

**Wyoming County Planning Commission**  
**April 27, 2011 Meeting Minutes**  
**Wyoming County Campus of Southern WV Community & Technical College**

**Present:** Mike McGraw, Jody Cook, Michael E. Cook, Larry Mathis, Sue Cline, Christy Laxton, Dannette Parker and Dvon Duncan. Guests included James Bush – WVDO Flex-E-Grant Program, Robin Morgan – Region 1 WIB, Senator Richard Browning – Coalfields Expressway Authority, and Megan Smith – Groundwork Wyoming County.

Ms. Laxton, President, called the meeting to order at 12:00pm. Ms. Laxton stated that a quorum was present.

Ms. Laxton asks for any changes to the February 9, 2011 meeting minutes. No changes were voiced, so Ms. Laxton asked for a motion to approve the meeting minutes as presented. Motion was made by Jody Cook and seconded by Sue Cline. Motion carried.

Under new business Ms. Laxton discussed the Wyoming County Community Fund Scholarship applications. All applications were received on time. There were five (5) sent via email and regular mail to board members. Names were blacked out to remove any potential prejudices. Scholarship is for \$250 paid to the institution of the recipient's choice. We made the time to look over the applications and voted by anonymous ballot with #2 receiving 5 votes, #1 received 2 votes, and #3 receiving 1 vote. #2 will be offered the scholarship.

Under old business, Ms. Laxton provided an update on the Brownfields Grant for the County. EPA is currently holding off announcements. The Wyoming County EDA is moving forward with the lumber site - waiting on WVDEP to coordinate with EPA to get a contractor hired. This site could be the EDA's second industrial park site. Sue Cline advised that there was a lot of vandalism going on at the lumber site. Ms. Laxton attended a meeting with Greg Biffle, Mike Goode and Senator Browning in Governor's office to work on getting permits to build the site that Mr. Biffle purchases in Alpoca – the site is expected to be community oriented around Hatfield-McCoy trails. The Bruce Williams property is still available; with a death in the family, that is on hold.

An update on the GET trail was provided. There are 3 grant applications: American Hiking Society, DOH Recreational Trails, and MorningStar. The next VISTA will have 2 years to complete the project. A match of \$2500 will be required to recruit a VISTA.

Ms. Laxton announced that Jeff Wood has resigned his position with the Office of Coalfield and Community Development. Rachel Lester has taken his place. EPA is slowing the process with mine permitting on surface mines.

Ms. Laxton provided an update on the Wyoming County Community Fund - we have about \$20,000 in that fund that allows us to pay out a little interest. The first award out of the Fund is the scholarship.

Ms. Laxton gave an update on the Strategic Plan. Monty left in February and the EDA is expecting to be getting a new VISTA member this summer and will begin that process again. Active management of implementation will begin this summer with the VISTA member. Some items in the strategic plan are currently being worked on by the organizations represented through the Wyoming County Planning Commission.

Ms. Laxton gave an update on the Certified Development Community. The Wyoming County EDA is responsible for this program. We get a sign coming into the county that says we are a Certified Business Community. It is a requirement to get the EDA's money from the state. The County has been re-certified through March 2014.

Ms. Laxton gave an update on the Market Feasibility Study. The EDA was approved for a Flex-E-Grant to

do the market feasibility study for county. The Wyoming County EDA sent out electronic RFPs. Five proposals were submitted. Five members of the EDA board are meeting to review these proposals - see if we can talk with them about price - insure we have community involvement requirement by flex-e-grant. This study will include all of Wyoming County, and will also determine needs (hotels, restaurants, best place for these facilities). Everyone is available to start right away - as soon as EDA can decide on a consultant. Planning to have everything done by end August so that EDA can close out the grant in October. Businesses have been calling about facilities for many months now. The study will show need and financing options.

Senator Browning advised that both cell tower contracts have been signed. The Saulsville tower is ready to go. Contractors will be starting to build soon. There is a cell tower approved for Iaeger, but they need to find a location. Working with AEP to get cell permits at Panther State forest.

Ms. Laxton gave an update on new businesses coming to Pineville. Tudors is going to be opening soon. The building will not have a Gino's, but it could be possible at a later date. Little General has been delayed on a project out of state. Will probably be the end of summer before work starts at the Exxon site. Burger King not yet confirmed. Pineville is growing. Economy is looking better. Mexican Restaurant stays busy/good service.

Ms. Robin Morgan talked about the "work now" program - program has been extended for another year.

Mr. James Bush advised that Wyoming County is no longer on the ARC distressed county list. This means it will be harder to get grant monies. They will now be considered at-risk.

Senator Browning attended a press event for Rocket Boys the Musical - a Broadway musical coming to town. They chose WV to start. They will then go to San Francisco. This is the only one that has a theater home - WV. Starts on August 26<sup>th</sup> and runs for 2 weeks.

Next meeting is July 27, 2011 at 12:00pm at SWVCTC.

Motion to adjourn at 1:10pm made by Dannette Parker and seconded by Sue Cline.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dvon Duncan and Christy Laxton