

## Informal Minutes

### Brooke-Hancock Brownfield Redevelopment Task Force June 11, 2014

#### Persons Present:

John Brown, BH Regional Council/ Executive Director  
Nicholas Charles, BH Regional Council/ Intern  
Mark Henne, Wellsburg/ City Manager  
Patty Hickman, West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection  
Pat Kirby, Northern West Virginia Brownfield Assistance Center/ Executive Director  
Dave Olson, Civil Environmental Engineers  
Debbie Sciarrino, Northern Panhandle Workforce Investment Board  
Sue Simonetti, Wellsburg/ Mayor  
Barb Zimnox, BH Regional Council/ Sr. Community Development Specialist

The Brooke-Hancock Brownfield Redevelopment Task Force met at noon in the Weirton State Office Building to (1) adopt minutes for the March 12, 2014 meeting and (2) hear/discuss existing and proposed projects and review activities targeted at these projects.

Dr. Brown started the meeting at noon and introduced the agenda. He noted the next meeting of the Task Force would be September 10<sup>th</sup> @ noon. He noted the BDC could not be in attendance due to out of region obligations. Pat Kirby from the Northern Brownfield Assistance Center encouraged Task Force members to attend the upcoming West Virginia Brownfields Conference in Huntington, scheduled for September 11-12. Conference fliers were distributed.

#### Adoption of Past December 11, 2013 Minutes

With no amendments or changes and hearing no comment, the minutes were adopted as presented.

#### Hear/discuss existing and proposed projects and review activities targeted at these projects.

Dr. Brown stated in early June the US Environmental Protection Agency deferred upon individually submitted assessment grants for the BDC, BH Regional and the City of Wellsburg.

Individual grant applications had been submitted in late January. Pat Kirby from the Northern Brownfield Assistance Center indicated 14 grants had been submitted statewide while the US EPA had restricted current grantees from consideration. Five West Virginia applicants did receive funding. These applicants were (1) Morgantown (2) Thomas (3) Wayne County (4) WVDEP/ Nicholas-Fayette-Raleigh and (5) Wyoming County Economic Development Authority.

With this brownfield assessment void, the following comments were provided by those attending.

- Initial follow-up correspondence through the US EPA suggests the resubmittal of assessment grant applications for the next round. The Task Force encourages the resubmittal and further refinement of applications.
- The rating system for applications had a variety of thresholds based upon new and previous grantees.
- A backlog of projects remains including nine projects illustrated in the BDC and BH Regional applications. The BH Task Force is minimally a forum to discuss/exchange progress/issues among partners.
- The BH Task Force is minimally a forum to discuss/exchange progress/issues among partners.
- The Brooke-Hancock Brownfield Task Force has been in place since 2007. While the Task Force was initially organized to obtain US EPA assessment grant funds, the Task Force agenda has expanded both in projects and financial partnerships. For this reason, the Task Force wishes to continue its quarterly meetings.
- There are six financial achievement fronts the Task Force and its partners can or are carrying out to resolve environmental brownfield issues and create jobs. These fronts are (1) US EPA Area-Wide Planning Program (2) Benedum Site Ready Program (3) Targeted Brownfield Assistance Program (4) Northern Brownfield Assistance Program (5) Power of 32 Site Development Fund and (6) West Virginia Hubcap Community Capacity Building Program.
- In the case of the Area-Wide Planning Program, the BH Task Force has not previously applied for funds through this program. Considerable discussion followed as to the purpose and benefit of this program.

#### Restate the brownfield assessment backlog

By location, contaminant, size, facilities impacted and health threat, nine priority brownfield sites have been profiled as backlogged properties in need of assessment. As to need and current activity, the summary and comments were provided.

- Beech Bottom. Assessment work for 100 acres has been initiated by Tech Law
- Chester. Site Ready money is under consideration. A WVU architectural team has outlined a river walk to connect neighboring uses.
- Follansbee. Some commercial interest has been shown in the Follansbee site; however, the owners of the Follansbee site are seeking participation in the WVDEP Voluntary Program. The owner is currently completing steps to enter this program.
- Newell Memorial Stadium. Phase I completed with Phase II suggested.
- Weirton Jimmy Carrey Stadium. Phase 1 completed with Phase II suggested.
- Weirton Old Post Office Building. Asbestos evaluation completed. Under Weirton Urban Redevelopment Authority Ownership.
- Wellsburg Brooke Glass. Site Ready dollars in the amount of \$12,500 have been marked for this project. Targeted Brownfield Assessment grant obtained. Clean up grant applications to be submitted. June public information meeting to be held. 2015 clean up anticipated.
- Wellsburg Gen Pak. Phase I completed. Phase needed but unfunded.
- Wellsburg Former Riverview High School. Phase I needed but unfunded.

With no further items to consider, the meeting adjourned at 1:15.