

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

Call to Order: 12:30pm by President Christy Laxton.

Roll Call: Christy Laxton, Dvon Duncan, Sue Cline, Mike McGraw, Mike Cook, Larry Mathis, David Lord, Susan England-Lord, and Dannette Parker. Quorum present.

Introduction of Guests: Megan Smith, GWWC.

Approval of Minutes – April 27, 2011: Motion to approve made by Mike McGraw; seconded by Larry Mathis; motion carried.

New Business

- ✦ Scholarship Applications for Community Fund – Signatures from voting members: Scholarship Recommendation Form needs signature of all members who voted at last meeting.
- ✦ Industrial Access Road Application for Route 97 in Marianna: This project is sponsored by Alpha Natural Resources. Alpha asked the EDA to become applicant for the Industrial Access Road (\$400,000 non-match and \$150,000 match). Approved by County Commission on July 1st. An investment of \$150 million is expected. Part of the curve at Marianna will be removed. Expected cost estimated at \$1.9 million. Alpha has committed to the \$150,000 match. A good project for the entire county. Maximum amount of \$550,000 per year allowed. Commitment letters received from David Cramer/DOT. Construction expected before winter.

Old Business

- ✦ Brownfields Grant – Groundwork Wyoming County: The \$1 million coalition grant was not approved. Recommendation is that we decrease the amount that we apply for as a coalition or have separate applications for each municipality. Debriefs will be provided when EPA has time. EDA finished the previous brownfield grant. This is the 2nd year we applied for the coalition grant. Commissioner Mathis agreed that we should submit separate applications. Mullens was part of the original EDA grant. The County probably needs to be done more than the other 3, with a focus on the west side of the county. The Lusk Lumber cleanup grant process is moving forward. There was one spot with petroleum issues. Phase III done about 3 weeks ago. This is a potential site for the county's 2nd industrial park. Remediation plan will follow. Cleanup grants could be available up to \$400,000. On the Talon site – everything is moving forward. Final plan not yet available. May include a lodge or restaurant with a possible connector to Hatfield-McCoy trails.
- ✦ GET Trail Update – Grant Awarded: A grant was awarded from the American Hiking Association for \$2,000. This grant is being administered by Steve Clark

and is being run through the Wyoming County EDA. Trail building tools will be purchased. A trail cleanup day at Polk Hollow is scheduled for this Friday.

- ✦ Wyoming County Land Use Plan: Any changes would have been sent to the Office of Coalfield and Community Development. County Commission approves any changes. EPA is responsible for getting permit approval back.
- ✦ Wyoming County Community Fund – Fundraiser: We usually do a Halloween costume party; a date has not yet been chosen for this year/we usually do this around Lumberjack (October 7-9, 2011). In past years about \$1,000 profit has been made from the costume party, with donations from volunteers to the event. VISTA members have assisted in years past. No VISTA member this year, since the next PSO is in November. Dvon advised that the Polk Gap Monster festival is scheduled for October 29th. Marshall game is Oct 15th and 29th. Mike Cook advised that there was a child at Huff Creek who wanted a dog; the Greg Biffle family donated. There is about \$20,000 in this fund; it is accumulating interest. The scholarship was paid out of interest.
- ✦ Update Strategic Plan – Certified Development Community: Moving forward. We were reapproved as a Certified Development Community for a 3 year period. This application is processed through the EDA office.
- ✦ Market Feasibility Study for Wyoming County: A meeting was held on June 29th; it went well with around 25 people in attendance. REVPAR International is the firm responsible for moving the project forward. They are working on the report. Drafts will be available within the next month or so. With a Final Report due by September 30.

Other Business Not on Agenda:

1. Working on “buy-local” campaign to get people to stay and buy in the county. Since the next VISTA will not be here until November, EDA will begin working on the project since it is a Flex-E grant whose monies must be spent soon.
2. Susan advised that two 4-H camps were held, serving over 400 kids. Just completed two Energy Express sites, one in Mullens/one at Berlin McKinney. Getting ready to go to the State fair – taking 25 kids for a day. The Cyber bullying law was passed.
3. Megan Smith/GWWC has a youth project; taking 10-15 kids age 15-21 for a day of service on the New Year that will end in a rafting trip. GWWC is working with Cliffs, WVU Extension and others on the Indian Creek wetland project.
4. David Lord talked about the Boy Scout summit. The Education committee is working on a badge; the summit process might be used to try to attract small businesses. This year’s EDA Flex-E grant will be focused on hospitality.
5. No update on Saulsville cell tower or Frontier high speed internet expansion in the county.
6. The county will be receiving about \$36,000 in waste coal funds.

7. Tudor's is hiring about 10 employees; they have hired a manager. They do drug testing of employees. Closing on that loan tomorrow for the EDA funding. Expected to be done mid-August, and may be open by Labor Day.
8. Little General is going to have an Arby's. Starting in August sometime. Working on final floor plans to start construction.
9. Doc Muscari purchased property in Brenton (convenience store) and Bud.

Next Meeting Wednesday, October 26, 2011, 12:00 PM

Adjourn: Mike McGraw moved to adjourn at 1:15pm, seconded by Larry.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS - Planning Commission
FUTURE MEETING DATES FOR CALENDER YEAR 2011:**

October 26, 2011

2012

January 25, 2012

April 25, 2012

July 25, 2012

October 24, 2012