

## Informal Minutes

### Brooke-Hancock Brownfield Redevelopment Task Force March 12, 2014

#### Persons Present:

John Brown, BH Regional Council/ Executive Director  
Pat Ford, Executive Director/ Business Development Corporation of the Northern Panhandle  
Linda Harris, WV State Journal  
Mark Henne, Wellsburg/ City Manager  
Pat Kirby, Northern West Virginia Brownfield Assistance Center/ Executive Director  
Casey Korbini, West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection  
Alex Lohbeck, BH Regional Council/ Intern  
Dave Olson, Civil Environmental Engineers  
Norm Schwertfeger, WVU County Extension Agent/ Brooke County  
Debbie Sciarrino, Northern Panhandle Workforce Investment Board  
Marvin Six, Business Development Corporation of the Northern Panhandle/ Assistant Director  
Sarah Yuengling, WTRF TV  
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 December 11, 2013 meeting (2) overview of submitted assessment grants to US EPA (3) restate the brownfield assessment backlog and project when the US EPA will announce the next round of national assessment grants (4) introduce the importance of the ACRES data management system as required by the US EPA (5) provide an update to the Hancock County HubCAP Team participating in this statewide community capacity building program and (6) provide and update to other related programs.

Dr. Brown started the meeting at noon and introduced the agenda. He noted the next meeting of the Task Force would be June 11th. Before the formal start of the meeting, Dr. Brown congratulated the Task Force for their persistence to clean-up brownfields and creates jobs since September 2005 when the first Task Force meeting occurred. Since that time, through the US EPA assessment program and mini.grants from the Northern West Virginia Brownfield Assistance Center, over 400 new or existing jobs have been saved while job generation numbers continue to grow. In addition, these two programs have leveraged \$20 in private investment for every \$1.

Dr. Brown also noted Dave Olson from CEC has continued his participation since September 2013.

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

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

#### Overview of submitted assessment grants to US EPA

Assessment grants from the BH Regional Council, the Business Development Corporation of the Northern Panhandle and the City of Wellsburg were submitted by the January 22<sup>nd</sup> deadline. 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. A variety of Task Force members noted the multiple purposes of assessment grants and their ability to fill a clearly defined void.

Restate the brownfield assessment backlog and project when the US EPA will announce the next round of national assessment grants

By location, contaminant, size, facilities impacted and health threat, nine priority brownfield sites were profiled as backlogged properties in need of assessment. While the US EPA has not announced the date for successful assessment grants, if their past review schedule is followed, a June 2014 announcement would be reasonable.

Introduce the importance of the ACRES data management system as required by the US EPA

Dave Olson introduced how and why the US EPA Requires updates to ACRES (Assessment, Cleanup and Redevelopment Exchange System). ACRES is an online database for Brownfields Grantees to electronically submit data directly to EPA. ACRES is comprised of over 1,500 Cooperative Agreement recipients, EPA Project Officers, and contractor users. ACRES, if properly maintained does show revenue-generating activity, leveraged funds and increased tax base. It can build a case for increasing public investment. Mr. Olson and Dr. Brown are the local personnel involved in the maintenance of the ACRES cooperative agreement data for the Brooke-Hancock Council.

Provide an update to the Hancock County HubCAP Team participating in this statewide community capacity building program

The ten members Hancock County Team is half-way through the state recognized program. With the mission to build local community capacity for project development, the Team will focus upon Weirton's decommissioned Jimmy Carrey Stadium, a seven acre site with brownfield implications. The next meeting of the Team is March 19<sup>th</sup>.

Other Programs

Project #1 was the Brooke Glass Project. With a December 2013 updated Phase I and a recently completed asbestos evaluation, discussions to evaluate site prep with the existing property owner have been enhanced.

Project #2 was the BDC targeted brownfield grant for the Beech Bottom site. Approve in the amount of \$250,000, this site already has five businesses in operation. The assessment will open new redevelopment options and provide confidence for future investors.

Project #3 was the Wellsburg Comprehensive Plan. With a West Virginia mandate for cities with existing comp plans to provide an update by July 2014, Wellsburg through a recent brownfield site visit in Morgantown met staff from the WVU Land Use Law Sustainability Clinic and cooperative agreed to the preparation of a comp plan update.

Project #4 was the West Virginia Brownfield Assistance Center and its current activities. The Center is seeking funding to expand its two-year BUZZ grantee program to financial project advising. 16 statewide projects would be eligible under this proposal. Brooke Glass is one of the eligible projects.

With no further items to consider, the meeting adjourned at 1:10.