

YEAR IN REVIEW—2015

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2015 BEGAN WITH THE ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING, NEW OFFICERS & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The January 2015 Technical Advisory Committee meeting began with the election of officers. Robert Laukert was re-elected chairman and Mike Dolak, City of Steubenville engineer was elected vice chairman.



2015 Technical Advisory Officers
Robert Laukert and Mike Dolak (l-r)

At their organizational meeting, the Full Commission elected Mark Henne, then city manager of Wellsburg, as chairman. Tom Graham, Jefferson County commissioner was elected vice chairman. Marvin Six from the BDC of the Northern Panhandle and Hancock County Commission representative and Tom Timmons, representing the City of Steubenville, were elected secretary and treasurer, respectively.

Mark Henne
2015 Chairman



The year also began with new leadership for the agency. Mr. Henne announced that Michael J. Paprocki, a 23 year employee of the agency and transportation study director had been chosen as the new executive director effective February 1. Mr. Paprocki had been serving as the interim director since November when former Executive Director John Brown retired.



Michael J. Paprocki
Executive Director

BHJ METROPOLITAN
PLANNING COMMISSION
OFFICERS—2016

Tom Timmons, Chairman
Linda McNeil, Vice-Chairman
Sue Simonetti, Secretary
Jim Andreozzi, Treasurer

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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DI-

In 2015, BHJ continued to expand its role as a leader and administrator of West Virginia's Region 11 Planning and Development Council and the Weirton-Steubenville, WV-OH Metropolitan Planning Organization. Region 11, in partnership with the Business Development Corporation of the Northern Panhandle, produced revenue generating sites and employment opportunities through the redevelopment of commercial-industrial brownfield locations.

Starting in 2003, the Brooke-Hancock Brownfield's Task Force has matured through community buy-in, support, and vision. The US EPA featured these brownfield cleanup efforts at the National Brownfields 2015 Conference held in Chicago, IL in September through a training video produced earlier in the year.



Region 11's Community Development staff was also instrumental in administering and acquiring funds for several major water and wastewater projects as well as public transit projects in Brooke and Hancock counties.

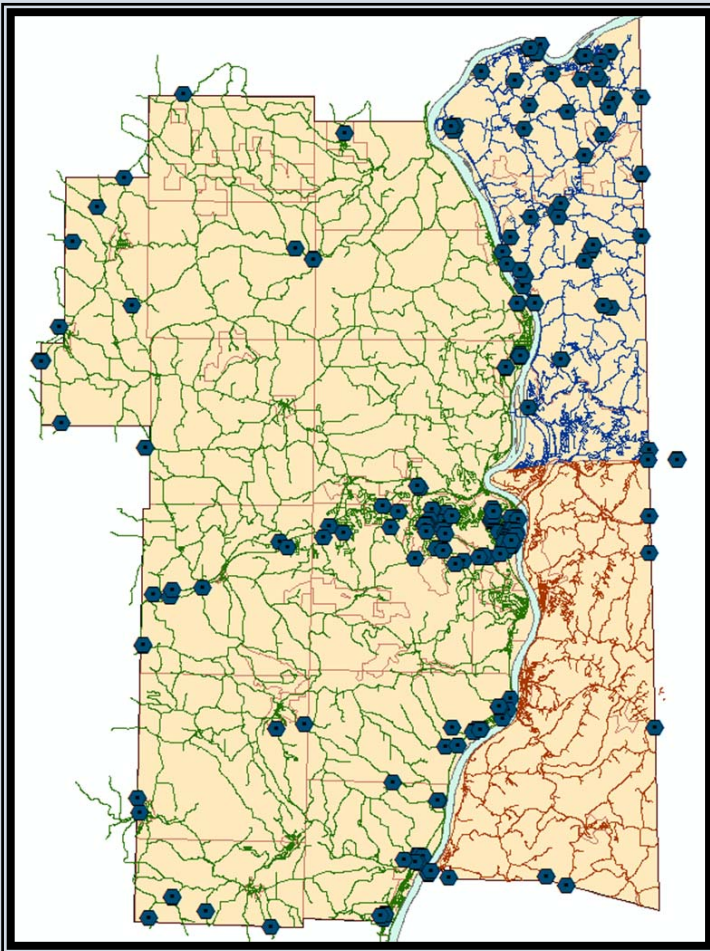
In 2015, the Metropolitan Planning Organization (*MPO*) moved forward with plans for a new Ohio River Bridge between Brooke County, WV and Jefferson County, OH and access improvements from Ohio State Route 7 to the Veterans Memorial Bridge. The MPO also recognized intersection deficiencies on West Virginia State Route 2 at Chester Street in New Cumberland and Washington Pike in Wellsburg.

As noted, BHJ was also busy in 2015 collecting traffic count data on local, county, and state highways throughout the three-county area.

Looking ahead to a productive year in 2016, your faithful and humble servant,

Michael J. Paprocki

A BUSY YEAR FOR TRAFFIC COUNTING



BHJ staff, Dave Snelting, Nick Orsay and our interns from the University of Cincinnati completed the 2015 traffic count season. From March 28th to November 24th, volume and classification traffic count studies were conducted throughout the tri-county area.

The map on the left shows the various locations completed for the 2015 scheduled cycle year. The total counts attempted numbered 417, with 404 successful.

The 2015 traffic count season was the fourth in a 3-year cycle which means this year began the second cycle. The focus was in Hancock County, West Virginia and in Ohio Steubenville, Wintersville, Brilliant, Yorkville and roads going in and out of the region.

The photo to the right shows one of our hose counts installed on the Ohio side of the Market Street Bridge in Steubenville.



TRANSPORTATION

Plans for a new **Ohio River Bridge** south of Wellsburg to Brilliant Wells Twp. continued to move forward. In May, Kevin Sullivan of the West Virginia Division of Highways program planning and administrative division announced the state awarded a contract to do the core borings along the river bank and in the Ohio River.

BHJ Executive Director Mike Paprocki along with Transportation Engineer Dave Snelting and Senior Transportation Planner Nick Orsay made a presentation to the Ohio Transportation Review Advisory Council Oct. 13. In November, Mr. Paprocki received a call from Waseem Khalifa (ODOT District 11) who confirmed the project was given a Tier One which meant funding would be awarded. The bridge project is one of just three projects across the state that will be funded.

ODOT and WVDOT came to an agreement over the sharing of costs for the preliminary design and other pre-construction costs. West Virginia will pay 53.3 percent, or \$1,549,240, of the estimated \$2.8 million cost and Ohio will pay 44.6 percent, or \$1,250,760.

Hancock County's number one project addressed was the **relocation of State Route 2 through New Cumberland**. There is a section of road through New Cumberland that has a 90-degree turn which causes problems with truck transportation. BHJ endorsed a plan to create a bypass from Chester Street, the south corporation line, with the proposed road running along the river. The 6,000 feet of new road is estimated to cost about \$6.4 million.

Brooke County's priority project is focused on the intersection of state Route 27 (Washington Pike) and Route 2. The intersection needs to be widened to accommodate turns for large trucks and expected increased traffic when the bridge is built.

The **Veterans Bridge Access Project**, which is a partnership among BHJ, the cities of Steubenville and Weirton and ODOT, was funded. A construction bid of \$9.9 million was awarded to Shelly & Sands. Crews from Columbia Gas began relocating a gas line in the area of Garfield school, resulting in a lane restriction on state Route 7 southbound. The project includes construction of a new access road, new intersections with signals along University Boulevard and on state Route 7 near Garfield School, a new marina road access and realignment of the bridge ramps. The work is scheduled for completion in a year.



Site of Veterans Bridge
Access Project.

Other projects ongoing or started up during the year included:

- ◆ The FY 2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program was adopted in May.
- ◆ Work continued on the Landslide repair projects on state Route 7 South and North of Brilliant.
- ◆ A resurfacing project of about 2 miles of Harmon Creek Road at a cost of \$700,000 was started.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Barb Zimnox, BHJ's senior community development specialist, was kept busy with numerous water & sewer projects in Brooke and Hancock counties as well as doing grant writing to obtain funding for various projects.

Phase 2A of the Brooke County PSD's Mahan Lane project began in July 2015. Funded by a federal Small Cities Block Grant and a 30-year state loan, the \$1.7 million project is a continuation of an earlier \$9.8 million project that provided sewer lines to about 550 homes and businesses in the areas of Mahan Lane and Eldersville and Cross Creek roads.

The project was originally prompted by the failure of septic systems in the Eldersville Road area. The Brooke County Public Service District has made plans to extend sewer lines to about 86 homes in the Eldersville Road and Cross Creek areas. It covers the communities of Louise, Dennis Lane, Peacock Lane, Latimer Road and brings a main trunk line up Blacks Hollow.

Mahan Lane



Groundbreaking for the Mahan Lane Project in April 2010

The project is expected to be finished sometime during spring 2016

Wellsburg Sewer Project

Construction began in October 2015 on Phase 2 of the \$4 million Wellsburg Sewer project. Lines are being replaced on 6th, 7th & 8th streets and will be completed in conjunction with a sidewalk project in same area.

Funded by a Clean Water State Revolving Fund loan for 30 years, it is anticipated the project will be completed in the summer of 2016.

At a cost of approximately \$180,000, a three-way water tie-in project between Hammond PSD, the Village of Beech Bottom and the City of Wellsburg began in mid-July. The project will interconnect the three water systems to enable water from one system to be safely transferred to another system in times of emergency such as flooding or line breaks. Over the past few years, the need for the transfer has become apparent due to either drought conditions affecting the water source or mechanical breakdowns.

Officials have estimated more than 13,000 residents could benefit from the links.

Three Way Water Tie-In

B-H REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL/BROWNFIELDS TASK

While the B-H Regional Council's purpose is to cover all issues in Brooke and Hancock counties (ie transportation, water and sewer and brownfields), the Brownfield Task Force was formed a few years ago with the goal to specifically address the issue of turning seemingly unusable and blighted properties into something useful once again.

There have been many success stories made possible through the obtainment of grant monies such as the sites of the TS&T Pottery, Cove School and Brooke Glass.

On the Ohio side, Jefferson County has tackled the brownfield situation as well. More than two dozen properties were assessed for future cleanup through a \$1 million grant obtained by the Jefferson County Regional Planning Commission in 2009. This led to the conversion of a former car dealership in Toronto to be the home of an active oilfields services company.



Site of the former TS&T Pottery

However, the tri-county area was dealt a blow this past year when the Federal government denied the area's Ohio and West Virginia applications for \$800,000 in 2015. Out of that disappointment and believing the region is actually one economic area separated only by the Ohio River, the Coalition Task Force, comprised of BHJ, the Business Development Corporation of the Northern Panhandle, Jefferson County Regional Planning and the Jefferson County Port Authority, was born.

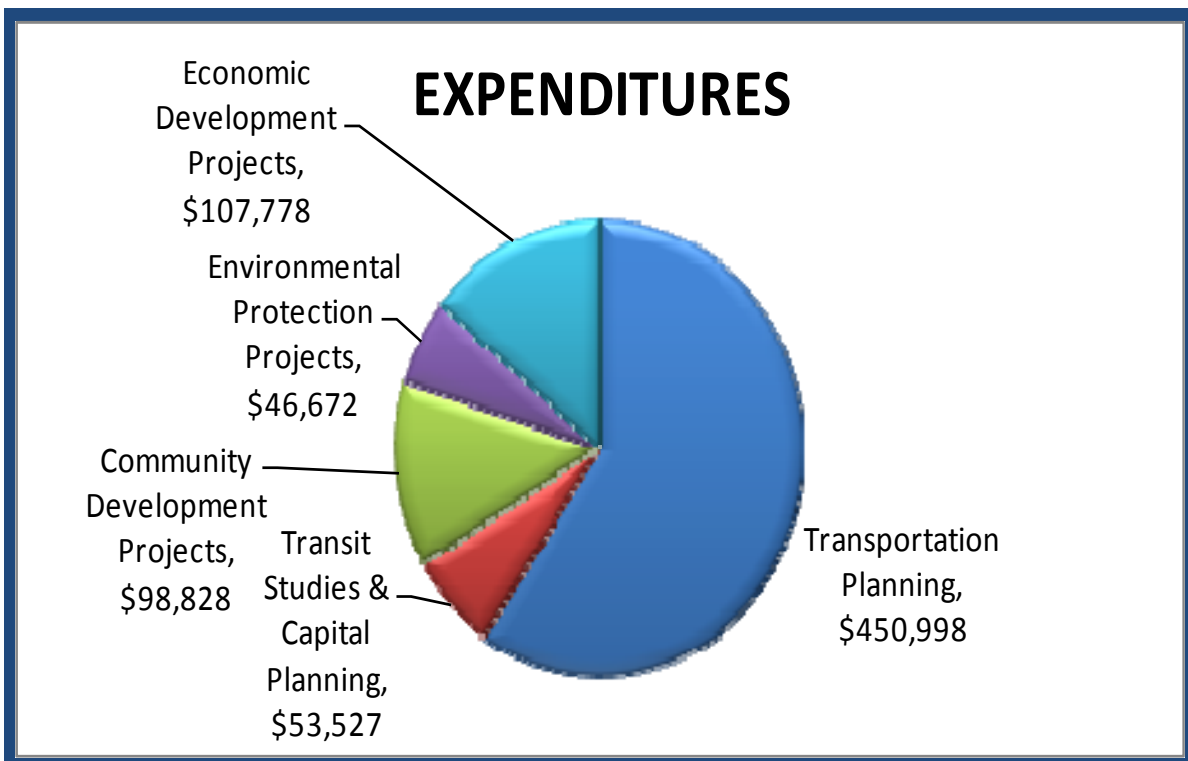
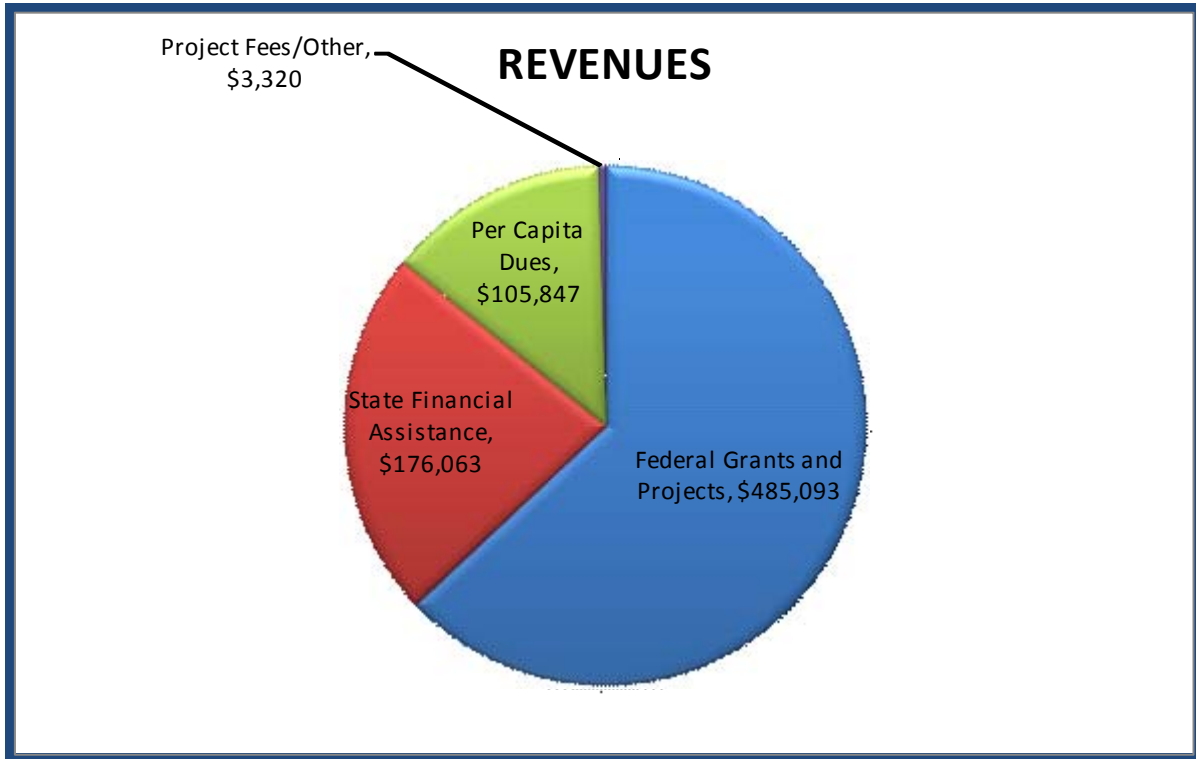
This is the first time the U.S. EPA is permitting coalition applications that cross over regional boundaries as stated by Mike Paprocki, BHJ executive director. In this case, he explained, Jefferson County resides in U.S. EPA Region 5, Chicago, while Brooke and Hancock counties are within Region 3, Philadelphia. Mr. Paprocki also said the coalition application defines the true economic value in our metropolitan area known as the Weirton-Steubenville, WV-OH Metropolitan Statistical Area.

The Task Force submitted an application in late December for a \$600,000 coalition grant that will be used for cleanup of the following projects:

- ◆ Newell, WV: Newell Porcelain Co., Inc. (1955-2005)
- ◆ Toronto, OH: Remnants of four to six gas stations with suspect Underground Storage Tanks along old Route 7.
- ◆ New Cumberland, WV: Site of the AIR Facility which once housed a recycling and incineration operation for disposal of contaminated soils.
- ◆ Steubenville, OH: Site of a Terminal/Warehouse on the Ohio River shore once used as a metal fabricating business and bulk chemical storage operation.
- ◆ Mingo Junction, OH: Site of a 32-acre former Railroad Roundhouse razed in the 1980's where the Pennsylvania Railroad did locomotive maintenance.
- ◆ Wellsburg, WV: Site of Gen-Pak which produced molded plastic products.

FISCAL YEAR 2015

With a total budget of \$754,203, BHI ended Fiscal Year 2015 (July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015) in a financially sound and responsible position. 81% of BHI's funds are provided through federal or state grants/assistance. 65% of BHI's funds are targeted toward transportation.



2016 MEETING SCHEDULE

Executive Committee

January 4 July 11
February 8 August 1
March 7 September 6
April 4 October 3
May 2 November 7
June 6 December 5

TAC/Full Commission

January 27 June 15
March 23 September 28
May 25 November 16

Brownfield Task Force

March 9
June 8
September 14
December 14

B-H Regional Council

February 10
May 11
August 10
November 9

Appalachian Regional Commission
www.arc.gov

Brooke County Economic Development Authority
www.brookewv.org

Brooke Pioneer Trail Assoc. Inc
www.brookepioneertrail.org

Business Development Corporation
of the Northern Panhandle
www.bhbdc.org

CHANGE, Inc.
www.changeinc.org

City of Steubenville
www.cityofsteubenville.us

CommuterInfo
www.commuterinfo.org

Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce
www.jeffersoncountychamber.com

Ohio Department of Transportation
www.dot.state.oh.us

State of Ohio Government Information
www.ohio.gov

State of West Virginia Government Info.
www.wv.gov

Top of WV Convention and Visitors Bureau
www.topofwv.com

U.S. Census Bureau
www.census.gov

U.S. Department of Transportation
www.dot.gov

U.S. Economic Development Administration
www.commerce.gov

Village of Wintersville
www.wintersville.net

Weirton Chamber of Commerce
www.weirtonchamber.com

West Virginia Department of Transportation
www.transportation.wv.gov

West Virginia Development Office
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