

Minutes

Wyoming County Planning Commission

October Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, October 26, 2011

12:00 PM, Southern WV Community & Technical College – Room 132

Call to Order: 12:23pm by President Christy Laxton.

Roll Call: Christy Laxton, Dvon Duncan, Sue Cline, David Lord, Jody Cook, Steve Clark, Tim Ellison, Mike Cook, Mike McGraw, Dannette Parker. Quorum present.

Introduction of Guests: Megan Smith, GWWC, and Dale Stewart.

Approval of Minutes – July 27, 2011: David Lord advised that he was not at the meeting. Motion to approve made by Dvon; seconded by Sue. Motion carried.

New Business

- ✦ Market Feasibility Study for Wyoming County Final Report – Completed. Very lengthy; an electronic version is available. It stated there was a need for lodging, camping facilities; we knew this. We now need property to put lodging/camping on – minimum of 2.5 acres per site. Capacity for large vehicles would be good. Should also have water and sewer available. This document can be used by investors. Will try to get it on the EDA website.
- ✦ Wyoming County Boy Scout Community Service Initiative – Fact sheet attached to July minutes. There was a meeting at the SWVCTC this past Monday evening. A project map was reviewed with a discussion on what was currently being constructed. Another meeting scheduled for 11/10 at 10am at the SWVCTC. Funding will be through the CCC. The EDA board approved working with CCC; this recommended by auditor – CCC as fiscal agent. Scouts will be in the region for 5 days (1000 a day); project application forms are available. Scouts will not pick up litter or use power tools. If a private person needs work done, then the private person would purchase materials and scouts do the work. Mike Cook said we would have the kids in the county for a few hours each day (2 hours in and 2 hours out). Will need to make maximum use of their time. Sue said their work would have to be focused. Applications are due March 31, 2012. David said he was going to have a conversational Spanish class, since the WV site is going to be the international jamboree site. David also wants to build a greenhouse. Christy said they will probably have 4 hours a day to work. Project would have to feed the kids. Lowes will be contributing to all 9 counties/very complicated/ will need to be worked out. New Pineville Elementary scheduled to be open 2013; hope that scouts can work on putting in playground equipment. There is a 15 month period between application and actual work. Scouts can do some of the same things that ASP does. All projects must be approved by Scouting. Dale reminded the group that we must come up with the funding/materials to do the work. Should leverage all suppliers. Skilled

manpower will be needed to handle power tools/provide construction supervision. There should be at least 1 construction supervisor at each location. Will require a lot of volunteer time/organization. Minutes from last sub-committee meeting also provided.

- ✦ Wyoming County AMIBA – Christy advised that they visited on 9/30 and did training at the CTC. A lot of good information. Main focus is a flex-e grant to try to get small businesses in county that are locally owned to get them together and do marketing to buy local. Next meeting date is 11/8, 6pm at the EDA office. Several folks have already committed (business owners). It is going to have to be run by local businesses – not the EDA. The EDA is an Independent Business Alliance partner this year. A 501c3 could be in the future – small business owners must run the buy local campaign – perhaps use of membership fees. The Southern WV CVB has a brochure with only 2 businesses from Wyoming County in that book. EDA thinking about a brochure for just Wyoming County businesses. Have \$2500 grant money from the State Development Office that can be used to market the county. Dale reminded the group that it is not just retail – it is buy, use local businesses – not a focus on franchise businesses. Dannette told of a Monroe County business (fresh produce) that delivers to certain locations and people can pick up once a week. Sue talked about coupons to get folks into local businesses. Dale suggested educating business owners at Wyoming County Day at the Legislature. Buy local includes local medical and banking.

Old Business

- ✦ Brownfields Grant – Clean-Up Grant – The EDA will be applying for a clean-up grant; application deadline is November 28th. EDA will work with George Carico, with a focus on Lusk Lumber site. Clean up grant will clean the site (maximum of \$200,000 each parcel). Site has 2 parcels – so maximum amount is \$400,000. Flat site -11 acres. Will have to be capped because of the arsenic. DEP is working on the mitigation plan. Contaminants not hitting groundwater at this time. Right of way has to be acquired. When you are capping you can only go within so many feet of the right of way. Dvon asked about the east Pineville site. Christy said the owner had passed away; they are still willing to sell the property. Megan advised that a focus grant could pay for a phase I – application due this Friday. Christy advised that the EPA called her on Monday – the coalition grant was not approved. For the last 2 years we have submitted a coalition grant to do the remainder of the county – a split between hazardous material and petroleum. 80 is a perfect score; we received a 77. The Region 5 reviewer scored us low (scored at 50 points). They thought \$1,000,000 was too much for our small population. EDA suggested splitting the grant with each requesting \$200,000 (Mullens, Pineville, Oceana, County). Due November 28th. Cities would be able to keep a lot of the information; new census info should be added. Budget was good; some questions about salaries that could be simplified. Dvon reminded the group that cities would have to have this on their agendas. Municipalities would be the actual applicant. Megan willing to help write. Christy will meet the

County Commission on November 2nd agenda. Mayor Ellison will talk with Oceana mayor.

- ✦ GET Trail Update – Grant Awarded – This grant is a little over \$2,000, run through the EDA. Steve advised that the new GET VISTA is arriving early November. Megan will supervise. Biggest challenge is working with landowners to get their permission to cross their land. Another grant – DEP recreational grant application – heard nothing more yet –..... Hope to leverage the Scouts to do trail building. First section of trail is scheduled for TFSP to Mullens – need to coordinate with Pocahontas Land Company.
- ✦ Wyoming County Land Use Plan – Christy talked with Rachel Lester – Coalfield Community Development. The narrative we are using is from 2003 (after 2001 flood). Looking at updating that narrative. They were going to do some site visits (old mine sites). Dvon advised that there is a company (EBX) out of Oak Hill interested in doing mitigation in Wyoming County – selling clean-up credits.
- ✦ Wyoming County Community Fund – Fundraiser: held this past Saturday night at SWVCTC. About 20 adults and 30 kids attended. Large amount of donated door prizes. Hoping to get more people there next year – great family event. Raised \$864. Everything was donated. Dale Stewart donated food. Sue donated supplies. Christy would like to do another scholarship; she will check with Beckley Area Foundation to see how much is there – perhaps increase to \$500. David suggested two \$250 scholarships. **Christy asked for a motion for a scholarship up to \$500 if those monies are available. Mike moved; Sue seconded. Motion carried.**
- ✦ Update Strategic Plan – Certified Development Community – includes doing more brownfield assessments. Christy advised that there are things being accomplished. Do not currently have a VISTA to help; perhaps get a VISTA in February. Last updated in 2010; next official update should be 2013. Try to do this every 3 years. Maybe in January we can put the strategic plan back on the agenda.
- ✦ Industrial Access Road Application for Route 97 in Marianna – grant was approved, and Spartan Mining (Alpha) will pay the admin fees to the EDA for administering the grant. Right of ways worked out. Alpha will have to ensure that the DOH receives ownership to all right of ways that they need to do the project. A meeting is scheduled for November 13th to finalize plans. This is a \$400,000 grant with a \$150,000 match. This grant is available every year to the county, and have to have at least a \$4 million investment (10%).

Other Business Not on Agenda

1) Status of 911 towers in county: Dvon advised that one of her board members is working the contract to finalize building the power line to the Kopperston Mountain site. Getting this late in the year, weather will be a factor in getting power to the site.

2) Dvon advised that USDA/NRCS and Farm Service on Ragland road have services available to Wyoming County residents. She talked about green houses, feed lots, etc. Referred to Gary Redden.

3) The EDA received \$662,000 for coalbed methane for last 3 years. Can be used for sites and site improvement/development, design/construction of water and wastewater projects. Cannot be used for buildings. Will receive a percentage from this tax every year. Industrial park built from synthetic fuel money; would like to use this \$\$ for new industrial park – acquisition and improvements. Would include gas, water, broadband. County Commission approves each project, then forwarded to WVDO for final approval.

Next Meeting Wednesday, January 25, 2012, 12:00 PM

Adjournment: 1:30pm

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS - Planning Commission
FUTURE MEETING DATES FOR CALENDER YEAR 2012:**

2012
January 25, 2012
April 25, 2012
July 25, 2012
October 24, 2012