

Livable Regions and Communities in Appalachia

Date: July 12, 2012

Location: Kingsport Center for Higher Education at Northeast State Community College
300 West Market Street, Kingsport, TN 37660

Purpose: The purpose of this workshop is to share information about opportunities available to Appalachian communities to consider strategies that can enhance community vitality and economic competitiveness. The goals are to share resources and discuss opportunities and challenges for Local Development Districts, local governments, and their partners to support long-term community goals.

Agenda

8:15 a.m. Registration and Networking

8:45 a.m. Welcome and Introductions

- Mayor Dennis Phillips, Kingsport (TN)
- Mayor Steve Godsey, Sullivan County (TN)
- Paula Lovett, Tennessee Department of Community and Economic Development
- Greg Faulkner, Appalachian Regional Commission

9:00 a.m. Introduction to Livable Communities Concepts and Options for Implementation

This session will give an overview of approaches to linking economic development strategies with land use planning, natural resources management, and transportation systems in rural and small town settings to support long-term resiliency. Workshop participants will have the opportunity to respond to the ideas presented, ask questions, and offer their thoughts about how these approaches can work in their communities in a facilitated discussion. *0.75 AICP CM credit requested*

- Kathy Nothstine, National Association of Development Organizations
- Ed Fendley, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Sustainable Communities

10:15 a.m. Break

10:30 a.m. Case Studies: Applications of Livable Communities Initiatives in Appalachian Regions

Two panelists will describe how they are working with communities in Appalachia to think through short- and long-term strategies for quality economic development and an integrated approach to community development issues. *0.50 AICP CM credit requested*

- Carrie Runser-Turner, Land-of-Sky Regional Council (NC)
Carrie will discuss GroWNC, a listening and planning process to develop regional

and local strategies for economic prosperity, quality growth, and sustainable development in the Asheville region.

- Kim Thurlow, New River Valley Planning District Commission (VA)
Kim will offer lessons learned from the New River Valley Livability Initiative, and describe how the New River Valley has employed innovative community engagement and visioning tools to foster an inclusive conversation about the region's future.

11:00 a.m. Supporting Small Town Revitalization

Hear about opportunities for helping small town communities identify those positive assets that can support initiatives to enhance a community's quality of life and broaden its economic prospects. *1.50 AICP CM credits requested*

- Cheryl Morgan, Auburn Urban Design Studio (AL)
Cheryl will discuss the Small Town Design Initiative Program, which has pioneered efforts with small towns and communities across Alabama to develop a sound master plan for physical and economic vitality.
- Mayor Dennis Phillips, Kingsport (TN)
Mayor Phillips will present the City of Kingsport's initiatives to invest in downtown and in higher education to support overall revitalization efforts.
- Jim Baldwin, Cumberland Plateau Planning District Commission (VA)
Jim will describe how the community of Clintwood, Virginia, leveraged multiple partnerships and local assets to revitalize downtown Clintwood into a vibrant, livable place.

12:30 p.m. Networking Lunch

Lunch will be provided and workshop attendees are encouraged to continue discussing their reactions to the ideas presented this morning in small groups.

1:15 p.m. Identifying Resources to Support Livability Initiatives

Representatives from federal agencies will discuss programs that can support community project implementation.

- Ed Fendley, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Sustainable Communities
- Joe Woody, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development
- Greg Faulkner, Appalachian Regional Commission

1:45 p.m. Building Diverse Partnerships around Asset-Based Economic Development

This session will show how multiple types of stakeholders have formed broad partnerships to nurture bottom-up economic development strategies that play to a community's inherent strengths. *1.50 AICP CM credits requested*

- Katy Allen and Kathlyn Terry, Central Appalachian Network (VA)
Katy and Kathlyn will discuss how the Central Appalachian Network has worked to build wholesale sustainable agriculture value chains across five states, by filling in missing links, or strengthening weak links through training, technical assistance, facilitating connections, and providing small grants to groups and small businesses.
- Erica Anderson, Land-of-Sky Regional Council (NC)
Erica will describe the WNC Forest Products Cooperative Marketing Project, a

producer and consumer-driven initiative in Western North Carolina that supports the region's burgeoning forest-based industries through a bottom-up, asset-based approach to sustainable economic development.

- Skip Skinner, LENOWISCO Planning District Commission (VA) and Marcia Quesenberry, University of Virginia's College at Wise

The co-directors of the Appalachian Prosperity Partnership will discuss this diverse coalition of public, private, nonprofit, and institutional partners who are working to position the region as a competitive player in the global economy, while honoring the traditions and culture of the region, using local assets, engagement by all partners, and true collaboration.

3:15 p.m. Concluding Remarks

- Greg Faulkner, Appalachian Regional Commission

3:30 p.m. Adjourn

This workshop was convened by the Appalachian Regional Commission, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Sustainable Communities, and USDA Rural Development, in partnership with the NADO Research Foundation and the Development District Association of Appalachia. It is the second in a series of three workshops to be convened in Appalachia in 2012. Workshop materials and additional information will be posted on www.NADO.org/arcworkshops and at www.ARC.gov.

For more information, contact Greg Faulkner at Appalachian Regional Commission at gfaulkner@arc.gov or Kathy Nothstine at NADO Research Foundation at knothstine@nado.org.



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