



Governor's Office of Appalachia Newsletter

January 2013

Issue 1

A Message from Director Wilson

Happy New Year!

It is hard to believe another year has passed. As the year came to an end, and I reflected on our work in the Governor's Office of Appalachia, I realized that we are making a difference. Our success is a result of our partnerships and that happens when we work together toward a common goal, increasing opportunities for Ohio's Appalachian region.

Last year, working with local governments, nonprofits and the four Local Development Districts, we upgraded medical equipment at Barnesville Hospital in Belmont County; worked with Carroll County to improve access to broadband service; and supported the Second Harvest Food Bank of the Mahoning Valley, as it launched a Mobile Pantry Program in Hanover and Franklin townships. We also worked together to improve the infrastructure of our communities. We worked with the Tri-County Rural Water and Sewer District in Washington County to install approximately 113,000 linear feet of waterline in Palmer Township; are working to replace the main water line at the Youngstown-Warren Regional Airport Western Reserve Port Authority in Trumbull County; and supported the Muskingum County Port Authority as it adds a third rail spur at the EastPointe Business Park Rail Transfer Station.

These are just a few examples of the types of the projects we supported in 2012. It is through our partnerships with the Appalachian Regional Commission, the four Local Development Districts and our local communities that we have been successful. Thank you to each of you for your hard work and service to the people of Ohio's Appalachian region.

As we start this new year, I hope to reinvigorate the Appalachian Delegation at the Statehouse, continue fighting prescription drug addiction and increase economic development in the region. I am confident that if we reinvigorate the Appalachian Delegation, we will give the region a stronger, more united voice at the Statehouse. I also plan to work closely with the Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services to educate our residents on the resources available to prevent and treat drug addiction. Strengthening our communities is essential to our economic development activities. I am

confident that by working together on these initiatives we will see more growth in 2013.

Remember, if you have any questions for me or would like more information on the Governor's Office of Appalachia, you can email me at Jason.Wilson@development.ohio.gov.

A very Happy New Year to you and your family! May your 2013 be filled with prosperity and good health!



Jason

GOA Partners: Local Development Districts

A Spotlight on Buckeye Hills-Hocking Valley Regional Development District



Founded in 1968, Buckeye Hills-Hocking Valley Regional Development District is one of four Local Development Districts in Ohio's Appalachian region. A partner of the Governor's Office of Appalachia, it works with local communities and nonprofits to improve the lives of residents living in its eight-county region. Led by Executive Director Misty Casto, the Buckeye Hills Development team focuses on creating and retaining jobs, enhancing regional infrastructure, providing quality health care and senior services and providing access to job training.

Over the past 44 years, Buckeye Hills has secured more than \$500 million of federal, state or private funds for education, health care, infrastructure improvements, training, economic and community development and social service projects. In 2012, working with the Governor's Office of Appalachia and the Appalachian Regional Commission, it secured federal funding for 14 projects that created 125 jobs and retained 942. Each project fulfilled one of the four ARC goals: increase job opportunities and per capita income in Appalachia to reach parity with the nation; strengthen the capacity of the people of Appalachia to compete in the global economy; develop and improve Appalachia's infrastructure to make the region economically competitive; and build the Appalachian Development Highway System to reduce Appalachia's isolation.

Last year, Buckeye Hills also helped form the Appalachian Ohio Geospatial Data Partnership (AOGDP), a nonprofit organization working to standardize Geographic Information Systems (GIS) data across county and municipal boundaries. The online service provided by AOGDP provides in-depth data and mapping services to support regional and local planning for organizations working to develop resources in the Utica and Marcellus shale formations.

In 2012, the Buckeye Hills Area Agency on Aging launched the Regional Care Transitions Program. A collaboration among multi-counties, multi-hospitals and three Area Agencies on Aging, the new program designed to make patient transition from a hospital to a care facility or home as seamless as possible and reduce the amount of readmissions and Medicare costs.

Counties served:

Athens, Hocking, Meigs, Monroe, Morgan, Noble, Perry and Washington

Local governments or nonprofits with a project that should be considered for funding should contact:

Misty Casto – Executive Director
mcasto@buckeyehills.org or
(740) 376-1034

Rick Hindman – Asst. Executive Director & AAA8 Director
rhindman@buckeyehills.org or
(740) 376-1029

Bret Allphin – Development Director
ballphin@buckeyehills.org or
(740) 376-1028

“We are committed to helping our communities identify problems, create solutions and when necessary, secure financial resources,” said Misty Casto, executive director of Buckeye Hills. “Our staff is a resource to local leaders when they need technical assistance, guidance with grant projects and general project administration.”

As Buckeye Hills begins 2013, it will continue to support business expansion and retention efforts, provide local members with resources related to shale gas development, promote the revitalization and redevelopment of downtowns and local tourism, and provide quality senior services through the Area Agency on Aging 8. Communities interested in working with Buckeye Hills to secure project funding in the next award cycle should review the 2014 Project Profile, which provides details on the pertinent information needed for consideration. The information can be found on the Buckeye Hills website (www.buckeyehills.org) or by contacting Melissa Zoller at (740) 376-1027.

For more information on Buckeye Hills-Hocking Valley Regional Development District call (800) 331-2644 or visit www.buckeyehills.org



Tips on Planning Infrastructure Projects for Small Communities

The Governor’s Office of Appalachia continues its series of helpful tips for grantees in the preparation and submittal of proposals for funding consideration. As part of this ongoing series, this issue offers insight on assessing and planning water and wastewater infrastructure projects for small communities.

The following is an excerpt from “The Art of Appropriate Planning for Small Communities,” an article by Pejmaan Fallah and Steve Malone of the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance (attached). It is printed with the permission from the [Ohio Water Environment Association](#) *Buckeye Bulletin* – Issue 4/2012.

Facilities planning is an important tool in developing technically appropriate, economically affordable and environmentally sound solutions to meet communities’ municipal infrastructure needs, particularly in the realm of drinking water and wastewater treatment. While communities of all sizes can benefit from a good facilities plan, an adequate level of planning is essential for villages and other smaller entities, and can be the difference between a successful project and a costly failure.

A good facilities plan should highlight the primary steps involved in developing and

implementing a public water/wastewater infrastructure project from beginning to end. Taken together, these elements should provide the planning overview needed to develop a water/wastewater project that is appropriate for your community's needs.

All too often communities or their consultants gravitate immediately toward a "solution" to the problem, without really analyzing the extent of the community's needs or weighing the pros and cons or various feasible alternatives. Then, they look for sufficient funding, usually grants, to allow them to implement this pre-determined project.

Unfortunately, picking an off-the-shelf solution to address a community's unique circumstances can result in inadequate projects that don't solve long-term needs, or expensive projects that the community can't afford to properly operate and maintain.

In an age of tighter budgets and reduced grant funding, it is vital that you first identify your community's specific water/wastewater problems and the unique characteristics of your area. By evaluating alternatives that meet your particular needs, including reasonably anticipated long-term operation and maintenance responsibilities, you have the best chance of implementing an affordable, sustainable project.

Appropriate planning leads to informed decisions. As part of this process, good planning and effective public participation aligns local decision makers, area residents and any other project stakeholders (regional groups, state agencies, etc.).

Using this hands-on, community-specific approach, Ohio's small and economically hard-pressed towns and villages will reap the benefits. Communities will find affordable solutions that alleviate their water/wastewater problems, consultants will design implementable projects and Ohio will move closer to addressing its remaining water quality problems, one community at a time.

Partnership: The Cornerstone of the YMCA's Success



Over the past five years, St. John Arena in Steubenville has been transformed into a state-of-the-art YMCA and Wellness Center and the partnership between the YMCA and Trinity Health System made it possible. Built in 1960, the 60,000-square-foot St. John Arena was idle when Fred Brower, CEO of Trinity Hospital and Rob O'Hara YMCA CEO decided that the facility would make a great location for a new YMCA and Wellness Center.

Working together, the YMCA and Trinity Health System have invested more than \$2 million in building renovations and fitness equipment. The transformation began in the winter of 2009 with the construction of a new lobby and 6,000-square-foot Wellness Center. With a grant from the Appalachian Regional Commission, the YMCA purchased fitness equipment and opened its doors on August 9, 2010. The community took advantage of the new facility and its programming. Membership grew quickly from 900 members in the first six months to more than 2,500 members at the end of 18 months.

Since opening, the YMCA continues to improve its facility. It has added a free-weight room, new lockers, purchased new equipment and expanded the size of the Wellness Center. In May of 2012, with a grant from the Governor's Office of Appalachia, the arena's Astroturf was replaced with a new multi-functional sports court, allowing the YMCA to provide additional programming for its members.



The partnerships and community support for the facility continue to grow as a local foundation stepped forward in September 2012, to replace the large poly carb windows with glass windows, increasing the amount of natural light in the arena.



Before and after photos of St. John Arena YMCA. The new multi-functional sports court was funded in part by a grant from the State Appalachian Development Program.

The YMCA's success is an example of the power of partnerships and community support. The residents of Steubenville and the more than 4,000 members of the YMCA now have access to youth sports, diabetes prevention programs, Silver Sneakers programs, cardiac rehabilitation services and physical therapy services. For more information about the YMCA at St. John Arena call (740) 264-7183 or visit http://www.ymcanet.org/Steubenville/?page_id=38.

Broadband Initiative Continues to Grow

Completed Expansion Project will Give Broadband Access to Thousands of Unserved and Underserved Ohioans

Representatives from Smart Networks, along with Washington County Commissioners, representatives from Connect Ohio, and members of the Connect Appalachia Broadband Task Force, held a ceremonious ribbon-cutting event November 29, 2012, in Marietta. The event celebrated the initial deployment of countywide broadband access to the many unserved and underserved homes and businesses throughout Washington County.

Smart Networks has already deployed wireless Internet equipment to two towers located in Marietta, which has the potential to service up to 4,000 addresses. The next tower sites to receive wireless Internet equipment are in Beverly, Macksburg and Quincy Hill. These deployments will give service to thousands of additional county residents.

"We have many customers in the queue that are being installed every day, both residential and business," said Chad Henson, COO of Smart Networks. "We are pushing to install as many each week as possible, which is currently about 30 new customers each week."

Smart Networks' broadband service deployment is helping to bridge an existing digital divide for Washington County residents. Currently, 6,000 homes and businesses in the area do not have access to high-speed Internet and this existing digital divide has an effect on education, economic development and public safety.

"It is great to see the work of the Connect Appalachia Broadband Task Force come to pass, getting more Appalachian Ohioans broadband access," said Jason Wilson, director

of the Governor's Office of Appalachia. "Today is proof that working together and working smart can change lives and improve opportunities for residents. This announcement also makes the county more competitive for economic development and in a position for job creation."

Earlier in the month, Director Wilson and Stu Johnson, executive director of Connect Ohio presented at the 2012 Community Development Conference at Salt Fork State Park Lodge and Conference Center in Cambridge. They provided attendees with an update on the Connect Appalachia Broadband Task Force, which continues making great strides in helping Appalachian Ohio get connected. Mr. Johnson and Director Wilson also made an exciting announcement regarding the upcoming formation of the Task Force's fund, which will immediately begin spurring broadband access, adoption and use throughout the Appalachian region. Look for more information on the fund in the coming months.

If you would like more information about the Connect Appalachia Broadband Initiative, contact Connect Ohio at (614) 220-0190.

Items of Note

2012 Community Development Conference

On November 7, 2012, Director Jason Wilson and representatives of the Local Development Districts participated in the *2012 Community Development Conference* at the Salt Fork Lodge and Conference Center in Cambridge, Ohio. *The State and Federal Resources for Appalachian Ohio* session featured presentations about the four Local Development Districts, information on federal and state grant programs, as well as an update on the broadband initiative by Connect Ohio. On November 9, the final day of the conference, a session on *Community Impacts of the Shale Movement in Ohio* provided an opportunity for community leaders and residents to discuss firsthand experiences of the oil and gas industry development in their communities. PowerPoint presentations and a list of speakers are available on the Ohio Development Services Agency's website at http://development.ohio.gov/cs/cs_events_cdc2012.htm.

Applications for the 2013 Summer Math-Science-Technology Institute Available

Applications for the 2103 Appalachian Regional Commission/Oak Ridge National Laboratory High School and Middle School Summer Math-Science-Technology Institute are available on the GOA website!

The institute is a two-week hands-on learning experience for middle school and high school students and teachers, focusing on math, science and technology. Students will work in real world scenarios at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Tennessee. The institute runs from July 6 through 19 for high school students and teachers and from July 14 through 19 for middle school students.

For more information on the program, eligibility requirements and a copy of the application, please visit http://development.ohio.gov/cs/cs_goa.htm. Applications are due to the Governor's Office of Appalachia by February 27, 2013.

If you have questions regarding the program or the application process, please contact

Christa Callihan at (614) 466-0060 or Christa.Callihan@development.ohio.gov.

Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission Breaks Ground on New Office!

On Thursday, November 15, 2012, the Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission (OVRDC) broke ground for what will be its new office. Located just off of State Route 220 near Waverly (73 Progress Drive in the Zahns Corner Industrial Park), the new 5,160-square-foot office will be built on 2.5 acres of land donated by SODI. The project has come to fruition as a result of a grant and OVRDC's fiscal responsibility. Construction is scheduled to be complete in the spring of 2013.



Left to Right: Doug Corcoran, OVRDC Treasurer; Bob Proud, OVRDC Chairman; Roger Rhonemus, OVRDC Vice-Chairman; Steve Shepherd, SODI Executive Director; John Hemmings, OVRDC Executive Director; John Mullins, Mullins Construction; Randy Mullins, Architect; Ted Wheeler, Pike County Auditor; Harry Rider, Pike County Commissioner; Teddy West, Pike County Commissioner; and Greg Simonton, DOE Federal Coordinator.

Projects receiving State Appalachian Development Program Grants:

ACenet Ventures (Washington County) received a \$50,000 grant that will be leveraged with funding from Ohio University and in-kind funds to prepare a business model for the new Community Development Loan Fund. The model will include identifying sources of funding, legal structure, investment strategy and an operations plan.

Betsey Mills Corporation (Washington County) received a \$100,000 grant to install energy efficiency measures in its building. The upgrades include a new hot water boiler and high efficiency heating equipment. Betsey Mills provides children's programs, recreational activities and affordable housing for women in transition in the region.

Harrison County Commissioners (Harrison County) received a \$107,000 grant to upgrade County Road 10 that provides access to the new Vail Mine. The road upgrades will allow the coal to be hauled to a nearby preparation plant. The new mine is expected to create 45 full-time positions.

Ohio Housing Finance Agency (OHFA) received a \$40,000 grant to conduct a research study on affordable housing and shale drilling in seven Appalachian counties. Working with The Ohio State University Department of Agricultural, Environment, and Development Economics as well as the Ohio University Voinovich School of Leadership

and Public Affairs, OHFA will study how the shale industry is impacting the availability and cost of housing in Carroll, Columbiana, Guernsey, Harrison, Jefferson, Monroe and Noble counties.

WSOS Community Action (Sandusky County) received a \$50,000 to provide technical business assistance to 12 second-stage companies in Ashtabula, Brown, Highland, Jackson, Jefferson, Morgan, Meigs, Pike and Scioto counties. WSOS Community Action with the assistance of local, county and regional economic development practitioners will identify and enroll 12 second-stage businesses into the economic gardening program. The designated businesses will receive individual consultation and tailored services designed to promote their growth. Participants will have access to certified specialists, sophisticated market research, search engine optimization (SEO) and Geographic Information System (GIS).

Events in the Appalachian Region*

Friday, February 8, 2013

Joint Meeting of the Eastern Ohio Development Alliance (EODA) Executive Board and the Regional Appalachian Legislative Caucus

Meeting begins at 10:00 a.m.

Salt Fork Resort and Conference Center – Cambridge, Ohio

For more information on the meeting and to RSVP, contact Dale Hileman at (740) 432-7902.

Wednesday, February 20, 2013

Ohio Mid-Eastern Governments Association (OMEGA) Executive Board Meeting

Meeting begins at 12:00 p.m.

Chef Ernie's – Uhrichsville, Ohio

For more information on the meeting and to RSVP, contact Cindi Kerschbaumer at (740) 439-4471, ext. 206.

Wednesday, March 20, 2013

Ohio Mid-Eastern Governments Association (OMEGA) Annual Membership Meeting

Meeting begins at 12:00 p.m.

Raven's Glenn Winery and Italian Restaurant – West Lafayette, Ohio

For more information on the meeting and to RSVP, contact Cindi Kerschbaumer at (740) 439-4471, ext. 206.

If you have an event for the calendar listing please contact Ele Garcia in the Office of Community Development at Ele.Garcia@development.ohio.gov

**To attend a meeting listed, please contact the sponsoring organization. Meeting dates and times may be subject to change.*

Ohio

John R. Kasich
Governor

Development
Services Agency

Christiane Schmenk
Director

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