

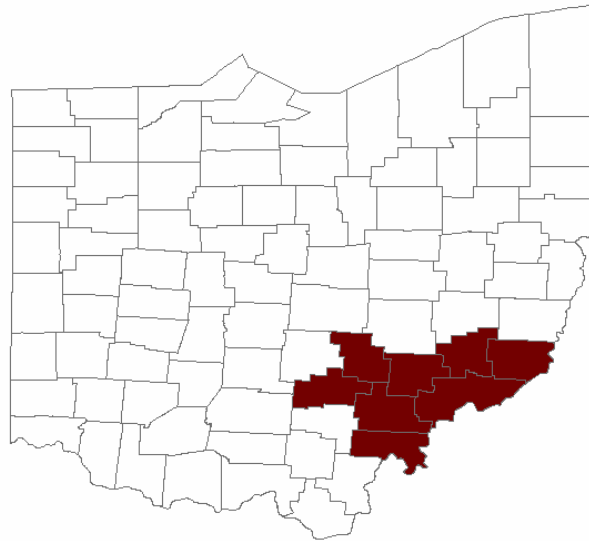


Buckeye Hills - Hocking Valley
Regional Development District

2008

**C o m p r e h e n s i v e
E c o n o m i c
D e v e l o p m e n t
S t r a t e g y**

Annual Report



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

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy

2008 ANNUAL REPORT



Prepared by:

**Buckeye Hills-Hocking Valley
Regional Development District
Marietta, Ohio**

Prepared for:

**Economic Development Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce**

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Robert Daubenmier - President
General Policy Council - Hocking County

Honorable Ron Moore – Vice President
Morgan County

Honorable Sam Cook – Treasurer -
Washington County

Honorable Paul Wiehl
City of Athens

Honorable Lenny Eliason
Athens County

Honorable Gary Starner
Hocking County

Honorable Jim Sheets
Meigs County

Honorable Sonny Block
Monroe County

Honorable Dean Cain
Morgan County

Honorable Charlie Cowgill
Noble County

Honorable Fred Shriner
Perry County

Honorable Michael Mullen
City of Marietta

Donald Vaughan
Private Sector – Meigs County

John Curtis
Private Sector - Monroe County

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Paul Wiehl
Honorable Lenny Eliason
Dick Shaw

Hocking:

Honorable Gary Starner
Honorable Greg Green
Robert Daubenmier
Michael Walsh
John Collins

Meigs:

Honorable Jim Sheets
Opal Dyer
Donald Vaughan
John Musser

Monroe:

Honorable Sonny Block
John Curtis

Morgan:

Honorable Dean Cain
Ron Moore
John Wells

Noble:

Honorable Charles Cowgill
Richard Flood
Willard Radcliff

Perry:

Honorable Fred Shriner
Tim Danielson
Janine Conrad
Vacant
Vacant

Washington:

Michael Mullen
Honorable Sam Cook
Honorable John Grimes
Honorable Larry Steinel
Steve Crum
Dennis Blauser
Mike Lorentz

Misty Casto
Executive Director

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FORWARD

The Buckeye Hills-Hocking Valley Regional Development District (BH-HVRDD) is designated as an Economic Development District by the Economic Development Administration (EDA), U.S. Department of Commerce, and as a Local Development District by the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC). In order to comply with the statutory requirement (13 CFR, Chapter III, Section 304.1-b) that the designated areas maintain a currently approved Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), BH-HVRDD has been updating the District CEDS document annually. Approval of the annual CEDS report continues the area's eligibility for EDA financial assistance.

This report is an annual report based on the 2005 CEDS document, which includes local input on major issues impacting communities in the region. The intent is to evaluate and describe changes in the area's economy, update development goals, strategies, and strategy implementation, as required by EDA.

The CEDS Advisory Committee, which included professionals from a wide and varied field, performed a key role in the identification of program strategies for the region.

We hope that this document will be a guide to local communities as they prepare their local plans, with our ultimate goal being the timely implementation of the activities/projects contained herein.

Comments on this report may be addressed to:

Planning Coordinator
Buckeye Hills- Hocking Valley Regional Development District
P.O. Box 520, Reno, Ohio 45773

Telephone: 740.374.9436
Email: info@buckeyehills.org.

MISSION

The mission of the CEDS report is to assist local communities in using available resources to assess economic problems, identify opportunities, set goals, and implement strategies.

2008 CEDS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The CEDS Advisory committee performed a key role in analyzing current data, identifying development strategies and development-related projects that would generate new dollars and tax revenue for local communities. The following are key individuals from the designated trades/fields in our district, as set out by the CEDS guidelines.

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Private Business Representative | Lynn Anastas Vice President - Community Relations O'Bleness Memorial Hospital |
| Private Business Representative | Mark Amon CEO Athens Computers & Multimedia Enterprises Limited |
| Private Business Representative | David M. Berchowitz Director Global Cooling |
| Higher Education Representative | Jerry Hutton Dean of Alternative Energy and Transportation Technologies - Hocking College |
| Private Business Representative | Paul Reed President Farmers Bank |
| Private Business Representative | C. Allen Love Magnum Magnetics |
| Private Business Representative | Mark Furman Plant Manager International Converter |
| Chamber of Commerce Representative | Charlotte Keim President Marietta Area Chamber of Commerce |
| Private Business Representative | Curt Allison Division Sales Manager Pepsi Bottling Company |

| | |
|---|--|
| Private Business Representative | Daniel Allwine President Austral Engineering & Software |
| Public Official | Perry Varnadoe Economic Development Director Meigs County Office of Economic Development |
| Public Official | Mike Jacoby Director Southeastern Ohio Port Authority |
| Public Official | Jeff Shaner Economic Development Director/ Extension Agent Ohio State University Extension |
| Public Official | Mike Lloyd Economic Development Director/ Extension Agent Ohio State University Extension |
| Public Official | Bill Rinehart Economic Development Director Logan-Hocking Chamber of Commerce |
| Buckeye Hills - HVRDD Representative | Bret Allphin GIS Specialist/Development Specialist |



Buckeye Hills - Hocking Valley Regional Development District

- Buckeye Hills Region
- Appalachian Region
- Cities Over 100,000 Pop.





CHAPTER I **ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANIZATION**

Buckeye Hills Mission Statement:

Improve the socio-economic conditions of the region by promoting the interests and needs of our constituents to persons and agencies empowered to create positive change.

Organizational History:

The Buckeye Hills-Hocking Valley Regional Development District (BH-HVRDD), created in 1968, is a voluntary organization of the local governmental subdivisions in Athens, Hocking, Meigs, Monroe, Morgan, Noble, Perry and Washington Counties in southeastern Ohio.

The purpose of the organization is to coordinate the economic and community development activities of the area, to provide a forum for the discussion and study of common problems of a regional nature, and to develop cooperative policy and action recommendations.

The agency is designated as an Economic Development District by the Economic Development Administration; Local Development District by the Appalachian Regional Commission; Regional Planning and Development Organization by the State of Ohio; Regional Clearinghouse by the Governor and the Office of Budget and Management; Ohio Industrial Training Program facilitator by the Ohio Department of Development; and the Area Agency on Aging for Region Eight by the Ohio Department of Aging.

Staff Structure

A General Policy Council, made up of two-thirds local government officials and one-third private citizens, governs BH-HVRDD in its development efforts. The council's primary objective is to establish an annual budget and work program for the agency. Meeting semi-annually, the council oversees the actions of the Executive Committee. This smaller body acts as an extension of the General Policy Council. The Executive Committee maintains a working understanding of the programs in operation at BH-HVRDD, and makes the decisions that provide guidance to the agency. Although this Committee provides guidance and direction on a more immediate basis, final ruling on all decisions remains with the General Policy Council.

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy – 2008 Annual Report

Under the authority of the Executive Committee, the Executive Director of BH-HVRDD serves as the Chief Administrative Officer. The Executive Director oversees the agency's day-to-day operation in all areas. These areas include preparation and execution of budget and work programs, and staffing, as required by the overall mission of the agency.

BH-HVRDD is comprised of two functional areas/departments, as well as administration; all told these total 57 employees: The Development Department and The Area Agency on Aging.

| Name | Position | Years of Service |
|----------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Misty Casto | Executive Director | 14 |
| Melissa Zoller | Development Director | 7 |
| Michelle Hyer | Development Specialist | 10 |
| Bret Allphin | GIS Specialist | 7 |
| Charmel Wesel | Development Specialist | 1 |
| Tina Meunier | RLF Coordinator | 3 |
| Gwynn Clifford | Communications Director | 1 |
| Jenny Myers | Program Assistant | 4 |
| Amanda Casto | Secretary/ Receptionist | 1 |
| Deanna Starkey | Secretary/ Receptionist | 3 |

CEDS Advisory Committee

Since the early 1970's, BH-HVRDD, in concert with federal, state and local units of government, has pursued the goal of consolidating the myriad of planning requirements facing municipal/county governments and area-wide organizations into a single document. To achieve this aim, BH-HVRDD opted in 1970 to prepare an Overall Economic Development Program (OEDP), which was previously referred to as Areawide Action Program (AAP). The name and focus was changed in 1998 to the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). The CEDS represented a continuing process of coordinated planning, development and implementation. This process was based upon local participation and a partnership with various federal and state agencies.

The CEDS Advisory Committee performs a key role in the CEDS review process. The committee examines local priorities and formalizes a recommendation of critically needed programs and projects (ranked in order of priority) included in the CEDS's project package.

It is this valuable input that continues to make the CEDS an essential tool in making locally related economic development decisions.

CEDS Planning Process

The planning process begins with establishing a vision statement followed by specific goals and strategies.

The mission of the CEDS report is to identify long-term issues confronting local communities and to outline strategies that can be pursued by these communities. The report also encourages the implementation of short-range programs and projects.

The CEDS planning process begins with a vision statement, which serves as the basis from which to formulate programs that create jobs, raise income levels, diversify the economy, and improve the quality of life.

The following section describes the basic elements of the CEDS planning process.

1. Organize the CEDS Committee.
2. Analyze area's demographic and economic trends.
3. Identify and evaluate existing resources.
4. Identify strengths and weaknesses (internal to the area); opportunities and threats (external to the area).
5. Adopt a strategic vision for the region that creates a community-based planning process.
6. Identify priority issues and set broad goals for a five-year initiative.
7. Develop program strategies that assist in achieving each goal.
8. Identify activities, programs, and projects that would begin in the following two years.
9. Evaluate the progress to reach the past year's goals.
10. Review and update the plan annually.

As required by EDA, the CEDS document was completely updated and re-written for 2005. This document is an annual report covering the current status of the information, issues, projects, and goals identified in the 2005 CEDS document. Based on the current grant cycle established by EDA in 2006/2007, CEDS documents created by Buckeye Hills are due annually on June 30th.

CHAPTER II
PAST YEAR'S ACTIVITIES

The planning and development activities undertaken by BH-HVRDD are directed by the Annual Work Program. These work programs contribute to implementing the program strategies of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy.

During Fiscal Year 2007, the staff at Buckeye Hills-Hocking Valley Regional Development District administered the following programs:

- I. CEDS Update;
- II. Provision of Timely Employment Data to EDA/EDR
- III. Technical Assistance;
- IV. Water and Sewer;
- V. CDBG Formula Allocation Program;
- VI. State Capital Improvement Program/Local Transportation Improvement Program;
- VII. Conservation Activities;
- VIII. Brownfield Revitalization;
- IX. Geographical Information Systems;
- X. Data Center Services;
- XI. Business Assistance Programs/ Entrepreneurial Support Programs
- XII. Regional Promotion;

I. CEDS Update

The Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) helps state and federal officials make effective area investment decisions. The planning process includes meeting with the CEDS Advisory Committee and analyzing changes in the area's economy. The CEDS document was re-written and submitted in September 2005. This is the third year of the five year CEDS period.

Similar to Annual Reports submitted during previous periods, this CEDS update includes current information on demographic and economic trends in the district, regional issues, development strategies, and a project listing.

The basic work elements of FY'07 CEDS Update were as follows:

- The staff held two planning sessions during the spring and summer of 2008 with the CEDS Advisory Committee.
- In order to analyze environmental changes that might affect the CEDS document, the staff compiled any recent changes to demographic and economic information for the district. This data was compiled and is presented in the analysis and statistical chapters (Chapter III) of the 2008 CEDS.
- An updated project list has been compiled and included in this CEDS document.

This completed CEDS report will be submitted to the Economic Development Administration by June 30, 2008.

II. Provision of Timely Employment Data to EDA/EDR

In conjunction with our traditional data center services, Buckeye Hills also provides pertinent employment and/or unemployment information for the region to the Economic Development Representative. Such data would include information concerning any potential plant openings or closings, or any other event that would have a noticeable impact on the employment situation in the district. Buckeye Hills currently has a notification process in place. Between July 1, 2007 and April 7, 2008, we received notification of seven employment events that would prompt the attention of the EDR. Information concerning these events was passed on to our EDR, Mr. Robert Hickey, via email or fax.

III. Technical Assistance

Buckeye Hills continues to serve an eight-county region through promoting the interests of, and providing technical assistance to, local public entities. Buckeye Hills provides technical assistance to local public entities in acquiring funding for

programs and projects to improve the quality of life in communities through improvement of public infrastructure, educational facilities, and public service facilities. This technical assistance includes preparation of applications for funding, serving as a liaison between funding agencies and local government officials, providing guidance to local communities on administrative tasks, and assuring compliance of state and federal requirements. Buckeye Hills also provides technical assistance to communities and organizations on travel and tourism activities.

Over the past year, Development Department staff secured financing for various projects that will have a positive impact on residential and commercial sectors. These projects enhance the quality of life for the people of our region by enabling businesses to create and retain jobs, by providing education and training opportunities, by increasing the quality and availability of water and sanitary sewer services, by repairing and upgrading roads and bridges, and increasing accessibility and availability of quality health care.

Total costs for projects completed over the past year was approximately **\$31** million, with local and private sources leveraging nearly **\$16.1** million (52%) against the **\$13.3** million (48%) provided through state and federal funding sources such as EDA, ARC, EPA and CDBG.

Village of Middleport Downtown Revitalization

Buckeye Hills assisted the Village of Middleport in Meigs County with applying for Tier 1 and 2 of the CDBG Downtown Revitalization Program. Tier 1 provides funds to eligible communities to assist with the development of downtown revitalization planning documents. Unfortunately the Village of Middleport was not selected for Tier 2 approval. Buckeye Hills staff will continue to assist the Village of Middleport in this application process, as they prepare to reapply for Tier 2 funding in 2009.

Monroe County Black Walnut Center Renovation Project

Buckeye Hills assisted the Monroe County Commissioners in administering the Ohio Department of Development Industrial Site Improvement Fund grant. These funds allowed for the site to be developed for use as a manufacturing facility. The cost of the project was \$279,521. The contracts for this project were awarded and work began in November of 2007. This project was completed in March 2008. In conjunction with this renovation project, a marketing plan was developed by BHHVRDD for the Black Walnut Center and the Commerce Park.

Monroe County Hazard Mitigation Acquisition Project

Buckeye Hills assisted the Monroe County Commissioners in receiving funds from the Ohio Emergency Management Agency and Ohio Community

Development Block Grant. Due to the severity of the damage to homes and businesses from the September 2004 flooding, the requested funds will be utilized for land acquisition and demolition. The project will require acquisition of hazard prone property and conversion to open space on a volunteer basis of the impacted residents. The estimated cost of the project is \$1,527,122 with acquisition activities beginning the fall of 2007. The project was funded in September of 2007. At this time Monroe County has selected a firm to administer the grant funds. The acquisition activities and demolition of approximately 32 structures will be completed in 2008.

Monroe County Economic Development Contract

Buckeye Hills – HVRDD was awarded a contract to administer the activities of the Monroe County Economic Development office between October 2006 and June 30, 2007. The final report detailing the highlights of this program was released in July 2007. Some of the highlights were as follows (not exhaustive):

- From October through June, a total of \$294,521 in grant funds was secured and an additional \$316,367 in grants are pending notification.
- From a job creation perspective, because of the Buckeye Hills Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) program a total of \$1.13 million of public and private funds were invested in Monroe County from Oct.–June. The loans helped maintain 13 employees and will fund a projected 14 new jobs over three years.
- Buckeye Hills was instrumental in accessing \$15,000 in grant funds to support the region’s Higher Education Feasibility Study that was conducted in May and funded by Belmont Technical College and the Monroe County Commissioners.

Housing Program

During fiscal year 2007, Buckeye Hills continued to operate a housing program, aimed at fighting issues such as rural homelessness and affordable housing issues, while at the same time providing services such as small home repairs allowing seniors to remain at home rather than alternative living facilities. These activities are funded through grants from the Ohio Department of Development’s Ohio Housing Trust Fund- Housing Assistance Grant Program, and the Senior Community Services Title III Block Grant. Last year a portion of these funds were used to do handicap accessibility needs and minor home repair to 37 homes owned by senior citizens in our eight county region.

Other Planning Activities

North Muskingum River Corridor

Buckeye Hills staff provided input for the North Muskingum River Corridor Study. The purpose of this study is to examine possible options for linking Interstate 77 and Ohio State Route 7 in the area north of the City of Marietta. Of the several alternatives presented, one was chosen to advance forward in the ODOT planning process. Feasibility of this option in comparison to the results of a pending traffic modeling analysis will help determine the next steps. ODOT as well as other state and local agencies have been searching for funding to continue this study, and to fund this project. Currently there is a lack of available funding at the state level to continue this study. Until other transportation projects are removed from the current queue, this project may be put on hold until funding becomes available.

State Route 32/ U.S. 50 Corridor Study

Buckeye Hills undertook activities that were contributed to the completion of the SR 32/ US 50 Corridor Study. Buckeye Hills staff worked with local economic development professionals and county officials to identify, locate, and map, major commercial sites available, and major tourism sites along the corridor. The study area included the actual corridor as well as a 5 mile buffer on all sides. The final documents and GIS information were completed and submitted to the Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission at the end of March 2008. This project is being lead by the Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission, with financial support from the Appalachian Regional Commission. At the time of this publication, an application had been submitted requesting additional funding to expand the scope of this study.

State Route 32/ State Route 78 Corridor Advisory Board

The staff of Buckeye Hills also participated in the SR 32/ SR 78 Corridor Study project. The purpose of this project is to identify small to medium scale improvements in alignment, elevation, ingress/egress, signage, protective structures, etc., that could be made along the 120 mile corridor to improve overall safety and usability. The advisory board produced numerous recommendations which were included in the final report of this study. At this point funding is being sought to implement the improvements cited in the final report.

Wood Washington Wirt Interstate Planning Commission

Buckeye Hills staff was represented on the advisory board of the Wood Washington Wirt Interstate Planning Commission. The purpose of this commission is to keep public officials informed about transportation projects proposed and underway in their particular jurisdictions.

Appalachianohio.com Regional Advisory Board

The Appalachianohio.com Regional Advisory Board continues to meet regularly at the Voinovich Center on the campus of Ohio University in Athens Ohio. The purpose of this body is to help continue shaping the application and direction of the www.firstohio.com (formerly appalachianohio.com) web portal as it moves in to the future

RENEW Ohio-18

Buckeye Hills staff has been actively participating on several committees organized by Ohio Congressman Zack Space, as part of his 'RENEW Ohio 18' initiative. The purpose of this body is to bring together individuals with relevant knowledge in the areas of; broadband, agriculture, healthcare, and alternative energy, with the hopes of advancing these issues within the congressional district. These groups are tasked with brainstorming, discussing, researching, and producing creative ways to better implement these technologies, programs, and strategies. The goal of the RENEW Ohio 18 initiative is to help reverse some of the recent setbacks that have befallen the district as a result of major losses in the manufacturing sector.

Employee Workforce Assessment

In July 2007 an employee workforce assessment was completed and released by the Ohio Valley Employment Resource (OVER). This assessment included Monroe, Morgan, Noble, and Washington Counties in the Buckeye Hills district. Over 400 organizations were invited to participate, with 131 responding, covering business with as few as 5 employees, all the way up to operations with 1,150 employees. The total workforce of surveyed organizations was 14,664 employees. The results of this assessment will be discussed in later chapters.

Intergovernmental Review

As the regional clearinghouse, on-going assistance will be provided to officials and agencies in the district by reviewing and receiving comments on projects being completed throughout the region. The reviews are completed in accordance with State Clearinghouse regulations.

Buckeye Hills continues to act as the Regional Clearinghouse. Buckeye Hills Staff reviewed 19 projects during fiscal year 2007.

IV. Water & Sewer

Countywide Prioritization

Buckeye Hills staff continued in 2007 to work with counties to advocate a strategy for developing a countywide prioritization methodology for water and sewer projects. The intent is to develop a countywide needs list based on actual conditions in the communities rather than a funding list that is driven by program requirements. This process enables county officials to give legislators and funding agency representatives an impression of broad and consistent support for a given project. Funding agencies such as ARC and EDA feel strongly about prioritizing potential projects in order to ensure the maximum regional benefit is achieved. Currently not all counties in the Buckeye Hills region prioritize projects based on needs and existing conditions.

West Malta Water Project

Buckeye Hills assisted the Morgan County in administering CDBG Water and Sewer Program funding that is financing a project to extend water service to approximately 223 households in Malta and Penn Townships and allow for future expansion with the construction of a new storage tank and booster station. The estimated cost of the project is \$4,150,500.

Construction on this project began in August 2007 and should be completed during 2008. During the course of this construction, the West Malta Water Rural Water District has also chosen to construct additional waterline extensions to the originally approved project. These extensions are currently under review and should begin construction in 2008.

Reno Water Project

Buckeye Hills will assist the Washington County Commissioners in applying for a CDBG Water and Sewer Grant on behalf of residents of the Reno Water and Sewer District. The project will extend water lines onto County Roads 9, 333, 20, 47 and Township Road 394 in Washington County, creating a safe water supply to the residents. The cost of this project is estimated at \$644,695. The project involves the installation of approximately 7 miles of water line and services approximately 65 homes. The project will promote positive community growth in eastern Washington County.

Construction on this project was started in February 2008. During this time the Reno Water District also decided to construct several extensions to the originally approved project. These extensions are currently under review. All construction activities for this project and the related extensions will be completed in late 2008.

Noble County Water

Buckeye Hills will assist the Noble County Commissioners in applying for a CDBG Water and Sewer Grant on behalf of residents of the Noble County Water Authority. The project will extend water lines to serve approximately 36 residents along Ohio State Route 285 between the villages of Caldwell and Sarahsville creating a safe water supply to the residents. The cost of this project is estimated at \$817,000. The project involves the installation of approximately 4.5 miles of water line and services approximately 36 homes. The project will promote positive community growth in Noble County.

Staff will continue to assist the Noble County Commissioners in obtaining CDBG Water and Sewer Funds. The CDBG application will be submitted in July 2008.

Bishopville Water Project

Buckeye Hills assisted and will continue to assist Morgan County in administering CDBG Water and Sewer Program funding that is financing a project to extend water service to areas of Union Township. The project involves the installation of 30,028 linear feet of 6” main water line, 1,996 feet of 4” water line and 47,505 linear feet of 3” water line. This project also includes the construction of a booster station and storage tank. The estimated total cost of the project is \$1,065,558. Construction on this project began in October 2005, and was concluded in the summer of 2007.

Amesville Sewer Project

Buckeye Hills will assist the Village of Amesville in administering CDBG Water and Sewer Program funding that is financing a project to sewer service to approximately 71 households and 13 businesses. The estimated cost of this project is \$1,089,858.25. Construction on this project began in July 2007; the estimated completion date is late 2008.

Tuppers Plains Water and Sewer District

Buckeye Hills staff assisted the Meigs County Commissioners in applying for and administering CDBG Water and Sewer Program funding that is financing a project to upgrade sewer service to approximately 148 households. The estimated cost of the project is \$103,000. Construction was started on this project in January 2008. This project is scheduled to be completed by summer 2008.

V. CDBG Formula Allocation

Washington County Formula -2006

Buckeye Hills will continue to serve as the administrator of the Washington County CDBG Formula Program for FY'2006, assisting the grantee by assuring that the eight projects within Washington County, and one project for the City of Belpre comply with funding requirements, checking for compliance with all applicable state and federal regulations, participating in the bidding process for contracts and attending pre-construction conferences, completing status reports, consulting with independent auditor at time of final audit, and agreeing to reply to funding agency inquiries to the status of all activities undertaken by the Washington County Commissioners.

Buckeye Hills administered nine (9) projects for the FY 2006 Formula Program. The total project cost for the nine (9) projects was \$224,812. The projects ranged from the purchase of equipment for a senior center, street improvements, to the purchase of fire equipment. The total number of beneficiaries was approximately 69,924.

Washington County Formula -2007

Buckeye Hills will serve as the administrator of the Washington County CDBG Formula Program for FY'2007, assisting the grantee by assuring that the four projects within Washington County, and the one project for the City of Belpre comply with funding requirements, checking for compliance with all applicable state and federal regulations, participating in the bidding process for contracts and attending pre-construction conferences, completing status reports, consulting with independent auditor at time of final audit, and agreeing to reply to funding agency inquiries to the status of all activities undertaken by the Washington County Commissioners.

Buckeye Hills submitted the application for funding and the Washington County Commissioners received a grant agreement. The total project cost for the four (4) projects will total \$393,606. The projects will vary from home/building repair to fire protection facilities & equipment. The total number of beneficiaries will be approximately 72,798 individuals. (Some residents were the beneficiary of more than one project.)

VI. State Capital Improvement/ Local Transportation Improvement Program

The Community Development staff is the liaison for the Ohio Public Works Commission 18th District. The District includes Athens, Belmont, Hocking, Meigs, Monroe, Morgan, Muskingum, Noble, Perry, and Washington counties. The SCIP/LTIP program provides funding to counties, townships, villages, and water and sewer districts to enable them to repair or replace roads, bridges,

culverts, water supply, wastewater, solid waste and storm water systems. The staff will provide technical assistance and training to assist in the completion of the SCIP/LTIP application. The staff will coordinate the activities of the various District 18 communities, which include, but are not limited to: setting up meetings, distributing meeting notices, publishing newspaper announcements, collecting applications, rating and ranking applications, and forwarding applications to the Ohio Public Works Commission for funding or consideration for funding under the various SCIP/LTIP programs.

Buckeye Hills Staff assisted the District 18 Integrating Committee in rating applications and activity coordination. The District 18 Integrating Committee has submitted 21 SCIP/LTIP applications and 10 Small Government applications to the Ohio Public Works Commission for funding in Round 22.

VII. Conservation Activities

Clean Ohio Fund – Conservation Program

The Community Development Staff serves as the liaison for the Ohio Public Works Commission 18th District. The District includes Athens, Belmont, Hocking, Meigs, Monroe, Muskingum, Noble, Perry, and Washington counties in Southeastern Ohio. The Clean Ohio Conservation Fund is a part of the \$400 million Clean Ohio Fund and provides monies to counties, townships, cities, villages, conservancy districts, soil and water conservation districts, joint recreational districts, park districts, and other non-profit organizations with a primary purpose in conservation and preservation. The purpose of the Clean Ohio Conservation Fund is the purchase of open spaces and the costs of making them accessible to the public and for the protection of stream corridors, providing wildlife habitat and reducing erosion. The staff will provide technical assistance and training to assist in the completion of the Clean Ohio Conservation Fund Application. The staff will also coordinate the activities of the District 18 Natural Resources Assistance Council (NRAC), including, but not limited to: setting up meetings, distributing meeting notices, publishing newspaper announcements, collecting applications, rating and ranking applications, and forwarding applications to the Ohio Public Works Commission for funding or consideration for funding under the Clean Ohio Program.

At this time applications are not being accepted. Ohio Public Works will be requesting approximately \$30 million in the next capital budget, which is anticipated to be passed in late 2008. Should this new initiative be passed, the new funding would be effective and available in approximately March of 2009.

VIII. Brownfield Revitalization

Brownfields

The staff anticipated assisting one community in preparing a revitalization grant through the Clean Ohio Assistance fund. During this time period the staff assisted in the administration of three Phase II grants.

Southeastern Ohio Port Authority U.S. EPA Petroleum Assessment Grant Program

The Community Development staff continued to administer the Southeastern Ohio Port Authority's U.S. EPA Petroleum Assessment Grant Program. This program provides grant funds for Phase I and II environmental studies on petroleum affected Brownfield sites that have the potential for redevelopment and reuse. Two phase I studies and one phase II study were completed during 2007. Two additional applicants are awaiting additional BUSTR information before proceeding with phase I studies.

Clean Ohio Fund – Revitalization Program

The Community Development staff is the liaison for the Ohio Public Works Commission 18th District. The District includes Athens, Belmont, Hocking, Meigs, Monroe, Morgan, Muskingum, Noble, Perry, and Washington counties. The Clean Ohio- Revitalization program provides funding to local governments, port authorities, conservancy districts, non-profit organizations, and for-profit entities to enable them to acquire and clean up a Brownfield, demolish existing building, upgrade infrastructure and redevelop the property. The staff will coordinate the activities of the various District 18 communities, which include, but are not limited to: setting up meetings, distributing meeting notices, publishing newspaper announcements, collecting applications, rating and ranking applications, and forwarding applications to the Ohio Department of Development for funding.

At the present time no applications for the Clean Ohio Revitalization Program are being accepted. Three current grant recipients are working on Phase II environmental studies at commercial/industrial sites in Perry and Hocking Counties.

IX. Geographical Information Systems

Buckeye Hills continues to operate a Geographic Information System (GIS) which serves the eight county district. The purpose of GIS is to give decision makers the ability to combine tabular/ numerical data with spatial or map data to create visual representations of the given data sources. The specialized maps that

are created can be used for a number of purposes, such as: funding applications, reports, general research, media reports, or general problem analysis/ solving.

During fiscal year 2007, Buckeye Hills continued to advertise and promote its GIS and GPS capabilities to community development professionals, economic development professionals, units of local government, public service providers (i.e. water companies), as well as media and non profit companies within the district. Our purpose in this regard is to assist in creating or finding new project opportunities in the region.

The major activities of the GIS program from July 1, 2007 to April 7, 2008 were as follows:

- Buckeye Hills staff was contracted by the City of Marietta and Washington County in the past year to provide GIS project consulting and coordination services, data maintenance, system design, software installation, and user training on an hourly fee basis. This relationship is ongoing and expected to continue in to the foreseeable future.
- Buckeye Hills staff worked closely with the staff at the Southern Tier West Regional Planning and Development Board in Salamanca, New York to organize a GIS training conference held April 22, 23, 2008 in Nashville, Tennessee. This conference is sponsored by the Development District Association of Appalachia (DDAA) and the National Association of Development Organizations. The purpose of this conference is to provide a low cost GIS training opportunity primarily to GIS users in the Appalachian region, and local development districts across the nation.
- Buckeye Hills staff continued to provide hours of technical assistance and advice to the Morgan County Engineering Department as they continue work to build a functioning GIS within their county.
- Buckeye Hills staff also continued a working relationship with the Hocking College GIS department and the GIS department at ILGARD – Ohio University. These relationships have yielded data sharing, advice, cooperative training, and potential project opportunities.
- Buckeye Hills staff continued its service on the Hocking College GIS advisory board. The purpose of this board is to help Hocking College establish academic and external experience curriculums that will help GIS program graduates be prepared for entry into the field of spatial data collection and analysis.
- Buckeye Hills staff continued to maintain a Southeastern Ohio GIS users group. This group is composed of roughly 20 members that hold

meetings on an infrequent/ as needed basis. Members are situated in all eight counties of the Buckeye Hills region. Due to rising fuel costs, meetings of the full group have become less frequent. Contact between group members is maintained through email and telephone conversations.

- Buckeye Hills staff continued to search for funding for a proposed internet mapping service to be hosted, housed, and maintained by Buckeye Hills personnel. This program would allow Buckeye Hills to provide customized mapping solutions for a range of applications live over the internet through a web browser.

During fiscal year 2007, Buckeye Hills continued to provide specialized map products on request to interested parties throughout the region. Examples of requesting bodies are; Washington County Board of Elections, Appalachian Regional Commission, Marietta College Senior Business Consulting Class, local EMA offices, private engineers, ODOT, and private citizens. Spatial data, or other GIS maps and related data were the most requested information from the Buckeye Hills Data Center; composing 50.7% of the total requests (74 of 146).

X. Data Center

The Buckeye Hills Data Center provides public and private entities with demographic and economic data. This data is used for various reasons, such as writing media reports, preparing grant applications, and educational research.

The center receives the most current data from the state data center in both print and electronic formats. The data center uses this vast information system to help keep citizens in the region informed through:

The dissemination of demographic and economic data including: population, housing characteristics, labor force, and other economic characteristics.

- The production of census maps for specific community and business applications.
- The preparation of reports depicting area wide community characteristics.
- The preparation of specialized mapping products which can illustrate any of the data contained in the Buckeye Hills Data Center.

The Data Center is also an affiliate of the Business and Industry Data Center (BIDC), a service provided by regional planning and development agencies in Ohio.

Along with these services Buckeye Hills also publishes a ‘Data Center Update’ which highlights employment figures, and other pertinent or interesting statistical information which pertains to our region. This is sent out via mail and e-mail every other month, as well as being posted on our website.

Below is a summary of data requests for Fiscal Year 2007.

**Data Requests
Ranked by Number of Requests**

| Data Requested | Total Req. | Req. Pct. |
|-----------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Other GIS Maps | 74 | 50.7% |
| Comm. Prof. | 42 | 28.8% |
| Misc. | 10 | 6.8% |
| Census Maps | 9 | 6.2% |
| Population | 7 | 4.8% |
| Income | 3 | 2.1% |
| Labor Force | 1 | 0.7% |
| Grand Total | 146 | |

| Organization Type | Total Req. | Req. Pct. |
|--------------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Government | 103 | 70.5% |
| Academic/ Research | 24 | 16.4% |
| Business | 8 | 5.5% |
| Comm. Org./ Non. Prof. | 5 | 3.4% |
| Private Citizen | 5 | 3.4% |
| Media | 1 | 0.7% |
| Grand Total | 146 | |

The Data Center received 146 requests between July 1, 2007 and April 8, 2008. Services requests came from community organizations, private citizens, businesses, academic/ research bodies, and local units of government. Over seventy-five percent of the requests came from government agencies. Custom GIS map documents and related data were the most requested data from all parties during this time period, representing 74 of the 146 total requests (50.7%).

XI. Business Assistance Programs/ Entrepreneurial Support Programs

Revolving Loan Fund/ Trickle Up Grant Program

The staff of Buckeye Hills also provides technical assistance to entrepreneurs in our district by administering a Revolving Loan Program, and a ‘Trickle Up’ grant program. Both of these programs are aimed at aiding small business owners get started in business, or sustain a small business they may already operate.

During fiscal year 2007, the Revolving Loan Fund closed seven loans, with \$616,250 in total loan assistance provided, and 56 jobs created and 30 retained.

The Trickle Up grant program gave assistance to eight businesses within the region, with a total potential grant amount of \$5,600. Each grant is composed of two installments; the first being \$500 upon the approval of a business plan, the second installment of \$200 is contingent on the completion of a business report after 3 months of operation. The total amount a recipient could receive is \$700.

Unfortunately, funding for this program was ended in February 2008. Buckeye Hills is no longer accepting applications for this program. The related website, www.appalachianmarket.com, which was developed to market the products produced by grantees from this program was also deactivated at that time.

XII. Regional Promotion

The Buckeye Hills staff continued to promote the economic development opportunities and activities throughout the region between July 1, 2007, and April 8, 2008. The purpose of our promotional activities is to attract new business and private investment to our eight-county district.

Buckeye Hills staff continued to administer and update the agency website www.buckeyehills.org. This website continues to provide public information on all of our available programming, publications, data, and staff, as well as information detailing available commercial properties and buildings throughout the region. Our website received over 212,000 hits between July 1, 2007 and April 8, 2008; averaging 752 hits per day during that time.

Buckeye Hills also placed an ad in the November 2007 issue ‘Site Selection Magazine;’ as they highlighted areas along the Ohio River. This ad featured Monroe, Meigs, and Washington Counties, ad potential destinations for business along the Ohio River. This ad netted six new business leads for those counties.

Communications Director Position

During the past year Buckeye Hills has made extensive use of the recently created Communications Director position. This new staff person has been instrumental in handling all media contacts and releases for the agency, handling publicity for Buckeye Hills sanctioned events and meetings, as well as assuming the responsibility of creating and distributing official communications such as newsletters and annual reports. The electronic monthly newsletters from BH have a distribution of over 500 recipients. The Communications Director has also provided proactive legislative advocacy, and bolstered grassroots efforts to disseminate information about local issues impacting residents. As a result of her efforts, she was able to acquire \$31,464 in complementary media space for BH related items and information during 2007.

CHAPTER III
REGIONAL DEMOGRAPHICS

Constituency

Population profile

| | Census | | | | | | |
|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | 2000 | 2001* | 2002* | 2003* | 2004* | 2005* | 2006* |
| Ohio | 11,353,140 | 11,392,043 | 11,414,537 | 11,437,908 | 11,461,347 | 11,470,685 | 11,478,006 |
| BHHVRDD | 255,000 | 255,215 | 255,533 | 256,349 | 255,865 | 255,123 | 254,697 |
| Athens | 62,223 | 62,711 | 62,933 | 63,135 | 62,185 | 62,028 | 61,860 |
| Hocking | 28,241 | 28,367 | 28,560 | 28,691 | 28,864 | 28,927 | 28,973 |
| Meigs | 23,072 | 23,034 | 23,167 | 23,236 | 23,170 | 23,179 | 23,092 |
| Monroe | 15,180 | 15,145 | 14,978 | 14,950 | 14,927 | 14,736 | 14,606 |
| Morgan | 14,897 | 14,893 | 14,828 | 14,844 | 14,932 | 14,895 | 14,821 |
| Noble | 14,058 | 13,957 | 13,993 | 14,072 | 14,172 | 14,097 | 14,165 |
| Perry | 34,078 | 34,323 | 34,571 | 34,869 | 35,033 | 35,106 | 35,313 |
| Washington | 63,251 | 62,785 | 62,503 | 62,552 | 62,582 | 62,155 | 61,867 |

* Estimated populations as of July 1st of the given year. All estimates based on Census 2000 figures, 4/1/00.

| | 2000 | 2005 | 2010 | 2015 | 2020 | 2025 | 2030 | % Change |
|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|----------|
| Ohio | 11,353,140 | 11,501,180 | 11,666,854 | 11,816,168 | 12,005,733 | 12,164,199 | 12,317,613 | 8.50% |
| BHHVRDD | 255,000 | 260,638 | 263,855 | 269,048 | 269,257 | 270,723 | 270,106 | 5.92% |
| Athens | 62,223 | 63,967 | 64,535 | 67,207 | 66,003 | 66,576 | 66,337 | 6.61% |
| Hocking | 28,241 | 28,873 | 29,839 | 30,298 | 31,001 | 31,195 | 31,496 | 11.53% |
| Meigs | 23,072 | 23,503 | 23,687 | 23,962 | 23,989 | 24,047 | 23,834 | 3.30% |
| Monroe | 15,180 | 14,757 | 14,800 | 14,384 | 14,277 | 13,762 | 13,485 | -11.17% |
| Morgan | 14,897 | 15,203 | 15,198 | 15,274 | 15,123 | 14,962 | 14,618 | -1.87% |
| Noble | 14,058 | 14,728 | 15,365 | 15,843 | 16,277 | 16,486 | 16,690 | 18.72% |
| Perry | 34,078 | 35,717 | 36,923 | 38,431 | 39,502 | 40,935 | 41,993 | 23.23% |
| Washington | 63,251 | 63,890 | 63,508 | 63,649 | 63,085 | 62,760 | 61,653 | -2.53% |

Based on the population information above, the Buckeye Hills- Hocking Valley Regional Development District Region only comprised 2.24 percent of the entire state population in 2000. The region had four of the ten smallest counties in the state during this time as well. As the population estimates and population estimates above illustrates, population growth within the region is slow at best; as some counties are even projected to lose population moving in to the future.

| Area | Total | 0-4 | 5-13 | 14-17 | 18-24 | 15-44 | 25-64 | 16+ | 65+ | 85+ |
|------------|---------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|---------|---------|--------|-------|
| BHHVRDD | 255,571 | 13,922 | 26,773 | 13,252 | 37,523 | 113,454 | 129,542 | 208,147 | 34,559 | 4,505 |
| Athens | 62,062 | 2,976 | 4,905 | 2,308 | 19,569 | 36,189 | 26,298 | 53,044 | 6,006 | 783 |
| Hocking | 29,009 | 1,762 | 3,388 | 1,648 | 2,548 | 11,669 | 15,768 | 23,016 | 3,895 | 465 |
| Meigs | 23,232 | 1,373 | 2,437 | 1,309 | 2,002 | 9,220 | 12,603 | 18,751 | 3,508 | 498 |
| Monroe | 14,698 | 709 | 1,512 | 865 | 1,159 | 5,370 | 7,885 | 12,039 | 2,568 | 315 |
| Morgan | 14,958 | 889 | 1,720 | 891 | 1,241 | 5,745 | 7,787 | 11,877 | 2,430 | 328 |
| Noble | 14,156 | 656 | 1,370 | 713 | 1,817 | 6,787 | 7,666 | 11,780 | 1,934 | 230 |
| Perry | 35,246 | 2,226 | 4,704 | 2,155 | 3,210 | 14,550 | 18,615 | 27,213 | 4,336 | 569 |
| Washington | 62,210 | 3,331 | 6,737 | 3,363 | 5,977 | 23,924 | 32,920 | 50,427 | 9,882 | 1,317 |

Table 3.03 shows us the breakdown of population in the Buckeye Hills region by age cohort. Consistent with previous CEDS reports, the 25-64 cohort continues to be the most populous, followed by the 15-44 cohort. The 65+ and 85+ age cohorts continue to compose over 15 percent of the total population of the district.

| | Total Population | Native | | | | | Bi- & Multi-Racial | Hispanics | Total Minorities** |
|------------|------------------|-----------|-----------|---------------------|---------|---------------------------|--------------------|-----------|--------------------|
| | | White | Black | Aboriginal American | Asian | Hawaiian & Oth. Pac. Isl. | | | |
| Ohio | 11,464,042 | 9,759,187 | 1,368,406 | 25,313 | 163,726 | 3,611 | 143,799 | 260,677 | 1,933,941 |
| BHHVRDD | 255,571 | 246,504 | 4,274 | 604 | 1,862 | 32 | 2,295 | 1,799 | 10,673 |
| Athens | 62,062 | 58,242 | 1,431 | 207 | 1,400 | 8 | 774 | 712 | 4,436 |
| Hocking | 29,009 | 28,298 | 306 | 60 | 47 | 0 | 298 | 171 | 874 |
| Meigs | 23,232 | 22,789 | 211 | 33 | 44 | 0 | 155 | 128 | 561 |
| Monroe | 14,698 | 14,584 | 45 | 12 | 8 | 2 | 47 | 67 | 170 |
| Morgan | 14,958 | 14,091 | 501 | 30 | 14 | 1 | 321 | 62 | 923 |
| Noble | 14,156 | 13,078 | 1,008 | 33 | 28 | 0 | 9 | 89 | 1,163 |
| Perry | 35,246 | 34,785 | 109 | 85 | 44 | 6 | 217 | 179 | 620 |
| Washington | 62,210 | 60,637 | 663 | 144 | 277 | 15 | 474 | 391 | 1,926 |

*** The total minorities category is computed by subtracting non-Hispanic-one-race-only-whites (data not shown) from the total pop..

Table 3.04 illustrates the racial makeup of the population in the eight-county district based on 2005 population estimates. 96.45 percent of the population was ‘White’, and 1.67 percent was ‘Black’, increasing slightly since 2004. The other racial categories and multi racial designations make up the small remainder. Of the total population in the region, 4.17 percent were minority, up slightly from 2004.

(Continued on Next Page.)

Performance Measures

People

| | Total Births | Rate* (1,000) | Teen Birth | Rate** (1,000) | Deaths | Rate (100,000) | Marriages | Rate (1,000) | Divorces | Rate (1,000) |
|------------|--------------|---------------|------------|----------------|---------|----------------|-----------|--------------|----------|--------------|
| Ohio | 148,255 | 63 | 4,710 | 19.6 | 109,008 | 950.9 | 74,542 | 6.5 | 40,419 | 3.5 |
| BHHVRDD | 2,842 | 57.4 | 77 | 15.9 | 2,559 | 1,063.4 | 1,812 | 7.1 | 1,016 | 4.0 |
| Athens | 574 | 31.1 | 14 | 16.8 | 417 | 671.9 | 388 | 6.3 | 203 | 3.3 |
| Hocking | 347 | 60.2 | 11 | 17.9 | 307 | 1,058.3 | 217 | 7.5 | 143 | 4.9 |
| Meigs | 293 | 64.8 | 5 | 10.4 | 283 | 1,218.1 | 172 | 7.4 | 98 | 4.2 |
| Monroe | 141 | 53.5 | 4 | 11.9 | 210 | 1,428.8 | 113 | 7.7 | 59 | 4 |
| Morgan | 179 | 62.4 | 6 | 17.1 | 161 | 1,076.3 | 87 | 5.8 | 57 | 3.8 |
| Noble | 154 | 66 | 6 | 21.7 | 130 | 918.3 | 110 | 7.8 | 50 | 3.5 |
| Perry | 454 | 62.7 | 12 | 15.4 | 363 | 1,029.9 | 243 | 6.9 | 130 | 3.7 |
| Washington | 700 | 58.5 | 19 | 15.6 | 688 | 1,105.9 | 482 | 7.7 | 276 | 4.4 |

* Rate of births in women age 15-44
 ** Rate of births in women age 15-17

The table above shows personal vital statistics for the constituents of the region. The Buckeye Hills region had a birth rate of 57.4 in 2005, behind the state figure of 63. However the region’s teen birth rate (15.9) continues to be lower than the state’s rate (19.6). (Note: The age ranges for teen births has been modified since the last report.) Our region also continues to surpass the state rates of deaths and divorces per 1,000 residents. Perry County led the way with the highest birth rate (62.7 per 1,000); Noble County had the highest teen birth rate (21.7 per 1,000). Monroe County reported the highest death rate (1,428 per 100,000). Monroe and Washington Counties had the highest marriage rate during 2005 at 7.7 per 1,000.

| | 93--94 | 94--95 | 95--96 | 96--97 | 97-98 | 98-99 | 99-00 | 00-01 | 01-02 | 02-03 | 03-04 | 04-05 | 05-06 | Net 93-06 |
|------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-----------|
| BHHVRDD | 765 | 1,038 | 915 | 71 | -229 | -320 | 39 | -138 | 122 | 645 | 17 | -735 | -565 | 1,625 |
| Athens | -129 | 6 | 65 | -44 | -1 | -163 | 211 | -136 | 61 | 276 | -149 | -203 | -268 | -297 |
| Hocking | 245 | 363 | 240 | 122 | 110 | 153 | 23 | 191 | 164 | 89 | 74 | 21 | -44 | 1,636 |
| Meigs | 250 | 314 | 77 | 20 | -15 | 54 | -96 | -13 | 91 | 27 | -58 | 48 | -21 | 651 |
| Monroe | -52 | 24 | 7 | -1 | 71 | 62 | 0 | 28 | -78 | -17 | 48 | -124 | -83 | -157 |
| Morgan | 81 | 95 | -19 | -29 | 6 | -28 | 44 | 34 | -26 | 48 | 94 | -44 | -74 | 160 |
| Noble | 23 | 141 | 122 | 155 | 23 | 38 | 73 | -48 | 15 | 57 | -23 | -28 | 110 | 640 |
| Perry | 196 | 134 | 441 | 103 | -99 | -99 | 35 | 55 | 29 | 186 | 14 | -5 | 87 | 1,026 |
| Washington | 151 | -39 | -18 | -255 | -324 | -337 | -251 | -249 | -134 | -21 | 17 | -400 | -272 | -2,198 |

Table 3.06 shows the net migration of each county in the district from 1993 to 2006. Migration can be caused by many factors; in most cases these numbers are influenced by proximity to local job markets (i.e. people commuting in or out of a county to find work.), or proximity to a major transportation artery. The largest net gain was seen in

Hocking County (1,636), while Washington County continued to suffer the biggest loss (-2,198). The net migration loss in Washington County has grown by 1,227 since 2004. The Buckeye Hills region has been hard hit by losses in the manufacturing sector, which may be driving the negative net migration figures higher as residents look for work outside the district.

Employment

| | In-Commuters | Out-Commuters | Commuting Balance Net Flow |
|------------|--------------|---------------|----------------------------|
| BHHVRDD | 19,519 | 38,790 | -19,271 |
| Athens | 4,866 | 4,307 | 559 |
| Hocking | 1,885 | 6,082 | -4197 |
| Meigs | 800 | 4,521 | -3721 |
| Monroe | 1,797 | 2,219 | -422 |
| Morgan | 528 | 2,754 | -2226 |
| Noble | 1,044 | 2,276 | -1232 |
| Perry | 1,742 | 8,395 | -6653 |
| Washington | 6,857 | 8,236 | -1379 |

Table 3.07 gives further elaboration to the net out-migration shown in the previous table. Seven of the eight counties in the Buckeye Hills region have more people commuting to jobs outside of the county than there are people commuting in to that same county for work. Athens County was the only county in the region that had more in-commuters than out-commuters; this is most likely due to the presence of Ohio University in Athens. (This information is unchanged since the previous report.)

Income

| | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 |
|---------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| United States | \$29,843 | \$30,562 | \$30,795 | \$31,466 | \$33,090 | \$34,471 |
| Ohio | \$28,205 | \$28,583 | \$29,187 | \$29,826 | \$30,763 | \$31,860 |
| BHHVRDD | \$19,135 | \$19,775 | \$20,363 | \$20,619 | \$21,182 | \$21,791 |
| Athens | \$17,875 | \$19,449 | \$20,106 | \$20,497 | \$21,233 | \$21,928 |
| Hocking | \$20,227 | \$20,854 | \$21,424 | \$21,906 | \$22,902 | \$23,677 |
| Meigs | \$19,763 | \$20,017 | \$19,483 | \$19,090 | \$19,625 | \$20,307 |
| Monroe | \$18,994 | \$19,873 | \$20,606 | \$21,833 | \$22,393 | \$22,794 |
| Morgan | \$19,412 | \$19,499 | \$19,839 | \$19,800 | \$19,753 | \$20,206 |
| Noble | \$15,673 | \$16,148 | \$16,947 | \$17,121 | \$17,366 | \$17,835 |
| Perry | \$18,400 | \$18,690 | \$19,440 | \$19,728 | \$20,621 | \$21,211 |
| Washington | \$22,735 | \$23,670 | \$25,058 | \$24,975 | \$25,560 | \$26,370 |

Table 3.08 illustrates the personal per capita income of counties within the region as compared to the state and federal levels over the period from 2000 to 2005. In 2005 the average per capita income for the Buckeye Hills district was \$21,791; which was \$10,069

below the state average and \$12,680 below the national average. As you can see by comparing the years shown, this gap between the BHHVRDD average and the state and national averages continues to grow. Over this six-year span, Noble County had the lowest average annual per capita income in the region at \$16,848.33.

The Personal Per Capita Income figure illustrated above is calculated by the Bureau of Economic Analysis on an annual basis. The BEA Per Capita Income figures include the value of food stamps, Medicaid, and Medicare, as well as other forms of assistance to individuals and families.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, the counties in the Buckeye Hills region ranked as follows in per capita personal income in the state for 2005:

- Noble County – 88 (out of 88)
- Morgan County – 86
- Meigs County – 85
- Perry County – 84
- Athens County – 83
- Monroe County – 78
- Hocking County – 72
- Washington County – 51

With the exception of Washington County, the district clearly has the lowest per capita incomes in the state. (This information is unchanged since the last report.)

| | Years | | | Percentage Change | | |
|------------|-------|------|------|-------------------|-----------|-----------|
| | 1980 | 1990 | 2000 | 1980-1990 | 1990-2000 | 1980-2000 |
| Ohio | 11.1 | 13.6 | 10.6 | 2.5 | -3 | -0.5 |
| BHHVRDD | 13.7 | 19.3 | 16.0 | 5.6 | -3.4 | 2.3 |
| Athens | 21.6 | 28.7 | 27.4 | 7.1 | -1.3 | 5.8 |
| Hocking | 12.4 | 15.7 | 13.5 | 3.3 | -2.2 | 1.1 |
| Meigs | 17.1 | 27 | 19.8 | 9.9 | -7.2 | 2.7 |
| Monroe | 13.5 | 21.5 | 13.9 | 8 | -7.6 | 0.4 |
| Morgan | 14.8 | 21.2 | 18.4 | 6.4 | -2.8 | 3.6 |
| Noble | 13 | 16.4 | 11.4 | 3.4 | -5 | -1.6 |
| Perry | 12.5 | 19.1 | 11.8 | 6.6 | -7.3 | -0.7 |
| Washington | 9.8 | 13.7 | 11.4 | 3.9 | -2.3 | 1.6 |

The poverty rate of nearly every county in the region has historically been higher than the comparable state average. The rate of change has also been consistently higher than the state rate. Table 3.09 shows some of these historical levels, as well as the changes in percentages over the last 20 years. While more recent pieces of information have been produced, the statistics generated by the 2000 Census are still considered to be the most accurate, hence their continued use here.

Table 3.10 below shows us poverty rates in selected age cohorts. This table shows us some alarmingly high poverty rates in very sensitive areas, especially related children under the age of 18. (This information is unchanged since the last report.)

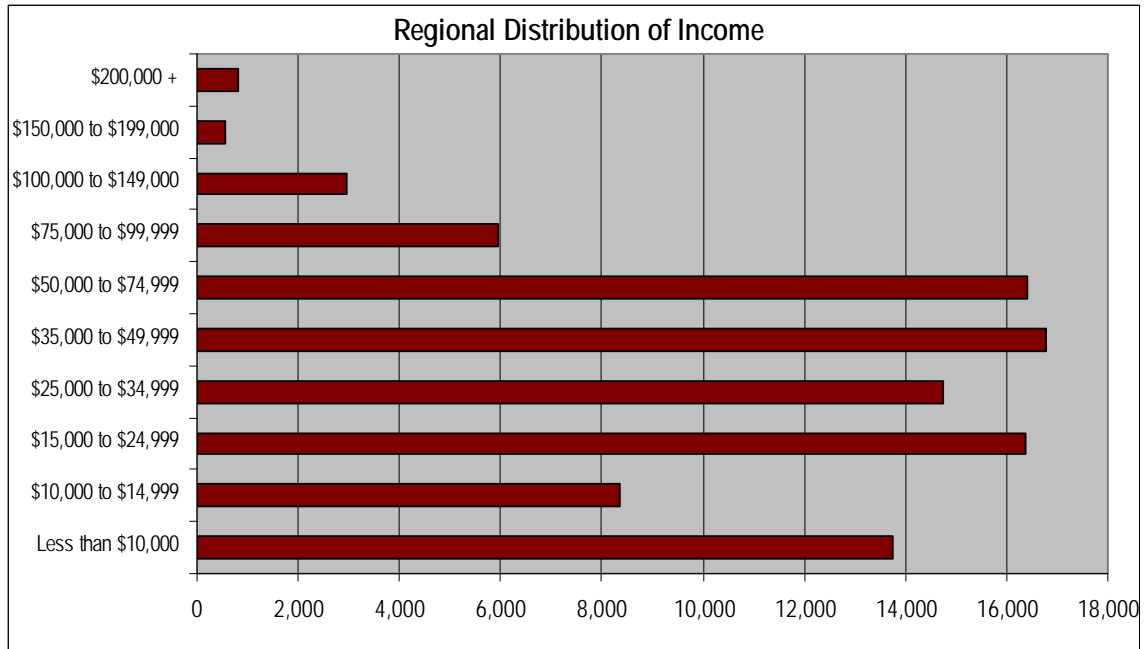
| | All | Related Children Under 18 | 18+ | 65+ |
|------------|------|---------------------------|------|------|
| Ohio | 10.6 | 14 | 10.9 | 8.1 |
| BHHVRDD | 16.0 | 18.9 | 14.8 | 12.6 |
| Athens | 27.4 | 21.2 | 28.8 | 12.9 |
| Hocking | 13.5 | 15.8 | 12.6 | 14.5 |
| Meigs | 19.8 | 26.3 | 17.7 | 14.5 |
| Monroe | 13.9 | 18.3 | 12.5 | 11.4 |
| Morgan | 18.4 | 25.1 | 16.1 | 12.4 |
| Noble | 11.4 | 13.9 | 10.3 | 11.9 |
| Perry | 11.8 | 15.2 | 10.3 | 12.7 |
| Washington | 11.4 | 15.7 | 9.9 | 10.2 |

Table 3.11 gives us a numerical representation of the income levels found in the Buckeye Hills region according to the 2000 Census; the graph following the table represents the same data. (This information is unchanged since the last report.)

| | |
|------------------------|--------|
| Less than \$10,000 | 13,741 |
| \$10,000 to \$14,999 | 8,350 |
| \$15,000 to \$24,999 | 16,369 |
| \$25,000 to \$34,999 | 14,761 |
| \$35,000 to \$49,999 | 16,771 |
| \$50,000 to \$74,999 | 16,411 |
| \$75,000 to \$99,999 | 5,941 |
| \$100,000 to \$149,000 | 2,964 |
| \$150,000 to \$199,000 | 551 |
| \$200,000 + | 809 |

Of all the incomes reported in the district during the 2000 Census, 14.2 percent were below \$10,000. 22.85 percent of the incomes reported were below \$15,000 in 2000. For comparison, the U.S. Census Bureau reported the poverty threshold in 2000 to be \$8,794 for one person (unrelated individual). (This information is unchanged since the last report.)

(Continued on Next Page)



Quality of Life

| | Total Housing Units | Occupied Housing Units | Occupancy Rate |
|------------|---------------------|------------------------|----------------|
| BHHVRDD | 109,702 | 96,672 | 86 |
| Athens | 24,901 | 22,501 | 90.4 |
| Hocking | 12,141 | 10,843 | 89.3 |
| Meigs | 10,782 | 9,234 | 85.6 |
| Monroe | 7,212 | 6,021 | 83.5 |
| Morgan | 7,771 | 5,890 | 75.8 |
| Noble | 5,480 | 4,546 | 83 |
| Perry | 13,655 | 12,500 | 91.5 |
| Washington | 27,760 | 25,137 | 90.6 |

Table 3.12 shows the total number of housing units in the region according to the 2000 Census. Also listed is the total number of occupied housing units and the corresponding occupancy rate. The total number of occupied housing units includes both rental and owner occupied units. Morgan County had the lowest occupancy rate in the district, with 24.2 percent of all housing units within the county remaining vacant.

| | Number of renter occupied units | Median rent | Rent as Percentage | | | | | More than 35% |
|------------|---------------------------------|-------------|--------------------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|---------------|
| | | | Less than 15% | 15-19.9% | 20-24.9% | 25-29.9% | 30--34.9% | |
| BHHVRDD | 23,829 | \$386 | 4,559 | 2,874 | 2,197 | 1,987 | 1,429 | 7,619 |
| Athens | 8,622 | \$469 | 1,028 | 846 | 579 | 728 | 515 | 3,948 |
| Hocking | 2,451 | \$386 | 555 | 399 | 255 | 188 | 137 | 633 |
| Meigs | 1,663 | \$351 | 343 | 201 | 127 | 98 | 105 | 378 |
| Monroe | 966 | \$352 | 189 | 97 | 91 | 69 | 57 | 240 |
| Morgan | 1181 | \$347 | 252 | 148 | 107 | 93 | 71 | 292 |
| Noble | 831 | \$368 | 238 | 89 | 71 | 66 | 48 | 192 |
| Perry | 2,433 | \$415 | 652 | 355 | 301 | 248 | 133 | 433 |
| Washington | 5,682 | \$400 | 1,302 | 739 | 666 | 497 | 363 | 1,503 |

Table 3.13 illustrates the total number of rental units within the district as well as monthly rental cost information. Median rent in the region was \$386, up \$93 since 1990. Athens had the highest median rent (\$469), while Morgan County had the lowest (\$347). Some counties in the district, especially Washington, have been experiencing low levels of available and affordable rental properties. This may be one factor leading to the high levels of out migration from Washington County, as illustrated in Table 3.06.

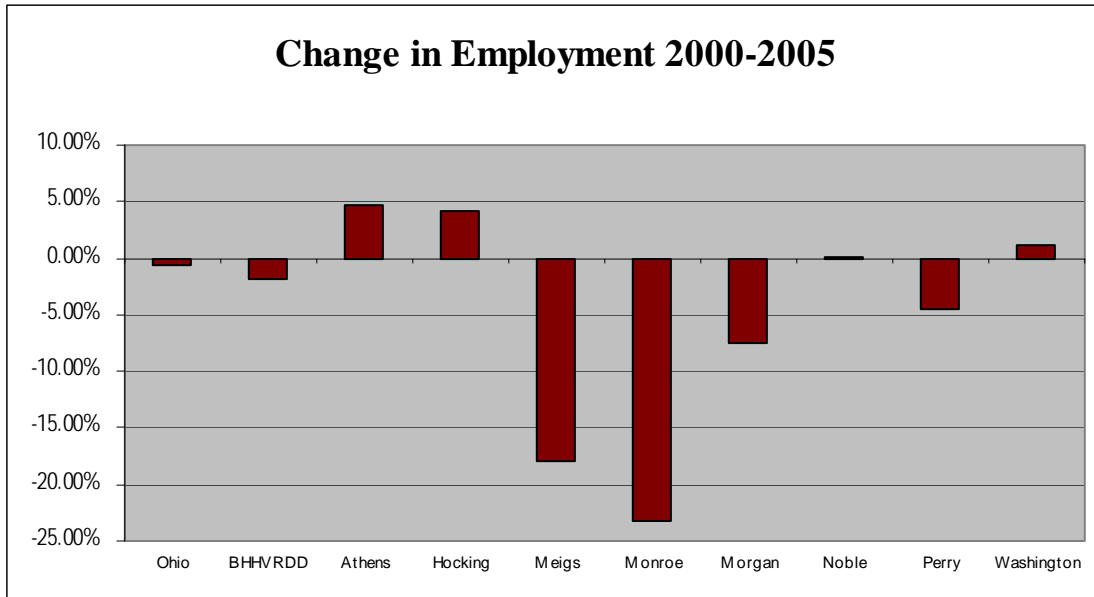
Economic Structure

Jobs

| | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | Changes: 00-05 | |
|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------------|---------|
| | | | | | | | Num. | Pct. |
| Ohio | 6,835,688 | 6,759,196 | 6,690,820 | 6,663,893 | 6,729,208 | 6,794,042 | -41,646 | -0.61% |
| BHHVRDD | 106,622 | 105,294 | 106,811 | 105,872 | 105,262 | 104,704 | -1,918 | -1.80% |
| Athens | 27,910 | 28,030 | 28,415 | 28,682 | 29,090 | 29,229 | 1,319 | 4.73% |
| Hocking | 9,754 | 9,804 | 9,927 | 9,861 | 9,995 | 10,167 | 413 | 4.23% |
| Meigs | 7,796 | 7,489 | 6,881 | 6,428 | 6,372 | 6,402 | -1,394 | -17.88% |
| Monroe | 7,392 | 7,313 | 7,337 | 7,445 | 6,993 | 5,676 | -1,716 | -23.21% |
| Morgan | 5,934 | 5,860 | 5,878 | 5,603 | 5,515 | 5,490 | -444 | -7.48% |
| Noble | 5,039 | 5,034 | 5,052 | 4,917 | 4,942 | 5,047 | 8 | 0.16% |
| Perry | 10,115 | 9,582 | 9,800 | 9,683 | 9,572 | 9,654 | -461 | -4.56% |
| Washington | 32,682 | 32,182 | 33,521 | 33,253 | 32,783 | 33,039 | 357 | 1.09% |

Table 3.14 shows the changes in full and part time employment positions between 2000 and 2005. During that time the state has experienced a decrease in full and part time employment by .61 percent, however employment has been growing since 2003. The Buckeye Hills region has experienced a decrease of 1.8 percent over the same period. The state experienced highs in employment during 2000, while the district experienced a high in 2002. During this period 4 of the 8 counties saw overall losses in total employment. Monroe County experienced the largest losses, seeing their total full and

part time employment decrease by 23.21 percent (1,716 positions). The chart below illustrates the overall changes from 2000 to 2005.



Private Investment

Below are tables detailing private investments and expansions recorded in the Buckeye Hills region as reported by the Ohio Department of Development. These tables and related descriptions cover the year 2000 to the most recent year available (2007).

| County | Company | City | Product | Jobs | Investment | Square Feet |
|------------|--------------------------------|----------------|---------------------|------|---------------|-------------|
| Meigs | Millennium Teleservices | Pomeroy | Telemarketing | 200 | \$1,000,000 | 10,000 |
| Monroe | Industrial Paint & Strip (IPS) | Center Twp | Industrial Coatings | 29 | \$2,058,000 | 12,000 |
| Monroe | Monroe Resources LLC | Jackson Twp | Truck Terminal | 125 | \$10,900,000 | |
| Monroe | Safe Auto Group | Center Twp | Call Center | 150 | \$1,620,000 | |
| Morgan | EZ Grout | McConnelsville | Concrete Machinery | 23 | \$1,000,000 | 13,000 |
| Morgan | Federal Mogul | McConnelsville | Engine Bearings | 70 | \$1,500,000 | |
| Perry | Appalachian Synfuels | New Lexington | Alternative Fuel | | \$6,000,000 | |
| Washington | Duke Energy | Beverly | Electricity | 24 | \$200,000,000 | |
| Washington | PSEG Global | Waterford Twp | Electricity | 25 | \$300,000,000 | |
| Washington | Wetz Investment co | Warren Twp | General Warehousing | | | 200,000 |

For the first time in the last several years, Washington and Athens Counties were not at the top of the list of business expansions in the year 2000. Monroe and Morgan Counties saw several large businesses develop in their counties over the course of 2000. Washington County did see two extremely large projects come to the county, as two new power plants were announced and funded. Total disclosed investment for these

expansions and attractions was \$524,078,000. 646 jobs were created or retained as a result of these investments.

| County | Company | City | Product | Jobs | Investment | Square Feet |
|------------|------------------------------|--------------|----------------------------|------|--------------|-------------|
| Athens | Starr Machine | Nelsonville | Machine Shop | 13 | | 30,000 |
| Athens | TS Trim | Athens | Motor Vehicle Seating | 1 | \$2,300,000 | |
| Hocking | International Panel Group | Logan | Wood Panels | 35 | \$6,600,000 | 35,000 |
| Hocking | Smead Manufacturing Co | Logan | Paper products | | \$4,500,000 | 90,000 |
| Monroe | Central Mine | Sunbury Twp | Coal | 500 | | |
| Monroe | Monroe County CIC | Woodsfield | Spec. Building | | \$1,200,000 | 23,000 |
| Perry | Petroware | Crooksville | Pottery Products | | \$1,300,000 | |
| Washington | BP Amoco | Marietta | Polymer Products | | \$14,000,000 | |
| Washington | Chevron | Marietta | Plastic Resins | | \$4,300,000 | |
| Washington | Eramet Marietta | Marietta | Ferro Alloy Products | | \$5,000,000 | |
| Washington | Hi Vac | Marietta | Industrial Vacuum Cleaners | 30 | \$1,812,000 | |
| Washington | Interactive Teleservices | Marietta Twp | Call Center | 300 | | |
| Washington | Riverview Financial Services | Belpre | Call Center | 78 | | |

In 2001 Athens and Washington Counties continued to be the regional leaders, with 8 expansions/ attractions between them. There were two large attractions to note, Central Mine in Monroe County with 500 jobs created, and Interactive Teleservices in Washington County with 300 jobs created. Total disclosed investments for these expansions and attractions were \$41,012,000. 957 jobs were created or retained as a result of these projects.

| County | Company | City | Product | Jobs | Investment | Square Feet |
|------------|-------------------|--------------|-------------------|------|--------------|-------------|
| Athens | Nebraska Book Co | York Twp | Books | 40 | \$1,011,000 | 49,500 |
| Hocking | Gabriel Logan LLC | Logan | Store Fixtures | 97 | \$2,400,000 | 150,000 |
| Morgan | Draper Inc | Malta | Sports Equipment | 15 | | 20,000 |
| Morgan | Win.Dor.Tek Inc | Malta | Wood Windows | 30 | \$1,115,000 | 33,000 |
| Washington | Dimex Corp | Marietta Twp | Plastic Products | 25 | \$7,030,000 | |
| Washington | Kraton Polymers | Belpre | Polymer Resins | 4 | \$18,000,000 | |
| Washington | Sequelle Inc | Marietta | Internet Services | 20 | \$5,610,000 | |

2002 saw some much needed investment take place in Morgan County, while other investments took place in Washington and Hocking Counties. Total disclosed investments for these expansions and attractions were \$35,166,000. 231 jobs were created or retained as a result of these projects.

| County | Company | City | Product | Jobs | Investment | Square Feet |
|------------|--------------------------|-------------|-----------------|------|--------------|-------------|
| Meigs | Meigs CIC | Orange Twp. | Spec. Building | | \$1,300,000 | 20,000 |
| Monroe | Ormet Corp. | Hannibal | Aluminum | | \$15,000,000 | |
| Noble | Int'l. Converter | Caldwell | Laminated Foil | | \$1,000,000 | |
| Washington | Eramet Marietta | Marietta | Ferro Manganese | | \$20,000,000 | |
| Washington | Solvay Advanced Polymers | Marietta | Plastic Resins | | \$10,164,000 | |

2003 saw expansions happen in Meigs, Monroe, Noble, and Washington Counties. The total number of expansions/ attractions may have been lower, but the average investment in these projects was slightly higher overall. The total disclosed investments for these attractions and expansions were \$47,464,000. The number of jobs created or retained as a result of these projects was not disclosed.

| County | Company | City | Product | Jobs | Investment | Square Feet |
|------------|-----------------------|-------------|-----------------|------|--------------|-------------|
| Hocking | RoKeith Enterp. | Logan | Spec. Bldg. | | \$1,500,000 | 24,000 |
| Perry | Perry Ehtanol | | Ethanol | 100 | \$58,000,000 | |
| Washington | KRATON Polymers | Belpre | Polymer Resins | | \$20,000,000 | |
| Washington | Leasco Equip. | Warren Twp. | Machinery | | \$3,200,000 | 63,000 |
| Washington | Miller Real Est. Dev. | Musk. Twp. | Spec. Dist. | | \$550,000 | 25,000 |
| Washington | NOVA Chemical | Belpre Twp. | Plastic Pellets | | \$8,150,000 | |

2004 saw Washington County gain four expansion projects totaling nearly \$32 million. Perry County had the largest single investment project recorded in the district for the year, with a \$58 million investment by Perry Ethanol.

| County | Company | City | Product | Jobs | Investment | Square Feet |
|------------|--------------------------------|-------------|-------------------------|------|--------------|-------------|
| Athens | Diagnostic Hybrids Inc. | Athens | Diagnostic Products | 100 | \$14,000,000 | |
| Hocking | Hocking CIC | Logan | Chieftan Dr. | | \$1,500,000 | 25,000 |
| Noble | Dana Glacier Vandervell | Caldwell | Engine Bearings | | \$2,013,000 | |
| Noble | International Converter | Olive Twp. | Coated Paper | | \$2,300,000 | |
| Washington | Electronic Design for Industry | Dunham Twp. | Gas/Oil Drilling Equip. | 36 | \$1,700,000 | 24,000 |
| Washington | Solvay Advanced Polymers | Marietta | Plastic Materials | | \$50,000,000 | |

During 2005, Washington County had the largest private investment project in the region, an expansion at Solvay Advanced Polymers located in Marietta. This \$50 million project will help boost the polymer production industry which continues to grow in the Buckeye Hills region. All 2005 investments totaled \$71,513,000, with 136 jobs created or retained.

| County | Company | City | Product | Jobs | Investment | Square Feet |
|------------|----------------------------|-----------|------------------------|------|--------------|-------------|
| Athens | Hampton Inn | Athens | Hotel | | \$15,000,000 | |
| Athens | Holiday Inn Express | Athens | Hotel | | \$5,000,000 | 50,000 |
| Washington | American Electric Power | Waterford | Utility | | \$3,500,000 | |
| Washington | Dimex | Marietta | Plastic Products | 20 | \$1,800,000 | |
| Washington | E2E Serwiz Solutions | Reno | Call Center | 375 | \$775,000 | 28,000 |
| Washington | Ferguson Enterprises | Marietta | Plumbing Products | 10 | \$1,380,000 | |
| Washington | Mondo Polymer Technologies | Marietta | Plastic Products | 30 | \$5,000,000 | 84,000 |
| Washington | Ohio Valley Alloy Services | Marietta | Metal Alloy Processing | 8 | \$1,750,000 | 100,000 |

Washington County had a very successful year in terms of private investment expansions and attractions during 2006, with investments totaling \$14,205,000. Athens County saw a total investment of \$20,000,000. A total of 443 jobs were created or retained as a result of these investments.

| County | Company | City | Product | Jobs | Investment | Square Feet |
|------------|--------------------------|---------------|----------------------|------|--------------|-------------|
| Athens | Diagnostics Hybrids Inc. | Athens | Diagnostic kits | | \$1,300,000 | 50,000 |
| Monroe | Artco Group | Hannibal | Plate steel | 45 | | 8,500,000 |
| Morgan | EZ Grout Corp. | Malta Twp. | Masonry tools | 40 | \$1,000,000 | |
| Morgan | ABC Manufacturing | Malta | Conveyor systems | 197 | \$2,400,000 | |
| Washington | Microtel Inn | Marietta | Hotel | | \$3,000,000 | |
| Washington | Route 7 | Marietta Twp. | Road widening | | \$23,000,000 | |
| Washington | Corridor D Bridge | Belpre Twp. | Route 50 bridge | | \$55,000,000 | |
| Washington | DuPont | Belpre Twp. | Filtration facility | | \$2,900,000 | 7,300 |
| Washington | Viking International | Marietta Twp. | Oil & gas extraction | | \$1,650,000 | 20,700 |
| Washington | Marietta College | Marietta | Planetarium/ library | | \$24,000,000 | 53,000 |

Washington County again led the region in reported private investments and expansions in 2007, with projects totaling \$109,550,000. The job creation and retention figures for these projects were not released. For the first time since 2002, Morgan County had 3 projects make the list totaling at least \$3,400,000 in investment with 237 jobs created or retained.

(Continued on Next Page)

| | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
|------------|-------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Ohio | 1,090 | 809 | 633 | 599 | 603 | 574 | 518 |
| BHHVRDD | 10 | 13 | 7 | 5 | 6 | 6 | 8 |
| Athens | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| Hocking | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Meigs | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Monroe | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Morgan | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Noble | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Perry | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Washington | 3 | 6 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 6 |

(Note: All 2007 site selections totals had not been released at the time of this report.)

The site selection totals show that this region of Ohio continues to have a disproportionately small number of project sites selected, in comparison to the number selected for the entire state. Note that the total site selections in Ohio have dropped by half between 2000 and 2006.

(Note: Tables 3.15 to 3.22 represent only projects that meet the following requirements, as defined by the Ohio Department Of Development – Office of Strategic Research: \$1,000,000 minimum investment OR, square footage of 20,000 or more OR, creation of 50 or more jobs.)

Public Investment (Procurement)

| | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | Avg. |
|------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Ohio | \$4,867,174 | \$5,123,873 | \$5,243,370 | \$6,547,578 | \$6,935,685 | \$5,743,536 |
| BHHVRDD | \$14,549 | \$32,590 | \$26,381 | \$33,217 | \$27,627 | \$26,873 |
| Athens | \$5,666 | \$19,829 | \$13,633 | \$13,544 | \$11,253 | \$12,785 |
| Hocking | \$782 | \$909 | \$1,114 | \$1,213 | \$895 | \$983 |
| Meigs | \$818 | \$1,321 | \$1,534 | \$4,042 | \$4,148 | \$2,373 |
| Monroe | \$906 | \$959 | \$1,389 | \$2,482 | \$1,984 | \$1,544 |
| Morgan | \$530 | \$1,167 | \$899 | \$1,706 | \$941 | \$1,049 |
| Noble | \$513 | \$519 | \$583 | \$509 | \$693 | \$563 |
| Perry | \$1,326 | \$1,185 | \$1,254 | \$1,291 | \$2,094 | \$1,430 |
| Washington | \$4,008 | \$6,701 | \$5,975 | \$8,430 | \$5,619 | \$6,147 |

Table 3.24 illustrates total government procurement awards from 2000 to 2004. The two most populous counties, Athens and Washington, consistently lead the region in Procurement Awards over this time span; they also have the highest yearly averages of Government Procurement Award dollars. Noble and Hocking Counties constituted the lowest amounts in the region, with Noble County having over sixteen times less in Government Procurement dollars than Athens County in 2004. (This information is unchanged since the last report.)

Regional Labor Profile

| | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | Ohio 2007 |
|----------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-----------|
| Civilian Labor Force | 110,300 | 109,700 | 110,400 | 112,800 | 120,400 | 119,400 | 120,000 | 120,900 | 5,976,500 |
| Employment | 102,700 | 103,600 | 103,300 | 104,100 | 111,300 | 110,400 | 112,100 | 112,900 | 5,640,100 |
| Unemployment | 7,400 | 6,100 | 7,100 | 8,700 | 9,300 | 8,900 | 7,900 | 7,800 | 336,400 |
| Unemployment Rate | 8.2 | 7.1 | 8.1 | 9.8 | 8.6 | 8.6 | 7.6 | 7.3 | 5.6 |

Table 3.25 presents us with the historical labor force data for our region since 2000. The average unemployment rate in our district has been persistently higher than the state averages between 2000 and 2006. The low regional average was 7.1 percent in 2001, while the high was 9.8 percent in 2003. During each of these years, the regional unemployment has been substantially higher than the corresponding state and national averages and in some cases nearly double.

The district has seen a slowly growing civilian labor force between 2005 and 2007. A recent high in this figure was reached with 120,900 individuals in the civilian labor force in 2007. The most substantial growth took place between 2003 and 2004; with an increase of 7,600. Total unemployment figures have been decreasing in the region, since reaching a recent high in 2004 of 9,300.

| | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
|-------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Business Starts | 561 | 600 | 493 | 551 | 536 | 487 | 564 |
| Business Terminations | 550 | 512 | na | na | na | na | na |
| Net Change | 11 | 88 | na | na | na | na | na |
| Total Active Businesses | 4,843 | 4,853 | 4,970 | 4,982 | 5,106 | 5,052 | 5,001 |

Table 3.26 illustrates the general business environment in the Buckeye Hills region from 2000 to 2006. The number of new business starts reached a 10 year low of 487 in 2005. The number of active businesses has varied during this time, but a 10 year high was reached in 2004 with 5,106 active businesses in the Buckeye Hills district. The 2005 figure of 5,052 total active businesses was close to that 10 year high level from 2004. The number of business starts was higher in 2006, while the total number of active businesses was down slightly.

(Continued on Next Page)

| | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
|--|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Total covered under Ohio UC Law | 73,093 | 72,486 | 73,294 | 73,027 | 71,227 | 70,097 | 70,355 |
| Private Sector | 55,824 | 55,175 | 55,936 | 55,542 | 53,617 | 52,463 | 52,716 |
| Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting | 468 | 476 | 343 | 196 | 278 | 202 | 302 |
| Mining | 914 | 634 | 1,007 | 657 | 726 | 770 | 1,019 |
| Utilities | 146 | 535 | 243 | 251 | 262 | 272 | 588 |
| Construction | 3,771 | 3,807 | 5,101 | 4,340 | 3,555 | 3,596 | 3,541 |
| Manufacturing | 12,719 | 12,537 | 9,795 | 10,887 | 9,909 | 8,589 | 8,169 |
| Wholesale trade | 1,613 | 1,689 | 1,541 | 1,440 | 1,322 | 1,461 | 1,502 |
| Retail trade | 9,297 | 9,247 | 9,268 | 9,390 | 9,251 | 9,126 | 9,404 |
| Transportation and warehousing | 1,211 | 1,169 | 1,053 | 960 | 1,101 | 1,068 | 1,228 |
| Information | 710 | 705 | 636 | 625 | 581 | 547 | 606 |
| Finance and insurance | 1,924 | 1,981 | 2,105 | 2,338 | 2,372 | 2,245 | 2,148 |
| Real estate and rental and leasing | 551 | 574 | 605 | 669 | 747 | 811 | 774 |
| Professional and technical services | 1,519 | 1,617 | 1,478 | 1,573 | 1,597 | 1,572 | 1,543 |
| Management of companies and enterprises | 117 | 87 | 86 | 84 | 72 | 77 | 101 |
| Administrative and waste services | 1,099 | 1,094 | 809 | 1,395 | 1,498 | 1,530 | 1,503 |
| Educational services | 116 | 527 | 541 | 498 | 563 | 543 | 522 |
| Health care and social assistance | 8,049 | 8,494 | 7,681 | 7,976 | 8,228 | 8,262 | 8,649 |
| Arts, entertainment, and recreation | 490 | 484 | 392 | 385 | 364 | 404 | 358 |
| Accommodation and food services | 6,221 | 6,220 | 6,114 | 6,138 | 6,116 | 6,426 | 5,956 |
| Other services, except public administration | 2,063 | 1,958 | 1,956 | 1,980 | 1,882 | 1,999 | 1,839 |
| State and Local Government | 17,270 | 17,311 | 17,359 | 17,487 | 17,611 | 17,635 | 17,639 |
| State government | 863 | 860 | 4,854 | 843 | 848 | 859 | 4,463 |
| Local government | 8,351 | 8,384 | 12,505 | 8,479 | 8,448 | 8,539 | 12,126 |
| Federal Government | 935 | 838 | 861 | 843 | 815 | 811 | 825 |

Table 3.25 shows us the regional employment by industrial (NAICS) sector from 2000 to 2006. The biggest gains were in the ‘local government’ sector (3,775) and the ‘state government’ sector (3,600). As expected, the largest losses were experienced in the ‘manufacturing’ sector, with 4,550 fewer jobs being reported in 2006 compared to 2000.

(Continued on Next Page)

Table 3.28 - Regional Average Weekly Earnings By Industrial Sector

| | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
|--|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Total covered under Ohio UC Law (b) | \$504.33 | \$523.24 | \$526.31 | \$534.22 | \$541.19 | \$541.77 | \$539.78 |
| Private Sector | \$490.60 | \$506.49 | \$501.80 | \$507.49 | \$514.41 | \$516.17 | \$509.46 |
| Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting | \$332.33 | \$338.21 | \$291.49 | \$236.88 | \$371.67 | \$297.97 | \$303.79 |
| Mining | \$648.03 | \$572.90 | \$589.99 | \$567.35 | \$806.30 | \$582.87 | \$626.35 |
| Utilities | \$930.48 | \$1,047.67 | \$1,107.17 | \$1,122.29 | \$1,075.88 | \$1,144.85 | \$1,207.46 |
| Construction | \$539.98 | \$570.86 | \$667.34 | \$643.37 | \$576.49 | \$597.71 | \$647.12 |
| Manufacturing | \$632.97 | \$650.24 | \$668.98 | \$718.73 | \$745.52 | \$815.94 | \$825.04 |
| Wholesale trade | \$547.25 | \$564.15 | \$541.88 | \$544.50 | \$597.07 | \$642.71 | \$641.10 |
| Retail trade | \$298.00 | \$308.71 | \$316.03 | \$322.75 | \$325.69 | \$332.32 | \$337.71 |
| Transportation and warehousing | \$459.77 | \$468.74 | \$465.46 | \$492.40 | \$530.25 | \$549.29 | \$555.73 |
| Information | \$562.62 | \$541.61 | \$555.31 | \$578.03 | \$623.32 | \$655.37 | \$644.94 |
| Finance and insurance | \$466.58 | \$485.61 | \$489.95 | \$549.58 | \$551.10 | \$545.32 | \$568.59 |
| Real estate and rental and leasing | \$266.19 | \$238.48 | \$262.50 | \$263.32 | \$267.74 | \$273.19 | \$305.87 |
| Professional and technical services | \$460.03 | \$503.99 | \$499.56 | \$543.95 | \$515.11 | \$523.82 | \$555.69 |
| Management of companies and enterprises | \$622.71 | \$542.32 | \$566.35 | \$649.35 | \$722.21 | \$738.85 | \$759.60 |
| Administrative and waste services | \$327.64 | \$309.69 | \$394.77 | \$350.96 | \$469.57 | \$453.06 | \$458.81 |
| Educational services | \$334.69 | \$393.76 | \$413.35 | \$424.33 | \$452.48 | \$447.88 | \$456.96 |
| Health care and social assistance | \$378.27 | \$389.15 | \$435.28 | \$212.75 | \$444.57 | \$456.48 | \$465.49 |
| Arts, entertainment, and recreation | \$257.06 | \$247.24 | \$261.30 | \$257.12 | \$256.51 | \$223.57 | \$229.42 |
| Accommodation and food services | \$166.20 | \$163.93 | \$168.69 | \$166.06 | \$174.70 | \$174.59 | \$174.24 |
| Other services, except public administration | \$234.35 | \$255.16 | \$292.05 | \$265.74 | \$278.28 | \$319.76 | \$285.46 |
| | | | | | | | |
| State & Local Government | \$512.03 | \$535.59 | \$563.80 | \$576.92 | \$588.76 | \$590.22 | \$599.26 |
| State Government | \$720.42 | \$707.66 | \$822.86 | \$783.95 | \$753.70 | \$773.95 | \$735.37 |
| Local Government | \$439.32 | \$456.67 | \$488.62 | \$494.61 | \$520.60 | \$516.15 | \$525.27 |
| | | | | | | | |
| Federal Government (d) | \$605.49 | \$649.82 | \$683.22 | \$701.77 | \$769.51 | \$750.89 | \$793.66 |

Table 3.25 shows the average weekly wages for the recorded industries of employment. The ‘utilities’ sector saw the largest increase in average weekly wages of \$276.98 since 2000. The ‘utilities’ sector also reported the highest wages (\$1,207.46), while the ‘accommodation and food services’ sector paid the least (\$174.24).

Athens County Economics

Table 3.29 -Athens County Civilian Labor Force

| | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | Ohio 2007 |
|----------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-----------|
| Civilian Labor Force | 27,300 | 28,300 | 28,500 | 29,600 | 29,600 | 29,900 | 30,500 | 30,600 | 5,976,500 |
| Employment | 26,000 | 27,200 | 27,200 | 28,200 | 27,800 | 28,000 | 28,700 | 28,800 | 5,640,100 |
| Unemployment | 1,300 | 1,100 | 1,300 | 1,400 | 1,800 | 1,900 | 1,800 | 1,800 | 336,400 |
| Unemployment Rate | 4.7 | 3.8 | 4.6 | 4.8 | 6.2 | 6.4 | 5.9 | 5.9 | 5.6 |

Table 3.29 examines the civilian labor force in Athens County. The employment levels have been steadily increasing since 2000, with a total increase of 2,800. Athens County has seen a 500 person increase in unemployment over this time as well. Although the

unemployment rate did fall to 5.9 percent in 2006, Athens County remains one of the only counties in the region that continues to maintain an unemployment level in pace with the state average. Athens County is home to a major state university, Ohio University, which plays a significant role in the local employment patterns.

Table 3.30 - Athens County- Employment by Industrial Sector

| | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
|--|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|--------|--------|
| Total covered under Ohio UC Law | 18591 | 18781 | 19022 | 19222 | 19,516 | 19,551 | 19,836 |
| Private Sector | 11646 | 11820 | 12021 | 12162 | 12,312 | 12,399 | 12,771 |
| Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting | 41 | 51 | -1 | -1 | -1 | -1 | -1 |
| Mining | -1 | -1 | -1 | -1 | -1 | -1 | -1 |
| Utilities | 89 | 85 | 81 | 71 | 69 | 67 | 67 |
| Construction | 541 | 495 | 498 | 503 | 485 | 472 | 452 |
| Manufacturing | 1063 | 987 | 947 | 914 | 825 | 780 | 558 |
| Wholesale trade | 215 | 205 | 203 | 227 | 260 | 352 | 361 |
| Retail trade | 2572 | 2681 | 2717 | 2810 | 2,800 | 2,720 | 3,022 |
| Transportation and warehousing | 191 | 168 | 163 | 156 | 139 | 130 | 136 |
| Information | 323 | 301 | 287 | 307 | 327 | 324 | 350 |
| Finance and insurance | 494 | 470 | 507 | 501 | 512 | 462 | 470 |
| Real estate and rental and leasing | 233 | 238 | 229 | 244 | 274 | 293 | 269 |
| Professional and technical services | 447 | 468 | 433 | 403 | 371 | 383 | 414 |
| Management of companies and enterprises | -1 | -1 | -1 | -1 | -1 | -1 | -1 |
| Administrative and waste services | 264 | 324 | -1 | -1 | -1 | -1 | -1 |
| Educational services | 90 | 91 | 96 | 88 | 71 | 34 | 22 |
| Health care and social assistance | 2347 | 2519 | 2607 | 2848 | 2,942 | 2,926 | 3,153 |
| Arts, entertainment, and recreation | 125 | 123 | 102 | 96 | 102 | 114 | 111 |
| Accommodation and food services | 2037 | 2079 | 2261 | 2112 | 2,273 | 2,423 | 2,405 |
| Other services, except public administration | 498 | 469 | 495 | 511 | 552 | 549 | 490 |
| State and Local Government | 6945 | 6961 | 7002 | 7061 | 7,204 | 7,151 | 7,064 |
| State government | -1 | -1 | 3479 | -1 | -1 | -1 | 3,575 |
| Local government | -1 | -1 | 3523 | -1 | -1 | -1 | 3,489 |
| Federal Government | 269 | 257 | 279 | 271 | 257 | 264 | 277 |

(Note: In the table above ‘-1’ signifies that the employment totals were suppressed)

The employment picture of Athens County is dominated by the ‘retail trade’, ‘health care,’ ‘accommodation and food services,’ and ‘state and local government’ sectors of employment. The large government presence is to be expected with a large public university in the county. The manufacturing sector continues to experience large losses of employment, losing 505 positions since 2000.

(Continued on Next Page)

| Table 3.31 - Athens County- Average Weekly Earnings By Industrial Sector | | | | | | | |
|--|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
| Total covered under Ohio UC Law (b) | \$512.98 | \$553.97 | \$565.27 | \$571.75 | \$578.94 | \$592.27 | \$597.50 |
| Private Sector | \$375.65 | \$390.43 | \$404.15 | \$414.48 | \$428.17 | \$438.87 | \$444.15 |
| Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting | \$463.67 | \$457.20 | (c) | (c) | (c) | (c) | (c) |
| Mining | (c) | (c) | (c) | (c) | (c) | (c) | (c) |
| Utilities | \$1,090.29 | \$1,260.26 | \$1,526.46 | \$1,275.33 | \$1,168.83 | \$1,235.40 | \$1,216.23 |
| Construction | \$442.18 | \$455.70 | \$455.19 | \$450.40 | \$451.42 | \$482.69 | \$501.25 |
| Manufacturing | \$468.25 | \$495.02 | \$521.54 | \$560.35 | \$573.87 | \$589.96 | \$643.56 |
| Wholesale trade | \$483.59 | \$504.54 | \$504.12 | \$485.52 | \$526.48 | \$512.46 | \$539.54 |
| Retail trade | \$335.23 | \$352.60 | \$358.73 | \$371.58 | \$373.71 | \$384.31 | \$381.69 |
| Transportation and warehousing | \$529.72 | \$548.51 | \$552.83 | \$570.21 | \$605.00 | \$659.92 | \$626.25 |
| Information | \$466.75 | \$468.96 | \$498.50 | \$521.71 | \$527.96 | \$494.02 | \$442.88 |
| Finance and insurance | \$534.95 | \$557.48 | \$563.69 | \$588.69 | \$602.19 | \$597.38 | \$614.87 |
| Real estate and rental and leasing | \$321.32 | \$361.62 | \$350.27 | \$385.37 | \$413.38 | \$389.75 | \$366.67 |
| Professional and technical services | \$557.67 | \$599.90 | \$579.15 | \$594.62 | \$648.13 | \$668.19 | \$693.50 |
| Management of companies and enterprises | (c) | (c) | (c) | (c) | (c) | (c) | (c) |
| Administrative and waste services | \$260.79 | \$266.67 | (c) | (c) | (c) | (c) | (c) |
| Educational services | \$283.22 | \$268.26 | \$284.83 | \$303.54 | \$291.54 | \$274.73 | \$282.98 |
| Health care and social assistance | \$458.30 | \$477.42 | \$531.79 | \$525.52 | \$548.50 | \$575.54 | \$575.46 |
| Arts, entertainment, and recreation | \$351.04 | \$335.57 | \$342.56 | \$348.04 | \$344.44 | \$360.42 | \$371.06 |
| Accommodation and food services | \$155.53 | \$153.04 | \$150.27 | \$156.21 | \$163.54 | \$163.67 | \$168.17 |
| Other services, except public administration | \$296.73 | \$316.43 | \$331.31 | \$341.15 | \$327.85 | \$354.63 | \$380.77 |
| State & Local Government | \$743.28 | \$831.66 | \$841.87 | \$842.56 | \$836.58 | \$858.31 | \$874.81 |
| State Government | (c) | (c) | \$1,130.98 | (c) | (c) | (c) | (c) |
| Local Government | (c) | (c) | \$556.37 | (c) | (c) | (c) | (c) |
| Federal Government (d) | \$673.54 | \$744.72 | \$763.21 | \$794.40 | \$856.06 | \$893.13 | \$915.79 |

Table 3.31 depicts the average weekly wages by industrial (NAICS) sector from 2000 through 2006. The ‘utilities’ sector continues to pay the highest weekly wage (\$1,216.23) reported in the county. The lowest wages in the county were found in the ‘accommodation and food services’ sector (\$168.17).

(Note: Not all sector wages were reported, ‘(c)’ signifies that the totals/averages were suppressed)

| Table 3.32 - Athens County- Components of Business Change | | | | | | | |
|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
| Business Starts | 132 | 157 | 107 | 121 | 119 | 90 | 134 |
| Business Terminations | 139 | 129 | na | na | na | na | na |
| Net Change | -7 | 28 | na | na | na | na | na |
| Total Active Businesses | 1,064 | 1,069 | 1,081 | 1,090 | 1,139 | 1,123 | 1,104 |

Over the seven-year period from 2000-2006, Athens County sustained a relatively high level of business starts compared to other counties in the region, topping out at 157 in

2001, and averaging roughly 123 per year. The number of total active businesses has leveled off after reaching a recent of 1,139 in 2004. Information on business terminations and net change continues to be suppressed for all counties.

Hocking County Economics

| Table 3.33 - Hocking County- Civilian Labor Force | | | | | | | | | |
|---|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-----------|
| | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | Ohio 2007 |
| Civilian Labor Force | 11,800 | 11,800 | 12,000 | 12,200 | 13,800 | 13,800 | 14,000 | 14,200 | 5,976,500 |
| Employment | 10,800 | 11,100 | 11,200 | 11,200 | 12,700 | 12,800 | 13,100 | 13,300 | 5,640,100 |
| Unemployment | 1,000 | 800 | 800 | 1,000 | 1,100 | 1,000 | 900 | 900 | 336,400 |
| Unemployment Rate | 8.7 | 6.4 | 6.4 | 8 | 7.7 | 7.5 | 6.2 | 6.4 | 5.6 |

The unemployment rate in Hocking County has been erratic over this eight-year period, reaching a high of 8.7% in 2000. However in 2006 the unemployment reached a recent low of 6.2 percent, a 2.5 percent decrease since 2000. The overall civilian labor force reached it's largest level in 2007, with 14,200 potential workers. A corresponding high was also reached in employment during 2007, with 13,300 individuals employed.

(Continued on Next Page)

| Table 3.34 - Hocking County- Employment by Industrial Sector | | | | | | | |
|--|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
| Total covered under Ohio UC Law | 6,710 | 6,700 | 6,837 | 6,774 | 6,803 | 6,816 | 7,073 |
| Private Sector | 5,106 | 5,084 | 5,229 | 5,162 | 5,151 | 5,087 | 5,193 |
| Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting | 27 | 21 | -1 | -1 | -1 | 31 | 35 |
| Mining | -1 | -1 | -1 | -1 | -1 | 146 | 189 |
| Utilities | -1 | -1 | -1 | -1 | -1 | -1 | -1 |
| Construction | 371 | 366 | 325 | 332 | 342 | 342 | 332 |
| Manufacturing | 1,662 | 1,452 | 1,374 | 1,308 | 1,264 | 1,126 | 1,100 |
| Wholesale trade | 153 | 139 | 145 | 139 | 127 | 119 | -1 |
| Retail trade | 811 | 898 | 1,046 | 986 | 990 | 1,005 | 977 |
| Transportation and warehousing | 105 | 97 | -1 | -1 | -1 | -1 | 104 |
| Information | 59 | 72 | 62 | 51 | 50 | 46 | 40 |
| Finance and insurance | 142 | 163 | 182 | 180 | 187 | 189 | 187 |
| Real estate and rental and leasing | 75 | 72 | 71 | 89 | 100 | 123 | 127 |
| Professional and technical services | 91 | 84 | 91 | 86 | 86 | 83 | 87 |
| Management of companies and enterprises | -1 | -1 | -1 | -1 | -1 | -1 | -1 |
| Administrative and waste services | 85 | 91 | 157 | 153 | 131 | 129 | 175 |
| Educational services | 26 | 27 | 26 | -1 | 30 | 29 | 29 |
| Health care and social assistance | 462 | 541 | 532 | -1 | 529 | 537 | 539 |
| Arts, entertainment, and recreation | 93 | 94 | 92 | 93 | 98 | 99 | 54 |
| Accommodation and food services | 611 | 640 | 695 | 726 | 738 | 745 | 893 |
| Other services, except public administration | 228 | 209 | 209 | 224 | 226 | 222 | 230 |
| State and Local Government | 1,604 | 1,617 | 1,608 | 1,613 | 1,652 | 1,730 | 1,879 |
| State government | 373 | 374 | 358 | 357 | 358 | 362 | 374 |
| Local government | 1,231 | 1,243 | 1,250 | 1,256 | 1,294 | 1,368 | 1,505 |
| Federal Government | 60 | 52 | 52 | 52 | 52 | 53 | 52 |

Table 3.34 illustrates the employment levels by NAICS employment sector in Hocking County. The manufacturing sector in Hocking County continues to shrink, although at a seemingly slower rate than other counties in the region. ‘Accommodation and food services’ saw the largest increase over this period, 282 workers.

(Note: In the table above ‘-1’ signifies that the employment totals were suppressed)

(Continued on Next Page)

| | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
|--|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Total covered under Ohio UC Law (b) | \$460.61 | \$465.12 | \$473.94 | \$488.08 | \$507.85 | \$509.02 | \$508.46 |
| Private Sector | \$430.60 | \$428.80 | \$429.71 | \$439.71 | \$458.13 | \$459.94 | \$461.77 |
| Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting | \$325.04 | \$549.57 | (c) | (c) | (c) | \$366.90 | \$344.63 |
| Mining | (c) | (c) | (c) | (c) | (c) | \$561.19 | \$592.96 |
| Utilities | (c) | (c) | (c) | (c) | (c) | (c) | (c) |
| Construction | \$478.68 | \$489.47 | \$491.21 | \$481.60 | \$509.25 | \$520.87 | \$526.06 |
| Manufacturing | \$582.52 | \$605.93 | \$614.96 | \$630.02 | \$670.40 | \$701.10 | \$728.88 |
| Wholesale trade | \$561.05 | \$585.24 | \$609.94 | \$679.65 | \$641.87 | \$722.35 | (c) |
| Retail trade | \$333.68 | \$332.32 | \$346.27 | \$367.81 | \$366.96 | \$366.58 | \$369.56 |
| Transportation and warehousing | \$548.52 | \$515.76 | (c) | (c) | (c) | (c) | \$546.13 |
| Information | \$418.48 | \$495.03 | \$449.94 | \$572.58 | \$662.44 | \$639.48 | \$580.60 |
| Finance and insurance | \$490.37 | \$530.98 | \$525.27 | \$579.27 | \$595.98 | \$578.13 | \$608.13 |
| Real estate and rental and leasing | \$323.31 | \$297.22 | \$302.90 | \$276.46 | \$273.50 | \$232.31 | \$255.29 |
| Professional and technical services | \$465.42 | \$453.52 | \$474.71 | \$444.77 | \$426.48 | \$422.54 | \$483.98 |
| Management of companies and enterprises | (c) | (c) | (c) | (c) | (c) | (c) | (c) |
| Administrative and waste services | \$271.61 | \$284.73 | \$272.27 | \$293.12 | \$332.54 | \$312.21 | \$322.37 |
| Educational services | \$386.15 | \$408.78 | \$441.50 | (c) | \$599.54 | \$614.38 | \$626.88 |
| Health care and social assistance | \$398.68 | \$378.43 | \$413.73 | (c) | \$478.31 | \$494.65 | \$493.10 |
| Arts, entertainment, and recreation | \$247.82 | \$251.61 | \$265.12 | \$270.81 | \$266.10 | \$258.10 | \$207.40 |
| Accommodation and food services | \$177.74 | \$176.79 | \$178.27 | \$182.87 | \$200.58 | \$200.48 | \$198.10 |
| Other services, except public administration | \$262.32 | \$273.66 | \$302.31 | \$280.00 | \$280.58 | \$286.85 | \$289.48 |
| | | | | | | | |
| State & Local Government | \$556.17 | \$579.00 | \$617.70 | \$642.67 | \$662.73 | \$653.06 | \$637.76 |
| State Government | \$811.39 | \$811.71 | \$893.02 | \$920.08 | \$894.19 | \$922.27 | \$879.85 |
| Local Government | \$478.83 | \$508.98 | \$538.85 | \$563.85 | \$598.46 | \$581.92 | \$577.33 |
| | | | | | | | |
| Federal Government (d) | \$581.30 | \$656.33 | \$669.71 | \$670.92 | \$741.33 | \$689.33 | \$738.69 |

The above table looks at the average weekly wages in Hocking County from 2000-2006. The highest average weekly wage in Hocking County during 2006 was found in the ‘state government’ sector (\$879.85). The lowest wage was found in the ‘accommodation and food services’ sector (\$198.10)

(Note: Not all sector wages were reported, ‘(c)’ signifies that the totals/averages were suppressed)

| | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
|-------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Business Starts | 93 | 83 | 60 | 87 | 84 | 74 | 91 |
| Business Terminations | 79 | 78 | na | na | na | na | na |
| Net Change | 14 | 5 | na | na | na | na | na |
| Total Active Businesses | 516 | 504 | 527 | 528 | 562 | 554 | 549 |

Hocking County experienced an increase in active businesses from 2000 to 2004; however these numbers have leveled off and even decreased in the time since. The

number of business starts experienced an increase of 17 since 2005 the largest increase since 2002-2003. Hocking County is averaging nearly 82 business starts per year over this seven-year period.

Meigs County Economics

| Table 3.37 - Meigs County- Civilian Labor Force | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-----------|
| | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | Ohio 2007 |
| Civilian Labor Force | 8,400 | 8,000 | 7,400 | 7,100 | 9,000 | 9,000 | 9,100 | 9,300 | 5,976,500 |
| Employment | 7,500 | 7,300 | 6,600 | 6,000 | 8,100 | 8,100 | 8,300 | 8,400 | 5,640,100 |
| Unemployment | 900 | 700 | 800 | 1,100 | 1,000 | 900 | 800 | 800 | 336,400 |
| Unemployment Rate | 10.5 | 8.7 | 11.3 | 15.7 | 10.8 | 9.8 | 8.5 | 8.9 | 5.6 |

Table 3.37 shows the civilian labor force information for Meigs County. The overall civilian labor force has been unstable from year to year, but has shown steady growth since 2003. This growth has also led to higher levels of employment in the county, and even a slightly lower level of unemployment compared to the previous years. In 2003 the unemployment rate jumped 4.4 percent from the previous year, bringing the total to an astounding 15.7 percent. A 4.9 percent decrease in 2004 brought the rate down to 10.8, which was still one of the highest in the district, and nearly double the annual state average in 2004. By 2006 the unemployment had dropped below the 10 percent level to 8.5 percent, a 2 percent drop since 2000. Unfortunately, Meigs County continues to have one of the highest unemployment rates in the state on a monthly basis.

(Continued on Next Page)

| Table 3.38 - Meigs County- Employment by Industrial Sector | | | | | | | |
|--|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
| Total covered under Ohio UC Law | 4,924 | 4,766 | 4,208 | 3,717 | 3,550 | 3,542 | 3,667 |
| Private Sector | 3,712 | 3,643 | 3,128 | 2,643 | 2,514 | 2,489 | 2,632 |
| Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting | 158 | 207 | 168 | -1 | 98 | -1 | 88 |
| Mining | -1 | -1 | 353 | -1 | 142 | -1 | 107 |
| Utilities | -1 | -1 | -1 | -1 | -1 | 19 | 22 |
| Construction | 314 | 408 | 465 | 319 | 263 | 235 | 275 |
| Manufacturing | -1 | 130 | -1 | -1 | -1 | 125 | 111 |
| Wholesale trade | 49 | 56 | 61 | 80 | -1 | 43 | 74 |
| Retail trade | 766 | 672 | 649 | 623 | 609 | 595 | 632 |
| Transportation and warehousing | 54 | 40 | -1 | -1 | 34 | 41 | 26 |
| Information | -1 | -1 | -1 | -1 | -1 | -1 | -1 |
| Finance and insurance | 150 | 157 | 162 | 159 | 158 | 149 | 161 |
| Real estate and rental and leasing | 14 | 18 | 20 | 17 | 16 | 13 | 13 |
| Professional and technical services | 59 | 59 | 60 | 62 | 60 | 59 | -1 |
| Management of companies and enterprises | -1 | -1 | -1 | -1 | -1 | -1 | -1 |
| Administrative and waste services | 78 | 46 | -1 | -1 | -1 | -1 | 123 |
| Educational services | -1 | -1 | -1 | -1 | -1 | -1 | -1 |
| Health care and social assistance | 542 | 509 | -1 | -1 | -1 | -1 | -1 |
| Arts, entertainment, and recreation | 16 | 16 | 15 | 18 | 16 | 16 | -1 |
| Accommodation and food services | 333 | 349 | 352 | 309 | 332 | 336 | -1 |
| Other services, except public administration | 75 | 78 | 80 | 77 | 73 | 66 | -1 |
| State and Local Government | 1,212 | 1,123 | 1,080 | 1,075 | 1,035 | 1,052 | 1,035 |
| State government | 45 | 44 | 43 | 43 | 43 | 41 | 42 |
| Local government | 1,167 | 1,079 | 1,037 | 1,032 | 992 | 1,011 | 993 |
| Federal Government | 90 | 82 | 83 | 83 | 77 | 78 | 73 |

In Meigs County the two leading sectors of employment are ‘state and local government’ and ‘retail trade.’ Due to data suppression practices, it is difficult to observe other trends in Meigs County employment patterns.

(Note: In the table above ‘-1’ signifies that the employment totals were suppressed)

(Continued on Next Page)

| | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
|--|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|------------|------------|
| Total covered under Ohio UC Law (b) | \$513.90 | \$548.13 | \$435.19 | \$419.37 | \$424.29 | \$428.33 | \$430.85 |
| Private Sector | \$552.80 | \$587.25 | \$424.71 | \$395.06 | \$391.85 | \$400.40 | \$401.31 |
| Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting | \$237.51 | \$197.34 | \$224.98 | (c) | \$223.08 | (c) | \$278.94 |
| Mining | (c) | (c) | \$673.81 | (c) | \$748.13 | (c) | \$685.42 |
| Utilities | (c) | (c) | (c) | (c) | (c) | \$1,185.33 | \$1,185.13 |
| Construction | \$509.55 | \$594.91 | \$650.58 | \$575.65 | \$544.40 | \$582.98 | \$664.87 |
| Manufacturing | (c) | \$573.48 | (c) | (c) | (c) | \$533.81 | \$550.52 |
| Wholesale trade | \$503.00 | \$462.50 | \$482.79 | \$406.29 | (c) | \$652.13 | \$709.85 |
| Retail trade | \$302.28 | \$327.40 | \$330.08 | \$345.50 | \$313.73 | \$322.56 | \$322.38 |
| Transportation and warehousing | \$407.19 | \$504.35 | (c) | (c) | \$516.87 | \$540.48 | \$552.65 |
| Information | (c) | (c) | (c) | (c) | (c) | (c) | (c) |
| Finance and insurance | \$399.76 | \$402.67 | \$427.77 | \$441.67 | \$442.00 | \$465.52 | \$469.21 |
| Real estate and rental and leasing | \$207.10 | \$198.67 | \$167.12 | \$184.54 | \$170.15 | \$179.71 | \$169.96 |
| Professional and technical services | \$352.67 | \$377.94 | \$375.87 | \$396.92 | \$410.94 | \$427.94 | (c) |
| Management of companies and enterprises | (c) | (c) | (c) | (c) | (c) | (c) | (c) |
| Administrative and waste services | \$190.15 | \$187.32 | (c) | (c) | (c) | (c) | \$256.65 |
| Educational services | (c) | (c) | (c) | (c) | (c) | (c) | (c) |
| Health care and social assistance | \$322.67 | \$338.80 | (c) | (c) | (c) | (c) | (c) |
| Arts, entertainment, and recreation | \$184.38 | \$162.60 | \$202.38 | \$161.98 | \$135.92 | \$121.94 | (c) |
| Accommodation and food services | \$194.15 | \$193.39 | \$195.00 | \$178.12 | \$174.67 | \$175.92 | (c) |
| Other services, except public administration | \$291.11 | \$306.00 | \$293.46 | \$332.02 | \$307.62 | \$285.69 | (c) |
| State & Local Government | \$394.76 | \$421.21 | \$465.38 | \$478.88 | \$503.56 | \$494.69 | \$506.13 |
| State Government | \$617.29 | \$614.87 | \$678.58 | \$699.15 | \$674.79 | \$713.38 | \$678.81 |
| Local Government | \$386.18 | \$413.31 | \$456.54 | \$470.12 | \$495.85 | \$485.63 | \$498.46 |
| Federal Government (d) | \$603.91 | \$641.02 | \$679.67 | \$699.85 | \$760.63 | \$747.46 | \$811.67 |

Table 3.38 illustrates the average weekly wages by industrial sector for Meigs County. The highest wages in the county continued to be in the ‘utilities’ sector (\$1,185.13), while the lowest reported wages were in the ‘real estate and rental and leasing,’ sector (\$169.96).

(Note: Not all sector wages were reported, ‘(c)’ signifies that the totals/averages were suppressed)

| | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
|-------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Business Starts | 33 | 45 | 37 | 36 | 33 | 28 | 37 |
| Business Terminations | na | na | na | na | na | na | na |
| Net Change | na | na | na | na | na | na | na |
| Total Active Businesses | 358 | 363 | 378 | 363 | 354 | 340 | 344 |

Meigs County experienced a recent low in business starts in 2005 with 28, but saw that number increase to 37 in 2006. The number of total active businesses has been declining

since 2002. Meigs County has averaged nearly 36 business starts per year over this seven-year span.

Monroe County Economics

| Table 3.41 - Monroe County-Civilian Labor Force | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-----------|
| | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | Ohio 2007 |
| Civilian Labor Force | 5,800 | 5,300 | 5,300 | 5,400 | 6,100 | 5,500 | 5,100 | 5,600 | 5,976,500 |
| Employment | 5,200 | 4,900 | 4,800 | 4,900 | 5,500 | 4,700 | 4,500 | 5,100 | 5,640,100 |
| Unemployment | 500 | 300 | 400 | 500 | 600 | 700 | 600 | 500 | 336,400 |
| Unemployment Rate | 9.4 | 6.6 | 8.1 | 8.8 | 10.1 | 13.1 | 11.3 | 8.2 | 5.6 |

Table 3.41 shows the civilian labor force totals or Monroe County from 2000 to 2007. The labor force has recently returned to a level similar to the years earlier in the decade. 2004 saw a 700 person increase in the overall civilian labor force, bringing it to the highest level in the eight-year period. The unemployment rate in Monroe County has been continually high in comparison to the other counties in the district, reaching a high of 13.1 percent in 2005. The rebound in employment levels is likely due to the re-opening of the county’s largest employer after successfully ending a long standing labor dispute. Unfortunately Monroe County regularly has one of the highest monthly unemployment rates in the state.

(Continued on Next Page)

| Table 3.42 - Monroe County- Employment by Industrial Sector | | | | | | | |
|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
| Total covered under Ohio UC Law | 4,790 | 4,449 | 4,419 | 4,526 | 4,134 | 3,147 | 2,967 |
| Private Sector | 3,916 | 3,569 | 3,530 | 3,637 | 3,242 | 2,262 | 2,151 |
| Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting | 25 | 25 | -1 | 16 | 20 | 18 | 16 |
| Mining | 70 | 38 | 31 | 35 | 38 | 44 | 54 |
| Utilities | -1 | -1 | -1 | -1 | -1 | -1 | 24 |
| Construction | 188 | 170 | 200 | 190 | 171 | 192 | 166 |
| Manufacturing | 2,301 | 2,048 | -1 | 1,757 | 1,343 | 325 | 299 |
| Wholesale trade | 63 | 64 | -1 | -1 | -1 | -1 | 51 |
| Retail trade | 380 | 374 | 354 | 374 | 370 | 357 | 358 |
| Transportation and warehousing | 79 | 90 | 87 | 111 | 117 | 122 | 115 |
| Information | 27 | 33 | 33 | 32 | -1 | -1 | -1 |
| Finance and insurance | 114 | 116 | 223 | 442 | 438 | 428 | 417 |
| Real estate and rental and leasing | 8 | 15 | 6 | 8 | 9 | 9 | 8 |
| Professional and technical services | 47 | 51 | 47 | 97 | 42 | 39 | 43 |
| Management of companies and enterprises | -1 | -1 | -1 | -1 | -1 | -1 | -1 |
| Administrative and waste services | 27 | 30 | 43 | 43 | 148 | 170 | 160 |
| Educational services | -1 | -1 | -1 | -1 | 34 | 35 | 37 |
| Health care and social assistance | 172 | 179 | -1 | -1 | 167 | 160 | 151 |
| Arts, entertainment, and recreation | 12 | 15 | -1 | 16 | 15 | 16 | 22 |
| Accommodation and food services | 227 | 162 | -1 | 135 | 135 | 153 | 107 |
| Other services, except public administration | 146 | 128 | 109 | 115 | -1 | 93 | 97 |
| State and Local Government | 875 | 880 | 889 | 889 | 893 | 885 | 815 |
| State government | 37 | 36 | 36 | 34 | 38 | 37 | 34 |
| Local government | 838 | 844 | 853 | 855 | 855 | 848 | 781 |
| Federal Government | 69 | 61 | 62 | 61 | 54 | 51 | 54 |

The employment situation in Monroe County has been unchanging for many years. Of note here are the staggering losses recorded between 2000 and 2006 in the ‘manufacturing’ sector, with an astonishing 2,002 positions being lost. The ‘finance and insurance’ sector has seen the largest increase over this time, with 303 positions being reported overall. (Note: In the table above ‘-1’ signifies that the employment totals were suppressed)

(Note: In the table above ‘-1’ signifies that the employment totals were suppressed)

(Continued on Next Page)

| | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
|--|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|------------|------------|
| Total covered under Ohio UC Law (b) | \$539.76 | \$548.44 | \$554.46 | \$606.58 | \$601.77 | \$584.81 | \$575.40 |
| Private Sector | \$566.44 | \$580.51 | \$580.37 | \$643.35 | \$635.62 | \$630.65 | \$608.10 |
| Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting | \$294.02 | \$267.68 | (c) | \$253.40 | \$238.85 | \$214.48 | \$238.94 |
| Mining | \$320.73 | \$304.23 | \$325.42 | \$301.46 | \$329.58 | \$376.85 | \$379.62 |
| Utilities | (c) | (c) | (c) | (c) | (c) | (c) | \$1,190.75 |
| Construction | \$530.54 | \$487.17 | \$429.37 | \$410.94 | \$419.00 | \$475.00 | \$633.50 |
| Manufacturing | \$737.65 | \$764.59 | (c) | \$868.25 | \$886.37 | \$1,660.12 | \$1,484.15 |
| Wholesale trade | \$750.38 | \$789.81 | (c) | (c) | (c) | (c) | \$712.87 |
| Retail trade | \$244.99 | \$243.73 | \$250.65 | \$250.83 | \$256.46 | \$271.50 | \$281.98 |
| Transportation and warehousing | \$457.56 | \$469.45 | \$460.50 | \$454.87 | \$554.10 | \$579.87 | \$538.31 |
| Information | \$661.97 | \$649.61 | \$639.58 | \$605.94 | (c) | (c) | (c) |
| Finance and insurance | \$378.96 | \$380.72 | \$452.90 | \$697.31 | \$680.73 | \$614.35 | \$526.69 |
| Real estate and rental and leasing | \$206.19 | \$147.50 | \$193.77 | \$150.94 | \$155.08 | \$184.46 | \$180.23 |
| Professional and technical services | \$457.80 | \$514.15 | \$407.67 | \$747.42 | \$376.02 | \$325.81 | \$416.63 |
| Management of companies and enterprises | (c) | (c) | (c) | (c) | (c) | (c) | (c) |
| Administrative and waste services | \$270.19 | \$238.45 | \$211.33 | \$212.75 | \$746.15 | \$713.35 | \$836.69 |
| Educational services | (c) | (c) | (c) | (c) | \$356.38 | \$330.88 | \$301.40 |
| Health care and social assistance | \$268.87 | \$316.75 | (c) | (c) | \$338.42 | \$375.19 | \$373.33 |
| Arts, entertainment, and recreation | \$279.45 | \$244.99 | (c) | \$256.75 | \$262.35 | \$250.21 | \$194.50 |
| Accommodation and food services | \$153.40 | \$142.69 | (c) | \$138.65 | \$147.67 | \$154.12 | \$151.17 |
| Other services, except public administration | \$169.14 | \$177.97 | \$187.91 | \$175.19 | (c) | \$274.50 | \$293.56 |
| State & Local Government | \$419.76 | \$418.35 | \$451.51 | \$455.88 | \$478.56 | \$467.69 | \$489.54 |
| State Government | \$638.15 | \$641.13 | \$684.21 | \$740.15 | \$663.85 | \$679.56 | \$662.63 |
| Local Government | \$410.12 | \$408.85 | \$441.69 | \$444.38 | \$470.58 | \$458.79 | \$482.10 |
| Federal Government (d) | \$593.69 | \$634.01 | \$661.15 | \$688.15 | \$824.52 | \$728.67 | \$786.85 |

Based on table 3.43 above, the highest wage in the county was still found in the rapidly shrinking ‘manufacturing’ sector (\$1,660.12), while the lowest wage was found in the ‘accommodation and food service’ sector (\$151.17).

(Note: Not all sector wages were reported, ‘(c)’ signifies that the totals/averages were suppressed)

| | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
|-------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Business Starts | 28 | 33 | 34 | 30 | 20 | 31 | 29 |
| Business Terminations | 26 | 28 | na | na | na | na | na |
| Net Change | 2 | 5 | na | na | na | na | na |
| Total Active Businesses | 368 | 369 | 380 | 379 | 376 | 371 | 364 |

In 2004 Monroe County experienced a recent low in the number of business starts taking place in the county with 20, down ten from the previous year. This number rebounded to

31 in 2005. The number of total active businesses in the county has been on the decline since 2002.

Morgan County Economics

| Table 3.45 - Morgan County- Civilian Labor Force | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-----------|
| | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | Ohio 2007 |
| Civilian Labor Force | 4,500 | 4,500 | 4,300 | 4,300 | 6,300 | 6,200 | 5,800 | 5,800 | 5,976,500 |
| Employment | 3,900 | 3,800 | 3,700 | 3,600 | 5,700 | 5,600 | 5,300 | 5,200 | 5,640,100 |
| Unemployment | 600 | 700 | 600 | 700 | 700 | 600 | 500 | 500 | 336,400 |
| Unemployment Rate | 12.4 | 14.7 | 14.3 | 16.4 | 10.4 | 9.9 | 9.1 | 9.3 | 5.6 |

Table 3.45 provides us with data on Morgan County’s civilian labor force from 2000 to 2007. You will immediately notice the consistently high unemployment rates. On a month to month basis, Morgan County has had one of the highest unemployment rates in the state. Morgan County experienced a high in the number of individuals in their civilian labor force during 2004. That number has since leveled off, but is still higher than the levels seen in 2000. The number of unemployed individuals has remained fairly steady, as the unemployment rate in the county has decreased by 6 percent between 2003 and 2004, and another 1.1 percent between 2004 and 2007. In 2003 the unemployment rate in Morgan County was nearly triple the state average at an astonishing 16.4 percent.

(Continued on Next Page)

| Table 3.46 - Morgan County- Employment by Industrial Sector | | | | | | | |
|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
| Total covered under Ohio UC Law | 3,424 | 3,334 | 3,258 | 3,096 | 2,927 | 2,726 | 2,417 |
| Private Sector | 2,721 | 2,631 | 2,529 | 2,384 | 2,223 | 2,033 | 1,703 |
| Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting | 15 | 12 | -1 | -1 | -1 | -1 | -1 |
| Mining | 243 | -1 | -1 | -1 | -1 | -1 | -1 |
| Utilities | -1 | 304 | -1 | -1 | -1 | -1 | -1 |
| Construction | 208 | 261 | 274 | 293 | 183 | 141 | 131 |
| Manufacturing | 738 | 600 | 569 | 454 | 483 | 360 | 336 |
| Wholesale trade | -1 | 66 | 66 | 69 | 72 | 67 | 75 |
| Retail trade | 383 | 378 | 373 | 379 | 361 | 351 | 337 |
| Transportation and warehousing | 8 | 9 | -1 | -1 | -1 | -1 | -1 |
| Information | 31 | 41 | 37 | 34 | 32 | -1 | 36 |
| Finance and insurance | 98 | 106 | 104 | 103 | 110 | 108 | -1 |
| Real estate and rental and leasing | -1 | 5 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | -1 |
| Professional and technical services | 23 | 20 | 23 | 22 | 58 | 56 | 54 |
| Management of companies and enterprises | -1 | -1 | -1 | -1 | -1 | -1 | -1 |
| Administrative and waste services | 10 | 10 | -1 | -1 | -1 | -1 | -1 |
| Educational services | -1 | -1 | -1 | -1 | -1 | -1 | -1 |
| Health care and social assistance | 268 | 323 | 357 | 373 | 298 | 318 | 339 |
| Arts, entertainment, and recreation | 39 | 56 | 13 | 14 | -1 | 6 | 7 |
| Accommodation and food services | 216 | 215 | 225 | 194 | -1 | 151 | 161 |
| Other services, except public administration | 75 | 53 | 40 | 48 | 50 | 82 | 53 |
| State and Local Government | 703 | 703 | 729 | 711 | 705 | 693 | 716 |
| State government | 57 | 57 | 55 | 58 | 58 | 60 | 61 |
| Local government | 646 | 646 | 674 | 653 | 647 | 633 | 655 |
| Federal Government | 56 | 43 | 41 | 39 | 40 | 39 | 38 |

Morgan County continues to endure a difficulties retaining and sustaining reasonable employment levels in the county. At least twelve sectors of employment decreased between 2000 and 2006 (data suppression makes further analysis difficult). The reported level of manufacturing positions has been more than cut in half since 2000 (-402).

(Note: In the table above ‘-1’ signifies that the employment totals were suppressed)

(Continued on Next Page)

| | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
|--|------------|------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Total covered under Ohio UC Law (b) | \$554.82 | \$587.56 | \$563.92 | \$593.48 | \$585.75 | \$587.35 | \$493.13 |
| Private Sector | \$579.04 | \$614.61 | \$585.44 | \$617.83 | \$604.35 | \$605.31 | \$477.06 |
| Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting | \$207.82 | \$249.52 | (c) | (c) | (c) | (c) | (c) |
| Mining | \$1,041.68 | (c) | (c) | (c) | (c) | (c) | (c) |
| Utilities | (c) | \$1,309.23 | (c) | (c) | (c) | (c) | (c) |
| Construction | \$650.87 | \$758.35 | \$804.73 | \$907.65 | \$651.65 | \$646.23 | \$710.71 |
| Manufacturing | \$656.35 | \$702.28 | \$732.08 | \$792.02 | \$755.13 | \$749.23 | \$771.69 |
| Wholesale trade | (c) | \$746.06 | \$745.71 | \$739.37 | \$785.92 | \$841.44 | \$806.06 |
| Retail trade | \$249.78 | \$267.87 | \$274.54 | \$282.31 | \$297.13 | \$296.87 | \$291.15 |
| Transportation and warehousing | \$398.66 | \$357.67 | (c) | (c) | (c) | (c) | (c) |
| Information | \$592.12 | \$457.72 | \$490.38 | \$510.77 | \$480.87 | (c) | \$455.75 |
| Finance and insurance | \$400.20 | \$405.83 | \$392.63 | \$405.08 | \$420.60 | \$438.69 | (c) |
| Real estate and rental and leasing | (c) | \$110.78 | \$153.38 | \$162.33 | \$141.67 | \$146.00 | (c) |
| Professional and technical services | \$371.17 | \$419.04 | \$451.60 | \$431.08 | \$248.92 | \$262.81 | \$288.88 |
| Management of companies and enterprises | (c) | (c) | (c) | (c) | (c) | (c) | (c) |
| Administrative and waste services | \$305.30 | \$316.01 | (c) | (c) | (c) | (c) | (c) |
| Educational services | (c) | (c) | (c) | (c) | (c) | (c) | (c) |
| Health care and social assistance | \$360.72 | \$332.89 | \$352.67 | \$350.44 | \$389.56 | \$380.71 | \$397.83 |
| Arts, entertainment, and recreation | \$167.74 | \$185.46 | \$213.23 | \$198.04 | (c) | \$153.65 | \$201.48 |
| Accommodation and food services | \$131.36 | \$133.53 | \$132.44 | \$144.87 | (c) | \$156.79 | \$160.33 |
| Other services, except public administration | \$186.14 | \$234.74 | \$282.27 | \$272.12 | \$255.12 | \$587.83 | \$253.80 |
| | | | | | | | |
| State & Local Government | \$461.08 | \$486.34 | \$488.94 | \$512.90 | \$526.48 | \$534.96 | \$530.26 |
| State Government | \$681.09 | \$666.84 | \$719.63 | \$713.81 | \$704.21 | \$690.85 | \$666.06 |
| Local Government | \$441.66 | \$470.42 | \$470.12 | \$494.48 | \$510.50 | \$520.29 | \$518.52 |
| | | | | | | | |
| Federal Government (d) | \$575.94 | \$609.84 | \$681.35 | \$693.83 | \$766.87 | \$752.31 | \$816.42 |

During 2006, the highest reported wage in Morgan County was reported in the ‘federal government’ sector (\$816.42), while the lowest weekly wage was reported in the ‘accommodation and food services’ sector (\$160.33).

(Note: Not all sector wages were reported, ‘(c)’ signifies that the totals/averages were suppressed)

| | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
|-------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Business Starts | 35 | 27 | 23 | 46 | 27 | 19 | 42 |
| Business Terminations | 29 | 28 | na | na | na | na | na |
| Net Change | 6 | -1 | na | na | na | na | na |
| Total Active Businesses | 261 | 253 | 260 | 277 | 273 | 253 | 255 |

The number of new business starts in Morgan County saw a significant increase between 2005 and 2006 (23). The average number of new business starts per year during this

period was 31. The total number of active businesses has leveled off since recent highs in 2003 and 2004.

Noble County Economics

| | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | Ohio 2007 |
|----------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-----------|
| Civilian Labor Force | 5,600 | 5,300 | 5,500 | 5,800 | 5,800 | 5,900 | 5,900 | 5,800 | 5,976,500 |
| Employment | 5,200 | 5,000 | 5,200 | 5,300 | 5,300 | 5,400 | 5,500 | 5,400 | 5,640,100 |
| Unemployment | 400 | 300 | 400 | 500 | 500 | 500 | 400 | 400 | 336,400 |
| Unemployment Rate | 7.5 | 5.8 | 6.9 | 8.9 | 8.5 | 8.1 | 7.2 | 7.4 | 5.6 |

Table 3.49 shows us civilian labor force information for Noble County between 2000 and 2007. Noble County has had very steady labor force, employment, and unemployment levels from 2000 to 2007. The unemployment rate has decreased by .1 percent since 2000. Since Noble County is one of the smallest counties in the state (smallest in the BH regions) according to population, even slight changes in these levels can translate to large fluctuations in unemployment.

| | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
|--|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Total covered under Ohio UC Law | 3,384 | 3,391 | 3,356 | 3,243 | 3,218 | 3,297 | 3,251 |
| Private Sector | 2,273 | 2,285 | 2,252 | 2,139 | 2,107 | 2,212 | 2,201 |
| Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting | 6 | 12 | 31 | 30 | -1 | -1 | -1 |
| Mining | 92 | 89 | 91 | 101 | -1 | -1 | -1 |
| Utilities | 22 | 21 | 21 | 19 | 18 | 12 | 12 |
| Construction | 70 | 75 | 87 | 84 | 99 | 110 | 112 |
| Manufacturing | -1 | 676 | 654 | 589 | 571 | 531 | 505 |
| Wholesale trade | 86 | 80 | 89 | 82 | 87 | 91 | 86 |
| Retail trade | 350 | 347 | 379 | 348 | 332 | 341 | 375 |
| Transportation and warehousing | 81 | 86 | 89 | 54 | 49 | 61 | 57 |
| Information | 18 | 19 | 18 | 18 | 14 | 13 | 15 |
| Finance and insurance | 85 | 71 | -1 | -1 | -1 | -1 | -1 |
| Real estate and rental and leasing | -1 | -1 | -1 | -1 | -1 | -1 | -1 |
| Professional and technical services | 19 | 20 | 26 | 25 | 23 | 25 | -1 |
| Management of companies and enterprises | -1 | -1 | -1 | -1 | -1 | -1 | -1 |
| Administrative and waste services | 14 | 25 | 16 | 17 | 17 | 18 | -1 |
| Educational services | -1 | -1 | -1 | -1 | -1 | -1 | -1 |
| Health care and social assistance | 434 | 412 | 405 | 457 | 437 | 514 | 559 |
| Arts, entertainment, and recreation | -1 | -1 | -1 | -1 | -1 | -1 | -1 |
| Accommodation and food services | 286 | 262 | -1 | -1 | -1 | -1 | -1 |
| Other services, except public administration | 94 | 83 | 63 | 59 | 53 | 53 | 66 |
| State and Local Government | 1,111 | 1,106 | 1,104 | 1,104 | 1,111 | 1,086 | 1,050 |
| State government | -1 | -1 | 536 | -1 | -1 | -1 | -1 |
| Local government | -1 | -1 | 568 | -1 | -1 | -1 | -1 |
| Federal Government | 34 | 29 | 29 | 27 | 29 | 27 | 28 |

Data suppression of employment levels in Noble County makes trend analysis difficult between 2000 and 2006. Based on what is shown, with the exception of manufacturing (-171 since 2001), most sectors have seen only modest changes in employment levels.

(Note: In the table above ‘-1’ signifies that the employment totals were suppressed)

| | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
|--|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Total covered under Ohio UC Law (b) | \$476.34 | \$483.46 | \$524.92 | \$525.10 | \$536.02 | \$518.94 | \$542.52 |
| Private Sector | \$434.31 | \$439.12 | \$477.96 | \$461.83 | \$491.96 | \$466.48 | \$491.12 |
| Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting | \$392.98 | \$357.70 | \$326.96 | \$306.21 | (c) | (c) | (c) |
| Mining | \$689.18 | \$764.13 | \$728.48 | \$698.67 | (c) | (c) | (c) |
| Utilities | \$674.26 | \$730.18 | \$730.63 | \$776.60 | \$667.92 | \$622.85 | \$679.56 |
| Construction | \$401.62 | \$389.35 | \$512.94 | \$446.37 | \$484.19 | \$402.38 | \$432.75 |
| Manufacturing | (c) | \$649.51 | \$729.98 | \$724.08 | \$794.38 | \$749.58 | \$792.87 |
| Wholesale trade | \$442.44 | \$476.00 | \$472.48 | \$435.60 | \$426.73 | \$455.79 | \$472.92 |
| Retail trade | \$283.08 | \$290.94 | \$279.52 | \$284.40 | \$300.31 | \$316.17 | \$335.54 |
| Transportation and warehousing | \$441.50 | \$451.71 | \$406.10 | \$471.75 | \$543.12 | \$522.29 | \$590.17 |
| Information | \$538.62 | \$500.78 | \$484.40 | \$492.44 | \$512.02 | \$508.17 | \$842.83 |
| Finance and insurance | \$548.00 | \$575.31 | (c) | (c) | (c) | (c) | (c) |
| Real estate and rental and leasing | (c) | (c) | (c) | (c) | (c) | (c) | (c) |
| Professional and technical services | \$391.84 | \$503.08 | \$456.25 | \$447.94 | \$532.81 | \$665.90 | (c) |
| Management of companies and enterprises | (c) | (c) | (c) | (c) | (c) | (c) | (c) |
| Administrative and waste services | \$517.39 | \$452.14 | \$481.15 | \$475.69 | \$534.04 | \$485.00 | (c) |
| Educational services | (c) | (c) | (c) | (c) | (c) | (c) | (c) |
| Health care and social assistance | \$297.51 | \$320.42 | \$364.67 | \$354.31 | \$354.37 | \$335.88 | \$359.08 |
| Arts, entertainment, and recreation | (c) | (c) | (c) | (c) | (c) | (c) | (c) |
| Accommodation and food services | \$183.85 | \$172.08 | (c) | (c) | (c) | (c) | (c) |
| Other services, except public administration | \$175.52 | \$237.94 | \$423.42 | \$186.65 | \$202.56 | \$193.73 | \$174.83 |
| State & Local Government | \$562.33 | \$575.07 | \$620.59 | \$647.62 | \$619.48 | \$625.52 | \$650.32 |
| State Government | (c) | (c) | \$788.44 | (c) | (c) | (c) | (c) |
| Local Government | (c) | (c) | \$462.19 | (c) | (c) | (c) | (c) |
| Federal Government (d) | \$550.53 | \$574.89 | \$621.90 | \$633.12 | \$672.42 | \$666.04 | \$697.56 |

Table 3.50 shows the average weekly earnings by industrial sector for Noble County between 2000 and 2006. In 2006 the highest reported wages in Noble County were recorded in the ‘information’ sector (\$842.83), while the lowest wages were recorded in the ‘other services, except public administration’ sector (\$174.83).

(Note: Not all sector wages were reported, ‘(c)’ signifies that the totals/averages were suppressed)

| | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
|-------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Business Starts | 25 | 24 | 11 | 15 | 15 | 27 | 20 |
| Business Terminations | 17 | 24 | na | na | na | na | na |
| Net Change | 8 | 0 | na | na | na | na | na |
| Total Active Businesses | 226 | 228 | 216 | 206 | 207 | 212 | 212 |

The business environment in Noble County has continued to rebound after experiencing very low numbers of business starts between 2002 and 2004. Noble County has averaged nearly 20 business starts per year during the time period specified, and has experienced a net loss of 14 businesses.

Perry County Economics

| | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | Ohio 2007 |
|----------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-----------|
| Civilian Labor Force | 14,200 | 14,400 | 14,700 | 15,000 | 16,700 | 16,600 | 16,600 | 16,400 | 5,976,500 |
| Employment | 13,100 | 13,400 | 13,500 | 13,500 | 15,200 | 15,200 | 15,400 | 15,200 | 5,640,100 |
| Unemployment | 1,100 | 1,000 | 1,200 | 1,500 | 1,500 | 1,400 | 1,200 | 1,200 | 336,400 |
| Unemployment Rate | 7.4 | 7.1 | 8.1 | 9.8 | 8.8 | 8.1 | 7.4 | 7.4 | 5.6 |

Table 3.53 illustrates the state of the civilian labor force in Perry County. In a trend continuing since 2004, Perry County has experienced strong levels of individuals in the civilian labor force, and in the number of individuals employed. The number of individuals unemployed was also at a recent high in 2004, but has decreased slightly in the times following (-300). The unemployment rate reached a high at 9.8 percent in 2003, but had fallen to 7.4 percent by 2007.

(Continued on Next Page)

| Table 3.54 -Perry County- Employment by Industrial Sector | | | | | | | |
|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
| Total covered under Ohio UC Law | 6,755 | 6,645 | 6,736 | 6,626 | 6,462 | 6,417 | 6,327 |
| Private Sector | 5,059 | 4,898 | 4,989 | 4,826 | 4,646 | 4,581 | 4,433 |
| Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting | 52 | 20 | 21 | 21 | 24 | 22 | 20 |
| Mining | 249 | 197 | 233 | 229 | 232 | 228 | 259 |
| Utilities | 35 | 33 | 28 | 30 | 29 | 29 | 28 |
| Construction | 438 | 452 | 557 | 636 | 659 | 623 | 588 |
| Manufacturing | 1,593 | 1,520 | 1,493 | 1,347 | 1,156 | 1,134 | 1,040 |
| Wholesale trade | 182 | 185 | 172 | 99 | 78 | 74 | 80 |
| Retail trade | 751 | 727 | 665 | 671 | 664 | 679 | 647 |
| Transportation and warehousing | 66 | 69 | 57 | 54 | 58 | 61 | 62 |
| Information | 41 | 55 | 62 | 57 | 39 | 33 | 36 |
| Finance and insurance | 198 | 214 | 238 | 259 | 261 | 214 | 195 |
| Real estate and rental and leasing | 26 | 28 | 29 | 33 | 43 | 40 | 37 |
| Professional and technical services | 108 | 106 | 107 | 103 | 105 | 105 | 106 |
| Management of companies and enterprises | -1 | -1 | -1 | -1 | -1 | -1 | -1 |
| Administrative and waste services | 57 | 48 | 44 | 43 | -1 | -1 | -1 |
| Educational services | -1 | -1 | -1 | -1 | -1 | -1 | -1 |
| Health care and social assistance | 621 | 618 | -1 | -1 | -1 | -1 | -1 |
| Arts, entertainment, and recreation | 53 | 44 | 34 | 31 | 30 | 38 | 41 |
| Accommodation and food services | 406 | 397 | 394 | 361 | 382 | 389 | 373 |
| Other services, except public administration | 138 | 136 | 153 | 153 | 141 | 156 | 155 |
| State and Local Government | 1,696 | 1,747 | 1,747 | 1,799 | 1,816 | 1,836 | 1,895 |
| State government | 39 | 41 | 41 | 44 | 48 | 46 | 43 |
| Local government | 1,657 | 1,706 | 1,706 | 1,755 | 1,768 | 1,790 | 1,852 |
| Federal Government | 88 | 75 | 77 | 77 | 78 | 75 | 77 |

With the exception of the ‘manufacturing’ sector, which has lost 553 positions since 2000, Perry County has maintained a fairly steady employment pattern.

(Note: In the table above ‘-1’ signifies that the employment totals were suppressed)

(Continued on Next Page)

| | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
|--|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Total covered under Ohio UC Law (b) | \$469.00 | \$476.26 | \$508.10 | \$526.13 | \$532.40 | \$536.60 | \$556.54 |
| Private Sector | \$481.70 | \$490.09 | \$524.15 | \$547.73 | \$546.10 | \$553.35 | \$575.15 |
| Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting | \$422.42 | \$342.22 | \$330.31 | \$346.85 | \$339.58 | \$319.98 | \$363.81 |
| Mining | \$691.28 | \$675.92 | \$711.19 | \$688.40 | \$736.75 | \$767.63 | \$782.88 |
| Utilities | \$1,026.89 | \$1,020.60 | \$1,151.35 | \$1,298.13 | \$1,239.44 | \$1,313.52 | \$1,518.02 |
| Construction | \$773.98 | \$824.92 | \$933.29 | \$1,002.27 | \$901.21 | \$925.75 | \$1,012.21 |
| Manufacturing | \$588.31 | \$607.63 | \$611.19 | \$620.23 | \$637.73 | \$641.12 | \$686.35 |
| Wholesale trade | \$546.99 | \$400.50 | \$381.96 | \$482.42 | \$539.87 | \$633.29 | \$585.31 |
| Retail trade | \$295.49 | \$307.06 | \$317.33 | \$316.00 | \$318.42 | \$322.17 | \$336.69 |
| Transportation and warehousing | \$361.93 | \$384.66 | \$385.35 | \$417.94 | \$384.96 | \$351.21 | \$364.81 |
| Information | \$732.12 | \$682.88 | \$724.27 | \$718.13 | \$845.06 | \$913.54 | \$809.98 |
| Finance and insurance | \$441.10 | \$460.65 | \$461.37 | \$472.75 | \$470.29 | \$466.69 | \$491.67 |
| Real estate and rental and leasing | \$180.43 | \$221.11 | \$249.60 | \$215.65 | \$222.69 | \$250.08 | \$268.04 |
| Professional and technical services | \$514.64 | \$561.63 | \$637.33 | \$655.77 | \$697.10 | \$703.25 | \$676.40 |
| Management of companies and enterprises | (c) | (c) | (c) | (c) | (c) | (c) | (c) |
| Administrative and waste services | \$468.08 | \$381.46 | \$591.17 | \$530.56 | (c) | (c) | (c) |
| Educational services | (c) | (c) | (c) | (c) | (c) | (c) | (c) |
| Health care and social assistance | \$423.52 | \$437.18 | (c) | (c) | (c) | (c) | (c) |
| Arts, entertainment, and recreation | \$357.92 | \$310.63 | \$302.88 | \$306.02 | \$261.85 | \$178.06 | \$161.69 |
| Accommodation and food services | \$145.68 | \$151.59 | \$164.79 | \$171.19 | \$171.27 | \$177.00 | \$161.65 |
| Other services, except public administration | \$215.12 | \$226.76 | \$246.67 | \$271.88 | \$304.02 | \$295.37 | \$309.73 |
| State & Local Government | \$431.13 | \$437.49 | \$462.21 | \$468.54 | \$497.35 | \$494.79 | \$512.64 |
| State Government | \$757.91 | \$715.61 | \$816.08 | \$749.81 | \$728.33 | \$763.15 | \$712.90 |
| Local Government | \$423.44 | \$430.80 | \$453.71 | \$461.37 | \$491.23 | \$487.88 | \$508.15 |
| Federal Government (d) | \$561.95 | \$624.98 | \$621.44 | \$647.15 | \$683.85 | \$667.21 | \$690.54 |

Table 3.55 shows the average weekly wages for NAICS industrial sectors in Perry County. The highest wage in Perry County was recorded in the ‘utilities’ sector (\$1,518.02). The lowest wage was recorded in the ‘accommodation and food services’ sector (\$161.65).

(Note: Not all sector wages were reported, ‘(c)’ signifies that the totals/averages were suppressed)

| | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
|-------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Business Starts | 116 | 94 | 107 | 105 | 112 | 90 | 98 |
| Business Terminations | 92 | 88 | na | na | na | na | na |
| Net Change | 24 | 6 | na | na | na | na | na |
| Total Active Businesses | 617 | 620 | 620 | 643 | 692 | 686 | 676 |

Table 3.56 illustrates the business environment in Perry County from 2000 to 2006. Perry County experienced a recent high in total active businesses in the county in 2004

with 692. The total increase since 2000 has been 59 businesses. The number of business starts in the county has rebounded slightly after a recent low in 2005. A high was reached in 2000 with 116 businesses opening their doors. The average number of new business starts is 103 per year.

Washington County Economics

| | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | Ohio 2007 |
|----------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-----------|
| Civilian Labor Force | 32,700 | 32,100 | 32,700 | 33,400 | 33,100 | 32,500 | 33,000 | 33,200 | 5,976,500 |
| Employment | 31,000 | 30,900 | 31,100 | 31,400 | 31,000 | 30,600 | 31,300 | 31,500 | 5,640,100 |
| Unemployment | 1,600 | 1,200 | 1,600 | 2,000 | 2,100 | 1,900 | 1,700 | 1,700 | 336,400 |
| Unemployment Rate | 5 | 3.8 | 4.8 | 6 | 6.3 | 5.9 | 5.3 | 5.1 | 5.6 |

Washington County, along with Athens County, is the largest and strongest economic county in the region. Washington County has experienced fairly stable levels of employment and number of individuals in the civilian labor force between 2000 and 2007. The unemployment levels reached a recent high 2003 and 2004, but have decreased annually since.

| | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
|--|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Total covered under Ohio UC Law | 24,515 | 24,420 | 25,458 | 25,823 | 24,617 | 24,601 | 24,817 |
| Private Sector | 21,391 | 21,245 | 22,258 | 22,589 | 21,422 | 21,400 | 21,632 |
| Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting | 144 | 128 | 123 | 129 | 136 | 131 | 143 |
| Mining | 260 | 310 | 299 | 292 | 314 | 352 | 410 |
| Utilities | -1 | 92 | 113 | 131 | 146 | 145 | 435 |
| Construction | 1,641 | 1,580 | 2,695 | 1,983 | 1,353 | 1,481 | 1,485 |
| Manufacturing | 5,362 | 5,124 | 4,758 | 4,518 | 4,267 | 4,208 | 4,220 |
| Wholesale trade | 865 | 894 | 805 | 744 | 698 | 715 | 775 |
| Retail trade | 3,284 | 3,170 | 3,085 | 3,199 | 3,125 | 3,078 | 3,056 |
| Transportation and warehousing | 627 | 610 | 657 | 585 | 704 | 653 | 728 |
| Information | 211 | 184 | 137 | 126 | 119 | 131 | 129 |
| Finance and insurance | 643 | 684 | 689 | 694 | 706 | 695 | 718 |
| Real estate and rental and leasing | 195 | 198 | 244 | 272 | 299 | 327 | 320 |
| Professional and technical services | 725 | 809 | 691 | 775 | 852 | 822 | 839 |
| Management of companies and enterprises | 117 | 87 | 86 | 84 | 72 | 77 | 101 |
| Administrative and waste services | 564 | 520 | 549 | 1,139 | 1,202 | 1,213 | 1,045 |
| Educational services | -1 | 409 | 419 | 410 | 428 | 445 | 434 |
| Health care and social assistance | 3,203 | 3,393 | 3,780 | 4,298 | 3,855 | 3,807 | 3,908 |
| Arts, entertainment, and recreation | 152 | 136 | 136 | 117 | 103 | 115 | 123 |
| Accommodation and food services | 2,105 | 2,116 | 2,187 | 2,301 | 2,256 | 2,229 | 2,017 |
| Other services, except public administration | 809 | 802 | 807 | 793 | 787 | 778 | 748 |
| State and Local Government | 3,124 | 3,174 | 3,200 | 3,235 | 3,195 | 3,202 | 3,185 |
| State government | 312 | 308 | 306 | 307 | 303 | 313 | 334 |
| Local government | 2,812 | 2,866 | 2,894 | 2,928 | 2,892 | 2,889 | 2,851 |
| Federal Government | 269 | 239 | 238 | 233 | 228 | 224 | 226 |

Table 3.58 gives us an accurate description of the employment levels in the various NAICS sectors in Washington County. Although large losses have been experienced in the ‘manufacturing’ sector (-1,142), strong gains have been made in the sectors of ‘administrative and waste services (481), and ‘health care and social assistance’ (705).

(Note: In the table above ‘-1’ signifies that the employment totals were suppressed)

| | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
|--|----------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Total covered under Ohio UC Law (b) | \$507.26 | \$523.00 | \$584.69 | \$543.23 | \$562.48 | \$576.81 | \$613.87 |
| Private Sector | \$504.26 | \$521.14 | \$587.90 | \$539.90 | \$559.06 | \$574.38 | \$616.98 |
| Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting | \$315.21 | \$284.42 | \$283.69 | \$277.96 | \$313.50 | \$290.52 | \$292.65 |
| Mining | \$497.27 | \$547.32 | \$511.04 | \$580.88 | \$604.44 | \$625.79 | \$690.85 |
| Utilities | (c) | \$918.07 | \$1,020.25 | \$1,139.08 | \$1,227.31 | \$1,367.15 | \$1,455.08 |
| Construction | \$532.38 | \$566.98 | \$1,061.38 | \$872.10 | \$650.77 | \$745.79 | \$695.60 |
| Manufacturing | \$764.74 | \$803.50 | \$804.13 | \$836.13 | \$900.79 | \$902.56 | \$942.27 |
| Wholesale trade | \$543.30 | \$548.54 | \$596.15 | \$582.65 | \$661.56 | \$681.52 | \$661.12 |
| Retail trade | \$339.49 | \$347.73 | \$371.12 | \$363.54 | \$378.83 | \$378.42 | \$382.71 |
| Transportation and warehousing | \$533.09 | \$517.84 | \$522.54 | \$547.23 | \$577.44 | \$641.98 | \$671.77 |
| Information | \$528.28 | \$536.32 | \$600.10 | \$624.62 | \$711.58 | \$721.65 | \$737.60 |
| Finance and insurance | \$539.27 | \$571.24 | \$606.04 | \$662.27 | \$645.88 | \$656.46 | \$700.96 |
| Real estate and rental and leasing | \$358.80 | \$332.43 | \$420.46 | \$467.92 | \$497.73 | \$530.02 | \$595.00 |
| Professional and technical services | \$569.01 | \$602.69 | \$613.90 | \$633.10 | \$780.44 | \$714.13 | \$774.75 |
| Management of companies and enterprises | \$622.71 | \$542.32 | \$566.35 | \$649.35 | \$722.21 | \$738.85 | \$759.60 |
| Administrative and waste services | \$337.58 | \$350.77 | \$417.94 | \$242.67 | \$265.54 | \$301.69 | \$419.54 |
| Educational services | (c) | \$504.24 | \$513.71 | \$545.12 | \$562.44 | \$571.52 | \$616.56 |
| Health care and social assistance | \$495.89 | \$511.32 | \$513.54 | \$471.71 | \$558.25 | \$576.90 | \$594.13 |
| Arts, entertainment, and recreation | \$211.06 | \$239.85 | \$241.63 | \$258.19 | \$268.40 | \$242.62 | \$240.38 |
| Accommodation and food services | \$187.90 | \$188.36 | \$191.35 | \$190.50 | \$190.46 | \$194.15 | \$206.02 |
| Other services, except public administration | \$278.73 | \$267.74 | \$269.05 | \$266.92 | \$270.19 | \$279.48 | \$296.07 |
| | | | | | | | |
| State & Local Government | \$527.76 | \$535.63 | \$562.23 | \$566.27 | \$585.33 | \$592.73 | \$592.63 |
| State Government | \$816.68 | \$795.82 | \$871.92 | \$880.67 | \$856.85 | \$874.50 | \$811.98 |
| Local Government | \$495.70 | \$507.67 | \$529.48 | \$533.44 | \$556.98 | \$562.40 | \$567.04 |
| | | | | | | | |
| Federal Government (d) | \$703.02 | \$712.76 | \$767.29 | \$786.75 | \$850.42 | \$862.94 | \$891.75 |

Table 3.59 illustrates the weekly wages reported for the various employment sectors in Washington County. The highest average weekly wages were reported in the ‘utilities’ sector (\$1,455.08), while the lowest wages were recorded in the ‘accommodation and food services’ sector (\$206.02). Of the NAICS sectors reporting, the largest increase between 2000 and 2006 was recorded in the ‘utilities’ sector (\$537.01).

(Note: Not all sector wages were reported, ‘(c)’ signifies that the totals/averages were suppressed)

| | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
|-------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Business Starts | 97 | 140 | 110 | 111 | 126 | 128 | 113 |
| Business Terminations | 108 | 110 | na | na | na | na | na |
| Net Change | -11 | 30 | na | na | na | na | na |
| Total Active Businesses | 1,433 | 1,447 | 1,485 | 1,483 | 1,503 | 1,513 | 1,497 |

Table 3.60 shows us the components of business change in Washington County from 2000 to 2006. 2005 saw a recent high number of businesses start in Washington County (128), which also served to bring the number of total active businesses to a recent high as well (1,513). The average number of business starts per year over this period was 118.

Economic Resources

Government Assistance

| | Gov't Payments to Individuals | Retirement and Disability |
|------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| BHHVRDD | \$1,367,938,000 | \$513,992,000 |
| Athens | \$293,088,000 | \$84,821,000 |
| Hocking | \$158,506,000 | \$60,507,000 |
| Meigs | \$142,294,000 | \$51,615,000 |
| Monroe | \$87,092,000 | \$38,416,000 |
| Morgan | \$82,080,000 | \$31,828,000 |
| Noble | \$59,324,000 | \$25,921,000 |
| Perry | \$186,648,000 | \$69,711,000 |
| Washington | \$358,906,000 | \$151,173,000 |

Table 3.61 shows us the amount of direct federal payments made to individuals for fiscal year 2005. As we have observed in the past, Washington and Athens Counties have the highest amounts, due to the fact that they have considerably higher population levels than the other counties in the region. Athens and Washington Counties also received the largest amounts of federal payments for retirement and disability benefits for fiscal year 2005.

| | Grants Awarded |
|------------|----------------|
| BHHVRDD | \$533,333,591 |
| Athens | \$131,543,576 |
| Hocking | \$38,700,530 |
| Meigs | \$47,832,587 |
| Monroe | \$29,966,614 |
| Morgan | \$29,454,216 |
| Noble | \$33,228,810 |
| Perry | \$52,631,268 |
| Washington | \$169,975,990 |

Table 3.62 illustrates the amounts of federal grants awarded to the counties in the region during fiscal year 2004. As we described in the previous discussion, Athens and Washington Counties received proportionately higher amounts of federal grant monies during fiscal year 2004.

| | Direct Loans | Guaranteed Loans |
|------------|---------------|------------------|
| BHHVRDD | \$158,810,164 | \$34,643,515 |
| Athens | \$141,782,326 | \$6,413,390 |
| Hocking | \$210,331 | \$6,431,924 |
| Meigs | \$1,981,090 | \$3,027,199 |
| Monroe | \$947,742 | \$1,454,610 |
| Morgan | \$313,600 | \$765,769 |
| Noble | \$543,030 | \$1,294,017 |
| Perry | \$673,029 | \$5,174,302 |
| Washington | \$12,359,016 | \$10,082,304 |

Table 3.63 illustrates the amounts of direct and guaranteed loans secured by the eight counties within the district. Again, Athens and Washington Counties led the way during fiscal year 2005, bringing in over \$150 million in direct and guaranteed loans. The remaining six counties combined for over \$22 million in direct and guaranteed loans.

Educational Attainment

| | High School Only | | Some College | | Bachelors | |
|------------|------------------|------------|--------------|------------|-----------|------------|
| | Number | Percentage | Number | Percentage | Number | Percentage |
| Ohio | 2,674,551 | 36.1 | 1,471,964 | 19.9 | 1,016,256 | 13.7 |
| BHHVRDD | 70,865 | 46.2 | 26,451 | 15.9 | 12,550 | 6.8 |
| Athens | 10,790 | 34.2 | 5,212 | 16.5 | 3,970 | 12.6 |
| Hocking | 8,650 | 46.2 | 2,917 | 15.6 | 1,151 | 6.1 |
| Meigs | 7,266 | 46.6 | 2,079 | 13.3 | 769 | 4.9 |
| Monroe | 5,277 | 50 | 1,577 | 15 | 618 | 5.9 |
| Morgan | 5,016 | 50.5 | 1,566 | 15.8 | 511 | 5.1 |
| Noble | 4,406 | 47.8 | 1,518 | 16.5 | 537 | 5.8 |
| Perry | 11,055 | 51.1 | 3,326 | 15.4 | 979 | 4.5 |
| Washington | 18,405 | 43 | 8,256 | 19.3 | 4,015 | 9.4 |

Table 3.64 illustrates educational attainment in individuals age 25 and over for the year 2000. The Buckeye Hills region had a 10 percent higher high school graduate level than the state in 2000. Perry County had the highest percentage, 51.1 percent, of persons over 25 with a high school diploma. The region falls slightly behind in terms of collegiate attainment. The region’s over-25 population with some college education was roughly 15 percent, while the state level was 19.9 percent. This lag behind the state seems to remain constant when looking at the number of individuals over 25 with bachelor’s degrees. (Note: Graduate students attending Ohio University and Marietta College may

skew the numbers for Athens and Washington Counties.) Updated educational attainment information was not available at the time of this report.

CHAPTER IV **REGIONAL ISSUES**

During the summer of 2008, the staff of Buckeye Hills invited local economic development practitioners, business representatives, county commissioners, mayors, local experts, and other interested parties to two informal discussions to determine and debate issues of local and regional importance. These meetings considered the state of the regional economy; external trends and forces; partners for economic development; and resources for economic development. The information and discussion below, and in the remainder of this chapter, was taken from these two meetings.

State of the economy

Strengths and weaknesses of the region

As identified by previous CEDS committees, and described in previous CEDS documents, some of the predominant strengths of the Buckeye Hills region are:

- the continued low cost of living;
- the rural nature of the area provides a good quality of life;
- open and easy access to local leaders and decision makers allows for greater public participation;
- a large workforce with a strong work ethic;
- regional pride;
- high quality post-secondary educational opportunities for young people (colleges and technical schools);
- central location to major markets;
- strong foundation in basic industries, raw materials;
- abundant natural resources,
- unique geographical features,
- abundance of historical attractions,

As identified by previous CEDS committees, and as described in previous CEDS documents, some of the known and identified weaknesses of the Buckeye Hills region are:

- regionalism;
- susceptibility to natural disasters (flooding, severe storms, etc.);
- a continued lack of infrastructure;
- rugged topography makes continued development difficult;
- many areas continue to be distressed (both statistically and environmentally);
- environmental issues and regulations due to heavy industry;
- the continued lack of water and sewer in some rural areas;
- lack of initiative on the local level;
- too much economic focus on declining sectors of the economy;

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- business losses due to out-of-state and foreign competition;
- most efforts in the region are focused on job creation, not career development

During the most recent meetings, attendants provided discussion surrounding both the strengths and weaknesses as they are listed above, as well as any other related topics. The points of discussion are listed below.

State of the Economy- Given the current global energy situation, representatives expressed feelings that the local economy was in a weaker overall state given the rising fuel costs facing local governments, businesses, and residents. Some members discussed the growing segment of local populations that are being moved into an economic category broadly called the ‘working poor.’ These are individuals who are commuting long distances to work at low and minimum wage jobs. With ever-increasing gas prices, these workers are essentially working for lower wages as costs increase but wages do not. This segment of the population is not necessarily new in the region, however, it appears to be growing much faster than ever before.

Aside from this issue, members felt that the region’s economy was otherwise basically unchanged from the previous year, as modest investments continue to be made throughout the region, offsetting losses reported in various sectors. The energy and alternative energy sectors continue to grow in the region, however some members expressed doubt as to whether the alternative energy industry had true staying power within the region – more discussion on this topic later in this chapter.

Health Care- Upon an initial review of the strengths and weaknesses as listed above, the issue of health care in the region was immediately raised. The resulting discussion covered this issue as both a strength and a weakness. In the eight-county region there are three counties with strong healthcare resources and facilities (Athens, Hocking, Washington), while the other five counties in the district (Meigs, Monroe, Morgan, Noble, Perry) have little to no healthcare infrastructure. The overall lack of healthcare facilities is cited as a major liability to economic development efforts, especially in the five weakest counties listed above. The economic development professionals in the region have noted that potential employers are generally less willing to move, expand, or start business activities in an area where it is difficult for their employees to access health care personnel and facilities. In the past, there has been an attempt to offset these healthcare shortcomings with financial or tax incentives to interested parties, but these have been less effective in recent times.

Members point out that there was some progress to be highlighted in those counties described as lacking in healthcare services. Morgan County has a physicians’ office that has recently began offering x-ray services for patients. Traditionally those patients in Morgan County requiring these types of imaging services had to travel to Marietta Memorial Hospital in Marietta (Washington County), O’Bleness Hospital in Athens (Athens County) or points north of the district. There was also brief discussion that

Noble County has seen positive benefits resulting from rural dental clinics and the opening of several new physicians' offices within the county.

Infrastructure/Water and Sewer- As listed in the several most recent CEDS documents and annual reports, the availability of water and sewer infrastructure continues to be a detriment to economic development activities throughout the district. Some members of the committee shared that this is becoming an even larger issue than previously discussed. Currently public sewer services are primarily only available in city and village areas. One member summed up the situation by saying 'where there is sewer, there is development.' During this discussion, the ways communities are combating this issue arose. It was noted that some areas in the district are considering the annexation of adjoining localities in order to acquire/provide sewer services. This idea is generally met with resistance. Although this is one way to provide public sewer services, once an area is annexed, they are subjected to additional income taxes, and other taxes levied by the annexing municipality. While this is one way of providing expanded sewer services, it is a controversial issue in some local areas.

Several attendees mentioned that the local politics surrounding water and sewer service projects continues to be a major limitation in their local areas. Infighting between local parties continues to take place and detract from the entire funding process in some places.

Regional Priorities/Regionalism- The final point of the previous section concerning local infighting leads directly into the topic of regionalism and regional prioritization. As stated in several previous CEDS documents, project prioritization is common and required practice for entities such as Buckeye Hills, but the practical implementation of this concept on the local level has yet to really succeed. A long-time CEDS committee member again stated that in Noble County a body has been organized several times with the mission of prioritizing, rating, and ranking water and sewer projects within the county. Each incarnation of this body is met with positivity and fanfare, with success seeming imminent. The process, and in turn the body itself, seems to quickly degrade as projects are moved on and off, up and down the county listing. As we have previously stated, the county has initiated this process several times, but has yet to encounter sustained success. There is unanimous consent among the CEDS committee, and general agreement with local leaders in our experience, that project prioritization is a positive idea and practice if you can ensure that all included parties are participating and complying with the regulations of the process. Of the eight counties, Washington County appears to do a fair job of prioritizing all projects within the county. This is most likely due to the fact that a single person is responsible for reporting on these projects and potential projects to the county commissioners.

Infrastructure/ Broadband- The other major regional infrastructure need discussed by the group was broadband. This is a resource that has been listed in the CEDS repeatedly, but according to committee members, it is an infrastructure resource which local leaders and economic development professionals have frustratingly influence over. Members agreed that some progress had been made in this area over the past few years, with help from efforts such as Ohio 18th District Congressman Zack Space's 'RENEW Ohio 18' efforts

that included a Broadband and Technology focus. The expansion of broadband services in the district continues to be slow, as rural topography and lack of a true aggregated/ concentrated need has discouraged the major service providers from making any significant capital investments. The general feeling is that villages and cities in the district, as well as some other selected localities are well served, and that service has been a positive resource for those local communities. However, the more rural areas that have limited or no connectivity have not seen much significant activity in terms of offering services to previously un-served or underserved areas. Again, this issue is obvious to the various members of the committee but seems to be more driven by market factors and conditions as opposed to local need. The lack of local options left some members frustrated when even discussing the issue.

Workforce Development- Across the board, members felt that the most pressing issue facing the region in the immediate future was workforce development. Two major issues were discussed in regard to this topic; the quality of the local work force, and the imminent retirement stage for the ‘baby boomer’ generation.

A fact that was discussed the previous year and again this year was the true quality of the local workforce. Morgan County completed a workforce study in the last two years that was mentioned in the previous CEDS annual report, but bears repeating. This report showed that employers were having major problems with workers in terms of work ethic, promptness, and motivation. These issues were corroborated this summer as the Southeast Ohio Port Authority located in Washington County held a meeting of local employers to discuss issues they have with the local workforce. Again these same issues mentioned in the previous study in Morgan County came to light. Some of the described problems were low work ethic, lack of motivation, tardiness, and general character issues such as honesty, truthfulness, and commitment. Many employers present at this Washington County workforce meeting stated that employees are often only willing to work a finite amount of hours per week, so they do not lose whatever government assistance they are currently receiving. This creates a retention problem for employers in the area, as some of these employees would simply rather not work at all, or the employer is forced to terminate them because the hassle of scheduling them according to their needs. The committee understands that this is a very micro view of the problem, but has strong feelings that these problems are most likely prominent in many places that have economic similarities to the Buckeye Hills region.

A related issue became the fact that every area when competing for site selection or competing to land a new or expanding business will tout the strength and quality of their workforce, when in actuality these qualities may not be as strong as advertised by local officials. Members stated that no one wants to face these issues and potentially lose competitive advantage over other areas by saying their workforce is anything less than great.

As the ‘baby boomer’ generation nears retirement age in positions all across the region, there is concern that there is not enough focus being put on trade and vocational skills in the local schools and training programs to ensure that there are local workers available to

fill those jobs. Members felt that these were high quality jobs that could be filled by local workers if they are available, and if they are made aware of the training requirements needed to fill these positions. Many of these positions only require two year degrees or specialized training tailored to fit the specific position. Some members discussed the idea that skills and vocational training are becoming more desirable for local employers than liberal arts type bachelor degrees for the types of jobs that will be coming open in the near future. At the Washington County workforce meeting mentioned previously, several employers felt that local guidance counselors were encouraging every single student that could possibly get in to college to apply. In this attendee's view, college is not for every student, and some enhanced connections between the high schools and vocational, skilled trade, and workplace shadowing programs would help better place some of these students, and possibly help fill some of the job openings on the horizon. These same employers stated that they were having extended difficulty finding employees in trade areas such as; steam fitters, pipe fitters, mechanical maintenance and operation, mechanical engineering, and electrical engineering.

On a related note, several employers mentioned that local community colleges and technical schools are not nearly as flexible with their training offerings as they advertise, or as they could be. This has been a disappointment to some local employers. The lack of flexibility in these programs has made retraining older displaced workers much more difficult than anticipated. Since the Buckeye Hills region has been traditionally rooted in the manufacturing sector, when those operations and jobs are lost at the local level, retraining opportunities that would allow those displaced individuals to stay in the area are scarce or not up to par.

Negative Perception- Committee members discussed the fact that the region is still fighting the negative perception and stigma tied to being in the 'Appalachian' region of the United States. Members cited recent visits to the area by Democratic Presidential hopeful Hillary Clinton. In her visits, she chose to visit and highlight areas of distress in Southeast Ohio, portraying them as representative of the entire region. Many felt that this was casting a negative light on the region, depicting it as being totally distressed and significantly behind other areas of the country. While some areas are seriously distressed, there are areas of success and progress within the region. With the increased media coverage of this Presidential election, these types of images broadcast in the national media make fighting the existing negative perception even more difficult.

Growth sectors of the economy

With regards to growth sectors of the economy in the Buckeye Hills region, the committee members offered up several areas: the metals industry, steel fabrication, ball bearing manufacturing, automotive and truck part production, power generation, mining, and alternative energy. With the exception of alternative energy, the remaining manufacturing based industries listed have been known strengths of the regional economy for an extended period. On par with other local areas, it was mentioned that the region has seen a fair expansion in retail facilities as well.

When the topic of alternative energy production and specifically the production of components needed to support the alternative energy sector was mentioned in discussion, some members questioned whether or not this industry would be sustainable in this area over a long period of time. Members cited the fact that eventually the alternative energy industry will need to procure inexpensive components from whatever sources they can find, and it is unclear whether or not this region can provide that continuous low cost stream of components needed to support the industry.

The Ohio Department of Development compiles a yearly list of private investments taking place in Ohio. During 2007, several major investments were made in the Buckeye Hills district; the largest of which took place in Washington County. Two major transportation improvements were started in 2007, the Ohio State Route 7 widening – a \$23 million road improvement project, and the construction of the Corridor D Bridge, connecting Ohio and West Virginia via U.S. Route 50, was reported at \$55 million. Also making the list was Marietta College, located in the City of Marietta (Washington County) as they undertook a \$24 million project with the construction of a new library and planetarium, scheduled to be completed in 2009.

A list of all recorded private investments in the Buckeye Hills region during 2007 can be found in the ‘Ohio Private Investment Survey 2005, 2006, 2007’ released by the Ohio Department of Development in February 2008.

<http://www.odod.state.oh.us/research/files/B200000000.pdf>

Note: The Buckeye Hills district is identified in these reports as ‘Region 11.’

Driving force of economy

Remaining unchanged, and as cited in previous CEDS documents, the driving force of the economy in the Buckeye Hills region continues to be based in manufacturing, production activities, and raw materials. The southeast region of Ohio is rich in coal and natural gas resources, which are used to power the metal, plastic, and wood based manufacturing operations which are prevalent in our district.

The rural nature of our district continues to play a major role in driving the types of investments and developments that take place in the local area.

A report completed by Deloitte in conjunction with the Ohio Department of Development during 2005 provided a comprehensive list of economic drivers in southeast Ohio (note: from this report, the term ‘southeast’ did not include the Buckeye Hills counties of Hocking and Perry). Fourteen economic drivers were identified for the southeast region, they were: fruit and vegetable preserving; animal food manufacturing; veneer, plywood, and engineered wood product manufacturing; electric lighting equipment manufacturing; sawmills and wood preservation; logging; coal mining; basic chemical manufacturing; clay product and refractory manufacturing; iron, steel mills, and ferroalloy manufacturing; steel product manufacturing from purchased steel; motor vehicle parts manufacturing; and management of companies and enterprises.’ Although this study was released in 2005 and has been mentioned in the last two CEDS documents, we still feel

that this report provides an accurate listing of the important economic sectors existing within our region.

External trends and forces

Opportunities and threats

In previous CEDS documents, one of the main threats discussed, which at the time was developing into a major issue for some of our largest employers, were organized labor issues. When the committee members were asked about this, the members stated that the labor issues were like a ‘festering wound’ to manufacturing and other labor intensive industries in the region. When asked further questions about why this isn’t a constant issue, members stated ‘when a contract isn’t expiring, it generally is not an issue.’ Along these lines, there are several major employers in the region that are internationally based firms. Generally, these international firms do not understand or tolerate the sometimes negative labor union culture here.

More discussion related to the topic of the ‘working poor’ alluded to earlier, was discussed more in depth. As fuel prices rise across the nation, people are travelling (sometimes great distances) at greater expense to make low to minimum wages. These additional costs are a severe risk to those workers, and to the large number of fixed income individuals and families we have within the district. Couple these facts with an expected 20 to 30 percent rise in electricity costs in the near future, and the region’s residents face a very serious situation.

Members continued to expand this discussion with the following descriptions as echoed by local employers. Localities are having a hard time filling what are generally considered to be ‘good jobs’ because the current crops of graduates are not advancing out of low skill/ low wage jobs after completing school. These individuals then become a collective strain on the social safety net/ social welfare system. Some committee members felt that one reason for this lack of motivation and professional success is that children/ students today are bringing many more serious personal problems in to school with them. And as school budgets are reduced due to many factors, including high energy costs, support programs and services such as counselors that could help students with these issues are often some of the first casualties of budget cuts. Without the assistance of these programs and related staff, the students in the most need may not get the help that could benefit their personal and educational success. Committee members felt helping these students with these problems would help solve this problem at the root, rather than passing them along and ultimately propping them up later with social subsidies and assistance programs that do not promote positive change. While this is a complex and in depth problem that is largely out of the influence of this committee, members felt that it was important to mention and discuss this topic, as it has many tangential effects on the economy in the region.

The last issue raised by the committee, in response to opportunities and threats identified in the previous CEDS document, was the question of whether or not the point of entry for businesses is easier in West Virginia as opposed to Ohio. A short discussion ensued on this topic, as most members felt the perceived disadvantage experienced by Ohio had been lessened by some of the changes in the tax code and regulatory policies, as well as new policies implemented by the Ted Strickland Administration which took office in early 2007.

Regional position in the national and global economies

Concurring with previous CEDS committees, the current group felt that the region held an important position in the local regional economy as a major supplier of natural resources, raw materials, metals, plastics, and wood products. As stated in earlier CEDS documents, a previously cited report completed by Deloitte in conjunction with Ohio Department of Development, noted that the ‘Appalachian region of Ohio, which encompasses all of the Southeast region, is home to 13 power plants and provides more than 60 percent of the state’s total (power) generating capacity.’

While the region is strong in the aforementioned areas, it has seen overall lower levels of major private investments, when compared to the other eleven designated economic development regions of the state. (See the most recent Ohio Private Investment Report for more details.)

Committee members feel that the region’s position in the global economy is rather minor when compared to other areas of the state. Due to global labor competition, residents have experienced the pain of substantial losses in the manufacturing sector in the past several years.

Partners for economic development

The long list of important partners for economic development in the Buckeye Hills region is largely unchanged from the re-written 2005 CEDS document. At the federal level there is the Economic Development Administration, the Appalachian Regional Commission, the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Small Business Development Centers, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Division of Mineral Resources. These federal agencies provide funding, technical assistance, and other programs for economic development. The State of Ohio is very active in economic development throughout the region. State and regional partners are: Buckeye Hills-Hocking Valley Regional Development District, Ohio State University Extension Offices, the Ohio Department of Development, the Eastern Ohio Development Alliance, the Ohio Department of Transportation, the Ohio Water Development Authority, the Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services, and others. These organizations provide local communities with technical assistance, expertise, to help create and fund new projects. At the local level there are local universities, the various Chambers of Commerce, Community

Improvement Corporations, Port Authorities, County Commissioners, and Mayors. All are active in the creation economic development opportunities. Outside of government, utility companies and lending institutions are also actively taking a role in marketing the region and promoting economic development.

All of the entities listed here continue to play a role as important participants in the economic development process in the Buckeye Hills region.

Presenters of important but unfamiliar economic development issues

Many of the partners listed above also contribute here: the Economic Development Administration, the Appalachian Regional Commission, the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development, Buckeye Hills-Hocking Valley Regional Development District, local universities, Chambers of Commerce, and Community Improvement Corporations, all of whom present new ideas for development. In addition, the Information Technology Alliance of Appalachian Ohio (ITAAO), Rural Action, ACEnet, Human Services, tourism agencies, the Red Cross, Emergency Management Agencies, soil & water conservation groups, watershed coordinators, and associated groups present new ideas and issues for economic development in the region.

Resources for economic development

Groups and organizations available to the region

There are many organizations working for the economic development and overall advancement of the region, they are: the Economic Development Administration, the Appalachian Regional Commission, the Governor's Office of Appalachia, the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development, the Ohio Department of Development, Buckeye Hills-Hocking Valley Regional Development District, Chambers of Commerce, Community Improvement Corporations, the Eastern Ohio Development Alliance, and others.

In addition to the organizations listed above there are numerous civic organizations, merchant organizations, local farm bureaus, and regional planning commissions.

Support and funding for development activities

Funding for economic development activities in the region continues to come from or through: the Economic Development Administration, the Appalachian Regional Commission, the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development, Buckeye Hills-Hocking Valley Regional Development District, the Ohio State University Extension Offices, the Ohio Department of Development, the State Capital Improvement Program, Local Transportation Improvement Program, Community Development Block Grants, the Clean Ohio Fund, various revolving loan funds, the Trickle Up grant program, and others.

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy – 2008 Annual Report

Support for economic development activities is provided through the Buckeye Hills-Hocking Valley Regional Development District, the Ohio State University Extension Offices, the local universities, as well as local community and technical colleges.

CHAPTER V

VISION

Regional Vision

Consistent with previous CEDS documents, and as established in the 2005 CEDS re-write, the Buckeye Hills- Hocking Valley Regional Development District continues to hold the following statements as part of our vision for the district:

- That local communities create diverse economies which provide sustainable employment and a living wage;
- That local economic development officials and industry leaders meet to identify potential problems and create solutions, therefore making economic development in the region more proactive and regional in scope;
- That local economic development projects make the best use of limited local resources, achieve measurable outcomes, and implement sustainable development practices;
- That local communities protect and enhance the natural integrity of the region;
- Local communities provide sufficient public infrastructure; education; and necessary social services to strengthen the quality of life.

Regional Goals

During the process of analyzing regional issues and creating our regional vision, a number of goals were identified as objectives that Buckeye Hills-Hocking Valley Regional Development District and its partners should focus their efforts upon. Many of the ideas and concepts below have been described in previous CEDS documents and remain relevant to the ongoing development and well being of the district.

These goals ranged from being those attainable in a short period of time to those requiring extensive effort and dedication to a particular issue.

As a result, a set of priorities was created to rank each goal in accordance with the regional vision. Each goal presents the following questions:

- What is the severity of the problem the goal is addressing?
- What is the scope of the goal?
- What is this goal in relationship toward the other goals?
- Does this goal make the best use of existing resources?

The following goals were generated by this process in no particular order of importance:

- Work to curb ‘regionalism’ (negative competition)
- Improve communication between potential partners for development
- Continue efforts to retain educated young people
- Continue to improve infrastructure of all types
- Continue the deployment and adoption of new broadband technologies
- Combine local political efforts to lobby state agencies for new and/or updated programs that aid local communities
- Increase coordination of planning activities
- Continue to build the growing local tourism industry
- Continue to Buckeye Hills visibility within the region
- Allocate increased resources to aid existing businesses in Ohio
- Focus efforts on attracting ‘new technology’ types of jobs and investments rather than mostly general manufacturing and retail expansions.
- Continue to work to improve the ‘soft issues’ that surround economic development in our district
- Provide assistance to help local communities prepare for and recover from natural disasters
- Create opportunities for local governments to be more proactive in the generation and allotment of resources
- Continue to allow open and easy access to local leaders and decision makers for maximum public participation
- Continue to encourage counties to prioritize infrastructure projects
- Continue fighting Appalachia’s stereotyped perception in the state capitol, and everywhere.

Based upon the priorities, these goals were ranked by order of importance. The most important goals of the region were:

1. Work to curb ‘regionalism’ (Negative Competition)
2. Create opportunities for local governments to be more proactive in the generation and allotment of resources
3. Continue to improve infrastructure of all types
4. Focus efforts on attracting ‘new technology’ types of jobs and investments rather than focusing on general manufacturing and retail expansions.
5. Continue to work to improve the ‘soft issues’ that surround economic development in our district.

Work to curb ‘regionalism’ (negative competition).

What is the severity of the problem?

Members of the committee felt that there was not enough cooperation between municipalities, townships, counties, etc, to bring much needed investments to the Buckeye Hills region. Some expressed the sentiment that sometimes parties were seemingly working against each other when trying to secure the same investment (i.e. a new business, expansion, or other development investment), so much that at times both competing areas lost, and therefore any benefit that may have been possible is now lost to the region completely. One attendee summed up the situation saying that the mindset should be ‘if it’s in my township, that’s good, if it’s in my county, that is also good, and if it is in my region, that is good as well.’ We need to end the view that ‘one areas success is another area’s failure.’ This is a problem that severely limits the future development opportunities of the district.

What is the scope?

This is a long term goal, only achievable when a change of local opinion and mindset has been achieved. The severity of the economic and financial burdens facing the local areas may help movement toward this realization.

What is this goal in relationship toward the other goals?

This goal is central to all other economic development issues pending within the district. Part of our vision is the enhancement of the region, through cooperation and advancement of common goals. Realizing that all parties within the region are on the same ‘team’ is the central piece to the regional puzzle.

Does the goal make best use of existing resources?

Yes. The focus of this goal is to maximize the benefit obtained from locally available resources. The only real resource expended in the pursuit of this endeavor is human capital.

Create opportunities for local governments to be more proactive in the generation and allotment of resources.

What is the severity of the problem?

Many localities within the region are struggling to provide the matching funds necessary to participate in many of the state and federal programs available to them, not only through Buckeye Hills- Hocking Valley Regional Development District, but other sources as well. This is a critical problem.

What is the scope?

This issue is in the intermediate range in scope. As always help for current funding scenarios is always desired as soon as possible, but the solution to this problem may include many programmatic and regulation based changes to existing programs. Local governments need to find new ways to obtain or create the funds they need to participate in programs that may benefit them.

What is this goal in relationship toward the other goals?

This goal is interrelated to many of the other goals on the extended list above. Without new opportunities for local parties, it may be difficult for them to get the maximum possible benefit from available state and federal funding, with little hope for increased available resources in the future.

Does the goal make best use of existing resources?

This goal will allow for maximum benefit to be obtained from currently existing resources. If Counties, Townships, Villages, etc., are able to either; utilize other types of funds as matching funds; generate additional monies to be used for matching funds; or if regulatory changes are made to alter match requirements, they will be increasingly able to secure the types of assistance that is most needed.

Perry County has created such an organization to help them generate the additional funds needed to allow them to participate in funding programs. This organization is called the Clay Valley Foundation; below is an excerpt from their website:

‘The Clay Valley Foundation was formed in late 2001 as an umbrella group for the various community oriented groups and commissions operating within the Crooksville area. Separately each of these small groups struggled with fund raising and the manpower needed to secure state and federal funding for worthwhile projects. Still in it’s fledgling stages, the Clay Valley Foundation has many plans for improving the community of Crooksville in addition to providing a base of professional services and manpower for each of the small committees under them.’
(<http://www.crooksville.com/Committees/ClayValley.cfm>)

These kinds of organizations may be the types of needed to allow small local municipalities to pool their resources in order to maximize their outcomes.

Continue to improve infrastructure of all types.

What is the severity of the problem the goal is addressing?

This problem continues to be severe in the Buckeye Hills district. Due to the fact that the local topography is rugged, establishing high quality, lasting, and state of the art infrastructure, has been difficult. Despite this fact, much work has been done up to this point to improve local infrastructure of all types by agencies such as Buckeye Hills and the State of Ohio Department of Development. Our region's water and sewer needs are constantly growing and changing, as older systems are repaired, and new systems are planned and built. One new area of growth in infrastructure is that of high speed communications. High speed internet and other communication technologies have become such an integral part of our lives and the way we do business, that attracting investments to an area where these technologies are unavailable is nearly impossible. Having infrastructure in place for these communications technologies has become nearly as important as some of the traditional infrastructural features (water lines, sewer lines, storage, power, waste management, etc).

What is the scope of the goal?

This is a long term goal. Infrastructure like any other structural asset has a finite life cycle. While, for example, there may be many new waterline improvements in place in one area of the district, surely in a different region there are waterlines that are deteriorating and are in need of replacement. The cyclical nature of infrastructure needs seems to make it difficult to reach the desired level of capacity and condition. Roads deteriorate, power lines deteriorate, water systems deteriorate, etc. Although it may seem like a never ending struggle, maintaining quality infrastructure is key to the health and position of the Buckeye Hills district in the region.

What is this goal in relationship toward the other goals?

This goal is interrelated to many of the other goals listed here due to its fundamental nature. Without sound infrastructure in place, the task of effective economic development becomes next to impossible. Infrastructure is the most basic and needed incentive available to prospective businesses and other parties looking to move in to the region.

Does this goal make the best use of existing resources?

Infrastructure needs are among the most basic of needs considered when examining a region for expansion or growth. Not only does infrastructure help create, attract, and retain business, but it also improves the quality of life for those constituents living in the region. However the improvement of infrastructure of all types is generally very costly, and does not happen quickly. The provision of

public water, public sewage, and other basic needs is a sound investment of existing resources in the health of the citizens within the district.

Work to attract ‘new technology’ types of jobs and investments to our region.

What is the severity of the problem the goal is addressing?

This problem is becoming more severe as economic trends in our region and our country begin to shift. In the past, the Buckeye Hills region has relied on several sectors of the economy for the bulk of our economic and financial existence. Our area is strong in the areas of manufacturing, construction, raw materials, and retail developments. In recent years intrastate and foreign competition have begun to take a toll on the base of manufacturing that was existing in the region. Many members of the committee felt this was an inevitable part of the cyclical nature of economics, and especially the new economic situation we are living in as part of a global economy. The attendants were also unoptimistic that there would be a ‘big bang’ of employment that would happen to make up for the slow trickle of jobs lost through this competition. Through our discussions it became clear that the popular feeling was that small businesses, especially those which were technology oriented, would be the new wave of economic development in the country and in our region.

What is the scope of the goal?

The scope of the goal is long-term. This goal has at its core, laying the necessary groundwork to attract modern and technical investments to our area. As was discussed in the previous paragraphs, this means ensuring that infrastructure for high speed communications is in place, that our district has the necessary skills to fill out a workforce that can complement these industries, and that funding sources are sought out and utilized to help draw investments. Drawing all these pieces together is a long term goal.

What is this goal in relationship toward the other goals?

As mentioned in the previous paragraph, this goal is interrelated with many of the other goals discussed in this document. In order to draw these kinds of investments to our area we need quality and state-of-the-art infrastructure in place, a well trained and capable workforce, and available resources to assist these businesses once they are operating.

Does this goal make the best use of existing resources?

This goal challenges us to use our existing resources, to build the capacity for new resources in the future. If we can succeed in expending our current resources in the way we intend to, by building new infrastructure, training our workforce, and working together to gain maximum benefit instead of negative competition, we

will have efficiently utilized our current resources while at the same time laying an attractive groundwork for future investments.

Continue to improve the ‘soft issues’ that effect economic development.

What is the severity of the problem the goal is addressing?

This is a serious problem, and a difficult one given its broad and abstract nature. By using the term ‘soft issues’ we mean other factors that parties consider when they are contemplating moving or expanding in to a new area. Issues such as the number and quality of local schools, number of local doctors/dentists, locally available day care, retail opportunities, recreational opportunities for employees, etc. Often times these issues are very important to parties looking to move in to a new region or area.

What is the scope of the goal?

The scope of this goal will be unique to all areas within the Buckeye Hills region. Some areas may already have a large number of these assets in place, some areas may not. The areas with more of these assets in place will have most likely have more success attracting new and expanding business to their area, while those that have yet to develop these will face a tougher battle. The rural nature of our area makes it more difficult to attract some of these resources, like doctors, to the region.

What is this goal in relationship toward the other goals?

This goal is heavily interrelated with our overall goal of moving forward in our economic development endeavors for the region. Sometimes these ‘soft issues’ mentioned in the previous paragraph are overlooked when local parties are trying to improve on the conditions for economic development in their area. Some of these issues are outside the realm of what economic development professionals are able to influence, but being aware of these assets, and knowing where your local area stands in terms of these needs is a key step in trying to move them ahead.

Does this goal make the best use of existing resources?

This goal helps local governments and economic development professionals become more aware of the resources that currently exist in their immediate area, and what their availability is to any parties considering the area for business purposes.

Additional Discussion:

Promoting a Regional Approach to Community and Economic Development

Regional Approach – Obstacles and Benefits

Successfully promoting a regional approach to economic and community development has always been a significant challenge. But what do we mean by a regional approach or scope? Typically, a project will be recognized as regional if it tangibly serves more than one political subdivision: an example being, a water system that serves customers in two or more villages or in portions of two or more counties. But for our purposes this is a very narrow and limiting view of regional scope or impact. As an Economic Development District, we look at regional scope in terms of the broadest possible context from which to assess the value of a potential economic activity or project. For example, a business may locate in a particular city. The economic development impact of that business may go well beyond the borders of that city. Jobs may be created for people residing in communities outside the city, and there may be economic benefit for suppliers or other businesses that somehow complement this business.

There are obstacles that prevent communities from adopting this broad approach. Local politics is the primary obstacle to the successful promotion of a regional approach to economic and community development. For obvious reasons, the county commissioner or the mayor wants the new business to locate in his county or city. Typically, the county commissioner will not get credit for a business that locates in a neighboring county even if many of the residents of his county are hired by that business, or businesses in his county directly or indirectly benefit.

While competition in many situations can be an economic incentive, competition among political subdivisions throughout a rural area can be very counterproductive. Businesses typically look at regions in deciding where they will locate, rather than particular counties or cities. A rural area is typically characterized by low population density, low concentrations of available structures, and large open or undeveloped areas. The local officials of such a rural area should be working together to best capitalize on the limited resources available to a particular business, rather than competing against one another.

The benefits of a regional approach to economic and community development are fairly obvious. In the case of economic development, the broader the area you are marketing for a prospective business, the more resources you can bring to bear and so increase the likelihood that the business' needs will be met. Business attraction and development tends to be a more proactive and controlled process when several communities' resources are working toward the same goal, rather than each community reacting to the other's efforts to attract business to their little corner of the world. In assessing potential community development projects, a regional scope enables projects to be developed that have broader and more effective impacts, as well as reducing duplications of effort. For example, if three communities apply for a sanitary sewer system, and one of these communities is dumping untreated sewage into a major waterway that adversely affects

several communities downstream (whereas the two others have no direct adverse impact on other communities) you would first fund the community along the waterway. Similarly, some duplication of effort may be avoided by installing a system for a community upstream before installing one for a community further downstream. Without this broader perspective, the information would not be available to make such informed decisions. The regional perspective is also valuable in assisting projects to be more competitive in securing funding. Funds are more likely to be awarded to the project that shows the broadest impact and the most effective use of limited dollars.

Watershed Areas and Sustainable Development:

We believe that there is a way to better promote a regional approach to economic and community development. This involves a gradual shift in the geographical and philosophical contexts in which we assess economic and community development plans, projects, and activities as represented in the CEDS. Geographically the shift will be from political subdivisions to watershed areas. Philosophically the shift will be from traditional to sustainable development.

There are several reasons for the shift to watershed areas as a context for assessing community and economic development:

- Watershed boundaries are not arbitrary, as political subdivisions are, but are determined by the topography of the land, and are influenced by such factors as water quality and the interests of stakeholders.
- Watersheds provide a forum and opportunity for local participation and empowerment.
- Watershed groups carry out extensive planning activities and scientific research, and gather and record information that provides an informational context that informs economic/community development activities.
- Watershed groups many times involve a vast network of partners to include local, state and federal government agencies, private businesses, community support agencies, educational institutions, environmental groups and citizen groups.
- Watershed areas are throughout our eight-county region and most are multi-county in scope. The major ones are: Duck Creek (Washington, Noble, Monroe); Wills Creek (Monroe, Noble); Federal Valley (Athens, Morgan, Washington); Friends of Hocking River (Hocking, Perry, Morgan, Washington, Meigs); Moxahala (Perry, Morgan); Sunday Creek (Perry, Athens, Morgan); Wolf Creek (Morgan, Washington); Friends of Lower Muskingum (Washington, Morgan); Monday Creek (Perry, Hocking Athens); Friends of Clear Creek (Hocking); Hocking River Commission (Athens, Hocking); Raccoon Creek (Athens, Vinton); Leading Creek (Meigs).

Monday Creek is one of the many watershed areas that have developed a detailed comprehensive plan for their watershed. Issues addressed in the plan include flooding, acid mine drainage, improper sewage treatment, need for sustainable jobs and industry, loss of cultural resources, unplanned development, and insufficient recreational opportunities...among others. These issues have a direct and indirect impact on our region's economic viability. Appalachia's legacy is one of industry, which was based on natural resource extraction, that left in its wake ruined land, polluted water, and high unemployment.

The concept of sustainable development acknowledges the interrelationships among economic viability, environmental quality, and social justice. Our region, which depends upon its natural and cultural assets for a portion of its economic viability and loses many jobs and businesses in flood-prone areas, is well acquainted with the connection between the land and the economy. Our region also knows first-hand about the social inequity that has resulted from the destruction of our natural resources. The sustainable development approach takes into account these relationships when mapping out our economic assets, objectives and goals.

Along these same lines, we will also be attempting, in the CEDS, to shift toward sustainability indicators and away from more traditional indicators. Sustainability indicators tend to be more relevant, easier to understand, and more reliable. Of course, the ability to make use of such indicators is dependant upon the information being available. An example of a traditional economic indicator would be 'unemployment rate,' the sustainability indicator that would replace this is 'diversity and vitality of local job base'. The latter would be a measure of the resilience of the job market.

And watershed group activities themselves do have a measurable economic impact. Studies have shown that for every million dollars spent on reclamation construction there are 17 on-site jobs, 14 off-site jobs, and 78 ancillary jobs created in areas where unemployment levels often exceed the national average. Nature tourism has grown at a rate of about 30% annually and has generated up to \$20 billion in economic activity in a single year. There are no fishable streams in Monday Creek watershed, but if they were restored it is estimated that between \$121,000 and \$300,000 per year could be generated from fishing.

Establishing Local Support for the Regional Approach

Of course, it does little good for the EDD to put into practice a regional approach in planning and assessing economic/community development activities, if the local community folks continue to see things in isolation from within their political boundaries. We do have committees that are regional in scope and are made up of representatives from local communities – the CEDS Committee, the Buckeye Hills Executive Committee, and the Buckeye Hills General Policy Council – to name but a few. We need to continue to emphasize the importance of doing projects and implementing initiatives that have a broader impact, and point out that by having a regional impact and by

showing that we are working from a regional scope, such projects have a better chance of securing funding. Also, we need to better communicate the broad, and at times less obvious, benefits of projects. Just because a particular business or piece of infrastructure is not physically located in a member's immediate area, does not mean that that member's constituency does not economically benefit from it.

CHAPTER VI **ACTION PLAN**

Work to Curb Regionalism (Negative Competition)

Objective: Increase cooperation between all levels of local government to gain benefits that can be felt throughout the region.

Strengths and Weakness:

- The prospects for new funding opportunities or increased funding levels are slim at the current time. Cooperation between levels of local government would allow for maximum benefit to be derived from existing resources.
- Some individual areas may be left behind, or may be constantly riding on the ‘coat tails’ of development in nearby areas. Although nearby developments may not be explicitly beneficial to a given area, the derived benefits of having this investment nearby is more favorable than the alternative of not having it at all. (i.e. having a new manufacturing operation nearby that local residents may commute to and be employed at, a new operation that brings new products to the local markets, etc.)

Strategies:

- Put emphasis on local projects that are multi-township or multi-county in nature. Funding sources have started ranking cooperative projects much higher than unrelated and isolated projects.
- Have communities prioritize their needs and seek other municipalities pursuing the same goals, prior to seeking the appropriate funding measures. We truly need to end the mind set of ‘one county’s success is another county’s failure.’

Implementation:

Short-term

- Increase communication between localities. Build relationships with other parties with similar interests in your local area. This will help build the ‘regional’ approach to economic development which is important to success today.
- Encourage communities to be more proactive in searching out projects, programs and partners that will provide them the best opportunity to secure the investments they are seeking for the area.

Intermediate-term

- Have local bodies analyze the local economic conditions and determine what the strengths areas are, how they can be improved upon, and what other parties may be able to help strengthen those areas on a local and a regional level.

- Encourage communities to engage the local population to help in determining what the most urgent needs are, and identify resources that can help improve these areas.

Long-term

- Continue working together to improve local conditions, to build on strengths, and to maximize the visibility and attraction of the region based on positive cooperation and project coordination.

Create Opportunities for Local Governments to be More Proactive in the Generation and Allotment of Resources.

Objective: To create new ways for local governments to utilize existing resources and to raise funds to participate in other funding programs (increase the amount of available matching funds).

Strengths and Weakness:

- Without new ways of raising matching funds, many local governments are, and will continue to be, unable to participate in some funding programs. Natural disasters, for example, strain already tight local budgets. Monies that may have been intended for use as matching funds may have been expended to recover from a recent disaster. In 2004 our region had two major flooding disasters that brought these types of situations to fruition.
- Local governments must be mindful of obeying all local, state, and federal laws when exploring alternative ways of raising additional matching funds for funding programs.

Strategies:

- Examine examples of alternative ways to create matching funds. Seek out other parties and local governments that have created innovative organizations or methods maximize resources.
- Encourage participation by all interested parties in the local areas (individuals, businesses, local leaders, economic development professionals, etc.) to generate ideas and concepts for future activities.

Implementation:

Short-term

- Gather and disseminate information on new organizations that have been created to help solidify local efforts and maximize existing resources toward the goal of helping local governments meet matching requirements for funding programs. (i.e. The Clay Valley Foundation in Perry County, Ohio)

Intermediate-term

- Meet regularly with local interested parties to determine the state of funding programs/ sources, match requirements, and determine if and how local governments can move forward in these funding scenarios.

Long-term

- In addition to creating new opportunities on the local level, local governments should look to become more active in helping to shape future funding programs where participation is more viable and open to communities that have more limited access to resources.

Continue to improve infrastructure of all types.

Objective: Improve the physical resources available for potential development in the region.

Strengths and Weakness:

- The rugged topography of our region makes it difficult to build and maintain high quality infrastructure investments.
- Due to declining or flat population, funding for new and expanded infrastructure has become limited.
- Many areas in our district do not have a major road or other major transportation artery (i.e. railroad, highway/state roads, river access) nearby. Often times this lack of access hampers development efforts.

Strategies:

- Where possible emphasize cooperation between local bodies in selecting projects to be funded. Many funding sources today are looking for project ‘clustering’ in order to maximize the benefits received for their investment.
- Have counties prioritize their infrastructure projects in order to help lessen the impact of politics on funding of projects.
- When improving infrastructure, take into account future development issues and possibilities.
- Develop funding strategies to target counties with underdeveloped highway systems, water systems, sewer systems, etc.
- Continue to search for alternative funds for road improvements and other infrastructure projects.

- Coordinate efforts between transportation planners and economic development practitioners.

Implementation:

Short-term

- Have local communities take inventory of their immediate and short term infrastructure needs.
- Anticipate future growth when engineering water, sewer projects, telecommunications, and other projects.

Intermediate-term

- Have counties form taskforces to prioritize all types of infrastructure projects.
- Create county infrastructure plans that show where, why and how new improvements should be made.
- Increase coordination of economic development activities and infrastructure improvement.
- Identify areas of increasing development.

Long-term

- Encourage local communities to participate more actively in planning activities.
- Lobby state officials and agencies for increased funding for infrastructure projects.
- Reauthorize and improve the State Capital Improvement Program/Local Transportation Improvement Program process.

Focus efforts on attracting ‘new technology’ types of jobs and investments rather than focusing on general manufacturing and retail expansions.

Objective: Attract ‘new technology’ jobs and investments to move the labor force and economy of the region ahead.

Strengths and Weakness:

- Attracting these types of investments to an area which has historically been composed of manufacturing and industrial investments is difficult.
- Advances in communications technologies have made physical location of plants and related operations less crucial than in the recent past. (i.e. A product does not need to be manufactured within or very near a specific market in order to access that market.)

- High quality infrastructure and access to transportation arteries is very important to these types of operations.
- Such investments will require parallel investments in education and workforce training by parties within the region.

Strategies:

- Highlight activities being currently undertaken by the state to increase deployment and adoption of broadband communications technologies.
- Continue to offer tax and other incentives to companies looking to bring new technologies to the region.
- Continue to focus on technological training and education offered in the region's high schools, colleges, universities, and technical schools.

Implementation:

Short-term

- Identify technological industries that have already started to settle in the region. (ex. industrial and commercial grade polymers)

Intermediate-term

- Once local technology drivers have been identified, consider related industries and operations that could coexist with these existing businesses. (Project clustering) Use the existence of these bodies to promote the attraction of other new investments.
- Continue efforts to retain our young and educated population to increase the overall quality of the local workforce.

Long-term

- Continue the training and education of the local workforce in order to keep pace with developments in new technologies.
- Provide funding resources necessary to keep these newly created investments on the cutting edge.

Continue to Improve the 'Soft Issues' that Surround Economic Development in our District.

Objective: To improve the region in areas such as, access to healthcare, quality of local education, access to public safety services, improvement of environmental conditions, and access to social services. Improving on these 'soft' economic development issues improves the areas ability to attract and sustain new economic development opportunities.

Strengths and Weakness:

- These are areas that are vital to the success of our district, and to the quality of life for all of our constituents
- These are difficult items to impact in the short term. Our efforts should be to impact the long-term effects of these issues. Regional improvement in these realms would bring wide spread benefits to the district.

Strategies:

- Continue to emphasize hi-tech education in regional community colleges and vocational schools.
- Continue to search out and promote environmental clean up work (i.e. Brownfields) that is taking place within the district. Environmental concerns are an important 'soft issue' topic in economic development.
- Continue to lobby for funding of fire protection and safety services in our communities. This has been a serious issue in some of our counties (i.e. Meigs County Sheriff situation, City of Marietta Firefighters, E-911 in Monroe County and Meigs County).

Implementation:

Short-term

- Encourage communities to more actively and accurately relate their needs in these areas to local leaders and decision makers.
- Participate in and support existing programs that are aimed at improving social services and public safety services. (i.e. CDBG – Formula)

Intermediate-term

- Draw attention to active non-profit programs within the region that are helping fight problems such as child hunger and poverty.
- Continue advocacy for the region's educational, safety and service needs among legislators and local leaders
- Become more aware of the current state of these needs within our local communities. (i.e., conduct a needs assessment survey)

Long-term

- Increase the technical training of the local labor force.
- Continue the focus on creating and maintaining high quality educational opportunities in the district.

Implementation Plan

All communities work within the constraints of limited time and resources. However, communities need to allocate resources to various programs and projects to achieve the area development strategies. This section deals with the implementation stage of planning, and the identification of activities, projects, and programs that will begin in fiscal year 2008.

2008 CEDS Projects

The BH-HVRDD staff maintains a continuing dialogue with local communities to address local priorities and potential projects. During the spring of 2008, the development department staff mailed project surveys to the county and local governments, chambers of commerce, community improvement corporations, and economic development professionals.

The CEDS survey requested the local communities to list projects that are expected to be developed and implemented in the next several years. This list will be updated **every year**, and projects **will not** carry over to subsequent years if they are not submitted for inclusion in the current CEDS for that year. This comes as a result of local representatives not regularly updating projects they may have had existing on the list for multiple years. See Table 6.1 for a listing of these projects.

Project Prioritization Criteria

The project list received from the survey ranged from extending water and sewer lines to building new roads. The project prioritization criteria, listed in Appendix C, are designed to: evaluate the major economic development projects from a regional perspective and maximized objectivity.

As Table 6.1 illustrates, all projects are ranked according to: job creation and/or retention; the scope of the project; the project's relationship to the goals of the CEDS; the project's effect upon the environment; and if the project is in a distressed county.

The purpose of this prioritization process is not only to provide EDA with a list of prioritized projects, but also to allow local input in the process of developing programs that will have the greatest economic impact.

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy – 2008 Annual Report

| Table 6.1 Ranked Project List 2008 | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|-------------------|----------------------|----------------|-------------|
| Rank | Project Name | County | Jobs Created or Retained | Scope of Project | Goal Relationship | Environmental Impact | Distress Level | Total Score |
| 1 | Meigs County Emergency Room Project | Meigs | 15 | 20 | 20 | 10 | 10 | 75 |
| | World Class Connectivity for Ind. Parks | Regional | 20 | 20 | 15 | 10 | 10 | 75 |
| | Wireless Coverage of the Rural Expanse | Regional | 20 | 20 | 15 | 10 | 10 | 75 |
| | Southern Ohio Health Care Network | Regional | 20 | 20 | 15 | 10 | 10 | 75 |
| | Telemedicine Initiative | Regional | 20 | 20 | 15 | 10 | 10 | 75 |
| 2 | Morgan County - Musk. Valley Health Centers | Morgan | 15 | 15 | 20 | 10 | 10 | 70 |
| | Marietta Regional Sewer Project | Washington | 20 | 20 | 20 | 10 | 0 | 70 |
| | Health Sciences Facility (WSCC) | Washington | 20 | 20 | 20 | 10 | 0 | 70 |
| | City of Marietta Business Incubator | Washington | 20 | 20 | 20 | 10 | 0 | 70 |
| 3 | City of Logan Sewer Ext. Project. | Hocking | 20 | 15 | 20 | 10 | 0 | 65 |
| | Ohio Univ. - Regional Entrepreneurship Support | Ath./Mei./Mon. Morg./Nob./Wash. | 15 | 15 | 15 | 10 | 10 | 65 |
| 4 | Route 7 Water & Sewer Extension | Washington | 15 | 15 | 20 | 10 | 0 | 60 |
| | WSCC Health Sci. Building | Washington | 15 | 15 | 20 | 10 | 0 | 60 |
| | Noble Co. Industrial Park | Noble | 20 | 15 | 15 | 10 | 0 | 60 |
| | AEP Lands | Nob./Morg./Others | 5 | 20 | 15 | 10 | 10 | 60 |
| 5 | Ohio Univ. - Econ. Adj. Assistance | Regional | 5 | 15 | 15 | 10 | 10 | 55 |
| | Workforce Marketing Project | Washington | 15 | 15 | 15 | 10 | 0 | 55 |
| 6 | Wash. / Noble Twp. Road Proj. | Wash./ Noble | 20 | 5 | 15 | 10 | 0 | 50 |
| | Ohio Riverfront Park (Belpre) | Washington | 5 | 20 | 15 | 10 | 0 | 50 |
| x | American Municipal Power Generating Station | Meigs | 20 | 20 | 20 | 10 | 10 | 80 |

UPDATED 2/6/09

*Distress level determined using FY 2008 ARC information.

x this project was moved to the bottom of the list due to the uncertainty and likelihood of completion

The project listing above is very short in comparison to those of previous years. An effort has been made to truly list only those projects which have the most realistic possibility of being potentially ready for the EDA application process in the next year. In the past projects were allowed to carry over from one year to the next; we have ended this practice as counties were generally always submitting new projects for this list, but rarely updating or removing projects that were completed, delayed, or no longer held a priority position. We felt this would give us a stronger and more solid list of potential projects to work with in the coming year.

In the past year, Buckeye Hills did not submit any EDA applications for potential projects from the project listing. During 2006 the top ranked project (Hocking College Energy Institute) from the 2005 CEDS document, went through the EDA grant full application process, and was funded for approximately \$1.6 million.

(Note: The following section outlines the programs and projects scheduled to be undertaken in the next year as they correspond with the CEDS action plan. Projects and activities from the previous year are listed in chapter VII - Evaluation. Many of

the activities listed below are a continuation of a previously existing project or program.)

Planning Programs and Activities

2009 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Annual Report (CEDS)

The Staff will continue to annually update the CEDS document and improve the CEDS process. The CEDS is a valuable tool in determining the economic health and growth of a region. The staff will document the program experience during the past year. A CEDS advisory committee will be formed from local economic development experts, and other local participants. With the assistance of the CEDS advisory committee, area trends will be evaluated and goals and strategies will be developed. The staff will incorporate the information gathered from the advisory committee into the 2009 CEDS Annual Report.

Geographic Information System Services (GIS)/Data Center Services

Buckeye Hills staff will continue the operation of a Geographic Information System (GIS) which serves the eight county region. The purpose of GIS is to give local decision makers the ability to combine tabular/ numerical data with spatial or map data to create visual representations of the given data sources. The specialized maps that are created can be used for a number of purposes, such as: funding applications, reports, general research, economic development site research, media reports, or general problem solving and analysis purposes. This has become the most popular information service provided by the Buckeye Hills Community Development Department. This service is currently being heavily utilized by local governments, government agencies, and economic development professionals from across the district.

Solicitation and Completion of GIS Related Projects/ Projects with GIS

Components –Buckeye Hills will continue to advertise and promote its GIS capabilities to community development professionals, economic development professionals, units of local government, public service providers (i.e. water companies, etc), and non profit organizations in order to create and find new project opportunities. Several projects are already underway as a result of activities initiated during the previous year.

Global Positioning System (GPS) Activities – Buckeye Hills-Hocking Valley Regional Development District will continue to offer GPS location services as a compliment to our GIS service offerings, to constituents throughout the region. This program allows Buckeye Hills to create native and unique data for use with existing GIS data and technologies when no existing data is available. With this technology, data that is not otherwise available can be created and shared between parties throughout the region. Many funding sources are requiring more sophisticated location information as part of their application process; with the use of this technology Buckeye Hills is able to provide this information for applicants who may be unable to obtain it otherwise. Buckeye Hills is also able to offer this technology to local communities who wish to track and maintain their physical assets, such as water systems, sewer systems, green spaces, and other

utilities. By using GPS technologies in conjunction with customized maps from our GIS, we are able to provide maps and surrounding documentation to municipal governments where none may have been available previously. This activity now includes the ‘Water and Sewer Mapping’ activity listed in the previous CEDS document.

Regional GIS Users Group – Buckeye Hills staff will continue to host and coordinate a regional, at-will, GIS users group, focusing on individuals and agencies utilizing GIS/GPS technologies throughout the eight county region. The purpose of this group is to exchange ideas on project related technical issues/ solutions, to inform others of GIS activities taking place within the region, and to spread GIS concepts to potential beneficiaries outside of our group through the offer of teaching and demonstration..

State Data Center – The staff will continue to receive, analyze, and distribute the latest statistical information and updates from State and Federal sources. Buckeye Hills will continue to provide that data to anyone requesting it free of charge. This data is utilized for a multitude of purposes such as funding applications, educational research, and media reports. The data center will continue to publish the bi-monthly ‘Data Center Update.’ This document gives a brief snapshot of current labor conditions for the district, as well as any other pertinent recent statistical updates. This publication is distributed via ground mail and email, as well as being available from our website.

Regional Promotion

Buckeye Hills’ staff is committed to promoting and maximizing current economic development opportunities within the region. Buckeye Hills is also committed to encouraging the creation of innovative and diverse new opportunities in economic and community development. The end result of these promotional activities is to increase private investment and business expansion within our region.

Buckeyehills.org – Buckeye Hills’ staff remains committed to maintaining and updating a professional, easy to use website for the benefit of all constituents in the region, as well as those outside the region seeking further information. This website is an important tool to our staff as it allows us to quickly and easily disseminate publications, news releases, program documentation, program applications, and other information to a mass audience. The website is also used to host a list of buildings and sites throughout the region which are available for commercial and economic development purposes. This list is updated as sites become available or go off the market. All of these activities help us market the Buckeye Hills region as a desirable place to live, work, and do business.

Communications Director – Buckeye Hills will continue to utilize the services of the communications director to coordinate all aspects of advertising, media releases, and other public relations types of materials and information. These items entail, but are not limited to, annual reports, newsletters, advocacy efforts, advertising procurement, event scheduling, and media contacts/ releases.

Business Technical Assistance

Buckeye Hills remains committed to providing essential technical assistance services to residents, businesses, units of local government, public service providers, and non-profit corporations throughout the region. This technical assistance is crucial in aiding these communities and organizations in accessing state and federal assistance programs and resources administered or offered by Buckeye Hills. Often times these communities and organizations do not have the necessary staff to apply, receive, and administer assistance programs/projects which they may desperately need. Buckeye Hills staff will also continue to offer a wide range of additional technical assistance such as aid in completing funding applications, researching of funding opportunities, and other administrative tasks.

Intergovernmental Review –Buckeye Hills will continue its role as the designated A95 Clearinghouse for our region. Buckeye Hills’ staff will receive, catalog, and distribute, application information, and accept comments concerning proposed and ongoing projects throughout the region. Once the data is received, a review will be completed in accordance with State Clearinghouse regulations. This, along with other technical assistance services, ensures that other local leaders, individuals, and agencies are aware of activities/ projects taking place within the eight county district.

Provision of Labor Market Information to EDR – The Buckeye Hills- Hocking Valley Regional Development District will continue to provide the Ohio EDR with timely information on plant closings/ potential plant closings, or any other event in the region that will have an impact on the local/regional labor force in the eight-county region. A notification process is in place with constituents and other agencies that will alert the staff to such events. Buckeye Hills will also continue to monitor local media outlets for items that portray the EDA in a positive manner. All instances will be reported to the Ohio EDR.

Community & Economic Development Activities

Technical Assistance - Buckeye Hills serves an eight-county region through promoting the interests of and providing technical assistance to local public entities. Buckeye Hills provides technical assistance to local public entities in acquiring funding for programs and projects to improve the quality of life in communities through improvement of public infrastructure, educational facilities, and public service facilities. This technical assistance includes preparation of applications for funding, providing liaison between funding agencies and local government officials, providing guidance to local communities on administrative tasks, and assuring compliance of state and federal requirements. Buckeye Hills will also provide technical assistance to communities and organizations in their travel and tourism activities.

Countywide Prioritization - Buckeye Hills staff will continue to work with local counties to develop a strategy for creating a countywide prioritization methodology for

water and sewer projects. The intent is to develop a countywide needs list based on actual conditions in the communities rather than a funding list that is driven by program requirements. This process will enable county officials to give legislators and funding agency representatives an impression of broad and consistent support for a given project. Funding agencies such as ARC and EDA feel strongly about prioritizing potential projects in order to ensure the maximum regional benefit is achieved. Buckeye Hills will continue to advocate for this process as a model for local municipalities.

Southeastern Ohio Port Authority (SeOPA) US EPA Petroleum Assessment Grant – Staff will continue to assist SeOPA with the administration of the US EPA Petroleum Assessment Grant by identifying potential Brownfield properties and developing an inventory and profile of possible and actual Brownfield properties that are or could be made available for development.

West Malta Water Project- Buckeye Hills will continue assisting Morgan County in administering CDBG Water and Sewer Program funding for the West Malta Water Project. This project will extend water service to approximately 200 households in Malta and Penn Townships, while allowing for future expansion with the construction of a new storage tank and booster station. Construction on this project began in August 2007 and should be completed during 2008.

Reno Water Project- Buckeye Hills assisted the Washington County Commissioners in applying for a CDBG Water and Sewer Grant on behalf of residents of the Reno Water and Sewer District. The project will extend water lines onto County Roads 9, 333, 20, 47 and Township Road 394 in Washington County, creating a safe water supply to the residents. The cost of this project is estimated at \$644,695. The project involves the installation of approximately 7 miles of water line and services approximately 65 homes. The project will promote positive community growth. Construction on this project was started in February 2008. During this time the Reno Water District also decided to construct several extensions to the originally approved project. All construction activities for this project and the related extensions will be completed in late 2008.

Noble County Water- Buckeye Hills will assist the Noble County Commissioners in applying for a CDBG Water and Sewer Grant on behalf of residents of the Noble County Water Authority. The application for CDBG Water and Sewer is due in June 2008. The project will extend water lines to serve approximately 87 residents and 35 homes along Ohio State Route 285 between the villages of Caldwell and Sarahsville. This will create a safe water supply for local residents. The cost of this project is estimated at \$817,000. The project involves the installation of approximately 4.5 miles of water line; providing service to approximately 35 homes. The project will promote positive community growth. Buckeye Hills' staff will continue to assist the Noble County Commissioners in obtaining CDBG Water and Sewer Funds. The CDBG application will be submitted in May 2008.

Washington County Formula -2007- Buckeye Hills will continue to serve as the administrator of the Washington County CDBG Formula Program for FY'2007, assuring

that the three projects within Washington County, and one project for the City of Belpre. Responsibilities include; ensuring compliance with funding requirements, ensuring compliance with all applicable state and federal regulations, guiding participation in the bidding process for contracts, attending pre-construction conferences, completing status reports, consulting with an independent auditor at time of final audit, and agreeing to reply to funding agency inquiries regarding the status of all activities undertaken as a part of this program on behalf of the Washington County Commissioners.

Washington County Formula -2008- Buckeye Hills will serve as the administrator of the Washington County CDBG Formula Program for FY'2008, assisting the grantee by writing and submitting the application for funding. After the application is approved, Buckeye Hills will ensure compliance with funding requirements, compliance with all applicable state and federal regulations, guide participation in the bidding process for contracts, attend pre-construction conferences, complete status reports, consult with independent auditors at the time of final audit, and to reply to funding agency inquiries to the status of all related activities undertaken on behalf of the Washington County Commissioners.

Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC)- Buckeye Hills will continue to serve as the liaison for the Ohio Public Works Commission 18th District. The District includes Athens, Belmont, Hocking, Meigs, Monroe, Morgan, Muskingum, Noble, Perry, and Washington counties.. As a part of its duties, staff will coordinate activities for the District 18 Integrating Committee with regards to the following programs, the State Capital Improvement/Local Transportation Improvement Program (SCIP/LTIP), Clean Ohio Conservation Fund, and the Clean Ohio Revitalization Fund

State Capital Improvement/ Local Transportation Improvement Program (SCIP/LTIP)- The SCIP/LTIP program provides funding to counties, townships, villages, and water and sewer districts to enable them to repair or replace roads, bridges, culverts, water supply, wastewater, solid waste and storm water systems. The staff will provide technical assistance and training to assist in the completion of the SCIP/LTIP application. The staff will coordinate the activities of the various District 18 communities, which includes, but is not limited to: meeting coordination, distributing meeting notices, publishing newspaper announcements, collecting applications, rating and ranking applications, and forwarding applications to the Ohio Public Works Commission for funding or consideration for funding under the various SCIP/LTIP programs.

Clean Ohio Fund – Conservation Program- The Community Development Staff will continue to serve as the liaison for the Ohio Public Works Commission 18th District. The District includes Athens, Belmont, Hocking, Meigs, Monroe, Morgan Muskingum, Noble, Perry, and Washington counties in Southeastern Ohio. The Clean Ohio Conservation Fund is a part of the \$400 million Clean Ohio Fund and provides monies to counties, townships, cities, villages, conservancy districts, soil and water conservation districts, joint recreational districts, park districts, and other non-profit organizations with a primary purpose in conservation and preservation. The purpose of the Clean Ohio

Conservation Fund is the purchase of open spaces and the costs of making them accessible to the public and for the protection of stream corridors, providing wildlife habitat and reducing erosion. The staff will continue to provide technical assistance and training to assist in the completion of the Clean Ohio Conservation Fund Application. The staff will also coordinate the activities of the District 18 Natural Resources Assistance Council (NRAC), which includes, but is not limited to: setting up meetings, distributing meeting notices, publishing newspaper announcements, collecting applications, rating and ranking applications, and forwarding applications to the Ohio Public Works Commission for funding or consideration for funding under the Clean Ohio Program.

Clean Ohio Fund – Revitalization Program- The Community Development staff will continue to serve as the liaison for the Ohio Public Works Commission 18th District. The District includes Athens, Belmont, Hocking, Meigs, Monroe, Morgan, Muskingum, Noble, Perry, and Washington counties. The Clean Ohio- Revitalization program provides funding to local governments, port authorities, conservancy districts, non-profit organizations, and for-profit entities to acquire and clean up a Brownfield, demolish existing buildings, upgrade infrastructure and redevelop the property. The staff will continue to coordinate the activities of the various District 18 communities, which includes, but is not limited to: setting up meetings, distributing meeting notices, publishing newspaper announcements, collecting applications, rating and ranking applications, and forwarding applications to the Ohio Department of Development for funding.

Brownfield Revitalization- Buckeye Hills has established a regional Brownfield revitalization program in conjunction with the US EPA and the Southeastern Ohio Port Authority. The purpose of this project is to identify, mitigate, and recuperate Brownfield sites throughout the region.

Staff will assist one (1) community in preparing a revitalization grant through the State of Ohio Clean Ohio Revitalization fund.

Revolving Loan Fund- Buckeye Hills will continue to provide low interest loan money to businesses within the region using ARC, EDA, FmHA and CDBG funding. These loans, in conjunction with private funding, allow for start up and expansion of businesses when full conventional financing cannot be obtained. Buckeye Hills is committed to providing resources to entrepreneurs in the eight county district. All loan funds are directly related to job creation for the region.

During fiscal year 2007, the Revolving Loan Fund closed seven loans, with \$616,250 in total loan assistance provided, and 56 jobs created and 30 retained.

Housing Program- The Housing Program staff will continue to apply for the Ohio Housing Trust Fund and use the United States Department of Agriculture – Rural Housing Service and the Senior Community Services Block Grant for match in the combined amount of approximately \$200,000 to assist low-income elderly home owners

with home repair. These grant monies will continue to be used for housing needs that are beyond the financial and physical maintenance abilities of the elder homeowner. The program is aimed at improving accessibility and addressing home repair needs to maintain a decent, safe and accessible environment for the homeowner. The staff of Buckeye Hills will also be working with the Rural Homeless Initiative of Southeast and Central Ohio on a 'continuum of care' project sponsored by the Osteopathic Heritage Foundation. The aim of this program is to create plans and strategies aimed at ending rural homelessness in Ohio.

CHAPTER VII **EVALUATION**

A key function of the CEDS process is the evaluation of the past year's activities. The goals set by the 2005 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Advisory Council, in order of importance were:

- 1. Work to curb 'regionalism' (Negative Competition).**
- 2. Create opportunities for local governments to be more proactive in the generation and allotment of resources.**
- 3. Continue to improve infrastructure of all types.**
- 4. Focus efforts on attracting 'new technology' types of jobs and investments rather than focusing on general manufacturing and retail expansions.**
- 5. Continue to work to improve the 'soft issues' that surround economic development in our district.**

Of the goals listed above, some are directly actionable by the day to day activities of Buckeye Hills, such as the addressing of infrastructure needs, and the addressing of 'soft issues' within the region. Some of the other goals are more programmatic in nature, requiring a change of policy or program requirements on the state level or above. These more long term goals are goals which Buckeye Hills will work toward with the help of our colleagues in local governments and interested bodies throughout the district.

(Note: Completed projects from previous years are listed by project name and CEDS year only. Some projects may still be underway.)

- 1. Work to curb 'regionalism' (Negative Competition).**

Countywide Prioritization

Buckeye Hills staff continued in 2007 to work with counties to advocate a strategy for developing a countywide prioritization methodology for water and sewer projects. The intent is to develop a countywide needs list based on actual conditions in the communities rather than a funding list that is driven by program requirements.

Result: This process enables county officials to give legislators and funding agency representatives an impression of broad and consistent support for a given project. Funding agencies such as ARC and EDA feel strongly about prioritizing potential projects in order to ensure the maximum regional benefit is achieved.

Provision of Timely Employment Data to EDA/EDR

In conjunction with our traditional data center services, Buckeye Hills also provides pertinent employment and/or unemployment information for the region to the Economic

Development Representative. Such data would include information concerning any potential plant openings or closings, or any other event that would have a noticeable impact on the employment situation in the district. Buckeye Hills currently has a notification process in place.

Result: Between July 1, 2007 and April 7, 2008, we received notification of seven employment events that would prompt the attention of the EDR. Information concerning these events was passed on to our EDR, Mr. Robert Hickey, via email or fax.

Monroe County Economic Development Contract

Buckeye Hills – HVRDD was awarded a contract to administer the activities of the Monroe County Economic Development office between October 2006 and June 30, 2007.

Result: The final report detailing the highlights of this program was released in July 2007. Some of the highlights were as follows (not exhaustive):

From October through June, a total of \$294,521 in grant funds was secured and an additional \$316,367 in grants are pending notification.

From a job creation perspective, because of the Buckeye Hills Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) program a total of \$1.13 million of public and private funds were invested in Monroe County from Oct.–June. The loans helped maintain 13 employees and will fund a projected 14 new jobs over three years.

Buckeye Hills was instrumental in accessing \$15,000 in grant funds to support the region’s Higher Education Feasibility Study that was conducted in May and funded by Belmont Technical College and the Monroe County Commissioners.

2. Create opportunities for local governments to be more proactive in the generation and allotment of resources.

Intergovernmental Review

Buckeye Hills-Hocking Valley Regional Development District continued in it’s role as the region’s A-95 clearinghouse; and in this role provided assistance to officials and agencies in the District by reviewing and receiving comments on projects being completed throughout the region.

Result: All reviews have been completed in accordance with State Clearinghouse regulations. The Clearinghouse reviewed nineteen projects during fiscal year 2007. As a result of the Clearinghouse activities, communities in the region are informed about what is, and what will be taking place within the district in the near future.

Monroe County Hazard Mitigation Acquisition Project

Buckeye Hills assisted the Monroe County Commissioners in receiving funds from the Ohio Emergency Management Agency and Ohio Community Development Block Grant. Due to the severity of the damage to homes and businesses from the September 2004 flooding, the requested funds will be utilized for land acquisition and demolition.

Result: The project will require acquisition of hazard prone property and conversion to open space on a volunteer basis of the impacted residents. The estimated cost of the project is \$1,527,122 with acquisition activities beginning the fall of 2007. The project was funded in September of 2007. At this time Monroe County has selected a firm to administer the grant funds. The acquisition activities and demolition of approximately 32 structures will be completed in 2008.

Technical Assistance

Buckeye Hills continues to serve an eight-county region through promoting the interests of, and providing technical assistance to, local public entities. Buckeye Hills provides technical assistance to local public entities in acquiring funding for programs and projects to improve the quality of life in communities through improvement of public infrastructure, educational facilities, and public service facilities. This technical assistance includes preparation of applications for funding, serving as a liaison between funding agencies and local government officials, providing guidance to local communities on administrative tasks, and assuring compliance of state and federal requirements. Buckeye Hills also provides technical assistance to communities and organizations on travel and tourism activities.

Result: Over the past year, Development Department staff secured financing for various projects that will have a positive impact on residential and commercial sectors. These projects enhance the quality of life for the people of our region by enabling businesses to create and retain jobs, by providing education and training opportunities, by increasing the quality and availability of water and sanitary sewer services, by repairing and upgrading roads and bridges, and increasing accessibility and availability of quality health care.

Total costs for projects completed over the past year was approximately **\$31** million, with local and private sources leveraging nearly **\$16.1** million (52%) against the **\$13.3** million (48%) provided through state and federal funding sources such as EDA, ARC, EPA and CDBG.

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)

The Buckeye Hills – HVRDD submitted the 2006-2007 CEDS Annual Report to the EDA for review in June 2007. The next CEDS Annual Report is due June 30, 2008.

Result: The 2006-2007 CEDS Annual Report was accepted by the EDA as stated in a letter dated December 19, 2007. Buckeye Hills' staff is in the process of completing the CEDS annual report for 2008. This annual report is due to the Chicago Regional Office on June 30, 2008. This report contains an update of the past years' activities, an updated statistics section, and an updated discussion of last years CEDS document and regional issues.

Geographical Information System Services (GIS)/ Data Center Services

Buckeye Hills continues to operate a Geographic Information System (GIS) which serves the eight county district. The purpose of GIS is to give decision makers the ability to combine tabular/ numerical data with spatial or map data to create visual representations of the given data sources. The specialized maps that are created can be used for a number of purposes, such as: funding applications, reports, general research, media reports, or general problem analysis/ solving.

Result: During fiscal year 2007, Buckeye Hills continued to advertise and promote its GIS and GPS capabilities to community development professionals, economic development professionals, units of local government, public service providers (i.e. water companies), as well as media and non profit companies within the district. Our purpose in this regard is to assist in creating or finding new project opportunities in the region.

The major activities of the GIS program from July 1, 2007 to April 7, 2008 were as follows:

- Buckeye Hills staff was contracted by the City of Marietta and Washington County in the past year to provide GIS project consulting and coordination services, data maintenance, system design, software installation, and user training on an hourly fee basis. This relationship is ongoing and expected to continue in to the foreseeable future.
- Buckeye Hills staff worked closely with the staff at the Southern Tier West Regional Planning and Development Board in Salamanca, New York to organize a GIS training conference to be held April 22, 23, 2008 in Nashville, Tennessee. This conference is sponsored by the Development District Association of Appalachia (DDAA) and the National Association of Development Organizations. The purpose of this conference is to provide a low cost GIS training opportunity primarily to GIS users in the Appalachian region, and local development districts across the nation.
- Buckeye Hills staff continued to provide hours of technical assistance and advice to the Morgan County Engineering Department as they continue work to build a functioning GIS within their county.
- Buckeye Hills staff also continued a working relationship with the Hocking College GIS department and the GIS department at ILGARD – Ohio

University. These relationships have yielded data sharing, advice, cooperative training, and potential project opportunities.

- Buckeye Hills staff continued its service on the Hocking College GIS advisory board. The purpose of this board is to help Hocking College establish academic and external experience curriculums that will help GIS program graduates be prepared for entry into the field of spatial data collection and analysis.
- Buckeye Hills staff continued to maintain a Southeastern Ohio GIS users group. This group is composed of roughly 20 members that hold meetings on an infrequent/ as needed basis. Members are situated in all eight counties of the Buckeye Hills region. Due to rising fuel costs, meetings of the full group have become less frequent. Contact between group members is maintained through email and telephone conversations.
- Buckeye Hills staff continued to search for funding for a proposed internet mapping service to be hosted, housed, and maintained by Buckeye Hills personnel. This program would allow Buckeye Hills to provide customized mapping solutions for a range of applications live over the internet through a web browser.

During fiscal year 2007, Buckeye Hills continued to provide specialized map products on request to interested parties throughout the region. Examples of requesting bodies are; Washington County Board of Elections, Appalachian Regional Commission, Marietta College Senior Business Consulting Class, local EMA offices, private engineers, ODOT, and private citizens. Spatial data, or other GIS maps and related data were the most requested information from the Buckeye Hills Data Center; composing 50.7% of the total requests (74 of 146).

Regional Promotion

The Buckeye Hills staff continued to promote the economic development opportunities and activities throughout the region between July 1, 2007, and April 8, 2008. The purpose of our promotional activities is to attract new business and private investment to our eight-county district.

Buckeye Hills staff continued to administer and update the agency website www.buckeyehills.org. This website continues to provide public information on all of our available programming, publications, data, and staff, as well as information detailing available commercial properties and buildings throughout the region.

Result: Our website received over 212,000 hits between July 1, 2007 and April 8, 2008; averaging 752 hits per day during that time.

Buckeye Hills also placed an ad in the November 2007 issue ‘Site Selection Magazine;’ as they highlighted areas along the Ohio River. This ad featured Monroe, Meigs, and Washington Counties, ad potential destinations for business along the Ohio River.

Result: This ad netted six new business leads for the participating counties.

Communications Director Position

During the past year Buckeye Hills has made extensive use of the recently created Communications Director position. This new staff person has been instrumental in handling all media contacts and releases for the agency, handling publicity for Buckeye Hills sanctioned events and meetings, as well as assuming the responsibility of creating and distributing official communications such as newsletters and annual reports.

Result: The electronic monthly newsletters from BH have a distribution of over 500 recipients. The Communications Director has also provided proactive legislative advocacy, and bolstered grassroots efforts to disseminate information about local issues impacting residents. As a result of her efforts, she was able to acquire \$31,464 in complementary media space for BH related items and information during 2007.

Data Center

The Buckeye Hills Data Center provides public and private entities with demographic and economic data. This data is used for various reasons, such as writing media reports, preparing grant applications, and educational research.

The center receives the most current data from the state data center in both print and electronic formats. The data center uses this vast information system to help keep citizens in the region informed through:

The dissemination of demographic and economic data including: population, housing characteristics, labor force, and other economic characteristics.

- The production of census maps for specific community and business applications.
- The preparation of reports depicting area wide community characteristics.
- The preparation of specialized mapping products which can illustrate any of the data contained in the Buckeye Hills Data Center.

The Data Center is also an affiliate of the Business and Industry Data Center (BIDC), a service provided by regional planning and development agencies in Ohio.

Along with these services Buckeye Hills also publishes a ‘Data Center Update’ which highlights employment figures, and other pertinent or interesting statistical information

which pertains to our region. This is sent out via mail and e-mail every other month, as well as being posted on our website.

Result: Below is a summary of data requests for Fiscal Year 2007.

Data Requests
Ranked by Number of Requests

| Data Requested | Total Req. | Req. Pct. |
|----------------|------------|-----------|
| Other GIS Maps | 74 | 50.7% |
| Comm. Prof. | 42 | 28.8% |
| Misc. | 10 | 6.8% |
| Census Maps | 9 | 6.2% |
| Population | 7 | 4.8% |
| Income | 3 | 2.1% |
| Labor Force | 1 | 0.7% |
| Grand Total | 146 | |

| Organization Type | Total Req. | Req. Pct. |
|------------------------|------------|-----------|
| Government | 103 | 70.5% |
| Academic/ Research | 24 | 16.4% |
| Business | 8 | 5.5% |
| Comm. Org./ Non. Prof. | 5 | 3.4% |
| Private Citizen | 5 | 3.4% |
| Media | 1 | 0.7% |
| Grand Total | 146 | |

The Data Center received 146 requests between July 1, 2007 and April 8, 2008. Services requests came from community organizations, private citizens, businesses, academic/ research bodies, and local units of government. Over seventy-five percent of the requests came from government agencies. Custom GIS map documents and related data were the most requested data from all parties during this time period, representing 74 of the 146 total requests (50.7%).

3. Continue to improve infrastructure of all types.

Village of Middleport Downtown Revitalization

Buckeye Hills assisted the Village of Middleport in Meigs County with applying for Tier 1 and 2 of the CDBG Downtown Revitalization Program. Tier 1 provides funds to eligible communities to assist with the development of downtown revitalization planning documents.

Result: Unfortunately the Village of Middleport was not selected for Tier 2 approval. Buckeye Hills staff will continue to assist the Village of Middleport in this application process, as they prepare to reapply for Tier 2 funding in 2009.

Monroe County Black Walnut Center Renovation Project

Buckeye Hills assisted the Monroe County Commissioners in administering the Ohio Department of Development Industrial Site Improvement Fund grant.

Result: These funds allowed for the site to be developed for use as a manufacturing facility. The cost of the project was \$279,521. The contracts for this project were awarded and work began in November of 2007. This project was completed in March

2008. In conjunction with this renovation project, a marketing plan was developed by BHHVRDD for the Black Walnut Center and the Commerce Park.

West Malta Water Project

Buckeye Hills assisted the Morgan County in administering CDBG Water and Sewer Program funding that is financing a project to extend water service to approximately 223 households in Malta and Penn Townships and allow for future expansion with the construction of a new storage tank and booster station. The estimated cost of the project is \$4,150,500.

Result: Construction on this project began in August 2007 and should be completed during 2008. During the course of this construction, the West Malta Water Rural Water District has also chosen to construct additional waterline extensions to the originally approved project. These extensions are currently under review and should begin construction in 2008.

Bishopville Water Project

Buckeye Hills assisted and will continue to assist Morgan County in administering CDBG Water and Sewer Program funding that is financing a project to extend water service to areas of Union Township. The project involves the installation of 30,028 linear feet of 6” main water line, 1,996 feet of 4” water line and 47,505 linear feet of 3” water line. This project also includes the construction of a booster station and storage tank. The estimated total cost of the project is \$1,065,558.

Result: Construction on this project began in October 2005, and was concluded in the summer of 2007.

Reno Water Project

Buckeye Hills will assist the Washington County Commissioners in applying for a CDBG Water and Sewer Grant on behalf of residents of the Reno Water and Sewer District. The project will extend water lines onto County Roads 9, 333, 20, 47 and Township Road 394 in Washington County, creating a safe water supply to the residents. The cost of this project is estimated at \$644,695. The project involves the installation of approximately 7 miles of water line and services approximately 65 homes. The project will promote positive community growth in eastern Washington County.

Result: Construction on this project was started in February 2008. During this time the Reno Water District also decided to construct several extensions to the originally approved project. These extensions are currently under review. All construction activities for this project and the related extensions will be completed in late 2008.

Noble County Water

Buckeye Hills will assist the Noble County Commissioners in applying for a CDBG Water and Sewer Grant on behalf of residents of the Noble County Water Authority. The project will extend water lines to serve approximately 36 residents along Ohio State Route 285 between the villages of Caldwell and Sarahsville creating a safe water supply to the residents. The cost of this project is estimated at \$817,000. The project involves the installation of approximately 4.5 miles of water line and services approximately 36 homes. The project will promote positive community growth in Noble County.

Result: Staff will continue to assist the Noble County Commissioners in obtaining CDBG Water and Sewer Funds. The CDBG application will be submitted in July 2008.

Amesville Sewer Project

Buckeye Hills will assist the Village of Amesville in administering CDBG Water and Sewer Program funding that is financing a project to sewer service to approximately 71 households and 13 businesses. The estimated cost of this project is \$1,089,858.25.

Result: Construction on this project began in July 2007; the estimated completion date is late 2008.

Tuppers Plains Water and Sewer District

Buckeye Hills staff assisted the Meigs County Commissioners in applying for and administering CDBG Water and Sewer Program funding that is financing a project to upgrade sewer service to approximately 148 households. The estimated cost of the project is \$103,000.

Result: Construction was started on this project in January 2008. This project is scheduled to be completed by summer 2008.

Washington County Formula -2006

Buckeye Hills will continue to serve as the administrator of the Washington County CDBG Formula Program for FY'2006, assisting the grantee by assuring that the eight projects within Washington County, and one project for the City of Belpre comply with funding requirements, checking for compliance with all applicable state and federal regulations, participating in the bidding process for contracts and attending pre-construction conferences, completing status reports, consulting with independent auditor at time of final audit, and agreeing to reply to funding agency inquiries to the status of all activities undertaken by the Washington County Commissioners.

Result: Buckeye Hills administered nine (9) projects for the FY 2006 Formula Program. The total project cost for the nine (9) projects was \$224,812. The projects ranged from

the purchase of equipment for a senior center, street improvements, to the purchase of fire equipment. The total number of beneficiaries was approximately 69,924.

Washington County Formula -2007

Buckeye Hills will serve as the administrator of the Washington County CDBG Formula Program for FY'2007, assisting the grantee by assuring that the four projects within Washington County, and the one project for the City of Belpre comply with funding requirements, checking for compliance with all applicable state and federal regulations, participating in the bidding process for contracts and attending pre-construction conferences, completing status reports, consulting with independent auditor at time of final audit, and agreeing to reply to funding agency inquiries to the status of all activities undertaken by the Washington County Commissioners.

Result: Buckeye Hills submitted the application for funding and the Washington County Commissioners received a grant agreement. The total project cost for the four (4) projects will total \$393,606. The projects will vary from home/building repair to fire protection facilities & equipment. The total number of beneficiaries will be approximately 72,798 individuals (some individuals benefitted from more than one project).

State Capital Improvement/ Local Transportation Improvement Program

The Community Development staff is the liaison for the Ohio Public Works Commission 18th District. The District includes Athens, Belmont, Hocking, Meigs, Monroe, Morgan, Muskingum, Noble, Perry, and Washington counties. The SCIP/LTIP program provides funding to counties, townships, villages, and water and sewer districts to enable them to repair or replace roads, bridges, culverts, water supply, wastewater, solid waste and storm water systems. The staff will provide technical assistance and training to assist in the completion of the SCIP/LTIP application. The staff will coordinate the activities of the various District 18 communities, which include, but are not limited to: setting up meetings, distributing meeting notices, publishing newspaper announcements, collecting applications, rating and ranking applications, and forwarding applications to the Ohio Public Works Commission for funding or consideration for funding under the various SCIP/LTIP programs.

Result: Buckeye Hills Staff assisted the District 18 Integrating Committee in rating applications and activity coordination. The District 18 Integrating Committee has submitted 21 SCIP/LTIP applications and 10 Small Government applications to the Ohio Public Works Commission for funding in Round 22.

Clean Ohio Fund – Conservation Program

The Community Development Staff serves as the liaison for the Ohio Public Works Commission 18th District. The District includes Athens, Belmont, Hocking, Meigs, Monroe, Muskingum, Noble, Perry, and Washington counties in Southeastern Ohio. The Clean Ohio Conservation Fund is a part of the \$400 million Clean Ohio Fund and

provides monies to counties, townships, cities, villages, conservancy districts, soil and water conservation districts, joint recreational districts, park districts, and other non-profit organizations with a primary purpose in conservation and preservation. The purpose of the Clean Ohio Conservation Fund is the purchase of open spaces and the costs of making them accessible to the public and for the protection of stream corridors, providing wildlife habitat and reducing erosion. The staff will provide technical assistance and training to assist in the completion of the Clean Ohio Conservation Fund Application. The staff will also coordinate the activities of the District 18 Natural Resources Assistance Council (NRAC), including, but not limited to: setting up meetings, distributing meeting notices, publishing newspaper announcements, collecting applications, rating and ranking applications, and forwarding applications to the Ohio Public Works Commission for funding or consideration for funding under the Clean Ohio Program.

Result: At this time applications are not being accepted. Ohio Public Works will be requesting approximately \$30 million in the next capital budget, which is anticipated to be passed in late 2008. Should this new initiative be passed, the new funding would be effective and available in approximately March of 2009.

Clean Ohio Fund – Revitalization Program

The Community Development staff is the liaison for the Ohio Public Works Commission 18th District. The District includes Athens, Belmont, Hocking, Meigs, Monroe, Morgan, Muskingum, Noble, Perry, and Washington counties. The Clean Ohio- Revitalization program provides funding to local governments, port authorities, conservancy districts, non-profit organizations, and for-profit entities to enable them to acquire and clean up a Brownfield, demolish existing building, upgrade infrastructure and redevelop the property. The staff will coordinate the activities of the various District 18 communities, which include, but are not limited to: setting up meetings, distributing meeting notices, publishing newspaper announcements, collecting applications, rating and ranking applications, and forwarding applications to the Ohio Department of Development for funding.

Result: At the present time no applications for the Clean Ohio Revitalization Program are being accepted. Three current grant recipients are working on Phase II environmental studies at commercial/industrial sites in Perry and Hocking Counties.

Brownfield Revitalization

The staff anticipated assisting one community in preparing a revitalization grant through the Clean Ohio Assistance fund.

Result: During this time period the staff assisted in the administration of three Phase II grants.

Southeastern Ohio Port Authority U.S. EPA Petroleum Assessment Grant Program

The Community Development staff continued to administer the Southeastern Ohio Port Authority's U.S. EPA Petroleum Assessment Grant Program. This program provides grant funds for Phase I and II environmental studies on petroleum affected Brownfield sites that have the potential for redevelopment and reuse.

Result: Two phase I studies and one phase II study were completed during 2007. Two additional applicants are awaiting additional BUSTR information before proceeding with phase I studies.

North Muskingum River Corridor

Buckeye Hills staff provided input for the North Muskingum River Corridor Study. The purpose of this study is to examine possible options for linking Interstate 77 and Ohio State Route 7 in the area north of the City of Marietta.

Result: Of the several alternatives presented, one was chosen to advance forward in the ODOT planning process. Feasibility of this option in comparison to the results of a pending traffic modeling analysis will help determine the next steps. ODOT as well as other state and local agencies have been searching for funding to continue this study, and to fund this project. Currently there is a lack of available funding at the state level to continue this study. Until other transportation projects are removed from the current queue, this project may be put on hold until funding becomes available.

State Route 32/ U.S. 50 Corridor Study

Buckeye Hills undertook activities that were contributed to the completion of the SR 32/ US 50 Corridor Study. Buckeye Hills staff worked with local economic development professionals and county officials to identify, locate, and map, major commercial sites available, and major tourism sites along the corridor. The study area included the actual corridor as well as a 5 mile buffer on all sides.

Result: The final documents and GIS information were completed and submitted to the Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission at the end of March 2008. This project is being lead by the Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission, with financial support from the Appalachian Regional Commission. At the time of this publication, an application had been submitted requesting additional funding to expand the scope of this study.

State Route 32/ State Route 78 Corridor Advisory Board

The staff of Buckeye Hills also participated in the SR 32/ SR 78 Corridor Study project. The purpose of this project is to identify small to medium scale improvements in alignment, elevation, ingress/egress, signage, protective structures, etc., that could be made along the 120 mile corridor to improve overall safety and usability.

Result: The advisory board produced numerous recommendations which were included in the final report of this study. At this point funding is being sought to implement the improvements cited in the final report.

Wood Washington Wirt Interstate Planning Commission

Buckeye Hills staff was represented on the advisory board of the Wood Washington Wirt Interstate Planning Commission. The purpose of this commission is to keep public officials informed about transportation projects proposed and underway in their particular jurisdictions.

Result: Buckeye Hills staff provided input and feedback on the numerous current and pending transportation projects affecting the region.

Tri-County Water Project (2005)

Old Straitsville Water Project (2005)

PEW (2005)

Village of Chauncey Infrastructure (2005)

Water and Sewer Board Member Training (2006-2007)

Coffee Ridge Water Project (2005)

Washington County Formula – 2003 (2005)

Washington County Formula – 2004 (2005)

Washington County Formula – 2005 (2006-2007)

Morgan County Formula – 2003 (2005)

Morgan County Formula – 2004 (2005)

4. Focus efforts on attracting ‘new technology’ types of jobs and investments rather than focusing on general manufacturing and retail expansions.

Revolving Loan Fund

The staff of Buckeye Hills also provides technical assistance to entrepreneurs in our district by administering a Revolving Loan Program. This program is aimed at aiding small business owners getting started in business, or assisting to sustain a small business they may already be in operation. The revolving loan fund provides low interest loan

financing (gap financing) to companies and endeavors that may not be eligible to acquire the resources they need from commercial lenders.

Result: During fiscal year 2007, the Revolving Loan Fund closed seven loans, with \$616,250 in total loan assistance provided, and 56 jobs created and 30 retained.

Trickle Up Grant Program

The Trickle Up is a grant program aimed at supporting micro enterprises and home based industries throughout the region. This program is comprised of \$700 grants. Each grant is composed of two installments; the first being \$500 upon the approval of a business plan, the second installment of \$200 is contingent on the completion of a business report after 3 months of operation. The total amount a recipient could receive is \$700. The Trickle Up grant program gave assistance to eight businesses within the region, with a total potential grant amount of \$5,600.

Result: Unfortunately, funding for this program was ended in February 2008. Buckeye Hills is no longer accepting applications for this program. The related website, www.appalachianmarket.com, which was developed to market the products produced by grantees from this program was also deactivated at that time.

Appalachianohio.com Regional Advisory Board

The Appalachianohio.com Regional Advisory Board continues to meet regularly at the Voinovich Center on the campus of Ohio University in Athens Ohio. The purpose of this body is to help continue shaping the application and direction of the www.firstohio.com (formerly appalachianohio.com) web portal as it moves in to the future

RENEW Ohio-18

Buckeye Hills staff has been actively participating on several committees organized by Ohio Congressman Zack Space, as part of his 'RENEW Ohio 18' initiative. The purpose of this body is to bring together individuals with relevant knowledge in the areas of; broadband, agriculture, healthcare, and alternative energy, with the hopes of advancing these issues within the congressional district. These groups are tasked with brainstorming, discussing, researching, and producing creative ways to better implement these technologies, programs, and strategies.

Result: The goal of the RENEW Ohio 18 initiative is to help reverse some of the recent setbacks that have befallen the district as a result of major losses in the manufacturing sector. Buckeye Hills staff has been included on committees to prepare white papers on some of the pertinent issues mentioned above. The purpose of these white papers is to advance new ideas and strategies for bringing the 18th district out of the recent economic downturn.

Employee Workforce Assessment

In July 2007 an employee workforce assessment was completed and released by the Ohio Valley Employment Resource (OVER). This assessment included Monroe, Morgan, Noble, and Washington Counties in the Buckeye Hills district.

Result: Over 400 organizations were invited to participate, with 131 responding, covering business with as few as 5 employees, all the way up to operations with 1,150 employees. The total workforce of surveyed organizations was 14,664 employees. The results of this assessment will be discussed in later chapters.

Hocking College Technology Center (2006-2007)

5. Continue to work to improve the ‘soft issues’ that surround economic development in our district.

Housing Program

During fiscal year 2007, Buckeye Hills continued to operate a housing program, aimed at fighting issues such as rural homelessness and affordable housing issues, while at the same time providing services such as small home repairs allowing seniors to remain at home rather than alternative living facilities. These activities are funded through grants from the Ohio Department of Development’s Ohio Housing Trust Fund- Housing Assistance Grant Program, and the Senior Community Services Title III Block Grant. Last year a portion of these funds were used to do handicap accessibility needs and minor home repair to 37 homes owned by senior citizens in our eight county region.

Result: Last year \$162,822 of the total housing budget funds were used to complete handicap accessibility needs and minor home repair to 37 homes owned by senior citizens in our eight county region.

Meigs Rio Grande (2006-2007)

Home Health Aide Training Program (2005)

CEDS 2008

Table Appendix/ Source List

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- Table 3.02- Population Projections to 2030 by County. 'Ohio County Indicators 2007', Office of Strategic Research, Ohio Department of Development, June 2007.
- Table 3.03- Population by Age Group (2005). 'Ohio County Indicators 2007', Office of Strategic Research, Ohio Department of Development, June 2007.
- Table 3.04- Population Percentage by Race (2005). 'Ohio County Indicators 2007', Office of Strategic Research, Ohio Department of Development, June 2007.
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- Table 3.15- 2000 Business Expansions and Attractions. ‘Private Investment 2000’, Office of Strategic Research, Ohio Department of Development, January 2003.
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- Table 3.20- 2005 Business Expansions and Attractions. ‘Private Investment Survey 2004, 2005, 2006’, Office of Strategic Research, Ohio Department of Development, February 2007.
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- Table 3.22 2007 Business Expansions and Attractions. ‘Private Investment Survey 2005, 2006, 2007’, Office of Strategic Research, Ohio Department of Development, February 2008.
- Table 3.23- Private Investment Survey Totals. ‘Ohio County Indicators 2007’, Office of Strategic Research, Ohio Department of Development, June 2007.

- Table 3.24- Total Government Procurement Awards, 2000-2004. ‘Ohio County Indicators 2007’, Office of Strategic Research, Ohio Department of Development, June 2007.
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- Table 3.26- Regional Components of Business Change. ‘Ohio County Indicators 2007’, Office of Strategic Research, Ohio Department of Development, June 2007.
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- Table 3.61- Direct Federal Payment to Individuals. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Information System, Table CA35, April 2007. Accessed March 2008.

Table 3.62- Federal Grants Awarded (FY 2005). U.S. Census Bureau, 'Consolidated Federal Funds Report for Fiscal Year 2005: State and County Areas.' September 2007.

Table 3.63- Direct Federal Assistance (FY 2005). U.S. Census Bureau, 'Consolidated Federal Funds Report for Fiscal Year 2005: State and County Areas.' September 2007.

Table 3.64- Educational Attainment 2000. 'Ohio County Profiles 2007', Office of Strategic Research, Ohio Department of Development, September 2007.

APPENDIX A

Administrative Staff

Misty Casto
Executive Director
Frederick Hindman
Assistant Executive Director
Douglas Dye
Director of Fiscal Operations
Sherry Crawford
Secretary/ Receptionist
Amanda Casto
Secretary/ Receptionist

Dee Starkey
Secretary/Receptionist
Jen Myers
Program Assistant
Tina Parker
Secretary/ Receptionist
Brenda Wolfe
Fiscal Assistant
Debbie Parsons
Fiscal Assistant

Community Development Dept.

Melissa Zoller
Development Director
Tina Meunier
Business Development Coordinator
Charmel Wesel
Development Specialist

Bret Allphin
GIS Specialist
Michelle Hyer
Development Specialist
Gwynn Clifford
Communications Director

Area Agency on Aging

Frederick Hindman
Area Agency on Aging Director
Vacant
Area Agency on Aging Deputy Director
Linda Myers
Nutrition Coordinator
Jane Skeen
Home Care Director
Kimberly Flanigan
Long Term Care Ombudsman Director
Diane Keith
Long Term Care Volunteer Coordinator
Suzanne Lassiter
Long Term Care Volunteer Coordinator
Denise Keyes
Fiscal Manager
Glenda Collins
Clinical Supervisor
Susan Hickman
Clinical Supervisor
Jennifer Andros
Clinical Assistant
Kelli Lewis
Clinical Assistant
Nancy Morris
Quality Improvement Coordinator
Misty Anderson
Quality Improvement Assistant
Judy Kuhn
Quality Improvement Assistant
James Lewis
MIS Manager
Cathy Ash
Trainer
Mindy Cayton
Planner
Sarah Swisher
Screener
Kimberly Steed
Screener

Kara Wright
Screener
Darlene VanDine
Care Coordinator
Janie Collins
Program Assistant
Vicki Bennett
Case Manager/ Assessor
Patricia Biehl
Case Manager/ Assessor
Kathryn Brammer
Case Manager/ Assessor
Sandra Cisler
Case Manager/ Assessor
Alta Coffman
Case Manager/ Assessor
Deborah Dunseath
Case Manager/ Assessor
Christina Horn
Case Manager/ Assessor
Angie Scott
Case Manager/ Assessor
Kerry Nicholson
Case Manager/ Assessor
Veronica Norman
Case Manager/ Assessor
Teresa Porter
Case Manager/ Assessor
Lynn Gedeon
Case Manager/ Assessor
Patricia Palmer
Case Manager/ Assessor
Jamie Sweeney
Case Manager/ Assessor
Lisa Barringer
Case Manager/ Assessor
Lisa Keaveney
Case Manager/ Assessor
Jennifer Fuller
Case Manager/ Assessor

APPENDIX B

Issues Covered

State of the economy

1. What are the strengths and weaknesses of the county?
2. What are the growth sectors of the economy?
3. What is driving the economy and where is it heading?

External trends and forces

1. What are the opportunities and threats?
2. How is the region positioned in the national and global economies?

Partners for economic development

1. Who are the important actors in the region (may include organizations, businesses, individuals and government)?
2. Who represents issues important but unfamiliar to the economic development organization (such as workforce development, social service delivery, and natural resources)?

Resources for economic development

1. What groups, organizations or individuals does the area have to work with:
2. Who can provide support and funding for the development activities?

APPENDIX C

2008 CEDS Project Prioritization Criteria

| | Points |
|--------------------------------------|--------|
| 1. Job Creation and/or Retention | |
| Creating new jobs | 20 |
| Expanding existing job opportunities | 15 |
| Existing jobs enhanced | 5 |
| Not Applicable | 0 |
| 2. Scope of Project | |
| Long-term project | 20 |
| Intermediate-term project | 15 |
| Short-term project | 5 |
| 3. Goal Relationship | |
| Directly tied to goals of CEDS | 20 |
| Somewhat tied to goals | 15 |
| Not related to goals | 5 |
| 4. Environmental Impact | |
| Beneficial impact on environment | 20 |
| No significant impact | 10 |
| Negative impact | |
| 5. Distress level | |
| Distressed | 10 |
| Not distressed | |