



**BROOKE-HANCOCK REGIONAL COUNCIL**

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April 26, 2010

Mr. Jerome E. Wallace, MCP, CWD  
Community Planner  
U.S. Dept of Commerce - EDA  
601 Walnut Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19106

RE: Quarterly Progress Report. January 2010 through March 2010.  
US EDA Grant Award Number: 01-83-08491 Amendment 1  
Brooke-Hancock Regional Planning and Development Council

Dear Mr. Wallace:

On behalf of the Brooke-Hancock Regional Planning and Development Council (BH), I submit our Quarterly Progress Report for the January through 2010 period.

Through the leadership and participation of the US Economic Development Administration, BH has opened options for a new regional economy.

Sincerely,

John C. Brown, AICP  
Executive Director

ENCLOSURE

SCANNED E-MAIL COPIES:

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Brooke-Hancock Regional Planning and Development Council  
West Virginia Economic Development District 11

QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT:  
January 1, 2010, through March 31, 2010

U.S. Economic Development Administration Grant  
Award Number: 01-83-08491.01

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New SF-425 Financial Reporting Form

**A. Introduction**

The following Quarterly Progress Report for the Brooke-Hancock Regional Planning and Development Council (B-H) is submitted for EDA's grant award number 01-83-08491.01 The CFDA Number and Project Title is 11.302/Economic Development. The reporting period covers the January 1, 2010, through March 31, 2010 period.

As noted in the U.S. Department of Commerce's "Amendment to Financial Assistance Award" letter (June 27, 2008), the "Brooke-Hancock Regional Planning and Development Council (B-H), WV, will partner with the nonprofit Business Development Corporation of the Northern Panhandle (BDC), WV, to implement its EDA Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Partnership Planning Investment.

**Collaborative Projects**

**Brooke-Hancock Regional. April 2010.**

| <b>Project</b>                  | <b>\$/Description</b>  |
|---------------------------------|--|
| <b>A. 3-2-1 Jobs Initiative</b> | \$10,000 in-kind/cash contribution from BDC/ Progress Alliance.<br>A three-county targeted growth strategies study.  |
| <b>B. Brownfields</b>           | \$400,000 no local match petroleum/hazardous assessment<br>growth over three years. Projected Mid-year 2012 completion   |
| <b>C. Economic Adjustment</b>   | A \$200,000 federal/\$50,000 local assistance award. Project<br>goal is to create/implement an action plan through 3 to 4<br>strategic projects. Projected August<br>2010 completion.  |
| <b>D. Intermodal Study</b>      | A \$60,000 federal/\$15,000 local intermodal grant.<br>Three county evaluation to document region as a<br>competitive intermodal site for river, rail and road transfer.<br>Projected June 2011 completion.                                      |
| <b>E. US EDA Planning</b>       | A \$52,000 Federal/ \$52,000 local grant. Entrepreneurial,<br>brownfield, action plan, port development, CEDS and EDD<br>planning grant. Projected June 2010 completion.   |
| <b>F. Valley Venture</b>        | A \$100,000 Benedum Foundation/Local In-kind Project.<br>A two-year grant to encourage small business development<br>and incubator space. Projected 2012 renewal.<br><a href="http://www.valleyventures.org/">http://www.valleyventures.org/</a> |
| <b>G. Weirton North End</b>     | A \$5,000 Assistance Ctr/No local grant to outline<br>infrastructure needs in Weirton's North End<br>Projected June 2010 completion.   |
| <b>H. Weirton Rail Yard</b>     | A \$12,000 grant to provide local match for intermodal study.<br>Projected June 2010 completion.   |

## **B. Regional Population and Economic Profiles**

Due to the devastation of international steel competition, since 1995, our two-county region has lost 12,000 steel worker jobs. Our two domestic steel companies are now international conglomerates. In 1995, Weirton Steel, the regional lynchpin industry in our region, was the top private sector employer in West Virginia. Today, West Virginia's top employer is Wal-Mart. As recently as Thursday (January 28<sup>th</sup>), the loss of another 180 steel related steel jobs was announced.

From the perspective of the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) and its mission, we are ground zero. For our region, the need to have an active and engaged EDA could be no greater than today.

The following officials have recognized these circumstances.

**U.S. Congressman Alan B. Mollohan**. West Virginia Congressional District 1. Chairman. Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies. Committee on Appropriations. Congressional Hearings with the U.S. Economic Development Administration. March 5, 2008.

"Weirton, West Virginia is a great steel making city. Weirton Steel, when I first took office 26 years ago now, had 12,000 employees at the plant. It went through an ESOP when National Steel left. Its last purchaser was Mittal.

They're closing everything down and they are willing to sell the property, which is extensive, and they've actually even tearing down some of the - dismantling some of the plant. And then they're - I don't know how much Brownfield issues involved. But it is a makeover situation.

If you drive through Weirton, the steel mill is the center of town, really, and the town has grown up around it. But there will be next to, certainly relatively speaking, no steel making in Weirton Steel in the foreseeable future, if ever. And there's a lot of folks looking at this in very serious ways.

So, when you talk about regional collaborations, that resonates with me. When you talk about the futility of competing for smokestack industries, that resonates with me - not that you can't be successful, but as an economic strategy, it doesn't incorporate any diversification. And if you're not doing that, then you're not doing economic development. So, I really understand all that and I understand some of the notions that you talk about."

**U.S. Senator Jay Rockefeller**. State of West Virginia. Community Roundtable on Weirton's Economic Future. April 21, 2008.

"Today, we're at a crucial crossroads," Rockefeller said. "We've got an idea of some of the land available, but now we need to talk about how to leverage that property to truly grow Weirton's economy. We need fresh ideas, and we need real answers on how to find new industries that match up with all the great things Weirton has to offer, especially its geography and workforce. That's why we're here today - for the future of Weirton, and the futures of the families who live and work here."

Economic decline and job lost is best illustrated by the following unemployment comparison. With few exceptions, from 2002 to through early 2010, both Brooke and Hancock County's unemployment rate has exceeded the State of West Virginia and U.S. unemployment rate. More importantly, the unemployment figures illustrate while the US observed a sudden recessionary

trend in 2009, it appears the national figures have leveled off. This is not the case in the Brooke-Hancock region. The regional unemployment figures have soared and the discrepancies continue to widen dramatically.

**Unemployment Rate**

**Brooke County, Hancock County, Jefferson County, Ohio, WV and US.**

|                | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | Jan<br>2010 | Feb<br>2010 |
|----------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------------|-------------|
| Brooke Co. WV  | 6.2  | 7.3  | 7.1  | 7.4  | 6.3  | 6.3  | 11.4 | 15.6        | 16.0        |
| Hancock Co. WV | 5.9  | 7.6  | 7.3  | 7.7  | 5.9  | 6.6  | 11.5 | 15.4        | 15.5        |
| State of WV    | 5.6  | 5.0  | 4.8  | 4.6  | 4.4  | 4.2  | 7.9  | 10.4        | 11.0        |
| U.S.           | 5.8  | 5.7  | 5.2  | 4.4  | 5.0  | 6.7  | 9.3  | 9.7         | 9.7         |

Source: U.S. Department of Labor. Bureau of Labor Statistics

**C. Prominent Regional Economic Changes: February 07 through March 10**

**February 21, 2007.** *Herald Star* in article “*Weirton future up in air*” states “A decision by the Justice Department to force Arcelor-Mittal to sell its Sparrows Point, Md., mill has put the future of the Weirton steel plant in confusion. Mittal owned two major tin assets, Weirton and Sparrows Point, when it merged with Arcelor, which also owned tin capacity in Hamilton, Ontario, at its Dofasco mill.

Weirton had been a fully integrated steel mill for a century prior to Mittal’s obtaining the plants in its purchase of ISG in 2005. One of its first moves was to shut down the plant’s iron making blast furnace and the steelmaking Basic Oxygen Plant and its continuous steel slab caster.

Mittal officials had declared in mid-2006 that Weirton was for sale, and Independent Steelworkers Union (ISU) officials said the Sparrows Point plant, with its deep-water port capabilities fit better with Mittal’s overall business strategy.

**March 3, 2007.** *Herald Star* in article “*Tracks pushing for June votes*” states “Two northern West Virginia counties with sluggish economies and strong cross-border competition for gamblers could vote early this summer on whether to allow poker, blackjack and other table games at racetrack casinos.

“Table games could add 500 jobs in Chester and jump-start plans for indoor parking, a shopping mall, a golf course and housing,” according to Ted Arneault, president of Mountaineer Race Track and Gaming Resort.”

**March 20, 2007.** *Herald Star* in article “*Project Bootstraps*” states “The first Project Bootstraps graduation ceremony and dinner was held Monday at the Jefferson Community College Pugliese Training Centers. Several businesspeople were involved with Bootstraps’ Brighter Ideas - 12 Steps to a Better Business forums and mentoring program, overseen by Kathy Antinone, entrepreneurship coordinator.

**March 25, 2007.** *Herald Star* in “*Our opinion*” editorial states “Small businesses are the backbone of the economy. Finding the resources and expertise to get one started or to grow an existing one can be difficult, however. Project Bootstraps is a local small business that is made possible through sponsorship of several area businesses and organizations and a grant from the Appalachian Regional Commission.”

**March 30, 2007.** *The Brooke Review* in article "Rockefeller Pushes to Preserve the Ohio Valley Steel Industry" states At the conclusion of a meeting recently to discuss the future of the Northern Panhandle steel industry, Senator Jay Rockefeller (D-WV) said that he had a "frank and productive conversation with Mittal Steel" CEO, Lois Schorsch.

"Steel has helped to shape and build the communities of the Ohio Valley," said Rockefeller. "Following last month's decision by the Department of Justice it is time to make a real commitment to preserving the livelihood of West Virginia's steel industry and investing in our future. I encourage Mittal to reinvest in Weirton and demonstrate that they believe in our workers and the contribution they can make," said Rockefeller.

**April 25, 2007.** *The Herald Star* in "Hancock County dependent on Mountaineer for budget" states "Cutbacks in county government could be the result of a failure to pass table gaming June 9 in Hancock County, according to county Commissioner Mike Swartzmiller. " He explained that of Hancock County's \$10 million budget, 48 percent - \$4.8 million - comes from video lottery revenues. Of that, \$1.6 million is uses to balance the county's budget.

**May 11, 2007.** *The West Virginia State Journal* in "Arcelor: Mittal Sees Big Profit for Quarter" states "Arcelor Mittal posted a \$2.25 billion joint profit for the first quarter 2007, up 40 percent from the same three-month period a year ago.'

**July 1, 2007.** *The Herald Star* in "Let the table games begin" states "The unofficial totals tallied by the resort, via calls from Mountaineer observers at each of the county's 28 precincts, declared a 1,519-vote victory - 5,022 votes in favor of table games to 3,503 against, or a 59 percent to 41 percent margin of victory."

**October 10, 2007.** *Steubenville Herald-Star* in "Slag firm to close Weirton location" states "When the blast furnace and Basic oxygen Plant at Weirton Steel closed in 2005, more than 800 employees lost their jobs. Now, 20 more people working at a facility that handled slag from the furnaces are losing their jobs. Holcim Inc. will be closing its slag production and grinding plant December 31, the company announced today."

**October 18, 2007.** *The Wheeling Intelligencer* in "Hot Mill Closing" states "Global steel giant ArcelorMittal formally informed local government officials as well as union leaders Wednesday the Weirton hot strip mill are closed in mid-December. This closing will result in the loss of about 250 hourly and 15 salaried positions, leaving a workforce of just under 1,000 at ArcelorMittal."

**April 1, 2008.** *Steubenville Herald Star* in "Weirton mill cuts detailed" states "About 45 workers who didn't accept a severance package with the closure of the ArcelorMittal hot mill are being laid off."

**April 23, 2008.** *Weirton Daily Times* in "W.Va. Leaders Mull Weirton's Future" states "Weirton's economic future could depend on finding new purposes for land and equipment owned by ArcelorMittal Steel, state and leaders said Monday. These ideas reportedly were among those presented during an economic roundtable discussion hosted by U.S. Sen. Jay Rockefeller, D-W.Va at the Serbian-American Cultural Center in Weirton on Monday. "

**May 10, 2008.** *The Weirton Daily Times* in "Industrial site seminar set" states "The Brooke-Hancock-Jefferson Metropolitan Planning Commission and the Northern West Virginia Brownfields Assistance Center will hold a conference on the redevelopment of former industrial sites, called brownfields, at West Virginia Northern Community College's Weirton campus."

**June 26, 2008.** *The Weirton Daily Times* in "Severstal to Buy Esmark" states

“Russia-based OAO Severstal announced Wednesday it plans to buy Esmark Inc for \$1.25 billion. The metals and mining company said it has an agreement to buy Esmark for \$19.25 per share. Esmark has been at the center of a bidding war between Severstal and India’s Essar Steel Holdings.”

**July 30, 2008.** The *Steubenville Herald Star* in “*Our Opinion: New energy plants promising to area*” states “The promise of jobs and a brighter economic future based on a new energy plant is exactly that for now: a promise. The latest move toward making the Upper Ohio Valley a new energy corridor for the United States came with an announcement Monday by Consol Energy and Synthesis Energy Systems of a new coal-to-liquid fuel plant to be built at Benwood, south of Wheeling.”

**August 3, 2008.** The *State Journal* in “*Banner Fiberboard Closes Doors at Wellsburg Location*” states “After 52 years in business, Wellsburg’s Banner Fiberboard Co. has closed its doors. The closing leaves 38 people without jobs.

**October 9, 2008.** The *Steubenville Herald-Star* in “*SeverStal to lay off 800: Parts of local plant to operate intermittently as world economy slows*” states “About 800 employees at the Steubenville North Plant of SeverStal Wheeling will be laid off in coming days as the global economic crisis takes its toll on the basic steel industry.”

**October 18, 2008.** The *Wheeling Intelligencer* in “*Hot Mill Closing: More than 250 to lose jobs by mid-December*” states “An ArcelorMittal news release said closure will result in the loss of about 250 hourly and 15 salaried positions, leaving a workforce of just under 1,000 at ArcelorMittal Weirton. Mark Glyptis, president of the United Steel Workers Local 2911 said “The potential shut down of the hot strip mill is very difficult to accept. We started rebuilding the hot mill in 1988 and literally rebuilt the facility with our blood and sweat and we created a world class operation that has been the envy of other steel mills.”

**November 22, 2008.** The *Steubenville Herald Star* in “*Mountaineer cuts 93 jobs*” states “The cuts represent a 4 percent reduction in the permanent employment force at Mountaineer.” Tamara Pettit, Mountaineer director of public relations said “the cuts are across the board while increased competition from Pennsylvania, increased gasoline prices and the faltering economy all impacted our business.”

**December 11, 2008.** The *Wheeling Intelligencer* in “*Steel Plant to Lay Off 90*” states “Ninety of about 175 employees at Wheeling-Nisshin Inc. have been laid off in response to what company officials have described as a dramatic downturn spurred by a sluggish economy.” Richard Carter, the firm’s president and chief operating officer stated “We have never had a layoff in our 20-year history, and we do this with great reluctance.”

**January 4, 2009.** The *Steubenville Herald Star* in “*A Boom-to-Bust Steel Scenario*” states “domestic raw steel production sand 44 percent for the week ending December 13 compared with the same week in 2007, according to the American Iron and Steel Institute. Steel mills operated at slightly less than half their capacity compared with 88 percent a year earlier.”

**January 8, 2009.** The *Steubenville Herald Star* in “*Weirton Medical Center to Lay Off 36*” states “Weirton Medical Center will lay off 36 full-time equivalent jobs during the next month. The hospital said the job reduction will result in annual savings of \$2 million.”

**January 9, 2009.** The *Wheeling Intelligencer* in “*Severstal Says Layoffs to Vary Weekly*” states “Severstal North American Inc. officials confirmed Thursday that layoffs will occur at its Wheeling operations, but they declined to comment on how many workers will be affected. In addition, the Russian company announced it will cut jobs at plants in three other states - Dearborn, Mich., Sparrows Point, Md., and Warren, Ohio - as a result of declining steel orders.”

**January 17, 2009.** The *Steubenville Herald Star* in "Mountaineer Cutting Its Work Force by 175" states "approximately 175 hourly and salary employees lost their jobs Friday at Mountaineer Casino, Racetrack and Resort as the company prepared to deal with a poor economy and increased competition from similar operations in Pennsylvania. Mountaineer's President and General Manager Jack Sours announced Friday 8.6 percent of the Chester-based operations would be reduced."

**January 24, 2009.** The *Steubenville Herald Star* in "Severstal to Idle Plant for March" states "Local United Steelworkers have been told to expect the shutdown of the Severstal Wheeling plant stretching from Steubenville to Mingo Junction for the entire month of March, affecting about 1,100 union positions and an unavailable number of salaried workers."

**March 9, 2009.** The *Steubenville Herald Star* in "Steelworkers Take Look at Decision" states "Ken Aspenfeiter, president of the USE Local 1190 said the company (Severstal) said the caster, electric arc furnace an 80-inch strip mill would be idled for an indefinite period by the end of March because of a lack of orders resulting from the global economic downturn."

**March 27, 2009.** The *Wheeling-Intelligencer* in "Paper Plant to Lay Off 30" states "A Wellsburg paper plant could lay off up to 30 workers early next month in a move a union official blamed on a declining economy. United Steelworkers Local 12314 spokesman Alan Sampson, who represents 140 union employees at the Wellsburg Graphic Packaging Corp., said the figure is an estimate for the layoff, which will follow the closing of a line at the plant involved largely in producing packaging for concrete and other construction materials."

**May 7, 2009.** The *Steubenville Herald Star* in "Future of Severstal in Doubt" states "The future of Severstal Wheeling appears to be in doubt, as published reports indicated OAO Severstal, the local operation's parent company, is working to sell off its North American assets. A source close to the situation also confirmed Wednesday that 88 employees at Severstal's downtown Wheeling headquarters who had been on temporary layoff were permanently terminated at the end of April."

**May 8, 2009.** The *Wheeling-Intelligencer* in "Steel Suffers Another Setback" states "Local communities are clinging to hope when it comes to the future of Severstal Wheeling. The local operations of Russian-based steelmaker Severstal International are heading toward a complete idling, except for reduced work at the Follansbee coke plant, while the company tries to ride out a global downturn in steel demand."

**August 31, 2009.** The Philadelphia regional office of the U.S. EDA forwards a letter of grant approval to the Brooke-Hancock Regional and Development Council. The letter states "I am pleased to inform you that the Economic Development Administration (EDA) has approved an Amendment to the Financial Assistance Award in an amount not to exceed \$70,189 in response to your application for Federal assistance under the Section 302 (a) Planning Assistance Program."

**October 20, 2009.** The *Steubenville Herald Star* in "Message Sent to Severstal: Restart or Sell" states "A letter has been sent by three state legislators to Severstal North American asking the company either to restart its Ohio plants, including those in Mingo Junction, Yorkville and Martins Ferry, or to sell them to a company that will."

**December 21, 2009.** The *Wheeling Intelligencer* in "More Slots, Less Revenue in Brooke" states "Brooke County has more retailers offering limited video lottery machines per capita than any other in West Virginia - more than three and a half times the state average. It's also the only Northern Panhandle county that hasn't seen an increase in LVL revenue in fiscal 2010."

**December 29, 2009.** The *Wheeling Intelligencer* in "Weirton Looking Ahead" states "For many in Weirton, the past 10 years was a period they'd just as soon forget. On January 1, 2000, Weirton, West Virginia's seventh-largest city was home to 20,411 people. And while it operated a significantly reduced work force from the more than 14,000 it employed at its peak, Weirton Steel Corp, still counted itself among the state's largest employers with more than 4,000 workers."

**January 16, 2010.** The *Steubenville Herald Star* in "Restart delayed for Severstal plant" states "A lack of metal coming from Severstal Sparrows Point facility in Maryland is causing the announced restart at Severstal Wheeling's Martins Ferry mill to be delayed."

**January 26, 2010.** The *Steubenville Herald Star* in "ArcelorMittal, Ormet Facing More Layoffs" states "The Upper Ohio Valley's industrial base suffered another blow Monday, as steelmaker ArcelorMittal and aluminum producer Ormet Corp. confirmed plans to reduce their work force. The companies plan to lay off a total of nearly 200 employees, with 171 jobs cut at ArcelorMittal and 20 at Ormet."

**February 1, 2010.** The *Steubenville Herald Star* in "Jobless Rate Still Climbs in West Virginia" states "News of industrial workers preparing to go back on the job in Follansbee couldn't have come at a better time, as Brooke County closed 2009 with the fifth highest unemployment rate in West Virginia."

**February 25, 2010.** The *Wheeling Intelligencer* in "Economy Preventing Sale of Mill Properties" states "... a sluggish economy may be one reason ArcelorMittal has not had success attracting buyers. He said he speaks with James about once a month, and as far as he knows there has been no activity on any of the property."

**March 13, 2010.** The *Steubenville Herald Star* in "MTR Gaming Posts \$24 M Loss" states "Revenues at Mountaineer (Chester/Hancock County) fell 13 percent in the most recent quarter, from \$63.3 million to \$55 million."

#### **D. Entrepreneurship**

Following a visioning and funding start-up program through BH, a privately funded 501 c 3 entrepreneurial organization called Valley Ventures was initiated in December 2007. Funded through a \$200,000 grant from the Benedum Foundation, Valley Venture targets start-up businesses and supports the development of these businesses through a mentoring program.

Their work program and achievements may be accessed through <http://www.valleyventures.org/>

#### **Program Objectives:**

1. Serve as a leader for entrepreneurship and work in cooperation with those throughout the Brooke-Hancock Region to foster an environment for small business development.
2. Create an entrepreneurial network to assist small business.
3. Encourage entrepreneurial education throughout the school systems.
4. Develop small business workshops.
5. Continue to create various resources and documents to distribute entrepreneurial and management information.
6. Research/seek funding opportunities for projects pertaining to entrepreneurial development.

#### **Achievements:**

- May 2009. Initiated an “Entrepreneur’s Roundtable”, a quarterly business and event newsletter to build client base.
- September 2009. Acquired a 20,000 square foot office building in downtown Weirton as its headquarters. The building, to be known as Valley Commerce Center, already houses a dance academy and an outpatient treatment program. According to the Valley Venture Executive Director, “Jobs are the No. 1 priority. Our mission at Valley Venture is to create lots of new, small businesses and help ones we already here expand.”
- March 2010. Over the past year, Valley Venture has coordinated the start-up of ten downtown businesses. See attached video reference <http://www.wtov9.com/video/23130415/index.html>

#### Future Work Program:

- Initiate a business incubator at the Valley Commerce Center.
- Continue the financially independent work of Valley Venture to increase entrepreneurial opportunity in the BH region.
- Publish a monthly newspaper.

#### E. Brownfields Redevelopment

##### Program Objectives

1. To create new revenue producing sites through the redevelopment of strategic mothballed commercial-industrial sites called brownfields.
2. To create jobs through the redevelopment of brownfield sites.

##### Achievements

BH received an initial US EPA Assessment Grant in 2003 and a second grant in 2005. These investments allowed BH and its 20-member Task Force to identify, inventory, and prioritize 31 sites. Twelve ESA I site reports and six ESA site II reports were completed. Additional state and local resources have leveraged new business start-ups, and initiated the transfer of property to public ownership for clean-up and spin-off site improvements.

In May 2007, the City of Weirton with the administrative assistance of B-H received a \$200,000 clean-up grant to remove contamination products from a site adjacent to the Weirton State Office Building.

In November 2008, B-H submitted an application to the US EPA and requested \$400,000 in assessment funds for hazardous waste and petroleum products.

In May 2009, this grant was approved and continues an effort to leverage new job development through the redevelopment of brownfield sites. Grant work continued throughout 2009. Consultant solicitation, review and hiring occurred while a short-list of sites was completed.

In December 2009, as a compliment to the Brownfields Program, BH received \$12,000 in additional funding to further investigate site development at the Weirton Rail Yard. This activity will continue through 2010. Used as local dollars the \$12,000 has leveraged an additional \$48,000 in Federal Highway dollars. These dollars will generate an intermodal study for the region. The Weirton Rail Yard has been proposed as a prominent intermodal site.

January. BH received \$5,000 in FOCUS WV brownfield funds to initiate a project start-up program for Weirton’s North End brownfield.

An active Brownfield Task Force guides the brownfield review program. The Task Force met on January 6<sup>th</sup> and March 10<sup>th</sup> to designate continuing projects and preliminary site expenditures.

#### **Future Work Program**

1. Continue petroleum assessment program and continue hazardous waste program.
2. Through the West Virginia Department of Transportation, enhance public-private investment interest in the Weirton Rail Yard. This program includes the pursuit of discretionary stimulus funds to promote freight movement and create jobs at the Weirton Rail Yard site.
3. Continue FOCUS grant work at Weirton Rail Yard.
4. Initiate FOCUS grant work at Weirton North End.
5. Complete van site tour of preliminary petroleum sites.

#### **F. Strategic Action Plan**

##### **Program Objectives:**

In cooperation with the Business Development Corporation of the Northern Panhandle (BDC), BH in May and June 2009 prepared an economic adjustment assistance proposal in the amount of \$200,000 to “create and implement an action plan through 3 to 4 strategic projects.” This application was submitted June 23, 2009, to the US EDA Philadelphia regional office. A key plan component are master development site plans. The projects will have specific benchmark achievements. During and upon completion of the action plan, the BDC will actively apply the action plan to seek real, market-driven investments. The expected economic impact is job growth and economic diversification.

The work program includes the following elements.

##### **Building Regional Advantages.**

- **Regional Investment Plan.** Upon the recommendation of the consultant, the BDC will prepare a regional investment plan to focus the resources of multiple departments, agencies, and stakeholders. This plan should identify specific projects in geographic locations based on the market, demographics, ownership, built and natural environment, and infrastructure. The plan will identify and rank specific sites that readily lend themselves to occupancy or development. Each site ranking will include a listing of constraints and assets.
- **Commercial/Industrial Synergies Initiative.** Upon the recommendation of the consultant, the BDC will define in detail how the BDC can align economic development initiatives at the regional and local levels. Substantiated through existing and evolving targeted industry information, this effort should point out new business development opportunities/synergies optimally suited to locate in Brooke and Hancock County.
- **Economic Development Focus Proposal.** Upon the recommendation of the consultant, the BDC will prepare a detailed best practice approach to encourage a common focus for multiple, collaborative, parallel, but not duplicative economic development efforts in the Northern Panhandle.
- **Chamber of Commerce Focus Proposal.** Upon the recommendation of the consultant, the BDC will prepare a detailed best practice approach to align area Chambers of Commerce so they may effectively work together on a regional basis.
- **Tracking Long-Term Regional Success Proposal.** Upon the recommendation of the consultant, the BDC will prepare a BDC tracking program to objectively evaluate current and future economic development activities using demographic, economic and other metrics.

### Master Development Site Plan Level

This economic adjustment strategy includes a strong implementation component. Based upon the regional investment plan and ranking of sites, the consultant will prepare a master development site plan for several highly rated sites. A master development site plan will explain in detail how a site should be developed, existing constraints and what community facilities should be provided.

A master development site plan will provide clear and consistent advice for potential developers and expedite the BDC's return on investment.

A master development site plan will quantify costs associated with improving any land resources needed to support industrial growth.

The consultant team must include professional engineering services for the layout of the business/industrial parks and preliminary engineering and design (to include new streets, water lines, sanitary sewers, storm sewers, and landscaping).

The consultant team must provide engineering services to the BDC for implementation of the recommendations of the economic adjustment strategy. The engineer must produce one set of documents with preliminary engineering, design, and lot layout for several business/industrial parks in the Northern Panhandle. The documents will include plans for demolition and grading in addition to the preliminary engineering and design services. The consultant team will be responsible for all data collection and review, field survey, coordination with public and private agencies and utilities, and coordination with the BDC team.

Specifically, for each identified site, the following scope of work must be completed.

1. Field Survey scaled schematic layout of the site and base map with topography.
2. Grading Plan
3. Utility Investigation
4. Preliminary Design
  - a. Perform engineering services
  - b. Provide water, sanitary, and storm sewer plans
  - c. Grading plan
  - d. Site grading, erosion control plan, preliminary road profiles, and site drainage
  - e. Traffic improvement plans if necessary
  - f. Landscaping layout plan for planting in the right-of-way
  - g. Preliminary design drawings

#### **Achievements:**

In 2009, (1) BH formally adds Strategic Action Plan into B-H CEDS (2) project grant was formally approved and consultant solicitation was completed.

In January 2010, a consultant was selected and a contract was executed.

Throughout the January-March quarter, the consultant has participated in local review and preparation meetings.

**Future Work Program:**

The proposed time schedule is as follows.

**Proposed Time Schedule**

**Brooke-Hancock Economic Adjustment Grant**

**May 2009**

| Work Item   | Start Date | Completion Date |
|---|------------|-----------------|
| <b>Year 2009</b>                                  |            |                 |
| Economic Adjustment Grant Submitted               | Apr 09     | May 09          |
| Formal Grant Approval by US EDA                   | May 09     | Aug 09          |
| Request for Consultant Qualifications Distributed | Sept 09    | Sept 09         |
| Request for Project Proposals                     | Oct 09     | Oct 09          |
| Consultant Interviews                             | Dec 09     | Dec 09          |
| Consultant Selected                               | Dec 09     | Dec 09          |
| <b>Year 2010</b>                                  |            |                 |
| Consultant Contract Executed                      | Feb 10     | Feb 10          |
| Project Meeting #1                                | Mar 10     | Mar 10          |
| Existing Document Review                          | Apr 10     | May 10          |
| Industrial Analysis Completed                     | Jun 10     | Sept 10         |
| Targeted Industries Review & Synergies Completed  | Jun 10     | Sept 10         |
| Public Review and Work Session                    | Oct 10     | Oct 10          |
| <b>Year 2011</b>                                  |            |                 |
| Master Site Development Plan Completed            | Oct 10     | Feb 11          |
| Catalogue of Regional Assets Completed            | Oct 10     | Jan 11          |
| Public Review and Work Session                    | Feb 11     | Feb 11          |
| Regional Messaging Plan Completed                 | Mar 11     | Jun 11          |
| Five-Year Strategic Action Plan Completed         | Mar 11     | Jun 11          |

## G. Port Development

One of the most underutilized resources in the region is the Ohio River. In coordination with the West Virginia Public Port Authority, this effort focuses on river development and off-site spin-offs such as warehousing. The mandate for river port development is obvious. According to the Federal Highway Administration, between 2000 and 2015, transportation tonnage will have doubled. In 2000, the federal highway system was at 70% capacity, rail was at 90% capacity and river barge was at 33% capacity.

### Program Objectives

1. To utilize the Ohio River and its tributaries as an economic driver for job creation.
2. To expand ancillary port use through warehouse expansion and infrastructure development.

### Achievements

#### 2008

**April.** At the invitation of Senator Jay Rockefeller, approximately one hundred business and community leaders and government officials from the Northern Panhandle gathered at the Serbian American Cultural Center to discuss strategies for the future growth of Weirton's economy. During the frank and open discussion, attendees identified numerous areas of opportunity and growth for the region as well as challenges the area faces.

**May.** At the invitation of BH and the Business Development Corporation of the Northern Panhandle, approximately 65 business and community leaders and governmental officials from the Northern Panhandle gathered at the Weirton West Virginia Northern Community Campus to outline actions for brownfield and port development. Led by the American Planning Association through a US EPA grant, the event focused upon the redevelopment process, brownfields clean-up and financing.

**June.** Accompanied by representatives from BH, the US EDA representative for West Virginia, the Business Development Corporation of the Northern Panhandle, Brooke and Hancock County commissioners and the Weirton Redevelopment Authority, Willie C. Taylor, Regional Director for the US EDA visited the BH region. Mr. Taylor visited the Weirton Rail Yard, Browns Island and the idled ArchelorMittal hot mill. Mr. Taylor suggested further use of the Ohio River and optional finance tools to create jobs in cooperation with the US EDA.



*ArchelorMittal Steel Port Facility @ Weirton*



*ArchelorMittal Rail Yard @ Weirton*

**November.** The West Virginia Public Port Authority (WVPPA) accompanied by representatives of BH, the Weirton Redevelopment Authority and ArcelorMittal Steel visited the Weirton Rail Yard to evaluate its potential as an intermodal facility. Located on the Ohio River with four-lane truck access and an existing Norfolk Southern Rail connector, WVPPA has targeted this site as a strong intermodal candidate.

### **2009**

**May .** At the direction of the West Virginia Public Port Authority and the National Association of Regional Councils, the B-H Executive Director and Ohio River representatives from Kentucky, Ohio, Pennsylvania and West Virginia met in Cincinnati to designate the Ohio River as Marine Highway and eligible for enhanced federal funding.

**June.** BH and BDC executive directors, West Virginia Secretary for Transportation, Executive Director for the West Virginia Public Port Authority, Chair for the Weirton Redevelopment Authority and City Manager for Weirton met to discuss intermodal freight options for the Weirton Rail Yard.

**June.** BH formally prepared and submitted a coordinated public-private intermodal redevelopment proposal to the West Virginia Secretary for Transportation.

**July.** BH and BDC executive directors, West Virginia Public Port Director, City of Weirton Manager, Chair for the Weirton Redevelopment Authority, WV Senator Ed Bowman met with American Heartland Port coordinator, Jodi Kraini, for coordination.

**November.** BH and BDC executive directors, West Virginia Public Port Director, City of Weirton Manager and Chair for the Weirton Redevelopment Authority met. The West Virginia Public Port Director explains the state will prepare a statewide intermodal plan to evaluate five potential sites.

### **2010**

**January and March.** The Weirton Council appoints new members to the dormant Weirton Port Authority. The Authority with representation from BH and the BDC prioritizes coordination work with the West Virginia Public Port Authority.

## Future Work Program

BH, BDC and Weirton Port Authority to meet statewide consultant and detail intermodal advantages of Weirton.

### **H. Implement the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)**

The Brooke-Hancock Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) is designed to bring together the public and private sectors in the creation of an economic roadmap for diversification and long-term stability. With this intent, the Brooke-Hancock Regional Planning and Development Council (BH) analyzes the regional economy, establishes goals and objectives, develops an action plan and identifies investment priorities. As a continuing economic development planning process, the CEDS is a hopeful guideline to be updated and evaluated on a continuing basis.

#### **Objectives:**

1. Meet with the Brooke-Hancock Regional Planning and Development Council to update/prioritize projects.
2. Submit updated document to the West Virginia Development Office on or before the deadline.
3. Continue to work with the Brooke-Hancock Community Development Coalition to carry out entrepreneurial action items.
4. Track and record plan progress.

#### **Achievements:**

1. BH created funding, administer grants/loans, assist in infrastructure design and manage project implementation for BH investments. These investments included the following projects.
  - Brooke Public Service District. Mahan's Lane Sewer Project. \$9.87 million. \$24,380 linear feet. Final design completed. Easement acquisition completed. Financing near completion.



April 12, 2010 Mahan's Lane Groundbreaking with Congressman Alan B. Mollohan

- Hammond Public Service District. Lazear's Lane Water Line Project. \$177,000. Installation of 2,700 linear feet. Project completed.
- Village of Beech Bottom. Water Line Extension Project. \$1.192 million. Design and construction completed.
- Hancock County Public Service District. Sewer Extension Project. \$14.436 million. Line and sewage treatment plant. Design and financing completed. Under construction.
- Update to CEDS initiated
- BH Council formally adopted amendment to CEDS for Brooke-Hancock economic adjustment grant.
- BH Council introduced a Ohio University economic adjustment grant proposal to isolate regional commercial-industrial strengths and synergies for job development. The target area is 28 southeastern Ohio counties and Brooke-Hancock counties.

## 2. CEDS amendments.

July. At the BH Regional Council meeting, an Economic Adjustment Assistance Proposal to create and implement a detailed, step-by-step, project specific, and regionally consensus built action strategy for stabilization and diversification.

November. At the BH Regional Council meeting, an Economic Adjustment Assistance Proposal to consider a proposal by Ohio University's Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Affairs to identify resources that aid communities in developing targeted economic growth strategies. Targeted as a collaborative effort to help 26 counties in southeastern Ohio and Brooke/Hancock counties in West Virginia, this grant in the amount of \$401,000 would strategize ways to improve the economy.

## 3. Annual CEDS Priorities

December. Advertised and collected suggested CEDS amendments.

January. At the BH Regional Council meeting, suggested CEDS amendments were reviewed, prioritized and adopted.

March. At the BH Regional Council meeting, reviewed ongoing CEDS projects.

### **Future Work Program:**

1. Consider CEDS amendments and priorities as submitted.

### **I. Conduct EDD Activities**

#### **Program Objectives:**

- Participate with other economic development professionals as deemed appropriate.
- Provide research and grant writing to create job development programs.

#### **Achievements:**

- As a member of the economic development/business development board for the Northern Panhandle, the Business Development Corporation of the Northern Panhandle, the B-H Executive Director attends monthly board meetings.
- B-H has aided and assisted Valley Ventures in their search for start-up and organizational funding grants.

- February. Prepared and presented testimony in support of US EDA at congressional hearing in Washington, DC.
- March. Attended US EDA Training Conference in Philadelphia

**Future Work Program:**

- Prepare US EDA planning grant application
- Prepare and hold local briefing session with US EDA Secretary John Fernandez
- Prepare and submit materials for Economic Development District Certification
- Meet with West Virginia Representative for the US EDA and evaluate EDD
- Hold Regional Council meeting on June 9<sup>th</sup>
- Attend and participate in Weirton Port Authority meetings/activities
- Hold one-day site visit of regional brownfield sites

## FEDERAL FINANCIAL REPORT

(Follow form instructions)

|   |  |                  |                             |
|---|--|------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Federal Agency and Organizational Element<br>to Which Report is Submitted<br><b>US EDA</b> | 2. Federal Grant or Other Identifying Number Assigned by Federal Agency<br>(To report multiple grants, use FFR Attachment) | Page<br><b>1</b> | of<br><b>1</b><br><br>pages |
|---|--|------------------|-----------------------------|

3. Recipient Organization (Name and complete address including Zip code)  
**Brooke-Hancock Region XI Planning & Development Council**  
**P.O. Box 82 Weirton, WV 26062**

|                 |                              |  |  |   |
|-----------------|------------------------------|--|--|---|
| 4a. DUNS Number | 4b. EIN<br><b>55-0514063</b> | 5. Recipient Account Number or Identifying Number<br>(To report multiple grants, use FFR Attachment)<br><b>01/83/08491</b> | 6. Report Type<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Quarterly<br><input type="checkbox"/> Semi-Annual<br><input type="checkbox"/> Annual<br><input type="checkbox"/> Final | 7. Basis of Accounting<br><input type="checkbox"/> Cash <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accrual |
|-----------------|------------------------------|--|--|---|

|  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| 8. Project/Grant Period<br>From: (Month, Day, Year)<br><b>07/01/10</b> | To: (Month, Day, Year)<br><b>06/30/10</b> | 9. Reporting Period End Date<br>(Month, Day, Year)<br><b>03/31/10</b> |
|--|---|---|

10. Transactions Cumulative

(Use lines a-c for single or multiple grant reporting)

|   |                 |
|---|-----------------|
| <b>Federal Cash (To report multiple grants, also use FFR Attachment):</b> |                 |
| a. Cash Receipts  | <b>31094.00</b> |
| b. Cash Disbursements   |                 |
| c. Cash on Hand (line a minus b)  | <b>31094.00</b> |

(Use lines d-o for single grant reporting)

|  |                  |
|--|------------------|
| <b>Federal Expenditures and Unobligated Balance:</b>     |                  |
| d. Total Federal funds authorized                        | <b>31094.00</b>  |
| e. Federal share of expenditures                         | <b>36973.26</b>  |
| f. Federal share of unliquidated obligations             |                  |
| g. Total Federal share (sum of lines e and f)            | <b>36973.26</b>  |
| h. Unobligated balance of Federal funds (line d minus g) | <b>(5879.26)</b> |


|  |                  |
|--|------------------|
| <b>Recipient Share:</b>                                      |                  |
| i. Total recipient share required                            | <b>31094.00</b>  |
| j. Recipient share of expenditures                           | <b>36973.26</b>  |
| k. Remaining recipient share to be provided (line i minus j) | <b>(5879.26)</b> |

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Program Income:</b>  |  |
| l. Total Federal program income earned                                  |  |
| m. Program income expended in accordance with the deduction alternative |  |
| n. Program income expended in accordance with the addition alternative  |  |
| o. Unexpended program income (line l minus line m or line n)            |  |

|                      | a. Type    | b. Rate | c. Period From | Period To | d. Base | e. Amount Charged | f. Federal Share |
|----------------------|------------|---------|----------------|-----------|---------|-------------------|------------------|
| 11. Indirect Expense | PROV       | 1.0155  | 7/1/09         | 6/30/10   | 3083.02 | 3130.81           | 1565.41          |
|                      | g. Totals: |         |                |           |         |                   |                  |

12. Remarks: Attach any explanations deemed necessary or information required by Federal sponsoring agency in compliance with governing legislation:

13. Certification: By signing this report, I certify that it is true, complete, and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I am aware that any false, fictitious, or fraudulent information may subject me to criminal, civil, or administrative penalties. (U.S. Code, Title 18, Section 1001)

|   |   |
|---|---|
| a. Typed or Printed Name and Title of Authorized Certifying Official<br><b>John C. Brown, Executive Director</b>                      | c. Telephone (Area code, number and extension)<br><b>304 797-9666</b> |
|   | d. Email address<br><b>jbrown@bhjmpc.org</b>                          |
| b. Signature of Authorized Certifying Official<br> | e. Date Report Submitted (Month, Day, Year)<br><b>04/26/10</b>        |

14. Agency use only:

Standard Form 425  
OMB Approval Number: 0348-0061  
Expiration Date: 10/31/2011

**Paperwork Burden Statement**  
 According to the Paperwork Reduction Act, as amended, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB Control Number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 0348-0061. Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 1.5 hours per response, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (0348-0060), Washington, DC 20503.