

Minutes

Wyoming County Planning Commission

April Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, April 24, 2013

12:00pm, Southern WV Community & Technical College, Room 126

Call to Order: 12:30pm, no quorum.

Roll Call: Christy Laxton, Mike Cook, Dale Stewart, Sue Cline.

Introduction of Guests: Morgan Findley/AmeriCorps VISTA for the EDA, Christy Bailey/Coal Heritage Highway Authority, Richard Browning/Coalfields Expressway Authority.

Approval of Minutes – From April 25, 2012:

Approval of Minutes – From July 24, 2012:

Approval of Minutes – From October 24, 2012:

Approval of Minutes – From January 23, 2013:

Christy Bailey presented the group with maps of the Coal Heritage Trail and a copy of the driving tour guide to be distributed in Visitor Centers by June 1st.

Richard Browning discussed the Coalfields Expressway and discussed maps with the group. He also provided the group with a detailed design progress report. He discussed that Funding needed is around \$20 million per mile. The Funding is 80% Federal and 20% State. It has survived through earmarks from the Late Senator Robert C. Byrd. The only state money put into it has been a \$10 million bond. Federal taxes on gas have never been used for the Coalfields Expressway. Coalfields did not get stimulus funding, but did receive a \$5 million TIGER grant. The state needs \$400 million extra to maintain existing roads and it would take an extra \$500 million to build what is planned. Highways did put the Coalfields Expressway in the 6 year plan. West of Helen to Mullens still needs to be built and they estimate around \$100 million to design and build the remainder. Coalfields has \$35 million earmarked. The best route to take is to try to use the natural resources in the ground like they did at the location of the new Prison in McDowell County. West of Helen is the next contract. Coal is our gold mine for road building. Public Private Partnerships have been successful in McDowell County, but take a long time. The current one in McDowell County has taken over 3 years for a 2 mile section. A lot of obstacles to overcome, with the biggest being EPA. \$168 million has currently been spent on the Coalfields Expressway.

New Business:

With no quorum present, new officers were not elected.

The Community Fund Scholarship received three applications this year. The group present reviewed all three applications and submitted a vote. Application #2 was the award recipient. All applications remained anonymous. Once approved, application #2 was announced as

belonging to Nathan Daniels from Westside High School. He will attend Southern in the fall. David Lord will present his award at the Awards Ceremony at the High School in May.

Old Business:

1. GET Trail Update: no updates.
2. Wyoming County Land Use Plan: no updates.
3. Wyoming County Community Fund: Fundraiser needs to be planned for the fall.
4. Update on Industrial Access Road Project: This project has received final approval and is complete.
5. Update on Boy Scout Community Service Projects: Wyoming County has 25 named projects with several of those being numerous projects within one named project. Fundraising is underway and project managers are working on securing volunteers, materials, tools, etc. This should be an excellent project for Wyoming County.
6. Update on the Strategic Plan: Morgan has finalized some changes to the Plan, would like for the Planning Commission to review before finalized.
7. Update on Scenic Byway Application: A meeting will be held next week.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, August 28, 2013, 12:00pm.
Wednesday, October 23, 2013, 12:00pm.

Adjournment: 1:30pm.