shall be redeemable by the Tax Commissioner on behalf of the Commonwealth for ninety percent of the face value within ninety days after filing the return; however, for credit earned in tax years beginning on and after January 1, 2002, such excess shall be redeemable by the Tax Commissioner on behalf of the Commonwealth for eighty-five percent of the face value within ninety days after filing this return. The remaining ten or fifteen percent of the value of the credit being redeemed, as applicable for such tax year, shall be deposited by the Commissioner in a regional economic development fund administered by the Virginia Coalfield Economic Development Authority to be used for regional economic diversification in accordance with guidelines developed by the Virginia Coalfield Economic Development Authority and the Virginia Economic Development Partnership.

Civil Penalties Funds

Pursuant to the Code of Virginia, Title 45.2, Mines, Minerals and Energy Chapter 10, Virginia Coal Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1979, Article 2, Regulation of Mining Activity, Section 45.2-1021, any permittee who violates any permit condition or any other provision of this chapter or the regulations thereunder may be assessed a civil penalty by the Director, except that if such violation leads to the issuance of a cessation order, the civil penalty shall be assessed. Such penalty shall not exceed $5,000 for each violation except that if the violation resulted in a personal injury or fatality to any person, then the civil penalty shall not exceed $70,000 for each violation. All civil penalties shall be paid into a special fund in the State Treasurer's office to be used by the Director for enhancing conservation and recreational opportunities in the coal-producing counties of the Commonwealth. The Director shall transfer quarterly 50 percent of the fund balance to the Virginia Coalfield Economic Development Authority for the purposes of developing infrastructure and improvements at Breaks Interstate Park.

CFO Funds

The goal of the Virginia Coalfield Economic Development Authority (VCEDA) Communities for Opportunity (CFO) Loan Fund is to establish a revolving loan fund to encourage economic development in the coal producing counties of Virginia. Each proposed use of the CFO Loan Fund must have the concurrence of the Director of the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (VDHCD). Generally, VCEDA and VDHCD have determined that the optimum use of the CFO Loan Fund would be to encourage the development and growth of businesses in the VCEDA coal-producing counties where the development and growth of such businesses will create a unique opportunity in a specific community that would not otherwise be addressed without financial support from VCEDA. In order to maximize the resources of this program, all projects requesting funding under this program must have a source of matching funds sufficient to match every dollar requested from the VCEDA CFO Loan Fund with one dollar from some other source(s).

Education and Telehealth Funds

The Virginia State Budget, Chapter 2, Budget Bill - HB30, 2022 Special Session I, Item 115, R allocated $500,000 from the general fund in fiscal year 2023 and fiscal year 2024 for the Lenowisco Planning District Commission and Cumberland Plateau Planning District Commission, to be managed by the Virginia Coalfield Economic Development Authority (VCEDA). These funds are designated for initiatives intended to expand education and telehealth access.

Proceeds Held - The treasurer may invest and reinvest funds of the Authority pending their need. All monies received by the Authority pursuant to Section 15.2-6009, together with any matching funds received from state or federal sources, shall be applied and used only in the county or city from which the funds were received, unless the governing body of the county or city consents to their use in another county or city. Monies received pursuant to Section 58.1-3713.4 may be used at the discretion of the Authority for purposes and projects as determined by the Authority.

Virginia Coalfield Economic Development Authority
Statement of Cash Receipts & Disbursements—Year Ended December 31, 2023

		CASH RECEIPTS			CASH DISBURSEMENTS			
Coal & Gas Funds	**Balance 1/1/23**	**Receipts**	**Interest Earned**	**Loans Collections**	**Administrative & Business Dev. Expenses**	**Project Loans & Grants**	**Balance 12/31/23**	**Uncommitted Available Balance**
Buchanan County	$7,339,169	$2,965,027	$354,552	$324,174	$286,680	$439,369	$10,256,873	$4,997,372
Dickenson County	13,380,239	1,736,706	476,210	65,562	185,366	4,214,526	11,258,825	9,045,247
Lee County	168,250	4,400	6,767	-	489	11,700	167,228	158,928
City of Norton	472	-	459	28,445	-	-	29,376	29,376
Russell County	1,119,027	97,723	48,111	714,716	14,426	630,708	1,334,443	1,165,166
Scott County	29,504	1,419	1,230	-	316	-	31,837	31,837
Tazewell County	2,546,271	490,882	86,465	816,366	59,590	1,442,728	2,437,666	1,337,666
Wise County	3,617,956	201,936	165,464	787,652	21,979	8,676	4,742,353	3,742,353
Regional	4,874,164	675,948	193,623	228,165	490,857	682,450	4,798,593	3,856,625
Total Coal & Gas Funds	**$33,075,052**	**$6,174,041**	**$1,332,881**	**$2,965,080**	**$1,059,703**	**$7,430,157**	**$35,057,194**	**$24,364,570**
Other Funds:								
Tax Credit Funds								
Revolving Loan	$13,217,273	$556,068	$487,512	$106,675	-	$26,225	$14,341,303	$10,681,303
Workforce	16,534,284	-	590,916	-	90	372,121	16,752,989	4,885,199
Total Tax Credit Funds	**$29,751,557**	**$556,068**	**$1,078,428**	**$106,675**	**$90**	**$398,346**	**$31,094,292**	**$15,566,502**
Civil Penalties Funds	$946,742	$136,873	$45,311	-	-	$237,857	$891,069	$38,223
CFO Funds	$69,018	-	$27,507	$1,776,115	$10	-	$1,872,630	$1,872,630
Education & Telehealth	$125,915	$500,000	$9,655	-	-	$466,800	$168,770	$7,520

SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA'S e-REGION

SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA'S e-REGION IS MARKETED BY VCEDA

VCEDA

VIRGINIA COALFIELD ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

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