

Un-Adopted Minutes

Brooke-Hancock Regional Planning and Development Council

February 11, 2015

Present were:

Mike Paprocki, Executive Director – Brooke-Hancock Regional Planning & Development Council

Barb Zimnox, Community Development Specialist- BH RPDC

Jim Andreozzi-Brooke County Commission

Sue Simonetti, Mayor-City of Wellsburg

Mark Henne, City Manager-City of Wellsburg

Marvin Six-Business Development Corporation of the Northern Panhandle

George Kondik, Mayor-City of Weirton

Kevin Beynon, Manager-Weirton Transit Corporation

Rik Rekowski- Mary H. Weir Public Library

Clay Riley- Thrasher Engineers

Eric Sherrard- Thrasher Engineers

The meeting was called to order at 4:40 by Mark Henne, BH Chairman. Mark asked for a motion to adopt the minutes from the November 12, 2014 meeting. The motion was made by George Kondik and seconded by Sue Simonetti. Motion carried.

Mark then asked Marvin Six to report on the BDC activities of the last few months. Marvin stated that the BDC had submitted applications to the EPA totaling \$1 million for clean-up and assessments of Brownfields sites. The Clean-up sites include TS&T in Chester, Brooke Glass in Wellsburg, and Wheeling Corrugated in Beech Bottom. Marvin reported that a Phase II is being completed at this time on the Jimmy Carey site in Weirton and should be done by July. They will have to remove tanks from the ground and expect clean-up to cost about \$10,000. Marvin reported that the BDC has sold the Newell football stadium to a car dealership which will do a whole rebuild on the site. A Phase II is also being done on the riverbank of the TS&T site for lead. Clean-up will involve the Army Corp of Engineers, the US EPA, and previous owners to make this an accessible site from the river.

Marvin also told the group of a 3 year grant they have received from the Benedum Foundation for site development. The money is to be used to close deals and can be used in either Brooke or Hancock Counties in WV as well as 3 counties in Pennsylvania. The funds total \$400,000 and must be used over 3 years. The BDC is also assisting the City of New Cumberland to identify dilapidated buildings and to deal with them. They are also assisting New Cumberland with their efforts to get Route 2

moved to another part of town. Marvin reported that the BDC still has \$6500 from the Bad Buildings HUB program that must be used by March 31st. He is going to be speaking with a senior citizens group about doing an inventory of buildings, and paying any expenses that they may incur with the remaining funds. He reported that the BDC has a business that will be occupying 5 acres on the opposite side of the street across from Rue 21. They also obtained a grant to assist the Weirton Christian Center for some expenses incurred. In Colliers, they are assisting the owner of the Colliers Steel building to move the property. The Brooke Glass Phase II is complete and they are now working with the Northern WV Brownfields Assistance Center and students from West Liberty and Bethany for art visuals of the site. An event will be held in the spring. Marvin reported that they now have 5 tenants on the Wheeling Corrugated site, and have room yet for more. If they receive the grant they've applied for they intend to clean-up another portion of the site. They are working with Bethany to get more housing in town for teachers at the university. They are also working with Brooke Hills Park on a lodge feasibility study, and with the City of Follansbee on a site opposite the Coke Plant.

Mark asked Mike to report on any congressional updates that he was aware of. Mike reported on an effort in congress to eliminate the Economic Development Agency. So far it hasn't been passed. He also reported that the Homeland Security Bill in congress has a portion that would eliminate the Executive Orders that President Obama put into law regarding immigration. Mike then explained to the group the map that was attached to the agenda which showed the WV regional councils, their executive directors, and the funds being spent in each region at present. He also gave an update on the status of the new bridge. He expects that we should start to see some movement on it by the spring of 2016. He also discussed the need for a new transportation funding bill, that the continuing resolution in place now expires in May. Mike told the group that the paper was reporting that WV was talking about taking tolls off of the turnpike next year. He also had 4 copies of a traffic study that was done at the request of the Brooke County Commission at the intersection of Route 2 and Archer Heights. He also reported that Nick Orsay and Nick Charles of BHJ had gone to Wellsburg to take pictures of the intersection of Route 2 and Washington Pike to see what would be the best thing to improve that intersection.

Barb gave her community development report, and introduced Clay Riley and Eric Sherrard of Thrasher Engineers. Clay updated the group on the Source Water Protection Plans that are being done around the state. The first round is underway, with the second round slated for later this fall. He gave a presentation to the group on what was involved in the completion of the plan. Eric Sherrard gave the group an update on the broadband program. He is talking to state officials regarding upcoming funding

availability and how best it can be utilized. Kevin Beynon spoke of the 25th anniversary of the Weirton Transit Corporation and that a celebration was going to be held at the Millsop Community Center on March 26th at 6:30.

Mark asked Mayor Kondik if he had any concerns at present, and he spoke on the stop signs on the bridge on Colliers Way. The WV DOT has added stop signs with the completion of the bridge improvements that weren't there before, and it is causing some problems with traffic. The group agreed that this would be discussed further with WV DOT officials.

With nothing further to discuss, Mark adjourned the meeting at 5:57 PM.