

Unadopted Minutes

Brooke-Hancock Regional Planning and Development Council (BH)

August 15, 2012

Kevin Beynon, Director/ Weirton Transit
John Brown, Executive Director/ Brooke-Hancock-Regional Planning & Development Council
Nigel Deevenish/ Weirton Area Public Port Authority
Patrick Ford, Business Development Corporation of the Northern Panhandle
Jim Greco/ Weirton Area Public Port Authority
Danny Greathouse, Hancock County Commission
Jim Greco, General Manager/ Weirton Area Public Port Authority
Pat Kirby, Northern West Virginia Brownfield Assistance Center
George Kondik, Mayor/ Weirton
Mark Henne, City Manager/Wellsburg
Valerie Means, City Manager/ Weirton
Richie Parsons, Congressman David McKinley Representative
Richard Rekowski, Director/ Mary H. Weir Public Library
Norm Schwertfeger, WVU Extension Office
Sue Simonetti, Mayor/ Wellsburg
Marvin Six, Business Development Corporation of the Northern Panhandle
Mark Zatezalo, Chairman/ Weirton Redevelopment Authority
Barb Zimnox, Sr. Community Development Specialist/Brooke-Hancock Regional Planning & Development Council

On August 15, 2011 at 4:30 in the WesBanco Banking Center in Weirton, the above persons met to (1) adopt meeting minutes for April 11, 2012 (2) adopt a resolution to confirm matching funds from the West Virginia Development Office with agreed to activities (3) appoint three Brooke-Hancock Council members to the West Virginia Regional Planning and Development Council (4) hear comments from West Virginia's congressional staff (5) receive an update report from the Business Development Corporation of the Northern Panhandle (6) discuss the preparation of a broadband regional strategic plan (7) review staff's community and economic development status report and (8) finalize submittal and a final review date for the Brooke-Hancock Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy.

Adoption of Meeting Minutes for April 11, 2012

Upon the motion of Ms. Simonetti and a second by Ms. Means, the April 11th minutes were adopted without amendments.

Adoption of Resolution for Contract between the West Virginia Development Office and the Brooke-Hancock Regional Planning and Development Office

Dr. Brown stated this resolution is an annual reoccurring resolution. It validates the contribution of \$36,480 in local matching funds by the State to match an Appalachian Regional Commission 302 (a)

grant in the amount of \$49,627. This resolution binds the Brooke-Hancock Regional Council to (1) participate in statewide, regional and local strategic planning activities (2) update its Regional Development Plan called a CEDS (Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy) (3) identify existing and potential development sites and supporting infrastructure projects (4) offer information and assistance to businesses and (5) participate in state-sponsored planning and economic development studies, and assist in local planning and economic revitalization efforts, where appropriate.

Upon the motion of Mr. Ford and a second by Ms. Simonetti, the MOU and its execution was adopted.

Request to Appoint/Designate Three Brooke-Hancock Council Members to the West Virginia Regional Planning and Development Council

Dr. Brown indicated, given recent bylaw changes for the statewide regional planning and development council, three B-H members need to be appointed and to attend an October/November statewide meeting. The intent of the meeting is to amend the statewide council's bylaws and further legitimize its role as an infrastructure/ economic development group. Upon the recommendation of Norm Schwertfeger and a second by George Kondik, the appointees were Pat Ford, Mark Henne and Marvin Six.

Comments from Congressional Delegation

Richie Parsons, District Director for West Virginia Congressman David McKinley, indicated the Congressman was working hard to preserve the coal industry and to find financial accountability. In late June, a House-Senate conference committee dropped Congressman McKinley's "fly ash amendment" from the federal transportation bill. McKinley's amendment in the transportation bill sought to stop the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency from regulating coal ash as a hazardous substance. The measure initially passed the House as stand-alone legislation last fall, but it was never taken up in the Senate.

BDC Report

Pat Ford overviewed the BDC's work in Chester @ the TS&T pottery, business retention work, recent coordination efforts with entities at Half-Moon Industrial Park, a Rigg Industries equipment purchase and the marketing of surplus properties

Update to Mandated Broad Band Plan for the Region

Barb Zimnox indicated the West Virginia Geological and Economic Survey had returned and executed contract between their agency and B-H in an amount not to exceed \$50,000. \$10,000 of this contract will be provided through donated regional hours. The contract expiration date is October 31, 2013. The contract will allow B-H to complete a regional needs assessment and develop a broadband strategic Plan. The consultant requests for proposals to complete this work are due in September 2012. Persons interested in serving on the Broadband Committee should contact Ms. Zimnox.

Community Development Status Report

Barbara Zimnox, Senior Community Development Specialist for BH, provided a community development status report. She overviewed seven water-sewer projects and several future projects including energy grants for nine council entities and transit work.

Economic Development Status Report

Dr. Brown unveiled the following unemployment numbers.

Unemployment Rate											
Years 2007 through June 2012											
Year	7	8	9	10	11	12	12	12	12	12	12
						J	F	M	A	M	J
Brooke	6.3	6.3	11.4	13.1	11.4	12.5	12.9	10.5	9.2	9.4	9.8
Hancock	5.9	6.6	11.5	13.5	12.0	12	14	10.8	10	9.6	9.6
WV	4.4	4.2	7.9	9.1	8.0	7.9	8.2	8.2	8.2	8.2	8.2
USA	5.0	6.7	9.3	9.6	9.0	8.3	8.3	8.2	8.1	8.2	8.2

Source: U.S. Department of Labor

He overviewed seven key brownfield projects, funding through the Appalachian Regional Commission and recent grant submissions. He thanked those agencies, groups and individuals who participated in the statewide conference for West Virginia’s regional council. Held at Bethany College, a two-day agenda with presentations from numerous West Virginia agencies, national infrastructure organizations and statewide leaders was held. Over 90 people participated. The Northern Panhandle and its professionalism were well documented and illustrated.

Update to the Brooke-Hancock Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)

On an annual basis, the U.S. Economic Development Administration, a major funding source for the Brooke-Hancock Regional Council (BH) and the Business Development Corporation of the Northern Panhandle (BDC), mandates the update/adoption of a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). A completed/updated Brooke-Hancock CEDS must be completed on or before September 30, 2012.

The Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Committee is responsible for planning program to develop growth in the region. The Committee meets annually to review and prioritize economic development projects. Special meeting are held as necessary to update the CEDS priorities

and to participate with other committees, such as regional transportation, land use, and individual projects and programs related to economic development.

The Strategy Committee is the principal facilitator for economic development planning and implementation, responsible for developing, updating, or replacing a strategy.

The Committee represents all major interest of the region to ensure that viewpoints from all components of the community are considered and to take advantage of local skills and resource when developing and implementing the plan.

CEDS relies on broad-based and diverse community participation. It contains:

- An analysis of problems and opportunities related to economic and community development
- Background and history of economic development in the area
- Discussion of the current economy
- Discussion of community participation in the planning effort
- Goals and objectives
- An action plan for achieving goals and objectives for suggested projects
- Performance measurements

BH staff and the BDC staff (Business Development Corporation of the Northern Panhandle) serve as the interim Strategy Committee. A distinct effort has been made to merge key points from the most recent CEDS and the recently completed BDC Regional Investment Plan.

The meeting adjourned at 5:30. The announced next meeting date was December 12 @ 4:30 @ the WesBanco Financial Center. Upon the motion of Mr. Greathouse and a second by Mr. Six, the meeting was adjourned.