

Un-Adopted Minutes

Brooke-Hancock Regional Planning and Development Council Meeting

May 20, 2015

Present were:

Mark Henne, City Manager – City of Wellsburg
Barb Zimnox, Community Dev. Specialist – BH RPD&C
Sue Simonetti, Mayor – City of Wellsburg
Marvin Six – Business Development Corporation of the Northern Panhandle
James Smith, Mayor – Windsor Heights
Matthew Chapman – Windsor Heights
Rik Rekowski – Mary H. Weir Public Library
Eric Sherrard – Thrasher Engineers
Clay Riley – Thrasher Engineers
Linda McNeil, Mayor – City of New Cumberland
John DeStephano, City Manager – City of Follansbee
Jim Andreozzi – Brooke County Commission
Mark Zatezalo – WV House of Representatives
Shawn Dienger – BHJ summer intern

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 pm by Mark Henne, BH Chairman. Mark asked for a motion to adopt the minutes of the February 11, 2015 meeting. The motion was made by Sue Simonetti and seconded by Jim Smith. Motion carried.

Mark then asked Mark Zatezalo to give the group an update on the congressional and WV legislative progress over the previous quarter. Mark stated that there were 1267 bills submitted to the WV legislature and that 260 had been approved and sent to the Governor for his signature. Bill passed had to do with prevailing wage, repealing cap and trade, tort reform, and safety and competitiveness in the coal industry, as well as many others. Mark noted that every bill passed was approved by bipartisan vote in both the House and Senate.

Marvin Six then updated the council on BDC activities of the last quarter. He said the BDC was still waiting on notice of whether they had received the clean-up grants that were submitted for the TS&T Riverbank Site, the Wheeling Corrugated Site, and the Brooke Glass Site. He stated that the Newell football stadium had been sold, and a Chrysler dealer was about to break ground on construction there. The BDC has several prospects for the Beech Bottom site that they are working with also. The BDC is also involved in the Bad Buildings Program through the Northern WV Brownfields Assistance Center. They are in the process of rehabbing a home in Beech Bottom, demolishing a building in Wellsburg, and 3 in the City of Weirton. It is their feeling that

the region has too many sub-standard houses and something must be done to improve the situation to market the area to outside interests. The council members agreed.

Mike introduced Shawn Deinger , the summer intern for BHJ, to the group. Mike told of his meeting at the Mary H. Weir Public Library recently with a representative of the WVU Economic Research Institute. Discussed were legislative issues, our planning commission, the library commission, and resources around the State, among other things. Mike and Rik Rekowski felt the meeting had been very successful. Mark Zatezalo also mentioned that he had written a letter to the leaders of WVU regarding economic development, but has not heard back at this time.

Mike told the group of the recent annual RP&DC meeting in south Charleston, and his and Barb's meetings with Aaron Spork of Senator Capito's office and Bob Gittler with US EDA.

Mike also discussed the region's need to set transportation plan priorities, as we do not have projects listed as such. He went over the goals and objectives of the existing plan. Also discussed was the expectation of increased truck traffic in Brooke and Hancock Counties by the oil and gas industry. It was suggested that the council look into speaking with members of the Route 2 Commission regarding our projects and needs concerning Route 2 in our region.

Mark Henne stated that the announcements of the Brownfields grants should be coming any time, and reminded the group of the Brownfield Taskforce Meeting coming up on June 10th. Mike stated that there would be a report given at the Full Commission meeting on May 27 regarding the proposed new bridge in Wellsburg.

Barb gave a brief update of her Community Development activities, and introduced Clay Riley and Eric Sherrard to the group. They gave a short presentation on the Source Water Assessment and Protection Plans that the State has mandated and funded. The 4 in our Region to be done in the FY2016 round are Chester, Weirton, Follansbee/Hooverson Heights, and Hammond PSD.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 5:35 pm.