

County of Amherst

Public Information Officer

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Virginia Rural Broadband Coalition

Amherst County is pleased to announce that its director of Planning and Zoning, Jeremy Bryant has been selected by the Governor to join the Commonwealth's Rural Broadband Coalition (VRBC). The VRBC represents the many stakeholders who have a role in developing policies to encourage broadband expansion across rural Virginia. Today, many individual localities are working hard to expand broadband access, including Amherst County. The Coalition serves as a combined voice to generate greater clout for rural Virginians with national, state and regional officials.

VRBC members include business, government, electric cooperative and education leaders. Jeremy Bryant has been the director of Planning and Zoning for Amherst County since 2006. He has a master's degree in Public Administration and a doctorate degree in Leadership Studies. The coalition is also going to strive to identify funding pools for greater deployment of broadband in rural Virginia and engage business and civic leaders as champions for coalition initiatives.

Additional information may be obtained from Layney Sandifer at <u>lesandifer@countyofamherst.com</u> or (434)-946-9400.