

Un-Adopted Minutes

Brooke-Hancock Regional Planning and Development Council

November 9, 2016

Present were:

Mark Henne, Weirton Transit Corporation
Mike Paprocki, Region XI PDC
Barb Zimnox, Region XI PDC
Sue Simonetti, Mayor, City of Wellsburg
Linda McNeil, Mayor, City of New Cumberland
Marvin Six, BDC
James Smith, Mayor, Windsor Heights
Gary Pitcock, Weirton Transit Corporation
Rik Rekowski, Mary H. Weir Public Library
Steve Maguschak, Wellsburg City Manager
Patrick Sutherland, Mayor, Town of Bethany
W. Duane Heck, Route 2/168 Authority
Jeffrey Wargo, Weirton Transit Corporation
Eric Sherrard, The Thrasher Group

Mark Henne called the meeting to order at 4:30 pm. He asked for a motion to adopt the minutes of the August 10th meeting. Sue made the motion. Steve seconded. Motion carried.

Mark also asked for a motion to adopt the 2017 meeting schedule which was provided by Mike Paprocki (attached). Linda McNeil made the motion. Sue seconded. Motion carried. The next meeting will be February 1, 2017.

Mark asked for volunteers to be on the committee for new officers for the next calendar year. Committee members are Pat Sutherland, Jim Smith and Sue Simonetti. Mike will set up a meeting with them sometime, probably after the holidays.

Mark then asked Mike for his director's report. Mike listed several meetings and conversations that he had recently been a part of, including the TAC and full commission meetings at BHJ, conversations with Tracey Rowan of US EDA regarding Youngstown State University's POWER grant application and a potential project in Beech Bottom, and conversations with Gus Sewaid regarding the traffic light at Birch Drive and Freedom Way and redesigning of that intersection. Mike also told the group that he is still looking for a student intern for BHJ.

Mark thanked WV DOT for the repair work on Route 22 through Weirton. He also discussed Pennsylvania Avenue and the need to get it repaired as soon as possible.

He also talked about how disappointed he was with this year's political candidates. None of them made much of an effort to come to the northern panhandle to talk to any of our community groups. He stated that we need an effective voice in Charleston, which he feels we do not have at present. Discussed was a roundtable meeting with our elected officials in Charleston with local officials. We need to prioritize our projects and make the officials in Charleston aware of what we need. Mike was asked to reach out to these legislators to set up the roundtable no later than mid January.

Duane Heck from the Route 2/68 Authority gave an update on his group and what they've accomplished since its beginning in 1997. He also discussed the New Ohio River Bridge and the fact that it will land on a 2 lane road in Wellsburg, and that needs to be upgraded to a 4 lane road. This project needs to be placed on the TIP. The 4 lane will add to the safety for traffic coming off the bridge and for usage by the oil and gas industry. He also stated that the Authority had received no funding for this current fiscal year.

Rik Rekowski informed the group that the Mary H. Weir Public Library was able to help get projects off the ground by being an excellent resource of Census Data, and for their business data base in the northern panhandle. This information will be useful for grant submittals for project funding.

Mike told the group that a bridge update would be presented at the next MPO meeting. He also addressed the need by every municipality and county for a full ADA transition plan. The State is looking for everyone to have one. He also addressed the CEDS update; to make sure that all the needed projects are on the plan and that an update is required mid 2017.

Marvin gave an update on what is going on with the BDC. He informed the group that we have procured a contractor for the \$600,000 EPA assessment grant, and work should begin on it in the first quarter of next year. The Phase II in part of the Beech Bottom site is almost complete and will receive a certificate of completion after some minimal cleanup. They have awarded a bid to demo a building and are completing an RFQ for the hazardous substances in the ground. They also have completed an RFQ for demo of part of the building and for hazardous material at the Brooke Glass site. They recently purchased the Follansbee Steel Plant. They will do a Phase II on the site and start the cleanup process. The Lodge at Williams Country Club and the Jimmy Carey Stadium are each completing an RFQ for remediation. The Newell Porcelain site has a local buyer. The BDC is coordinating the assessment and cleanup and redevelopment of the site. The TS&T building is under construction, and the riverbank remediation has been completed. The BDC will soon receive a certificate of completion for the site.

Barb gave an update on the Community Development projects to the group. She told them that the Hazard Mitigation Plan update will begin soon. Everyone needs to be involved in this. The State will look at these documents when FEMA funds are

requested for disaster relief. If the municipality/ county didn't participate, it might be more difficult to receive funding.

With no further business to bring before the group, Mark asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jim made the motion. Sue seconded. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 5:40 pm.

Submitted by Barb Zimnox, recorder.